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## *A Word from Pastor Marr*

Newsletter - March 2009

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"  
- 2 Corinthians 9:8

My dear friend in Christ Jesus:

It's just more miracles! God knows the needs of our ministry... and HE PROVIDES!

Manny came into my office and surprised me with that special gift "with a history!"

Bob Dallmann had all the knowledge and heart needed to get the things that the ministry really needs accomplished done. So God has taken his regular job away from him, sent him to Kenya to minister and return on fire to the work here.

Now He just supplied the funds to make it possible with a very substantial gift.

Guess who that gift is from?

It's from a friend whose husband was still alive when she gave \$2000 to make possible the printing of the first copy of the God-blessed book, "A Christianity That Really Works".

I phoned her nearly every week for all these years. Recently, she let me know that she was trying to shake loose some dollars for us. This was God's answer!

So Bob and she and her husband and Bob's difficult circumstances are all being worked together to help meet all the ministry's world-wide needs and opportunities.

You can have a part too. Let us hear from you and minister with us. Be sure to let us hear from you as soon as possible.

All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.  
- Romans 8:28

Lovingly in Christ Jesus,  
Our Lord and soon-coming King,  
Pastor Ron Marr

## *What Are You Doing With God's Blessings?*

"He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor." - Proverbs 22:9

"...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: ..."

-Luke 12:48

Dear Friend of ChristLife,

Last month I wrote about "Are You Blessed..." and talked a bit about the attributes and characteristics of what a blessed person does and what they do not do.

This month, I want to talk about what we do with our blessings. As Christians, we are ALL BLESSED! If we know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and have no other blessing than that, we are more blessed than everyone who does not know Him.

We have been so blessed!

As you know, from Jan. 29th - Feb. 14th, the Lord allowed me to join a mission trip to Kenya Africa.

I tell you... WE ARE BLESSED PHYSICALLY, but I believe that our brothers and sisters in Kenya are often FAR MORE BLESSED SPIRITUALLY!

### Physical Comparisons

- Most of the pastors that we worked with lived in homes made of mud and had no electricity or running water.
- Water, when available, was often obtained by going to the river or creek with some type of plastic container.
- Transportation was primarily by foot or bicycle. Some have motorbikes and few have cars. Taxi vans (Matatus) are available. I rode one that had seating for 13 and I counted 18 people at one point.

### Spiritual Comparisons

- Jesus is seen EVERYWHERE! I would guess that about one in every four or five Matatus that I saw had some type of Christ-centered slogan in their windows. We went to an internet cafe for e-mail correspondence and Christian worship music was playing.
- We were able to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 25 schools (most of them public schools)! You can't do that in the United States!
- More than 10,000 people prayed to repent and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. This included nearly all of the children that we saw in the schools and most of the people that were at the crusades.

So, what are we doing with God's blessings?

In Kenya, they are sharing the blessing of SALVATION everywhere! Are we?

We can and should use our physical blessings to help spread the Gospel around the world. That is part of the ministry of ChristLife.

Pastor Marr is hoping to donate many books to the ministry in Kenya (currently 16 churches) in order to help create a theological training library.

However, I believe that we need to experience the hunger and thirst for righteousness that the laborers in Kenya have.

They TRULY need to trust in Jesus... they have no one else to trust in.

We need to stop trusting in ourselves, our government, our jobs, our families and to begin to TRULY trust in Jesus! After all...

What do we have or what can we do without Jesus? NOTHING!!!

Love in Christ Jesus,  
Robert (Bob) Dallmann

## *Glorious Failure!*

Without me ye can do nothing. -John 15:5

We are sadly deceived.

We think that by "knowing" we can become spiritually successful. Nor does this necessarily change with years of walking with God. Secretly, with the passing of the years, we may expect to become spiritual experts, knowing how to walk with God, capable of passing that knowledge on to others.

It isn't quite that simple. Far from it!

Accumulating religious knowledge, no matter how correct it may be, is no guarantee of spiritual success.

Instead, by depending on our religious knowledge, we become only more carnal, living more after the flesh, less after the Spirit.

Only by becoming and remaining poor and needy, entirely dependent on God for everything, can we achieve any spiritual success. (See Matthew 5:3-6.) Any minute that we are needy, heart-dependent on God, for that minute we are living in the Spirit, walking after the Spirit. Any minute we are self-dependent, forgetful of our poverty and need, we are in that minute and to that extent living in the flesh, walking after the flesh.

Always in Everything

Our hope needs always to be in God, for everything in every circumstance of every minute.

If at any minute in anything I am not in actuality poor and needy, it's only because in that moment and in that thing God is replacing my need with His supply as I'm willingly dependent on Him.

In other words there's never really a time when I'm not poor and needy, dependent entirely on His supply.

I must remember that I can never be anything other than a failure spiritually. Better still, I must prefer that I see myself as the failure that I am spiritually. Only as I'm a willing failure can He be my success.

Spiritual Poverty, the Way into God's Presence

When we come to Him in prayer, we don't come to Him at all unless we come poor, needy, dependent, a failure needing Him to be our success.

Herein lies the crux of much of our disappointment in prayer... much of our failure to enter His presence, and to know we've entered His presence.

It's folly to come to Him in prayer while our confidence, our trust, our hope is in ourselves. Self-confidence is the death of prayer.

Faith, trust in God, is the life of prayer. If our trust, our hope, our confidence is even inadvertently in ourselves, it isn't in God, and no real prayer communion or exchange is going to take place.

We can't worship God while, in fact, we're worshiping ourselves. We can't give God praise or thanks while we're depending on ourselves.

For Everyday Affairs Too

This principle extends beyond the spiritual life and the prayer life into all the everyday affairs of life.

It is, oh, so easy to depend on ourselves, to look to ourselves rather than to God for the competence to handle the everyday matters that crowd the minutes and hours. Only when we come up against something that confounds us do we tend to turn to the Lord for help. Instead, we should view our every circumstance as another opportunity to look to God to do what we cannot. There are likely to be factors in every circumstance that we don't see, know, or understand, all providing hidden hindrances to the successful completion of our task.

#### Without Him Nothing

More than this, we're properly obligated to acknowledge God in gratitude for the abilities with which He has endued us from birth and for the basic abilities of understanding, learning, and remembering.

It's an offense to God to feel we're capable of handling life's circumstances by ourselves, when we have nothing He has not given us, and when He, the omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God is so lovingly willing to do for us. It should become an offense to us as well.

It should be our delight, rather, to be dependent on Him for all things whether we see any special need of it, or foresee any special benefit for ourselves from it, or we don't.

Instead, our deceitful heart so often wants to go it alone. God forgive us.

It would be well, then, to ask God often for grace, on starting any task however small, to commit it to the Lord for His aid, asking that we would depend on Him or His enabling in it. And on its conclusion we would be greatly blessed and God greatly honored if we would but thank Him for His empowering, enabling, and intervention.

People sometimes wonder that I so well understand their difficulties, failures, and needs. It's only that theirs are so often mine. While writing this message, I was also addressing several thousand envelopes. From beginning to end nothing seemed to go right, and in the morning someone would be waiting for them! Though I knew I should be depending on the Lord for the doing of that task, I simply wasn't. When finally He enabled me to genuinely commit it to Him for His intervention, the problems seemed to dissolve.

No, it isn't just the knowing. God must enable the doing.

#### First Things First

First of all, most of all let us remember, then, that we are blessed indeed if we see ourselves ever and always as spiritual failures apart from God Himself and the divine enabling of His indwelling Spirit. We need to learn to delight in our spiritual poverty and neediness that it might drive us to depend only on Him Who is Himself our spiritual life.

Our only glory is in Him, His grace and goodness... whether shown in creation, re-creation, transformation, or provision. It is all Him and His now and evermore.

Of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen  
-Romans 11:36

*Jesus Christ - the King of kings and Lord of lords!*

# *A Personal Testimony From Kenya!*

By: Robert (Bob) Dallmann

As I stated in this month's letter, I believe that the Christians in Kenya often have greater spiritual blessings than we in the Western world. Perhaps this is because they HAVE to trust in Jesus. They have no where else to turn!

I experienced this kind of trust in a small way when I was in Kenya. One evening, about the mid-point of our trip, as we were returning to the home where we were staying, I was beginning to feel sick.

After arriving at the overseer's house, I was really not feeling well. I was feeling very hot and sweating profusely. I felt nauseous and could not cool off.

One of the ladies on our team is a nurse so I approached her with my dilemma. She helped in the ways that she could, but I was still feeling very sick. Of course, thoughts of malaria went through my head.

The overseer's wife called him at his office and told him of my situation. He called a doctor friend of his to be ready in case I needed help. He then came home and upon his arrival, he came and prayed for me.

Immediately, I began to feel better. I was able to go to sleep and in the morning my health had been almost completely restored. (I was still a little tired from the busy schedule.)

I certainly am not against doctors or medicine, but why is it that the first thing that we do is call the medical professionals?

We should ALWAYS call on Jesus FIRST!

*Jesus Christ - the King of kings and Lord of lords!*