

PRIORITY PAGES

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A Wide Door-Many Adversaries

by Ken Ponders, Missionary Evangelist

Dear Friends,

I just completed a great outreach in Nicaragua and we are working toward our next outreach in New Orleans (Mardi Gras) and then a spring crusade outreach back in Nicaragua.

Paul said "for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." (1 Corinthians 16:9)

What a powerful time of ministry we just experienced in Nicaragua. The team from Teen Challenge Mid America (of which I'm an alumni) was just super! They are a great bunch of guys with a heart to serve (and a taste for that Nicaraguan treat, Eskimo Ice Cream). They ministered selflessly and tirelessly. As a result, almost three hundred Nicaraguans came to Jesus and surrendered their lives.

It was a great harvest the Lord gave us but as Paul stated, there were many adversaries and obstacles we faced. Our original strategy was to be in public schools and colleges three times a day thus we went in February (school starts in late January). Three weeks before the outreach the Nicaraguan government delayed the start of school until Feb 15.

We scrambled to set up meetings on neighborhood basketball courts, streets, villages, and churches. This resulted in a good bit of confusion because of the last minute preparations. We battled frustration and strained relationships among our leadership (but thank the Lord, not among our Team). We had half the team come down sick (but the kept on ministering). We had a wallet with a significant amount of money lost or stolen. We had a young man on our team pass out. I had to be hospitalized in Matagalpa, Nicaragua for shortness of breath. I have never had an outreach with this many distractions!

In spite of all that, God gave the victory! I'm so thankful for the results but also for the attitude and sacrificial heart of each participant. I truly believe that God hand picked this team and that the harvest will be lasting. While we were ministering in Ocatal we met a young man from San Juan (four hours away). He had been in our 2010 crusade there and was sharing with us what an impact that it had on his life.

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Ken Ponders
Missionary Evangelist

*Finding yourself has come
to mean several things -
mostly self-seeking gain &
prosperity. Loose yourself
in Christ; then you'll find
yourself.*
s.d.ponders

**Go into all the
world and preach
the gospel!
Matthew 28:18, 19**



Making Sense of Life

by Sonya D. Pounders

I find myself sometimes spinning my wheels and becoming frustrated. In those times I realize, I'm an empty vessel! I say empty because when you give and give and give out of yourself to your family, church and your community, you tend to forget your spiritual needs are still calling. You tend to forget that if you don't fill your cup up daily with the things from God's Word, then you will end up bankrupt - spiritually, emotionally and physically.

I watch daily as I dwindle and friends around me dwindle too. They dwindle in their vision, motivation and hunger for God. Slowly they slip back into the things they once said were so wrong for them.

When things begin to spin out of control, I remember the lost world. The loved ones I want to come to Christ. Then I remember the cross and all that He has suffered for me. Then I remember, HIS WORD! I find myself back to all He has for me and then, strength is renewed! My spirit is encouraged and I find joy reigning in me again.

Not because of something special I've done or because someone was there or because I just picked myself up by the bootstraps. It is because I desire to seek after the Love of my life like I know I should. I find myself setting aside those

weights that I picked back up that hold me back in my thoughts and heart's pursuit of Him.

So what if it is permissible - is it profitable for me and for those around me? We are governed by our world of looking out for ourselves. There is a balance but often the balance leans for our desires & satisfaction.

So are you weary and feel the world is spinning around you and you can't seem to find the strength you need? Time to return to seeking God and studying His Word! You'll be amazed at how your joy returns, your heart sings and your whole life sparkles! That's just the way He does things!



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This is why we do what we do: to honor the Lord and make Him known and to see lives transformed by His power!

Thanks so much for sharing with us in this ministry. Your generous support, love, and prayers make this ministry possible and you share in this harvest,

In HIS Service,
Ken
Priority! Evangelism.