



The Lord's Mountain Mover's **NEWSLETTER**

"If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

(Matt. 17:20)

March 2014

Issue 0005

Grace and peace to you my brothers and sisters in the Lord. I can't believe that it is already March. Many people make New Year's resolutions. They are normally things about themselves that they want to change, or things they want to do, or stop doing. Usually by this time of year those resolutions have been forgotten or the desire has faded away. They are right back where they were before they made the resolution. Change is only change when it becomes a part of our character and our life.

I saw a license plate frame the other day that said, "Why don't you be the one to make the changes you want to see in the world." It is easy for us to see the negative things all around us and just as easy to make comments about them. But, how hard is it for us to be a part of changing those things? I want to share an insight by Ruth Tucker, from a daily devotional called, Time with God, page 299.

"What appears to be foolish in the eyes of society is often that which is most effective in the work of the kingdom. The ignorant, the uneducated, the despised of the world are sometimes God's choicest servants. So it was with Sophie "the scrubwoman" Lichtenfels, "whose sermons rose not from an exalted podium but from the callused hands and knees and with the rhythm of a lowly washtub and scrub brush"...

...Her testimony was simple. "God called me to scrub and preach. I was born a preacher, but since I was poor I had to work. My work is good and I can be trusted, so they want me. But if they have me, they must hear me preach. No preach, no work. I scrub as unto the Lord and I preach to all in the house. When I am out of work I tell my Father. He is the best employment office. You don't have to pay or wait..." sometimes we pray so foolish. For 12 years I prayed the Lord to make me a foreign missionary. One day I prayed like that and my Father said, 'Stop Sophie. Where were you born?' 'In Germany,' I replied. 'And where are you now?' 'In America.' 'Well, aren't you already a foreign missionary?' Then he said to me, 'Who lives on the floor above you?' 'A family of Swedes.' 'And above them?' 'Some Swiss'... "'Yes, and in back are Italians and a block away chinese. You have never spoken to them about My Son. Do you think I'll send you a thousand miles away when you've got foreigners, even heathen all around you?'" Ruth Tucker

I like Sophie's story because it reminds me that as Christians we are called to preach the gospel. We don't need to stand in front of congregations, we can preach from our hands and knees. We don't need to go anywhere, when we are needed right where we are. Instead of making resolutions or asking to be somewhere else, or be somebody different, let's just be who we are and be obedient to our calling right where are. Let's also not be the person who sees what needs to be done and only speaks about it, let's be the person who is willing to put forth the effort to make those changes.

I pray that God will enlighten, inspire, and encourage each one of us in the calling He has placed on us.

Pastor Pete

In His service

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THE WORD IN MOTION message

The Day the Church got Started (Part 2 of 2)

Last month we began looking into the beginning of the church as recorded in Acts 2:37-41. Let's continue on together in exploring, "The Day the Church got Started."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:37-41)

In the first part of verse 39, Peter tells his listeners that the gospel message is not just for those who were there that day and witnessed those events, but that this promise was also for those who would come after them for generations. "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off." This is important information, especially for us today. The beginning was not the end. What happened that day was only the beginning of the church, it would, and continues to grow and multiply until God will close that door just like He closed the door of Noah's Ark. In Romans 11:25, the Apostle Paul even speaks of a time when the exact number of gentiles will be reached, concluding their entrance into the church, "For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." So, just as Peter began with the preaching of the gospel message it should continue to be preached today, just as it was then.

In the last part of this verse we find a statement that unfortunately causes controversy through misunderstanding, "as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." Without going into great detail I will just say that the Bible is very clear as to who does the saving of man, that "who" is God, through Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me." and in John 6:44, Jesus says, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." As we saw from last month's study on this passage, we see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit working the salvation of man. The real church, i.e. the body of Christ, is not an open house for anyone to enter, any way they want. They must enter through the door, and that door is Jesus Christ (John 10:7, 9). God created the church; establishes the church, builds the church, and one day will come for His church.

In verse 40 we find this statement, "And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation!'" For me, this is an encouragement to keep on preaching the gospel and not give up. We keep on testifying regardless of the outcome. We need to remember the Apostle Paul's exhortation in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, "I planted and Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth." Preaching the gospel can become discouraging, and create despondency when we set up expectations and forget that it is not our preaching, or our desires, that brings people to the saving knowledge of Christ, it is God's job to do that.

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The last verse in this passage reads, “*So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.*” Notice that this verse does not say that everyone who heard the word was baptized and added to the church, it was only those who had received the word. Remember, that in part one of this study we noted what Paul had said in his first letter to the Corinthians that the gospel message is foolishness to those who are perishing. It is only those whose ears have been opened and hearts prepared beforehand that receive the gospel message and the salvation that follows. The Apostle John wrote in his gospel, “*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*” (John 1:12) When it comes to salvation a person cannot take what is not his, he must receive what is freely given to him from above.

What an eventful day, three thousand souls added to God’s church and yet it was only the beginning. The book of Acts continues on with the birthing of the church as God had planned it. If you think that you cannot make a difference in God’s Kingdom, that you cannot do something to further God’s plan for His church. Then you should take note that this started with the preaching of one person. One person who was obedient to the calling we have all received, and that is to preach the gospel to the lost. Let us do what we have been called to do and let God do the rest. Remember that it is not us, but the Holy Spirit working in and through us, and the power of the gospel message that will save those whom God is calling. What a privilege and responsibility the creator of the universe has bestowed upon us, to include us in His plan of salvation. He could accomplish it on His own, but has allowed us this honor.

The beauty of God’s church follows in verses 42-47, “*42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*”

God’s church is a fellowship of unity. It is not made up of the “haves” and the “have-nots.” It is a group of people whose lives have been changed forever. It is a group of people who are united in one Spirit and in one body. It is body of believers who interact with each other as Christ intended, who eat with each other and feed off the Word of God. I like what Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:1-6, “*Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*”

How wonderful it would be to be a part of a fellowship like we find here. I believe that it will be that way in the future Kingdom of God. I pray that we would begin to just taste what it will be like, by moving in that direction today. I believe that God would respond with overwhelming enthusiasm if we would take one tiny step toward true fellowship. Are we willing? Let’s make the change in our attitude so we can make the changes in the world.

Pastor Pete

In His service

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A Testimony (by George B.)

For 53 years I rejected a relationship and a belief in God & Jesus Christ. On November 23, 2006, I fell to my knees, and in great pain and despair, asked God to help me and my family. Why did I reach out to God as a non-believer? We as humans have an internal drive to seek out our purpose. To discover why we are here, to try to understand the world we live in, our past history and striving for understanding on what our destiny or future may be.

I thought my God-believing friends must be weak minded to have faith in an unseen God and that they were being manipulated mentally by mass hypnosis or just following the crowd. I didn't get it.

In the summer of 2007, while watching a TV evangelist show with my wife. I started to understand. It's not a question of intelligence; it's a question of faith. I know many intelligent people who have faith and believe in God. Why do they believe? What do they see that I didn't? I know by watching them they are not weak; they live fulfilled lives, seem happy, are well adjusted and do what I do mostly. What am I missing? If it is only faith, why can't I find it?

How is it that we can have faith in some things unseen like gravity and pilots and have no faith in God?

How is it possible that just by having a little faith in something that can not be seen can make us feel so at peace, so whole, so fulfilled? All I know is that faith as small as a mustard seed has changed my life for the better. The Bible states that by having faith in Jesus Christ, even a little faith that we become a new creation in Christ. The old man dies and we are renewed in spirit, not in the flesh. It is because of the unseen miracle known as the Holy Spirit described in the Bible; yielding not to our own selfish wants and desires but to humble ourselves to the teaching of Jesus Christ as the Bible teaches.

Faith is a search of understanding. This search is often done with other people as a community; it shows us harmony, intelligence and order in what we call nature. Our intelligence & curiosity about the world drives our life-long quest to search for the meaning of our existence. So philosophically, I believe that when we really look at our world, and how everything works in harmony, soil, water, plants, everything is interconnected. We can agree that there must have been some intelligent design for all we see, all we are in the universe and I call that intelligent designer, God.

Faith is evidence not seen. God never wants to take anything away from us. He gives us freedom, peace, love, grace, mercy everything for our good. Our wrong choices destroy us our right choices set us free.

It's not about religion, laws or rules to follow. It's about a relationship with Jesus Christ. God wants to make a difference in your life so that you can make a difference in the lives of others. The greatest freedom we can ever have is the freedom of faith in Jesus Christ.

It is written in the Bible; Just Believe and have faith. Go with God and He will go with you. Your response to God will determine where your life will go. It is your will, which way you choose to turn.

The love of Jesus is free, it's powerful, and it's pure. If people in your life have let you down; I invite you to join someone who will never let you down, Jesus Christ. I thank my God and His Son, Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior, everyday for all the blessings in my life and for the forgiveness, grace and mercy that they have shown me.

My Prayer for us all... Only you oh Lord can lift up my soul, only you my God can heal my troubled heart. Come and take away my shame, show me all Your ways for your goodness sake, lead me to Your ways. Turn yourself to Him. He will dwell in you, ask Him to forgive, let Him live in you. God has a hope and a future for you all. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

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Our Prayer Requests for God's Children

Calvary Church, Santa Ana

KathyPlease pray for my sister Patty that she will receive salvation.

Bobby C.....Needs prayer for his addiction issues. He has been missing for over two weeks.
ANSWERED – BOBBY HAS BEEN FOUND AND IS RECEIVING HELP.

David & Jeannie M.
Missionaries to KenyaPray for Jeannie's mom who is in hospital with heart problems.

Andy HHealth is deteriorating fast and the doctors don't know what is wrong yet.

Tim LPray for God's will and intervention to remove cancer. He is losing weight rapidly from chemo.

ChetHas throat cancer and will be undergoing treatments. Wants to return to the church choir.

RalphRecovering from a coma.

Pat MHad serious back surgery and is doing great back at church. (Praise report)

Chip C.....Needs prayer for a back injury, will be seeing a doctor soon.

Liberty Church, Moreno Valley

Church.Please take a moment to pray for Liberty Deacon Brown as he had pancreas surgery January 29.
Please pray that Sam will have a full recovery. Thank you for your prayers.

Youth Group.....Pray that the youth group, going to Canada, will be successful in their missionary journey. They will be ministering the gospel to people their own age.
ANSWERED – THEY WERE NOT ONLY A BLESSING TO MANY PEOPLE, BUT THEY GREW IN THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD DURING THE TRIP.

Lee P.....Pray for his health issues and God's strength through them.

Baby Mary.....She is just about six months old, has severe heart problems and needs a transplant.

MargretWonderful 80+ yr. young lady. She took a bad fall and is still recovering. She misses church.

The ChurchPray that God would meet their financial needs in the coming year.

Roger & BillThat God would use them to have a positive influence with the city water board.

Harold BNeeds prayer for his recovery from a broken hip.

Manny.....His family is dealing with some illness issues and needs your prayers.

Sam B.Needs prayer for his health problems.

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Harvest Valley Church, Santa Ynez

CongregationPray that God will continue to bless and provide for their needs as they have reached out to so many. They are a real small church that has sent in thousands of life changing Bibles to men in prison. (I personally experienced God working through these gifts.)

California

Joann.....Sister of Robert has stage one cancer and needs your prayer.

David DPray for a car, their family car was repossessed just a few days ago. Pray that God would help him be the husband and father that he couldn't be for the last 15 years.

Victor A.....Prayer for hepatitis, and other health issues coming from just being old.

Faye A.Prayer for her health issues. That God would bless and guide her in her ministry work.

Rodney (?)Needs prayer. He is being sucked into discouragement and despair.

ANSWERED – RODNEY IS BEING ENCOURAGE AND MENTORED AND IS DOING MUCH BETTER.

Mary SPray that God would continue to give her a sound and clear mind. That He would bless her and her ministry.

Carlos R.....He lost his job and possibly will be homeless soon. Allowing depression to enter in. Please pray for him.

PARTIALLY ANSWERED – CARLOS MADE SOME CHANGES SO HE DOESN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT BEING HOMELESS ANYMORE.

John B.....Needs prayer for favor with the court system and be vindicated for wrongful conviction.

Steve L.....Praying for wisdom and guidance in fulfilling the ministry God has given him.

Eddie S.Continued reconciliation with family members.

Joanne R.Pray that God would bless her for her many gifts, prayers, and love for those in need.

Daniel V.....Reliable vehicle. To be reunited with his daughter. Praying for employment and a better place to live. He also needs prayer for some legal issues he is facing.

ANSWERED – COMMUNICATION WITH DAUGHTER HAS BEGUN THROUGH SISTER.

Gary G.....That he reaches out to God and hangs on. Praying for his prayer circle idea.

ANSWERED – PRAYER CIRCLE UP AND RUNNING THROUGH THE WEBSITE.

GARY IS GROWING IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Pete CPraying to find work. Reunification of his family. Healing of oldest son's addiction issues. Needs stable vehicle for transportation.

PARTIALLY ANSWERED – DAUGHTER IS TEXTING AND CALLING HIM

PARTIALLY ANSWERED – SON IS SOBER AND GETTING HELP

PARTIALLY ANSWERED – HE IS WORKING PART TIME.

ANSWERED – AFTER MANY WEEKS, GOD HELPED PETE FIND A VEHICLE.

Daniel R.....That his boss would be saved by faith in Jesus and the business would flourish. Praying for a home church to fellowship in. Salvation of his Dad and brothers. Have more patience with the lost who curse God and Jesus.

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Larry HPraying for healing for his continuing health issues.
PARTIALLY ANSWERED – COLONOSCOPY SHOWED NO CANCER

Randy CPraying he can find a job. Get a transfer so he can live with his Mom.
PARTIALLY ANSWERED – HE NOW LIVING WITH HIS MOM.
PARTIALLY ANSWERED – WORKING PART-TIME THROUGH LABOR READY.

George BPray for reunification of family, and that he would maintain a healthy relationship with God.
Please pray for my children to open their hearts (Michael, Christina and Jason). Request prayer for God’s wisdom in the purchase of real estate property.

Tom CThat God would bless him with a more fruitful job so he could be a blessing to others.

Florida

Scott FPray for resolution to his health issues and the safety of his children who are serving in the armed forces.

Minnesota

TJ & Julie WPray for God’s wisdom in conducting the marriage classes. TJ’s surgery on his wrist.
ANSWERED – SURGERY WAS SUCCESSFUL, HEALING WELL.

North Carolina

David(Daniel R’s. 14 yr. old cousin) – That God would help him make it through his cancer treatments. The leukemia has come back and he has just started another round of chemo. Pray for his body to withstand current treatment and a bone marrow match when the time comes.

Wisconsin

Jean PPraying that God would make her family whole and at peace.

Guatemala.

Benjamin APraying to get Spanish Bibles for prisoners in Guatemala. Moved into a new area to plant a Church. Pray that God would give the increase and provide their needs. Still needs Bibles!

Kenya

Larry SMissionary to Kenya, is having health issues and needs prayers for strength and healing.

Ministries

The Lord’s Mountain

MoversPraying for funding of: postage, printing, office supplies, and we are trying to get funding to file our 501(C)(3) corporate paperwork.

Acts

FoundationPraying for continued support for their prison ministry.

Lost and Found

By JesusPray that the issues with the city & county would come to a mutual agreement. That the Lord would bless and increase their ministry. Pray for God to meet their financial needs this coming year. Seeking God’s direction for an additional home.

ANSWERED – THE COUNTY AND CITY HAVE LET GO OF THE ISSUES THEY HAD.

Saving Grace

HomesGod is bringing opportunities for expansion. Pray for His wisdom and discernment in every decision they face. Pray for their patience in God’s timing.

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Brothers in Chino

Facility A.....That God would continue to honor and direct their efforts in putting His church in order. Prayer for the chaplain, New Facility Captain, Prayer Team, Brown Card Volunteers, all chapel programs.

PARTIALLY ANSWERED – COMPLETED GUIDELINES AND ESTABLISHED SOUND LEADERSHIP

Tom H.....He wants prayer for greater understanding and knowledge in the word of God. That God will also guide him as he shares God’s word with others.

Larry K.Pray that he will be guided by the Holy Spirit as he helps to lead the church back under the will of God.

Sebastian M.Pray that God will continue to grow him in the confidence of the faith that God has given him.

Bob G.Pray that God continues to restore family and friends back into his life.

Brothers in Tehachapi

Gabriel S.....Praying for favor for his writ that was submitted for his release. God’s will for his family. Pray for his wife who has a cancerous lump in her breast. His sister and her husband need employment and housing. His older brother who has liver disease.

Kenny J.....Praying that the door for communication with his children will be opened up. Also that his son Jeff will be delivered from his addiction issues. Kenny needs a place to live upon his release.

Ernesto M.Pray that he will leave prison the man, husband, son, and father God wants him to be.

Winifred W.....Please pray for his daughter Debra, she was diagnosed with stage 2 liver cancer and is undergoing treatment. Also pray for Winifred as his family is drawing close to him again.

PARTIALLY ANSWERED - DEBRA IS CANCER FREE

Tim P.....Pray for salvation in his family, and restoration with all his family members. Pray for God’s intervention in his board hearing so he will find favor and be released.

Brothers in Chowchilla

Johnny L.....God would prepare him to get out and further the Lord’s kingdom.

Brothers in Desert View

David P.Pray that God will open up the opportunity for him to share God’s word with those in his dorm and within the facility.