

CHRISTIANS SEEKING IDENTITY

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April 2011 Newsletter

**No More
Fear...I Love you!**

To: All of
My Children

From: Your
Heavenly Father

I Have a Daddy Who Loves me....

YE HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN TO FEAR; BUT YE HAVE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION, WHEREBY WE CRY, ABBA, FATHER. ROMANS 8:15

As I read this, I thought of the bondage that fears have caused me to experience. I began to review all of the sources of past fears in my life. I was amazed because the greatest or most on-going fears that I had were connected to my Christian walk!

I used to read the scripture that says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." [Hebrews 11:6] I would then reflect on the scriptures in Hebrews 3 and 4 that said the Israelites died in the wilderness and God swore in His wrath that they could not enter into His rest because of unbelief. The scriptures admonish us to be careful lest we also miss that rest for the same reason. I don't know about you, but I knew I was not resting as a Christian and that really put a lot of pressure on me because it somehow meant that I lacked when it came to faith.

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CBC-Atlanta Invades Colombia, South America



Bill ministered to the members of the Women's Rehab talking of the "Fathers Heart."



Team ministering in Children's School in Bogota

**We are the
WOW of God!**
*And God Saw
everything that he
had made, and
behold, it was very
good.*

CBC in Colombia Continued on Page 3

No matter how hard I tried, I was never able to conquer that little bit of unbelief that came out of my heart, not my head. How I longed for that rest but I feared that I would never find it! Then there was the fear that I had that I would make a wrong decision that would cause me to miss God's perfect will. I did not want God's plan B for my life, I wanted plan A! The fear that resulted caused me to agonize over anything that required making a decision. It was crippling!

I lived on a tight budget. I tithed out of the fear that if I did not give, things were going to get worse. When things went wrong, I felt like it was because I was not giving enough!

One of the greatest fears that I had was centered on my father. He was not a Christian. More than anything, I wanted to know that he would someday be in heaven with me. I did not want him to go to hell! I cried and prayed many prayers. I tried witnessing to him, and when he would not hear me, the next time I approached him, I would promote God through fear. Dad, you must confess your sins, because if you don't, God will bring judgment upon you! And we wonder why we have such a distorted picture of God!

I went to bed at night confessing every thing that I could have possibly done wrong that day, including the things that I would probably do tomorrow. I was taught to pray everything in the name of Jesus. I remember waking up in the middle of the night more than once thinking that I had forgotten to say "In the name of Jesus" before I said amen. I voiced the whole prayer again just so I could end it right because God answering my prayer depended on it.

Sound crazy? I bet some of you have had similar, or even different "religious" encounters with fear. When I worked at Andrew Womack's phone center, a good portion of the calls that we took were from callers who were afraid that they had committed the "unpardonable sin." All of our counseling did not seem to alleviate their torment. We called them frequent callers because day after day they called with the same request.

If we go back to the scripture that I began with, it says that we have not received the spirit of bondage AGAIN to fear. Fear is based on an Old Testament perception of God involving satisfying the law of commandments which can never be done without God's intervention.

The scripture says that we have instead received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry Abba, Father.

The word fear has several definitions that include alarm, fright and exceeding terror. Those are the definitions that we often apply to the fear of God. But another definition that is included is reverence. Reverence is an emotion based on a relationship [like that between a father and his children] that combines fear with love, affection and trust.

Before we can really understand what it means to fear God, we first have to understand the love that God has for us. We have to understand the heart of our Father.

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: Isaiah 11:2-3

God wants us to be rooted in His love because it is through this that we will begin to experience His fullness.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19

God's agenda is not to whip us into shape so that we can measure up to His expectations. His agenda is to love us like a daddy and to nurture us in ways that will lead us to experiencing all of his goodness and love.

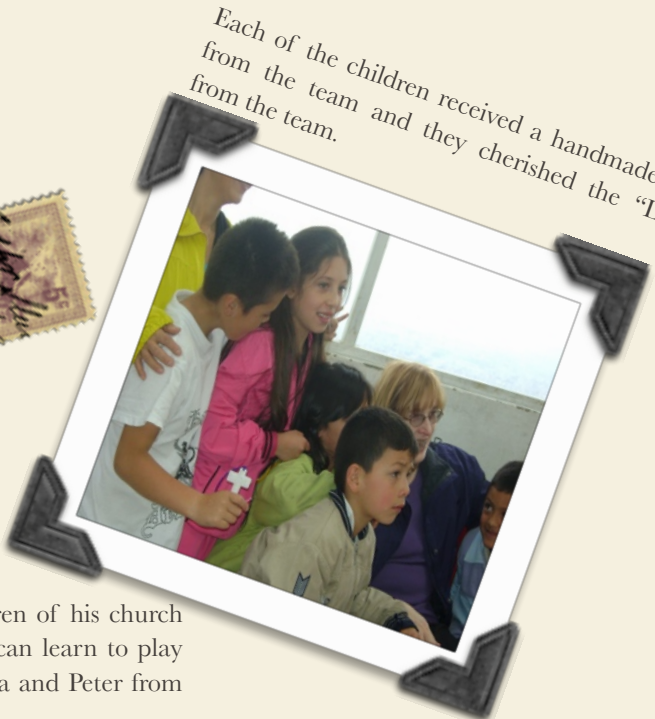
I still have moments where fear tries to raise its head, but when that happens, I just have to remember that I have a Daddy who loves me.

Charis Bible College-Atlanta Team in Colombia, South America

Suzan and I went on our CBC mission trip in 2006 to Colombia, South America. No CBC has returned until this last month in March when CBC of Atlanta blessed the people of Colombia with the "Too Good to Be True Message of God's Love & God's Grace". It was a great blessing to serve as coordinator and translator for the team.



The team blessed Pastor Jairo and the children of his church with some musical instruments so that they can learn to play and then do the "Praise and Worship" (Linda and Peter from Team)



Each of the children received a handmade cross from the team and they cherished the "Love" from the team.



Arlene ministers on how man was made righteous through the substitution made by Jesus. Powerful! (Pastor Clemencia - translator, Bill representing mankind.)

What a surprise on these men's faces in the Rehab Center as they heard God's message to them from one(Linda) whom God had also delivered from drugs.

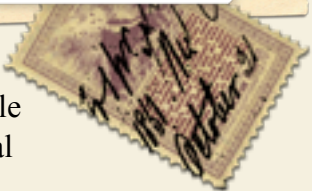


Members of the team pray for members of the Men's Rehab Center. The word brings "Freedom".

What a powerful impact Ms Mary made on the members of the Women's Rehab as she shared the word of God and her own testimony of how God had delivered her many years ago from drugs.



These are just some of the places where the Team ministered while in Colombia. It was easy to see how the Word of God changed the hearts and lives of the people they encountered. Their messages on God's Grace, God's Love and their personal Identity in Christ were profound.



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