

# wotnews

"CHRIST IN WHOM YE ALSO TRUSTED, AFTER THAT YE HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH..." EPHESIANS 1:13

April 2016

## Dear Praying, Caring, Co-laborers,

Hallelujah, Christ has risen! Death where is your sting? Grave where is your victory? We just celebrated one of the most important events that ever took place on this earth. I'm not saying that the birth of Jesus was not important or that His death had no meaning or that any of the things He did while He was here on this earth are irrelevant. Without Jesus rising from the dead all of the other things He did would have been for nothing. Without the resurrection, His birth would have been pointless, His life meaningless, the mir-

acles a waste of time, His death unnecessary. What a glorious thing He did for us! On the cross he took our sin. But, when He walked out of the tomb, He conquered our sin, cleansed us, and gave us life eternal with Him in glory. I tell you what, if that doesn't get you excited about God and what He has done for us, you might want to check your pulse to make sure you're still alive.

That's what makes our salvation totally different than any other in the world. We serve a risen Savior! Mohamed still lies where he was buried. Joseph Smith is still

where he was buried. Sun Young Moon is still where he was buried. Buddha is right where they stuck him in the ground. And the list goes on and on and on..... Our Jesus is the only one who was able to look death in the eye and say, "You can't hold me nor can you keep me for I have risen." Wow! The blessing that we receive by being children of God.

Live your life today with boldness and confidence that "HE IS RISEN" just as He said.

In Christ Jesus,

The McCollums

## LOOKING FORWARD

What in the world is God up to?

This is the question that Edna and I have been asking ourselves quite a bit over the last couple of months; even more over the last couple of weeks. There are two big things that God has been working on the most. One is working with churches and professional adults in and around Chiapas. The other is partnering with Dennis Rainey and Family Life ministries.

### Chiapas:

First, let me tell you about Chiapas and what God is putting together there. Benjamin Loera was in Madisonville the last week of March. He was able to spend some time with us as he was traveling to different churches trying to raise some additional support. During the time he was with us, we were able to spend quite a bit of time visiting about the needs in Chiapas. The needs there are many, but what I believe to be the biggest need is training. Benjamin was telling me that they have a large group of pastors who are preaching but don't know anything about discipleship or leading the church. They are in desperate need of someone to come for short periods of time to train and mentor them.

One of the comments that Benjamin made was that here in America, we have unlimited resources. We have the internet, books, training material, and people we can ask. But in Chiapas there are very few resources. And most of the resources are not doctrinally sound. The internet, computers, and cell phones are readily available in the big cities of southern Mexico, but once you leave them, cell and internet service is sporadic. Because of this, it greatly limits the resources available to the pastors in the smaller towns and outlying areas.

Pastors are begging that I come to Chiapas and continue what Earnest had started. They are asking for additional training beyond what the DVDs cover. One of the issues they are facing right now is how to disciple their church members. They know how to get them saved but are not sure what things they need to be teaching them as a church body.

On June 23rd and 24th there is a pastor's conference scheduled with about 80 pastors from the area. This conference is already scheduled with them believing that

God is going to provide the funds for us to be there. If we are not able to go, then the conference will be canceled. They are asking that we come and teach them how to disciple their church members and also train the young professional men on ministering to others.

If we are able to purchase the tickets this month, the cost will be around \$2300. If we wait until next month, then the cost goes up to \$2800. If we wait until June, then the cost will be around \$3500 - \$4000.

Please pray with us as we believe God to provide the funds for us to be able to go and minister to these pastors and to the people of Chiapas.

### Family Life:

Over the last 6 to 8 months God has been pouring into Edna and me material and training involving marriage and families. As He has been training us, we have been talking, and seeking His face, as to what He would have us do with all of the information we are being taught. Edna and I now believe that He would have us minister, train, and teach couples on what it is to have a Godly Christian home.

We see in the book of Genesis that the first thing God instituted between man and woman was the plan of marriage. We also see Satan show up on the scene to destroy what God had put together. Ever since then, Satan has set out to destroy as many families as he possibly could. The devil does not want to see Godly families succeed because of the representation and the blessing that God has put on the family.

A door that has recently opened is the opportunity to partner with Family Life Ministry. Family Life Ministry has been around for over 40 years. It was started by Dennis and Barbara Rainey and focuses on marriages, families, and kids. They have been teaching Biblical truths and strategies on how to keep your focus on God to achieve a wholesome Godly marriage and family.

A couple of months ago, Edna and I were able to participate in one of their events. It was a week-long seminar with a ton of vital information. As we were attending, we felt like God would have us visit with some of the Family Life directors that were sharing about opportunities to partner with Family Life. We weren't sure what God was doing but felt led to gather information

and fill out a volunteer card. After having a very detailed conversation with one of the directors, it was recommended that we contact the Houston regional director and meet with him. We got back to Madisonville and got busy with catching up with ministry and chores. A couple of weeks ago we received a phone call from the Houston Director. We would later learn that out of 2500 volunteer cards, our card had been taken out of the pile and placed on his desk, and that he had been highly encouraged to call us. Had our card stayed in the pile, we probably would have never heard from him. It is absolutely amazing when God puts things together.

Let me clarify that we are not accepting a job with Family Life, but instead, we are partnering with them to be able to reach families and marriages that are in trouble or need encouraging. We will still continue all of the ministries of Word of Truth and Word of Truth will continue moving forward. Word of Truth is not going away. We are not closing down WOT and becoming Family Life. We are simply partnering with Family Life as another resource to minister to those in need. We will not be receiving any financial support from Family Life. They are providing us with material and training, both in English and Spanish, so that we may reach families in need.

The way we will be doing this is by sharing with churches and individuals opportunities for couples to attend some of the seminars in our area. These seminars are in areas all over the US, Mexico, and S. America. They have been ministering for years, and they are seeing souls won to Christ and broken marriages and families being restored. But the biggest thing that is happening through these seminars is that people are returning to God and learning how to make Him Lord over their life. The testimonies I could share with you are miracles that God is performing through this ministry.

The other way that we will be reaching couples is by offering, and leading groups using the material that Family Life offers. There are several options that we will be offering churches and individuals. One is a weekend session where we coordinate with a church and as many couples as want to attend. We would present the material over a 3-day weekend. The other is a weekly session for 7 weeks, meeting once a week, and



then sending the couple's home with some homework before the next meeting. One of the things that I would like to see God do through this is, after we have finished the material, that God would raise up a couple who would be willing to do the same training in their church or home.

Please be in prayer with us as we continue seeking God's direction and His will for the ministry of Word of Truth. Edna and I are asking that God use us in however He sees fit to reach a world that needs Him and His restoration.

### JUSTIN, MANDY & CHLOE

Please join us in praying for two important trips happening this week...

Two local men left Monday morning to share Good News and follow up in "Quarry Town," an area where several have recently expressed interest in following our Lord. Pray for favor as they visit villages for the next 6 days and also pray for their families remaining at home (one man's wife started having diabetes complications just before he left).

Justin will join a team from California on Tuesday morning as they travel to a border town for 4 days. Pray for fruitful ministry and health for Mandy, Chloe, and the baby while they stay at home.

Thanks for standing with us in prayer. You are a vital part of the team!



### THE LOERAS

- Benjamin writes:

"For the time of March to mid-May, I will be in the US visiting churches to report and present the ministry in Chiapas with the end goal of raising funds and interest for more churches to support our work in progress..."

Also, through the Baptist Convention on the coast of Chiapas, we are inviting John Douglas McCollum, in the month of June 2016, to lead some conferences for pastors and youth missionaries on the coast, including some churches in central Chiapas and native pastors from our state. It is our desire that God will open doors and that, through the ministry of Word of Truth, God can use him to bless and help satisfy so many needs that our region has to raise leaders and alleviate the shortage due to the lack of material, so necessary, in the churches for discipleship and sound spiritual growth of believers and Christian families..."

### EARNEST & ANITA

Folks, please keep Earnest and Anita in your prayers. Their bodies are weak and getting weaker. Edna and I are trying to keep them involved with the daily grind as much as possible. But the reality is that neither one of their bodies will allow them to do very much. Earnest is to the point where getting out of bed in the morning wears him out for the day. He has physical therapy

and nurses seeing him several times a week, and we are praying that he will see some improvement through the therapy. He still reads his Bible and prays a lot, but that's all he is able to do. Anita went into the hospital the end of March for a heart ablation. The Dr. started the procedure but then ran into a complication. At that point, the Dr. decided to cancel the procedure and attempt it again next month. However, after returning from the hospital, she has not done well. She is extremely weak and is having issues with standing and walking. We have seen her heart Dr. since the failed procedure, and he is of the opinion that there is nothing else that can be done for her heart. The issues that she is having are that her heart will not stay in rhythm and is in A-Fib most of the time.

Please, continue to pray for them that God would give them strength to continue according to His perfect plan.



### IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR OF

We appreciate those of you who send in offerings as a memorial. A card is sent to the person honored or the family members of those given in memory of. God delights to bless those who give and He blesses the gift given. As you give, you are blessed, and others are blessed, because you gave. The memorials are used to buy the Pastors' Packs unless designated for other purposes. When you send the memorials, please, remember to include the city of the deceased and the correct address of a family member to send the card to.

#### In Memory of:

- Rene Ramsey - Dearborn, Michigan
- Edna Jarrett - Madisonville, Texas
- John Maher - Mammoth Spring, Arkansas
- Johnny Sanders Radney - Waxahachie, Texas



### GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THEN AND NOW

What is missions? Are we a part of being on mission for the Lord? The reason for missions is that God gave us His Son to die in our place. The message of the cross and the resurrection is for us, and it is for us to carry to the world that is lost in sin. Once we have accepted Jesus as our personal Savior, we are the sent ones to carry the message of salvation to the world. Missions is spreading the Good News of the Gospel wherever God places us.

As a young man, Earnest was eager to go to the mission field. He surrendered his life to the Lord to be a missionary and eagerly awaited the time when God would send him to carry the Gospel to those in other lands. While he waited on God's timing, God used him where he was. We just recently received a thank you note from a man who was saved in 1955 while Earnest was a pastor in Madisonville. He and his brother would visit their grandparents

in Madisonville and attend church with them. It was during this summer of '55 that the two boys were saved. The note stated, "Going to church with our grandmother was an event in our lives that was the most precious and unforgettable to us and to our family. My brother and I walked up in front of the congregation, together, to surrender our lives to our Lord Jesus that summer in 1955." His brother had just recently passed away, and he wanted to let Earnest know that, because he was faithful in his mission, these two boys had been saved.

God sent us to Peru in 1961, and we had the privilege of seeing multitudes come to hear the Gospel through our churches and through the open-air ministry during those, almost 11, years that we had the privilege of serving Him in missions there. We hear from one regularly who was saved during that time. They are faithfully serving the Lord in their church. While in

Peru, God sent two young men from Texas to help us in missions for the summer. It was so good to see these two excited about reaching the lost and sharing the Good News that Jesus died but rose again. We still hear from one of them, and he and his family are faithfully serving the Lord in Texas.

So what is missions? It is living every day wherever God places us so that others can hear that Jesus died and rose again, that He lives today to save all who come to God through Him, and that He chooses to use us each day to carry out His mission of salvation to the world. Let's make this Easter a time when we rededicate our lives to the Lord to carry this message of life and love to all who will receive Him as individuals, through the PPs, and through J.D. and family as they continue the ministry of WOT. Jesus lives! It is our mission to see that others hear the message.

#### PRAISE THE LORD

- For the message that Jesus died and rose again
- For the privilege of carrying that message to the ends of the Earth
- For continued healing for Matthew, removal of neck brace this month
- For all who pray and give to this ministry
- For blessings on Benjamin as he travels and speaks in the states
- For the privilege of seeing God work through J.D. & Edna
- For the opportunity to go to Chiapas, MX this summer
- For the privilege that

#### Prayer Corner

- Justin & Mandy have to minister
  - For the privilege of praying for our co-laborers
  - For our family always ready to help when we need them
  - For all the blessings the Lord allows us to enjoy by serving Him
- #### PRAY WITH US
- God's supply for all He has planned
  - Marriages and families that need to be restored
  - For the Loeras travel in the states the next 2 months

- For J.D. & family & supply for them
- For Anita as she recovers from heart ablation procedure
- For God's continued blessing of His Word
- For the urgent need for supply for more Pastor's Packs; we are totally out.
- For God's supply for the General Fund each month
- For supply for travelers to Chiapas, Mexico in June
- For the health needs of some of our co-laborers
- For Matthew as he will be in physical therapy for the next 4 months
- or our continued health needs

Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24