

Hear The Shepherds Voice

FREE

January 2014

Volume 18 Issue 1 "A Christian Newspaper"

The Baptism with the Holy Ghost PART 2

Message by: Leroy Surface

The "Second Evidence"

Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

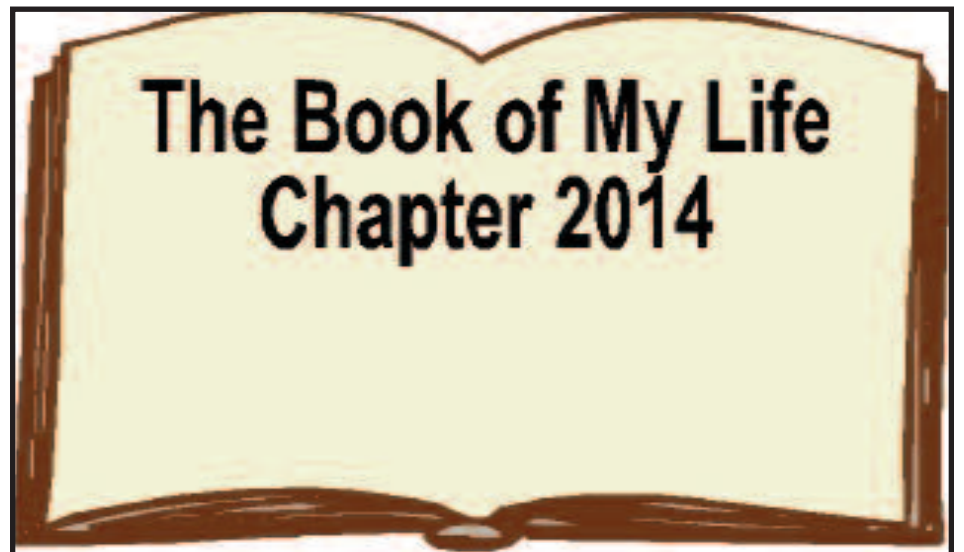
Luke 24:49: "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be **endued with power** from on high."

The word "power," as it is used in these verses, is translated from the Greek word "dunamis," which is defined by Strong's Greek Dictionary as "force (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous power (usually by implication a miracle itself)." It is the definition of "a miracle itself" that I want us to see. In Acts 1:8, Jesus literally said, "You shall receive miracles, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." In Luke 24:49, He instructed His disciples to "...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be clothed with miracles from on high."

The "lust for power" has caused great damage to the Pentecostal movement. Far too many people want what they perceive to be the "power of the Holy Ghost" so that everyone they touch will fall in "in the spirit." This entire generation has been plagued with those in the churches whose greatest desire is to make a "fair show in the flesh," to quote the apostle Paul. Their greatest desire is that the people would see them up as someone truly "great" and "powerful." The apostle Paul, who was without a doubt the greatest of the apostles, wrote in II Corinthians 12:6, "For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me."

The apostles were "clothed with miracles" in exactly the same manner as Moses was clothed with miracles fifteen hundred years before. Moses was a man whom God sent to deliver the slaves out of the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh refused to release the children of Israel at the command God gave through Moses, God literally destroyed Egypt through the outstretched rod of Moses. Moses did nothing but obey the voice of God that came to him, but the heathen nations greatly feared Moses and his God when they heard the reports of the plagues in Egypt and the death of the first born of every Egyptian household. This was a God that parted the waters of the Red Sea to deliver the children of Israel from the wrath of Pharaoh, and He did it at the outstretched rod of Moses. This same God destroyed the armies of Egypt in the same Red Sea when Moses stretched out his rod over the sea a second time. The nations heard that God fed His people with manna from heaven at the word of Moses, and gave them cool fresh water to drink out of a dry flinty rock when Moses struck it with his rod. Moses did not have the "power" of himself to do miracles but God chose to do miracles through a man, and thus Moses was "clothed with miracles," and the nations of the world saw that these were a people that God had "chosen" for Himself.

Jesus said in John 5:19-20, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.**" Not even Jesus, the "only begotten Son of God" had the "power" to "do a miracle" at His own will. "The Son can do nothing of Himself," yet the Father so clothed His Son with miracles that multitudes followed Him wherever He went, and the scripture says, "they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that



WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO WRITE IN 2014

As we close out Chapter 2013 of our lives and begin Chapter 2014 I believe it would be good stop to ask the Lord to help us write the best Chapter of our life because this could be the last Chapter in our book of life. As we review the past chapters is there things we need to change to make the ending of our book of life better, is the question we need to ask ourselves? The Bible said we are written epistle known and read of all men. I ask myself all the time can people see after reading my book of life chapter 2013 that I love the Lord? Can they see he is my life, my love, and my everything?

It is my desire as people begin to read chapter 2014 they will see more compassion for the lost, the hurting, more love for all of mankind than I have ever had. I pray as people read my book of life they will be able to see a change in the way I present Jesus Christ to them, that they can see "I have stop preaching about him," but now "I am making him KNOWN to them," in word and in deed. Only if I could make Him known to people. Is my heart cry in this 2014 chapter of my book life? If they knew him they would submit to him and love, serve him.

May the 2014 chapter of my book of life be the greatest chapter people have ever read? (How about you are there some changes you would like to make to your book of life in chapter 2014 that would make it a great read for the people that are reading your book?) "Love you all" may God bless you'll in 2014.

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Message By: Kirbbie Cowart
"Unbelievable" &
"Imposable"

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were sick" (Matthew 8:16).

It was the same in every place that God poured His Spirit upon the people. The first evidence of the Holy Ghost in those whom Jesus baptized was that they "began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." The "second evidence" was that they immediately entered into a life of miracles. It was not that they were "doing" miracles, but that they were "receiving" them. God was "clothing them with miracles."

The first miracle of healing after the Holy Ghost fell upon the hundred and twenty on the Day of Pentecost is recorded in the third chapter of Acts. Peter and John were entering the temple to pray when they were confronted by a lame beggar who asked them for some money. Peter's answer resulted in five thousand souls being added to the church in that same day; "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God**" (Acts 3:6-8).

Notice that Peter spoke to the man "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth." He did not say "in the name of The Messiah of Israel," nor did he say "in the name of the Son of God." Neither of these would have been so offensive to the Jews as to speak in the name of the one they had rejected as a blasphemer and delivered up to be crucified less than two months before. What did Peter prove to the people when he spoke to the lame man "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth?" Was he saying that Jesus was only a man from Nazareth? Absolutely not; to the contrary, he gave them proof that "Jesus of Nazareth" is "The Christ" of prophecy, and that He sits at the right hand of God as "both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). This great miracle proved to over five thousand Jews that they were guilty of the death of their Messiah, whom God had sent into the world to "make an end of sins" and "bring in everlasting righteousness" (Daniel 9:24-27). No one could speak to the lame man "in the name of Moses" and receive a miracle, nor "in the name" of any prophet or priest that ever lived, but "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" the lame beggar stood up and began walking and leaping in the temple for all to see. This proved that "Jesus Christ of Nazareth" is "The Christ, the Son of God" whom God had promised to send into the world.

The fifth chapter of Acts begins with the report of a couple named Ananias and Sapphira who plotted together to deceive the church and at the same time receive praise from the apostles. In the early days of the revival in Jerusalem, there were thousands of people added to the church in a very a short time. Many of these were cast out of the synagogues and rejected by their families because of their faith in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. There were those in the church who were destitute through no fault of their own, but because they lost everything when they first trusted in Jesus. The scripture says that many of those who had possessions sold them and laid the money at the apostle's feet, for the provision of those who were destitute. Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of land and pretended to give all to the church, but they conspired between themselves to keep back part of the money. The Holy Ghost revealed the deception to Peter, and when he questioned them about it they lied, not only to Peter, but to the Holy Ghost who revealed the deception. Peter made it clear to them that they could have kept all the money; they were not required to give it, but their "lie" brought the righteous judgment of God against them, and they both fell dead in the midst of the church. The two things that followed are truly amazing; "And (1.) **great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. And (2.) by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people**" (Acts 5:11-12).

1. "Great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things." The result of this "fear" was that no one wanted to join the church after the report that two people had fallen dead because of an offering they had brought. The thirteenth verse says, "And of the rest **durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.**" The church was cleansed of pretense, and no "pretender" dared to join them. When churches are filled with pretense in either the pulpit or the pew, it is evident that the Holy Ghost is not present in that church. Many "fad revivals" have come and gone in our generation, and they attracted "pretenders" like flies to honey, but a true move of the Holy Ghost will restore the "fear of God" in the hearts of the people.

2. "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders

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Our Theme This Year at First Assembly of God at Colmesneil is Making Christ Known in Word and In Deed.

This past Thanksgiving the Lord said to me in a still small voice that people did not know him even people setting in church every Sunday.

I had been asking The Lord how to grow our church. I told the Lord if only people could only see a miracle they would come and fell the church up. That when he said in that still small voice no they want. That is when he said people don't know Him. That is why the Lord had put it in my heart to make Him known to the people in our community. As this year begin we at First Assembly of God of Colmesneil, Texas will be making Christ known in our community. We plan to write a new chapter in the life of our church that has never been written before.

We invite you to come and be apart of this great church as we work to make Christ known in our community. You can find us on your "I Pad", "Smart Phone" by typing Colmesneil First Assembly of God and on "YouTube", just type in my name Kirbbie Cowart, Or on our web site at www.colmesneilfirstaog.com. We are here for you, we have a prayer line that we can call all our prayer warriors at one time and make your request known to them to pray for you. Call me at 409-837-5706 or my cell 832-401-5773

If you are an elderly person that is shut in and need someone to talk to or to pray with please call us at 409-837-5706. We have people that will come and visit with you and talk with you in confidence.

AGNews

Southwestern dedicates Hagee Communication Center

Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU), Waxahachie, Texas, officially dedicated the campus' newest building, the John and Diana Hagee Communication Center (HCC), in a special ceremony on December 11.

Last fall the Hagees pledged \$2.5 million to help the school reach the \$21 million needed for the center.

AG General Superintendent George O. Wood addressed students, faculty and guests during the chapel service prior to the dedication, praising the school and encouraging an even greater future.

"I am praying that one of our AG schools would be a breakout campus. I pray that we will see a campus that goes from where you are now to 5,000 students to 10,000 students to 30,000 students," Wood said. "A Christian school like SAGU is the single most important weapon in the hands of the Lord to prepare the next generation for Christian service in the marketplace and in the Church."

During the dedication ceremony, SAGU President Kermit Bridges expressed deep appreciation for those who had given and dedicated themselves to the completion of the center. He also commended the Hagees for their generosity and for their "fanning into flame the vision of this building."

John Hagee, who pastors the 20,000-member Cornerstone Church in San Antonio and is an alumni of SAGU, urged students to reach the world with the message of Christ. "May the students who walk through this door be keenly aware that they are walking through a spiritual battlefield for the souls of their generation," he said.

The HCC is now home to a variety of student venues, including a performing arts auditorium, classrooms, rehearsal halls, film screening/preaching and speech labs, black-box theater, TV/film and audio studios, digital editing labs, music practice rooms, and an Einstein Bros Bagels restaurant. At 80,000 sq. ft., it is the second-largest building on campus.

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wrought among the people." The result of this is shown in the next verses; *"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one"* (Acts 5:14-16).

Oh what a wonderful state for the church, when pretenders are kept out by the fear of God while multitudes believers are added to the church because of the wonderful works and miracles of God they see. Oh God, how we need your miracles!

Acts 6:8: *"And Stephen, full of faith and power, DID GREAT WONDERS AND MIRACLES among the people."*

Acts 8:5-8: *"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, HEARING AND SEEING THE MIRACLES WHICH HE DID. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city."*

Acts 19:10-12: *"...all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them."*

Where are the Miracles?

Judges 6:13: *"And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."*

This question, which was asked by the young man Gideon, is one that every "born again child of God" should be asking. Just a little over a hundred years ago, the twentieth century was brought in with a mighty outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon those who believed the truth and sought for the fullness of God as promised in Ephesians 3:19, *"...that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."* In every case, when the Spirit "fell upon" a person and they were "filled with the Holy Ghost," they "began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance," exactly as the scriptures describe on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). The greatest proof that God had poured out His Spirit upon the people, however, were the great miracles that began to happen wherever these "Spirit filled" Christians went. Not everyone became a "worker of miracles," but everyone entered into a life of miracles as the Spirit of God worked in them. Jesus said, *"These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"* (Mark 16:17-18). The twentieth verse says, *"And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."* These were the second and great evidence that God had "poured His Spirit" upon His people.

The miracles of the twentieth century revival continued unabated for a little over fifty years. It was the same as the revival in Jerusalem that began on the Day of Pentecost; pretenders feared to join them, but believers were added continually to the church because of the mighty power of God that was manifested in the services. Every decade saw the arising of mighty men and women of God who were doing exploits in the name of Jesus, and bringing many to repentance.

I had my revival tent set up in Miami Oklahoma in June of 1970, when I met an old man of God who gave me an eyewitness report of a revival that came to Miami over sixty years before. A man of God came to town and rented a large warehouse on one end of Main St. and announced his revival services. Unknown to the man of God, a circus was scheduled to set their huge tent up on the other end of Main St. and begin the same night as the revival. Local pastors told the man of God, *"It's a shame that you spent your money on the warehouse before you knew the circus was coming."* They didn't believe it was possible to have revival during a circus. Both the circus and the revival began the same night, but before the week was over, it was the circus that was packing up to leave town because all the people were coming to the revival. Miami Oklahoma was a lead and zinc mining town. According to the old man of God who gave

me this account, the corners of the warehouse were stacked to the ceiling with canes, crutches, braces, and the wheelchairs of those who had been crippled and maimed in the mines, but were miraculously healed in the revival.

My uncle, Will Pennell, was a printer who worked for Raymond T. Richey, a man of God from Atwood Illinois who came to Houston Texas and built the "Evangelistic Temple." My aunt kept a scrapbook of the Richey revivals, and I saw the newspaper pictures and reports of a great revival in Houston that took place in the decade of the 1920's. By the end of the revival, so many crippled and lame people had been healed that a parade was held in downtown Houston for a public testimony to the power of God. Those who had been healed walked in parade behind several truckloads of canes, crutches, and braces which they burned in Memorial Park and as they rejoiced in Jesus and worshipped God. That "parade" of those who had been healed was thirteen city blocks long. Five thousand people were saved in that great revival. The Pentecostal revival continued for fifty years through the ministries of men like Smith Wigglesworth from England, Charles S. Price, John G. Lake, and seemed to reach a crescendo from about 1947 through the mid fifties through the ministries of men like William Branham, Oral Roberts, Jack Coe, and TL Osborne. It was in the late fifties that the great "revival" seemed to ebb as a movement to "put Pentecost on Main St." began and made "speaking in tongues" acceptable to mainstream religion through a different name. The terms "baptism with the Holy Ghost" were changed to "charismatic renewal," and "speaking in tongues" to "practicing glossolalia." This resulted in a "flood" of people from every major denomination seeking the experience under the new name, because "Pentecost" was out and "Charismatic" was "in." Millions of people worldwide were "receiving their prayer language" and the "charismatic renewal" became the popular revival of the day. There were many in the movement who believed they could teach others "how to speak in tongues," which was unheard of in the Pentecostal revival. This opened the door to the "pretenders" that had been shut out of the revival in Jerusalem. I do not question the fact that many truly received the baptism with the Holy Ghost during these years, but they were "mixed" and "mingled" with those who "learned how" to do the things that only the Holy Ghost could do in the Pentecostal revival of the past generation. During this same decade of the 1960s, many "pretenders" also arose in the so called "Pentecostal revival." The airways were filled with radio ministers who supported their ministries with every kind of extraordinary gimmick that can be imagined. People were sending offerings to receive "miracle oil," "miracle water," "miracle meal," and one preacher in Houston Texas actually sent out "miracle mopstrings," promising "healing and prosperity" to those who received these articles and wore them on their body. Many innocent people who remembered the great revivals of Oral Roberts and Jack Coe of the 1950's were drawn into the gimmicks, trying to recoup some of what they missed from the past revivals. Other sincere Christians were driven out of Pentecost into the arms of those in the "charismatic renewal" which at the first rejected all gimmicks, but practiced something just as damning; the "practice" of teaching the people how to be spiritual, and "speak in their prayer language."

John Osteen was the pastor of Hibbard Memorial Baptist Church in 1958 when through a series of events in his life he received an insatiable hunger to receive the baptism with the Holy Ghost. After diligently seeking for some time, he told his wife and friends that he was going alone to a hotel and would not return until he had received the Holy Ghost. I believe he had been there three days when he received the Holy Ghost with a mighty baptism from heaven, and from that moment, his ministry was "charged" with power from above. About three years later he held an auditorium meeting in Pasadena Texas, where great miracles began happening, and I was one among those who received an instantaneous healing. I remember John's ministry in those early days. One of his favorite scriptures was Acts 19:2, *"Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"* He preached, as the Word of God says, that the baptism with the Holy Ghost is received subsequent to salvation. There can be no question about the powerful impact of John Osteen's ministry around the world to awaken the people to the supernatural power of God through the baptism with the Holy Ghost. His personal experience was very real, but sadly, he in time became the companions of those who taught "another way." According to the charismatic teaching, there was no reason for John to seek for the Holy Ghost so diligently, even to the point of isolating himself in a hotel room to seek God. He should not have "tarried," according to the new teaching; he should have simply "received it by faith" and began saying whatever strange syllables came to his mind. He should have developed his own prayer language, again, according to doctrine of the "pretenders" in the modern charismatic movement of that day. John never renounced his initial baptism with the Holy Ghost, but after a time he began to accept a "method," which was contrary to his personal experience. He became a "magnet" to draw people from the dead and dry denominations as well as from among those Pentecostals who, like himself, had at one time received a true baptism in the Spirit.

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During the decades of the seventies, eighties, and nineties, there were more people *"speaking in tongues"* than ever in the history of the world, but perhaps most of them had been taught how to speak. Men like John Wimber, one of the founders of the Vineyard churches arose, telling the people that he could teach them how to speak in tongues, as well as to operate all nine spiritual gifts. He successfully trained hundreds, if not thousands, of young men and women to do the same. Out of this came the so called *"Toronto Blessing"* and the *"laughing revival"* of the nineties. These became the *"pattern"* for revivals across the nation during the decade of the 1990's, including the Pensacola revival that followed. These *"revivals"* eventually became a *"curse"* upon those churches that received them, with dozens of them closing their doors shortly after.

In the decade of the 2000's it was the *"Tod Bentley revival"* in Lakeland Florida that caught the imagination of multitudes worldwide with the *"claims"* of extraordinary miracles including *"raising the dead."* That revival ended in 2008 in great shame with charges of immorality and drunkenness, both of which apparently proved to be true. The out pouring of the Holy Ghost upon the churches that had begun a hundred years before had lasted about sixty years. It became mingled with flesh and pretence in the 60's, 70's, and 80's. During the decade of the 90's and the 2000's, demonic spirits took over what flesh and pretence had begun. Today it seems that the days of revival are in the past, because millions of people have a bad taste in their mouth because of the *"revivals"* of the past two decades. Today, only forty years after it seemed that the so-called *"phenomena"* of *"speaking in tongues"* would sweep the world it is difficult to find the person, whether in the pulpit or the pew that is truly filled with the Holy Ghost.

A recent headline in *"Christianity Today"* says, ***"Assemblies of God Surge, But Speaking in Tongues Slumps."*** In response to the article, Rev. George O. Woods, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God made this statement; *"The practice of speaking in tongues is very integral to who we are. It was one of the generating factors 99 years ago in our being formed and it's still the encouragement for every believer to speak in tongues."* It is in Brother Wood's response that we find the *"key"* to the supposed *"slump."* *"Speaking in tongues"* is not a *"practice"* of Spirit filled believers, and the believer should never be *"encouraged"* to *"speak in tongues."* There is no one that has ever lived that can speak in other tongues *"by the Spirit of God"* at their will any more than they could heal the sick or do a miracle at their own will. When the emphasis was placed on *"speaking in tongues"* instead of on *"Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed,"* the Pentecostal revival began to die. I believe *"that old serpent, the devil"* seduced and deceived many in the church in the same way he seduced Eve to get both Adam and Eve out of the paradise of God. I received a vision from the Lord in July of 1969 during a time of fasting and prayer. I saw another spirit come to the churches, pretending to be the Holy Ghost, but it was not. I saw that many would receive *"another spirit"* (II Corinthians 11:4), and thus the reality of Pentecost would be destroyed.

The "Screworm Fly" Syndrome

When I was a child on the farm during the 1940's, the screw worm fly was a plague across Texas and most of the southern part of the nation. The fly would lay its eggs in any scratch or wound of a farm animal, and the larvae would eat the flesh of the animal until its life was destroyed. Every effort to control the fly proved futile until a research lab discovered that the female fly would mate only one time during her lifespan, and this became the key to eradicating the screwworm fly. Instead of trying to destroy them, the laboratories bred millions of flies and sterilized their offspring so they could not reproduce. They released millions of these sterile flies from airplanes across the rural areas of the nation. The population of the screwworm fly effectively doubled in one year's time, but

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and you can hear my sermons, singing & read the Shepherds Voice

Church Surprises Students With Bicycles for Christmas

Wed, 18 Dec 2013 - 4:16 PM CST

It's on nearly every child's Christmas wish list — a new bike for Christmas! But for a vast majority of the 955 kids of Reed Elementary, where 80 percent of the families are economically disadvantaged, a gift like a bicycle was beyond reach..., but not beyond God.

What began as a "what if" in a staff meeting at Faith Assembly Church (Houston, Texas) years ago, became reality on Sunday, December 15, when the church partnered with Academy Sports and Outdoors to present all the children attending Reed Elementary with a brand new bicycle for Christmas.

Leah Carreon, communications director at Faith Assembly, says that in 2010 the church adopted Reed

through the Partners in Education Adopt-a-School program. Members volunteer in the Feed the Children and Cy-Hope Backpack Buddy programs (food sent home with kids so that they can have evening and weekend meals) as well as mentoring and other educational support efforts.

Yet, even though the church has been very involved with school, when church leaders first told the school about their plans to give a bicycle to each student, the message was met with more than a few raised eyebrows. But it wasn't long before disbelief turned into blessing. Last week, during students' lunchtimes in the school cafeteria, Faith Assembly leaders conducted a mini-program, which included riding bicycles about the cafeteria. But the fun turned into stunned, and then all out pandemonium as children jumped and screamed in delight by the news that each of them would be receiving a brand new bicycle for Christmas!

"The kids went nuts when we told them they were getting bikes," Carreon says. "A flyer was placed in each of the kids' backpacks, with an invitation to Sunday's services with a voucher for a bike attached. All parents had to do was sign the voucher and come pick up the bike."

"Honestly, I was speechless," said Reed principal Kandy Bond in a release. "I've never experienced anything like this. This donation will directly affect every child in this building. The staff feels the impact of it too, and we're overwhelmed."

However, the Christmas bicycles weren't just a matter of a few donations followed by unloading the bicycles. Carreon says that in addition to the congregation members giving sacrificially, businesses got involved to help purchase the bicycles. Community members would later join with church members to form an assembly line at the church, to assemble, inspect, test and tag each bicycle. Wagons and tricycles were also purchased and provided for children with special needs.

"There are no words to describe this," says Faith Assembly lead pastor Jason Taylor. "When it comes to doing missional community work, it's usually just a small pocket of people who get to experience it. But when your hands are building it, and when you're sowing your time and your



Faith Assembly staff members with some of the new bicycles given away to students at Reed Elementary. Pictured, from left, are Roger Nelmes, Cypress campus pastor; Jason Taylor, lead pastor; Trey Wilburn, children's pastor; Raymond Rice, pastor of assimilation; Nolan McLaughlin, student pastor; and Leah Carreon, communications director.



The smiles say it all! The Ortiz family, featuring three current and two future Reed students, celebrate the bike giveaway

energy and your heart, it means more. Our family is a part of every one of these bikes."

The bicycle giveaway on Sunday coincided with the church's children's Christmas program. So, as car after car came into the church parking lot with kids ready to explode with excitement, God had something even better in store for many of the families.

"We don't fully know the impact of the bicycle giveaway," Carreon says, "but through the children's

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Hang Tough

January 4, 2013

By **Scott McChrystal**

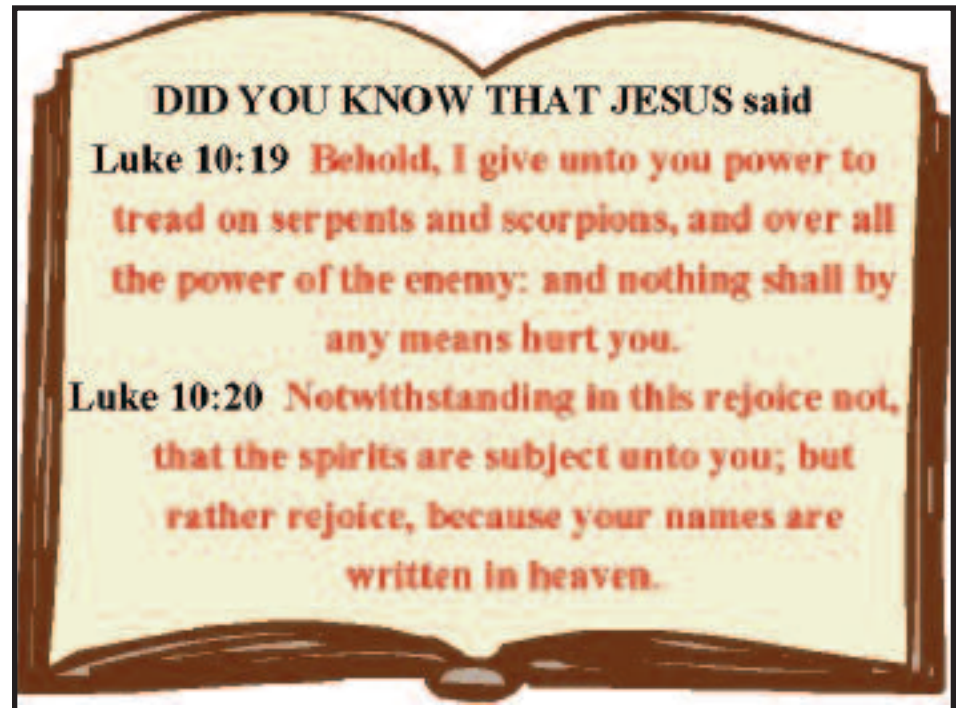
"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4:12,13, NIV).

War is tough, uncompromising and unforgiving. And yet, American combat veterans who have fought and suffered for this nation will almost always tell you that the causes of freedom and justice were worth whatever hardships they experienced. They know freedom isn't free, but it's worth the price.

Spiritual warfare involves suffering as well. Here the apostle Peter is providing encouragement to early Christians going through tough trials. Some were probably on the verge of giving up. Peter's message was a call to hang tough. He assured them God would make it all worthwhile in the end.

Tough times exist today as well. Are you going through tough trials in your Christian walk? God says, "Hang in there, soldier! Don't give up! You will be richly rewarded for your faithfulness."

— Chaplain Col. (Ret.) Scott McChrystal serves as the military/VA representative for the Chaplaincy Department of the Assemblies of God. Excerpted from Daily Strength for the Battle, Volume 1.



Let me tell you how it came about me knowing this verse of scripture. I was about "18 years" old one night in a revival meeting the Lord to me there was a person in the meeting that was planning on killing her family. No one moved, then I told where the poison was hid, then this woman jump up her arms folded moving her hear back and forth. Then everybody came around her and started commanding this killing demon to leave her. When it came out of her it call my name and said it was going to kill you.

The next day was Sunday; I could feel this killing demon all that day. I told my mother and dad that evening about 2:00 pm I was going out in the woods to pray.

I went about 2 miles from the house upon a high hill where they had clear cut all the trees set down on a stump open my Bible to read. AND then the killing demon showed up. He said I am going to kill you now I got you right where I want you, no body can hear you now its just you and me here. I could hear all kind of noise behind me, limbs breaking, something moving. "IT WAS REAL!"

It was in March the wind was blowing I open my Bible and said Lord show me something to stand on. The pages started turning in chunks against the wind. It stop on these verse of scripture I put my finger on Luke 10:19.

I turn around to see this killing demon face-to-face "It was my grand-daddy old cow in a dead tree top" trying to get out.

If Satan is trying to kill you, hurt you in anyway, if you are saved your name written in heaven my friend you have the VICTORY! "Stand on the Word of God"

BY: Kirbbie L. Cowart

Remembering Good The Old Days

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Malachi_3:6



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Southwestern dedicates Hagee Communication Center

Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU), Waxahachie, Texas, officially dedicated the campus' newest building, the John and Diana Hagee Communication Center (HCC), in a special ceremony on December 11.



The Baptism with the Holy Ghost PART 2

From Page 4

half of them could not reproduce. When the sterile laboratory fly mated with a fertile wild fly, there were no offspring, and within a very few years the screwworm fly was extinct in the United States. It may seem to be a very poor analogy, but the great outpouring of the Holy Ghost in the first half of the twentieth century has been destroyed by the same means in our generation.

Speaking in other tongues *"as the Spirit gives utterance"* is the initial evidence that a believer has received the Holy Ghost. The second evidence and perhaps the greatest proof, is the life of miracles that the believer will enter into. The Holy Ghost began to be poured upon various different *"sanctified"* groups at the very beginning of the twentieth century. The first *"proof"* of the outpouring was the same as it was on the Day of Pentecost, and throughout the book of Acts. The Holy Ghost *"fell"* upon them and they began speaking in other tongues *"as the Spirit gave them utterance."* These modern pioneers of Pentecost suffered much mockery and rejection from the public because of their *"speaking in unknown tongues,"* but the movement spread like wildfire around the world because of the great miracles that God was doing through those who received His Spirit. For the next fifty years, God did incredible miracles of healing and deliverance as men and women of God went everywhere preaching repentance and the baptism with the Holy Ghost.

When the *"pretenders"* came in during the decade of the sixties, and began *"teaching"* the people *"how to speak in tongues,"* they, and those that were deceived by them, were like the sterile flies that were released among the fertile flies. Those who mixed with the pretenders could not reproduce the reality, and the revival began to die. They thought they were experiencing the greatest revival since the New Testament church, because more people were *"speaking in tongues"* than ever in the history of the world. Today, it is almost unheard of, because the *"pretenders"* were like *"sterile flies,"* and perhaps most of those who do *"speak in tongues"* have never received the Holy Ghost. Oh God, help us. Pour out of your Spirit again until the *"pretenders"* are put to shame, and the multitudes are, once again, brought to repentance.

Jesus Christ, changeless in a changing world

November 24, 2006

By Doug Graham

We live in a fast-paced world that is changing before our eyes. The advent of the personal computer offers some telling examples. New models of computers are often out of date within 120 days and discontinued within one year. In the early 1990s it took 7.5 days to manufacture a computer. Now it requires only a few hours. The Internet has linked computers worldwide to spawn thousands, millions and now billions of Web sites.

What advantage do believers have in dealing with the rapid change of our world?

We have a personal relationship with the God who created the world. Our personal relationship with Jesus Christ means we are never at the mercy of changes that threaten us. God is in control of each situation and of our lives. With Christ I can do all things (Philippians 4:13), which means I can handle anything that comes my way.

During my years of pastoral ministry, I have noticed how people seek stability when they go through significant change (i.e., death, divorce, etc.). When the rug is pulled out from under them, they look for something to hold on to.

You can live through any change if there is a changeless core inside of you. My prayer is you will discover the stability of a Christ-centered changeless core. In my Bible, Psalm 102 is introduced with the following words: "A prayer of an afflicted man when he is faint."

When all seems to be unraveling, when all seems out of control, when all seems to be constantly changing and peace escapes my senses, the words of Psalm 102:25-27 bring the comfort and confidence I need.

"In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end" (NIV).

Doug Graham is senior pastor of Evangel Assembly of God in Bismarck, N.D.

Church Surprises Students With Bicycles for Christmas

From Page 4

Christmas production, 80 people signed cards stating that they had made a decision to accept Christ as their Savior. God was touching hearts and changing lives!"

During the church service, Principal Bond spoke briefly, expressing her thankfulness. "It reminds me that there is a purpose and a plan for all of us and that people come into our lives for a reason.... Faith Assembly has shown our teachers, staff and Reed family that there is still kindness and generosity in this world. We truly, truly appreciate it."

Recognizing that some of the school's families might not be able to make it on Sunday for the giveaway, students were given through today, Wednesday, to come by the church and pick their Christmas bicycles up. "Although we had many volunteers interacting with the families who came on Sunday, we've found this additional time has given us the opportunity for more one-on-one conversations with families," Carreon says. "So many parents have expressed their appreciation for the bikes, but have also expressed a lot of interest in the programs the church offers for their children."

But even though the hundreds of bicycles now have new homes, this isn't the last time the church expects to see the children or the bicycles. The church has already announced a follow-up event.

According to Taylor, Reed students have been invited back on January 26th for a "30-day tune-up" on the bikes during a Faith Assembly block party. The church is also tentatively planning a "Parade of Bikes" during a Fourth of July celebration at the church.

Carreon succinctly sums up the event. "It's evident that God orchestrated the whole thing," she says. "It just was a really, really good day."

For more information about Faith Assembly Church, see its website.



I am just trying to make Jesus known. Many people read it in the Bible to them it's just another book.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Did you know that Jesus said

John 15:17-19 These things I command you, that ye love one

another.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Read The "Shepherds Voice" on our church web-site,



www.colmesneilfirstaog.com

AG News

Phoenix Dream Center Opens Program for Foster Youth

Many foster kids entering adulthood have lived in wonderful homes, are quite capable of going to college, and are well situated on a career trajectory.

But a sizable number of young people turning 18 have bounced from foster home to foster home — or have lived in an institutional setting for as long as they can remember. They may not finish high school or receive any training about holding a job. Many have no place to go, and could end up homeless or imprisoned. They battle unemployment and drug abuse and depend on public assistance to get by.

While foster kids stay in the system until age 21, at 18 they no longer are eligible for state subsidies unless they are engaged in full-time work or are a full-time college student. Thus, around 25,000 adolescents a year "age out" at 18, when they technically can no longer live with a foster family or in a group home.

In January, Phoenix First Assembly of God, in an effort to bridge that three-year gap to full adulthood, began housing those who age out of the foster care system in a program called Dream Center Living Youth (DCLY).

"Because of circumstances in their lives, these kids often are delayed in their social and emotional growth," says Sherry Jones, co-director of DCLY with husband Robert D. Jones. "It is incredibly difficult to go through those years of really becoming an adult."

The Dream Center renovated space for 18 young people for the new program. In a safe, homey environment, former foster youth can finish their high school diplomas, earn General Educational Development certificates, enroll in college, learn vocational skills, and prepare for independent living.

DCLY participants are required to take classes at the Dream Center from a wide curriculum list that includes such topics as anger management and addic-



Remodeled facilities at the Phoenix Dream Center provide living quarters for up to three foster youth in one area.

tion recovery. They gain nutritional, financial, technological and spiritual insights.

A \$450 monthly program fee is covered by donations as well as state subsidies. Enrollees are required to open a bank account, with a portion of their government aid covering costs. The Dream Center supplies utilities, three daily meals, and all basic living essentials such as laundry detergent, toothpaste, deodorant and toilet paper.

Those in the program must attend Tuesday evening Bible study, Saturday night youth service, and Sunday morning worship. Jones says the government doesn't object to religious instruction.

"The Phoenix Dream Center has a good reputation for revitalizing lives," Jones says. "Faith-based agencies are getting more acclaim as we show that we have a greater success rate than other programs do."

The Joneses, who have attended Phoenix First Assembly for 20 years, are committed to DCLY. In fact, they gave up their home and moved into a 650-square-foot apartment on the Dream Center site. The couple interacts with enrollees practically every waking hour.

Robert has been a pastor and special education director. Sherry has a master's degree in special education and a doctorate in educational leadership.

Two young married couples - Marshall and Heather Gadd along with Joe and Monica Robinson - handle day-to-day minor problems for the participants, while the Joneses get more involved in serious counseling situations.

According to Sherry Jones, most of the teens who commit to DCLY are non-Christians, yet it's understood they are going to receive frequent instruction from Scripture.

"You can't just tell them what they have to do," Jones says. "But we can get them thinking in terms of what is appropriate in how to treat others, how to be respectful, how to be successful in life."

Jones says some teens hostile to God upon entry have become Christians and experienced a tremendous turnaround.

"We lose a few, and that hurts," she says. "But we give them parameters for their behavior and structure for their lives that still allows them the independence to grow to adulthood."



Everett Plunkett

Everett Plunkett moved to the Dream Center in the summer because he had no family or friends offer to house him. Plunkett, 18, was in the custody of Child Protective Services from the age of 4 until leaving a group home just before arriving at the Dream Center.

"I'm looking for how to be independent, how to take care of myself, and be on my own," Plunkett says. "Before I came, I didn't know God. But God is really not that bad once you get to know Him. I love it here."

Jones notes institutional living often isn't a nurturing environment for foster kids.

"A lot of them come here and disassociate with their past, they disassociate with their families, they disassociate with God," Jones says. "They don't know what they want; they just know they don't want a life like the one they had." At the Dream Center, residents experience God's love and acceptance, Jones says.

"We don't focus on their negatives; we don't focus on their past," Jones says. "We try to set them up for success."

The past for some residents is traumatic. Sheila Lucero is another 18-year-old DCLY student. When Lucero was 10, her mother became homeless. Lucero's mother agreed to let her daughter move in with a relative of a friend rather than try to make it on the streets with her. For the next three months, Lucero says a young adult male at the residence repeatedly raped her.

In all, Lucero lived in 17 group homes and with four foster families. She served a brief jail sentence because of a knife attack, and also spent time hospitalized for cutting herself. She is looking for some stability at the Dream Center.

Lucero finds the staff easy to talk to, and has enrolled in community college classes with aspirations of becoming a nurse.

"I am trying to save up money to get my own apartment," she says. "I need to learn how to live on my own."

Author: John W. Kennedy, Pentecostal Evangel

Matthews 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me

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Matthew 5:16

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