



Set Free Update

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Set Free Ministries
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This journey called life is full of unexpected twists & turns. When the “unplanned and unexpected” events of life hit us, we may be caught off guard but our Lord never is. Our Lord is always working through situations and circumstances to show His nature & character in these impromptu moments. I’m always amazed that our Lord would choose us, His bride, to work through. I experienced one of these unexpected twists of life a few weeks back while dining at the Bone Fish Grill with family and friends. This evening was a treat as my wife Sharie and I both enjoy fresh fish and we loved the people we were with. The place was packed with a festive crowd as this weekend was Mother’s Day.

In the booth next to us was a group of 6 enjoying their dining as well; that was until their “Mother,” appearing to be in her late 70’s, turned white because could not breathe. Her son next to her hit her several times on the back to help her swallow what was stuck in her throat- to no avail. Panic set in. Mother’s lips were now turning blue. The daughter across the table began yelling frantically, “Heimlich, Heimlich, Heimlich!”

She knew the truth of what could save her mother, but did nothing to act on that truth.

Truth – Action =Death

I’m watching this whole scenario unfold in front of me. Everyone in their party was frantic as they watch their beloved mother struggle to breathe. Everyone wanted to help but didn’t know what to do.

I happened to know what to do as just over one year ago my mother (a nurse) instructed me in how to perform the “Heimlich maneuver” to dislodge food stuck in a person’s esophagus. It was time to act. Was there risk? Yes. Would it make a scene? Probably. Was it worth the risk? Most assuredly.

I asked the lady to stand up and put her arms out. I walked behind her, locked my hands in a position around her stomach and with great force pulled! Nothing. I did it again....nothing. I did it again....nothing. I did it again...nothing. Now I’m sweating. I know the truth that this procedure should work but there are no results. Again....nothing.....again I pull.... With such force I feel bones in her back dislodging....nothing.

Now many in our party were praying and I’m sweating. One final pull.....and out came the piece of meat that nearly took her life! What joy and relief it was to see this older women gasp for air and take in the breath of life! We celebrated success and thanked God for answered prayer.

The Lord often speaks to me through circumstances. These are a few of the spiritual insights the Lord has revealed to me through this one event:

- People all around us have gorged themselves on life’s pleasures & it’s killing them. The Holy Spirit, our breath of life, has been blocked.
- People all around us have spiritual blocks and are in the dying process.
- Many people know “truth” in theory but do not practice truth.
- Will fear stop you from helping the hurting?
- Do I know how to help others with a “Spiritual Heimlich”?
- Am I willing to risk to save a loved one?
- Am I willing to risk to save a stranger?
- Will I allow myself to be God’s hands & feet?

I thank God for these unexpected twist & turns in life.

It makes life very exciting and truly worth living.

Dean Vander Mey
Executive Director

A New Identity



For years, Taylor believed in “not knowing.” Was there a God? Maybe, maybe not. Who could be certain one way or the other? Our creation, our existence, our future and/or afterlife (if there even was one) was a huge mystery better left unsolved, a riddle far too complex to unravel. “Religion” was for the spineless, hypocritical, and puritan-type group of people who needed an excuse for the way their lives were going. Religion- no, this was not for Taylor, but spirituality- well that was a different matter.

After some discussion, Taylor and her husband decided to join Wicca. To them, this was their perfect fit- they did not have to follow a strict set of commandments yet could still receive a very spiritual experience including fortune telling, becoming one with “lady earth,” and communicating with spiritual beings. Shortly following their membership into the occult, Taylor became a licensed witch. With each year that passed, they found themselves being drawn deeper and deeper into the practice. For twenty years, they dabbled in the deeds of witchcraft, blind to the darkness that surrounded them.

Life started to spin out of control. Taylor’s husband left her out of fear of who she was becoming and what she was partaking in. She lost her job shortly after. Taylor felt alone, unhappy, and miserably trapped in the dark realm she had come to call home. Fear, guilt, and confusion became close companions as Taylor tried to figure out what went wrong and where to go for help.

One of her friends, a church member, reached out a hand in love. Taylor took hold- thankful for any hope of a way out. Taylor’s friend began to share with her about Jesus and what she had learned at Set Free Ministries about being involved with witchcraft. Her friend recommended that Taylor call and set up an appointment as soon as she could.

Not long after, Taylor sat down in front of Paul Tameling and listened to the Word of God which told of Jesus Christ and his love for her. With tears of remorse, she confessed her sin of witchcraft and begged for forgiveness from our one and true Heavenly Father. With tears of joy, she accepted Jesus as her Savior and thanked Him for the sacrifice He made on her behalf. As this was taking place, Taylor reached up around her neck and yanked off the chain that she had worn for so long. At the end of that chain dangled a dog tag- her identity. On that identification plate was written a word that she wanted removed from every aspect of her life, “Wiccan.” She threw the tag on the table and proclaimed that she was not that person anymore! She was a new creation; she had a new identity!

I have shared this story with you because I think we can all learn something very important from Taylor. Have you thrown out your old identity? Have you yanked the chain off from around your neck and proclaimed yourself a new creation in Jesus? Maybe yours doesn’t look as dirty as Taylor’s. Maybe you think yours is fine just the way it is....I have news for you: no matter how spit-shined pretty you think you are, if you do not have “Jesus” stamped on your heart, soul and mind, you will not cut it! Everyone needs a *new identity*.

~Written by Aubrie Benting



FREEDOM CAMPS

When: May 12-May 22

Where: Gulu, Uganda

Who: 50 children and 20 adults (LRA victims)

SFM East Africa has hit the battlefield once again. Many, many lives have been affected by the rampant rages of the Lord's Resistance Army— including thousands of homeless, abused, and angry orphans. Once captives of Joseph Kony's LRA, these children have been tortured beyond belief. The lost limbs and sawed off lips are only the physical effects of what has happened to them. Rev. Emmanuel Kabambi, along with three other SFM volunteers, have hosted three "Freedom Camps" where they taught the steps to freedom in Christ and the importance of forgiving their attackers. Through God's power, they can finally break free from the haunting hurt and anger that has plagued them! These children, in return, can teach the message of forgiveness to their friends and families. *Please pray* for continued healing for the war victims and protection for all involved.

*If you are interested, we have "Freedom Camps" CD's (view on computer) available upon donation.

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." -Eph. 6:12



A LETTER OF THANKS...

Thank you for your mission trip to Kolkata, India. We thank God for you and your team for the training that you had given to Kolkata. Eight of our team leaders have come for your teaching program. I spoke with my leaders about what they learned from your teaching. They told me it was a great blessing that we were able to receive that teaching. It is a true message and we need this kind of teaching too in our world. We thank God for you and your Ministry all over the world. We are faithfully praying for you and your work for the Lord.

His Servant,

Pastor Piyal
House Church Ministries West-Bengal,
Kolkata, India

Pictured:

Pastor Piyal, Mrs. Supama,
daughter Tirsha and son Alex

A big **THANK YOU** for all who attended the Ministry Banquet. It is because of supporters like you that we are able to do ministry. May the Lord bless you for your generosity.