



## *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)

February 2014

Issue 0004

Hello to all my brothers and sisters in the Lord. Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. I pray that the month of January got you started off with a renewed and invigorating walk with God. As we journey through this year, let's be watchful for every opportunity that God places in our lives to further His kingdom, by preaching the gospel to the lost, and teaching His word to the saved.

### **A Gathering of Candles**

Last week I was riding my bike down one of the main streets in Moreno Valley, California and came upon something most of have seen at least one time or another, a gathering of candles. They were those pictured glass fixtures, half filled with wax, and a single flickering flame burning inside. They had been lovingly placed at the base of a telephone pole that held a photo and notes about someone I didn't even know. It was the spot where someone's life had suddenly ended.

I continued riding down the street but my mind was still stuck at that makeshift memorial. The first thing that crossed my mind was; was that person saved? Did they have a saving relationship with Jesus, and were they with Him now? It's obvious that this particular person did not make plans to end their life at that very spot, at that time, and in that way. Yet that is exactly what happened. When their heart had stopped beating and the last breath was taken, their destiny was realized for all eternity. There are no second chances, no other opportunities; it is the final curtain call.

How many of us know someone who isn't saved, or someone who says they are but the evidence is circumstantial at best? How long have we known this and yet have continued to postpone doing what we as believers have been commissioned to do? Preach the gospel and share the hope that lies within us. We are to continue the ministry of Christ and reach out to the lost so that they might be saved. Preach the gospel, preach the gospel, preach the gospel.....

I leave you with one final thought. How would you feel if one day you were on your way somewhere and you came upon one of these makeshift memorials, you glanced over, and the photo on the pole was a picture of that person you know? How would you feel? How are you feeling now? What are you going to do about it? Preach the gospel, preach the gospel, preach the gospel.....

*Pastor Pete*



In His service

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## THE WORD IN MOTION message

### The Day the Church got Started (Part 1 of 2)

On the Day of Pentecost, right after the Holy Spirit had descended upon those in the upper room, the Apostle Peter gave a sermon (Acts 2:14-26) to explain what had just happened and why, to a confused crowd of people. Peter used prophetic Scripture to explain, not only this miraculous event, but also the saving work of God through the person of Jesus Christ. In a nutshell he had presented the gospel message. What followed was the beginning work of the Holy Spirit in building God's church, those who are saved.

In John 15:26 through 16:15, Jesus had been talking with His disciples about His pending departure and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Helper. In 15:26-27, Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "*He will testify about Me, and you will testify also...*", and that's what had just happened through Peter. Jesus also told His disciples in 16:8, another important work of the Holy Spirit in the salvation of man, "*And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.*" This is what happened to some of those who had just heard Peter's preaching about Christ.

At the conclusion of Peter's sermon, Scripture tells us that the following chain of events took place:

*<sup>37</sup> 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?"<sup>38</sup> 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.<sup>39</sup> 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."<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"<sup>41</sup> So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:37-41)*

What we are seeing here is the work of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had spoken about before His crucifixion, death, and resurrection. In verse 37, we see the natural response of those whom the Holy Spirit has begun the atoning work of salvation in. They cried out, "*Brethren, what shall we do?*", and why did they cry this out? Because they were pierced to the heart! The Holy Spirit had done His work by the preaching of the gospel through Peter and now, simultaneously, He was doing work in the receiving of that message in those who heard it.

I love the work of the Holy Spirit in this passage, it reminds me of Matthew 4:1, where Jesus was *led* by the Spirit into the wilderness, and at the very same time in Mark 1:12, the Spirit *drove* Him into the wilderness. It's as though God was using the Holy Spirit in a push-pull method to get Jesus where He wanted Him to be. I see the same thing taking place in the lives of those being converted in this passage; the preaching of the gospel draws people to Christ, and the conviction by the Holy Spirit drives them to Christ.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*"

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If we are going to preach the gospel we don't need any fancy gimmicks, theater, entertainment or clever presentations. All we need is the gospel message, pure and simple, and the Holy Spirit will do the work of salvation in and through that message alone. In 1 Corinthians 1:18, the Apostle Paul reminds us of the power of the gospel message, *"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* He knew where the power lied, and it wasn't in the preaching, it was in *what* was being preached. Oh, the power of God-preaching over good-preaching!

We find Peter's response to their cry for help in verse 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.'"*

The first thing Peter tells them to do is, Repent. That is the only response to the problem that was realized by these individuals. Peter had preached the gospel and presented the Savior. The Holy Spirit had created the need for the Savior in these people and now they needed to know how to solve the revelation of their own sinfulness. They must repent, they must turn away from their sinfulness, and they must be identified with the person of Jesus Christ. If you wanted to include some type of emotionalism in salvation, then I believe this is what a person should feel; panic. If I don't use my last breath to confess Christ, then I may never breathe again. Brethren, what shall we do?

The next thing Peter tells them to do is, *"each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."* Baptism has been called the first act of obedience for a Christian after their conversion. Without going into a great deal of explanation about baptism at this time, I will just say this; why would anyone who has been through such a revelation not want to be baptized? Even though the water baptism is a symbolic gesture on behalf of what God has already done, it is a refreshing public confession of who we are now identified with.

I believe that God is not only pleased with this, it gives us a sense of freedom and empowerment to continue on with what God is doing in our lives. In Luke Chapter 15, after the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, Scripture tells us that there will be more joy over one sinner who repents, and there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. What a way to stir things up in heaven, what a way to please our Heavenly Father!

The last thing Peter says in verse 38 is, *"You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* We must be careful here when we interpret what he is saying. He does not say we will receive *"a"* gift of the Holy Spirit. Nor does it say we will receive *"that"* gift of the Holy Spirit (referring to what they had just witnessed). It says we will receive *"the"* gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift to all believers upon their being born-again. We could go into a great deal of study on the Holy Spirit as a gift from God, and what that gift does, but that is another study in itself. For now we will just acknowledge that God's word says true believers will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What I want us to take from this study so far is this; we have a responsibility as true believers to listen, and respond to the Holy Spirit, whether it is in our own personal salvation, or in preaching the gospel to the lost. Our responsibility should not be taken lightly in either case. As we can see from what we have read so far, the Holy Spirit is doing the work through the power of the gospel message. If the Spirit is compelling you to share the gospel, then there is a good chance He is already at work in the person you will share it with.

*Pastor Pete*

In His service

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*A Testimony* (from Larry K.)

I have been a born-again Christian for over nine years, and yes I remember that day like it was yesterday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004. I am 68 years old and have been in prison for almost ten years. The Lord pulled me up and out of the pits of hell and delivered me into His arms. I feel it is important to say this. That many men in prison have learned so much through the chapel ministries, attending church services, Bible studies of all levels, mail correspondence studies, college courses, and much, much more. We need to be wise with God's time and use it to better ourselves because when we get out of prison and back into the world, things change. Then we will have to get jobs, pay bills, and the free time we have been used to will be pretty much gone. Getting involved in some way in church ministries there is so much to learn by being involved. Today in my life in prison the Lord is using me in ways that I would have never believed. My life, because of Jesus, has changed forever. Amen!



*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. He has been missing for over two weeks.

**ANSWERED – BOBBY HAS BEEN FOUND AND IS RECEIVING HELP.**

David & Jeannie M.

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

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

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.

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.

Liberty Church, Moreno Valley

Church. ....Please take a moment to pray for Liberty Deacon Brown as he will have pancreas surgery tomorrow (Wednesday, January 29). Please pray that this 7 hour surgery will go well and 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.**

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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.

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 Beigle.....Needs prayer for his recovery from a broken hip.

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

#### **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.

#### **California**

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 S .....Pray 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.

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. He also needs prayer .....for some upcoming legal issues he will be 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 C .....Praying to find work. Reunification of his family. Healing of oldest son's addiction issues.

**PARTIALLY ANSWERED – DAUGHTER IS TEXTING AND CALLING HIM**

**PARTIALLY ANSWERED - SON IS SOBER AND GETTING HELP**

**PARTIALLY ANSWERED - HE IS WORKING PART TIME.**

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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.

Larry H.....Praying for healing for his continuing health issues.  
**PARTIALLY ANSWERED – COLONOSCOPY SHOWED NO CANCER**

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.**

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). Request prayer for God’s wisdom in the purchase of real estate property.

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.  
**PARTIALLY ANSWERED – DAVID IS STILL OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, THANK YOU JESUS!**

**Wisconsin**

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

**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 need Bibles!

**Kenya**

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

**Ministries**

The Lord’s Mountain

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

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.**

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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.

**Brothers in Chino**

West Yard .....That God would continue to honor and direct their efforts in putting His church in order.

**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 lump in her breast, is going to get a biopsy. His sister and her husband need employment and housing.

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 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.

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.

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