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THE INVITATION NEWSLETTER

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A DEAD HORSE – In my first Pastoral role in 1996, I placed a placard on my office wall entitled “Riding a Dead Horse.” The following are reasons why people, in the business world, may continue to ride dead horses and their strategy for continuing something, which is not working: They may be considering.....

- 1. Buying a stronger whip.**
- 2. Changing riders.**
- 3. Saying things like "This is the way we always have ridden this horse."**
- 4. Appointing a committee to study the horse.**
- 5. Arranging to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.**
- 6. Increasing the standards to qualify as a dead horse rider.**
- 7. Appointing a tiger team to revive the dead horse.**
- 8. Pass legislation declaring that "This horse is not dead."**
- 9. Unilaterally declaring, "no horse is too dead to beat."**
- 10. Blaming the horse's parents.**
- 11. Providing additional funding to increase the horse's performance.**
- 12. Do a Cost Analysis Study to see if contractors can ride the horse cheaper.**
- 13. Declare the horse is "better, faster and cheaper" dead.**
- 14. Revisit the performance requirements for horses or promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.**

Though this may be a humorous story (it sure made me laugh) it is not true concerning the true Blood bought Church of Jesus Christ. The Body of Christ (The church) is NOT DEAD but rather very much ALIVE. O there may be impostors around, as there has been since the beginning of time, but the Holy Spirit filled Church of Jesus Christ will march on into eternity. Don't follow the masses who march to the world's drum beat, rather listen to the rhythm of the wonderous and melodious tones concerning the Spirit of God. He is still singing the song of redemption and deliverance. Don't be fooled! In a world of smoke and mirrors, you will finish strong if you follow God's prescription of John chapter 15. Jesus is our only HOPE and He still changes lives for eternity. The Biblical message is still relevant for this day, which says; *"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* Galatians 2:20, NLT

A NEW DIRECTION – Since 2003, this small Evangelistic ministry has evolved from itinerant preaching, living in our motorhome (with my wife Holly), to what is currently happening in this hour. Over the last several years, the global General Church of the Nazarene has allowed me to bi-vocationally Pastor Small Churches along with the continuation of Evangelism.

Beginning May 6, 2018, the Southern California District Church of the Nazarene extended an offer for a new added direction.

As a result, I will begin a journey to Pastor the Banning Church of the Nazarene in Banning, Ca. I will also continue in this Evangelistic ministry, which in my view, fits hand and glove with the vision of the Church and the Gospel of Christ.

Banning is a small populated area of approx. 32,000 people. The demographics are: approx., 43%-Hispanic, 39% -White, 8%-African American, 4%- Asian, and 2% other Race. Though the surrounding City areas have experienced tremendous populated growth, Banning has moved forward at a slower growth pattern. However, potential City plans are for expansive building, which will result in growth population. With all that said; we are excited about the potential of reaching the lost with the Good-News and the potential of New Start groups of folks who share the vision of Gospel distribution.

A RE-NEW OUTREACH - In 2015, my wife and I made the decision to move to the Inland Empire (IE) from the Orange County (OC) area for various reasons. While in the OC area, this ministry had several entities where we were able to minister to include an extensive food ministry. Upon our move to the IE, some of the OC ministries diminished as we began a new work in the IE. **However**, a re-visit to a previous OC organization has been established. The Evergreen Royale Motel, located in Anaheim, Ca., has once again opened. This 167-unit complex is a little different from others as approx. 50% of the people live there full-time.

When previously with Evergreen Royale Motel for approx. 7 years, our yearly food ministry expanded to approx. **35,000 pounds** at this facility alone. We also ran weekly Responding Recovery group meetings and preached at this location during the food distributions. As a result, countless folks invited Jesus into their lives. We witnessed the move of God in powerful ways through unique circumstances, which continue to this day. It is always amazing to me how God is in the business of taking something old and making it new. This is what is happening at Evergreen Royale Motel. As we have already begun a new small weekly food distribution (bakery), we are excited about the potential of new ministry work, which will result in someone's life who will experience Jesus.

We have also made wonderful friends at this complex over the years, like manager Jose Toro. Jose has an exceptional and compassionate heart for others and has been a long-standing employee for the owner of the company. His dedicated work has included countless hours of sacrificial giving and participating in this ministry and helping so many. It is a joy to have returned to this mission field and to work with Jose, his family and all the wonderful staff.

REQUESTED PRAYER - We appreciate so many of you who have expressed a continued prayer for us. These are trying times for this Country to include the entire World. As we extend our prayer for all those who follow this ministry, please continue to pray for us too. **Pictured below**, are a few ministries we continue to share.

Our main focus is the Gospel of Jesus Christ to whoever, whenever, wherever. We also do small food distributions in 3 different cities, in 2 counties. Responding Recovery Group Meetings continue in various areas of the USA, Responding Recovery Television continues through Spectrum Cable, YouTube Broadcast, and other outreaches. Your prayer and added faith have made a difference. We believe prayer still changes things. Many people...

...on this ministry data base, have assisted in the ministries effectiveness. We Thank you!



A FINAL THOUGHT... I wanted to leave this Newsletter with some encouraging words from the Word of God. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 says; *But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.* NKJV

Have you ever found yourself to be UN-faithful to God and others? I know I have. But did you hear the words just quoted? *“But the Lord is Faithful...”* I have learned to love those promising words. Why? Because they are true! What does it mean by the *“Lord is Faithful?”* Well it means many things but here are just a few.....

“The Lord is faithful” to His promises. The Lord who cannot lie (Num. 23:19), who will not alter the thing that He has spoken from His mouth. He is faithful to His relation to us, to His own truth, to His own character. Men may be faithless and false, but God never. They may refuse to embrace the gospel, and set themselves against it, but God will not abandon His great promise and purpose on which He has set His heart. He has pledged His Word. Even many who are members of the Church may forget their commitments and may show compromise to the cause of Jesus, but God Himself will never abandon that cause. Don't forget the last part of the promise: *“who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”* The Greek word for *establish (sterixei)* means: to turn resolutely in a certain direction. Wow...what a statement! The Greek word for *guard (fulaxei)* has the idea to “watch” or to “preserve.” All of this is found in *“But the Lord is faithful.”*

I recently came across this little article. It was entitled: "The Master Has Said It" - A schoolmaster gave to three of his pupils a difficult problem. "You will find it very hard to solve," he said, "but there is a way." After repeated attempts, one of them gave up in despair. "There is no way!" he declared. The second pupil had not succeeded, yet he was smiling and unconcerned. "I know it can be explained, because I have seen it done." The third worked on, long after the rest had given up. His head ached, and his brain was in a whirl. Yet, as he went over it again and again, he said without faltering, "I know there is a way, because the master has said it." Here is faith— that confidence that rests not upon what it has seen, but upon the promises of God.

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