

The Invitation Newsletter - *an outreach of Jerry Liversage Ministries, Inc.*

www.respondingrecoveryministries.org

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Someone Who Would Not Keep Silent

Have you ever met someone who is so consumed with the things of God they are never able to keep quiet and must speak truth? One such person in the early 1500s was Martin Luther, a German in his thirties who had been a monk almost half his life. Luther studied Scripture and was known for six-hour confessions, yet he had never been able to feel at peace with God. When his mentors had no other answers for him, one suggested Luther pursue a doctoral degree in religious studies. (If nothing else, the work should keep him busy.)

It was from this academic pursuit that Luther struggled with biblical statements about righteousness that finally put things in perspective for him. He began to comprehend what he called passive righteousness. Luther had done everything within his power to be a decent monk and a good Christian. Yet no matter how hard he tried, he never felt free of the weight of sin in his life. However, he finally came to the clear realization that, "The righteous shall live by faith." In response, he said, "Now I felt as though I had been reborn altogether and had entered Paradise."

As soon as Luther continued in his beliefs that salvation and righteousness had more to do with faith than with good works, he began to stand out in a church that at the time was still peddling indulgences (remission of part or all of the temporal and especially purgatorial punishment that according to Roman Catholicism is due for sins whose eternal punishment has been remitted and whose guilt has been pardoned, as through the sacrament of reconciliation).

So while many were buying tickets to heaven, Luther began to spread the word that he had found a free entrance. But how now could this lone voice stand against a power as great as the church? He started in 1517 with his well-publicized act of nailing his "95 Theses" on the door of the Wittenberg cathedral. The action itself wasn't a defiance of the church, because the church door was the closest thing to the Internet of its time, where people would gather for news and interaction.

But what he hammered onto the door was essentially a Top 95 List of why indulgences weren't such a good or biblical idea. And in the next few years Luther had churned out a series of books that not only explained his personal views but also challenged the authority of the church. He was among the first to make good use of a recent invention: the printing press. Soon more than 300,000 of his books and pamphlets were in circulation. And by 1521 he had been summoned to appear at a hearing in Worms, Germany, before a diet (an official assembly) chaired by none other than Charles V, ruling both as the king of Spain and Germany's Holy Roman Emperor. As Luther entered the room, he saw his works spread out over a table. When asked to officially recant what he had written, he replied, "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures. I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor honest to violate one's conscience." And whoop, there it was. Luther held to his revolutionary belief in **sola fides, sola gratia, and sola scriptura** (faith alone, grace alone, and Scripture alone). It was possible for people to find their way to God and righteousness through faith rather than good works, and through the truths of Scripture without making concessions to the church.continue

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"Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find."

-Jesus



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Romans 10:13-15

For Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? NLT

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

* TELEVISION BROADCAST ARCHIVES'

* TELEVISION TIMES AND CHANNELS INFO

* WEEKLY MEETING LOCATIONS

* SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

* AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

* SERMONS/AUDIO ARCHIVES'

A Request for Prayer

Please continue to pray for the various weekly Responding Recovery study groups that meet across the country. These groups use our Responding Recovery published material which has a single focus on Jesus as the sole answer to debilitating issues.

Also, please continue pray for our Television Broadcast through Time Warner Cable in Orange County (OC), CA.

This God-given weekly program in 15 OC Cities, continue to preach Jesus to those who are suffering and searching for a way out from the tyrannical hold of drug and alcohol abuse.

*Continued from pg.2.....***Someone Who Would Not Keep Silent**

Rejected by both the pope and the emperor, Luther the protester spearheaded the entire Protestant movement. Yet his passion was not sparked from an outsider's antagonistic view of the church, but rather because he was one of its own and could not sanction all the customs and abuses he had witnessed firsthand. Luther broke from the church rules in a big way. He got married, rejected five of the seven church sacraments, challenged churches to give up many of their holdings (up to 30 percent of the available land in many parts of Germany), rejected the hierarchy of priests within the church, and even went so far as to label the Pope "Antichrist" because Luther felt the church did more to occlude people's understanding of the Gospel than to promote it. You might think that with Luther's bold stand, the church world would soon be divided into two large forces: Catholic vs. Protestant. It was, but only for a short time. If we visualize the church as a great timber log, we know that due to the great schism (a division among the members of a group that occurs because they disagree on something) and other internal struggles, the log already had a few cracks and chinks in it. Luther's nail into the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral was like a wedge being driven into the trunk, and the resulting Protestant movement followed up with such force that the great log, which had remained in one piece for almost sixteen centuries, was suddenly two.

Fast forward in time to the mid-1700s; two brothers emerge, John and Charles Wesley. They were adherents of Luther's teaching that salvation comes by grace through faith, and they took to the streets to spread the word. John Wesley was a prominent preacher, often speaking outdoors to whomever would listen. Charles worked with him but is usually remembered more for his skill as a hymn writer. One of the Wesley's' theological distinctives was the belief that God's grace restored free will to people and that believers could lose their salvation if they chose a course of ongoing sin without repentance.

Fast forward again to 2014. In this day and age where "anything goes" **we must not be silent** about the Good News of Jesus Christ. People still need to know Jesus saves from Sin (unpopular message today in some circles). They still need to know Jesus still produces His life in an individual, and by **Biblical Faith** (not man's definition of a belief system), the DNA of Jesus can flow in and through us Jn.15:1-16. Join the mighty army of Jesus, Peter, Paul, Martin Luther, John and Charles Wesley and countless others who CAN NOT BE SILENT!!!

Update: Responding Recovery Ministries/Torrance Nazarene Church

As was announced last year, we continue to Pastor (part-time) at Torrance Community Church of the Nazarene. We began preaching (only on Sundays) in June of 2013 and assumed we would be there only a few months until the church concluded their pastoral search. To our surprise, this process continues, and we continue in ministry at Torrance. We also are going forward with Responding Recovery and Jerry Liversage Ministries, Inc. On April 4th, we are excited about another outreach venue with a 67 unit Apartment Complex in Fullerton, which began last year. We thank you for your prayer concerning this ministry. As God increases in opportunities of ministry, we are trusting in His provision

Your Prayerful Support-Most of what we do is facilitated by prayer and financial partners. Outreaches, Television, Food, etc., is partner supported. We know you already have areas of giving, however, if God leads you, please consider becoming a financial partner to this ministry.