



May 2012

Year 1, Volume 4

“...to equip, encourage, and restore!”

Polished Arrow Christian Endeavors
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Christian Endeavors

PACE Update

Greetings in the Precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope this finds you well and prosperous ... growing in Him.

Cheri and I have been spending the last several days seeking God, hearing His voice, and writing down His Words. We know that our recent endeavors have been marked of God ... but we have been desirous of what He would have us to do concerning income, direction, emphasis, exercise, and ministry. It has been cool to see Him bring His appointments to our table to bring us such guidance. Of course, we told you of our God-appointment with Pastor Eduardo Barbosa in Bogota, Colombia back in January. What we may not have told you is that he clearly indicated to us that God's calling for us extended much further than a local church, further than Colombia, Israel, and the USA; instead, he indicated, that we are called to bring the message of His equipping, encouragement, and restoration to the entire world. We knew that his words were truly from God Himself.



A similar God-encounter happened in St. Augustine, FL where we had dinner with two of our early mentors, Pat and Wayne Holland of Jacksonville, FL. They confirmed everything Pastor Barbosa said ... and more. Then Pat, who travels extensively ministering to Children's workers poured fuel on us to even tour among local denominational pastors' gathers to bring them the news of equipping, encouraging, and restoring.

So again, we come to you, our friends, and asking you to faithfully and regularly **lift us up in prayer** for spiritual strength, wisdom, and unction to meet the needs to fulfill these callings and for continued and renewed provision for our personal needs to be met. Second, we are asking you to **consider partnering with us financially**. Our operational costs for this ministry are currently about \$8,000 per month and we need regular partners. You can donate online via credit card at our website: www.garrettministries.org (look toward middle of page, directly underneath our "Target" logo.) Or you can write a check to *Polished Arrow Christian Endeavors* (or *PACE* for short.) Either of these are tax deductible as we are a Not-For-Profit Corporation registered in the state of Illinois. Checks can be sent to: PACE, 19401 Tramore Lane, Mokena, IL 60448. Either way, be in prayer ... and thank you for your consideration.

Missions News from around the World

As you can imagine, we try to stay abreast of much of the news from around the world that takes place concerning Christians, evangelism, and missions. Of course we are still hearing of uprisings in Syria. Even though a cease-fire has been declared there, little change is truly being made. In other words, Syria is a nation in crisis. But a very wonderful thing is happening at the same time: local Christians, though they are few, are becoming the hands and feet of Jesus to others in terms of help and in terms of proclaiming the Gospel and Jesus' hope to Syria.

In Sudan, non-Muslims currently are being stripped of their rights or, out right being told to leave the country. Only time will tell what this really means for the few Christians left there but it is important for us here in the western hemisphere to pray in a new and refreshed way for the believers in Sudan, that they will be mightily used to bring Jesus to their country that is basically declaring open war on Christ and on His followers.

Finally, new research by Operation Mobilization tells us that more than 30 million people are victims of some type of human trafficking today. This includes the sex industry and slavery-in-general. It is important that we cause ourselves to become aware of this world-wide tragedy, and that we seek what we can do about it. And don't think that because we live where we do that our area is immune to all of this; in fact, it has recently been discovered that the US sex-trafficking industry has as its center Toledo, Ohio. So take some time, pray, find what you're to do ... and do it. God be with you in the journey.

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Pushing!

God is more concerned with our character than with our comfort. We really like comfort. We would really love it if we could get the character in the midst of our comfort ... but it just doesn't work that way.

And as for God, well He has this unique way of working on our character. He allows us to get into positions and places where the yuck presses to the top and comes oozing out ... somewhat like pimple. I realize that is a nasty example but it works.

Maybe the pressure comes from relationships ... maybe from circumstances ... maybe from situations we did or didn't choose ... maybe because of the poison of sin (our own or others') ... or perhaps, just because we live in a fallen world. What I do know is that there is never pain without purpose! Whether God brought the pain to your life or whether He allowed it there ... the pain has a purpose. What we must do is allow the pain to do its job. When thinking of pain that has a purpose I am reminded of the job of the silversmith.

The job of the silversmith is to purify the silver, thus making it ready to use ... ready for its purpose, its destiny. To do this he must hold the piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. In refining silver, he not only must hold the silver over the fire, but he also needs to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames are hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities.

Think about God holding us in such a hot spot. Malachi 3:3 says, "He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord."

See, it is vital that the silversmith sits in front of the fire the entire time the silver is being refined. Not only does he have to sit there holding the silver, but he also has to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it is in the fire. If the silver is left in the flames a moment too long, it will be destroyed.

How does the silversmith know when the silver is fully refined? When he sees his reflection in the silver.

Maybe you are in the heat of the fire ... I know that is exactly where I have been. Most of the time we tend to fight the fire ... try to find an escape ... to jump out ... but the best thing we can do is to submit to the refiner and to trust Him. He doesn't take His eyes off of us for a second. And just as the "fire" has purpose to the "silver", so also the pain that encounters us has purpose: that purpose is that God is looking for His reflection.

The fire has a purpose ... the pain has a purpose.

- One purpose is to show that our faith is genuine. It is purifying our faith.

I Peter 1:7 "These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

- Another purpose is to perfect and complete us.

James 1:2-4 "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.



So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."

- And get this, the fire, the pain ... is an opportunity for great joy! If we can learn this ... to face the pain, to face the fire with the attitude and the heart of this ... "this is an opportunity for great joy!"

- And another one of the purposes is always to catapult us into the next phase of our destiny. It may have been meant for evil BUT GOD will use those very plans meant for evil for our good...and for the life of many people. Genesis 50:20 reminds us, "Don't you see, you planned evil against me but God used those same plans for my good, as you see all around you right now—life for many people."

"You will never be an exceptional person if you only fight ordinary battles" (The Necessity of an Enemy- Ron Carpenter Jr.) I don't know about you but I'm being groomed to be exceptional! We must remember who the real enemy is, satan and his herd ... not people, not the situation or circumstance ... these are who and what he uses to battle you. And know that an enemy arising in your life is an announcement that the next stage of your destiny is about to be birthed.

And birth pains are intense and they get harder and closer together as we get closer to the birth. Don't abort ... keep pushing ... stay in the battle. God is about to birth you into the next stage of your destiny, of His purposes.

PUSHING!



Aubrianna Isabel Marroquin- 11/24/2005

Join us for a Mission Trip to San Miguelito, Panama with CFCI



Cheri and I will be leading an Open Mission Team for Christ for the City, International to Panama., Central America this coming August. Open mission teams are made up of individuals from all over North America who are interested in joining an already scheduled team. CFCI organizes everything from the logistics of the trip and the pre-field preparation to your team devo-

tional times and activities once in the country. Open Teams are designed to give peo-

ple a chance to serve in Latin America, make new friends, and strengthen their relationship with God. All you have to do is fill out the application and purchase your plane ticket.

Download Panama Open Team Application and Pricing at: www.garrettministries.org/CFCIapp.doc

Panama- August 4-12, 2012

- **FEEDING PROGRAM** Join us in San Miguelito where CFCI-Panama has been supporting a church in their Sunday school facilities and programs. This church is in a very needy area and is helping CFCI to run the feeding program in the Republic of Korea elementary school.
- **CONSTRUCTION** The church is in the process of finishing construction on the area where Sunday school will be held. Training classes will also be held in this facility to train potential teachers on how to prepare a lesson and how to use audio-visual/media support to reinforce the classes.

- **PUPPET MINISTRY** If you have a flair for drama you can work with puppets to minister to the children. Or, use your passion for the environment to help us show the locals how to use recycled materials to their benefit, an endeavor which has brought good results due their lack of resources.

You \$780 includes:

- Lodging with host families or guest house
- Meals
- In-country transportation (you pay to get there)
- T-shirt
- Insurance
- Debrief and Sight-Seeing Excursion

Training

We will be with you every step of the way, from answering initial questions to raising support and ministry preparation. Each team member will receive a Mission Trip Manual to help them prepare spiritually, logistically and financially. Your team leader will facilitate pre-field team devotions as well as guide you through the preparation process. For more information, give us a call at

Israel Celebrates its 64th Independence Day

The nation of Israel recently celebrated its 64th anniversary. In 1948, the U.N. voted to partition the Holy Land into a Jewish and an Arab state with Jerusalem as the shared international capital. Old newsreels show dancing in the streets and joyous celebrations by the young Jewish people who came to Israel to start new lives in peace and freedom. The celebration of the Jewish State's existence is much the same today!



The day before Israel's Independence Day was a day of remembrance for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. Sirens marked a moment of silence as ceremonies take place around the country in places such as Tel Aviv's Rabin Square, named after the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister. At sunset, Independence Day began with fireworks and the following day, all the parks were filled with families celebrating with picnics and barbecues. Israelis mourned the loss of Israel's soldiers and civilians due to war and terrorism, then celebrated the birth of their country with joy, thanksgiving, and hope for a bright Israeli future.

Thank You ... and Requests Made

This is the fourth newsletter of Polished Arrow Christian Endeavors. The primary targets of PACE are: the encouragement and training of pastors, leaders, and other Christians, the teaching of God's Word to equip all the saints, the liberation of women who are held in the bondage of their own minds and homes, the preparation and dissemination of written materials that edify the body of Christ, the instruction of Christian leaders in academic settings, and the restoration of ministers who have grown weary in well-doing. At this point in our lives, our areas of focus include the US, the Caribbean, Colombia, China, and Israel, although we are constantly attuned to His Spirit for other leadings as well.

We have two requests of you today: **1)** Will you pray for us on a regular basis, at least weekly? We understand that all things are possible with God, but we also realize that, often, we have not because we ask not; We are asking. **2)** Will you support us financially? At this point, this ministry is the soul vehicle through which God provides our income (although we do receive some compensation through teaching at seminaries and colleges.) It is a tax-deductible investment. Make checks out to PACE and use the following address: PACE, 19401 Tramore Lane, Mokena, IL 60448. Otherwise, you can go to our website (www.garrettministries.org) and look about half-way down the page and donate via PayPal. We are appreciative for whatever prayers you can lift and whatever gifts you can afford. Through these things, God is using you to reach Christians all around the world.



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