



July 2012

Year 1, Volume 6

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

Polished Arrow Christian Endeavors
19401 Tramore Lane. Mokena, IL 60448
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www.garrettministries.org

www.HisRemnant.net

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.

We are excited to announce that we are beginning to hold gatherings at three homes in the south suburbs Chicago area beginning Friday, July 13. We are defying all superstitions Oasis Chicago begins at 7:00 PM at our home, 19401 Tramore Lane, Mokena, IL. **Oasis Chicago:** Intimate Worship...Pure Word...Real Relationships.

Some have recently asked what we have been doing during their sabbatical: Well, several things actually. One, we are spending a lot of time praying and digging in His Word. Two, we are enjoying one another- being together and travelling together. Three, we are taking time to get in shape, including weekly visits to the chiropractor and 3-4 trips per week to the gym plus every-other-day walking or running. (We've both lost over 15 lbs each and have packed on a lot of muscle... it looks and feels good. And Jim recently ran his first 5k and will be running his second July 4.) Four, we are simply waiting upon the Lord (while staying busy, mind you) to see what His next assignment for us is. And five, we are working diligently to get our ministries functional and promotable. In fact, here are the web pages you can look at and witness their evolution: www.GarrettMinistries.org. www.HisRemnant.net, and www.OasisChicago.org

Missions News from around the World

Indonesia (MNN) -- When the Sawi tribe of Indonesia first heard the Gospel 50 years ago, they called Jesus' betrayer Judas a hero. The Sawi loved treachery, but missionaries Don and Carol Richardson discovered they also had a way of making peace. One tribe would give one of their children to an enemy tribe. Once the Richardsons described Christ as a "peace child," everything changed for the Sawi. The Richardsons' son Steve, president of Pioneers USA, says, "They began responding to the Gospel, and the Sawi eventually began reaching out in their own missionary efforts to tribes they had previously warred against." It's been 50 years since then, and all of the Richardson men are leaving this weekend for Indonesia to celebrate. The Sawi are still committed to Christ after five decades. It's a testimony to what God can do through just two people. "I think the obedience of God's people to His Great Commission is what makes a difference in world history both for now and for eternity." *What's God calling you to do?*

South Asia (MNN) -- Feud-like revenge in a South Asian country has missionaries in the crossfire. A young woman in the country was raped three weeks ago by members of an opposing ethnic group. Since then, Gospel for Asia missionaries say retaliations have gone back and forth and it's gotten very dangerous. Mobs are roaming the streets and killing villagers. Many can't even leave their homes for fear of their lives. People are hiding out in the church building for refuge. *Please pray for their safety.*

Polished Arrow Christian Endeavors is a Not-For-Profit Corporation organized in the state of Illinois for the purpose of : Charitable, Benevolent, Educational, Religious, and Literary Purposes. It directly affiliates with Garrett Ministries and His Remnant Ministries. All contributions are tax-deductible.

If and Then

Cheri

For such a little word, "IF" is enormous! "IF you will do something for me THEN I will do this for you." One such statement that I'm really learning lately is "IF I will eat healthy and exercise THEN I will lose weight and be in better health." Oh, the power of "IF"!

"If-then" statements are just what the name implies. They tell us that "if" a certain thing happens, "then" this other certain thing will happen in response. God uses these types of statements: "if we do this, then He will do that". In our walks as Christ-followers, we must understand what God is saying to us in these "if-then" statements. It is one of these "if-then" scriptures that triggered this blog and is very fitting as we celebrate the fourth of July.

As we are celebrating our country's birth and freedom, we find ourselves in a place of decision. We have sat by silently and apathetically regarding our country and our rights as citizens as well as our freedoms for far too long. Oh, we quote the Scriptures but do we truly hear what they are saying to us? To truly hear means to listen and then to respond by walking out God's Word in obedience.

Our country is at a very critical crossroads and I believe that what will make the difference starts in God's Church ... which is you AND me ... And at this critical juncture, God says IF...THEN...

"If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14 NLT)

God has something He really wants to do for us, for our country ... And it follows our obedience to His "IF".

IF ... We His people ... Not those who don't know Him but those of us who do!

IF ... Those of us Who are called by His Name ... Not the rest of the world, nor because of your political power ... But because we are His!

IF ... We will humble ourselves ... Strip away all pride ... Know that without God we are nothing ... that He is our very life. We must humble ourselves before Him ... fall down before Him in total abandon.

IF ... We will pray ... Not just a "God, bless America" prayer but a prayer that bombards Heaven ...



Praying for His will (to be) on earth as it is in Heaven. We the Church must unite as one in prayer for our nation!

IF ... We seek His face ... Crave Him ... Require Him as a vital necessity. I mean we have to go after God, and make sure that He is our priority and the love of our lives.

IF ... We turn from our wicked ways. Repentance must start with us. We've gotta clean up our act. We've gotta cry out to God to clean our hands and to clean our hearts.

THEN ... IF we will do these things, not just today and not just in a pinch but, instead, will make them the very foundation of our lives ...

THEN ... He WILL hear our cries from Heaven...

THEN ... He WILL forgive our sin!

THEN ... He WILL heal and restore our land.

And THEN we will experience complete freedom ... Freedom in our country ... Freedom in our hearts, and freedom in our lives!

"If" and "Then" lead us to freedom ... True Freedom!

Let's Do the "ifs" so we can get the "thens"!



Bumps In The Night

Well, it finally happened: I was out exercising my new found lifestyle and hobby, running. It was a hot day so I waited until night-time to begin my run ... after 11 PM to be semi-exact. Now mind you, running on the sidewalk is tough especially for someone who, in his 53 years of life, has NEVER run a complete mile until now. And this part of the sidewalk is dark. There are street lights but they are shielded by the overgrowth of trees.

So you stay alert ... because it's dark, and because it's late, and because ... well, it's just a smart practice.

I have a long row of tall, evergreen hedges to my left and Willow Avenue to my right ... and I'm running ... well, sort of ...it's still plodding along at this point, but I am making forward motion in a slow, 235 lbs., almost-54-year-old male sort of way.

And I hear sounds rustling in the hedges. They're right beside me, and behind me, and in front of me.

I am about to get attacked by an angst-filled mob of teens, or a pack of vicious dogs or coyotes, or maybe even something worse.

My ears perk up. My eyes are searching. My body goes into high alert as the blood pressure rises and the breath rate increases. Even the fine hairs on my legs, arms, and back are standing at attention.

Then suddenly ...wham ... I am hit from the left side ... again and again and again. It starts about knee level but the sensations quickly arises to my thighs, my hips, and my mid-section. I am startled and frightened, but I am alive ... for the moment.

Then it hits me ... all of this commotion is simply the water sprinkler system coming on. The sounds are initially air flowing through the pipes and then ... water: cold, wet water.

Did I mention wet?

Did I mention cold?

Then realization of the hilarity of all of this strikes me. This is the kind of scene that my three grown children would hold over my head for many years to come if they found out ... and thank God, no one saw it or was around to take pictures.

I felt foolishness, relief, and humor all at the same time.

I was safe. I was delivered. I was free.

And as I later surveyed the situation, I realized that a spiritual parallel had just been reenacted in my life. In fact, all of this reminds me of a reality that is presented in the Scriptures.

Isaiah 14:16-19 (HCSB)

¹⁶ Those who see you will stare at you; they will look closely at you: "Is this the man who caused the earth to tremble, who shook the kingdoms, ¹⁷ who turned the world into a wilderness, who destroyed its cities and would not release the prisoners to return home?"



¹⁸ All the kings of the nations lie in splendor, each in his own tomb. ¹⁹ But you are thrown out without a grave, like a worthless branch, covered by those slain with the sword and dumped into a rocky pit like a trampled corpse.

These verses immediately follow the famous passage that describes the scenario when Lucifer was cast out of the heavenlies, so this, too, is in reference to him.

Today, many have cowered in fear because of the accusations and attacks of the enemy. And many others have dreamed up in their minds a concept that he is capable of and responsible for so many things that he, in fact, is not. Isaiah is reminding us that we will look upon him, and sneeringly say, "Is this the man who caused the earth to tremble, who shook the kingdoms, who turned the world into a wilderness, who destroyed its cities and would not release the prisoners to return home?" (Note the tone of sarcasm in Isaiah's statement.)

Isn't it amazing how much fear we waste on those things that are unknown ... and how much stress is wasted on those things that we hear, those people that we suspect, and those events that we wrongly anticipate?

Just as I "survived" the attack of the murderous water sprinkler system, so too we will overcome our seemingly deepest situations, if only we will keep our focus on Him and allow Him to bring us through these situations. And if we can keep these things in mind, He can even cause us to overcome our fears and our anxieties.

Think about it ... and then get up and **run** through your situation and fear.

Pastor Jim

Thank You ... and Requests Made

This is the sixth 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 healing and restoration of spiritually abused saints of God, the enhancement and subsequent equipping of families to build children and parents for the Kingdom of God, 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, and Malawi ... 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 . 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 offer and whatever gifts you can afford. Through these things, God is using you to reach the nations of the world.



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