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CHRISTIANITY IN *action*

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CHANGING LIVES GOD IS GOOD!



By Tom Millar

My wife, Paula, and I (now married 26 years) met in high school and got married very young.

It wasn't until 1989, through a series of circumstances while I was in the Air Force, that I more seriously turned my life over to Christ. Paula, who had her own spiritual journey, focused in 1991. We plugged into a church in southern California and volunteered to teach in the children's ministry.

By the time the Air Force moved us to northern Virginia in 1995, Paula was pregnant with our second child, and we found a Great Commission church known at that time as Westview (now Evergreen Community Church). Within a few years, Paula stepped up to lead the children's ministry there, and I started through the GCLI material.

The Lord led us to extend my Air Force assignment in northern Virginia about the same time that our fourth child was born. I retired from the Air Force in 2005, content to stay here as long as God willed. By 2007 I was recognized as an elder, and Paula and I continued to lead and build into the Evergreen children's ministries.

Today, we are thankful for the Lord's blessing of four children: Alec, Rebecca, Jared, and Danielle. We are excited to be teaching and building into the youth and leading the Evergreen Family Ministries. We are very grateful to be a part of the Great Commission Church movement here in Manassas, and we especially enjoy the recent partnership developed with Howell Community Church, Oak Ridge Community Church, and Ablaze in Blacksburg, VA. The youth affectionately refer to themselves as HowEverOaksBurg! We look forward to many more years of fellowship and growing together!

OBEYING THE COMMAND TO "GO!"

By: Thomas Lemus

"Go and make disciples of all the nations." This verse often leaves me with the thought, "Go, who me?"



The first time I understood what God meant by "go" was in 1980 at a GCC conference in New York City. The passion, love and commitment of the men leading this conference to obey the Great Commission, coupled with our pastor Freddy Perez's desire for us to do the same, moved me to take part in this great adventure of seeing the world transformed by the power of the Gospel. Constant exposure to the teachings and modeling of men who were living out the Great Commission the following years really moved me. In 1985 I went on a short-term mission trip to El Salvador to help with the planting of a church there. That trip changed my life forever. It was there where the Great Commission became embedded within my heart and I decided then that I wanted to "go" and plant churches wherever God would lead.

In 1987 God gave me the privilege of teaming with 5 other young men and women to plant a church in the Dominican Republic. While working to make disciples in this new church plant, God united my heart with the love of my life. Nancy was one of the three courageous women who were part of our missionary team. In 1989 we were married, and 10 years later God gave us, through adoption, two of the greatest beings on earth, Melanie and Bryan.

In 1992 we felt God leading us back to the states to re-focus and wait on His leading for a future church plant venture. While in Miami, I was asked to help with a new English service (The Rock Miami). Together with a few other families and new believers from La Roca, God began to lead us to Palm Coast, FL. In 2006 we moved to plant The Journey Church. We believe that this work is an intercultural, intergenerational expression of God's grace. Today, we are blessed to be working alongside Herschel Martindale, our sister churches Walnut Creek and Oak Ridge, and the LINC Dominican Republic team to plant a church in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Wow, what an adventure! All of this because I heard God say "go!" I thank God that He is allowing me to be part of what He is doing. I have always believed that God has a plan for my life. Often I have wondered why God doesn't choose someone else that may do it better. But He reminds me that... "The LORD will work out His plans for my life..." Psalm 138:8. I fully believe that He will continue to do so. I am thankful that I heard His command to "go." With God's grace, I went and will continue to go.

MISSION USA

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

NEW LIFE - MIAMI

By Rudy Blanco

Miami is one of the most “unchurched” cities in the state of Florida with thousands of unbelievers moving in each month. Our harvest is very plentiful here and the Lord is using us as His laborers to reach the unchurched. We are constantly amazed at how God works. In November of 2010 my family, along with a group of 9 couples and 16 singles, came together to start a church in the city of Kendall in Miami.

Shortly after the move, we were presented with the opportunity to rent a meeting facility. It needed some work and cleaning but our team was eager to volunteer. Everyone pitched in to paint and do minor construction work. Once we were finished, we still needed chairs. So, every family contributed by bringing their plastic patio chairs.

Shortly after finding a facility, we met to discuss a name for the church. With much prayer and welcomed suggestions we decided on New Life Church. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says *“Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”* We felt as if we were beginning a “new life” and we wanted to reach out to others so that they could experience the same. As a result of a generous donation we were later able to purchase chairs for our meetings.

God has been extremely faithful in providing us with everything that we have needed. New families have come to the church and put their trust in Jesus Christ. We are convinced that God had a



Rudy Blanco and family

purpose in bringing us here and we look forward to serving in the Kendall area and accomplishing His will for our lives.

Our desire is that God will provide more laborers ready for the harvest. Please pray that New Life would be a church where people are accepted, acknowledged, appreciated, and that we would give all the glory to God.

2012 CHURCH PLANTERS' ROUNDTABLE

By John Hopler

On April 27-28 about 100 men and women from Great Commission churches throughout the United States came to Des Moines, Iowa for the GCC Church Planters' Roundtable.

This event has been sponsored by GCC regularly throughout the past decade to inspire and equip church planting teams. Topics included evangelism, building a team, and strategic planning for a church plant.

The highlight of the time was the final day when attendees wrote up on a board their “dream list”--places we would like to see a church planted. There were thirty locations identified, including Charlotte, North Carolina, Wichita, Kansas, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and several college campuses. We closed the Roundtable with a time of prayer, asking God to establish a church in each of these cities.

Please pray that God will raise up workers for the harvest to plant Great

Commission churches throughout the United States and the world, so that more and more people will believe and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.



John Hopler explains GCC church planting history

INTERNATIONAL

REACHING THE NEPALESE

By Uttam

Born as the grandson of a Hindu priest, my destiny was to train to succeed my grandfather. However, God had much different plans for my life. He chose me to be the royal priesthood in His Kingdom.

In a nation where Christianity was illegal, I faced opposition, persecution and ostracization for my decision to follow Christ. Today, God has reached my family members, their families, relatives, and friends as well.

Millions of young Nepalese have left Nepal due to the communist revolution and wars in Nepal. Therefore, Nepalese are spread around the world. I became the first Nepali missionary to reach this diasporic population.

In 2000 I moved to Malaysia, where I lived for three years sharing the Gospel among the Nepalese population there. God faithfully grew the movement and there

are now hundreds of Nepalese fellowships and thousands of Nepalese who have given their lives to Jesus. Many of these scattered new Nepalese believers have returned to Nepal to spread the Gospel to their families and relatives.

In 2008, God opened the door for my family to move to Australia. We pioneered the first Nepali fellowship with other believers in Sydney. God continues to bless this ministry and today there are about 10 Nepali fellowships and it is still growing.

Although the Lord again proved Himself to be faithful, we did face many challenges along the way. Living in a very expensive city caused financial stresses. Because we did not have financial support, it was necessary for us to work in addition to leading the new Nepali and Bhutanese ministries, as well as continuing to gather resources for the ministries back in Nepal. Many times we felt very “burned out” and lonely. This past year we had the wonderful



Uttam and family

opportunity to attend Faithwalkers. With the sponsorship of Summitview Community Church, we were able to once again experience God’s goodness as we were in the US.

We thank the Lord for all that He has done and continues to do in the lives of the Nepali people. Please pray that these ministries will have many more opportunities to reach out to the many who are still so lost.

FULFILLING THE NEED IN EUROPE

By Dominic Marrone

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 NIV

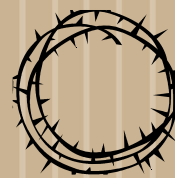
In 1991, this verse became my “life verse” while praying fervently and listening to a vintage Great Commission worship cassette in my dorm room at the University of Florida. A few years later, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Italy, seeing firsthand the tremendous spiritual apathy and sheer darkness in Europe. During the next few years while serving with our campus church, Gator Christian Life, the Lord allowed me to help lead various short-term mission trips to Latin America and Italy. Pastor Matt Gordon encouraged me to reach out to international college students, which further confirmed a desire to plant churches cross-culturally.

In 2003, I married Dámaris who is from Zaragoza, Spain. Since then, we began seeking the Lord about expanding His kingdom in Europe. With much prayer, godly counsel, “spying out of the land” and surrendering to God’s will, our family moved to Pamplona, Spain in late 2008. We have been focused on reaching out to the 28,000 college students in Pamplona. Reaching out to Spaniards has been a process of building trusting relationships and sowing the Word among them. During our time in Spain, many seeds of God’s Word have been planted and a number of people have come to know Christ as Lord. We are currently looking to open a ministry center near the Public University of Navarra.

Please pray for more laborers and more salvations among the young people who desperately need to experience New Testament Christianity in action.



Dom and Dámaris Marrone and family



GREAT
COMMISSION
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NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION TODAY

INSIDE GCC

FAITHWALKERS CONFERENCE:

GROWING UP
DEC. 27-30, 2012



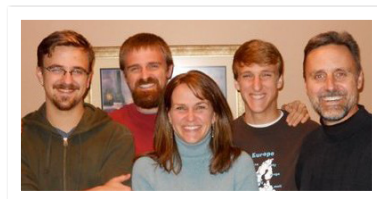
This year's theme is "Growing Up!" Jesus Christ is the perfect example of maturity: faith-filled, wise, obedient, hard working, loving, kind, and compassionate. As followers of Christ, we have a great privilege and opportunity to become like Him....to grow up in Christian maturity. Join us for Faithwalkers 2012, GROWING UP! The Quest for Spiritual Maturity. Come and discover what it takes to become the mature person God desires each of us to be!

For more information log on to: www.gccweb.org/conferences/2012

MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION: ROBBIE MCALISTER

Robbie McAlister was saved at Clemson University in 1980 and immediately got involved in the small Great Commission church that was meeting there. He met his wife, Criss, several years later at the church and they were married in 1984. Over the past 28 years they have raised three sons. Robbie was part of a church plant in Columbia, SC in the 1980's. That church (Riverbend) sent his family out as their first missionaries to the former Soviet Union. They lived there for ten years and were involved in church planting and leadership development. Robbie and his family returned to the States in 2005 where he now serves as the lead pastor of his sending church, Riverbend. He also helps out in the Great Commission Southeast Region, the National Leadership Council of GCC, and continues to regularly travel internationally to help encourage church planting and leadership development around the world.



Verses: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28: 19-20; Philippians 3:7-10; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

Advice: We live in a world of spectacular starters but Jesus is interested in faithful finishers...finish well!

You can contact Robbie at robbiecriss@yahoo.com

CHANGED LIVES

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 28:19

As believers in God, we are called to a great work: The Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Many times Christians ask, "What is God's will for my life?" My friend and co-worker Tom Short has a great answer: "If you want to know God's will for your life, you begin by knowing God's will in general." And what is His will? It is this: That the

gospel of Jesus Christ would be shared with every person in the world. That people would receive Christ and be baptized. That these same people would join with other believers and begin to live obedient lives that honor God. And that they would devote their lives to advancing the gospel throughout the world.

In this newsletter we have highlighted individuals who have given themselves to Jesus Christ and His mission. As followers of the Savior they have a joy that will last for eternity. And as His fellow-workers, they have a quiet confidence that they are investing their lives in a work that will endure forever.

How about you? Have you given your life to Christ? Are you devoted to His mission? If not, join Him today! And join with the people in your church in the Great Commission, that the name of Jesus Christ may be made famous throughout the world.



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