

Christian Seeking Identity

Ministry of Alpha & Omega International Ministries

Sept.-Oct. 2016

Greetings Family & Friends,
We pray that as we enter into this season of autumn that you are enjoying Gods best in your lives. We have just returned from a trip that took us to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Valledupar and Villavicencio, Colombia all in South America.

While in Buenos Aires we were blessed to be hosted by Joe and Nancy MacQueen, directors of the Charis Bible College in Argentina. We taught in the school and ministered in a local church. This was the first time we had ever been to Argentina. We found Buenos Aires to be much different from other countries in Central and South America. It has a very diversified population that has been very much influenced by European emigrants and that influence can be seen in the architecture, their food preferences, and in their lifestyle. It is quite unique to the other Latin American countries. For us it is the **people** that make a country and they certainly made us fall in love with Buenos Aires. The hunger for God's word was evident in the lives of the students and we enjoyed sharing the Word with them.

Joe and Nancy were excellent hosts and tour guides. We learned a bit of local history from them and had fun sightseeing and shopping.

In the second part of trip we went to Valledupar, Colombia which is a new place and region that we had never been

to before. Pastora Marleny was our hostess. We have been working with her for about five years in the city of Cucuta, but she wanted to introduce us to some new pastors in other cities. In the eight days that we were with her, we did two pastors seminars, and preached in four towns and three cities. The schedule was full but it was exciting and new doors for future ministry were opened.

The last stop took us to Villavicencio, Colombia where we worked with Pastora Clemencia, our original Colombia contact! We were with her for a week and held a three day pastors conference and ministered in three churches. It is always exciting to be able to sow seeds into the hearts and lives of new pastors and brothers and sisters in Christ.

The enemy has been perverting the message of God's grace and love for centuries (Acts 13:10) and he is using the church to promote the perversion! Families are being destroyed and congregations are confused and divided because of this perversion. We have found that the best way to combat the perversion is to simply turn on the light! It is amazing to see how fast the darkness flees when the people get a revelation of the truth. Thank you for all of your prayer support.

God Bless you!

Your friends,

Mickey & Suzan

No Strings Attached !

Unmerited favor-God is good but I don't deserve it. This common definition of grace almost killed me. I found myself continually trying to address that issue because more than anything I wanted to hear my savior say, Well done thou good and faithful servant. I spent years living under a sense of guilt because I knew that "Jesus paid my debt even though He did not owe anything and I owed him a debt that I could not pay!" I felt unworthy of the sacrifice that He made for me and in spite of all of my efforts to live up the expectations that I placed upon myself, nothing satisfied that sense of unworthiness.

One day I found myself reading the following scripture:

Luke 14:12 *Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. 13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.*

Jesus does not enjoy seeing us respond to his free gift with condemnation and guilt! I remember one year at Christmas time. I had a certain person in mind that I really wanted to give a special gift to. I had never given her a Christmas gift before, and she had never given anything to me. I was so excited. I gave her the gift and a few hours later I heard a knock on my door. It was that same woman bringing me a gift in exchange for the one I gave her. That in-

stantly removed the joy that I had when I gave her the gift because it made her feel like she owed me a gift.

Let me tell you about my most memorable Christmas. More than anything that particular year, I wanted to give a gift to Jesus. But after buying presents for everyone else, there was no money left over and I felt bad. One evening the phone rang. It was the local radio station saying that they had an ongoing contest. They had a certain amount of money to give away. If I could guess the exact amount, the money would be mine. I made a wild guess and they congratulated me and declared me the winner!

As I hung up, I was so excited because now I had something to give Jesus!

The next morning I told my mother about the event. She in turn told my sister in law who happened to work for the radio station. My sister in law said, "It had to have been a prank caller because we are not promoting any contest." At first I was crushed, but then I heard God speak to me, Suzan I know that if you had it to give to me, you would give it! That was so freeing. That was His gift to me!

Jesus is not expecting a pay back. That is not what brings him satisfaction. His blessing comes when he sees us walking in the blessings of his provision and paying it forward!

John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

God Bless You !