



## *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)

April 2014

Issue 0006

Welcome to April my brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope you are as excited as I am about remembering the resurrection of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ!

### **The Great Exchange!**

A couple weeks ago I was at the local gas station, putting fuel into my vehicle, when I noticed something taking place in the parking lot. On one side of the parking lot was a man standing beside his car, and on the other side of the lot, a woman standing by her car. These two individuals continued speaking to each other from their respective positions. I wondered why they stayed by their cars and didn't just walk to the other person to have their conversation when I received my answer.

One of the woman's car doors opened and a young girl about six years old got out of the car and ran, with an excited look on her face, to the man and clung to one of his legs. Next, a boy who looked to be about eight or nine years old crawled out of the car, his hands full with a backpack, skateboard, and other items. He also made his way over to the man and began putting his items into the man's car seemingly unscathed by what was going on. Lastly, an older girl, around twelve or thirteen, got out of the woman's car, but she was crying and clinging to the woman as she looked over at the man. The woman spoke to the girl and she finally and reluctantly made her way over to the man.

What was taking place became abundantly clear to me, I was watching the exchange of custody. I don't know anything about the personal problems that these two adults faced in their relationship but I do know what it is like to be a child in that situation. Once I realized what was taking place a flood of childhood memories came over me. For over twelve years my sister and I were the victims of "shared custody" by our parents who at some point in their relationship decided they couldn't live together anymore. Their decision to end their misery was the beginning of ours.

The big difference for us was that our parents ended up living quite a distance from each other so my sister and I would travel by plane or bus to other parents house. There were no parking lot exchanges for us to endure but for me there was always the questions, innuendos, and tension involved in the time leading up to, and after, these exchanges of custody. Our parents both moved on to other marriages and they started over, yet we were left to deal with what used to be, and what now existed.

I wonder how many children are experiencing these exchanges today. How many children are subjected to suffering through a broken marriage long after their parents have moved on. This is not what God had in mind when He instituted marriage between a man and a woman. Thankfully, as Christians, God does not share custody of His children with anyone else. This will be the focus of this month's Word in Motion Bible Study. I pray that God's Word will touch and assure your heart of His love for you as His child.

In His service, *Pastor Pete*

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## THE WORD IN MOTION message

### God's Great Exchange

All of humankind has God as their father in the sense that He has created all things, including humans. However, there is a special relationship that only believers have with God as their Father. In Romans 8:15, the Apostle Paul writes,

*“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”*

And again in Galatians 4:4-7, he writes,

*“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”*

Lastly, in Ephesians 1:5, Paul writes,

*“He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.”*

All three of these Scriptures speak of our adoption into the family of God. The first one speaks of what we have received, *“but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons.”* This means we now understand and believe that we have a special connection to God, a relationship that supersedes anything we have ever experienced before. Where we were once enemies and hopelessly alienated from God (Ephesians 2:12, Colossians 1:21), we now enjoy an intimate relationship with the creator and sustainer of all things. This new relationship is not one of fear, but of love, because the love of God casts out all fear (1 John 4:15-19).

The second speaks of how we have received our adoption, *“God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our heart.”* This relationship is based solely on us receiving Christ in our hearts. To receive Him only in our mind, or as an ideal, is insufficient in creating the relationship necessary for true salvation. Remember that Jesus said you can't get to the Father without going through Me (John 14:6), and you can't get to Me unless the Father draws you (John 6:44), which leads us to the final Scripture.

The third speaks of why we have received it, *“according to the kind intention of His will.”* This whole passage in Ephesians 1:1-14, enlightens us as to the Trinitarian perspective of our salvation. Verses 3-6 speak of God the Father's choosing, predestining, and adopting us according to His will, verses 7-11 speak of Christ's atoning work on our behalf and according to God's will. Lastly, verses 12-14 speak of the Holy Spirit's sealing work in our adoption as children of God.

John writes 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, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”* (John 1:12-13) Here Jesus uses the imagery of being “born”, in the same

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way he uses the term “born-again” (or born from above), in his conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:3 & 7. The point is that our entrance into God’s family is based on God’s actions in the same way our physical birth into our earthly family depended upon the actions of our biological parents.

There are several others things that take place simultaneously at our spiritual birth, including, but not limited to; conversion, regeneration, justification and our spiritual union with Christ. Each one of these things can be discussed and studied separately, but they are inseparable from one another in the salvation of man.

To reiterate that there is a distinction between God as our Father-creator, and God as our spiritual Father, through adoption, we can go to a conversation Jesus had with some Jews in John 8:33-44. Jesus drew out some misconceptions that these individuals had concerning their relationship with God the Father. Jesus made the statement in verse 42, “*If God were your Father you would love Me.*” Then He told them the truth about themselves in verse 44, “*You are of your father the devil, and you do the desires of your father.*” So we see that, although all of humankind shares in God as his creator, only those who have been brought into God’s family as His children have that eternal and spiritual relationship with God as their heavenly Father.

Another way Scripture addresses this subject of adoption or being born again is found in Colossians 1:13, “*For He (God) rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son*”

God rescued us from an abusive parent, Satan, and He became our loving Heavenly Father. This is our, “Great Exchange!” But unlike what I witnessed in that parking lot, or experienced in my personal life, what God does is a one-time act. There are no more exchanges, no more tears, no more joint-custody, and no more victimization. We are forever in the loving arms of our eternal Father, awaiting our final arrival into His very presence.

The Apostle Paul was so assured of his place in God’s hand that he wrote the following words, “*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Do you believe like this? Are you so assured of your position in God’s family that nothing will phase your faith? Paul could believe and speak like this because of what God had brought him through, not because he had an easy life, but in spite of it. If you are experiencing trials and tribulations, remember that your Heavenly Father is there with you, and will bring you through. God does nothing in vain, and that includes your adoption as a child of the Most High God. I pray that your faith, assurance and hope will grow as you seek to know Him and learn to cry out, Abba, Father!

In His service,

*Pastor Pete*

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## *A Testimony*

My name is Daniel V. and I want to share a short testimony with you. I just got out of prison about 10 months ago. I was missing the life I once had with my daughter, brother, sisters and my mom. The love I had with my wife, children, my family and a good job. I longed for the missed feelings that I needed and wanted. I was alone in a trailer in Twenty-nine Palms, California, where I was currently living. Because of the sadness and loneliness that I felt, I mistakenly turned to a couple of beers, trying to get rid of those feelings. Then, I decided to drive into town to get some social interaction because I felt so alone. I knew I shouldn't have been drinking or especially driving. This was also a violation of my parole. Sure enough, a Sheriff pulled me over and issued me a citation for DUI. I was put in jail for 45 days for my transgression.

In the time that I had to do, I asked the Lord to use me according to His will. He started using me from day one. I met so many men that were hurting and distressed because of the time they were possibly facing in prison. Also, because of the loss of their families, possessions, wealth, status as fathers and just being a member of a family. Some already believed in God and some were just beginning to see God in their lives! I wasn't lonely or sad anymore because I didn't have time to think of myself or my situation. God used me to encourage, pray and remind these men that God loves and cares for His own. Many were comforted and strengthened by His word and prayer, not to mention the love we had for each other in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Boy it was a great and wonderful time, to be used by the Lord, even though it was my own sin that brought me back to jail. It's because I love Him, that I was able to see how He used my bad for something good. He showed me that, once again, I had been selfish, disobedient and that I should have been focusing on the building up of His kingdom and He would add unto me all that I needed. While serving God I was comforted myself and serving others kept the sadness and loneliness away!

Now that I am back home, in Twenty-nine Palms, I am using my time to care and pray for others with love. My name is Daniel V and I love God and all that He entails!

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“Next time you want to give someone a piece of your mind;  
Instead, have the mind of Christ and just give them peace!”  
(Wally R.)

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## *Our Prayer Requests for God's Children*

### Calvary Church, Santa Ana

Kathy .....Please pray for my sister Patty that she will receive salvation.

Bobby C.....Needs prayer for his addiction issues.

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David & Jeannie M.

Missionaries to Kenya .....Pray for Jeannie's mom who is in hospital with heart problems.

**ANSWERED PRAYER, SHE IS DOING MUCH BETTER NOW.**

Andy H .....Health is deteriorating fast as he has ALS. Pray for his comfort.

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

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

Ralph .....Recovering from a coma.

**ANSWERED PRAYER, DOING MUCH BETTER.**

Pat M .....Had 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.

Joanna .....Went through 12 hour surgery for cancer and needs prayer for recovery.

Jan B. ....Still waiting to find out what will be the best course of action for her issue with kidney stones.

Pat P. ....Having a heart valve replaced. Please pray for her and her family.

#### **Liberty Church, Moreno Valley**

Church. ....Pray for the church as they reach out to the surrounding community in their evangelism effort to get to, "Every door in One-four."

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 and has severe heart problems and needs a transplant.

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

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

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

Harold B .....Needs 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 recovery from health problems.

#### **Harvest Valley Church, Santa Ynez**

Congregation .....Pray 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.)

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Mary & Bill .....Mary is went through some health issues recently but God chose to keep her with us. Her heart is healthy and we know that it is filled with God's love. The world might have seen that as a problem but not God or us. Amen!

### California

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

David D .....Pray 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. ....Pray that God would open opportunities for him to begin teaching and preaching again.

Faye A. ....That God would bless and guide her in her musical 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.**

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. LEGAL ISSUES RESOLVED.**

Gary G.....That he reaches out to God and hangs on. Praying for his prayer circle idea. Pray for God's guidance as he gets ready to transition out of the program he is in.

**ANSWERED – PRAYER CIRCLE UP AND RUNNING THROUGH THE WEBSITE.**

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

Pete C .....Praying 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. Wisdom in dealing with legal issues.

Larry H .....Praying for healing for his continuing health issues.

**PARTIALLY ANSWERED – COLONOSCOPY SHOWED NO CANCER**

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Randy C.....Praying 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 B.....Pray 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).

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

#### **Florida**

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

#### **Minnesota**

TJ & Julie W.....Pray 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 P.....Prayer for DR. White, his family, and his patients as they transition to another healthcare giver. Dr White is dealing with terminal cancer.

#### **Guatemala**

Benjamin A.....Praying 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 S.....Missionary to Kenya, is having health issues and needs prayers for strength and healing.

#### **South Carolina**

Robert McCord...Pray for him as he deals with issues from the past. That God would guide him through this process and be the focus of his life.

#### **Ministries**

The Lord's Mountain

Movers .....Pray for continued direction from God in where He wants the ministry to go and do.

Acts

Foundation.....Praying for continued support for their prison ministry.

Lost and Found

By Jesus .....Pray 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

Homes.....God 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.

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.

**PARTIALLY ANSWERED, COURT FOUND IN HIS FAVOR, AWAITING FINAL DECISION.**

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.

Wallie R.....Prayer that God will continue to guide him towards a release date.

**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.

**Brothers in Mule Creek**

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

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