



ALPHA & OMEGA

International Ministries

N E W S L E T T E R

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“The Powerful Gift of Real Friendship”

*Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: **but I have called you friends**; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*
John 15:15

The Bible has much to say about relationships. Let's think about some of them. God had a relationship with Adam and Eve. David and Jonathan had a relationship with each other. Jesus had a relationship with His apostles. Not only did Jesus have a relationship with His disciples, but His goal was to show them the relationship that God has with them.

John 14:9 *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;*

Everything that Jesus did was designed to bring light to the true heart of His Father who wanted man to have a relationship with Him based on “friendship.” Abraham was called a “friend of God,” and we are called “friends of God.”

James 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

John 15:15 *Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*

A real friend is someone that is always “there” for you. My grandfather had a saying that he shared with me as a boy. “A man with wealth has many friends, but when that same man no longer has wealth, it is amazing how those ‘so called friends’ disappear.” Jesus, our example of a “true friend” is one that proclaims, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” **Hebrews 3:5** There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. **Proverbs 18:24.** Jesus was a perfect representation of the love and commitment that His Father has toward us.

Jesus commanded us to love one another in the same manner that He has loved us so that through our love, others will also see that God is their friend.

John 15:12 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

John 17:22 *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

John 17:23 *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

I wanted to share this with you to say that we (Suzan and I) see you as "Our Friends" whom God has brought into our lives, so that we may be able to partake of God's love and everything concerning whom God is, that we may receive it through you. We thank God for you. You are very 'special' to us and I know you are very special to God. You are God's gift to us and we love and appreciate you.

Suzan and I have been doing what Jesus did with His apostles in **Mark 6:31** "And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and **rest a while**: ...". We have taken some time to visit with family and to prepare for our upcoming trip to Ecuador and Peru on February 17th. Our trip to Ecuador this time will be a different one in that we will be spending approximately 2 weeks with the Indigenous tribes in Ecuador. We are very much looking forward to this time with the people in the villages establishing "relationships" and sharing the word of God with them.

We want to thank you for your prayers, your support and for sharing into our lives your love and friendship. May God continue to Bless and guide you in all your ways.

God Bless you.
 Your friends,
 Mickey & Suzan



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