



## *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 2015

Issue 0018

### **WE HAVE A FORWARD-FOCUSED FAITH!**

Over the past few months I have had the extraordinary opportunity to see or visit some of the places I used to live many many years ago. I sat on the curb in front of the house in Anaheim, California that I lived in when I was only five and six years old. It was the same spot where I enjoyed consuming glazed doughnuts from the Helm's Bakery truck that used to come by. I also saw the elementary school I attended during that time.

On a recent trip back to Colorado, to visit an old high school friend, I was able to fly in a small plane over my old high school in Keansburg, Colorado. We also drove through some of the areas I used to go as teenager with my friends, enjoying the newfound freedom of a driver's license.

Lastly, I took a couple trips to Yuma, Arizona where I was stationed as a young man in the Marine Corps. I met a couple of friends that I served with during those years. We golfed on a course where we were members and visited the Marine base there and in Miramar, California. We also spent some time walking the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California where I went to boot camp.

During these visits I experienced what many of you may have experienced when you have done the same, an emotional desire to go back to those times. When we physically go back to places in our lives where things were better, or at least different, our mind goes there too and we begin to mentally and emotionally relive our past, good or bad. Eventually, reality sets in and we come back to the present and move on with our lives, yet the yearning may linger on for a while.

Although I enjoy some memories from the past, I have to remember that I am a Christian and that I have been given a hope for the future and not the past. While it is not a sin to think about the past and the things we have experienced, I feel it is unworthy of our calling to use those things to get through the present. God has given us a "Forward-focused Faith" as He tells us in Jeremiah 29:11, "*For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'*" (NASB) In the New King James version it calls it an, "*Expected end.*"

In all of these recent experiences I was reminded of a truth that I must hold on to and that is, the past is the past. The past cannot supply me with the same motivation and drive as the hope that God has embedded deep within my heart and mind. Nobody has goals for the past. That would be absurd! As good as our past may have been it pales in comparison to what our future holds as a born again believer. Remember that every past experience was once a future experience. Whatever you are experiencing, or facing, remember and grab hold of the hope and future that God has promised to those who love Him. There are better things to come and you will get there.

In His service,  
Pastor Pete

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## THE WORD IN MOTION message

Lesson one dealt with the issue of forgiveness and lesson two dealt with the promise of life after death for those who know who Jesus is and that they are in need of a Savior. This month we will move on to the third lesson that Jesus taught us while hanging on the cross.

### **Lesson three** (John 19:25-27)

*“...But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’ From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.”* (John 19:25-27)

There were others there at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. As Jesus scanned the crowd He noticed His mother and the disciple whom He loved. As He looked upon them He said, “Woman, behold your son!” and to the disciple He said, “Behold your mother.”

In this passage we are reminded of the ministry of good works, i.e. placing the needs of others above ourselves. The Apostle John (commonly referred to as the disciple whom Jesus loved) had no legal obligation under Jewish law to the mother of Jesus, yet as a believer in the Messiah he had every responsibility, morally and spiritually.

Why did Jesus give John this charge? Joseph had to be out of the picture either by death or for some other reason. Jesus’ half-brothers were legally obligated to take of their mother but were not believers at the time. Even though Jesus knew they would later become believers, He did not entrust her welfare to those who were outside of His kingdom. Jesus needed someone caring for His mother that would love her as He did.

Once again we have Jesus reminding us of the things He taught and the things He did during His ministry. How many times had he spoken of doing good works? How many times had He taught about reaching out and meeting the needs of others, even our enemies? (Matt. 5:44) How much of His ministry was centered on feeding the hungry, healing the sick, seeking the lost, and so on?

Jesus went out of His way to rebuke those who only loved externally. He accomplished countless acts of kindness on the Sabbath to stir up those who did not truly know the love of God, let alone give it. Jesus loved the unlovable, He set no preconditions, no standards that must be met, He just loved. He taught that everyone was our neighbor, and that they too were to be the object of the love He had poured out into our own hearts and lives.

Jesus’ life was the fulfillment of the law and the definition of pure and undefiled religion. Even after His resurrection, when He talked with the Apostle Peter, the focus was on demonstrating the love for Jesus by reaching out towards others; feed My lambs, tend My sheep, and feed My

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sheep. (John 21:15-17) Our love for others, especially our brethren, would be a sure sign of our being disciples and followers of Christ. (John 13:34-35)

The Apostle Paul knew the implications of being a believer in Christ when he wrote, *“We are His workmanship created for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10) James also knew this when he reminded us that, *“Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.”* (James 2:17) When we see a brother in need of anything and do nothing, we are faithless in our actions and our faith is useless to God, others, and ourselves.

Here was Jesus, hanging on the cross, struggling to breathe. Yet He was once again reaching out beyond His own pain and needs to ensure that the future needs of His mother would be met.

Again, we have to look at ourselves. Even when things are going well in my life, am I compelled to do good works? When I have everything to offer, do I give nothing? How about when things get tough? Can I be like the widow who put in her two mites, everything she had? Or do I struggle in my heart between the might and the might not? When I give, do I give begrudgingly, or do I give with a cheerful heart and without reservation? Am I about my Father’s business as Jesus was and still is?

One other thing I want us to glean from this message is that Jesus did not leave His mother in the care of unbelievers. He deliberately and specifically put her under the care of someone He trusted, a born-again believer. I think we would do well to heed His actions when we are presented with the issue of taking care of another believer. Let’s not surrender the welfare of another believer to those who are still of the world. They cannot love and care for them as Jesus would have us do, they do not have the love of God abiding in their hearts and are not compelled by the Holy Spirit to do God’s work.

I hear of too many outraged Christians complaining about the mistreatment of elderly parents who have been placed in the hands of worldly caregivers. Too many Christian parents who complain about what their children are learning and being subjected to in public schools. Too many Christians complaining about choices other Christians make when they have been subjected to the world’s psychology and psychiatry. Let’s stop allowing the world to do the things we Christians were called and empowered to do. Let’s do right by our fellow believers and glorify God in doing so.

Lord give us wisdom and guidance in all things, especially in our charge to love one another. Remember what the Apostle Paul wrote, *“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”* (1 Timothy 5:8)

In His service

Pastor Pete

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## BE A BARNABAS (Acts 4:36)

*“But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.” (Matthew 22:31-32)*

A holiday just passed for the world, in which it celebrates a bunny that leaves behind hidden eggs and candy in a basket. That holiday happens to coincide with a High Holy Day, the Passover. This Holy Day was a time that the Jews remembered the angel of death passing over them because they had obeyed the commandment of God and covered their doorposts in blood while they were in Egypt. It pictures God redeeming His people by the blood of a lamb.

The symbolism here should not be lost by the observing Christian. Christ was the Passover lamb for us (1 Peter 1:18-20). His resurrection is what we now celebrate at this time of the year. The resurrection is the evidence that full payment was received and atonement was made. The resurrection unto life is the promise we should remain focused on and when others bring up something about a bunny, let us give them a reminder they need as to Whom this time of the year is truly about.

*“And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33)*

Stay focused on Jesus, always being ready to give a reason for the hope you have within you and let us glorify God together.

Be blessed in Him,

*Brother Daniel Rodney*



*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 to revise the way we do our prayer requests. Starting with this issue we will be posting and maintaining all prayers requested on the Internet so your brothers and sisters all over can continue to pray for your petitions and praise God for the ones He has already answered. For those receiving mailed copies you will be getting all the prayer

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additions for the month with each newsletter. You can keep the copy of the prayer requests from past issues to continue in vigilant prayer.

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's 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. We look forward to hearing from you and standing in the gap as a prayer warrior.

### **March's & April's Prayer List**

R. White .....That the Lord will open doors for suitable housing upon his being paroled.

Alice S.....Chesapeake VA – prayer for personal issues.

Sheila.....Prayer for her health issues, finances, and God's direction for personal decisions.

Greg.....Praise report; God is in control, using me, and I am being blessed by Him. Woo Hoo!

Helen &  
Hazel C.....Prayer for their dialysis treatments and recovery from health issues.

Kenny J. ....Requests prayer for living arrangements upon parole.

Gabriel S .....His mom, Rosie and his brother who need prayer for recovery from health issues.

Stephen.....Prayer for change in career course.

Justin .....Praise report; finished EMT school and looking for work.

Joshua.....Continued prayer for personal issues.

The C.U.R.E...Prayer for God's guidance and provision.

Greg F .....Prayer for answered prayer in his period of fasting.

J. Jackson .....Needs prayer for his court appeal and his family members. Also for F. Cruz – that he will have God in his life.

Benjamin .....Guatemala, Praise report for Bibles that their church has received. Asking for prayer for his family, the church that they might finish the floor, the windows and doors.

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Barbara M .....Pray for her marriage and family

Jamie P .....Favor with the Parole Board

Linda D .....Continued recovery from health issues

Rich H .....Living situation

Sandy (Bill A's  
Sister) .....Pray for her continued recovery from health issues

Vance V's  
Sister .....Pray for her health, just found a lump on her liver

Robert B .....Pray for God's direction and provision in his life.

Wes &  
Ashley B .....Pray for the birth of a healthy baby boy.

George &  
Amy .....Lift them both up in prayer

Todd S .....Prayer for his continued strength in putting his life in order.

TJ L .....Pray for his health issues

Bob P .....Needs prayer, was just diagnosed with stage two and four cancer in lymphatic  
system

Kenny J .....Prayer for work and safe living arrangements.

Brian D .....Needs prayer for recovery from surgery

Joanne R .....Her and the rest of the family need your prayers as they continue to deal with the  
loss of a child to cancer.

Sue C .....Prayer for the elderly man she is taking care of and her own physical and financial  
issues.

Jose  
Rodriguez .....Pray for his ex-wife as she deals with an abusive relationship. Also prayer for his  
parents (dad's recovery from surgery and mom's health issues)

Larry K.....Asks for prayer for Lisa and her daughter. They need your prayer for God in their lives and peace in their home. He also has a praise report that God is setting the church in order where he is at and that the spirit is moving in the hearts of fellow believers.

Sebastian M....Asks for your prayers for his two adult children who need the Lord in their lives.

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)

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)

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