

FIRST LIGHT HERALD

CHANGES



New things, sometimes we like them and sometimes we don't. Adapting or adjusting to change is part of living. Why? Because life here on planet earth

is constantly in a state of change. Even the ground we stand so "securely" upon is constantly in a state of flux. I'm having to adapt just writing this newsletter. You will notice that the format is different. I have been forced to change and adapt using a different program than what I am used to. It is causing me to stretch and bend, but it is also forcing me to learn and think outside the box. It's God's grace that I have used computers and software since the early eighties and that I am a self confessed geek!

There was a time in the not so distant past that you would hear men and women wailing when they lost everything in a disaster, natural or otherwise. Today when you hear of some tornado wiping out a city people are very thankful that they came out alive. I'm sure the fact that so many lives have been lost to tsunamis, earthquakes and hurricanes has had an impact on people's thinking.

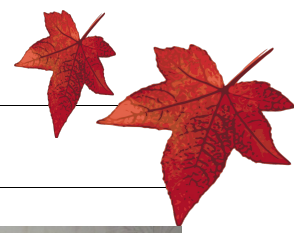
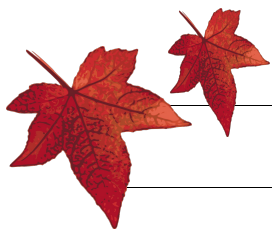
Change is one of those things that we know is coming, but we rarely enjoy it. As we age we know that our appearance is going to change. Many work so hard to keep that from happening with exercise, lotions, and even surgery. No matter how hard we try, age has an influence on our bodies. We are constantly being drawn to the earth by gravity. The less supple our cells are, the further down those cells are drawn. Eventually our bodies will rest in the earth that calls them, but bless God we aren't our bodies.

When our spirit/soul leaves our body WE leave

our bodies. These bodies we currently live in belong to this sin riddled earth. God has a new heaven and earth in mind and therefore our bodies will be as glorious as the new heaven and new earth.

Change is coming and with it are some painful adjustments. Our souls don't want to relinquish control, but God created us to live with Him in perfection. The more we renew our minds to that truth, but better off we will be. The less we renew our minds to the truth that we are strangers and pilgrims in this earth the more like Lot's wife we shall be. She loved the world more than God and therefore the loss of it was too much for her soul. She held on with all her might to the world that was about to be destroyed. God told her not to look back, but look she did and to her own demise.

God is working in us both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure. It pleases Him when we walk by faith or by trusting Him and His word. He isn't trying to make our lives miserable, but helping us make the transition from this present dark and dreary world, to the one He has prepared for us from the foundation of the world. It is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom, and that is a good thing! Rather than fighting the inevitable changes in life it is to our best good to embrace those sent by God, press into faith for those sent by the natural changes of the earth and resist steadfast those sent by the adversary. How are we to do this? It is by renewing our minds to the words God has already sent in His written word, and by tapping into the spirit of God to find out how He is preparing us for these last days. It makes no sense to try to cope, survive, barely make it or figure out what is going on. By simply trusting God day by day in His infinite wisdom and mercy, knowing that He saw the end from the beginning and will see us through to the end. He has promised to be with us in trouble and to show us His salvation!



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GO YE...

We are all exhorted to go into ALL the world and preach the gospel. Not everyone is ready to go to a foreign land and distribute bibles and share the word, but some are. My friend and sister in the Lord, Galina Owens is from St. Petersburg, Russia. Just about every week I meet with her and other Russian women who have moved to the US because of marriage or to find work. Galina has opened her home for a weekly ladies' Russian bible study. We share practical application of the word and renew our minds to the word and will of God. Galina still has many friends and family members still living in Russia. She decided to visit her aunt and mother in St. Petersburg. Jeff and I try to keep a supply of Russian, English and Spanish bibles on hand for the time when a need arises. Galina's trip to Russia was just such a time. When I heard she was going we pulled out the last case of Russian language bibles we had in the attic. Jeff had also been given a bag full of beautiful hand made crosses. Those went with Galina as well. Below are the names and faces of those who received a bible. Some are believers and some are not. They are all hungry for the truth of God's word and received them gratefully.



Please pray for Misha and Galina (friends of our Galina). They too gladly received a bible.



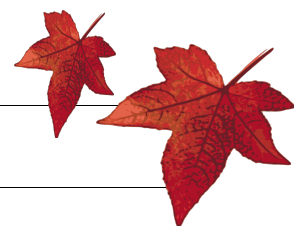
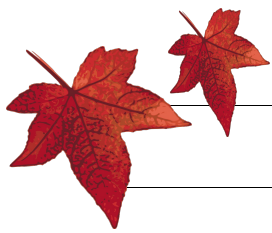
Here is Galina's friend Olga along with Galina and our precious Slava. They are standing in front of the Finland Sea.



Here is Galina with the wife of her cousin Sasha. Sasha suffers from Parkinson's disease. We are trusting Sasha will receive healing and more importantly salvation.



Slava and his Grandma Anna.



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GO YE...

CONTINUED

These folks met and picked up Galina and Slava



Here are Slava and Nakita. Please pray for this young man to receive the Lord and find peace for his soul.



at the airport. Galina gave Vladimir a bible and he was delighted. He had a yearning to read a bible and Galina had no idea. She was so excited to be used of the Lord to distribute bibles and bless so many with what we take for granted. Bibles are very expensive in Russia and considered a huge gift.



Galina's journalist friend Tanya took this picture. She has many questions and a deep longing in her heart for truth and answers. Galina has been sharing the love of God with her over the Internet for quite a while. We pray she and her family will receive the truth of God's love and grace.

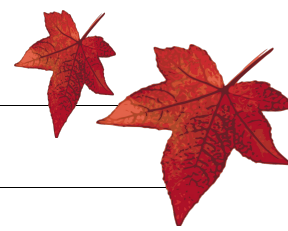
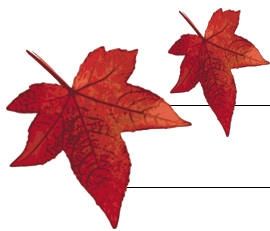
One young man sent his baseball cap from camp as a "thank you" gift to us for sending the bibles. I have it on and will pray for all of these blessed people whenever I wear it.

It matters little where you live. If you have never heard the message of grace through the Lord and someone gives you that message, you feel indebted to them. I still thank God for the day when Bros. Fogg and Lewis came to our front door and led Jeff to the Lord. The next day I too surrendered my life. That was 30 years ago and I'm still as grateful as I was that day.



Here are Veronica, Slava and Galina's friend Svetlana. We lift them up to receive!

Each person you see mentioned in this newsletter was given a bible and we now intercede for them. We pray that the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened and that they would be filled with the spirit of revelation. God's light is available to them, and we desire for His light and it alone would change them from their inner man!



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NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE

Romans 4:16-17 16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.



This whole “calling those things which be not as though they were” wasn't an invention of faith preachers, but created by God Himself. Paul writing the letter to the Romans says so here. We have earlier proof of God's calling into existence things which looked as if they weren't. In God's mind He saw light and therefore He said, “Light be” in the Genesis. We need to remind ourselves that God looked over His creation and saw darkness. He didn't do what we would have done and said, “Gee it's dark out”. Had He done this we would have been plunged into eternal darkness. No, He called those things which were not as though they were. God's first steps toward manifestation of His will in flesh began as He uttered those eternal words! Like fertilized seeds sown in the earth they began the process of bringing into manifestation His Son, who would come and destroy the works of the adversary 1 John 3:8

We are again exhorted to call those things which be not as though they were by the Lord our Messiah, Yeshua/Jesus. Both in Levi Matthew's sharing of the cursing of the fig tree in Matthew 21:21&22 and in Mark's rendition in Mark 11:20-26. We are told to believe that those things which we say shall come to pass (in the process of time).

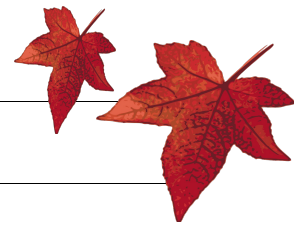
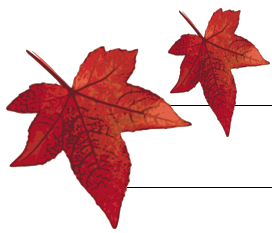
Many people foolishly say whatever comes to

mind without ever giving a thought to the outcome. We can see this clearly when insults are tossed around like so much confetti at a party. Gossip is another one we can see the damage of, but cursing our surroundings and associates without consideration is serious business to God.

The Lord told us that sweet water and bitter water can't come from the same fountain, but we still try to mix good and bad and expect God to manifest something from our hearts when our hearts are mixed in content. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. It's clear what we have given the majority of our attention to when we examine our words. When I'm full of God's word, listening to the spirit for direction I lean towards faith filled words. When I slack off taking time in God's word, in prayer and in meditation of God's word I get a different result. I spend more time with worldly endeavors and then my words are full of fear, doubt and unbelief. You definitely reap what you sow. If we sow to our flesh the things the flesh wants we're going to reap fleshly fruits.



Our bodies are the property of the Lord. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We are not our own, but bought with a price. Some believe they can do and say whatever they feel like and will defend their rights to the death. They remind whoever is listening we live in a free speech country and stand on the constitution as their platform. That's all well and good, but there is a higher law at work, the law of Genesis. God said His words were seeds. We are made in the likeness and image of God. Our words are seeds. That will never go away. God said that every seed would bring forth after its own kind. You speak bad things you're going to get bad “fruit”.



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You've in all practicality planted a crop of cacti when you say whatever you want and you're expecting not to walk on prickly pears.

God has given us authority to do HIS will and part of that is using our mouths to preach the gospel to the world. No matter where we are in the world we can have an opportunity to share the love and grace of God. Whether God directs you to set up a tent, shout it from a rooftop or speak quietly to someone in trouble, you have the ability to share what God has done for you. It's that simple. We all can surrender our lives and tongues to the Holy Spirit and do as he directs. God will direct us where we are and take us to a higher place when we do. When we get out of our comfort zones, He does the same. God meets us more than halfway when we walk by faith to do His will. We needn't be religious about it either. It is as simple as sharing how we received the Lord. Honestly, did a thousand angels descend from heaven and proclaim the Lord's triumphant death and resurrection when you believed? No, you heard the gospel from the mouth of another believer. That person did the best he/she could to share and you received.

Better than Facebook and Twitter is the word of mouth of one believer sharing the love of God and the gospel of the Lord our Savior with someone else. No fancy diploma or certificate is needed; just a willing heart and an open mouth. Not everyone who hears will receive or accept what we so readily took into our hearts. That's a fact of life. You can't and aren't expected to force feed or save a single soul. We are supposed to share and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

Faith towards God comes by hearing, but if none of us opens our mouths no one will hear. Angels aren't created to share the gospel, we are. Take each opportunity as it comes and let the Spirit of the living God work through you. You may falter, but God will use even the most feeble to share His love.

NUGGETS FOR MEDITATION (CHEW ON THIS!)



Matthew 5:44 *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*

Matthew 6:5 *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. 7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.*

Matthew 9:37 *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.*

Prayer is a vital part of our lives as believers. Prayer is communication with God the Father through the name of His son and by His precious Holy Spirit. In perilous times like today we need to be stepping up our prayer time and listening all the more intently for direction to thrive and succeed in spite of the enemy's schemes.

Selah