



## *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)

December 2016

Issue 0032



Who lived here? What happened to the house? What did it originally look like? Where did they go? How did things turn out for them? These may be some of the questions that you asked yourself if you have ever come upon ruins like this. This photo was taken while I was visiting a good friend of mine in San Diego County last October. As always, seeing something like this causes me to stop

what I am doing, or thinking, and take a few minutes to ponder what lies in front of me.

Maybe I am unique in my response to seeing something like this but for me it goes way back to the childhood vacations with my father. I loved to explore old ruins and search for whatever treasures I might find. I was always hoping for some buried and forgotten gold or maybe some artifact that might be of some value. I never found anything tangible in these explorations. I do however, treasure the memories I received from old ruins like this.

As an adult, there are deeper things we might glean and benefit from seeing something like this. Even Solomon in all his God-given wisdom found it wise to contemplate such conditions. In Proverbs 24:30-32 we find the following;

*"I passed by the field of the sluggard  
And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense,  
And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles;  
Its surface was covered with nettles,  
And its stone wall was broken down.  
When I saw, I reflected upon it;  
I looked, and received instruction."*

Our treasure comes from following the instructions given to us in the last two lines. When I saw...I reflected upon it... I looked...and received instruction....

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## THE WORD IN MOTION message

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### **When I saw...I reflected upon it... I looked...and received instruction....**

Today we could say, When I read... I received... When I prayed...I understood... When I acted...I matured...

Jesus, after teaching a large crowd of people spoke the following parable;

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” (Matthew 7:24-27)*

The key here is the first line, “hears these words of Mine and acts on them.” (emphasis mine) Just like Solomon’s words in Proverbs 24:32, “When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction.” There is an essential link, or process, that is necessary for us to gain from life’s experiences, whether ours or someone else’s. If we are going to gain, mature, and become stronger from these experiences then we must become invested in them.

A wise man learns from his mistakes; a wiser man learns from the mistakes of others. We have a wonderful place where we can go to learn from the mistakes of others. The Bible. We can get God’s perspective on a myriad of life’s situations and what He expects from His children. We do not have to learn the hard way and we can share God’s word with others so they don’t have to either.

Do you like the promises of God? I do! Well in the parable mentioned above Jesus makes two promises, 1) If we build our house (lives) on a firm foundation then we can withstand the storms of life. 2) If we do not then we will fall. Two promises given, one to the positive and the other to the negative. Which one would you prefer? If it is the first one then we need to follow Jesus’ instructions, “hears these words of Mine and acts on them.”

Application, application, application! Have you ever met someone who could quote countless Scriptures but not walk a single verse? They count themselves to be wise yet they are not. There is an old saying that goes, wisdom is knowledge applied. There is even an older saying that goes, “*Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared*

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to a wise man” (Matthew 7:24) James teaches us that faith without works is dead i.e. useless. The same principle applies here, knowing God’s word and not applying it is useless. Stephen Covey wrote, “to learn and not to do is really not to learn. To know and not to do is really not to know.”

Let’s not just be hearers or readers of God’s word, let’s be doers of it!

The writer of Hebrews, when speaking on God’s chastisement, discipline, and training says the following; “*All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness.*” Hebrews 12:11 (emphasis mine) We cannot pick up real tangible usable knowledge through osmosis or by proxy, we must be as invested in it as much as God is invested in us.

Sometimes it hurts to watch others go through a tough trial when they didn’t have to. It almost always hurts to be the one who is going through the unnecessary trial. But God, acting like our loving heavenly Father, uses our mistakes as a means of making us stronger, more mature, and hopefully wiser. It can be almost impossible to think clearly or rationally in the midst of a tough experience, but once the smoke clears so does our thinking. I am sure you have heard it said that hindsight is 20/20. Being willing, and able, to reflect on a trial or tribulation and glean from it can aid us in not having to repeat painful experiences unnecessarily. The choice of course is ours to make.

Let’s get the ball rolling! Let’s become as invested in our life as God is. Start by reading God’s word and praying for insight. Then let’s take that head knowledge to heart and apply His word into our daily lives. Let’s willingly be trained up and desire to receive that, “*the peaceable fruit of righteousness.*” Let’s grow into that mature man or woman that God desires us to be. The return you get will be proportional to the investment you make. I can’t do it for you and you can’t do it for me. It is a personal commitment that will yield personal dividends that others will profit from, and God will be pleased with.

**When I saw...I reflected upon it... I looked...and received instruction....**

A simple equation my brothers and sisters in Christ. Others do not have to see a life in ruins but a life from the ruins. May the Lord bless your time with Him and in His word. May this reflect in your life so others can desire Who you know. Amen

In His service,  
Pastor Pete

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# BE A BARNABAS

Who or What owns you?

I hope we all see that as a rhetorical question and easily answer to ourselves that it is Christ! Could there be anything or anyone else for us? Now, would others around us say the same thing if they asked, 'Who or What owned us?'

I have noticed within myself that I have struggled more and more around certain unbelievers. Yes, my boss. I struggle with not becoming bitter. Daily I need to be reminded what I have gained in Christ and remember who I am without Him owning me. It is hard to be around someone who complains all day long and not become a complainer yourself. The thing is, he is in a lot of pain from several surgeries and I am not. Yet still I find myself complaining and sometimes it is just about him.

When I look at my reflection in the Word of God, I see that we shouldn't be this way. *"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky"* Philippians 2:12-15 NIV

After the gentle reminder from the Spirit of God we can be put back on the right track. We have a choice about how we let those around us run our emotions. It is so easy to get sucked into something like this especially when we are exposed to it on a daily basis. Sometimes we can run from the things that bother us. Sometimes God allows those things to exist in our lives so we can see where we fall short and this provides us with an opportunity to work on ourselves. We can do all things through Him who strengthens us, so let us live out our faith exemplifying *that* to the faithful and the faithless, being steadfast in prayer for one another.

Be blessed in Him,

*Brother Daniel Rodney*

## **We want you!**

That's right; the Lord's Mountain Movers Ministry wants you to be a bigger part of what we are doing in God's kingdom. We have received several contributions for your newsletter and thank those of you who have taken the time to send your submissions. We hope that more of you will share some of the talents God has given to you through writing, drawing, etc. Keep them coming. If you send something you need to have back, we will be glad to return it to you, just let us know.

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

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who receive our newsletter through the mail. Due to financial constraints, we have revised the way we do our prayer requests. We are currently posting and maintaining all prayers requested on the Internet so your brothers and sisters all over the world can continue to pray for your petitions and praise God for the ones He has already answered.

We are encouraged by the work that God has already done through so many people praying for the needs of those they do not even know. What a privilege we have to go before the throne of God with our requests and the requests of others. Let us keep praying and seeking His will for our lives and the lives of others. If you have a prayer request you would like added to next month's newsletter and/or posted on the ministry website, please fill out the form below and mail it to us. Previous prayer requests are still there on the website for people to read. We are wondering if your prayer has been answered yet? We want to know and share it with everyone else who reads the newsletter, so keep us updated. We look forward to hearing from you and standing in the gap as a prayer warrior. Please note that we will be removing older prayer requests, especially when we do not hear about updates. The newest requests are at the top of the list and the oldest requests are at the bottom of the list. These will remain on our website prayer list.

### **November - December 2016 Prayer List**

Winifred W. ...Pray that he remains healthy and the he will be released soon and that the attacks on our chapel & pastor get resolved and services are restored.

George L .....George has been ill in the hospital; he is 89 years old. Pray that he survives and can go home. And that I (Tom M.) may be able to take him fishing one last time.

Gabriel.....Prayer that chapel services to run smother and for the KAIROS program to continue.

Robert M. ....Asks for prayer and healing for Rudy, Betsy & Maria (Valley fever and Carpel tunnel)

James.....Prayer for the program on the yard to change for the better for everyone.

Matlock .....Requests for prayer for a closer relationship with his son.

Joe S .....Asks for prayer for his family to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Geno .....For help with his soon-to-be-wife's family. To have them come visit him.

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Pastor Jack .....We pray for his health to improve and to get instruments on the yard.

Tom S.....Asked for prayer to be able to spend time with his wife.

Bob &

Gina N.....Asking for prayer for the family... They suddenly lost their 36-year-old daughter, Laura, after complications from elective Dental surgery. She is survived by her Husband and 2-1/2-year-old son. The Family is struggling to understand this sudden loss. Pray for their healing.

Dave G. ....Asks for continued prayer for favor in appeal, family, delivery from excessive incarceration, re-unification of marriage and children, provision to fund all needs and continued blessings to this ministry. Pray that AB1909 will be retroactive.

Sebastian M....Requests prayer for his children, that the Lord will soften their hearts and they will turn to Jesus for salvation.

Hazel C.....Pray for her condition to improve. She is now in a convalescent hospital.

Alice S.....Brother "Tee" prays for her and her kids during a difficult time and transition in her life.

Helen C. ....Keep Helen and her son "Tee" In prayer for safety and guidance from the Lord.

John L.....Pray for his family's healing. He lost his son Michael who went to be with the Lord. He died of congestive heart failure in his early 20's.

Roger C .....Prayer for him in his current situation that it will be resolved soon.

Anthony S. ....Pray that my brothers in Christ; get blessed, have a speedy trial and go home soon.

Steve T. ....Pray for God's favor over trial- strength in fasting prayer, soften his wife's heart and not divorce him.

Maurice A. ....Request urgent prayer for his young niece not to be tried as an adult and for his warrant to be dismissed.

Richard L. ....Please pray that he gets right with the Lord before he gets a life sentence, he is messing up bad.

J. Jackson .....Request prayer for Soledad Prison and its staff. Prayer for the Jackson and Packer family that God would become the center of their lives and reunify them again. Prayer that I will be a good person and husband and we will have a good life together.

Joshua H.....Pray to take me away from drugs and bless me with a new life and family of my own.

Timothy R. ....Pray that all families stop lying and tearing fathers from their kids and wife.  
Prayer for the Lord's blessing in court case and trial.

Pete C. ....Keep him in prayer that he will continue to run to the Lord and not from Him.  
**UPDATE: He is back to health, working hard and back in the fold of Christ and Christian brothers. AMEN**

This Ministry..Please pray for this ministry that we may be girded up with faith and strength to keep this ministry going to spread the Lord's word.

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The Lord's Mountain Movers - Prayer request

Person requesting prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Place request on Ministry website      Yes    No

Place request in Newsletter              Yes    No

(Use back of request if necessary. You can also use blank paper)

Mail to: The Lord's Mountain Movers, PO Box 1211, Boulevard, CA 91905-0311

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Greetings to my family and friends,

What is the first thing that pops into your mind when you hear someone say, Merry Christmas? What fond memories do you have, or expect to create during this holiday season?

Can you recollect ringing a doorbell and being welcomed into a warm home that was filled with joy? Or do you think about the knock on the inn's door that creaked open just enough to say, Sorry there's no room for you here?

Does the smell of fresh baked cookies, pies, and honey baked ham stir up and tantalize your senses? Or do you imagine the smell of sheep, goats, and oxen standing close by?

Do you remember ornate decorations and brightly flashing lights covering the inside and outside of your house, and the homes around you? Or do you envision the cold bare walls of a dimly lit livestock shelter?

Are you reminded of excited children in their pajamas, all tucked into warm beds? Or do you recall a newborn baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying on cold stalks of straw?

There is quite a contrast between Merry Christmas and Mary's Christmas, isn't there.

It seems like every year the store shelves become stocked with Christmas decorations earlier and earlier. Advertisers start hammering away at your senses before our summer clothing gets put up for the winter. It has become a relentless attack on your pocketbook, time, energy, and most importantly, your focus on what the celebration is all about.

"Hark the herald angels sing..." What were they singing about again? Oh yeah, something about a newborn king. Wasn't He born on Black Friday, no no, I think it was Cyber-Monday? "Si - lent night, Ho - ly night...all is calm, all is..." Yeah, who are you trying to kid? Those have to be two different nights, right? When was the last time you had even *one* of those?

I'm trying to imagine God watching all this from heaven. Here we are frantically buying, wrapping and stuffing gifts under a decorated tree. All the while we're forgetting that the greatest "free" gift was unwrapped and hung on a tree. We buy things to make people happy, God purchased people to make them whole. We buy things and go into debt; God paid the debt so we could be free. I wonder if Jesus is still saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

I think things need to change. We don't have to throw the baby out with the bathwater, but maybe it's time to drain the tub and see if the baby is still there! Let's take a little effort this year to set aside all the rhetoric that is the Christmas of today, and reflect on Mary's Christmas. A Christmas far removed from what we know or celebrate. Let's begin to celebrate the birth of our Savior, not once a year in stress and chaos, but everyday of the year in solemn reverence for the greatest gift only God could give.

One last thought.

On this Christmas, I can't help but think about those who have, for whatever reason, found themselves locked up in prisons and jails for many years. Yes, they may have broken the law and are receiving the penalty for their sin against society and God. And yes, part of the penalty is being separated from family, friends and the freedoms they had so lightly regarded. But the paradox of the situation just might be that they are in a better place than most of us are, this Christmas.

Before you color me crazy, or think that I have lost my mind, let me explain. You see, those who have spent many years in these places have lived without all the glitter, glamour and gluttony of Christmas as it's celebrated today. The first couple of years were hard as the memories lingered from past Christmas' spent at home with family and friends. Then the memories began fading away. Christmas cards and letters became less frequent. Phone calls were harder to make and sometimes not even accepted. Christmas as they knew it no longer existed.

These men and women are far removed from the world's idea of Christmas. The truth is that they may be closer to Mary's Christmas than some of us have ever been. There are no decorations hanging around, no laughter or joy filling their bare cells or dorms. The air isn't swimming with the smell of fresh baked goods, nor are their tables overflowing with delicious food. No, they are like Mary and Joseph, alone, far from home, family and friends.

Their blessing is this. They are not alone; they have their Savior there with them. Everything that has hidden the meaning of Christmas from the world has been removed from their lives. The bathwater has been drained and baby Jesus is there! They have the best gift of all, One that fits perfectly into their hearts. A gift that can't be lost, but One that came to save the lost. A gift that won't be returned, but will one day return.

As you celebrate Christmas this year please take a few moments to pray for the men and women in jails and prisons. Pray for their families too. Thank God that He has spared you this cup in your life. Lastly, trust and believe this; that they are praying for you, that you have a Mary Christmas this year. How do I know this? I was there my friend.

May God bless you all this year with the bare-bones reality of what Christmas is about.

Your brothers in Christ from,

*The Lord's Mountain Movers*

May you have a Mary Christmas!

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