

CHRISTIANS EMPOWERING ORGANIZATIONS MINISTRIES INC.

"Father, we need your risen Son, please help us"

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 3 APRIL SPRING IN CANADA - HE IS COMING AGAIN!



TERRY & BRIAN: HONDURAS, GUATEMALA

Sitting in Guatemala and discussing Terry's new book called "Catholic or Evangelical: What is the Difference?" Also in preparation for the Pastor's Conference the next day. You can just see the tip of a volcano in the background. It was a

marvelous time of ministry. We had to fly from Cuba through Panama City to San Pedro, Honduras. It was 42C on arrival. It was there that we connected with Ernesto and Marina Pinto. The next day we drove four hours through the mountains to a church that we helped by providing the flooring and the washroom. This poor little congregation built everything else and is growing rapidly. I had the joy of preaching there and lives were touched. That night I woke up and had no idea where I was or what country I was in. Due to the heat and dehydration I lost my sense of orientation and memory. I went back to sleep and hoped God would fix things in the morning and He did. Brian was such a help in ministering not only to others but also to me.





Back in La Lima area we ministered to various churches and schools. One church where we have a feeding station for children that came in shifts. All the children would always surround Brian as he made balloon animals and exemplified the love of Christ. When these children go to school their siblings often come along to get some food. Some of them are still in diapers walking on gravel with bare feet. We feed them Monday through Friday and they clean up after themselves. They are usually very hungry on Monday and need a second helping. We are so thankful to Pastor Roberto and his volunteers. This is a very rough area and feeding the children helps the church have a voice in the community that is controlled by gangs. The day I was there, a little girl showed me a bullet shell she found on her way to church from the shootings that took place the night before. Please ask God to remind you to pray for the people in Honduras. They live in constant awareness of danger. If they have a teenage daughter they fear

that she will be raped. If they have a teenage son they fear he will be forced into gangs and get involved with drugs. Girls are forced into prostitution at an early age and often are children having children complicated by STDs. We have feeding programs in Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti and the Dominican. We thank you for the help and prayer you have given to make this possible. God is changing lives as Canadians and Hondurans work together to build His Kingdom.





TERRY'S CALL TO MINISTRY APRIL 16, 1967

"But we will devout ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word"

Acts 6:4

During his evening devotions, in a little one-room apartment on the third floor of a red brick rooming house on Balmoral street in Winnipeg, Terry sensed the Holy Spirit was calling him into ministry. He was reading in the book of Acts when chapter 6:4 seemed to impact him in a powerful way. He knew with certainty that it was his call to ministry. He entered Winnipeg Bible College in the fall. It is now called Providence University and College.

Coming out of a racially-mixed home and having experienced various kinds of abuse Terry struggled with his personal demons that caused him to be highly suicidal. He sought to find answers through his studies which included three Master degrees, a Doctorate and Post-doctoral studies. During this time he and his wife Elizabeth raised three children whom they taught at home. He pastored three churches and started a ministry called Christians Influencing Education that worked with Christians in Public Schools. He also helped start private and home schools. He published some practical books in the field of education, relationships, and philosophy.

God intervened in Terry's personal struggles bringing it to a climax that took Terry through a crucible of cleansing. God turned the issues that Terry struggled with and turned that misery into ministry. Since then God has blessed Terry's ministry in ways that build God's Kingdom. A favourite verse of Terry's is Jeremiah 18:4, But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he made it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.

FROM THE MAILBOX IN THE FIELD

Guatemala: Fausta and Miriam have ministered for decades in this country. They have traveled by donkey and hiked mountains to bring the Word of God to their people. They have started churches and Bible schools. During their Civil War they hiked into the jungles and ministered to the troops and rebels with the gospel. They are still very active in their 80's providing training for pastors. Brian and I were there at a pastor's conference and she wrote this note: Thanks, Terry! You've brought us many blessings and given our ministry a taste of what it can mean to walk close to God. We truly appreciate you! Thanks so much for the materials. I'm sure they will be very useful to us and the pastors. It was a real pleasure hosting you in our home, and the preachers were blessed by your ministry. Thank you once more for coming.



TERRY & BRIAN: HONDURAS, GUATEMALA: In Honduras we were able to minister in various churches. There seems to be such a hunger and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Life is a constant struggle and pain is a constant experience. Service after service the front of the church was filled with people asking God for help. Time after time I wish I could just hug people's problems away.





There is a Clinic in one of the worst neighborhoods. It is often doing surgery of people rushed in their suffering from gunshot wounds. I saw pictures of one surgery they did on a young man who was shot in the lower leg by a shot gun that exposed all the muscles and veins that they had to stitch. This Clinic often provides medicine and surgery for the poorest of the poor. They have a great facility and desperately need trained doctors and dentist to come and serve for a week or a month. They have accommodations on the compound. There is a tremendous need to help provide them with additional equipment and medication. You might prayerfully consider a short mission trip if you are a professional in the medical field. You may also want to donate to the cause.





Up in the mountains behind Progresso, Honduras, there is a community of people that live in extreme poverty. There is an elderly lady called Hilda who has a handicapped adult son who has a heart for the children in that community. She raised money and had people build a shelter for her work among the children. When we cut through the sugarcane crops and drove up the mountain it was obvious she knew

where she was going. When we arrived in the area the children seemed to come out of nowhere. They just flocked around Hilda. She teaches them biblical truths, songs and games. They loved Brian as he made balloon animals and swords for them. I led the children in a couple of Spanish songs I knew. I asked Hilda if the children knew how to pray. She enthusiastically replied that they did. I then asked her if the children would pray for me. I needed wisdom in ministry for the 12 countries we serve in. She told the children my request and they quickly gathered around me and put their little hands on me. To hear them pray melted my heart and caused my tears to flow. We go to serve but are often ministered to by these precious people. It was a taste of heaven.

Just one more quick thought about Guatemala. Miriam was trying to get a book published and a publisher in the States was having her jump through all kinds of hoops and a high cost—she probably would never have got the book published. Brian became a God-send to her. He took two full days to format the entire book, design the cover and get it off to the printers. Miriam was so grateful.

ONE TEAM LEADER'S REPORT FROM CUBA

From February 6-11th, with the help of God and CEO Canada, a third missions trip to the eastern region of Cuba to aid the people who survived Hurricane Matthew, was made and was successful. We took a bus from Havana to Holguin and there spent an entire day shopping for food, cleaning supplies, and other building materials to give to the people of that community. We visited 15 churches and delivered food and supplies to 350 people. We delivered 20 doors and windows to different churches and financially blessed 10 pastoral families within the churches we visited.

With the help of God, on our 8th day of the trip we were able to visit 8 churches and worked hard until midnight. On the 9th day we visited another 7 churches. The 11th day we visited the families of leaders that lived in very difficult places to get to. These people lost almost everything. We met people who were still sleeping in their neighbor's homes or sleeping in their own homes but without a roof. It's been difficult for them to fix anything or even find food.

The pastors and brothers of these congregations appreciated your help big time and we thank God and the ministry of CEO for this noble mission we were able to participate in. We want you to know we are ready and willing to participate in any other humanitarian help – in Cuba or out. **Pastor Yudiel and Tamara**

TEAMS WORKING TO HELP HURRICANE MATTHEW VICTIMS



Cuba: This is a letter sent to one of our team leaders working with the Cuban people whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Matthew. We have invested over \$ 50,000 in this area helping people recover. Together, we are thankful for all who have given and pray that God will raise up more support. The government is often an obstacle to us rather than a help. All the material help freely given by other countries are confiscated by the government and then sold to the people who have no money or anything and therefore sign huge loans that they will never be able to repay. We rotate teams every two weeks and send in fresh teams to build

and provide food, water, blankets, etc.

Thank you for the time you spent ministering

to the congregation in La Pena de Horeb. It was

time and glory to the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

The brothers and sisters would also like to thank you for thinking of them. Everything that happened was greater than what we expected; God always surprises us with His marvelous blessings. I would like to share this testimony with you since you did not know about this: A woman dressed as a man entered the church when worship time was starting; she was crying



from the time she entered until the end. We ministered to her when the message started because she shared that she was in pain and that it was the demons that didn't want her to stay and listen to the message from God; but

she was freed from the demons and stayed and was attentive to the Bible message that you shared. When you made the altar call, she did not go to the front because she didn't think that God could forgive her but she said she would continue to visit our church. I will keep you up-to-date on this testimony so that you can share with others, for

the glory of God.

A couple who was on the brink of divorce also gave their lives to Christ after listening to the message, They said that they couldn't describe what had happened but the man said: "One thing I know, it is that God is with us now and we have the victory".

The paraplegic man and the woman with him that answered the altar call, are the parents of the church administrator. For a while we have been evangelizing them and inviting them to church so that they could hear God's message, but they were not interested, until this Sunday. What they said was: "Now I know why you wanted me to participate in this time of celebration, it has been wonderful and it won't be the last time; as long as transportation is possible, I will be here with you, even if it's only on Sundays."

I share these testimonies with you so that you may share them with those who support you in these missionary trips. Well, my brother, we will be in contact and we hope that God will multiply 100 times more all that you have invested and in this way that you may be able to reach more broken hearts with God's love. The team here also sends their greetings to your family, ministry team and congregation, who support this ministry



By Berhanu Ayano

I was in **Ethiopia** for mission work for six weeks starting from January 6 – February 18, 2017. During my stay, I met with over 22 pastors and evangelists who received financial support. Evangelist Afework is one of them. I have known him since 1987. Formerly an ordained Ethiopian Coptic Church deacon and a high school teacher by profession. Afework, by God's grace accepted the Lord Christ Jesus into his life. From the early age of his conversion he started sharing with others about the grace of God that brings salvation. Later, when he felt the call to serve, he quit his job and became a travelling evangelist, which marked the beginning of persecution in his life. But he took comfort in the Word of God, which says, "Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12). The persecution was from two sources – from the communist regime and from the Ethiopian Coptic Church. To the communist regime, all evangelical Christians are agents of CIA and have to be dealt with lest they will be instrumental for the west to abort the revolution. To the Coptic, all evangelical Christians are heretics; because

they follow the religion of the west, which came together with the humanitarian aid. They have to be dealt with, otherwise they will pollute the culture. As an evangelist, Afework was the primary target. To cite some examples that he was the primary target, consider the following examples.

On a rainy winter day, Afework went to a small village to preach the Gospel. On his way back home, the Coptic Christians threw him from a bridge into the river of rushing water. Carried away by the rushing water and slammed into rocks and finally tossed out. He came







home with wounds and swellings; but survived by the grace of God. Another example: One can choose a house; but cannot choose a neighbor. Afework lived next door to a Coptic religious zealot who hated evangelical Christians. One day, after preaching at a conference, Afework arrived at his home town of Shashemene late at night. The exhausted and disorientated Afework thought he was at his own gate; but by mistake knocked on the gate of the hateful neighbor. When the religious zealot opened the gate, to his surprise he found Afework at his own gate at night. It was a shock to Afework to find himself in the hand of the person who hated him most. The expression of hatred, the drama of beating unfolded and left Afework half dead; but he survived and continued preaching the Good News and lead thousands to the Lord. Many were healed through his prayer ministry. Those who were comforted through Afework's counseling ministry were also not few in numbers. Afework's life demonstrates the accuracy of God's word, which says, "Indeed all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Tim. 3:12). Afework experienced trials and sufferings in his life as well as God's presence. No matter what he had faced, he never had to endure it alone. He has damaged nerves due to beating. Currently, he lives in Addis Ababa where he can get medical attention and lives on his pension income, which is from hand-to-mouth. When I met with him on January 22, 2017, he was always in a sitting position and cannot walk unless assisted by someone. His outer self is deteriorating; his inner self is being renewed day by day by God's grace. God's grace empowered him to preach the Good News. In each suffering, there was joy and strength that no enemy had taken away and peace of God in his life in each passing day of his life.

As the recipient of financial support, Afework is thankful to God and grateful to benevolent children of God who donated their money to make this financial support possible.





Haiti/Dominican: Alix & Gertrude Jean-Paul

So the darkness of Good Friday is lifted. Then, comes Easter morning. He is risen indeed. We all shout. Yes, this is hope. Therefore, I am reminded to focus on the meaning of Easter when hope replaces hopelessness. When life



overcomes death, pain and suffering. Oh yes, Jesus Christ's resurrection brings light into the dark world. In looking at the world with my spiritual eyes, Galatians 6:9 reminds me why doing good brings hope and is making a difference: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (NIV).

Let me share with you three examples of hope which encourage us to persevere in the work we are doing in Haiti and Dominican Republic.

A group of students from grades 4, 5 and 6 of a school in Saint-Boniface have heard about the plights of the Haitian school children in Haiti and Dominican Republic. They have decided with the support of their parents and teachers to raise funds to help. They have raise \$ 640.00 to help the Haitian children in our school in Sosua, DR who just experienced a major flood. They had lost their books, scribblers, shoes and uniforms. As a result of our Manitoban students' efforts, during my last trip in DR, the students were happy and hard at work in their new scribblers, shoes and uniforms. I saw hope.

Gertrude and I were invited to a Colony school outside of Winnipeg to talk to the students about the work we are doing in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The students were very interested and curious about our slide show and related stories. We have learned that they have grown pumpkins in their garden to sell to raise funds for charity works. They were able to raise \$ 200.00 towards the purchase of a printer for the school in DR. As a result of these Canadian students' generosity, the teachers can make copy of the exercises for each student so that they can spend more time learning by doing the work rather than copying it. I saw hope.

Our daughter Michelle put on Facebook A GoFundMe for Sam I Am Center in Lechard, Haiti. To her surprise her friends' seven years old daughter has decided with her mom's help to knit scarfs and sell them on Facebook to support the children at Sam I Am Center. She has knitted 47 scarfs so far. People as far as Germany and Australia have ordered scarfs from her. She was able so far to raise \$ 652.00 towards the work in Haiti. I saw hope.

There is hope. These three stories warm my heart. They exemplify how the power of caring and love can change our world. For, He is risen indeed. There is hope for the children in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti as long as we have children like the ones in St. Boniface School, in the Colony school and a gracious seven-year old girl who care.

Focus on Prayer: There is so much we are thankful for and there is so much that we are in need of prayer. God is doing great things and our national leaders in each of the countries we are working in are sacrificially giving of themselves. I think of Namphy in Haiti, Noelson in the Dominican and I could go on. Help us help them feed the hungry, heal the sick, educate the illiterate, help the single moms and widows and teach the pastors—is this what Jesus would have us to do (Matthew 25)?

WE ARE A TEAM...

Empowering Ministries to ...

Reach the Lost, Revive the weak, Rescue the fallen, Restore the broken, Reconcile the offended, Release the Discipled CHRISTIANS EMPOWERING ORGANIZATIONS BOX 283 ST. VITAL, MANITOBA R2N3X9