



December 2005

advanced leadership articles

A Publication of Ministers Fellowship International

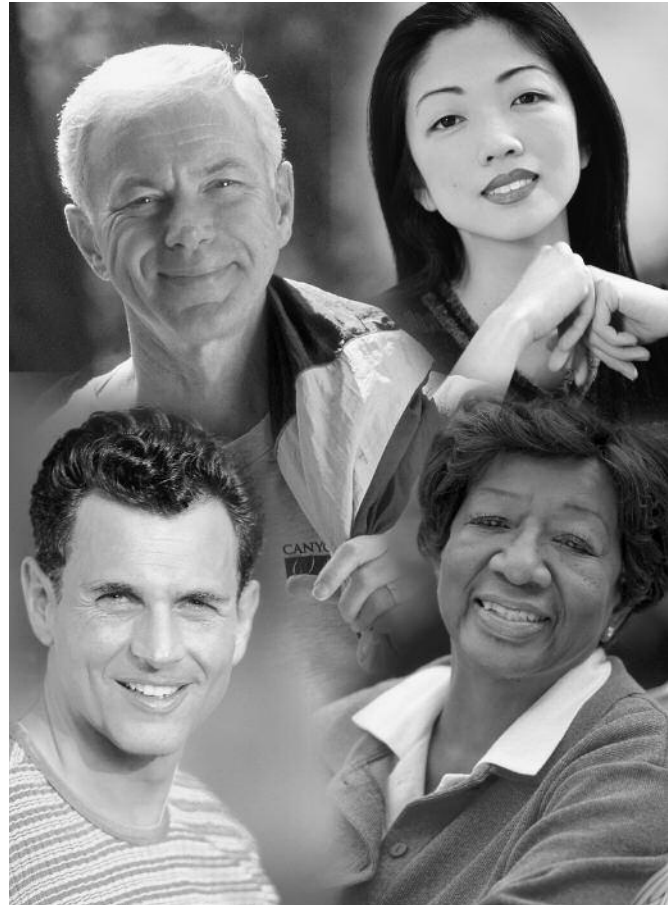
WORKING AT UNITY

One of the most vital doctrines we need to embrace if we are going to effectively reach our communities for Christ, is the spirit of unity between pastors, ministers and churches. Knowing we cannot reach our city by ourselves, we know we need each other. We must actively support one another in ministry and in our individual gifts to the Body of Christ in order to see the church flourish, walk in love and maturity and thus win the world that is watching us!

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! For there the LORD commanded the blessing—Life forevermore." Psalms 133:1-3 (NKJV)

"...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace....till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..." Eph 4:3,13 (NKJV)

"...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." John 17:21 (NKJV)



How to achieve Unity first in your church:

1. Make certain your own heart is united
 - a. "Unite my heart to fear your name"- Ps. 86:11
 - b. Not be double-minded- James 1:8
 - c. Have a single eye- Luke 11:34-36
 - d. Follow Christ daily- Luke 9:23
 - e. Walking in the light- 1 John. 1:7
2. You and your spouse must be in unity- 1 Tim. 3:2-4
 - a. Solid and happy marriage
 - b. Children under your authority
 - c. Agreeing in prayer and plans at home first
3. Unity between your core Leaders
 - a. Communicate with them frequently
 - b. Pray together
 - c. Fellowship together
 - d. Resolve any conflicts quickly
4. Harmony, peace and unity among all committed church members
 - a. Confront any brewing problems with love (Eccl. 8:11)
 - b. Teach how to resolve conflicts quickly (Matt. 18)
 - c. Walk in love and forgiveness (Eph. 4:32)
5. Fight for peace and unity – Rom. 16:20
 - a. Prayer with one another- softens hearts, resolves problems, produces peace (Phil. 4:6,7)
 - b. Love your people- model this to everyone
 - c. Preaching and teaching- especially on forgiveness and resolving conflicts, and walking in love (Matt. 18)
 - d. Leading with Love from Pulpit (Ps. 100:2)

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Fundamental doctrines upon which all Ministers of the Gospel must agree:

1. JESUS: Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior! (1 Tim. 2:5)
2. BLOOD: Man is saved by grace through faith, and the cleansing of the Blood of Jesus! (Eph. 2:8; Rev. 5:9)
3. BIBLE: The Bible is the inerrant Word of God! (2 Tim. 3:16)

There will always be some level of debate about other doctrines such as baptism, Holy Spirit, communion, and other teachings emphasized by various denominations and church movements. Eventually the Lord will bring us to the unity of the faith, but until then we must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3,13).

How to walk in unity with other Ministers

1. Recognize and appreciate the variety and diversity of the Body of Christ.
 - a. Different gifts
 - b. Different styles
 - c. Different emphases
2. Reject and resist insecurity and comparisons (2 Cor. 10:12).
 - a. We are not the whole body of Christ nor do we have to be the complete local church.
 - b. Do not compare ourselves among ourselves.
 - c. Recognize gifts and callings- captains over different levels, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers.
 - d. Resist the evil spirits of jealousy, envy, ambition, pride—these are enemies that must be defeated or they will breed corruption and strife into our ministries and our people
3. Always speak well of other ministers and ministries publicly.
 - a. From the pulpit
 - b. In meetings
 - c. In private conversation
4. Support other churches with projects.
 - a. Invest finances in other ministries
 - b. Be proactive
 - c. Sow a seed—you will always reap!
5. Love them.
 - a. Visit them
 - b. Attend area Ministers meetings—show support and love
 - c. Pray for them and with them
 - d. Unite on projects or in community events



ADVANCED LEADERSHIP ARTICLES

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If you have an idea, article, insight, illustration, quote, question to ask, or humorous excerpt that you would like to add to the arsenal of other pastors, please call or fax: Wendell Smith, MFI Editor FAX 425-889-8940 or call: 1-800-304-CITY or email cityinfo@thecity.org (All submitted info subject to editing, Thanks)



TEACHING OUR PEOPLE JESUS' MODEL FOR DAILY PRAYER

The pattern that Jesus taught His disciples for daily prayer is a simple and reproducible tool that should be taught to all believers. What is referred to as the Lord's prayer is actually a model for personal prayer. This concept can be taught and encouraged among all our members as an easy way to learn how to pray more effectively.

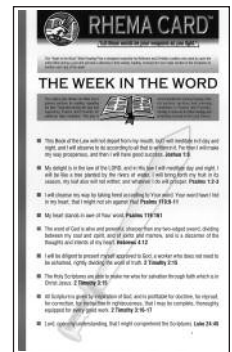
Also included in this Seed Bag mailing is a sample of the Daily Prayer Card designed from the biblical pattern taught by our Lord to those first disciples.

This is another great tool for motivating our people to prayer and mobilizing them into more effective and consistent petition and supplication.

2006 NEW YEAR- BIBLE READING PLAN

Every new year is an opportunity to renew our people's hunger and thirst for the Word of God. Included in this Seed Bag is a sample Bible Reading plan that leads people through the primary sections of the Bible on successive days each week.

Consider charging your people afresh this year with the challenge to read through their Bibles and meditate in the law of the Lord day and night.



PROSPERITY WITH A PURPOSE

(excerpt from the new book by Pastor Wendell Smith)

The simplest way to understand prosperity is to correlate it to how fathers and mother interact with their children. In the same way a good natural parent wants the best for their children, so the Lord wants the best for us. We want our kids to be successful and happy and well adjusted. We want our children to be the best and succeed at everything they do. How much more is this true of our heavenly Father?

If we are human, limited and weak, and yet we know how to do good for our children, how much more will our heavenly Father, who is perfect and divine and strong, do good for His children? If we give gifts to our children, how much more will our Father who is heavenly, give good things to those who know Him, love Him, and serve Him? This was the revelation that Jesus, the Son of God, brought to us when He explained what the Father was like.

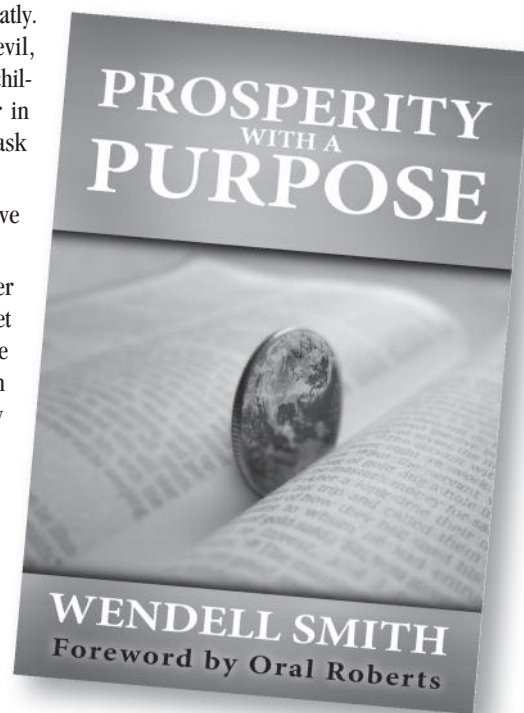
Jesus revealed the nature of our heavenly Father. He spoke of Him of course as a

Person—and One who loved us so greatly. He told His disciples, “If you being evil, know how to give good things to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him” (Matthew 7:11).

There is probably not a parent alive who, when celebrating a traditional

Christmas, has not warned his or her children to be good or they might not get any presents. But that actually is not true at all. We give gifts to our children even when they are bad—just because they are our children!

How much more does our heavenly Father bless us when we do not deserve it? How much grace and mercy has He shown to us when we deserved just the opposite? Even when we were sinners, God showed His great love for us that He sent His Son to die on our behalf (Romans 5).



Continued Page4- Prosperity

QUOTES ON PROSPERITY

In my own research for the topic of prosperity, I found many inspiring comments from great leaders. Take time to consider these words of wisdom on prosperity:

Earn everything you can; save everything you can; then give everything you can.

—John Wesley

Wealth to us is not mere material for vain-glory but an opportunity for achievement. Poverty we think it no disgrace to acknowledge, but a real degradation to make no effort to overcome.

—Thucydides, 415 BC

Prosperity is a way of living and thinking, and not just money or things. Poverty is a way of living and thinking, and not just a lack of money or things.

—Eric Butterworth

Prosperity is only an instrument to be used, not a deity to be worshipped.

—Calvin Coolidge

We must lay aside the thinking that spiritual blessings and heaven are all we need, and that material blessings are out of place for us. The salvation which Jesus wrought for us has the same power in the material as the spiritual world. Yes, let us not confuse prosperity with greed! Greed is characteristic of the devil, while prosperity is an attitude of God.”

—Dr. David Yonggi Cho

Adopt a faith attitude toward life. Live according to God’s wisdom regarding money and material things. Then and only then will you know true satisfaction, true life! Make Jesus the centerpiece of your life and set your heart to trust in Him alone. This is the true prosperity message.

—Dick Iverson

Continued Page4- Quote

Quote-Continued From Page 3

Prosperity is part of the process, but it is not the objective. The objective is to become a conduit whereby currency flows through you like electricity through metal. Money is called currency because it is meant to flow like the currents of a river. As it flows, some of it will moisten the parched ground of your personal life. Some will flow through to your children and your family. And some will flow through you to bless the ministry that is helping you become all you can be.

—Bishop T.D. Jakes

Real religion is when we physically help people. We are meant to have such a prosperity in the church that we are able to give to the needs of those around us all of the time, in abundance.

—Dr. Phil Pringle

God does want each of us to be rich in every possible way—health, love, and peace of mind, as well as material possessions. God wants this, however, not just for our own sake, but for the sake of all humankind.

—Paul Zane Pilzer

Through the mystical alchemy of money, giving charity jump-starts wealth creation. I am urging you to give money away because it is one of the most powerful and effective ways of increasing your own income. As a religious Jew, it does not surprise me at all that a benevolent God arranges things in such a way that groups who follow a Biblical blueprint tend to thrive.

—Rabbi Daniel Lapin

Prosperity-Continued From Page 3

Many believers, in a sense of false humility, degrade themselves in the presence of God because of past sins. We feel completely unworthy and ashamed that God would love us so much and believe that we do not qualify for His blessing. We just don't think we deserve it. And frankly we are right. We don't deserve it and we are completely unworthy of His favor and grace!

That is just the point of the New Covenant. The law came by Moses, but

grace and truth came by Jesus Christ! Jesus made us worthy through His blood. He became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. We are made righteous through what Jesus did on the cross for us. Now, according to the New Testament Scriptures, you and I are the righteousness of God. We are right before Him. We are now His beloved children.

If you and I can love our children and our grandchildren like we do,

how much more does God love us? God is crazy about us. He yearns and aches to be with us and to see us succeed. All this is because He loved us in Christ, and saved us for His grand purpose and plan.

Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility.—Colossians 2:18

Once you understand how good God is, your attitude toward money and tangible blessings will change. Just as we want to bless our children, so much more does He want blessings for us. God is the perfect Father. He is not like us. He does all things well. He only does wonderful things.

Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things! —Psalm 72:18

God is perfect in all His ways. He causes all things to work together for good in our lives. God gives us richly all things to enjoy. He blesses us to be a blessing. He prospers us for a purpose! I don't know too many parents who don't want their natural children to be successful. They want them to get good grades. They want them to be popular and have friends. They want them to score the goal in the big game. They want them to get the top award for some achievement. They want their kids to be the best they can be. And when they do succeed we are so blessed and so proud of them. Well, our heavenly Father is no different. The Bible says He takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.

“GOD’S NOT MAKING ANY MORE LAND”



These were the words Dr. Oral Roberts shared with us as he stood on our platform after a service and gave us faith for enlarging our auditorium and buying up property around our church. Since then we enlarged our auditorium space to seat 500 more people, bought up three homes adjacent to our church property and are in process of purchasing four other properties. He went on to

say, “Everywhere I go, I encourage pastors to buy land and secure a future for their church.”

In this New Year, every pastor should prayerfully seek the Lord and believe for more land, more buildings for their church. Pray also for paying off church mortgages while expanding the borders of your influence by enlarging facilities and buying up more land. All of this should be done wisely, with counsel and much prayer, but also with a spirit of faith and trusting God to provide to assist your church in expansion for the Kingdom.

Is this biblical? Jesus told His disciples that for those who gave up things and left all to follow Him, they would inherit 100-fold in this life, “houses and lands” (Mark 10:30).

BEST OF ILLUSTRATIONS, QUOTES AND FUNNIES



Church football:

Quarterback sneak - church members quietly leaving during the invitation

Draw Play - what many children do with the bulletin during worship

Half time - the period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave

Bench warmer - those who do not sing, pray, work, or apparently do anything but sit

Backfield in motion - making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service

Staying in the pocket - what happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord's work

2 minute warning - the point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings

Instant replay - the preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week's illustrations

Sudden Death - what happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes into "overtime"

Trap - you're called on to pray and are asleep

End run - getting out of church quickly without speaking to any guest or fellow member

Flex defense - the ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life

Halfback option - the decision of 50% of the congregation not to return for the evening service or bible study

Blitz - the rush for the restaurants following the benediction

DOES SANTA REALLY DELIVER THE GOODS?

1. No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer which only Santa has ever seen.
2. There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear) to handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total - 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each.
3. Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75-1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc.

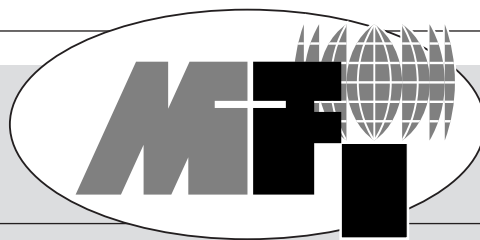
This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of compari-

son, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 35 miles per hour.

4. The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 1000 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 714,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison - this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth.
5. 353,000 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as a spacecraft reentering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy per second each. In short, they will burst into flames almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

In conclusion - If Santa ever DID deliver presents on Christmas Eve, he's dead by now.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM MFI PASTORS



Pastors Bob & Joanne Leach

*Living Hope Christian Assembly
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada*

In the past year we have had over 80 salvations added to the church. We just finished a post encounter with 100 participants and in the new year we are having an encounter with over 100 people—mostly new believers. We just made the final payment of \$365,000 on a \$665,000 property with two buildings on it. Next month we are moving our offices to one building and the other is a 14,000 sq. ft. building we are developing into a youth centre. We are also in the final stages of negotiation on 18 acres of land for 1.7 million.

Pastors Rick & Debbie Greene

*Cowlitz Valley Christian Center
Castle Rock, WA*

We have had a fresh emphasis on what the believers practiced in the Book of Acts. Their life was marked by prayer, sacrificial giving and preaching sound doctrine. So we are boldly and without apology preaching sound doctrine and we are praying in tongues like never before (every Sunday morning we are gathering at the Church between 7 and 8 and we are just praying in the Spirit for one hour) and we are giving like never before.

Pastors Earl & LeAnn Bradley

*Christian Life Church
Lacey, Washington*

Friday, January 6, 2006, is now confirmed for a special evening of honor and celebration at Christian Life Church. Earl and LeAnn Bradley will be passing the Senior Pastor baton to their son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Jayne Bradley. Earl and LeAnn will remain as local elders and part of the leadership team; but Steve and Jayne will be providing the primary leadership to the congregation. They are called, appointed and anointed by God to work with our eldership and lead CLC into its most productive years.

This will be an exciting evening for the CLC Family as Earl and LeAnn are released to pursue the call of God to more prayer and to encourage and strengthen other pastors and leaders. They are already very actively involved in the foundation stages of helping to establish a Washington State Prayer Center in the capitol city of Olympia. The vision for this was birthed as a result of witnessing

what God has been doing through the National Prayer Center in Washington, D.C., under the directorship of Pastor Ken Wilde. A house for this purpose in Olympia has been selected and the process for closing the deal is underway. It is located within one block of the capitol and has a fantastic view of the capitol dome. We are joining our faith and prayer with many others for a real spiritual breakthrough that will positively impact our state.

Pastors Frank & Sharon Damazio

*City Bible Church
Portland, Oregon*

In an effort to reach the entire metro area, City Bible Church has stepped into a new model of doing church: a “one church, multiple location” strategy. With one singular vision and one leadership team, CBC has launched multiple locations with the goal of allowing every person in our metro area the opportunity to experience worship at CBC within a fifteen minute radius from their home. Services take place simultaneously at each campus with live worship, and the services are connected via fiber optic technology for the message and various other events. This strategy has proven to be a great success and our long range plan is to start nine metro campuses.

Two years ago, we began our 217 campus, which currently has over 1,300 people in attendance in weekend services, which also includes our Spanish service that meets on Sunday afternoon. The launch of our Mill Plain (Vancouver, WA) campus is targeted for the summer of 2006. In addition to these three campuses, we currently conduct another midweek service on the Portland State University campus with nearly two hundred students attending each week.

In addition to the seven weekend services, we've been strategic in reaching the various ethnic groups of our city. Throughout the week, we coordinate small groups and meetings targeted to reach the Lao, Russian, Romanian and Japanese communities, and a variety of other ethnic groups. Each of these is seeing great growth.

Make your aim to go after your city; get in while the fishing is hot! God is truly moving in marvelous ways.

Pastors Dave & Deb Hackett

*Christian Hope Center
Painted Post, New York*

Our Generation Church is exploding with excitement. We have over 75 teens each week from different churches. There have been many salvations and healings. They come for the prayer, intense praise and hot preaching.

Pastors Mike & Barbara Servello

*Mt. Zion Ministries Church
Utica, New York*

“Compassion Coalition, Inc.,” a separate 501(c)3 Charitable Organization birthed by Mt. Zion Ministries Church in Utica, NY, which operates on a 1.8 million dollar budget with no government funds, is experiencing incredible favor in the governmental, educational, market place and public sectors. We served over 200,000 people in 2005 through our 115 member agencies distributing over 5 million pounds of food and personal care items to the poor and needy.

Our newest venture, Compassion Kids, served over 189,000 children (first through 6th grade) during its after-school feeding and activities program serving five inner-city magnet schools. By the end of 2005 we will be in a total of seven public schools, all at the request of the school principals. Statistics from the school principals show that test scores increased by over 50% and that discipline had dropped significantly. Since many of these children go without a meal or two a day, our program gives them a nutritious meal, good tutoring and solid moral teachings. This combination has helped to drive these incredible statistics; however, it is truly the Lord Jesus Christ who is infiltrating the hearts and spirits of these young children. This truly gives a stronger meaning to Psalm 12:5: “But the Lord says, ‘I will now rise up, because the poor are being hurt. Because of the moans of the helpless, I will give them the help they want.’” (NCV)

Pastor Charlie Sweet, Executive Director

Pastors Brad & Jessi Dvorak

*Church For Life
New Zealand*

We arrived in New Zealand to commence our church plant, but one of our two containers did not. It was impounded by customs, but we trust

that we will receive the contents shortly.

We have our "Summer of Fun" family programs on the beach all sorted out with 5 or 6 dates confirmed. We have printed flyers that will be going out to 30,000 local homes in the next 4 weeks. We have also had 2 schools ask us to come in with our inflatables and do end-of-the-year programs for all the students, parents and teachers. They are scheduled for Dec 9th and Dec the 14th.

This will give us a great introduction to the Summer of Fun and we will get to personally meet over 2,000 people in the community.

We have discovered that we now have some of the largest inflatables in New Zealand and we should expect crowds on our Summer of Fun days of between 2500 and 5000+ people on the beaches. We were not sure how we were going to cope but friends from the States and a team from Mark Bryan's church will join us in the new year.

God has given us incredible open doors!

The school where we rent our facilities has invited us to do some school assemblies addressing current issues kids are facing and how to deal with them. —They have also given us an extra days rent per month for one building, so that we could have a youth night. They decided to only charge us an extra 60.00 per month - unheard of for rent here.

—We have also been given a 1600 sq foot office in the school to use during the week. The school receptionist will take our calls, we have almost unlimited storage, with our own locked cabinets and garage.

—We have also been allowed our own signage (right outside the school).

Please keep us in your prayers over these next few exciting months as we get ourselves established.

Pastors Colin & Sue Cooper *Huddersfield Christian Fellowship England*

Right now we are seeing good growth so much so that we are running double services. Souls are being saved every week.

We purchased the present building six years ago and thought it would last at least 20 years. It did not so we have bought some land. There is nothing great about that except the town planners approached us and asked if we would like it! This was unprecedented, as it was near the town centre which is normally sold to commercial ventures at inflated prices. Then 6 months after the purchase, a new plan came out for the town. The town centre was moved and it will be built around the site we have purchased, which of course doubles or triples its cost.

A couple of little miracles, along with souls being saved almost every week, has helped our faith to build our next building which will cost 18 million US dollars.

Pastors Gene & Karene Salsbury *Restoration Temple Lima, Ohio*

Karene and I, along with my son Jon (associate pastor & worship leader) and his wife Eva, just returned from a missions trip to Hungary, Romania, and Belgium.

In Hungary, Restoration Temples helps to oversee two churches that are located in the city of Szolnok, and in the town of Tengelic. These two churches have doubled in the last year, and this summer they baptized 4—all at once!

In Romania, we ministered in four Gypsy churches. In May, many of these Gypsy leaders, and members of their congregations, will come to a camp we will be holding in Hungary.

Our ministry in Belgium was well received. I began going to Belgium in 1979, and for a long time, have gone yearly. In March, Restoration Temple will host the leadership team of the church in Gent, Belgium, as they come our way to further strengthen the relationship between the two churches.

We have five from Restoration Temple that are full-time in Belize, Central America, and we have a preschool up and running that ministers to Creole speaking children that must "get on" English to advance in Belize. So our goal is to prepare them for kindergarten, and to teach them English. Four of our people run the school.

We are preparing for another trip to Appalachia—Webster County, West Virginia, which is one of the poorest counties in America. We will be taking Christmas gifts, winter coats, blankets, hats, gloves, and other clothing items for children.

Pastors Bob & Sue MacGregor *City Harvest Church Vancouver, WA*

City Harvest Church is doing great. We continue to experience growth (about 9% a year), along with salvations, and many healings. Fired up from City Church's Prosperity Conference, we are going to launch a new series called Prosperity with a Purpose in order to prepare us for the 10-12 million dollar building project facing our church. God has been good to us.

Pastors Santosh & Nagamani Desabattula *Andhra Pradesh, India*

In 1981, God called me to do His ministry. So I came and today we have 230 churches, two Bible schools, 15 Sewing Training Institutes, five orphanages and two Health Clinics. Please pray for us and for these ministries.

Pastors Watson & Erika Kluttz *EuroChrist Germany*

This year, we really had in our hearts to go to the M.F.I. Conference; however, for financial reasons, we decided not to go. Almost at the last minute, God miraculously worked out the situation so that we were able to attend the conference anyway. To us, this conference was tremendous! Through some of the speakers, God began a new work in us.

Before we went back to Germany, we flew to Virginia and participated in a missions conference at our home church, The House of Prayer. At the end of one of the evening services, we received a prophetic word that God would completely turn our ministry around within one year and what we had thought was a vision, wasn't really a vision at all. God was going to do a new thing. Celebrations, growth and tremendous changes were prophesied. And...that God would be the One Who would do it.

The first Sunday we were back from the M.F.I. Conference, we had new people in the Sunday service. One woman came forward and said she was a lost sheep and wanted to come home. She took a stand for Christ and has been back every Sunday. Each subsequent Sunday, we have had new people in the service, people that keep coming back, and people that make commitments to serve the Lord. The fire is starting to burn in the rest of the church.

An open door also brings many adversaries but we don't even care. We just fight back with the weapons of the Spirit, mostly with unconditional love, and we are winning every time.

Pastors Rick & Susie Snow *Atlanta City Church Fairburn, Georgia*

Because of a new change in format in our services and just getting more creative to reach this generation, we've grown almost 400 people in just a few short months. We are also launching a satellite campus in the first quarter of 2006. A recent purchase of a 100,000 square foot building by one of our business people is going to make 18,000 square feet of space available for Atlanta City Church, south campus in Peachtree City, GA. Our goal is to be NEW, IMPROVED, AND IMPROVING in every area of ministry to reach others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It's a joy to be in ministry and to serve God by serving others! 2006 is going to be our best year ever. Remember, you can't serve God without taking risks!

Pastors Robert & Kathryn Baxter *Assemblée Chretienne du bon Beger Paris, France*

We are grateful for what God is doing here in Paris. No doubt, many of you have heard of the

recent riots in Paris as well as some of the other major cities around France. Even though the press blew things way out of proportion, these disturbances certainly underline the serious social and spiritual tensions that exist in France as well as throughout most of Europe. It is not as much a question of social integration as it is a question of a sense of identity.

What can be done? How should we respond? After living here in Paris for 18 years I can attest to the trends that have turned the disaffected ghettos into a literal tinder box that is ready to explode at any moment. France is ripe for revival! The French consume more anti-depressant drugs than any other nation in the world. Paris has among the highest rates of clinical depression of major cities; and France can now boast of having the highest rate of teen-age suicide in Europe. France is ready for the gospel.

There are more practicing Muslims in France than there are Christians. And the anti-religion laws in France are among the most strict of any nation in the "free" world. And yet over 80% of French people claim to believe that a "higher power" exists. I believe God is preparing France for a great harvest.

Yet, workers are needed, not just the short-term missionary. No, the French need to see Americans who are ready and willing to give their lives for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ in this land.

Pastors Chuck & Cynde McCaul *New Life Fellowship Cambodia Outreach Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

We recently met with our senior leaders for our monthly Pastor's School and took a recap of how we have progressed since the beginning of the year. We counted 13 bonafide churches, 19 "emerging churches" (a leader, believers but not a full-blown church) and 26 evangelistic points we are currently preaching the Gospel in. Our Phnom Penh church is full to the brim and we will start a second service in January. Praise God for the open heavens in Cambodia for preaching the Gospel and bringing people to the Lord Jesus! We are currently preaching on Sunday mornings from Don Ostrom's book, Millionaire in the Pew, encouraging faith to believe God to raise up businessmen and women in our church. We sense that 2006 will definitely be a year of consolidation and increase. More focus is also being given on children's ministry, as Pastor Chuck feels he needs to invest more in the next generation. We are strengthening our Sunday children's church and our weekly outreach to street children as well as making plans to start a Christian School. There are opportunities for short term teams and short and mid term workers to join us in Cambodia. Contact us at chuck@cambodiaoutreach.org for more info.

Pastors Dave & Donna Patterson *The Father's House Vacaville, CA*

"... A great season of pursuing God!" We called an "all church fast" for the first 21 Days of November. The participation was amazing as interns, youth, college and kids' church all participated at different levels of commitment. During this time we have seen great days of growth with record numbers of salvations and momentum.

Last weekend we baptized 97 people in water during the weekend services! Praise God! There have been many testimonies from unchurched people who are receiving Christ and making friends. It's a great time to be about the Father's business! Let me be clear that this is a demonstration of God's grace and nothing that we have figured out! 2 CO 10:17 But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Pastors David & Ketzy Prakasam *Bethel I.P.A. Coimbatore, India*

Our Beloved mother Mrs. Ruth Gnanaprakasam, who was a pioneer and apostle to the unreached tribal people, went to be with the Lord on the 26th of October, 2005. In her lifetime of ministry she had traveled to more than 150 villages and personally shared the gospel with more than 70,000 people. She was willing to travel anywhere to share the love of Jesus from visiting people in prison and in prostitute camps. Her desire was to die like an Indian bull, serving Her master faithfully until her last breath. We thank all the dear pastors and churches who remembered us during our time of grief and we really appreciate your prayers for our Dad and Family.

We are very thankful to Pastor Wendell and Pastor Gini for dedicating the Prosperity With A Purpose in memory of Mrs. Ruth and for the generous donation they gave to build a school in her memory among the tribal villages.

During November our state had heavy rains flooding many of the cities in our province. 300,000 people lost their homes and belonging and more than 1500 villages are submersed with water and the people are being evacuated. Many churches have lost their buildings and many poor believers are crying out for their houses to be rebuilt. Kindly remember them in your prayers.

Pastor Andrew Prakasam brought a team of more than 18 people from the United States for a leader's conference in the city of Madurai. More than 500 pastors came and were blessed and challenged.

In our central church we have declared 40 days of prayer and fasting for the salvation of souls and for the ongoing construction of the second phase of our church extension. We are still trusting God for financial miracles for our building extension. I preached a series of two messages on Heaven and

Hell. More than 100 people committed their lives to Jesus. We are praying and believing for 300 people to be saved and baptized during this Christmas season. Kindly continue to uphold us in your prayers.

Pastor Mitch & Bonnie Borrows *Abbotsford Christian Assembly Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada*

We just completed a 5 day crusade hosting the Mike Hagen Strength Team and saw 358 decisions for Christ! This team uses feats of strength like blowing up hot water bottles and breaking bricks & baseball bats and many other radical feats to attract a crowd and throughout the presentation weave in a clear gospel presentation. Through God's favor and some good connections within our school district we were able to book them to perform 10 public school assemblies in our town in High Schools, Middle and Elementary Schools. 5000 children absolutely loved the presentations and were challenged about lifestyle choices and were invited to attend the evening assemblies (crusades) at our Church. Each night many people responded to the alter calls. The crowd seemed to build until the last night when we were packed to standing room only. Our congregation served excellently and was newly-ignited about the joy of soul winning. They are so excited that they gave over \$10,000 in offerings and business men kicked in an additional \$5000 to cover extra expenses incurred. Praise The Lord!

We are also celebrating opening an "At Risk Youth Drop-In Centre" in our City called the Cyrus Centre. It opened at the beginning of October and already we are seeing around 26 youth each day come in and use the services of this facility. The Centre is open from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm daily and provides one hot meal per day, showers, fresh clothing, laundry services, a source for receiving mail & phone calls, job search and resume help as well as networking with other local services ministries and recovery homes. The Lord birthed this in our hearts with an attitude to not own it as our church's work but to network support within our pastoral relationships in our city as we believe the Church in our City can do more in unison than by ourselves. Currently we are on budget with 8 churches and 8 others have named us as a charity and have hosted fundraising events for us. In addition, the Lord sent us over \$100,000 from a family in a city 50 miles away when they heard (via a television broadcast) what we were doing. Pray for us as we are now expanding to include overnight shelter for homeless youth in an adjoining commercial space we have just acquired. Glory to God we have three paid staff and 15 trained volunteers and representation from various churches bringing daily meals. It's amazing what the church can do when it cooperates together!