



Leviticus 22:23-And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

This is a book written in an eclectic fashion, because our lives are eclectic. There is no lesson plan or outline. It is just thoughts that come up in my daily walk, trying to serve the Lord the best I can, with the limited time, resources, intelligence and organizational skills that I have.

This is a journal of my life, and my memories as I work with the poorest of the poor as a Christian Missionary. My heart is always for that one sheep, instead of the 99. Maybe because I am that ONE out of 99 myself, I know how it feels.

This is written to those who believe in God, but really don't believe in 'christians, christianisms, religious stuff, pomp, ceremony, platitudes, catch phrases'. In general, this is dedicated to the largest group of believers in the world. The unchurched, or those who go to church reluctantly, but know there has to be something more. I won't go as far as to say that this is for the unsaved, but those who have had problems seeking God through the normal channels.

I use the word gleaning because it covers so many parts of missions work. Gleaning lives that were considered beyond hope by man, but not by God. Gleaning pearls of wisdom. Gleaning good things, priceless things out of what others consider trash.

You can glean thoughts from people as well as pull them out of the garbage dumps of their lives. My work over the years has been with the poorest of the poor. I call this book -Gleaning from the Dump- because I happen to work in a garbage dump, but the dump has many different forms around the world.

By the grace of God, lives have been salvaged from these garbage dump type setting through the works of dedicated Christians around the world — the following is what I have gleaned from the minds of poor people in the slums, garbage dumps, jungles and mountains of 3rd world countries. Also, I have gleaned from the minds rich people, trust fund babies, soldiers and the other wise 1 out of 99 stray sheep, or 'whomsoevers' from all over the world. *Thanks Ryan Ries and Brian 'Head' Welch for this perfect term* As a result, I have gleaned a lot of information from these noble people that I would like to share.

My life has been salvaged as well. I really committed to Christ and then I went to the 'mission field' immediately. Because of that action, I planted a church and became Sr. Pastor of Calvary Chapel Managua almost over night. Amazing how much you know when you don't know what you don't know. I have deleted and destroyed all of my writings from that time, because what I wrote was so self righteous that it makes me nauseous. I learned from the people I was supposed to teach. I gleaned pearls of wisdom from the people who came to me looking for wisdom.

After learning some very hard, expensive and embarrassing lessons, I believe I understand now the heart of God in my life. *The world does not need another church.* It needs more Christians who are willing to follow Christ and His teachings by example. PureHeartChildren'sFund started about 6 years ago, in 2012. We help people, We feed the hungry, help and protect the children and elderly. I once again love ministry. Our focus is on the children of the people that work in the garbage dump of Managua.

When you share a goal or a passion with someone it makes it easier to know them and to become their friend. That is why when I am considering to engage someone in our ministry down here, I invite them to go with us to one of our feeding centers. If they get rattled, I know that they may not be a good fit for the ministry. When they embrace the kids, and the dirty, I love them. I have bonded with my co-servants at Pure Heart through this process. When God puts a kinderred spirit in our lives here, my heart beats harder for my Lord Jesus Christ.

OVERVIEW

I read a story in the newspaper years ago about how a diamond fell off of a lady's ring in NYC and she dug through two tons of garbage, until she found it. This devotional is dedicated to people who are willing to dig through the garbage of this world to find that one precious gem. She knew there was something in there that was worth it. The garbage collectors did not, or they would have been looking too. God always has had a heart for the poor, and the stranger. They are worth it, I wish more people realized it.

There is a population explosion world wide, and this population can likely double in the very near future. While we all love love cute little babies that smell like baby shampoo, the population explosion is not happening in the suburbs. It is happening in the garbage dumps of developing countries. Although this is alarming, its not all bad news. God loves the people in the garbage dumps and slums. That is why He sent people like us to glean them.

I have been in garbage dump ministry about as long as I have been a missionary. The age old quote "*a hungry belly has no ears*" prompts me to continuously operate through feeding centers as a launching platform.

There are valuable materials among the garbage. Copper goes for a dollar a pound. Lead, rubber, zinc, plastic, methane gas, tin, glass etc are all products havested from the cities refuge system. We also harvest (glean) the people that make a living by gleaning from valuable materials that others throw away. The people that salvage the garbage are the same people who are considered 'throw aways' within their own culture. Even in Nicaragua, the people who live off of gleaning through the garbage are looked down upon. Because they are looked down on, they look down on themselves when they see other people. Children from the streets or bad neighborhoods in any city in the world, are looked down upon. So while they are gleaning from the refuse of the cities, we are gleaning from the refuse of society and religion.

What we glean is the knowledge, wisdom, heroics and encouragement from the many kind children and adults we find in our work there. Our desire is to get people to roll up their sleeves

and start gleaning no matter where they are. You too will find diamonds in the workplace, on the streets, in the slums, in the jungle, in the developing world's garbage dumps, even in your home. You just have to look.

As your heart goes out to the poor and to the stranger, may your heart go out to the Creator of the Universe and Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I think you will love God more because this is where His heart is as well. In the garbage dumps of the world.

Although I am an evangelical Christian, this is not a writing exclusively for evangelical Christians. I by no means am an authority of any kind. Any one that has met me will tell you that I am not a very spectacular human being. I don't have the faith, DNA, appearance, genes, intelligence, words nor looks to really be anything of real importance. Most of what I write is specifically for my children, so they can know me better, because I am not a very good communicator. What I do is seek a relationship with God and then other people by default. What I LOVE to do for God is to help others.

I work with poor children in Managua Nicaragua, along with my beautiful wife Winnie. I am guided by God to do this. I have been ridiculed, attacked, challenged, insulted and hurt by others because of my calling. Sadly, most of it has come from family and those who would call themselves 'Christians.' That being said, I have also been encouraged immensely and helped by true Christians and other good people. Because of the mistakes of others and my own, I am dubious at times. I wonder about God, what I am doing, etc. One thing that is consistent is that the Bible is a source of truth and inspiration when everything else fails. Believers are used by God to encourage me to stay in the Word of God and in prayer, even when I am not sure. That's why I am convinced that if you think you haven't been given the gift of belief, if you think you have no faith, there is much wisdom in the Bible. Reading the Bible, even for non believers, enriches lives and helps in so many areas. It teaches us to love and to be concerned for others. This book is dedicated to those who put others first. There are not a lot of 'pretty' people in our group, but God doesn't care. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

I've added many individual stories and lessons from people whom I have met on this journey. Please when I include names of people it is for you to pray for, as well. Read the Bible even if you don't believe it and pray before you read the Bible, and read the Bible before you pray. Like I said before, even if you don't believe, Bible will help you to live a better life, and will inspire you in your own life's work and make you more aware as you glean for the 'diamonds' from the field around you.

Goals of this devotional.

Increase awareness of the plight of children growing up in garbage dumps and streets of developing countries, awareness of the poor and stranger EVERYWHERE!

End slavery and trafficking of poor children by giving healthy alternatives.

Increase awareness of God's presence and plan in the middle of really any crisis.. Prayer works. Even if you have trouble believing, ask... and see.

Encourage Christians, missionaries and anyone else with a will and a soul. Some of what I write is downright depressing. It's real and truthful, but not always uplifting. God is though!

My Background.

Shortly after the war in Nicaragua, Winnie and I started working in La Chureca, the garbage dump of Managua. Although we are a Christian missionary couple, we work with anyone who is willing to roll up their sleeves. We help the children growing up in the poorest parts of this city, the capital of the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

A lot has changed since we first started here. Unfortunately other things have not. We are now serving our third generation of the same families in the same feeding center. In other words, we are feeding grandchildren and great grandchildren of the same kids that we served over three decades ago. Although we cannot enter La Chureca itself anymore, as you will read later, the families and the workers live in Via Guadalupe bordering the city's garbage dump. The dump itself was bought by investors. The adults in some of the families work there. In return they get paid a nice wage and have a house to live in. The problem is deeper than economics. The parents are the only ones that can work in the dump. The company harvest all the materials from there, so there is a lot of liabilities preventing the children themselves from working there, as they had done for generations. Even though they are making a nice salary required by the state, now the families have to live within a budget. That is something that I don't think any one suspected. The parents squander their salaries, because the children don't work, they live off of the left overs and scraps. Via Guadalupe, an experiment is saving the families that lived in the actual garbage are worse off now than they were before.

This literary work is a compilation of the gleanings I have gathered as I have worked with these children and their families. God has placed my family here because He knew how things would work out. Winnie and I love the people we work with and love God for His infinite mercy and wisdom. Mostly we love God because He gleaned us from this world. We hope to please Him with our humble offering of work and love for the children and others who are having trouble. As we ourselves have been gleaned we hope to glean lives. And not just lives, but glean the wisdom of the ages as we see people overcome horrible situations and trials beyond anything I could have ever imagined.

Introduction from the hearts of Dean and Winnie Peters

We are set up in Nicaragua as a registered NGO called Fundacion Corazon Puro 'Pure Heart Children's Fund'. In the United States, Pure Heart Children's Fund is a registered 501(c)(3).

The name came to us after working with so many child prostitutes. Although they appear to be enjoying their lifestyles, when we get to know them, they are still innocent children. Really, as pure, if not purer than kids in the states on many levels. It is heart breaking.

Average income for adults in Nicaragua is 3 dollars a day. Children make 1 dollar a day average. So, with prices being almost the same as in the states for the basic essentials of life, everyone works, and even then, it is not enough. Usually a family makes just enough for supper, then back to work the next day to make enough for supper the next night.

Our aim is to prepare these kids for better lives. In the Bible, Proverbs says if you don't have enough money, you are tempted to steal (or do anything else to survive).

We feel if we love these children first, and their families, then they will see the Lord in us. We start with un-conditional love. Whether they are Christians or not, we love them all equally. Irregardless of their race, religion, orientation, we want to pour Jesus' love on them. When they see they are being loved, instead of judged, the chance of them loving the Lord is that much greater.

We have a feeding center in the dump *in the church of Faith Hope and Love, pastored by my spiritual son, Pastor Astrubal. We serve roughly 100 meals a day there, with a policy of 'NO EMPTY BOWLS'... we turn no child away. The families and the children live in a barrio called Via Guadalupe, right beside the garbage mountain known as La Chureca. This barrio was set up by the Spaniards who bought La Chureca in return for rights to all the garbage for salvage.

La Chureca pulls out of the dump methane gases, lead, copper, steel, rubber, plastic. It's a big business, but they are missing the most important resource there... the PEOPLE! We are there for the people! The children, the parents, they are the heros, who are growing and yet undiscovered in the garbage dump. The Spaniards have overlooked the dump's most valuable assets; but we are in the jewelry business, here to salvage the diamonds.

We are here to reclaim lives - or like I said, glean. We are here so children can have a future and a hope. We are here so prostitutes can get married and return to their children and husbands. We are here so the drunken husbands get sober and become good, productive daddies.

We also have a residence and school, the Winner Home, about three miles away. It is a private, scholarship-driven pre-school. Pure Heart Pre-school is completely free (meals included) for the children, most of whom live in the countryside surrounding our home and school. The poverty here is staggering, much WORSE than in the dump, but the kids are different. They have better home lives and are less violent. It will take a lot of work to mix the kids from the dump with the kids from the country.

This year we will have 50 students LORD WILLING. This school is fully accredited. Our goal someday is to put the children from the dump. Problems of sexual abuse, home violence, lice, personal hygiene are too disruptive if the children are not in a controlled environment on school nights.

We want to have vocational tech, which is mainly teaching food service, hopefully IT, offshoring, and car mechanics.

We do not rule with an iron hand. If a child is disruptive, or coercing other children to be bad, we just don't let them participate until they behave. No anger, no punishment.

Our end run is to give these children and their parents the opportunity to get out of addictions, pick-pocketing, begging, human trafficking, prostitution, drug running or other types of criminal activities. I have witnessed first hand many times kids getting banned from a work because of a mistake right off the bat. I am guilty of the same thing. I have learned that it doesn't work. When a kid gets banned, or doesn't get a Christmas present just because he refuses to be a phony and ACT like he's a Christian, you have lost him for life. *People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.* I am not the originator of that thought. Being the originator of the thought isn't important. It's the person that actually acts on the thought, and produces results.

We are doing as much as possible now with our limited resources. We have 8 staff members (including teachers) and our days start at 6 am with the pre school and end after the feeding center, at 2 pm. We could do much more with more funding and help. More feeding centers, more schools and more students. Hopefully we will have permission from the government to have a boarding school, to take the children out of the dump and have a chance at studying while being healthy and unencumbered. A clean, healthy child who is allowed to have a good night sleep is much better than one that isn't.

Our motto. to give hope to the hopeless

"Lord, I lift up to you myself and the readers of the 'non-weak-believers-hanging on by their fingertips' devotional. Help us to know you, and help us to believe in you more. Thank you for the example of your Son living among us... Show us how to be more like Him... as the man said in the Bible, I believe, help me with my unbelief! That is my cry. There are many things in the Bible I don't understand. There are many things about christianity that confuse me. Please open my eyes and heart to receive you and to believe in you.... help me to start a new life in you. Give me that NEW THING that Isaiah was talking about. Let me be born again... amen

How our work began...

Napoleon Villalta and our first trip to the dump...

A few years after the Contra wars in Nicaragua, Winnie and I had some toys to give to kids in Managua. We were giving presents to the kids in the Managuan churches but they were already getting lots of gifts. We were getting pretty disappointed at the sense of entitlement we encountered. At that time, Operation Christmas Child-Samaritans Purse was still operating in Nicaragua, they have since left. At that time they were giving away thousands of presents to the churches.

Someone recommended, ' You should go to the garbage dump, no one goes there to give stuff away' so we decided to visit. We were surprised to find a thriving community of about 250 families there. We were told by others not to go because there were no roads, only mud and decades of sharp metal objects buried underneath. We were told that the gangs there were ferocious. At that time there were not ministries there, nor any one going in there that we knew of.

We got a taxi driver who was willing to drive us into the dump. His name was Napoleon Villarta. Napoleon was a sandinista soldier during the war. When he saw me, he said to himself 'this big fat yankee would have been an easy target during the war.' He was kind of surly to us. When we asked him to take us to the dump, he got angry and called us crazy. He almost drove off. I said, 'you're supposed to be a commie, you should love and help the poor'. He reluctantly agreed, and charged us big time for his services. When we got to the dump, we were stampeded, and we got stuck in the mud. It was mighty bleak there for a moment, and Napoleon was glaring at us. He lost his temper, and his muffler in the process but God was glorified.

After we had given everything we had away, the happy garbage dump kids helped push us out of the reeking, stinking, burning mud with huge billows of gut-wrenching smoke typical of a garbage dump. I remember seeing thousands of buzzards, a man cleaning a buzzard he had just killed to eat. As always, the memory is brought back when I smell the familiar pungent smell of burning decaying garbage and death. I also remember hundreds of ecstatic parents and

children, and most importantly, Napoleon accepting Jesus into his heart that day. Napoleon is now a leader in OANSA Nicaragua *AWANA USA* and a member of Verbo Church.

Napoleon Villalta and his wife Gloria in this picture.

They actually encourage us now to be better Christians. I look at Napoleon as a spiritual leader in his church and in his community. He is an elder at Verbo and is the father of many spiritual children.

It is nice to have an elder of the church you go to that was once your spiritual child.

Our hearts have been with the 'diamonds' we have gleaned there ever since.

Gleanings from Napoleon..

Don't listen to the world. Not even to the well meaning people. They will tell you not to go. They will tell you that there are giants and monsters there. You will miss the blessings of God. People there are waiting for you to come. If you listen to the negative people, you will miss a blessing, and other's will miss a blessing as well. Napoleon's life was changed when he stopped listening to the hate propaganda, and then God filled his heart with love and Truth.

"Lord, help me to listen to you and not to others. Help me to be a conduit of love to go where you are not being thought of nor considered. Thank you for your love and salvation, not only for me, but for others.... Amen"

BRANDON

Cindy was one of my cute little sunday school girls that looked just like Dora Exploradora. She got married and had a baby boy named Brandon and a little girl named Jennifer. Brandon is a miracle. On December 8, 2012, Brandon was crushed by a taxi that jumped the curb. He had a hole on his head, brain damage, fracture femur, arm, ribs, and skull! His heart wasn't beating and was not breathing when his dad pulled him out. After feverish prayer and CPR, Brandon's heart started beating and the same taxi took him to the ER. When he finally got to the hospital, the doctors refused to set the bones because they said he was going to die. Well, Cindy, Brandon's mom didn't buy that. She called her christian brothers and sisters *including me* to pray for him. Guess what? God Healed him! Praise the Lord! Dr Garcia says no neurological damage, just need speech and physical therapy. Thanks for your prayers. It is really amazing. Brandon can sing hymns and count and do alphabets perfectly, like nothing happened, but otherwise can not speak? absolutely astounding ... that was in 2012

2015 update. Brandon has completely recovered, a typical teen aged boy. His mother and father are still devout Christians, Brandon's dad works on the highways, and Cindy has a little

store. Brandon runs, plays soccer, nothing out of the ordinary. Praise God from whom all blessing flow.

God can raise the dead. God can help a cripled boy to walk. God can make your new life in Him the best ever. He can help you raise your finances from the dead. He can give you a better relationship with Him and with others. He fixes broken things. Nothing is impossible for God, nothing is even difficult for God. He can change your sadness into joy, today! That's the *NEW THING* that Isaiah was talking about.

GLEANINGS FROM BRANDON...wow, December, 2012 - 2015, Brandon is a completely restored young man. You would never know from looking at him what had happened. I knew Cindy his mother since she was a little girl in our sunday school class. When I was called into Brandon's death bed, the first thing I remember was the way Cindy glowed with certainty that Brandon was going to be okay. Her gentleness, faith and demeanor almost made me faint. She was in the middle of every parent's worst nightmare. She was penniless, young, alone with her faithful husband and little girl, but full of faith in the Living God. When I first saw Brandon, he was a little crushed broken body, impossible remedies. I did not think he was going to make it through the night. Neither did the doctors, but Cindy knew better. She never even doubted. That filled me with faith. Brandon and his mom motivated everyone! So, we prayed, and God heard. God answered with YES!

"Thanks to the Lord! Cindy, Brandon's and the immediate familys lives could have been drastically altered, permanently! But YOU chose to give them a NEW THING, a new beginning and another chance at loving each other more, and to appreciate even more what they have in YOU and in each other."

Names

Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field. Names have always been hard for me to remember. The older I get, this flaw gets worse. Names like Brandon, Cindy, Napoleon stick out to me because they mattered enough to pray for, a lot! In the business world I used nicknames to remember people. I still have a very bad habit of nick naming people mentally by obvious outstanding traits they have. That's how I remember them.

Before I became a Christian, I ONLY could seem to remember someone's name IF they were important to my job. One time I saw an old customer of mine from the car business. I could not remember his name, so I quietly followed him out to the Wal-Mart parking lot. When I saw his car, I immediately remembered his name and everything about him. It was only then that I said

hi to him. I remembered him, once I saw the connection in my mind. Names are important only if you are interested in that person.

I always wonder why God wanted Adam to name the animals. Also, I wondered why that was important enough for Him to mention it in His Word. Another thing I ask is the reason for the genealogies? I used to just kind of skim over those sections, right? Then it struck me that these were real people that God felt significant enough to know and mention by name, or at least by deed. God is aware of everything. When the look on Cain's face was ugly, God noticed it! God is keenly aware of us, our attitudes, our hearts and our actions. He also is aware of the sparrows that Adam named. All His creation is important to Him. He wants us to be aware too.

There are many arguments about the 'Name of Jesus'. I feel that the name is who you are. It's your character. We pray in the name of Jesus, in His character, in His authority. Jesus is only 'called' Jesus in English. Not by the majority of the world. It's Jesus' person and character that has the name, not just the word that happens to be how He is called in English.

People want you to remember their name because it tells them that they are significant in your eyes, that they are not invisible. We at Pure Heart are about making At-Risk children feel significant. We want them to have character, to have a good NAME and thereby becoming visible (in their own eyes). One of the most important things we do is remember their names. If kids in any of the pictures on facebook etc. strike your attention, please ask me and I will tell you their names and the story that goes with each and everyone of them. They are all precious in His sight.

"Lord, Help me to have the same love and interest in others that YOU have in them. I know your eye is on the sparrow, and it is on me as well. I believe, but help me with my unbelief. Help me to see others the way YOU see them. Help me to act on your behalf, to help the invisible feel believable. Increase my faith and memory, so I can pay more attention to others and remember their names. Your Word says it's possible"

WINNIE PETERS

Not a lot to say. It would be a book in itself if I even started. I wake up at night, sweating in fear and panic, she tells me to go back to sleep. No money! She says 'don't worry, God is in control'.

Winnie has earned a name for herself. She walked into a Sunday School in Managua Nicaragua in the 80's, when she was 8 years old. She accepted the Lord Jesus into her heart that day and has never looked back. She absolutely crossed the line from darkness to light.

Winnie has survived a war, poverty, rationing, hunger, severe power outages, water outages, droughts, famine, hurricanes, typhoons, tidal waves etc. but all that has made her stronger and more loving. Her strength is from the Lord. I met her when I had my 'church without walls' in the

streets of Managua. We worked only with street children. She is my wife, best friend, Christian sister, confidant and mentor. Also, she is like a Nathan, my prophet.

We almost lost her a couple of years ago. She went into a thyroid storm. The only way I could wake her up to take her pill was by water boarding her. (she hated that). I appreciate her a lot more now that that nightmare is over.

God gives you what you need, when you need it. He gives you the desire of your heart even when you don't know what that is.

GLEANINGS FROM WINNIE...

...I am so happy with my wife Winnie. God heals wounds. He is wise, and will surround you with people that will help you to be happier and closer to Him. Winnie has faced tons of trials in her life before she met me, and it hasn't gotten any easier for her since we got married many years ago. We have two beautiful children and live happily in Managua, Nicaragua. Actually our oldest son is living in the states studying, but is doing very well. Winnie Jr is going there next year to start studying as well. Everything Winnie does works out well. God is always glorified.

People are always helped by her. I am helped by her.

Recently I woke up in a panic, worrying about finances. *as in *NOTHING* left*. I woke her up in a sweat saying, "Winnie Winnie, we are out of money". She woke up and replied "God has it handled, go back to sleep" I did, and it was.

The Bible says a Threefold cord is not easily torn,, and it is true.

In this case, the three folds is Winnie, me and the Lord.

SONS

ROMANS 1:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God

Sons are the greatest thing ever created by God. I really love my son, Dean Jr. I used to think that God was kind of a coward because He let His Son die for us. He let His Son be tortured and crucified for our sins. I always thought that was not as good of a demonstration of love as if God the Father had died Himself for us. That was UNTIL I had a son. I would gladly suffer

anything to protect my son. I only have one son, and he is the joy of my life. Spiritual sons are just as important as your physical son. The Bible says you will know them by their fruit. Fruit just shows up. As you are being guided by the spirit of God you will have fruit. It is one of the signs that you are serving God and that you are doing right. Sons produce other sons. While God does not have grand children, He does have sons. Jesus said in John 3:3 you must be born again. When you are born again, you are a son of God; you have passed from darkness into light.

I have to be careful with my physical son because he copies me. When I do something wrong my son notices. Because he loves and respects me, he tries to copy me. Even when it isn't appropriate. That is his excuse when I ask him not to do something, he says, "well you do it!"

My physical son encourages me to do things in the right way because I know he is emulating me. Spiritual children are the same. They emulate you. Paul said 'follow me as I follow Christ'. There is a lot of things that the modern church is doing that isn't very Christ like.

In spanish say child 'Mal Creado', which means "he was raised poorly". I always laugh to myself when I hear that because the person that is saying that is usually the parent . *Not cool to call someone else's kid 'Mal Creado'*. If the parent is angry about how the kid turns out, they are the only ones to blame, because they did the raising.

As Christians, and as human beings we need to give every opportunity to our children to be 'Bien Creado', raised up in a good way. We can do that both for our physical children as well as our spiritual children. If you live every day as if you KNOW that you are being watched by your physical sons and spiritual sons *which is the truth btw*, you will live a more exemplary life.

Dean my son, keeps his word! He has MORE WORD than I do *and I am ashamed to admit*. His no's are no's, his yes's are yes's.

He was born after I began this journey, so I can say I met him as well. I am sad to say that he is in the states living with my sister Diann. He loves STEM studies, and they really don't have that down here, it would hurt his chances of getting into a good college. Diann and her husband are great people, ordinary, down to earth, detail oriented. *I am none of the above, and I really wanted Dean to have what my brother in law has: intelligence, kindness, patience, temperance, wisdom, stability, etc*. I am happy to say he's a good student, a happy, centered young man that I am proud to call my son.

Not bragging, but I can say that Dean Jr. is a really nice young man and I am proud of him. Although he is incredibly smart, however, the thing that I am most proud about is that he is kind. He is wise so that I do not worry about his friends at school. In addition, I am not particularly worried about what he will be taught at a secular school. He knows who he is in Christ. I am not worried about teachers 'praying' or not praying. I am not worried that he will be taught things that are contrary to the Word of God. He knows to answer the test like the teacher wants,

but it doesn't sway his opinion. I pray he has good, Godly roll models there that focus on Jesus and not on opinions.

Personally, Dean can do what he wants, I trust his decisions, college doesn't mean much to me, but Dean wants to go to college. I don't want him to go into the Army, again though that is his choice... the only thing I don't want him to be 'religious'.. That terrifies me.

I DO want him to be a Jesus lover, to have a healthy relationship with God, and man, have a nice wife, be happy, peaceful, kind and full of love. I don't even care if he's a farmer, car salesman or a plumber in the future, I just want him to be a kind gentleman who is happily on his way to heaven.

"Lord thank you for your Son and my son. God you are so beautiful, I thank you every day. I thank you for the character and Word that my son has. I thank you for Your Word and for YOUR integrity!

"Lord, Help me to have the awareness to know that I am being watched by my sons, both spiritual and physical. Let me live a Godly example where I practice what I preach. I do not want my children to miss out on Heaven nor on other good things that this life and world have to offer because they have been poorly raised. I ask you to remind me when I cut corners. Amen

PASTOR ASTRUBAL (another son, a spiritual one)

Pastor Astrubal is a spiritual son of mine. I don't think we really know how many we have in this life. The Bible tells us and teaches us to look for fruit of your ministry. The funny thing is fruit comes up when you don't even try. You exist, and fruit comes with it. As a matter of fact, when you really try to produce fruit, and focus on it, it doesn't flourish. There is such a thing as too much primping, pruning, watering and fertilizing, that can hurt fruit. I had some 'projects' that I was sure were going to be good fruit, but they ended up rotting on the vine. Some flourish just by watching me, and lots of time I don't even know they are there. I am talking about spiritual sons more than fruit farming, in case I lost you here.

So I came back to Nicaragua after almost 7 years. Winnie and I were feeding the kids for about a year, until the rainy season. One day it was rainy, I got mugged walking. (I hate when that happens) We didn't have a car yet so I was hoofing the food in. Then the straw came that broke the camels back. I was handing out fake pearls on strings and a mother of one of the kids thought they were real and hurt one of the girls grabbing it. In my mind, I quit. I was storming back to our house, and I was praying. I said, Lord, a faithful and perverse generation seeks a sign, but I need one if you want me to stay. Just then I looked back and saw a sunbeam a block behind where I was feeding the children on the street. I went back and saw there was a church there, that I had never seen before.

I decided to try to work at that church out of obedience for ministry and convenience purposes. Plus, if you feed kids with no spiritual orientation, all you are doing is bringing glory to yourself and not to God. So I walked into the church, and saw a sign that said for sinners only (which was what I had on my church), and then inside I saw a no gossip allowed sign (also from my church) and then a little boy in the building eating a bowl of food. It was my kind of church, and I recognized Pastor Astrubal as being a member of my church 7 years ago. I was home!

MY TAKE AWAY FROM PASTOR ASTRUBAL...

...I am so happy that I found Pastor Astrubal. What I learned was that it is the Lord's work, not mine. All I have to do I have to do is show up and obey, and He does the rest. It's on HIM!

Spiritual sons, like Napoleon and Astubal are good because they show you that God answers prayer. Also because they challenge you to keep the faith and to keep pressing on for more people to disciple and help. Sometimes they want and need more guidance, sometimes not, but that's in Gods hands.

The beauty is that you never know who will be open to the Gospel. Lots of people act like they are, but I tend to have more luck with the crows than the turtledoves. The word crows is also ravens.

RAVENS

◀ 1 Kings 17:6 ▶ The ravens brought (ELIJAH THE PROPHET) bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening,

I have met and dealt with some very unpleasant people in life, and particularly on the mission field. With the exception of a few 'missionaries and pastors' themselves, it is easy to dismiss them as non-believers, and walk away from them. I usually don't though. There is a reason that God has placed them in my life. Occasionally *albeit rarely* they get saved as a result of our friendship. Sometimes they help us out financially or materially to our surprise. Almost always they have introduced me to some pretty stellar people, or have taught me something invaluable.

Don't be dismissive of people who are not like you.

Don't ignore the people who don't fit into your 'parameters' that you think God has set. The only people that God tells us to run from are wolves in sheep's clothing, people who claim to be Christians who really aren't. God never tells us to run from the unsaved sinners. Personally, I think most wolves in sheep's clothing are unsaved sinners themselves, so I feel sorry for them. I really don't know where to draw the line. I do know that God will protect me when I follow His lead.

The Bible lists the raven an unclean thing....yet, God used an unclean thing to feed Elijah, His anointed prophet when he was running for his life, God does similar things in many other places in the Bible. David ate the show bread when he was fleeing from Saul. Jesus healed on the Sabbath, and His disciples were eating wheat in the field without washing their hands.

Does God randomly make rules, and then break them? No, of course not. Rules are to be followed.

Jesus explained it best in the book of Mark.

◀ Mark 2:27 ▶

Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

God's rules created for man, not man for the rules. Sometimes God allows things or people in our lives that are Ravens 'unclean' to help us or to test us. He wants to see if we grasp this foundational truth. There are times in this life when we have to make a decision that appears that we are disobeying God to the observers, but really we are hearing His voice and following Him.

Ravens are considered unclean because they are scavengers. We work with families that have been scavengers in the dump of Managua for countless generations. I have seen these same people eat unimaginable things and am amazed how God protects them from germs and violence. Sometimes I catch them killing and eating a buzzard, or encouraging the children to grab a bunch of chicken skin that was thrown away and make chicharon out of it.

Scavengers get the food that is thrown away. Ravens even get food from the flesh of dead animals. That is unclean in God's eyes, the Israelites eyes, and most people's eyes. God's laws for the fleeing Israelites in the desert were in part basic survival skills. He made the Kashrut *kosher dietary laws* so that His chosen people didn't get sick. He said other things like 'your river bath should be downstream from where you drink' etc. Common sense things that only makes sense when you know about such things as Trichinosis (a disease that you get from pigs), Salmonella (that you get from rotting flesh) etc. The Israelites did not know about germs in those days, so some of the rules God made for them were to help them to avoid the invisible germs and bacteria.

Rules are for man, not the other way around. God made them so He can do what He wants with them.

Peter's Vision (one of the first Jewish believers in Jesus)

◄Acts 10:12-14► 'the net' contained all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth, as well as birds of the air. Then a voice spoke to him: "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" "No, Lord!" Peter answered, "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

God was telling Peter here to talk to and convert the gentiles, the unclean non-jewish.

As modern day Christians, we try to do that with who we associate with. We tend to do want to only with people with people who believe like us, ignoring the sinners. (btw way if you meet someone who says he doesn't sin any more, he probably does, by lying.)

We should talk to anyone and every one that God permits us too. Even with FB, that old crow! For example, the guy with the Mohawk, mascara, tattoos and body odor in the line in front of you OBVIOUSLY wants attention. Why not talk to him? The Muslim family, the same sex couple, the street walkers are sure that if you are a true modern day evangelical American Christian you will hate them. Prove them wrong! *Christian and hate should never be in the same sentence, just a side note*. I love it when I see Christians joyfully and lovingly reach out to the 'unclean'. Pastor Mike Continenza was the first visiting American pastor to ever come with me to the house of my friends that are transvestite prostitutes. He sat with them, shared with them, prayed with them, and they were totally touched and moved by his compassion and exhibit of Christs love. They did not get saved at that moment, but seed were definitely planted.

In Acts 10:13 God was telling Peter to go to the gentiles, the 'unclean' non-Jews *same as us going to non-Christians' today*. Peter said 'No way Jose!'

God's response to Peter's self righteousness was.... ◄ Acts 10:15 ► The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

Christians should not be name callers. Christians should be obedient to the Lord God Most High. I have had salesmen, salesmanagers, pastors, christian workers, missionaries, and Christians in general not want to meet someone for the first time. If they are a professional in sales, they need to resign. If they are just a believer, they really need to examine their own faith very closely. We should be open to meet them all, ESPECIALLY the ravens.

I love it when people I don't know lock horns with me. It means they're listening. I don't even mind hanging out with the wolf in sheep's clothing. Most of them started out with good intentions, and got hurt along the way. The most important thing to remember is, we dont know if a person is a raven or not until we get to know them. If they are a raven, we dont know if God sent us to them, or them to us.

That is why Jesus got invited to all the good parties. Because He was nice to people. He gave them a chance to talk and to get to know them. He loved them, and was interested in them. Let us try to do the same, Let's be the Light of the world that Jesus says we are, not just cloistered monks in a monestary (or church building) somewhere with only people that believe like us.

Jesus said we are the light of the world ◀ Matthew 5:14 ▶ You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

We are the light, the darkness is going to find us anyway, so embrace it! Don't fear it... the RAVENS can't overcome you, they will only be attracted to you,, *whether they admit it or not* John said... ◀ John 1:4-5 ▶ In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

WORD

JOHN 1:1

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God

Probably the wisest and most sincere people I have ever met aren't very fluent with words in any language. When they talk, people laugh at their choice of words. Once the people get past their awkward words, others see that these guys have WORD. They are good for what they claim. Also, what these wise and sincere people say has value, because their word has value. When these people give their word, it sticks. 'WORD'. Eloquent 'wordsmiths' usually don't have much word.

People like to hear from God, but few like to exert an effort into hearing from Him. Charlatan's, both 'christian' and of the occult make a living off of people who want desperately to hear from God, but don't want to spend time alone with God themselves. I think it isn't about laziness or lack of education, I think people don't believe in Him enough to seek Him out for themselves.

They want some supernatural experience to make them hear from God. They want a 'prophet' to tell them what God says. The scribes and pharisees asked for a miracle. People go to 'seers' or tarot card readers etc. to hear from the 'other side'. Thousands go to great faith healers and self proclaimed 'annointed' people to get a glimpse of the super natural.

The Word can be a two way conversation with God as it was in the days of Noah. It can also be the Bible. It can also be a character trait. In spanish we say, He has Word, or He doesn't have Word. That means that the person is good for his word. The Word is who you are. If you have no Word you are no one. If someone says 'you have my word' it is a totally insignificant statement if you don't know that person well, or if you know his 'Word' means nothing.

God does have Word. And Jesus IS the Word of God. Throughout the Bible, the Word and the Beginning are inter-twined. Jesus is the Word, and He was already there, in the beginning of everything else.

King David said that he kept the WORD hidden in his heart to help him not to sin against God. But all King David had in his time were scrolls that made up the first 5 books of the of the old testament. However, those five books do show us that God is faithful, honest, just and good. God is good to his WORD because HE DOES NOT LIE: I think understanding God's character, and HIS WORD keeps you from sinning. His faithfulness is what helps us to walk the walk. Through the Christian life, and the 'words' in the Bible.

An interesting side note. St. Augustine wrote about God and Jesus for decades. One night he had a vision of heaven. He stopped writing after that, he said there were no words to describe what he had seen.

short-cuts

In spanish we say 'atajos sacan sangre'. Short cuts draw blood!

Once, I was lost in the jungle. I was trying to find an indian village. The path was taking me in one direction, but I could see their camp fires flickering through the thick jungle overgrowth. It was late at night, I hadn't slept for days. I was really thirsty so I took a short cut. Straight off the path, straight through the bush, into the double canopy darkness. The only thing I had to guide me was the flickering campfire light. I was literally 100 meters from the village's opening when 'PLUNK'. I fell into their open latrine. As I was falling I was still smiling and giggling to myself because I had shaved HOURS off of my journey by this shortcut. As I was up to my hips in human waste, I was reminded of the 'short cuts draw blood' statement.

Short cuts have nasty consequences. Short cuts at work get you fired. Short cuts with your kids lands them in jail. Short cuts in marriage get you divorced. Short cuts in God's Word damages your soul and in your relationships with others. When I say 'short cuts' with God's word, I am not talking about only reading one page a day in the Bible as opposed to reading 30 pages ... it has more to do with dealing with what you have already heard from God through His Word, through His teachings. It could be that you can only stand reading a verse a day. It could be that you can only stand a half an hour in church before you leave. The important thing isn't how long you are in His Word, it is what you DO with the Word that you have in you.

The short cut I am talking about has to do with circumventing what God has already told you to do. I know people reading 30 chapters a day to be holy, and they can't even take the time to answer a question kindly, or be nice to a child. Mahatma Gandhi read Tolstoy's writing about the beatitudes. Gandhi understood the beauty of the Beatitudes. So he went to the English missionaries who were in India at the time because they were teaching about this Jesus and His Beatitudes. Turns out, when he went to see the missionaries, their 'attitudes' weren't the beatitudes. They had taken short cuts. They were mean to the help, and to the people who lived in India. They took short cuts with what Jesus had told them and it made them hirelings, not pastors.

I beg the Lord every day not to take short cuts with others. Also, not to take short cuts with what He is teaching me. The little time that I am with someone I want to pour out the Love of Jesus onto them. I want to impact their lives in a good way.

“Lord, help me to not take short cuts with what YOU want me to do. I love you Lord and I want to show off for YOU. I want to hear “well done my good and faithful servant”. “I want to be faithful with the ONE talent you gave me, NOT take a shortcut with the 10 talents you gave me. Help me to be a better steward of what I DO KNOW, of what YOU have shown me. Thank you for showing me this, amen”. Denis is an example of why not to take short cuts. He is a slow work in progress, the long game.

RAIN.

We are in the middle of the dry season. We have taken off the roof to start a warehouse. We had a team here last week, they loved sleeping under the stars. They left at 4 am yesterday, and today it has been a down pour. We sure needed it. Nothing like the smell of Nicaragua after a cloud burst and we just had a delightful one. Praise God it was dry when there was a team here. I love rainy season in general. It cools things off. After every rain it's like a new start. All the smog and stench is washed from the air. The garbage is washed away from the streets. Life is good.... that is for those who live up stream, where everything is washed away.

Rainy season for the children living in the garbage dump is not so good. All the filth from the skies and from the streets is washed into big sand/mud bars where these beautiful children that we serve live. The smells, although diminished are still present, only to be exaggerated as soon as the sun heats up the mud again. The children play in the rain, and wash off. It's fun to see, I jump right in the mud puddles with them. Nothing like seeing a fat sixty year old bald guy doing the 'surf stomp' in a mud puddle much to the children's delight *and to his wife Winnie's dismay". These kids never have a good life without the help from someone on the outside. They have been robbed of their childhood and their future.

Their parents are indifferent to their suffering because they have had to suffer too. It's a generational thing. They are fatalists. Even when we find an opportunity for a child to leave the dump, their family and even parents find ways to impede their progress.

That is where PureHeartChildren'sFund comes in. We are here to re-design their lives through health, nutrition, education and counseling. Children need to have someone to run to. They need to have at least one or two healthy meals a day to count on. We are trying to get them educated, and healthy, so they make good decisions, not survival decisions. The children are considered at-risk because their poverty forces them to make risky choices, just to eat.

I have been dwelling on the good shepherd leaving the 99 to find the one. The 99 are good, they're taken care of. It's that ONE that worries me. IF you are intolerant, opinionated, self-righteous or religious, you will not go after that one.

Winnie and I believe that the greatest, most evil sin imaginable is to *NOT* help a child because he or she is different. Love 'em first, then let God figure it out. If you turn a kid away from jump street, you've lost them before you even began. I am learning every day to pull the beam out my own eye first, which will probably take the rest of my life.

My favorite drawing is from Gen Booth's illustration "Who Cares".... notice everyone on the raft is busy with good, Godly looking things, but only one is risking it all to reach others.. that to me is what it means to go after the one.. NO ONE will encourage you from where they are sitting... you have GO out of your way for that one.

Going after that one is NOT something you would like to do. It isn't even something you would consider to do if you weren't a believer. God makes these desires happen in your heart. You are not doing it because of your will. The Bible says the Love of Christ constrains us.

Cultures are interesting. It usually is awkward to help one group of people, or one particular person. The people that are outcasts don't understand it. The people watching don't understand it. Your brothers and sisters in church don't understand it. Your own family doesn't understand it. It's difficult. It isn't accepted. It's gross and disgusting. It's what God wants.

FOCUS"...I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13, NLT)

People often mistake focus as what makes a good soldier, pastor or a good business man. The fact is, combat veterans, great pastors and successful business men are still around because of their focus. Focus isn't what makes you, it's what keeps you alive. Unfocused people don't last very long, no matter where they are. The main thing about focus is keeping the main thing the main thing. Where ever you are at, be there. Day-dreamers get taken out of the action. Focusing on the path set before you is the only way to survive.

The path set before you isn't a fairy tale. The path set before you is as sure as a concrete sidewalk. God has a future and hope for all those who set their minds on Him and hunger for His righteousness and salvation. I think the number one daydream is the one that takes things from the past, and applies them to how you want to change your Future.

Like the poor dutch farm girl in a kindergarten story I learned when I was 5. She was desperately poor, and hated all the bad memories that her poverty brought her. She piled up a bunch of eggs from the chicken coop. She put them into a huge basket on the top

of her head and carried them to the market to sell. As she was dreaming of the money she was going to spend from the eggs in the basket on her head, she imagined being in a fancy ball, and was dancing. It seemed so real that she she twirled, and dropped all the eggs. She was left with nothing. We need to stick to the reality of things. The past is just as unreal as our future. Don't let the past control your future. It's good to have plans and goals for the future, but if you are not focused on the here and now, you will never reach your goals in your future. One step at a time.

Have you made the decision to focus on the present? Many people don't fully understand what that means. They ask themselves, 'Is that possible? Is that a wise thing to do? Won't I forget what I have learned as well?' Worst yet, they wonder, "How can I forget something that's happened to me?" But one definition of the word forget is to disregard intentionally or to overlook the negatives and positives *even victories*. Sure it's good to remember lessons learned, but NOT the emotions. IE.. I have learned to NEVER AGAIN compliment my neighbor how nicely he sings hymns at 4 am. I don't compliment him any more, I have learned my lesson. But I DO choose to forget how he makes me feel every morning by waking me up with his singing ever since.

You have to choose to disregard the emotions *NOT LESSONS* from your past so that it doesn't keep you from moving forward. That means the negative things as well as the positive things.

Sometimes our past victories keep us from rising higher as much as past failures. If we don't let go of the old, we'll never be able to embrace the new. High school football stars and ex war heroes unfortunately end up in bars. The glory days are past, they have nothing to look forward to. They don't have Jesus in their hearts. They don't think that there is anything better for them in the future, so they wallow in the past. That's why I stopped going to VFWs and the VA when I was in the states. Let's change the channel and talk about something else. The best thing waiting for all of us is heaven, and the crown that we will throw before our Saviour's feet. It's time to forget what lies behind. Make the choice to live in the present, and going forward. Right now! Trust that God has a better future in store for you. Repent of your sins and believe in your heart that Jesus died for you!, Choose to believe that He is resurrected and waiting for you in Glory.

Trust is belief in Something. Trust that He's working behind the scenes on your behalf. As you forget what lies behind and press forward, you WILL move forward. You'll see increased joy, happiness and blessings as you focus on the path and walk out the victorious life He has for you!

Is it possible to selectively forget? God does! He wants us to do it to! We need to teach others that as well, especially the children that are under our care and guidance.

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

EDUARDO

Eduardo is a miracle. He comes from an extremely difficult background. One that the church and the religious would clearly reject. That doesn't mean that Jesus doesn't love him and have his eye on him.

The city had one of those garbage piles that just kind of develop on an empty space. Eduardo went to the city, got permission to own the lot, provided he cleaned it up. So he and his gang *better called a family of street kids, but it really looks like a gang*, cleaned up the garbage, and using throw away tin and lumber, built an art studio and welding shop. PLUS he is a GREAT artist. Eduardo is also involved in Christian Businessmen. He is an amazing friend, talented artist, GREAT BUILDER *he has built about a third of the Winner Home* and is a solid believer.

Eduardo is smart enough to make living out of a life of crime. Most of the gangsters I know ARE brilliant. But they weren't GLEANED by the people they were guided by God. They are gleaned by the people guided by satan, because the people guided by God didn't follow God's lead.

I am proud to call Eduardo my friend and Christian brother. He definitely was a ONE when I first met him, now although he still isn't really accepted by the 99, he is accepted by the King of Kings. He is funny, smart, strong, talented, faithful, honorable, kind, gentle, patient and generous.

"Lord help me to do you will, to see the ONE. Help me to love unconditionally and without reserve. Help me do what you want, when you want, where you want. Help me to see with your eyes, to see that ONE ignored in the crowds, church, or in the street."

INVISIBLE

When someone asks me the key to missions, I think the best advice to give is to try to be invisible. I have really offended people when they ask me how they can help once they are here... and I reply, to be invisible.

Here is my reasoning. In heaven everything is transparent as to not hide the glory of God. When we do things, and although I am full 240+ lbs, it is hard to be invisible, because I weigh 100 lbs more than the average adult. In addition, my being a foot taller and about 50 octaves louder than anyone else, plus the fact that I am a gringo, a stranger in a strange land, it's almost impossible.

When you are not invisible, you BLOCK the glory of God. I don't want people to give me the glory, I want them to give God the glory. I know that there is nothing in me that deserves the glory. I TRY to be invisible, sometimes I am successful, by anonymous giving, or helping with out them knowing or through someone very humble and unassuming. That way, when someone else gets blessed, they blame God not me, that is why I am here.

Once when I was in the mountains with the Indians, I learned a valuable lesson about how Jesus is. The mountains, even in the tropics, are freezing (so it seems) at night. Communication at any level was almost impossible. These Indians spoke through their noses and were NOT Christians as far as I could tell. I had a light pair of jungle fatigues and a towel (usually drenched in sweat or rain) at night to try to keep warm.

For weeks, I would lay down at midnight shivering, trying to sleep. I'd wake up an hour later and a nice Indian blanket mysteriously would be on top of me. I'd thank God, and fall back to sleep. At 4 am every morning my teeth were chattering again. The mystery blanket was off me and it was time for me to do guard duty anyway. I never knew who the 'blanket lender' was. But to this day, the 'blanket lender' is my standard for sacrificial giving and Christ like behavior. Invisible.

I want PURE HEART ministry to be that invisible "blanket lender' for the Glory of God. Sacrificial, invisible giving, unconditional love, whether or not any one is looking. PREFERABLY when no one is looking. When people get blessed, they thank God. I want people to thank God for what we are doing, not to thank us.

It is important for our kids to want to impress God because they will do what is right when no one is looking. That is my definition of character. We want our kids at PureHeart to be real believers, knowing God is there with them whether the big gringo is looking or not. God is omnipresent, in our thoughts as well as with us in our actions. That is belief. That changes how we act and how we believe.

Roger

Roger is the little boy in the grey and white tea shirt and yellow shorts.

He was playing in his front yard. The kids he was playing with found a little ball. They threw it back and forth. It was a old hand grenade from the civil war we had here a couple decades ago. The frag went off as he was about to catch it, taking out both eyes and a bunch of fingers. Cuban doctors were able to save one eye but the other eye was lost. Also, they fixed the hands as good as able, but he is permanently with only three fingers on one hand.

I have some friends who are very low key and unassuming. As are Roger and his mom, Martha. You can be in the room with them and never even know they are there. They don't force themselves on you and are always ready to chat, and when they do chat they are absolutely charming. Wish I could be like that.

Norman and 'through the eyes of children' missions are exactly the same way, and they became fast friends with Roger. As it turns out, when they brought Dr. David Brissett down here to check eyes, he brought a prosthetic eye so Roger wouldn't call too much attention to himself. It just so happened to fit perfectly.

God loves the miraculous, because it glorifies Him and only Him. People come and go, and impact lives forever. The people are forgotten, but God is never forgotten. He is with us through our friends who help us.

"God teach me to become invisible. To not do the things that call attention to me, only to You. You are worthy of everything. You are the only reason when we exist. God, you and you alone are worthy to receive all the honor and glory. Help me to bring people to you. Help me to show people you. Help me to see you more clearly and to help others to see you more clearly. Help them to glorify you through my actions... in the name of Jesus I pray, amen."

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NAKED

Genesis 2:25

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed

So,, today Winnie Joy and I went on our usual walk.. She tells me a story of her day and I tell her a Bible story. This time, she told me Bible story,, about Adam and Eve... she said that they were her least favorite people in the Bible. I was suprised,, I thought for sure it was Judas \*my personal least favorite person in the Bible\*. She said Adam and Eve blew it, and because of that, we had to deal with stuff like clothes. Kids crack me up. We sure do!

I had planted a church in Managua years ago. We had a screened in front porch where we started a Bible study and a feeding center. We had church followed by breakfast every day at 6 am.

A young lady always showed up, completely bare naked. She slept in a garbage pile around the corner. We had children in the feeding center so i couldn't let her in but we always gave her a plate of food and she'd listen to our little class we'd give as the kids and old bums ate. She came every day, but disappeared a few months later.

We hired more ladies to help us. about a year later i kind of missed her and asked the kids 'has anyone seen the naked lady'? One of the ladies on our staff said, Hey! That's me! I got saved, got cleaned up, put on clothes, started showing up and you gave me a job!

I was absolutely was stunned and humbled. I would love to find her again. She got fired when the feeding center closed after I left.

Her name was Jenny. One of thousands here. A street child who grew up. Children who were abandonned. We always have little kids coming over to the feeding center naked. Kids have no shame, before they are 'smart' enough to know better. Kind of like Adam and Eve in the Bible, they weren't ashamed until they were 'smart' because the ate from the tree of knowledge.

God said that we must be like children to enter the kingdom of heaven. Jenny's faith was astounding. She had more faith than I did. While I lived in a house, and could read, she couldn't. Her faith was a 100 X stronger than mine. It still is I pray. God heard her prayer, and healed her mind. She was so hungry for God that she went to church naked,, would you? I sure wouldn't!

We must come to God as we came into this world. Naked and alone. We will all stand in front of him some day the same day. Naked people are humble. Naked people don't fight \*they try to get on clothes first\*. Naked people are ashamed of themselves. \*or as least they should be\*. Naked is how God sees all of us, all the time. Our clothes, our possessions and our knowledge don't impress Him. He is more impressed with a naked street child or a Jenny coming to Him out of need and accepting Him without conditions, as He accepts them.

Lissethe

Lissethe has been coming since she could barely walk. She comes every day, rain or shine. Now she brings her little brother. Her homelife is a disaster but you could never tell by the way she prays and sings songs to God. She takes care of her little brother as if she were the mother, not just a big sister that is two years older.

While she has never come to the feeding center naked, nor permit her little brother to do so, she does have that childlike innocence and faith that God loves. I think we tend to cloth ourselves in religiosity and vain questions and arguments rather than just show up and accept what God has to offer. No pride, pretention nor pretext. No preconceived misconceptions.

She is starting to learn the ways of the other kids who aren't so cooperative, but she still has her character and her childlike innocence.

"Lord, in spite of the pressures of this world, let us be childlike in our relationship with you. We know we are naked in your eyes. You know the number of hairs on our head \*or in my case, on my back\*. We know that we came into this world naked, and leave this world naked. We know that you resist the proud and the haughty. No one will ever argue his way into heaven. Thank you God for the example of children and Jenny to show us how to come into your presence,, in the name of Jesus, amen."

## DIFFERENT

Matthew 2:12 NIV Having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they left for their own country by a different road.

Christianity is funny. In John 3:3 Jesus told Nicodemus that to go to heaven you had to be born again.

When someone is born again, they are different from what they were before. Once we meet Christ, things change. Even the wise men in the Bible, after they met Jesus they went home on a different road.

Things change. YOU look at things differently. Priorities are completely reversed. What WAS important, isn't any more. What was NOT important, suddenly is the most important thing in the world.

What always astounds me though is that after a while, we all fall back into some kind of a rut. Like all the others teach us the status quo. Things don't change for the Christianity movement as much I think because we as people don't change enough.

The early disciples transformed the world as they were running for their lives from country to country. They didn't know a tenth of what we know. They didn't even have the new testament written.

We have found that some things that people do in the name of religion again and again simply don't work. I thank God that He gave me another chance to do this after stepping away for a period of time. I have found that we are serving the great grand children of the kids we fed 3 decades ago. Names have changed only because the kids grew up. Still in poverty, still hopeless, still lost. They all 'say the prayer', and try to convert, but the circumstances are so strong that they can't.

Preachers come and go like the wind. It's easy to preach the prosperity mindset to someone in the states because of a lot of that is just work ethic. It does not work down here, because the people sifting through the garbage already do have a good work ethic. They have the belief as well.. Just something is missing. I think that something is what the Lord is telling us and that we as a body of believers aren't hearing. We need to follow God's spirit and voice as we are trying to help these poor children, because frankly, what we have done up till now just ain't working.

Together

Colossians 1:17

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Together- God will keep us together

'Together' superficially, seems to be a word describing social settings. My wife Winnie and I are together for life. I am together with other Christians in our belief in God and God is together with us in a group. We gather together.

The Bible's word 'together' is more of an individual word than a group word. In worldly terms we say 'someone has it together', their life is in order. That is more of a biblically correct use of the term than getting together in a group.

The atom they say is held together by electromagnetism, but an atom's charges are the same polarity... the same charge rejects, it doesn't attract. Any 5th grader knows this basic science electromagnetic truth. Opposites attract, same charges repel. What holds an atom together? God. The only explanation. God holds everything together.

Jesus walked on the water because He walked on the water, He held it together. Jesus turned the simple H<sub>2</sub>O molecules into complex wine molecules. Why? Because He is God not only of the visible, but at the nano molecular level. He is not only God of the physical but also God of the spiritual. He knows our thoughts, and our future, as well as our past. He knows our fights, desires, urges, and sins. Yet He knows all the stars and planets of the universe and sees the sparrows on this planet. Jesus held the iron molecular atoms together on the nails that stapled Him to the Cross, because He loves us.

God can help us to get it together if we receive Him into our hearts. He will keep us together too if we let Him. Usually He uses friends to do so.

That is what we are doing with the children of our ministry. We are working on helping them to know God so He will get their little lives together and keep them together.

## SCIENCE NON-FICTION

5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

The Bible is the first book of science NON-fiction out there.

People LOVE science fiction. Fiction being it isn't true, non-fiction meaning it is true. They go to the movies by the millions to see space travel, time travel and zombies. They say it is science fiction, meaning that the stories are fictional, not true. However, the things that they talk about are non-fictional. They are real. Actually they happened.

God created the outer space. \*I guess you could call that space travel\*. God created time. Before Genesis 1:5 there was no time. God is omnipresent. God is eternal. No beginning, no

end. God created time for us. He didn't need it. When we believed and accepted Jesus in our lives, we passed from temporary lives to eternal lives. We will live in heaven forever. NO TIME. It is God's world, not ours. We will not be in the parameters of time. Time is for us, so we can keep our health. We know when the sun goes down it's time to rest. God wants us to be healthy and to have time. It's order for our lives. When we are in heaven there will be no more time. Don't dwell on it too much, it will confuse you.

When Jesus died, the Bible said the believers that were dead were risen and were walking around. Matthew 27:52 said And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

so... you could say something similar to the Z word. ...

EVERYTHING that we pay money to see, thinking it isn't real, actually happened. The Bible says that there is nothing new under the sun. I do not want to get into debates here, just stating what I have read in the Bible.

People go by the thousands to see the STAR TREK movie that is out now,, we are all interested in the things we know aren't real... problem is they are real. Not as Hollywood says,, but in all reality.

Man is CREATED to believe. It's all supernatural. It's all SCIENCE NON FICTION.

we WANT to believe. Help us with our unbelief. Help us to help others with THEIR unbelief.

so... you could say ... EVERYTHING that we pay money to see, thinking isn't it real, actually happened. The Bible says that there is nothing new under the sun. I do not want to get into debates here, just stating what I have read in the Bible.

Marilin

Marilyn grew up with us in the orphanage. The picture below she has the light blue shirt. IN the second photo is her in the yellow dress, after living with us for a couple of years. She now has two babies of her own. \*

Marilin grew up with us in the orphanage. The picture below she is in the yellow dress on John Chimenti's shoulders. The other picture is of her now, she has the light blue shirt, with her sisters Josiling and Cindy Davila . They all have babies of their own now..

MY TAKE AWAY from what Marilin has taught me is...

You never know when an angel is going to show up at the door.. BE READY, BE NICE!

...I remember sleeping on the floor the first night I was in my new house that I had bought in Arbolito \*the future Calvary Chapel of Managua Nicaragua\*

I woke up at the crack of dawn to see little eyeballs looking at me through the crack in the door. I opened the door saw three little girls, and a one year old baby that could barely walk, still in a diaper and a cut foot. I bandaged up the babies foot with duct tape, and paid the 3 ½ of them to pull a bush out of my front yard. I like to let people do something if I help them.

When all 4 of them pulled the bush \*well baby Marilyn was getting more in the way than helping\*, a bunch of fire ants poured out from the root of the bush, it looked like black oil gushing out of the ground. They were covered!

The girls were screaming, and I only had a gallon of hot coca cola, the water wasn't turned on yet,, so I shook it a couple of times and opened it spraying the girls down,, killing the ants instantly, and the itching as well.... hummmm, no wonder I don't drink coke anyway.

The girls moved in with Winnie and me and lived there for the rest of the years that I was the Senior Pastor at Calvary Chapel Managua.

### The Winner Home

A great missionary, named Jim Elliot said, wherever you are at, be all there. THAT APPLIES TO ANYONE, not matter what they are doing.

In the army, I did not want to share my foxhole with someone who was not 'all there.' Short timers and pot heads scared me more than the bad guys. I only felt safe with with squared away lifers.

As a salesman, I found out that the customer would not buy anything from me if I was not 'all there'

Now that I work with at risk children it is the same thing. you are not 'all there' with these guys, you might as well quit. The last thing a scared child needs to see is that you are not really committed to him or her.

Our goal at the Winner Home is to help ANY KID with desire to have HOPE. Once they are healthy, fed, and educated, we can talk to them about faith and choices. Until then, any decision they make is like having a pistol to their heads.

We freely share God's grace and love with these children until they get their little lives out of a tailspin. People do not care about how much you know until they know how much you truly care.

This is our third work in Nicaragua, as well as our third school we have started here. From our past experiences and mistakes, we have tried to learn.

Winnie \*a Nicaraguan citizen\* runs the show. I am her facilitator because I can raise funds and have a huge network. Pure Heart Children's Fund and The Winner Home is mainly a women's and children's ministry.

We are here for the child 'Whosoever'. We want them to grow up in Nicaragua to be God inspired young men and women, filled with God's love. We hope to do the same in other countries as well.

One at a time is our motto. One, or a thousand, we are happy. A lot has to do with the mercy and favor in the eyes of the Nicaraguan government. Up until now, with over 3 decades of experience, we have NEVER had a problem with the Nicaraguan Sandinista government.

The main reason for our success is because we stay out of politics and we don't push agendas. God is good, His ways are the best. The Bible says if at all possible, live in peace with all men. God's words, not mine.

We have been doing this for a while and it seems to us that the ONLY way to do it is one kid at a time. For as long as the Lord wants us to do it. What the Lord does or does not do is entirely up to Him. All we have to do is give 100% of our love to these kids, without condemning nor judging them based on our criteria.

IF you are TRULY loving on a child, you won't have time to LOOK at others, nor judge.' I Stole that one from Mother Theresa'. It may be the first time in his or her life that they are actually the center of attention.

To steal a line from "Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young", love the one you're with. Whether it's a lifetime, or five minutes, focus, focus, focus.

That applies to ANYTHING you are doing.

## TRUST

Sometimes I get so overwhelmed I don't think I could take another step,

but that never lasts long. 5 minutes max.



God has sent a great board stateside, as well as a great board down here to help us. Government NGO's both in Nicaragua AND the 501c3 in the states are difficult, to say the least. Lots of paperwork, lots of lawyers. It alone is a full time job.

I love these ladies and gentlemen on our boards because they are not "suggesters". They are doers. Most importantly, they don't quit. I am amazed at the expertise that God has brought into the equation.

God also has been blessing with letting donations come in even though we are going through changes.

Things are going a lot better than expected, and a lot quicker. I am becoming better, Pure Heart is more efficient. God's hand and permission is becoming more and more visible every day. God is the only one we can TRUST. God has been guarding our backs ever since I can remember, whether I acknowledge Him or not. He is Trustworthy.

YOU CAN TRUST HIM!

God is here all the time. God is omnipresent. God is every where, all the time.

The pentecostals say sometimes that 'GOD SHOW'S UP' but that can't be true. LIKE A GUARD IN THE ARMY, IF HE IS NOT HERE ALL THE TIME, HE COULD NOT BE TRUSTED. BUT HE IS HERE ALL THE TIME, IRREGARDLESS HOW WE FEEL.

TRUST HIM.

God HAS to be there guarding us all the time or we are done for. God is Omnipresent. He doesn't show up when WE need help and comes in just at the nick of time, but He is always there.

Otherwise you couldn't trust Him.

God is good.

## HOMELESS

I go to prepare a place for you... Jesus in John 14.2

A place is where you belong. Where you feel good being. MY PLACE means MY HOME. Not the building where you are living.

The only way to love someone is to actually learn and care about them. The only way to do that is to spend time with them. Make them feel at home, even if you're not in a building or house.

Loving someone means you have to actually talk to them, and listen to what they tell you. By the way, these things I write are usually just to myself. I BLOW it continuously, so if you feel like I am condemning someone, it's usually myself that I am pointing the finger at. Like I said a few times before, this is my journal as I live a life trying to please God. I write this for my wife and kids, so they can understand me better. IF they ever take the time to read this.

The home is where discussions are made. Heated moments, happy discussions, arguments, loving comments and funny stories all happen in homes. Sweet moments, bitter memories are all part of what makes a home.

Contrary to popular opinion, Winnie and I have found out that it's the QUANTITY of time that is more important than the QUALITY of time. We learn lot from our own kids that by spending consistent time with them you will get a lot of your questions answered. Not by drilling them, but by being with them. This applies not only to our own kids, but also the kids that we work with.

My son Deannie Jr. shocked me once by saying that his biggest fear was being homeless, out of nowhere. I was astounded that he would say that. Another little boy that said that was Jose. He was 10 years old and lived in a black plastic tent in Managua's garbage dump. Jose was surrounded by his gang, so he was with family (in a weird way). HE WAS TERRIFIED OF BEING HOMELESS, but by all appearances he was. His gang turned his shelter \*house\* into a home. Interesting huh?

So bottom line, a home means love and acceptance. A house is just a thing.

I think homelessness is a kid's fear more than an adult's fear.

Maybe we can't provide homes for all the kids right now, but we sure would love to try. We can provide love though, at any time. Also we can help moms and dads in the poorest neighborhoods to make homes. It's God's way of helping the children's lives. Through homes, God can protect children and give them stability. It can be small, even just tin shack.

We should take God with us wherever we go, however we feel. Even if we don't feel like it, it is not an option. People are looking to see God in us. They EXPECT to see something different in us.

Our job is to make people feel at home, wherever they are. We are strangers in a strange land. Our real Home is with God in heaven. Meanwhile we need to provide HOMES as much as possible for HIS children while we are passing through.

If not physically, at least emotionally and spiritually. Through buildings, parents, and God it can happen. God is a God of new beginnings.

I go to prepare a place for you... Jesus in John 14.2

}SPELLING

Confidence to write things, confidence to say things in spanish, was needed before. So God was patient with my gross imperfections. The time of grace is over, Now I need to do so correctly. God is taking me to the next step.

} reminds me of a verse in the Bible...

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.....(1 Corinthians 13: 12-13)

Back in the times of Paul, the glass, darkly, referred to a highly polished brass. They used this shiny metal as mirrors. The more you looked into these primitive mirrors, the more you realized that you weren't getting a full picture... like our standard brass buckle in the army. You could see your face ok,, but the more you looked the more you see it is an imperfect reflection. I think that is what happens with our walk with the Lord. At first we think we see clearly, then, the more we look, we see that there is so much more.

St. Augustine was a great religious writer. Lots of people learned a lot of things about the Lord through his works. As time passed, he learned more about the Lord. St. Augustine stopped writing. He could no longer find the words to express what he had learned. That is how it will be when we get to heaven, I believe. We will cringe when we learn how little we actually knew about Him while we walked the earth. We will throw off our crowns at His feet in gratitude for His forgiveness..

It is amazing how God shows you what you need to do, and when it is time to do it. He does this through friends, knowledge and revelation. I thank God for the people He used to speak to me about my bad spanish and my poor writing skills. It's a good thing, it's a GOD thing. My only wish is that He had done it sooner. God knew what HE was doing though, as it is written in 1 COR 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise

All my life I thought I was a good speller. I also thought I spoke pretty good spanish. All of a sudden, I realize my spanish isn't very good, and my spelling in either language is even worse. I thank GOD for that revelation. It is His perfect will that I am aware of it, so I could correct it. Like they say, even if your start isn't that great, what is important is that you start to be great. That's all that counts, in the business world as well as in the spiritual realm.

Who knows how many opportunities I have lost over the years, both in business and in relationships through my poor communication skills. It is a good thing that God is more patient and generous with our failures than man. God is in control.

There are seasons, when God lets you be dillusional. For example, When I first became a Christian, I had no doubts about anything. I was an expert overnight. 3 decades later I am horrified how little I know about Jesus. I was a 'Bible expert', now I don't have a clue. I used to be 'without sin', and looking back I blush as what a sinner I was, and still am.

As easy as .A-B-C? I sure won't use that expression any more!

Thank you Lord with your patience for us, you are kind...the rest of the verse I quoted was ...And now stays faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (1 Corinthians 13: 12-13)

God IS FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY \*LOVE\*.

The Main Thing

"For God So Loved the World That He Gave His Only Begotten Son, That Whosoever Believeth in Him Shall Not Die but Have Ever Lasting Life". John 3-16

Quotes like 'KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING', 'an empty belly has no ears' and 'they don't care about how much you know, until they know how much you care' all are saying the same thing, in one way or another'. Believing comes from more than one sense. Not just reading the Bible. Not just hearing a preacher or music. Also, our stomachs teach us to believe, our sense of security teaches us to believe. Our visual examples of people living out their beliefs teach us to believe.

Lamentations 2:19 says we should wake up at night and pour out our hearts like water for the children who are dying. I don't know about you, but that happens to me on a regular basis.

In order to believe, children have to be given a chance to believe. First thing we have to do is to provide their basic needs. Once they are comfortable, and safe, then the spiritual teachings can occur. If they are hungry, they are not going to hear anything. I love the illustration of a little boy, not old enough to read, being handed a Bible. He said 'let me get this straight, you are giving me a Bible but not any food?'

Jesus said, IF YOU LOVE ME FEED MY SHEEP. I know He was talking about feeding at many different levels, but he was also talking about feeding food as well. I think Jesus, the Son of God was also practical. He liked to eat, that's for sure. The religious called Him a glutton! He got into trouble for feeding his disciples on a saturday \*the sabbath\*.

So we need to feed food as well as the Word of God. Not only food, but other needs as well.

At pure heart, if kid is hurt, we fix them. If they are sick, we buy them medicine. If they need schooling, we try to give them a scholarship. If they are hungry we feed them. If they are in jail we visit them. If they are naked we clothe them. If they are sad, we are sad with them. If they are happy, we rejoice with them.

One of the little kids we are helping to grow up is Maribeth. We were there when she was born, and is growing up nice and healthy thanks to God, and nice people like you. We HOPE to be able to provide for her Pre K but the logistics just aren't there at this time. For the children that live in the chureca to have a chance at education they need to live with us. We just don't have the donations to make the Winner Home a boarding school yet.

I love Maribeth because every time she sees me she smirks. She is sure I am going to do or say something funny, so she starts laughing every time I see her. If nothing else, she is expecting a hug, which I gladly give. If I sing, she sings. If I clap, she claps. She does not take her eyes off of me.

We need to teach them habits, and from these habits will grow character. We teach them by showing them.

We need to be there for them on a constant basis.

We need to pray for ourselves, and for these children. Please for us and these children as well.

Thank you for helping these children to believe in Jesus and to be saved.

## GERIATRIC

Proverbs 3:1-2

3 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Geriatrics or geriatric medicine is a specialty that focuses on health care of elderly people. It aims to promote health by preventing and treating diseases and disabilities in older adults.

I love working with older people. We finally found an old folks home here in Managua, I was delighted. It is closed after we visited it only a few times. :( I notice that the people that do the best in their old age are the ones that are obedient. Their doctors tell them to eat very little, and to love a lot. Those that do, do better than those that don't. God's laws and commandments are like doctors orders as well. Obey them and you do better than if you don't.

Now that I am approaching 60 with exponential speed, I am getting bombarded with advertisements that are focused on the older crowd. Almost all of the ads have to do with medicines, and living to a full and ripe old age, full of vim and vigor. Not ONE AD has ever mentioned Proverbs 3:1-2, yet I believe that is the BEST anti-aging medicine you could take. Plus you don't have to pay 700 dollars for a doctor visit nor pay hundreds of dollars a month in medicine.

Children ministries and old folks ministries go hand in hand. Children have to learn to respect the elderly. The elderly LOVE to be around children. It is good to mix the two ministries up. We have had volunteers come down and flourish way up into their mid 80's. It is amazing how children bring life!

1. Because we are all children in the eyes of an eternal God a 1 day old baby and a 100 year old person are the same in the eyes of the Lord. He created both of them. He loves both of them. They are only a few days apart. 2 Peter 3:8 with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

2. Because the two ministries are blessed by each other. Little kids need older people. Older people LOVE little kids, even the grumpy ones. Pray that we find another old folks home in Managua. I love it when the kids come out of their shells. We need a bus to do that too, but first let's find another home where we can bring children. If anyone wants a great business, pray about opening an old folks home down here. There are none to speak of.

What I love about working in old folks homes is that you find that one precious saint. They just shine. Talk about digging to find that one precious diamond. When you find that 'ONE' it is amazing! It's like finding a treasure.

IF I live that long, I would love to be a diamond in the old folks home. It depends on what I do now. People die exactly like they live.

Although death bed conversions do exist, I haven't seen any. Funny thing is, every now and then I find what I thought was a 'Diamond' and it turns out that he or she were the worst ones in the place. Good thing I didn't know that when I met them. It happens not once nor twice, but almost every time. That's why it is good to have many people visiting. There is always that 'one' that will click with you. I am a little rough on the ears for most, but some share my sense of humor \*which we will talk about at a later date\*.

Anyway, I just want to encourage all of us to live a life so that we can end up as diamonds in the geriatric ward. Obey God and remember His law and His commandments and you will live a full life.

Thanks to these elderly people I see that life ends when YOU let it end. We die when God let's us die, but our life can end long before we die. When I meet these people in the evening of their lives, I melt. They are full of joy and love. I am moved both by guilt and by love when I meet these fine people, either down here or in the states. I have guilt because they out shine me by a million times. I love them because I see God's grace in them. They are in their last days, but live each day as their first. The world through the eyes of a toddler and of an elder full of joy is exactly the same. The sun is at the same position. It could be dusk or dawn, but the sun's setting is the same. The only difference is whether it is in the east or the west.

God said He will move our sins from us as far as the east is from the west, which is an infinite distance. It is all relative. A joyous geriatric or a joyous toddler is the same in God's eye. It is our reference and world that gets in the way of God's love.

KISS

To me, KISS is a way to say I love you. I love kissing my wife and kids. Winnie Joy and I are really close, and I love to kiss her on her cheek

So on our walk today, Winnie Jr told me that she knew how we could raise money for the feeding center. I asked her how, and she said I should open a kissing booth,, she though I could raise 1 Billion dollars if I had a kissing booth. I love my baby, but I think she totally has overvalued my kisses. She really knows how to make me belly laugh!

When you love someone like she loves me, it kind of distorts things, but I love her for it. She is cute. She loves my kisses because that is one of the ways that I show her how I love her.

While it really isn't a good idea to kiss the kids at the feeding center (although sometimes it is impossible to resist) K.I.S.S. is the solution for our work with these children though, Keep It Simple Stupid! The best way to work with children is keeping it simple. We are always learning to be more simple, more direct and transparent.

God likes things simple too. He gave us 10 commandments, and religion has turned it into well over 300. He told us to love our neighbor, and we bring in a lot of what ifs, and STILL don't love our neighbors.

Psalm 2:12 says Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

When you love someone you kiss them. LOVE the Son of God, NOW, before it's too late, and everything will be alright. Love is a decision.

## RULES

The first thing that the religious people do when they come with us the first time is complain about the unruliness of the children. The first thing that a Jesus lover does when they come down is dive right in and enjoy the children and their energy.

Contrary to what you are seeing, these kids DO have rules. NO BULLIES! No hitting or shoving. Hands off of every one, unless of course it's an irresistibly cute toddler, then I get to hug and kiss them. Other than that, everything else is ok. These kids live with bullies and senseless rules. They have authority figures in their lives who have NO BUSINESS being



authority figures. These kids look at furniture as monkey bars. Tables as trampolines and spring boards. Most of all, these kids are furious, and don't need a buzz killer at lunch time.

We tried to do it the way that religious like for years, but it doesn't work. It is a miserable experience, for everyone. When we finally realized that NOTHING will please the religious anyway, we decided to just roll with it. The religious don't come back anyways, and we have a blast with the ones that are here.

It's about Jesus and love. With that comes joy, relationships and GOOD memories. When it is about rules and control, the only thing comes anger, enemies and bad memories.

SICK

Why do I write so much? This is my journal. I write down stuff as God shows me stuff. Sorry it's so much. I write in this form with the hopes that some day my teen age son will read this, and my daughter as well. It is my Christian walk, recorded.

It turns out I was really, seriously sick, but I never even knew it. God healed me. It kind of shook me up for a few hours, but all is well. God was so concerned about me that He didn't even want me to get scared or feel bad. Maybe I did feel bad,, I just kind of push my way through stuff, which isn't always a very good idea.

My personal title for the story of the prodigal son is 'a LOVE SICK dad'. My son's in the states, so maybe I was just love sick.

The father of the prodigal son was LOVE SICK! He was looking for his lost little boy. His boy took all the money that was due him in the future inheritance when his father would have died \*Dad hadn't died yet, how rude!\*. The spoiled kid took the money and squandered it like it was 1999!

The LOVE SICK dad never gave up on his son. He kept looking off into the distance waiting for his bad boy son to return. Dad loved him, even if he wasn't the kindest or best son in the world;

Imagine the joy DAD had when He saw his baby boy running back to Him, crying and asking for forgiveness. (even though the son was a grown man, smelling like pigs. Smelling kids is an added insult to injury for a Jewish dad, mishpachah or not! A LOVE SICK DAD always looks at his son as his 'baby boy; and overlooks everything and anything).

Dad is God in this story. We are the prodigal son. That's a picture of God's love for us. When I was sick, He took care of me. Jesus said God aches for us, He loves us and wants to gather us like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

God loves the children of the garbage dump as well as us. Emotions aside, the Bible says if you plug your ears to the cries of the hungry you are in sin. I think what we as Christians do with the less fortunate is the only Bible the majority of the world will ever read. Roger Wing from Calvary Chapel once told me, we don't 'have to' do this, we 'get to' do this. A milestone in my life was this revelation. God let's us take care of his kids.

What I love about what I do is that I am a dad to a lot of kids that don't have a dad. Kids who's lives are a train wreck. Lots of these little guys use me as an example on how a man should be. Scary huh? It is an honor, but is very scary. What I love is that I can show them that God loves them, in a nice, wholesome way. We can worry about all our wayward boys. They LOVE it when they know you really care.

IF we don't take care of God's kids, the next generation, we are lost. Also, we forget about politics, federal reserve, whales, global warming etc. The population is expanding rapidly,, and most of the explosion will be in places like the chureca, garbage dumps of large third world cities. Without these kids being helped, the world is finished. Taking care of someone doesn't mean throwing them the same stuff that has never worked well in the first place. We have to improvise, and strive to do better.

## MURDER

I once had a ministry in the solitary confinement section of a central american jail.

I bumped into Steve and Diann Warn for the first time on a bus, and invited them into the join with me. They came with me immediately. Steve had just sworn off prison ministry in the states and came down and met me immediately.

Central American prisons are just like you imagine them to be. There is no security for the people visiting. They just lock you in the cages with them. You are face to face with cons, and I was in the dirtiest darkest place, maximum security, with about 30 hardened murderers.

As it was, I was teaching and asked Diann Warn to come up and give her testimony. When Diann was sharing her testimony, one con bashed another con in the head, spraying us all with blood from the victim's head wound. Steve looked at me, and then down at the blood on his shoes, and said, 'brother,, THIS IS CRAZY!'

In reprisal another pulled out one of the ugliest looking knives I had seen in the world. He was standing behind me. Another guy in front of me took my Bible to use as a shield \*I have never again owned Bible more than a few weeks\*.. I have learned to hold onto my Bibles lightly.

I wasn't worried as much about my Bible as I was about the guy with the shiv behind me.,, \*in central america, prison ministry is a lot more experiential than in the states." I felt my back hairs standing up, cause I had know idea what the guy behind me going to do with the knife. I was right in the middle of a little sermon, so i just included it as a visual aid for the the message. I said,, I don't care if he stabs me, I'll be happy, I'll just go to heaven, but he will have a whole lot of problems if he kills me.

For a true christian there are a lot worse fates than death. As a matter of fact, death is when it all gets better! Jesus said in John 14, I GO TO A PREPRE PLACE FOR YOU. IF IT WERE NOT SO I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. ' No more tears, sorrow nor pain' He goes on to say in Revelations, 'and no more death!' No more sadness, no more sickness.

Death is actually a pretty good deal for a true believer. Dying for a believer is not the end of life. Even so, God said, 'Thou Shalt Not Kill.' God forgives any sin, but still. Once someone is murdered, they are gone. You never see them again, or do you?

Many people get murderred on a daily basis, and I still see them walking around. How so??

We all have legally murdered people, theoretically. That's not a very nice thing to say, but even a worse thing to do. How do we murder people? How can murdered people still walk around. We murder people by cutting off communication with them. When you have stopped communicating with people you have cut them out of your life. You have effectively erased them.

As a missionary in a country like Nicaragua, you have to curtail your conversations with certain people. If all they do is ask you for money, you have to slow things down or they will consume all of the little time you do have. When you stop answering them however, and stop seeing them all together, you have in effect killed them. There may be a time when a person becomes so difficult that you have to do that, but I have only encountered people like that once or twice in my life. VERY EXTREME CASES.

When you cut someone off completely, they don't exist any more in your world. They are dead. You have killed them.

So there are two morals to the story

1. Don't murder people. IF YOU MUST CUT SOMEONE OFF, do so only as a last resort

2, If someone murders you, don't worry about it. Love them, pray for them, and always be open to reconciliation. The murderer probably has not had an encounter with our risen Lord and Saviour. They need Jesus. Don't judge God nor True Christianity by the actions of people who say they are but aren't. No matter what their 'title' is. It's like washing your hair,, Wash Rinse Wash, Love Forgive Love,

## BLIND

So Jesus healed a blind guy. The religious people got mad, and said, don't you know that the guy that healed you is a sinner? Listen to this answer!

John 9 25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

John 9 is about blind people. The man that was blind from birth went to Jesus, and Jesus healed him. The religious people at the end of chapter were spiritually blind. They didn't know it, so they didn't ask Jesus for help. Their loss. They didn't ask, so Jesus didn't heal them.

I have little blind friend in the dump. Den. He just felt his way over to us a few days ago. I guess he heard us and his mom let him leave the house. He finds me by my voice \*finally glad for my big mouth". He finds me and hangs onto me. \*once he knew I wasn't going to hurt him, or pull the chair out from under him, stuff like that\*.

When Den was born a nurse spayed something in his eyes and blinded him for life. I make sure he finds a safe place to sit and serve the food to him. I also sing our Sunday school songs with him, kind of using his hands to know what we are doing. His questions about the songs are so sweet and intelligent. I don't think he is much older than 4. Everyone assumed he was a deaf mute as well, but he is just quiet. And the kids here are LOUD!

Pray with me for Jesus to heal him. He has been blind from birth. I don't know why but I am really intimidated to pray for his eyesight to be restored. What is the difference between praying for eyesight to be supernaturally restored or a marriage to be supernaturally restored?

A miracle is a miracle.

Pray that God gives me courage and wisdom, and FAITH. I would gladly sacrifice my own vision to give him a chance in the world. A poor blind toddler growing up in a garbage dump, can you imagine?

My heart aches for him.

Jesus CAN heal him you know!

## OTHERS

A good friend of mine told me once to stop waiting for things, and just take control and make it happen. I used to wait on OTHERS to help OTHERS. I was taught that it was spiritual to let people suffer while I was waiting on Him. It just makes no sense to me. I pray as I am doing. I do as I wait. It's like some of the tougher schools in the army. It is like combat. There is NEVER the right time to do stuff. You have to just jump in and do it.

I wait for OTHERS, while I am waiting ON OTHERS and pray to God for guidance, and miracles, as I am doing it. It's the only way that makes sense to me. Last year I made \$59,000 on my full time job (all of it went into ministry) and spent all of the donations \$65,000. So, we spent \$124,000 bucks last year feeding around 130 kids a day, every day of the year. Completing a school. Schooling 30 kids. Helping countless others. PLUS maintained my family. I could have waited until I miraculously had \$124,000 bucks in hand. Meanwhile, what about the sick and hungry? What about the kids who would have missed a year of school? What about OTHERS?

Maybe others can and should do things slow, but seems to me that most do things the wise way, and lots of people suffer in the meantime. I will never try to tell someone else the way it is spiritually. I am barely understanding this stuff myself.

I figure we just fire for effect. Like we did with mortar rounds. Fire and adjust and fire and adjust until you hit the target. That applies to our walk. God will guide you as you are walk. Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go,, where ever your feet are, God is there. BE COURAGEOUS AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO BE COURAGEOUS AS WELL.

If it doesn't work for you, that does not mean that it doesn't work for someone else. A while ago I caught a car thief trying to steal my car. He broke into the car, and was just sitting there behind the wheel. I pulled him out of the car and took him to jail. Turns out, he didn't know how to drive a car. He just sat there. Just because the car didn't work for him didn't mean that the car didn't work. The judge asked me what I wanted to do, I said let him go. It was to funny. The guy swore my car didn't work, but he didn't know how to drive.

The Lord continues to speak to us through OTHERS as He shows us how to help OTHERS. The most important thing is to listen to the Lord. Know that when HE talks to you through OTHERS He will show you how to help the OTHERS in your life.

## CHANGE

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

"If you want to see what you've never seen, you have to do what you've never done."

Once you have met the Lord, everything changes. I know that has happened to me. I look at things from the Lord's point of view. It just happens. I think that is the biggest sign or passing from the darkness into the light. I still make mistakes. My moral compass isn't as good as it should be. I sin. The CHANGE is that I don't want to.

Since I have met the Lord, I have changed. I want to be a God pleaser not a man pleaser. I want to make other people God pleasers as well.

I ponder daily on what God really wants out of me down here. The answer is always the same. He wants me to allow Him to live out His life fully in my life. Dead to self, alive to Him, moment by moment. As my missionary brother Ryan Dammerell said, Christianity isn't about making bad people good. It is about making dead people alive. To do that we have to die. Die to self, follow His lead, and serve 'others'.

I am ok with all of the above. I realize that in me there is nothing good. I need to follow His lead. It's my passion to serve. it makes me alive. I LOVE SERVING. It's fun for me to help others, that is why I know it's from God. I never get mad when I get to help someone else. I am sure I get more out of it than the people I am trying to help. That aspect of my life is something I don't want to change. It won't change because that is consistent with Jesus is never changing. It is an attribute of God. Immutable. God does not change. So what He wants from each of one us will never change, but maybe how we do it should change.

All that being said, change is always good and healthy for us as mortal human beings. Even as Christians. We need to stop smoking, cussing, gossiping, getting mad, go on diets and start exercising. When you die to self, you change. We are designed to change for the good.

When things and circumstances change, the 'changed person' is kind of hard to take at first. After a while they change again, which is a good thing. They calm down, and you can actually carry on a conversation. At first, they will go on diatribes for hours, boring everyone and anyone. The perceptive people realize how obnoxious they have become, and soon change their conversational skills and a lot of other things.

We live in a changing world. Some will make more money than they ever have before in their lives. Some will become entrepreneurs out of necessity cause they got fired. Some will open their own business because they can't trust their employees and they choose to work for themselves. We should always be trying to change for the better. Whatever happens, look at it as a way change for the good. Romans 8:28 says 'all things work together for the Good for those who love the Lord.' so when changes come, embrace them.

If we are following the Spirit of the only true and living God, we will change. Paul talks about an immature believer. I think they don't grow because they aren't trying to grow. Same thing in finances, work, careers, relationships etc. If someone is singing the same old song, it is because they have not tried to grow. If you live is steeped in sin, cry out to God and He will save you. After that, If you are depressed, change. If you are mean, change. You can change, right now. If you are poor, give yourself raise! \*especially in sales, the lowest paid easy job and highest paid hard job in the world\*. Pick up the game, do things differently!

As in our feeding centers and school, if you are serving something old, ugly, or rotten, are you really serving them? Most importantly, if you do it without LOVE, why do it at all? The Bible says that God is love. We are trying to get our kids to change. GOD CHANGE! First to change spiritually. Every other change will be easier once that most important need is covered.

Innovation, creativity, modernizing things is not un-spiritual nor bad. God has taught us to modernize, to be innovative and to be creative through HIS creation and existence. Often times it is the only way to actually be able to SERVE others without faking it. If you are not making change for the better, do something else that will improve our world and our lives.

In order to get the children in the chureca and the poor kids in the country to change, we have to change the way of doing things.

We need to improve. We need to change. We need to talk to people who think and believe differently than us. Through our changes, we can change others.

### Sorrow

'Has cambiado mi lamento en baile' is one of my favorite praise songs. Richard Mojica wrote it, a famous Nicaragua praise and worship recording artist. It means that God has turned our sadness into joy.

Sorrow is not bad for Christians. It is always short lived. There is never sorrow without a hidden current of joy. God uses sorrow to mold us into His image. Jesus is known as a man of sorrows. Joy is peace dancing in your heart, and that is a permanent condition as a believer. When sad times come, I always think 'wow, how is God going to get me out of this!' Sorrow comes with a sense of expectancy. Sorrow is almost exhilarating because I know I am going to see God do something.

The Bible says also there is a type of sorrow that leaves to death. I have seen that. I have had that before I was a believer. That is a type of sorrow that is horrible and without remedy. I see that type of sorrow often with the beautiful little toddlers and kids I work with.

We are still working on getting other kids in here with us, there's a real challenge right now with the government in this area, but it looks like we worked our way around it. A boarding school is the only way we can get that working. We must obey the laws and wishes of the land. Our mission is making sad kids joyous, not frustrated. Not temporary joy, as they get with candy, but real joy, everlasting joy. Whatever we have to do has to be permanent and sustainable. We have to do it in such a way as to be a good testimony to the country.



1st requirement to make children joyous and not sorrowful is to help them to have peace with God.

Peace and Joy are siamese twins, codependant on each other. Paul often started books of the Bible with Peace and Joy. The peace has to come before the joy. No peace with God, no joy. Impossible.

2nd requirement to make children joyous and not sorrowful is making it in this world.

Not only in entrepreneurship and problem solving in the business world, but social skills as well. You need peace with others as well as peace with God. When you have peace with God, it is so much easier to get along with others. Contrary to the way Christians are acting now days, the Bible says to live in peace with ALL men. Sounds suspiciously like co-existing. hummmmm. God's words, not mine.

We are changing our style, as I mentioned yesterday. We are looking at what we have been doing for the past decades, and trying to do it better, more efficiently and God honoring. Not with cute cliches, buzz words and happy thoughts,. With prayer, guidance from God, knowledge, joy and ice cold realism. We are preparing kids for the 21st century.

We at Pure Heart are here to do both.

God Bless you, God Keep you, and may God Cause His Face to Shine upon you!

it's all about.....

'other's'

Their joy, not ours. We already have our through Christ our Lord. Die to self, and let God live through us is the ONLY WAY to bring Joy to other's lives.

TOYSToys

As an adult, toys are so unimportant. As Christmas and Birthdays approach I get nervous. I never have money for that, and it seems to be a waste. The kids are more happy with the box than the toy that they have been yearning for.

God is not like that.

I remember when Dean Jr. was about 3. He was just learning how to pray. We had a church and orphanage and feeding center in Managua. We got a large box. A package from the states. Dean Jr was excited. WE got boxes a lot when I pastored CC Managua, but this pastor came right about his birthday day. He started digging frantically in the box, deeper and deeper saying WHERE ARE THE MONKEYS, I ASKED GOD FOR THE MONKEYS SO THEY MUST BE THERE. I am kind of worried. I KNOW God does not work like that. I KNOW God has a lot more things going on than a 'stuffed monkey' I thought.

When Dean Jr. was down to the bottom of the box of toys that some kind soul had sent, he was almost crying with dissatisfaction. I was bracing myself for Dean Jr. first crisis of faith! THE LAST SHOE HE TOOK OUT, out fell about 10 red monkeys with their tails connected \*plastic little monkeys about an inch high\*. Dean Jr. said, I KNEW GOD DIDN'T FORGET MY MONKEYS. Turns out God knew my son better than I did.

Last Christmas, by a fluke, I ended up with a Christmas present for Winnie Joy. She said it was the best Christmas present she had ever gotten. I did not have the money to buy a Christmas present for her. IT JUST SHOWED UP! I had to get up the nerve to tell her I didn't buy it for her. It took me three days. She said I never should have told her, and it was the worst confession ever. BUT SHE LOVED THE TOY. Now, for her birthday she wanted a BLU BLU, I had no money, nothing on my debit card, but I felt led by the Lord to go to the store here where they sell it. They are like 70 dollars!! So I went there, they were out, I was happy. BUT THEY HAD A MINITURE ONE FOR 30 dollars! Winnie Joy was estatic! I was horrified. I laid down my plastic deficit card, and VOILA! It cleared for the 30 dollar blu blue and WINNIES BIRTHDAY WAS THE BEST EVER so she says!

Unspiritual right? I think it is totally spiritual. God's eye is on the sparrow, it is on me. It is on my kids. Even their whimsical little desires, God sees as needs. He is God, I am not

JOBS

which is true? A, B, C or D?

A. Sales is the lowest paying easy job and the highest paying hard job in the world

B. Pastors had it the easiest. They only worked an hour a week. Sunday morning from 10-11. The rest of the time they just blessed everyone they saw.

C. Great authors just smoked pipes and wear cardigan sweaters in New England snow covered cabins. They sit at a desk behind an old typewriter, They write all day\ with a steady stream of good thoughts.

D. Plumbers have the highest disposable income of any other group of professionals in America.

Answers are A and D

Just because A and D are true, it doesn't mean that it is the only truth.

JOBS are jobs only if you don't like them. If you love your job, you will never have to work, and you will never see it as a job. A J.O.B. \*just over broke\* is a miserable existence. What we THINK the job is, and what the job actually is, is another story. What the job ACTUALLY IS is what will dictate whether or not you love it. It has very little to do with money. It has to do with self validation and providing for your family.

I always tell my son and daughter to be happy. I got a mediocre BS degree in psychology/sociology while I was in the army. I am not prepared. I am not a great man, but I think I am a joyous man. I like what I do. I love who I do it for. Definitely not successful by worldly standards, but who cares. My finances are a nightmarish nail biter. My health isn't great. I am old. My life is well lived. I only hope I finish well living life pleasing to the Lord. With God, it's not how you start but how you finish that counts. My kids and my wife loves me. I have about 150 families depending on me and PureHeartChildren'sFund. People are praising God and loving one another in the process.

I LOVE MY JOB. It's the hardest work, the lowest paid in the world. Working conditions are atrocious. I can smoke pipes if I want, but don't want to. I can wear cardigans, if I want, but I

REALLY don't want to. I can write, or not. Preach or not. I sell things, so I can provide for my family. I even end up doing plumbing. You never know in the course of a day. My JOB is to be a missionary, to help children to have hope, when they would otherwise not have hope. I have the best boss in the world, JESUS. My supervisor understands me, because it is ME.

I have the BEST motivation in the world, to introduce kids to Jesus so they can have eternal life.

Thank you for letting me be a missionary to the children of Managua Nicaragua

God will give you the JOB you love IF YOU ASK HIM.

born-again

John 3:3

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

When Donald Moss showed me that in the Bible, I almost fainted. We were in Huntington West Virginia. I was about 16 years old. He rocked my world that day, but it didn't take root immediately. Sadly it took me until I was in my 40's to fully grasp that. Even THEN, I still blow it, and have been for the past 18 years \*I am 58 years old\*. My life would have been so much better if I had heeded that verse back then. If I had only realized that ONLY GOD could make my life worthwhile.

I became born-again when Jesus let me. It had nothing to do with me. I was dead. There was nothing more I could do. I realized who I was and who God was. I was at the end of myself. I praise God because that was when He gave me new birth, a birth from above. Some people NEVER come to that realization. Some people die not believing. They believe NOW though, I am sure.

I can honestly tell you that my life didn't even start until then. I was in my mid 40s. I wasted over 40 years of my life in abject mediocrity. I helped a politician get elected, a general get promoted to a even higher rank and made some people millionaires. My life, however, was a complete waste I am embarrassed to say,

When I truly became reborn, my life changed. I fell in love with children. I feel in love with honesty and truth. I feel in love with my wife, and had two beautiful kids. I fell in love with La Chureca where I serve kids until this day. I became a better friend. I became a true believer \*I kind of don't like the word (Christian), totally overused.

I still go to bed at night, every night, begging God to forgive me for my sins. My thought life, although a lot better, still needs work on. My integrity and moral compass still need adjustments. My vocabulary and sense of humor don't always glorify God. There's still lots of oil in my life that doesn't mix well with God's living water, but day by day, I am in a supernatural process. I really wish the heathen's jokes weren't so funny.

I can say however that my life has been reborn. What used to make me happy and proud embarrasses me. What I used to avoid like the plague \*ie kids\*, I dive into happily. When someone needs help, I LOVE TO HELP THEM. Most of all, I am never alone. I talk to Jesus continuously, and love to help others to have relationship with Him.

I have been born again, born of the wind... who understands it? No one, especially not me, but I have been.

I know I have blown in big time, all most all of the time. But God is doing a work inside of me.

Thank you Jesus.

boo boo

Isaiah 53:5..... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

I think the most beautiful thing about Christianity is that we are really worried for one another. We worry so much for the other person that we hurt when they hurt.

I had a little round band aid on my arm from a blood test the other. day. A little boy came up to me with big eyes saying, 'are you ok? what happened?" He was HORRIFIED that I had a pin prick.

The funny thing is this little boy, living in a garbage dump, had a massive scab on his face. He looked like he was running and fell down face first on the pavement. He was truly concerned for me. I was truly concerned for him.

THAT is Christianity. As Christians, we should not only be concerned for other Christians, but for everyone. We should be willing to be hurt for other's sakes, just s Jesus was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for OUR iniquities. We should feel chastised for the sake of others. BY Jesus' stripes we ARE healed, and by Jesus stripes, we should be healing for others.

We should NOT be in the wounding, bruising, chastising business. . We should be in the healing business. Our LORD is!

BRUJO

'a hungry belly has no ears'.

. It's tough business, feeding hungry children. They get riled up really fast, because that is their defense mechanism. You have to have nerves of steel and the patience of JOB to deal with them. Only God and His love can equip you.

}. There are days that are truly worse than other days. The good days make up for all of it. 3 decades, very few results, does not make for good missionary write ups, but again, in my search for truth and honesty, that's the way it is. The especially worse circumstances are often used by God for the best memories.

One of my most memorable friends down here was BRUJO. Witch in spanish. He would run after us, throwing rocks and cursing, sometimes naked, always BLACK with filth. He was violent. He hurt people. He was in general just hard to be around. |

I used to play the Bible over loud speakers as I drove around. That's illegal now. Any way, I kept hearing about Rogelio getting saved. Rogelio, preach, Rogelio with a family. Big deal. Turns out Rogelio was BRUJO... He said one day, listening to my Bible Reading LoudSpeaker, he listened to the words, the Book of Matthew, and accepted the Lord.

He is a changed man. To this day. THAT is the reason Winnie and I do what we do.

The Word does NOT come back void.

DON'T!

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

I have the best pastors in my life right now. HAVE THE PERFECT TEAM both stateside and in Nicaragua.

I work serve 200 of the best children in the WORLD.

OUR SUPPORTERS ARE THE BEST. MY BOSS IN MY SECULAR JOB IS ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS AND A GREAT MAN OF GOD.

I AM SO HAPPY WITH EVERYTHING, especially the kids.

IF YOU ARE NOT DELIGHTED TO HELP OTHERS,, DON'T!

For every grouch out there, there are 1000 cheerful givers.

I LOVE YOU~! I EVEN LOVE THE GROUCHES

Thank GOD for everyone of you.

Unsubscribe! Acts 15:39 And there arose such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another.

Christians are like manure. Spread out they are great and cause growth. Piled up on top of each other they are bad and cause stench.

I had a good friend ask me to unsubscribe him from my mailing list. I said, ok, no problemo! love you bro! He was kind of apologetic,, but there was no need. He is in a completely different mode and place than I am. We communicate, we talk. If something is important, or for him, I write. God is good, Live at peace with all men.

There is NO WAY I can read all the newsletter I get, and if I can do so without offending, I ask to be removed. One dear lady writes, and I try to read what she writes, but there is no connection.

We can only do some, and are only called to a specific group. Be a God pleaser and YOU WILL be a man pleaser as well. God wants us to love each other, and to encourage each other. He

also wants us to be honest with one another. Some people bore me, I am sorry to say. What interests them does not interest me.

What interests me does not interest them. Why fake it?

Some people like sports,, I really dislike sports,, except long distance running, cage fighting and surfing. I have had experience in those, so they are interesting to me, no one else though. Nothing bores me more than a sport with a ball involved. If you like to watch 300 lb man run with a 1 lb ball, great! no problemo! I don't. Some people like to talk about their experiences in the Army, I don't. Everyone has their things. We tend to hang with people who are like us. It's a good thing, not a bad thing. Spread out! Grow where you are planted. God is specific, do NOT build upon another man's foundation. It's been done to me, and it isn't a nice thing to do. We need to dig our own foundations, do our own things, and grow from there.

What is important is that we are SUBSCRIBED, TUNED IN, TRACKING or whatever the term is now days to the things that God wants us to do for others.

So fan out guys,, give God the glory. If someone unsubscribes or unfriends you, it isn't personal. God just wants us to spread out!

BOOK!

Philippians 4:3... with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

wow, names written in the Book of Life. What other goal could there be, I just want my name written in the Book of Life.

Books are great. As a matter of fact I am trying to write a book. I am not a big reader though. Reading gives me a massive headache, and nausea when I am traveling. I have always admired avid readers. They do so well in life it seems. I never learned to read very well in the first place. The ONLY book I like reading is the Bible. I used to force myself to read for an hour straight but I started disliking the Bible, so I stopped reading that way.

I find that reading the Bible is best to be done like this new diet I am on for my liver. Little portions, all day long. Like 7 tiny meals. Believe it or not, FACEBOOK and WRITING keep me in the Book of the Bible.



I have a smart phone, and this country, I am always in a line, or on hold. So I am on facebook, and most of my friends are Christians, so there's a lot of stuff taken out of the Good Book. I check out things I see on FB . If it is not in context, it is pretext. The Bereans did it, they checked the scriptures to see if these things were so. Amazing how many things 'God says' on FaceBook, that He never says in His Biography BOOK, the Bible. God says beware of the people who say 'thus sayeth the Lord, when He hadn't said anything'.

My writing keeps me in the Bible because I want my writing to be as factual, and Biblical as possible. Nothing bothers me more than someone who says something is in the Bible, and then find out it isn't so, or it is twisted.

The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible. THE BOOK OF THE BIBLE IS A GUIDELINE to get your name into the BOOK OF LIFE. \YOU APPLY THIS BOOK TO YOUR LIFE WHILE YOU ARE STILL ALIVE! I am always sad to see actors memorizing books that have no meaning, just to get a temporary job. IF they memorized AND applied the teaching of the BOOK of Bible to their lives they would have an ETERNAL JOB, in heaven, by having their names written in the BOOK OF LIFE.

Books started out by being just factual records. IF I have to read, my favorite books are still books based on true stories. I can't see the purpose of a book that isn't about something that is true. Biographies, for example are my favorite type of book, other than the Bible. Like I said earlier, the Bible IS a Biography. It is a Book about God.

That being said, I LOVE STORIES. Although reading is difficult to me, I love hearing a person's story, or watching a biography or documentary about someone. Whether we are a bum in the street or a rich and famous person, they ALL have a story to tell. The BIBLE refers to us Christians as READ LETTERS. Letters that are read, or BOOKS that are read. The BOOK of the Bible calls US BOOKS THAT ARE READ. It sounds kind of like RED LETTERS, which is in some of the Bible Books that they sell at Christian book stores. Red letters in a Bible is a way of showing the words that actually came out of our Saviour's mouth.

AS RED LETTERS, oh, I mean READ BOOKS, we need to demonstrate the BOOK with our lives. It is such joy to teach the book to others.

Contradictions

John 4:28 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men,  
29"Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it.

A 5 time loser, divorcee, Samaritan (Not Israeli) woman was the first evangelist in the Bible.  
Sent from Jesus to preach to the MEN in her village.

Pretty interesting seeing how that kind of is contradictory of what a lot of the Bible infers the following which seems to be in contradiction with the rest of the Bible

1. divorcees shouldn't be preachers
2. women shouldn't teach men
3. we as believers shouldn't talk to people in false sects
4. men shouldn't be alone with ladies
5. inter-nationalism. Samaritans weren't Israelis.

God does things like this to keep us on our knees. He NEVER contradicts Himself. We misunderstand HIM. God wants us to be praying, and to not be so rigid in so many ways. People love to argue. People think they are right, and everyone else is wrong. THEY LOVE THEIR SET RULES. Life has continuously changing dynamics. God wants us to LOVE Him, with all our hearts, souls and minds, and to LOVE our neighbor as ourselves. I very rarely ask people anymore what I should do, because I will get a different answer from everyone you ask. I love their opinions, but the actual WHAT DO I DO? part is for God. The answer will prayer, scripture and praise. We will praise Him when He gives us the answer.

Jesus said, if WE don't praise Him, the ROCKS will cry out. Where in the Bible does it say that rocks should praise Him. It doesn't! Except right there! They \*the religious\* said that Jesus broke the 10 commandments \*He NEVER sinned\* but they said He didn't Honor the Sabbath. He healed people, He gave his men food \*harvested by hand\* etc. Jesus (God) said that God created the Sabbath for man, not man for the Sabbath. It applies in a lot of other ways that you will only see AS YOU TRY TO REALLY WALK OUT THE CHRISTIAN WALK. We get so caught up in the small thing that we STRAIN AT A GNAT. Do you know the reference of that? Jewish people weren't supposed to eat things with blood in them. So when they accidentally swallowed a bug, they would make a HUGE public display of puking so that everyone knew that they were staying kosher.

These are not contradictions. These are illustrations of how God is bigger than our conceptions of what He wants. He wants us to give, and to love. He wants us to strive to help others, even if it doesn't look good or appropriate. People will be upset with you, but God wants you to be out there, on a limb. That is where the Christian life is to be lived.

One thing that comes to mind is the talents. Remember? They were given to the servants when the master of the house went away. One guy, the one that had been given the one talent, buried it because he was afraid. The rest invested the talents that they got. You can obey every jot and tittle of the law and still displease God. Some monks do that. They hide away sometimes, in perfect surroundings so they can stay in prayer, and be perfect. I would love to do something like that, but I know it is not what God wants for me in this Christian life. Maybe it's good for them, but not for me. It would be sin if I did that. It reminds me of the guy that had 1 talent and buried it, out of fear. If I lived tucked away, I would be doing the same thing. GOD liked the guys that risked it all, to gain even MORE for the master. The fearful guy said, I know how you are, and I was scared. The ROI guys were so excited about what they did, that they 'forgot' how strict the master was.

We as Christians don't want to sin. We do need to do stuff that doesn't look good though at times. Stuff happens. If it doesn't happen, if there are no contradictions in your life, and in your walk as a Christian, there is something wrong with your walk, and with your life, as a Christian.

A catholic priest and I worked on the same small island in Panama. We were assigned to the same prison, at the same hours every week. I think the guards kind of wanted to see 'preacher wars' or something. He was assigned to work with the same 50 indigenous that I worked with, lived on the island as well. Many times we left at the same time in the morning, so we jogged to the village together. The island folk did not understand at all. No problem, we made it work. A little inconvenient, but it worked. It was actually fun. The priest even let me bring missionary teams that were visiting me into his catholic church to share with the youth group. \*WE BOTH GOT INTO BIG TROUBLE FOR THAT ONE\*. He would do his thing, I would do mine. I once had an older missionary come from another little island, shaking with fury and righteous indignation. He called me so many names, without swearing, that I was kind of impressed. IMHO I think he made a complete fool of himself, but maybe I deserved it. Maybe he was right, I would be the first to admit it if I thought he was, but, nope, don't think so. I could only do what I felt that God was guiding me to do. We lived on a very small island together. There was no way around seeing this catholic priest. The island had a lot of animism, and seeped in vudu. Very few christians with any kind of testimony to speak of. The priest was nice, funny, loved God, and was living a pretty righteous life. He had me beat hands down. Plus he talked almost always

about Jesus, not the saints nor rituals, just about the Bible, the Lord and heaven etc. We were good friends for years, until the Father was returned to Spain.

In Nicaragua I was driving once in the middle of the night. All of a sudden I saw like 10 white shirts up ahead. It was so dark and rainy that that was all I could see. So I pulled up, and there was this group of mormon guys, lost in the boondocks some how. They were really young, and it was a pretty dangerous area. So I loaded them up in my church vehicle and took them to my church until they could get their bearings. MAN you should have seen all the smiles turn into frowns from a visiting gringo team when they saw 10 white shirts and black name tags came pouring out of my vehicle.

Once Winnie and I kidnapped a bunch of children prostitutes from the Managua airport. A coyote was taking them north, and they were laid over in Managua. We met them in the airport, they asked me for help, so we herded them up like cattle. They only spoke dialect, no spanish even. Fortunately on the island, they spoke a similar dialect so I could kind of understand them, and they could understand me, kind of. All 20 of these 12 and 13 year old prostitutes followed Winnie and I out of the airport and into our car, the coyotes running behind them, threatening them and us in spanish. We drove them to our home, and when I had them piling out of the van, another gringo team was there. Again, smiles turned to frowns. So we had the coyotes mad at us. Their bosses threatening our lives. The church mad at us. Jesus wasn't mad at us though. Neither were the children caught up in trato blanco \*white slavery\*.

YOU WILL TAKE HEAT for just being nice to people who you meet on this contradictory road called the CHRISTIAN WALK.

Here's a verse you won't see stuck to refrigerators John 16:33 In this world you will have tribulation, but take courage I have conquered the world. Jesus

I am trying to write a book or a devotional... stuff I had learned from the mission field, and life as a born again believer. I am mainly just journaling in hopes that my son and daughter will read it some day. Also that I might help someone struggling with their faith, or have been hurt by churches etc. It is easier for me to write than to talk... believe it or not So here is my story. It all began when I was in my 40's. I will use examples from my early years, but only anecdotes. So here it is, The true, the ugly and the beautiful.

The more I write the more the Lord gives me to write. Instead of LONG UGLY DIATRIBES that I come up with if I use too many words, I would rather just send out short 1 page quips.

IF you don't mind, I would like to send you something daily... not a pure heart pitch, but the latest thing on my heart, based on my devotions, and daily walk. NO OLD MATERIAL, I promise.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR IT, I understand. Please tell me and I will take you off the list. I will not be sad, I will understand totally.. If not, I'll assume that you're just not reading thing, or like them.

I like the idea of a large impartial crowd telling me what they like or don't like. My close friends are too soft on me. I like harsh criticism! Direct correction, criticism and likes/dislikes are greatly appreciated!

here's the first one, of many unfortunately.

## LOGIC

So, in Matthew 21:25 the religious came to Jesus asking Him about His authority. Jesus answered a question with a question (LOGICAL people HAVE a hard time with THAT) Jesus' question was, "The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?"

Left Hemisphere people are great. They are the "lefties", the logical ones. They are proud when they solve math problems in their heads. Right hemisphere people are creative. They are the "righties", out of the box thinkers. I am a right hemisphere kind of guy. I have never solved any problem whatsoever with my mind.

Left Hemispheres make GREAT theologians. They have the ability to write and deliver mind boggling truths from the Gospels with true unfeigned love. To live OUT the Gospel in real life, 24/7/365. Lefties are gentle and kind, but lack the ability to show real love to people. It's just not in their DNA. IF you break through their ice, they can be good friends with a right

hemisphere guy, but the LEFTIES probably will drive the RIGHTIES right out of their minds. Logical people are needed. Take for instance this computer I am working on was invented, designed and manufactured by logical people. Linguists are logical people, the people who designed the English language for example. The software language is created by the logical. The electricity, internet, infrastructure AND the people who taught us to use this stuff are logical people. Lefties, or logical people keep car dealerships afloat, send out missionaries, build things, create things, and form our society. They manage because they can give attention to details, accurate reports. They decipher these reports as well, keep paperwork neat and orderly. They are in shape, control their appetite, are disciplined, grammatical geniuses, spelling quiz champs and math campers! They are the future leaders of this world. We as RIGHTIES can love and accept them. Just don't try to change them, it could get really ugly, really fast.

THEN you have your creatives \*as opposed to logical people\*.. RIGHTIES As I see them. Missionaries, salesmen, writers, musicians, idea guys, idealists, evangelists, actors, authors, pioneers are ALL typically in the "Righties" categories.

There are also, the "golden brainers", geeks who can actually sell. A prime example of this is an accountant who is a people person. Now mind you, these are rare but amazing people.

LEFTIES AND RIGHTIES CAN BE FRIENDS. They can LOVE EACH OTHER, however they rarely MIX AT WORK.

Let's use salesmen as a perfect example for a RIGHTIE. To manage a salesman, you should be an salesman yourself. A great sales manager will tell you to let salesmen freely sell without all that soul-sucking nagging and paperwork that LEFTIES LOVE. A good salesman will blow your mind with what they can accomplish if you put blinders on them and let them focus on the job at hand.

Missionaries, evangelists, whatever. These are creative people. Paper work, lengthy explanations etc are minutiae made by the logical people "FOR the LEFTIES". IF you ask a "RIGHTY" to keep track, to be neat and orderly, oh, AND be perfect with paperwork you are asking for a massive melt down. You in effect trying to make a salesman logical. YOU ARE TRYING TO TURN A RIGHTY INTO A LEFTIE. YOU CAN NOT MIX OIL WITH WATER JESUS SAID. You kill his buzz, and you will be lucky to get 10% out of him or her in terms of effectiveness as when you just let him or her go and do what they do. Many times they will stop LOVING what they are doing, and will STOP working for free. Give a logical person a pay raise to clean up the paperwork after a good salesman, it's a worthwhile investment.

Go to any sales organization, and ask the accountants what they think about the salesmen. They will say there are good ones and bad ones. The ones they like don't sell. The ones they HATE sell a lot. The Bible says, "where there is a clean stall, there are no work horses". A clean desk is a sign of a 'weak salesman'. So, that being said, this is the classic example of how the brain works in the right hemisphere or left hemisphere.

Salesmen are not logical. That's why they sell. Who in their right minds would like to go to work every day, without a CLUE about how much they are going to make. YET business owners love and depend on their accountants, and make them sales managers. IT'S VERY UGLY WHEN AN ACCOUNTANT IS ANY WHERE NEAR SALES. ACCOUNTANTS ACCOUNT. SALESMEN SELL.

Missionaries are not logical. What type of a logical person would move his wife and children to a country where they are not liked nor welcome? Those LEFTIES FORCE THEMSELVES to live on the mission field in terror and work endlessly conveying the love of Christ. They are a horrible investment in the Kingdom of God. It is better for them to run the things from the states, or raise funds, or something, They are useful to God, but the logical thing is to let the people work where they are comfortable and happy. The LOGIC of the Gospel is that there are MANY ways to serve the King of Kings.

I used to be a good car salesman. Not bragging but I averaged around 30+ cars a month, without waiting on customers. I sent everyone I ever talked to sloppily written postcards every month. When asked why so sloppy, my answer was easy. I bang out 10 or 20 standing in every line, sitting in traffic or waiting for a customer to come back from a test drive. I can keep up with the thousand or so post cards I send out every month. If I spent the time writing a perfect postcard, I might get out 10 post cards a month. Pure Math. Quantity or Quality. The fact was, I remembered people, and cared enough about them to write. I did it often so there was always something from me cluttering up their house. So when it was time to buy a car or truck, they could find something from me recently sent, I would be in their mind, and they knew I actually cared about them, because I DID! The ones that objected to my sloppiness usually were LEFTIES. LEFTIES never buy out of loyalty, so they were not even a part of the equation.

I was top salesman at a large dealership 39 months straight. MADE A TON OF MONEY, worked normal hours. My bosses loved me. They protected me from the accountants. IT WAS HEAVEN. THEN I was DEMOTED to sales manager. Half the pay, twice the hours, and paperwork up the ying yang. Worse yet, I had to protect MY SALESMEN from the LEFTIES in the accounting office. Then to add insult to injury, they took my postcard system and hired a

company to mass mail nice little ICE COLD generic cards, monthly, but it had 0 effect. Sales plummeted and I was miserable. I was a RIGHTIE trapped in the LEFTIE world.

I went back on the floor and within the first month on the floor I sold 61 cars, averaging 2 a day. The first day of the following month, I quit selling cars. I had absolutely LOST my love for the car business. My only regret was I was making people that I loved very much, a LOT of money. I feel bad. I wish I could have continued to help them on that path. They are still my good friends, and I love them and miss them, but the thrill is gone. I learned a lot from that in retrospect. Actually making me hate the car business was the best thing that anyone could have done for me.

RIGHTIES out there, like I said are salesmen, missionaries, evangelists, musicians, writers, idealists, thinkers, artists, actors, etc. BE A GREAT MISSIONARY SALESMAN. WIN SOULS, IMPACT LIVES.

LEFTIES out there, keep doing what you do out of LOVE for you companies and for the Lord.

IN THE BUSINESS WORLD , PAY SOMEONE LOGICAL TO HANDLE THE MINUTIAE.

IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD, PRAY FOR SOMEONE LOGICAL TO HANDLE THE MINUTIAE

question

John 18:34

Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?"

Jesus never asked a question that HE didn't know the answer to already. We will ALL have to give an account for every word that we have ever muttered. Jesus knows every conversation, good and bad. He knew what Pilot had been told, and who told him. Jesus is Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Eternal.

He knew, but He wanted feedback. Jesus wanted feedback to help Pilot. He knew the answer, but wanted Pilot to answer, to show Pilot where Pilot's heart was at.



I am not the same. I don't have a clue who says what about me. I have had ideas of what people thought about me. I have guess, but am ALWAYS WRONG. Sometimes God shows me, to help me out of a BAD situation, but very infrequently. I am usually dismayed, flabberghasted better put, when I finally found out what people REALLY think of me, and say about me.

That's why I LOVE feedback, positive AND negative. I like to keep from getting disappointed, and I love to improve. The main motivation for me is to improve. I like to hear about what other think about my writings, about my thoughts, about my actions. I am thrilled to see the amount of feed back on my writing. That's why I post so much, so I can see if I am moving in the right direction.

God likes a teachable spirit. God uses the word Hard Necked to describe someone who irritates Him. I don't want to irritate God, so I would rather irritate man by constantly asking for feedback than to ASSUME I am doing it right. I spent almost 50 years thinking I was RIGHT. I praise God that He used real friends to show me how much I had to go.

think

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he

People for years have been leery of positive mental attitude or thought teachers. Lately it has become a hard science. It is researched and tried and proven. It is not the new age fantasy stuff that people thought it was 40 years ago. NLP \*neuro-linguistic-programming\* is a proven scientific reality.

Solomon, wrote about it in proverbs over 4000 years ago. As the old saying goes, if it is new, it isn't true. If it is true, it isn't new.

NLP is explained this way. If you repeat something over and over again in your mind, it is like a record needle in an old LP record. As you play the same thing over and over again, it digs a groove. OR you could say it digs a rut. As you know, ruts are hard to get out of. The longer you are there, the deeper the rut, and the HARDER it is to get out.

The more senses you involve in your thinking, the faster and deeper the groove is cut. Verbal, audio, visual, any senses that are involved as you are playing the same think over and over increases the cutting power.

Abused children, P.O.W.'s, battered wives and many other unfortunate souls are living proof that NLP works. Fathers repeatedly telling their kids that they are worthless, captors brain washing prisoners, wives being told they are ugly all have these ruts created in their thought processes. It begins to be their TRUTH. They are worthless, they are brainwashed, they are ugly.

That is the reason that Solomon says Life and death is in the tongue \*Proverbs 18:21\*

The Bible uses such words as meditate, ponder, dwell on the truths written in Bible. Thinking in your heart, repeatedly, saying it, meditating on it, will change your reality as you perceive it. You are digging a rut. It is either a good rut to be in, or a bad rut to be in. IF you think, say, listen to, read, pray about positive things, and are around a lot of people talking positive, loving the Lord, your life will be better.. Heck, you might even be able to get off your meds some day!

That being said,, START thinking in your heart right things. Pastor Howard Davies told me once that he never lets a negative thought enter his mind. I believe it. The guy is one happy dude!

So, are you in a rut? Are you unhappy with your life? Depressed? Dubious? Disappointed?

Here's the key, Change your thinking! Right now! I am going to do it, and I challenge you to do it as well. From here on out no more STINKIN THINKIN!

Look at Alexander in the video below. He's the little guy in the tank top, walking around making sure everyone is singing! He's only 6, but HE IS A MASTER OF CONTROLLING HIS THINKING.

Alexander lives in a sweltering garbage dump, with an unspeakable home life, in a third world country.

If HE can change his thought-life, WE should be able to as well.

Phillipians 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 Timothy 2:3

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus

To be a soldier means you have to be in conflict with someone. Even peace time soldiers exist only because of the possibility of war. They endure lots of trials trying to prepare them for the horrors of war. The only people that can train soldiers, and that can lead soldiers, are other soldiers.

The only adequate way to prepare you to become a soldier is to actually be one. Military schools don't make you a soldier, they make you a trainee. Not even in boot camp are you a soldier. You are only a soldier when you are actually a soldier. Training and schools mainly weed out the weaklings.

I used to resist songs like 'onward Christian soldier' because of the militancy of the word 'soldier'. The little I can remember about being a soldier doesn't bring very good memories, except of course the other soldiers! They were a blast, but actually 'soldiering' wasn't. There was something about 'enduring hardships' that bring people closer together. Being a soldier to me means enduring hardships, as Paul said.

There is one big difference between being a soldier in the Lord's Army and a soldier in the US Army. Lots of time as a soldier in the US Army is boring. The only way you know you are a soldier is because of a uniform. 3 years of boredom spotted with 3 seconds of unadulterated terror. MOST of the time, you are just existing. As a true soldier in the the Lord's Army you are NEVER bored. We are soldiers because we are at war with the powers of darkness. (NOT PEOPLE WHO AREN'T CHRISTIANS) We are trying to help people to escape the flames of death. We are trying to introduce them to the Tree of Life, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

True soldiers endure suffering in both armies. In the Lord's Army though, although we have to endure many things, it isn't so difficult. It's a delight actually, even the suffering. One of the sufferings that you do not have to endure as soldier in the Lord's army is boredom. It is impossible to be bored. When you think of yourself, or your children, or anyone you are in contact with, the first thing you should be praying about is that no one misses the mark! That no one falls short of the glory that awaits us. That alone is a full time job, that is never boring. More, it's a time of motivation to get on your knees, to wake you up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat. I panic even if it looks like someone you know is rejecting Christ. Some do, right up til the end, and there is nothing you can do about it but fight. You need tact, you need wisdom, but mostly you need to be in prayer to be guided.

Serving in the Lord's Army I think is the only way to live, because you are living it for others. To be in the Lord's army all you have to do is die to yourself, and to let Christ live through

Onward Christian Soldier!

Here is me walking the kids to church, singing the 'we are soldiers for Jesus' song.

## POSITIONS

Revelations 4:9-11 NIV 9And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, 10the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

Being a newly commissioned officer in the Army was AWKWARD! It was embarrassing to be saluted, like being put up on a pedestal. It was soon to be discovered that it wasn't be person being saluted but the shiny new butter bars instead.

Ever since then, positions or titles had little meaning. Those things don't bring worth to a man.

A pastor friend of mine and his small congregation wanted to give an old saint a surprise 80th birthday party. So they snuck up to his tin shack on a central american mountain top about a half an hour before the brother was due home and waited.

Waiting for the surprise, hidden in the shadows, they heard him getting near. They tried to suppress their giggles. This elderly gentleman, by all human standards, was a failure. He was poor. He was a laborer, a farmer. He worked on coffee plantations. On top of this, he was dying of cancer, alone. He still walked miles to and from a very physically demanding job, every day. His income was a pittance 1-2 dollars a day working the coffee fields. Subsistence pay they call it down here. Work a day, make enough to buy rice and beans. Take a day off, don't eat.

As the elder got closer, the congregants could hear his heavy breathing and mumbling as he got closer. The last stretch was straight up a sharp incline. They could hear him cry out in pain with every step, followed by his deep coarse voice saying, 'GLORY TO GOD!' Another step, another cry of pain followed by the same voice saying, 'I LOVE YOU SO MUCH JESUS!' By the time the old man reached his shack, my friend and the other brothers were all quietly weeping cause they heard how much the old man suffered and how much he loved Jesus. HE HELD THE HIGHEST POSITION OF US ALL. HE LIVED AT THE LORD'S FEET.

Loving Jesus when no one is looking is the HIGHEST POSITION OUT THERE. Bowed at the feet of our LORD AND SAVIOUR is the HIGHEST GROUND POSSIBLE.

## FRUITS

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits

Selling cars and soldiering are similar in many ways. Mostly you learn to how to read people, FAST! You know in your gut who is good and who isn't. Your financial life and even your physical life can depend on it. You see if they are good fruit or bad fruit, and then you will know what their fruits will be. Some lead to death. Some fruits lead to life. Let's focus on the later.

There was a part time high school girl working the switchboard of a small city dealership. She was unassuming, hard working and had a great sense of humor. You could see by her good upbringing that she was good fruit. Because of that, she was producing good fruits herself. Good fruit produces good fruits. I had the honor to watch her grow from a part timer to owning

dealerships. She is now Vice President of one of the largest automotive groups on the east coast. All advancements were in an honorable and above board manner. I am an eye witness. She trail blazed her own career with brilliant success in a predominantly male industry. As a bonus, everyone who stuck with her grew as well. Good fruit duplicates good fruits.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. If you want to produce good fruits, you will follow people producing good fruits.. How do you know who they are? By being a 'GOOD FRUITS INSPECTOR' If you continue in the Bible you will read in Galatians 5:22-23 says 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law....

In the spiritual life as well, you can see if someone is a good fruit producer or bad fruit producer. Use the Galatians 5:22-23 fruit inspector guide. The spiritual life and the physical aren't as far apart as you think. Same product, just different terms of contract. One is temporary. The other is eternal. We inspect fruit in the people we permit to lead us. It has nothing to do with who we are led to talk to. We talk to everyone, we follow VERY FEW! Jesus has the best fruits of all.

A parting thought.

The fruits you produce is a matter of who you are, not what you do. For example, if you have an apple tree in the back. In the middle of a summer night, take a turned off flashlight and tip toe right up to the apple tree. When you are right there, TURN ON THE FLASH LIGHT really fast. I guarantee you will never see it grunting and groaning apple tree trying to pop out oranges. Nor will you even see it TRYING to produce apples. It will just be there, producing what it produces at the time it produces it. It's natural, not forced. If your fruits are from God, they will be the same way.

## DISCIPLES

Luke 11 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Dean Jr. always calls me a giving addict, because he sees people coming at all hours of the day and night looking for handouts. They come because after praying, I usually give.

Winnie Joy asked me today what my greatest wish was. I said "I wish I could just walk into a hospital and lay my hands on everyone Jesus and they all would be healed" . She said, 'Daddy, you are such a giving addict!'"

Winnie Joy is a disciple of Deannie Jr. That's why she calls me 'giving addict'. She is my disciple, so she wants to know what my wish is. BTW my disciple Winnie Joy is a giving addict too.

I believe to be a true disciple you need... 1. Discipline 2. Curiosity 3. Teachability 4. Conviction. As long as one has those four qualities, they are disciples.

A true Christian is a disciple of Jesus. To be a disciple of Christ the first thing you have to do is to know that He is really there. You have to be convinced that Jesus is Alive and with you before you can even start. In Matthew 28:20 He said 'lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'

If you aren't convinced that He is here, ask Him to give you His faith. Hebrews 12:2 'Jesus the author and finisher of our faith!' It's His, ask Him for it. Jesus will be with you in spirit and in body.

Where is Jesus' body? Here! Me, among many others. We are the body of Christ, in the here and now. The 'church' without walls. He is here spiritually as well.

You have established Jesus is here, and is discipling us. Now, how does Christ teach us? Does a disciple of Christ actually hear Jesus in an audible voice? Nope! You hear Christ's voice through reading the Bible, His Holy Spirit and by talking to Him spiritually \*prayer\* and to His body \*us\* It's called a multitude of counsel Proverbs 15:22

How do you know He is teaching you? The word we use is confirmation. It will be confirmed to you in a lot of ways. Multitudes of people will be telling you the same thing that you feel that Jesus is already telling you. You will hear it on the radio, by reading, by preachers, even through secular sources sometimes.

It is always good to be teachable. It is critical to be a true disciple. It is good to ask for critiques \*good and bad\* spiritually to God through prayer, and verbally (to the body) about our communications, walk and lifestyle.

A true Christian wants to be more like Christ. A true Christian will be humble enough to receive sharp criticism. We want to be His true disciples. We want to know Him. His body will help us with that, if you let it.

We as disciples of Christ have to have a teachable spirit. We need to be convinced that He is Real and that He is here. We have to be curious about Him, to wonder about Him. We need to be disciplined because it is not a very convenient or comfortable calling.

Oh, and the most important thing. GO AND MAKE OTHER DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

BUSY

Luke 5:16 "Jesus" .. withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

YUP! Jesus needed alone time. Meditating on God's Word, Listening to His Holy Spirit, praising and pleading. Jesus, God in human form, had to. He was busy. He needed time alone to talk to Dad. It is said that busier you are, the more you need to pray.

PureHeartChildren'sFund deals with around 200 kids a day. We also help their families and other nicaraguan ministries. Half of the PureHeartChildren's Fund's expenses are paid for by my 40 hour a week secular job. Still, We are no where near as busy as Jesus is, but we are busy too. We need to get alone with Dad too, although we don't as much as we should. Jesus saw it as very important to get alone with His heavenly Father. So much so, that He lost sleep about it, literally. So when everyone was sleeping, He prayed. He didn't pray so much when people were around Him. That was when He went into action.

I need to do that, more. There are always interruptions, I need it and I miss it. When I don't spend time alone and praying I am even busier with the minutiae than ever. When I am praying, I am with my best friend. Literally time stops, and I can pour my heart out endlessly. I look at my watch after what seems to have been hours, and maybe 5 minutes have passed. The best cure for business is prayer. The busier we are, the more we need to pray. Extremely busy? Pray, don't complain.



When someone tells someone they are busy, or are 'slammed', relationships change. Everyone's busy. It's the 'curse' of this generation. No matter how busy we are, we have time to kiss our child's boo boo. We have time to party \*secular word for bars, religious word is church activities\*. An hour a day at least to go the gym. OH, and 4 hours a day on FB/internet. We have time to eat and sleep. We even time to watch TV for a couple hours, watching 300 lb grown men running with a ball. BUSY is the new 'NO!' No time, no discipline, no humor, no love.

The greater the man, the less busy they seem to be. It's because they meditate, in one way or another. The best way to meditate for me is on God's Word, the Bible. The hebrew word for meditate means indirectly to 'chew on', ergo the term, 'let me chew on it'. Mary pondered things in her heart. David meditated on the Word of God. Literally speaking, he was saying it out loud, kind of like chewing it.

Psalms 119 says Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

anxious

Anxious, Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Amazing how damaging sin is. Paul told us through God's Holy Spirit to be anxious for nothing. When you do something that God tells you not to do, it's sin. When I sin by being anxious, I feel it from my head to my toes. It is not good.

This severance pay suit thing has me really anxious. Money IN the house, by opening of business tomorrow, or EMBARGO starts. Once it starts, it never really stops. 1st what you have to pay is automatically doubled. 2nd. What they think is worth nothing actually cost more. 3rd. Once you are EMBARGOED you are in the limelights for the rest of the time you are here. Up til now, our relationships with the sandinista government have been perfect. THIS could ruin that relationship..

Here is how being anxious damages.

1. When someone is anxious they are furious. With everyone and everything. NOT a fruit of the Spirit. Not a good witness. Fury is unhealthy, and down here, being furious can get you put in jail FAST. Being furious can get the snot beat out of you as well.

anxious=furious=physical damage to self

2. When someone is anxious they develop resentment towards the thing that caused them anxiety. Resentment causes heart attacks, cancers, diabetes and mental illness. All of which are potentially fatal.

anxious=resentment=death

I pray that you are anxious for nothing. Pray for my anxiety. God is in control. Trust Him and pray that I trust Him more as well.

work = force X distance

2 thess. 3:10 'if any would not work, neither should he eat'

I have heard so many takes on this verse. Some were good ideas, reflecting developed thought. Other were just drivel. Although this is specifically talking about work within the early Christian community \*yes early Christians were commies\*.

There are many types of works. Not just moving stuff with force over a distance. \*the newtonian physic definition of work\*

Personally, I don't know anyone that doesn't work. We all work. LIFE is work. It's a struggle. Bag ladies walk an average of 15 miles a day, pushing junk filled shopping carts that average 150 lbs. THAT is work! . Even being a welfare mom is work when you think about it.

Let's talk about my particular 'work' in progress right now, 'Gleanings From the Dump'. It is is not a theological writing. It isn't even decided what it is going to be. I don't even know IF it is going to be. The purpose of writing now is to get it out there, on paper, and look at it. I do know that I am writing it to people struggling with their faith. It will be as accurate as possible, but the objective is to give people the curiosity to dig, to work to have a personal relationship with God. It isn't about doctrine nor dogma. Someone once had a Bible study for unbelievers. What a great idea! That is kind of where I want to take this work.

Today, as I was rounding up kids for the Winner Club, I got dragged into a wake. An old lady living in a shack, just lost her 30 year old 'baby boy'. She asked me to pray for her and her deceased son. I took her by the hand and said, 'God, help this lady, YOU know what it's like to loose your Son' and suddenly I broke down crying. No show, just the real thing. WOW! I didn't see that one coming! God did though. I was embarrassed. Even the old lady was. She started rapidly patting my hand to calm me down.

My work I thought at that moment was to move my 240 lb body with great force for the distance of the 10 klicks or so through the woods to pick up kids for church. God had a little side job for me. Jesus said to weep with the those who are in mourning. His ways are higher than ours.

This is a compilation of those moments at Pure Heart Children's Fund. When something is heard or read during the course of a day I ponder it. We help over 100 kids a day 6 days a week. On top of my full time job, and everything that goes with it, I put in well over 80 hours a week. When I can get out of the heat, I write. It calms me down. I pray a lot when I write.

At the end of a very difficult day, working is the last thing I want to do. Recording the day in writing is not work. It's healing. It's like taking off your muddy work boots before you lie down. What I write is just the residue that is stuck to the bottom of my shoe.

Anointing

Exodus 31:1-6

## THE CRAFTSMEN

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

Christians call the anointing what is described above. God filling you with His Spirit to accomplish His will for you on earth.

The anointing of God isn't as mysterious as television evangelists make it out to be. God wants each of us to be good at something. When I first became a Christian, the first thing I did was pick up a guitar and start singing. A lot of new believers want to be praise and worship leaders for some reason. Problem is, not a lot of us are any good at it. One of the good things my pastor did for me was to tell me to stop! Singing clearly was NOT my anointing.

My anointing is not as a teachers or as theologian. What I write is ONLY my observations. Please do not take me as a spiritual authority. My anointing is networking. I am good at connecting people to other people. I LOVE doing it because I am good at it. Winnie's anointing is working with children. She walked into Verbo Church when she was 8, in the middle of the

war, believed what the Sunday school teacher said, and got saved. She has been walking it out ever since. God has annointed her in her work with children.

I believe that God annoints all of us. What we do with that annointing is another thing. That has to do with our salvation and our relationship with Him. People are annointed to be leaders, successful businessmen, musicians, carpenters, some preachers \*NOT ALL\*, teachers, nurses, doctors, plumbers, mechanics etc

How do you know you are annointed to be, for example, a leader? Spin around real fast, if people are following you you are a leader. If you have not one following you, you are not. Has God has filled you with His Spirit to be a businessman, so you can bless ministries with financial support? IF you are in debt, and hate your job, you are NOT annointed by God to be a business man. Whatever you are annointed to, you are GREAT AT.

Here's the catch. Just because God has filled you with His Spirit, doesn't mean that you are saved nor that you have to acknowledge Him. God has given us that responsibility. If you are talented with quick hands and reflexes, maybe God wants ed you to be a great pianist. When you get accolades, you give God the glory to that ONE person who HE is trying to reach. Or you use those hands to be a drummer in a heavy metal band, MAYBE He wants you there, to be light in the darkness.

What you do with the annointing that God has given you is up to you. The choice is yours to give God the glory, and to use your gifts for Him or not. That decision will tell you about the condition of the soul. If you give all the glory to Jesus for giving you a gift, and if you use it for HIS glory, that's great.

IF you don't want to give God the glory due Him, and don't use it for His glory, you probably are in big trouble.

## Authority

### 2 Corinthian 10:8

...our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction,

Authority is given. Gifts are not to be abused. Gifts should not be presumed. God gave us the gift of authority. Over our own lives, our kids and over the power of darkness. We should be happy to have this authority. Authority is from God, and is designed for building ourselves up, and other people. It is not for destroying them. God, Man and institutions can give authority to people. Any gift of authority could be abused. Spiritually, politically, or legally, we can abuse our authority to hurt others. Or we can use authority to bless others.

Today Winnie missed a key flight because a lady from immigration refused to read the passport Winnie had in her hand. Not a minute, but for 2 hours. The passport said 'temporary' but the immigration lady was convinced it was not a passport. US Embassy issued USA passport, and the lady from immigration \*the one with the authority\* choose not to respect the authority of the United States Embassy Managua. The immigration lady had the authority to help Winnie, to read the passport and let her catch her connecting flight.. Winnie said after a while of standing there, 'Just read the passport please'. The Immigration lady said 'I am not going to read anything, and you can not make me. This is not a passport'.

Winnie did not have any authority in this situation. The immigration lady had the authority. She choose to abuse her authority because she didn't like Winnie's skin color, or because she hadn't had any coffee yet \*it was 5 am\*. The immigration 'authority' dragged her feet to show she had authority and to hurt my wife and child. She intentionally made sure that the Winnies missed their flight, simply because she could. She was given the authority to do so. She chose to use her authority to destroy WINNIES' time off with Dean Jr. Satan used his servant to destroy the plans of God. It NEVER works though.

WINNIES are good though. When referring to my wife, Winnie Sr and my daughter Winnie Jr, I call them WINNIES\* The authority of the immigration 'officer' was used to damage a blessing from God. WINNIES are STILL stuck in an airport., 13 hours later. They have been on the road going on 24 hours, without sleep. They probably will spend another sleepless night in Ft. Lauderdale airport. Bad news right? WRONG! Winnies are having a blast. Winnies calls me every now and then, laughing and enjoying \*maybe sleep deprived, going on 48 hours without sleep\*. Although the enemy used his minion to destroy, God is using it for His glory. WINNIES are having fun,they are more than conquerers. They have authority over the things that no one else can control.

Winnie has authority over her life and over our daughter. At times people have authority over our circumstances. They CAN affect what happens to you but they can not have any affect over your spirituality. No one can control your mind unless you let them. No one has authority over your thought life, you attitude or your joy. God could have that control, but He has chosen to give us FREE WILL. He wants us to be victorious. He wants us to be LIGHT in the darkness. God has given us spiritual authority over the underworld as well as over ourselves.

Changes

Daniel 2:21

And He changes the times and the seasons.

God changes things, we don't

As you know we are going through some changes at Pure Heart Children's Funds. We are setting up our own 501c3, putting on our BIG BOY PANTS! Woooo Hoooo!

With these changes we are improving for the long run. Hope for children who have no hope. Positive, action oriented people who love God have circled their wagons around Pure Heart and are establishing for the long run.

We are looking at our three phases of PureHeart.

1. Feeding Center. The feeding center feeds 130 kids a day. These children live in Via Guadalupe which is the relocation center for the workers in La Chureca \*Managua's Garbage Dump\*. Immediately, we are just trying to keep children alive. Long term, we are trying to keep their minds and bodies healthy as they learn about Jesus, and just getting along with each other. Also, with healthy minds and bodies, they will be able to decide for themselves and make the correct life choices for the future. Kids lives are being transformed spiritually, mentally and physically.

As Pure Heart grows, we hope to get handful of the really high EQ/IQ kids, and prepare them for successful lives in the business / high tech world. Also to be true Christians.

2. Pure Heart Pre-School. We offer free pre school \*on the governmental accredited level\*. We work with the children, teaching them to love each other, to love God, and to love learning. We also feed the children here. As a barrio outreach, we are ministering to the parents and siblings indirectly as well. Another facet of the Pure Heart School is the Kids' Church \*CLUB WINNER\* on Saturdays, also with meals included.

This is our third nicaraguan school that we have started. First in Jinotepe, then in Calvary Chapel Managua. These two are still flourishing. We would like to grow this school here, by one grade a year, up through high school.

As the children grow with us, we hope to be able to transfer them right into colleges, and lives that are productive and Godly.

3. Benevolence. I always assume that Christians are hospitable, kind, friendly and eager to help. I am astounded when I see one that isn't. People really come here mangled. They come to us hungry, and in need. Naturally lots of scam artists come as well. God gives us discernment, we don't help every Tom Dick and Harry who comes by. We really can not refuse people who really need help. If we do, what is the point of even being here?

Dean Peters

## Self-Talk

103 Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Who was King David talking to? He was talking to himself, his essence, which is his soul.

The Bible is full of Self-Talk. Self-Talk is good, it is not bad, IF you are saying good things, not bad things. Good things are good ONLY if they are GOD things.

I saw a bunch of big fat guys screaming the other day, WE ARE GREAT! I guess that was self-talk too, but the looks on their faces said otherwise. Maybe that type of mentality will make them money, but it will not make them great. Only God is great.

Godly Self-Talk is good, with eternal results. Worldly Self-Talk is worldly, with results that will only last as long as the economy and your physical health holds up. Godly Self-Talk is the only self-talk worth talking about.

IN JUDE 1"19-21

...19These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. 20But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life....

If you are careful to repeat to yourself the things that God tells you through His Word, EVERY THING IS GREAT!

Teaching children self-talk is very important. Especially when the kids you work with are convinced that they are nothing, that they will never be any thing. They see nothing in themselves. We help them by teaching them what God says about them, and teaching them to build themselves up in their holy faith.

How? By teaching them self-talk. It begins with what we say about them. Helping them to believe it. I say 'beautiful' a lot to the little girls. Why? Because I don't want them to go bannanas

over the first clown that calls them beautiful. They have to see themselves as beautiful, so when Don Juan whistles at them and says they are beautiful, they can answer "I KNOW" and walk away in slow motion.

How you feel about yourself is dictated how you see yourself. If you see yourself as God sees you, then it's all good. When you repeat those God thoughts, then start to self-talk your way to health. Refuse to negative-talk about yourself, and you will start seeing a difference.

Here's my favorite self-talk part of the Bible Luke 15

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

...16"And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.17"But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! 18'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;...

Self-talk all the way baby!

Disappointed

Hebrews 9:27(KJV)

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Appointments are dates, or times when you need to be some place. If you miss that appointment you are a disappointment to someone who set up the appointment, the person who is waiting for you.

Another type of appointment means that someone is being assigned to a position. People are appointed. Disappointments are seeing someone who you thought was supposed to be in a position, and seeing they have failed. You expect to see something, but are disappointed in the reality.



I expect so much out of myself, because God has appointed me to be a Christian. When I see myself, and my actions, I am disappointed. I fail miserably every day. At night I pray, LORD FORGIVE ME!

God is insulted by that prayer I think, but I keep doing it. I think it is my flesh. God appointed people who believe in Him to have ever lasting life. It is God's appointment not ours. No one can appoint themselves. It is a gift from God.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

An appointed person has an office, not a task. We do the tasks better and better because as we realize our office, we begin to live more and more like we belong in that office. It is a matter of accepting this reality of who we are more than anything else.

God bless you and good night.

FUNFUN

Strong's Concordance, search FUN in the Bible, 0 results.

I used to be adamant that if you wanted to know the things that God cared about, you can see the number of times it is used in the Bible. I used to say, 'the more that God cares about something, the more He brings it up in His Word'. Children for example take up 48 pages in the strong's concordance

Well, I can't say that any more. I searched the word FUN in the Bible, and 0 results.. wow.

God doesn't want us to have fun? I don't think so. Jesus was invited to all the good parties, because He was fun to be with. I have fun every day. Much to my board's dismay, the funnest thing I can do with money is give it away to someone who really needs it. I have a BLAST giving to the needy.

I think the reason that the word FUN isn't mentioned in the Bible is that it is integrated with the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 says that the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, faith, meekness, and temperance. A Spiritfilled life is fun.

Someone with those traits, integrated into their lives and their spirits IS a fun person to be around. Doing things that please God is FUN

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Ambulance

Mark 2:4 'Jesus Heals a Paralytic'

...And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."...

Sorry for writing so much about myself,, these are just my experiences, and I am trying to get them on paper.

The ONLY reason I am here is to get people in front of Jesus. I want to give them the OPPORTUNITY to have HOPE in a eternal life. IF I was not a follower of Jesus, I would not be here. I hesitate to use the word minister, missionary or christian because I blow it so much. I am a follower of Jesus, and not a very good one at that.

'They will never care about how much we know until they know how much we care'.

We have all (or most of us anyway) have been big mouths at one time or other. We promise the world one day, and disappear into thin air the next day when things get a little hairy. Sometimes intentionally. Sometimes unintentionally. I have never felt comfortable doing that.

Jesus is real, His promises are real. I should know and never doubt that. He would do things for me that are inconvenient, or expensive, or dangerous because of who He is, His Character. I know Him and His character, and that of His true followers. The true Christians, as well as Jesus Himself, have taught me THAT by showing the spirit of inconvenience. By helping me no matter how expensive or dangerous it was. Pray that I get it right some day.

I love it when people have real problems, they come to Winnie and me. Especially in times of urgent emergencies, or real hunger.

When the crunch is on, they come to us, and we love that. They could go to a lot of other christians, missionaries, millionaires, who would probably help them, but they seem to come to

us first, and that is an honor. Especially if it's after 'hours'. I want to be their first thought when things go wrong. It's great, I love it. I don't care what time it is day or night, as long as it is a legit.

A while ago a lady came to me, telling me her baby daughter was sick. So Winnie and I drive over to her house. It was around 5 in the evening, the sun was going down. When we got there, the baby was in a hammock out back. I felt her forehead and it was really hot, like 104. The baby not breathing, and really stiff. I thought it was having some kind of seizure. When I started giving her mouth to mouth a spider crawled out from behind her little lip, a BIG spider! It crawled right into my mouth. I had a really horrifying spider / spider web experience when I was in combat once, so I am not too cool with spiders to begin with. Crawling out of a mouth of a dead baby and into mine was spider 501!

I took the baby's body to the nearest hospital. I wanted to find out if she had died from an infectious disease. When I walked into the ER with the dead baby in my arms, the baby was starting to stink a little. They yelled at me and kicked me out. They told us to take it to the morgue. Naturally, I couldn't find the morgue, who goes to city morgues?. I, finally found the city morgue, after about an hour. When I walked in with the baby, who was now ripe, they tried to arrest me. I turned in the mom, who was fortunately in the car outside, waiting. She was kind of loaded. Turns out mom, in a drunken stupor, put the baby on the hammock in the back yard for about 5 hours. The baby cooked to death under the hot 105 degree sun. Tat is why it was still hot to the touch. Our car stunk like death for a week. Both the baby's mom and dad are my friends to this day.

Am I still the all hours of the night attendee? YES! Do I still do ambulance calls? YUP! That is the only way to show people you love them. Would I have done anything different? Nope. They don't have an ambulance company down here worth anything,, ambulances take 1 to 2 hours to get here. When THAT changes, I will, but until then, pray that the Lord protects us. He has for 2 decades, no need to stop trusting Him now.

depressed

I go through my rumbo and develop the word of the day. I seek the key word in the concordance, and write, Like FUN, there is no word for today in the Bible either. 'DEPRESSED'

David, Jonah, and many more people in the Bible went through depression. Jesus Himself was called a Man of Sorrows. I love Psalms because King David starts many Psalms in a depressed state, and ends up almost shouting for joy.

The Winnies are in the states this week, and they were coming back tonight, but they got bumped. My elderly Aunt Mary fell down and has a possible brain bleed. Finances are worse than awful. Cars are broke. Most of the stuff in the house is broke. Dean Jr is living and studying in the USA. Our new parrot isn't talking to me. I had to fire a staff member. School hasn't started yet, so the house is empty. I blew my diet, my neighbor is dying of cancer and I am not sleeping.

The Bible does not use the word 'depressed' just like the Bible does use the word 'fun' although if you follow the Lord, and His Word, you will be depressed, and you will have fun. True LOVE includes BOTH. Crazy love for other will

Bill Gates said once that nothing bothered him. Now THAT is depressing. It says a lot about a person that has everything and is not depressed about somethings that are going on in the world like famine, ISIS, war, disease, etc.

Depression is interacted with living and breathing just like fun is. Being depressed and having fun is like sand in the cement of life. All part of the package. If someone tells you that they are never depressed just little, they're not being very honest. Especially if they are living a full life in the abundance of Jesus Christ.

The antidote for depression is FUN.

The best cure for depression is random acts of kindness. The reason is, it's FUN! It's cliché, but it is true. There is nothing more fun and uplifting than being kind to random people. Especially when it is undeserved. The grander the gesture, the more fun it is. Once you open your mouth and brag about it, it let's all the air out of the balloon. A lady once prayed for me. She said whenever she prayed for me, she saw foot prints in the desert and saw there was water in them and had life growing out of it. I don't know if that's what she told all the boys, but I know it resonated with me. It is a welcome image in my spiritual walk and through life. God guides us into dry spells, and desert experiences because He loves us, and uses these experiences as Deuteronomy 8:2 says 'to show us what is in our hearts'. Personal attention from the creator of the universe!

Now, I get to go pick up my Winnies at the airport in a day or two max. I have a wife and kids that love me. I really love them and miss them. I have some friends coming down to stay with us soon. I have other friends writing me telling me that they are praying for us. I have a Saviour that Loves me so much He died for me. Doing my accounting, I see we have everything paid up

to date, or 'in the mail'. God is good. Enough of the pity party and now let's have fun! God is in control. He is good, and He has shown me what is in my heart. Life is good.

## BROKEN

1 corinthians 11;24 Jesus took the bread, and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you:

God breaks stuff usually before He uses it. He broke the 5 fishes and 2 pieces of bread and fed 5000 people. He was brought Myrrh at his birth. That is a flower that is broken and gives out a beautiful smell to cover death. God even broke the market place at the temple. When Jesus died on the cross, HE tore the veil \*broke it\* that separated the Holy of Holies from the normal people.

I honestly think that the best thing that could have happened to me was to have lost a ministry. I rejoice in it, and thank the Lord for that step backwards. God usually will not use anything unless it is broken. He can of course, but He definitely did not use me at all. I often read what other people post, and say. I listen to sermons and I cringe. I see myself there, had it not been for His grace and mercy.

I often wonder about people that are too big for their britches, and I feel sorry for them. I listen to their words, see the expressions on their face as they drive their perfect cars, to their perfect houses, to their perfect families. I see them in the work place, and wonder, why is God letting them be so blind? Why hasn't God spanked them yet? I almost wonder if God loves them. Hebrew 12:6 says, 'for whom the Lord loves, He chastens... I know He had to chasten me!

Before someone is broken, they THINK they have it all together. Paul tells us to not be thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to, but to think soberly. \*Romans 12:3"... in other words, if we think of ourselves more highly than we actually are, we are like drunks,, or better put, C.R.A.Z.Y.! Without being broken, we are nuts. We think we are perfect, and people are blessed to just be around us. ONCE we sober up \*by being broken\* we are useful.

Do you know how I recognize someone who is broken? Just opinion, again. From what I see, they LOVE children. They LOVE and tolerate other people who are broken themselves. They are patient with people who are not perfect. They don't use themselves as the 'standard'.

1 corinthians 10;12 says 'take heed lest ye fall'. If you haven't been broken yet, I am glad. Make sure though that you don't need to be chastened,, check yourself, check your pride.. if you have any kill it,, if you don't ask the Lord to show you what you need to do to stay humble, look for it, look for the Lord,, look for ways to be obedient to God proverbs 16;8 says pride comes before the fall

Poor

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the Poor.

Jesus said that the poor are blessed. He told us to feed them and to love them. He also said the poor will always be with us. We are to minister to the poor. Winnie and I have been working directly with the poor for the last 3 decades.

At PureHeart we want to work with the mindset of the poor. Not only feed them, not only helping them, but to change their mind set. We are on our 3rd generation here, and now improvement. Jesus is in control. We know He wants us to do everything possible..

This is by the found of Alibaba. It's kind of sad, but it's true. It does give me hope and direction although he doesn't seem to be a believer, kind of cold.. but this is incredibly accurate... Now HOW do WE change this mindset?

Referring to Poor mindset...

Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba said "The worst people to serve are the Poor people.

Give them free, they think it's a trap.

Tell them it's a small investment, they'll say can't earn much.

Tell them to come in big, they'll say no money.

Tell them try new things, they'll say no experience.

Tell them it's traditional business, they'll say hard to do.

Tell them it's a new business model, they'll say it's MLM.

Tell them to run a shop, they'll say no freedom.

Tell them run new business, they'll say no expertise.

They do have some things in common:

They love to ask google, listen to friends who are as hopeless as them, they think more than an university professor and do less than a blind man.

Just ask them, what can they do. They won't be able to answer you.

Instead of your heart beats faster, why not you just act faster a bit; instead of just thinking about it, why not do something about it.

Poor people fail because of one common behavior:

Their Whole Life is About Waiting."

REST

Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

God's work was done so He rested. BECAUSE HIS WORK WAS DONE.

People in general LOVE a day off. I have some questions though. For example why do most of the real combat veterans I have served with work on veterans day? Those who have never seen a second combat take it off, RELIGIOUSLY?

As a rule, the strongest Christians I have ever met do stuff on Sundays. Some even work. All will work if it meant to help someone else. Mediocre Christians for the most part are AVID SABBATH TAKERS. They use that excuse to not do anything for anyone except for things they want to do, for people that they want to do it with. Usually on Sundays, but, ahem, Sunday isn't the sabbath.

Day's off' mentalities don't really make sense to me. I guess it was how it was presented to me as a child. I could do my home'work' on Sundays, for example, but I couldn't play with my friends. Stuff like that. I really dislike forced rest, just for the sake of 'resting'. It's kind of like 'time-out'. Man did I do a lot of that! Maybe I have flash backs from when I was kid, and had to

take naps. It was torture. \*although I got to admit, I love a good nap now-a-days\*. Day off people kind make me nervous, I guess. It's like they really don't like what they are doing or something, and use Sunday as some kind of shrug off day. I can't quite put my finger on it. Monday they are scrambling like lunatics to make up for the lost time.

In the old testament, God took the Sabbath seriously. He once in the book of Exodus, KILLED a guy for picking up sticks on the Sabbath. Wow! I don't want to take the chance of offending God. I just don't feel there's a connection between what we as Christians feels like REST is, and what God feels like REST is. We do what our pastors and fellow Christians tell us to do, but I don't think we should blindly do it. Neither did Jesus. He healed people on the Sabbath, fed His guys etc.

Except for the amish, soldiers humping the hills, day laborers on construction, cleaning personnel etc. I don't know many people that actually WORK any more. Dialing a telephone, driving a car, or greeting a customer is not work.

So what does REST mean? I think it means, to rest from our works of salvation. Jesus paid it all. He is our rest, our PEACE. Prince of Peace the Bible calls Him. If you think it has to do with talking shop on Sunday, you have it all wrong. 1st off, IF you want to be a legalist, it's Saturday, not Sunday. Sunday is the 8th day of the week, in other word, it is the BEGINNING. The first day of the week. Fresh Start. Rebirth. Born Again. We are resting from our works of Salvation, by trusting in Jesus. Not by refusing to pick up a stick or dial the phone. I hope I am not offending anyone.

There is nothing wrong with giving honor to God, and teaching children to do the same thing. It should be everyday, however, not just one day a week, or 4 HOLYdays a year. It is an every day resting in the salvation of our souls by Jesus. Jesus finished our work for us, BECAUSE OF THAT WE CAN REST.

MERCY

my favorite theology. Micah 6:8 .....what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

I love that verse,, It is completely do-able! Especially the mercy part!



God tells us to love mercy.

I love mercy

My favorite stories are 'mercy' stories. My favorite 'mercy story' lead character is God. When God is involved, I know it's not a story, it's the truth.

Mercy, even the sound of the word, is pretty. Such a happy word!

Here is my definition of mercy, NOT RECEIVING WHAT YOU DESERVE.

When you LOVE something, you defend it and try to emulate it.

When people complain, there is a said or unsaid 'I just want what I deserve'. Although I don't usually say it, my heart is screaming, 'NO YOU DON'T!' We deserve hell, and eternal separation from God. God chooses to show us mercy.

Now let's take this thought and put it on our flesh and daily walk.

If you are at the traffic light, and the guy ahead of you doesn't drive the moment the light turns green, give him mercy. He deserves to be called names and be beeped at. Don't! Don't beep, don't call him names, or fume with rage. Give him mercy.

If you are helping someone and they are attacking you behind your back, they deserve a good kick in the pants. Don't. Just love them. Maybe distance yourself from them, to show mercy to yourself, but don't pay them what they deserve. Give them mercy.

Giving mercy is healthy for you, your body, your soul and for those around you.

Mercy is a great teaching aid for the little eyes that are watching you.

just a thought.

Visitors

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware

They have lots of sayings about doing something different to get different results.

1. If you want to do what you have never seen, you have to do what you have never done!
2. The definition of insanity, doing the same exact thing, time after time and expecting different results.
3. If you keep on doing what you done, you'll keep on getting what you got.

These sayings are notorious for coming out of the pulpits and missionary newsletters from all across the world. Although they make sense, these sayings do not have any legs on them until people apply flesh and bone to the words. This is kind of a repeat from a few previous messages, but I need to clarify it a little more.

I really want different results for Pure Heart Children's Fund. I think if I use the typical missionary standards, using other missionary models, on billing for teams coming down, strong arming poor children for their costs of school etc. the results will continue to be deafeningly poor.

I am sensitive to this verse because I have been a stranger. I have also been invited to places only to be treated as if i were poor 'fifth cousin' figuratively speaking. It has happened to me quite often. Now, when people say, 'come over anytime', I ask them if they really meant it. I flat out ask them, "are you serious? I just might show up at anytime, unannounced, because that is what you just said! I really don't want to if you are just saying that or if someone else is involved will not see me or people I am with as welcome." Most of the time, if you put them like that, they get a moment to realize that they have just lied to you and, really don't want you to come over whenever you want.

I would rather have an embarrassing moment than to waste valuable time and emotional energy being at a place where you are not welcome. What is even more scary is to actually invite

someone and not be delighted and honored that they trusted you enough to actually come over. Pure Heart has lots of 'visitors' STRANGERS.

We have invited poor children to come to our school. Now these children coming to our school, whether they can afford it or not for example. We invite kids to our feeding centers and kids church. Feeding centers and kids churches are not places where kids always act like good Christians. We want them with us, we want to help them, even if there aren't results to show for it. Hopefully after time there will be, but that isn't going to happen over night. They all are strangers at first, coming in as visitors. To develop anything from, you have to start with a STRANGER, someone you don't know.

All nations, religious, thoughts or lifestyles are welcome at the Winner HOme \*as long as they're safe\*. Anyone who comes on our property is a visitor, or better put, STRANGER.

A VISITOR IS USUALLY A STRANGER, EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW THEM!

We have strangers coming through the Winner Home from other lands, continuously. I bump into them on the road, in airports and bus terminals and bring them in. Or they just show up at the door at all hours of the day and night. I LOVE THAT. We have the reputation of being hospitable. As Christians, I believe we should. Not only expats, but any one and every one. Battered women, abandoned children, anyone. NO QUALIFIERS, except one, that they are safe with my family and our other 'visitors'.

Some of our visitors are wealthy americans down here looking for the ultimate buzz, and get into trouble. Some are christian missionaries down here to help us, or someone else. Many poor people come by, including indigenous children running from white slavery. I even had the honor of having a sister of a young man dying of lung cancer come by every night at around 2 or 3 AM. He couldn't breath very well in the early morning air, so I would drive him around with his head hanging out the window until the sun rose every day for about a month. What's the results of that? Where is the benefit of doing things like that? Who knows? Who cares? A 17 year old man was able to breath for a couple of hours a day. I think that is a DEAL!

Sometimes, people want me to see how other ;missions; do things, ie billing. My question is Why? When I check it is absurd. People pay up to 25 dollars day to stay with mission agencies to help the poor people. NUTS! People charging poor families 50 dollars a month so the kids can go to school, not including food and supplies! I have actually seen poor kids kicked out of Christian Schools down here because they are poor. REALLY? ,, , REALLY???? I also have seen people who are down and out in the states to not have the financial where-with-all to visit another country to help out the down and out over there. PEOPLE that would be blown away with the honor of going.

i say this long winded thing to say, Winnie and I LOVE company, in any form. Not because we are lonely, we are not. We want to serve! Not only the people that live here in dire

circumstances, but the people that are STRANGERS in a strange land. We have met more than ONE angel in this process.

AS of this year, and going forward, we have decided not to charge any visitors for room, board and transportation. If the visitors want to give us extra help financially that's fine.

90% of the people that come down end up supporting us anyways on a permanent basis. Some can't because of financial reasons, but the others, unless their money is their god, or they are just really full of themselves, they totally get it and want to help. They see what we do and get behind it. What visitors see and do when they get here affect them for the rest of the lives. Not only them, but those who are down here as well.

Why let a couple bucks block that whole experience?

MERCY

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just a thought.

Evening

Genesis 3:8 New Living Translation

When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.

There is absolutely NOTHING like taking a walk in the cool of the day in Nicaragua. After all the agita, heat, and action, it is pure pleasure to walk and talk with God. I actually go out LOOKING for a conversation with Him, not hide from Him among the trees.

In the evening, God lets everything become more beautiful. The birds chirping themselves to sleep, chickens cooing way up in the top of the trees, cows and oxen doing what ever they do. Even the sights are more beautiful, colors more pronounced right as the sun is setting, the distant mountains turn such a beautiful blue. The beautiful sights and sounds are a sign of a day well spent.

Problems with people are the same way. If you have having problems with someone, keep on loving them. Don't let them abuse you, but keep on dishing out love in return. As the evenings of our lives approach you may realize that you are gaining the battle and developing a friendship with someone who you would have NEVER EVER thought was going to be your friend. Just like you don't shrink back from doing what you need to do during the day, under the scorching sun with impossible deadlines, don't shrink back from mean people. Just as you can't force fruit to

ripe, or a flower to blossom, you can't force a friendship. Just keep dumping all the love and Jesus on that person possible, and you may just find a beautiful evening of your life with him or her.

Jesus doesn't want people to be kind to you.. He wants you to be kind to them. Jesus doesn't want you to make friends. He wants you to be friends with the friendless. He wants to let your life develop into the perfect evening.

We have children here that are IMPOSSIBLE. Same 'evening recipe' occurs.

HONOR - Rom 9:21 Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?

God is the potter, we are the clay. We, as clay, are formed (past tense) into vessels by His hand. Some vessels were made pretty and perfect. Some vessels were just poorly made and imperfect.

First let's talk about pretty and perfect vessels.

Perfect vessels, I guess you could say, are people that don't have deformities. They look good, have good mental and physical health. God made them so they can hold a job, provide for a family

ALL we have is a gift from God. We who have those things should really count our blessings. We really didn't have much to say about the matter. God just gave us these things, We did nothing to earn any of it. We have NO reason to be proud. We can't be proud if we are believers, because God gave us the faith to believe. I thank the Lord with everything that is within me that I have His gift of belief. We can't even be proud to be Americans! I wake up every morning and pour my heart out in gratitude that I am not a father with young children trying to survive in Syria or the Sudan today!

Just because people are in a good position in life doesn't mean they are honorable. Most of the time it's just the opposite. As we were made by the potter, we are still being formed. He is molding and shaping us every day. We are being shaped into something that will honor Him, or bring dishonor to Him. Honor has nothing to do with exterior appearances nor even the

circumstances. Honor has to do with honoring God, and living in such a way that He can honor you. The world gives honor often to the most dishonorable people.

God, using the same clay, made other people that came out 'not as perfect. In a lot of ways though they are more 'perfect' than us 'perfect people' are. Again, He is not done as a potter. He will continue to mold and shape those people as well into vessels that will honor Him or dishonor Him.

In my opinion, we don't really know which vessels are unto honor and which are unto dishonor, until it's all said and done with. Harden criminals become sweet brothers in the Lord. Great pastors turn into hardened sociopaths. The molding does not stop until we die. It is only then that we know what type of vessel we are, before the judgement seat of Christ.

Look at Dani in the video. Dani is blind from birth. Maybe him, and other handicapped people in this world are dishonorable in the eyes of society today. Maybe they ARE less than perfect, but NOT in the eyes of God. Nor should they be in our eyes. Many of them are on the path to be HONORABLE VESSELS, while mr and mrs Perfect will end up dishonorable.

Dani is a brilliant kid. He is kind and generous. He is a BRAVE little guy. He sees and hears things that I can't imagine. Today, in spanish, he described to me the color of his car \*light blue\*.. he has never seen blue, but he made himself perfectly understood, and described blue better than anyone else I have ever heard,, it was almost spiritual.

Lots of kids get off to a dishonorable start. Definitely not pretty. Crippled kids, autistic kids, syrian kids, immigrant kids, being molded to be vessels of honor. Healthy kids, mentally ill from eating too much ice cream may in the process of being vessels of dishonor. How were formed in the first place has nothing to do with how they are being formed for eternity.

Kids scrounging JUNK to eek out a living, although were made in kind of dishonorable shapes, may bring Honor to the Creator. An HONOR to the rest of us to know, to help, and to call friends! Even a greater honor to bring the to the feet of Jesus.

TO GOD BE THE HONOR AND GLORY FOREVER.

Titus 1:15

Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure.

A pastor asked me "Why do you post so much stuff about your every move?" I was kind of shocked. I replied, "I believe in the power of prayer, don't you?"

James 5:16 says,

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Actually I should be posting more things. I need prayer to get up in the morning, to face the day, to make the right decisions, and to be able to fall asleep at night. I NEED to be prayed for. I know when people are smothering me in prayer, it's almost a physical sensation.

Facebook is a wonderful tool. I am surprised many don't see it that way. Fact is, we are on this world to communicate God's love to others. Use it for God's glory!

Like anything else, Facebook is pure for the pure, and unpure for the defiled and unbelieving. Interesting. People thinking they are spiritually perfect, sometimes see Facebook as a bad thing. People trying to figure out things, who know they aren't perfect, see it as good.

I am not perfect! I know I will never obtain holiness by my works, only by what Jesus has done for me. In the meantime, we are here to "Go Tell It On The Mountain".

If your motives are correct Facebook is great. It's a GREAT evangelism tool. It is a great way to pray for one another. I thank the Lord for Facebook. Just like the telephone. (I actually remember about 50 years ago someone saying that the telephone was of the devil.) You are never going to please everyone. There is always someone out there to knock everything and anything you like. Just remember that if it is Facebook, the internet, or whatever, IF you are pure, IT will be pure. It will serve God and serve your fellow man.

How many friends have you reconnected with after 20 or in my case 50 years? How many people in the darkest parts of the Middle East or Africa have you been able to have a communication, and possibly a friendship with?



Isn't that our commandment, "TO GO" as well as "PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER?"

Use Facebook! While you're at it, pray for me as I post my daily happenings.

Paths

Psalm 16:11 King James Version (KJV)

11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Sorry I haven't been writing much. Been at the doctor. He has me on a diet, and told me to walk 10,000 steps a day. I counted my steps, I walk between 13000 and 15000 steps a day, 7 days a week, so I guess I am good there.

So the doctor has me on that PATH, as a cure for what ails me.

It was good news that I didn't really have to walk more than I already am walking. At the end of the day my feet are really killing me. I usually go through 1 pair of tennis shoes a year. Walking is good for the heart, but bad for the feet and the shoes.

The paths I take daily are my go to school paths, taking Winnie Jr et al to school, and my Winner Club paths on Sunday. Also I do lots of visitations. Paths do not have cement, but they eventually do turn into roads.

They start out as a line through the the fields that everyone walks. They start first by a trail blazer, leaving in his path a bunch of trampled grass. More people follow it, because no one like to be first, and then it's a line of dirt, because the trampled grass dies and exposes the soil. Keep on walking that path, and then \*SQUATTER VILLAGES\* start to pop up. Eventually, the squatters get legal, and get bought out by people with some money who buys houses, and gets electricity installed. STILL PATHS though. Eventually those paths turn into paved streets. In any other country those paved streets will eventually have names. Here addresses are just 'take the path 2 hundred yards east, black door at the entrance to the hill where the bald kid used to live".. stuff like that, no joke..

GOTTA LOVE NICARAGUA.

Scary part is Google Maps, and WAZE recognizes those kind of addresses.

GOD LOVES PATHS. He uses them in a lot of illustrations. There are GOBS of path quotes in the Bible.

Once you start the path it's easy to walk along everyone follows it without thinking. We, like electricity, follow the path of least resistance. When you walk along the path your mind goes blank.

Paths aren't always good. YOU really have no idea where you are. Zero situational awareness. It's like driving with a GPS telling you every where you turn, you are so busy looking at the GPS that you aren't looking for oncoming traffic. Paths are where the enemy set booby traps. Also, people ambush you on paths. Paths can lull you into a false sense of security, because everyone else is going in the same direction.

One 'path quote' that isn't in the Bible that is true, ALL PATHS LEAD TO GOD. Which is true a degree. They ALL lead to God, but only ONE PATH leads to a POSITIVE REPLY FROM GOD. The rest of the paths lead to God as well, but those that take those paths I don't think are going to be very happy with what God has to tell them.

Matthew 7:14 King James Version (KJV)

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

God bless you,

My God guide us all on that straight and Narrow path.

LATE!

Timeliness is a man thing, not a Jesus thing.

Waves of kids never stop. There will always be MORE late ones than punctual ones.

Do you know that Jesus never yelled at any one for being late? It's because He was late sometimes too!

Yup, Jesus was LATE from time to time. Even when he was told that Lazarus was sick. He intentionally took His time getting there, so God would be glorified. Jesus was late, Lazarus died, and Jesus Thanked His Heavenly Father.

John 11: 6 When he \*JESUS\* had heard therefore that he \*LAZARUS\* was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was....\*INTENTIONALLY DRAGGING HIS FEET\* 32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.....40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? 41..... I thank thee \*FATHER\* that thou hast heard me.

More relationships have been destroyed between missionaries and the people they are supposed to serve because of this word, LATE!

Impatience is lack of faith. God's timing is perfect, and He always is glorified. One thing about working with central american children is that you have to be laid back. These kids come at you wave after wave, all with a fresh source of energy. You need patience, and you need to keep thanking our heavenly or whatever He is bringing to you. The LAST kid, 3 hours late, may be the biggest blessing of your life.

As in car sales, as in the military, in Christian life, you NEVER know WHO or WHAT is just around the corner. Most of my biggest victories, and many of my best friendships have happened JUST because SOMEONE was late! Lateness is a man made issue or point of contention. If you look at it right, lateness can be God's plan. Just roll with it, and keep an expecting eye open.

JESUS never yelled at people for being late. He didn't even give them the STINK EYE! I am positive of it.

Americans, Germans, people like that are hyper punctual. It's not good, either for our health, nor for our relationships. Again, late, as in being late is never brought up in the Bible. I have seen at LEAST 50 good relationships totally destroyed because of someone being late. The person that is upset about the other person being late is prideful. Not to argue, but it is true. Especially if it is an american trying to deal with a latino. Americans are not missionaries to hispanics to make them punctual. 1. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE,,, It will never happen. 2. You can teach people about Jesus, or teach people american business ethics and business way of doing things. Americans, because their pride, are hurt. Then they set out to teach the 'latino' a lesson. As a result BOTH loose. Likewise, being late is also prideful. Being late chronically is saying, 'my time is more important than yours'. AND 'I am in control, you can't control me' Either way, on either side of the fence Jesus is not glorified, or even resembled.

If you are an american living in a hispanic country, be at your appointments on time. Be respectful, but bring a good book or great WIFI connection. KNOW that they other party is going to be one or two hours late, it is a given. If you are wrong, you are pleasantly surprised and have made a friend for life. If you are right, you get to get caught up on TONS of work. Latinos, living with or working with Americans or Germans? DO NOT TRY TO CHANGE US EITHER,

IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE A PUNCTUAL PERSON UNPUNCTUAL! We could 'pop' something.

Being punctual is important with business, work etc. I am not discounting it. IT IS something that we teach at Pure Heart for employability, but it is NOT A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM!

If it didn't worry Jesus, it should not worry us.

We all have 1 appointment in the future that is IMPOSSIBLE to be late for. Our appointment with God. Instead of worrying about being late, it is more important to be READY for that appointment. Arguing over punctuality is NOT a way to prepare for our meeting with our Maker.

taste

Psalm 34:8

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

We try to encourage the children to pray before they eat. Once a little boy prayed. LORD, HELP DEAN TO BEHAVE HIMSELF TODAY, AND MAKE THE FOOD TASTE GOOD!

I don't know if the Lord answered the first request, but the food sure tasted good!

We serve food as an act of love, and show that Jesus is real. When looking at cutting costs, I never cut costs on the quality and taste of the food we serve. The taste of the food brings memories that will last. Even the cleaner that we use on the floors, the kids remember 20 years later! Tastes and smells are memories.

I 'tasted' liver about a million times. The TASTE still has me scarred for life. My mom made me eat it once a week, every week. I guess she was waiting for my taste for liver to develop. One night, I had the last piece of liver in my mouth, and I could not force myself to swallow it. My mom and dad insisted that I could not be excused until I swallowed it. They got tired, so they, and big brother all left the table, and I was still there with that big chunk of evil in my mouth. If I am eating some exotic dish to this day, and it has have anything in it remotely related to liver in it, alarms go off in my head, like in a submarine bell clanging, and over the loud speaker comes the robot voice saying THIS IS LIVER! THIS IS LIVER! Come to think of it, I don't like family meals at the dinner table either, maybe for the same reasonl.

A LOT of people have told me that they tried 'church' and it didn't work. They are surprised when I tell them, SO DID I! This message on TASTE is not about TASTING CHURCH, NOR TASTING CHRISTIAN PRACTICES, it is about TASTING THE LORD.

Trying 'church' is not Tasting the Lord. My mom and dad used to drag me to church every sunday. It didn't taste good. It was horrible. I still really don't like going to church, to this day. I read the Bible through and through, again and again, sometimes 2 or 3 times a year. I even tried seminary. NOTHING! It all left a bad taste in my mouth.

One day, I got saved! I TASTED THE LORD, and found out that the Lord is GOOD! I tasted of the Lord and He IS GOOD. Still to this day, going to church just to go to church doesn't do much for me. BEING WITH A FEW CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HOLDING THEM UP IN PRAYER IS GREAT! True Christian fellowship IS of the Lord, and He is GOOD! Church is good if you have true christian fellowship there. If you go just to make roll call it isn't. Reading the Bible the same way. I know friends who GROAN with extasy when they read God's Word. I don't. But sometimes just one verse or chapter will bring me to my knees.

Tasting the of the LORD may be going to church every time the door is open, and Tasting of the Lord MAY mean reading through the Bible 3 times year, but IT ISN'T NECESARILY THE ONLY WAY TO TASTE THE LORD.

What works for you might not work for someone else. For that reason, there are denominations. For that reason there are thousands if not millions of churches, evangelists, pastors, revivalists.

Some people like liver. Some people don't like liver. Some people like one church or another. I am sure there is a church that each and every one of us would enjoy going to. I am sure there is a way to read the Bible every day that each one of us would enjoy.

The MOST important thing is to TASTE the LORD, and SEE that HE IS GOOD

Everything we hand out for the Glory of God should be the best! It SHOULD BE TASTY!  
BECAUSE THE LORD IS TASTY!

When people get around us to see if Jesus is real, they need to see His love. If they leave with a bad taste in their mouths, its not their fault but ours.

Once you have truly tasted the goodness of Christ, nothing else satisfies. We owe it to others to correctly portray HIM.

2 Cor 2.15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish  
CRITERIA

John 13:7

Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

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CRITERIA = STAY AWAY FROM THOSE WHO DON'T!

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Secular

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matter where we are or who we are with. Alone or in a crowd. At work, or in church, or in your bed at night.

-first day of school

Mat: 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Pure Heart PRE-K started today. We are so happy. I had my first teaching job when I was still in the army. When I returned to CONUS I was given the position of an instructor. 10 training classes, 50 soldiers in each class, a total of 500 soldiers I got to spend the next 2 years of my life with.

Now God has Winnie and me on our 3rd school down here in Nicaragua. The first two schools are doing well. The 1st school I built is with WEGO, in Dolores Jinotepe de Carazo Nicaragua. The other one is in Barrio Santa Ana at Calvary Chapel Managua Nicaragua. Now, we are going on our third one here at the Winner Home. Our Pre-K is going on it's 4th year already! We hope to have the funds to turn it into a boarding school soon.

Schools are in my blood. My dad was a school teacher and principle of schools. My Aunt and Uncle, Jim and Donna Winner, and his daughter, Rebecca Winner literally paid for the properties and most of the construction of them all. I have never really liked school myself, so it's a pleasant surprise that the Lord is using us to help people in this manner. Our goal for schooling is to give children a solid platform from which they can launch their dreams and careers, to be productive, God loving citizens and good parents.

School is like the kingdom of God. You get the students in all shapes, sizes, colors and forms.

Jesus said to let them all come, because that is what heaven is like! The funny thing about schools of any kind is their similarities. Each class has the same people, whether a Pre-School of horrified little toddlers in a developing country, or a training platoon of soldiers. The only thing different are the names... Elementary Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Boarding schools \*OUR DESIRE\*, PRE-K, D.O.D. training, ARMY schools, it's all the same. You have your fatso, genius, dummy, bully, crybaby, fancy pants, jock, sissy, beauty queen \*well not in army schools, hopefully\*, and you have the guy that irritates everyone \*ie, ME, with my 10+ facebook accounts and continuous barrage of long winded emails\*.... and the list goes on. The names change, but those same guys are in every class.



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thank you!

here is a video of the 1 level, the 3 year old,, oh, IHANY is there.

Efesians 2. ... As for YOU!,,,

I remember that phrase from an incident in elementary school!

It makes my blood run cold to this day. It is a great argument against teachers carrying fire-arms in public school. Once I had the whole classroom going when our little old blue haired school teacher stepped out for a moment. I even had my best friend, who is now a prominent Chicago M.D., dancing on his desk! When I saw the the look in the eyes of that teacher when she returned from her potty break, I tried to hide the crowd. Suddenly she was pointing at me and screaming 'and as for YOU!! Glad she only had a chalk board eraser in her hand. I was fearing for my life. That I believe was the first and only time I was distinguished or should I say, singled out in my academic career.

We should make children feel special in school. The teacher that is remembered is the teacher that makes a kid feel special. You can make that change in one other person's life. Even if you are NOT a teacher as a profession. If you are an adult, you are a teacher by default. Not by reprimanding them but by spending time with them and making them feel important.

When God said 'and as for YOU!' It is exhilarating,,, you who WERE dead but now alive!

Our solar system is flying through the universe at the speed of a car on normal country roads. It is rotating ate the same time and spinning around like an olympic vaulter. Then in this same system are specks rotating, spinning and flying around the sun. Also at the speed of a car. One of those specs is the earth, and on that spec are 7 billion of us. Talk about hiding in a crowd! And God says 'as for you! wow

We need to make each kid at pure heart feel important, as God knows them and is concerned for them, as for us

Matthew 19:14

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The only difference is the sizes, ages, and names, and here, the language they speak. Jesus said that was what heaven is like. Interesting thought isn't it? We want Pure Heart to be like heaven for these children this year.

While we started school on Monday we were only able to accept 33 students out the of 55 that applied. We have only had 3 people commit to being sponsors for these students. We need sponsors! If you can help at all, contact us.

YAY

Matthew 5:37 King James Version (KJV)

37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay....

This is King James English. In those days the word for yes was YEA. When we are happy, we say YEA, or better spelled, YAY!! a hold back from the 1600's.

I think YAY came from a big YES back in the day! As we say in Spanish JESS! The YES word, however you spell it or pronounce is, it a good thing, usually.

AS THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG GOES, BE CAREFUL LITTLE MOUTH WHAT YOU SAY!

In Spanish, the word YES and the word IF is the same,, SI. We learn to speak positively to the kids. We try to say YES \*SI\* as often as possible. EVEN IF IT IS THE WORD \*IF\* which is SI as well.

We try to avoid the word NO! Once a kid hears the word NO it is a major turnoff. Especially in a little street kid's troubled mind. So, instead of saying NO! We say IF , for example, "IF \*SI\* you do this, you will have problems". They hear \*SI\* whether IF or YES, and that is all that is important. OF course, another big factor is the expression on your face,, you can tell a problematic person down here anything with a smile on your face. There is NOTHING you can tell a person down here, that will turn out positively, if you have a frown on your face.

The word 'YES' or YEA \*YAY\* usually brings happiness.

Happiness is good, but not at the expense of integrity. Actually, a positive answer is the WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN IF IT IS NOT TRUE. More lives are shattered by 'YES MEN' than anything else. Unfortunately many 'yes men' who have a trail of happy, kids saying YAY! are here in the name of the Gospel.

As a missionary it is often better to say no, than yes. Especially with kids. Well, actually, anyone. I have been guilty of it, we all have.

It is so easy to say yes, and walk away. The problem is that although they LOVE you, years later you will be forgotten. The only thing that disappointed person will remember was that a CHRISTian lied to the. Operative word, CHRIST,, we have to have a pristine testimony in every way possible, most of all for what comes out of our mouths. It's not US that they remember, whether good nor bad. It is Jesus.

It is not possible to back and rectify all of our occasions where we didn't complete our word in the past. IT IS possible to start today to make sure our yes' are yeas, and our no's are nos from today and forward.

God is a God of second chances. Oh, and His YEA's are YEA's and His NO's are NO's

remember either way, or at least it shouldn't be. It is Jesus. How do we want people to think of Jesus after we met them.

12 hours

John 11:9

9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

99.99999% of the good things that happen to me happens just because I show up. Cause I walk onto the scene. It is nothing that I did, God had it all orchestrated since before the foundations of the earth.

At the end of the day I am tired. People say we only have 24 hours in the day, but really only about 12. We waste so much time. I think a REALLY productive worker only actually works a third of those hours, about 4 hours a day if someone really hustles. There is so much to be done. Yet it is difficult to truly work even 4 actual hours a day, let 12 hours a day.

The beauty of the Lord is that He just wants us to walk in the day, just show up. Not to be working hard all day every day. In reality, NO one really does it. Even a construction worker, they hammer couple nails, walk over to the other wall. Talk 5 minutes, hammer about 10 more nails, or dig something, or lay some brick, then a cig break or cup of coffee. Then bout a half a hour for lunch, getting to and from lunch, etc. it comes down to about 4 hours of actually hammering or whatever the person is paid to do.

Jesus said though, that If we just show up, and be there, we won't stumble because we get it. We understand Jesus, that His yoke is easy and his burden is light. Just showing up, just being there is what Jesus wants us to do. Walk in it, diligently. Not just showing up to show up. Showing up because YOU believe in Jesus, because YOU are doing what you see that Jesus wants you to do it. Not because of others. Not as eye candy, but rather, coming because God asked you to come. You go, because you believe in Him.

Jesus is the light. of this world. He will keep us from stumbling when we show up because we believe in Him. Thank you God for having it all set up before we walk onto the scene.

## God-Incidences

Matthew 14:25. Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

Jesus sent His guys out into the sea in a boat. Then He sent a storm, or He knew that one was coming. In the midst of the storm, when the disciples were fearing for their lives, He came out to save the day.

God-incidences. God-incidences happen when you GET OUT of your comfort zone! First step is to get out of the house. Second step is to be aware of the suffering around you.

Going out into the storms is where Jesus sends you. Jesus, although He is Omnipresent, tends to make His presences more tangible when you are in a struggle. He makes His True Character known to you when you are out there doing what He told you to do. He 'showed up' at one church service, when 10 of the disciples were hiding after He was Crucified. He said, Get Out!

If you recall, I had a little neighbor who found a hand grenade in his yard, and while playing with it, it exploded and he lost an eye. A team came down with a glass eye a few years ago. Last week, Roger's prosthetic eye started giving him problems. This week Through the Eyes of Children were here, and they helped Roger. The same people who miraculously came up with Rogers eye 2 years ago, just so happened to show up once it started to give him problems.

God-incidences happen when people are out there on a limb, because Jesus sent them there, and when things go wrong, Jesus comes and saves the day

Wow, it was a long day. Kids church, neighbors dying, roger, wakes, whew, glad today is over, happy to have been out there, happy to be back inside

God is good

Lamentations 2:19

Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

Have you ever noticed that God never seems to say, you've done did good, kick back and relax.

well another day of fun in the SON

God has completely met our needs, as always, and always at the last second.

Pure Heart School is a HIT. Thank you for helping us to buy the supplies

AS you know, while Nicaragua is trying to close all the orphanages, we do have permission tentatively to have a boarding school. We feed children here at the Winner Home as well as in the Chureca.

Our goal is a feeding center, a training center, and a boarding school.

If you want you can look at my pictures on FACEBOOK  
<https://www.facebook.com/winnie.pureheart>

My little hair lip surgery boy, Juan Carlos was a no show at the clinic (remember, he had been raped, and then they denied him his surgery until he had psychiatric counseling for 6 months.) He was a no show, I have to find him. His mom was calling and visiting about 15 times a day, trying to use us to get a lot more money out of us. Winnie had to tell her that we will only deal with his dad and him, They disappeared after that. I feel so bad, it never gets out of my mind.

Anyway, I just want to encourage you all to ARISE, and pray for the children in Nicaragua.

}

BEGGING

Psalm 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

I have been called a beggar by a drunk who i took in , and had live with us for three months. I risked my own career, to get him into the army. He is now retired from the army, so now from his arm chair he calls me a beggar.

Another lady i took in, and gave her five hundred dollars for her wedding, who now calls me a beggar.

I have even been called a beggar by welfare recipients.

I haven been called a beggar by people who couldn't hold down a real job if their lives depended on it.

I have always had a well paying job, and a home owner. I never beg for myself.

I have been a pastor of a church. Again never begged for money.

I DO beg money to feed hungry children and for children who have no other hope to be educated.

I BEG PROUDLY

I WOULD BE ASHAMED OF MYSELF if I didn't

Junk

Job 2:8 NIV

Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

I often see people who are so mean they would rather give a scrap of food to a fat street dog than to a starving child. They would rather throw good stuff away than give it to someone who could really use it. Some people do things out of pure meanness, no other reason. Yet God loves them and has a plan for them as well as anyone else.

He even loves the proud so much that He will use the same despised and demeaned people to heal. Some of the poor people are seen as 'junk'. God uses this same 'junk' to help the self-righteous to come to their senses before it's too late. Maybe the low-lifes are angels unaware, maybe not. God uses them anyway.

God uses the foolish things to confound the wise.

God is good and wise. He has a great sense of humor. Usually the 'junk' people are better human beings than the people stepping on them.

If God is so inclined, He will reduce the prideful 'junk stompers' into junk themselves. That is my prayer, for everyone I see being prideful and hurtful to be reduced. It is the most merciful thing God can do for them. As in Psalm 107, hopefully they get so low that no one can help them. At that time, they will look up out of their miserable self absorbed lives and say 'God be merciful to me, a sinner'.



As the best doctors and nurses are said to have been sick at one time, so have the greatest men of God needed to be reduced to junk first. Only when someone is broken can they have empathy for others who have been broken.

God will often use the people you look down on to humble and heal you.

I am writing an open journal, directed toward people struggling with their faith, or even agnostics or atheists. It's kind of like a study for those who aren't sure. I'm titling it "Gleanings from the Dump". A lot of it is from my 'junk' days, but it's all part of the learning process. Next time you get a chance, see my progress on [www.whatistheloveofgod.com](http://www.whatistheloveofgod.com).

Some brave souls have even volunteered to read my snippets as I write them. I really have no idea what I am doing nor where I am going with it. This is mainly a spiritual journal, that I am recording for public view. I write every day anyway, whether people read it or not.

As a board, Pure Heart is praying about sustainability projects. Here are some options on the table. We again are open to thoughts. Our goal is to help people who see themselves as 'junk' to live a life where they can take care of themselves and their children.

1. A high tech area where these people can work 'near shore' opportunities. Near Shoring is quickly replacing India as a high tech support desk alternative.

2. Woodworking/Auto Mechanics/Welding/Electric Generator/Auto Body shops. We have locations donated, or available dirt cheap.

Please pray on these ideas of where we may be able to help people to stop looking at themselves as junk.

Dean

Humanism

Acts 9:18-19 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Simon thought the spiritual had something to do with the material.

He didn't really understand, because He truly didn't understand WHO the faith was in. Any true believer that reads this chapter understands the futility of Simon's actions and sees that Simon

doesn't really get it yet. I think he did get it afterwards, because he didn't argue when he was reprimanded. He didn't get mad. Instead, he asked for prayer.

When we blow it, as we all do, we should ask for prayer. If someone tells you like it is, thank them, and ask for help. No one in their right mind will get upset if you humbly ask them to help you, or more importantly, pray for you.

According to Wikipedia, "Humanism" typically refers to a non-theistic life stance centered on human agency and looking to science rather than revelation from a supernatural source to understand the world.

Religion is humanism, in my opinion, because religion is a science. Science is all about formulas. Formulas say if you do this and that, you will get X as a result, every time. People LOVE science. They want  $X + Y = Z$ . Takes all the guess work out of it. It gives you a false sense of security as well. If you went to a high school today, and took a earth science course test, and answered all the questions as you would of have 1975, you would get an F. Although the facts were perfect in 1975, they have all been dismissed in a mere 40 years. If you get upset when people defer with your belief it probably means that your faith is in your science of religion. People can prove science wrong. No one can prove that your faith is wrong, if it isn't in a science. Especially if your faith is in the Living God almighty

If your faith is in the fact in your religion, your faith depends on you following a given formula. YOU have to be doing the right thing every day, living a good life, praying, going to church etc. If you don't you loose. It is a science of fear and work. You are your god. Faith in God is not faith in yourself.

You can either have faith in YOUR SCIENCE, YOURSELF AND YOUR ACTIONS or Faith in God. One or the other. With God,  $X + Y$  does not always equal Z. Faith in God is understanding that God is God.

Whatever He chooses to do for you is the best thing for you. Romans 8:28

Our job with anyone, and everyone is to teach them to trust God. To have faith in God. Everything else is sifting sand. It is His work,

Trust Him. Talk to Him. Pray to Him. Read about Him. Worship Him. Tell others about Him.

Estefan

Acts 7:59

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Estefan is the Spanish name for Stephen.

Estefan is a kid at our feeding center. Remember him? The Piñata thief from last year's party. A very hard case. Some would say an impossible case. More than one person visiting here have told me to write him off.

Over the decades, I've learned to take the advice of visiting teams and absentee 'pastors' with a grain of salt. Some have great advice, some don't. I have been burned in the past by blindly taking another's advice, even though I knew the Lord was showing me something different. I have learned to wait on God. He will show us what to do through His Word and through our prayer. I love advice from others and I actively seek it. However, the ultimate decision and consequences are mine and the kid's. I have to live with them.

In the Bible, Stephen was the church's first martyr. He was noted among the young men in the early church as a devoted follower. How was Stephen before he believed? Who knows? Who cares? I am just glad that the disciples didn't write him off before he became a believer. He has been a great example in my life, as well as centuries of other Christians who have read his story. He was a kid, alone, and in front of his murderers. No one was around him, so Stephen took advice from his Heavenly Father. Obediently, Stephen said, 'forgive them!' and then he fell to sleep. Wow. Talk about great advice!

It is easy to embrace the polite and pretty kids when you work with children. It is hard to embrace the rebellious and troublesome kids. These kids are furious with everyone! No one likes them. We need to love them though.

Our job is to love and encourage them all and let God sort them out. We need to embrace and teach them. We have to show them that Jesus loves ALL the little children, not just the poster children.

BTW, Estefan has turned around 180 degrees this year and has become one of my best kids ever!

sleep

ACTS 6:60 'Stephen' cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

There is nothing I love more than what I am doing. Days are extremely hard though. After a hard day, I love going to sleep. I have found that nothing good happens after 10 PM any way.

Sleep is nice. The older I get the more I like it. Sleeping heals. Although sore, I feel mentally healthier after a good night sleep. Sleeping is good because it gives us a chance to start all over again once we wake up. The beauty of believing in Jesus is that every day is a fresh start. Sleepiness comes after the daily battles over. When the smoke clears, I am sleepy. Sleep is like a pause. A time to regroup. Rapid Eye Movement \*REM\* happens after 40 minutes, and it stores our happenings of the day in our computer that we call our brain. The eyes move rapidly because you are actually looking around in your dreams. If you don't get REM you will go crazy. If you go 10 days without REM, you will probably die.

When you wake up from a good night sleep everything is fresh. Like a white flower popping up out of coal dust. Especially when you have Jesus in your heart, soul and mind.

In the Bible, they say 'sleep' instead of death a lot of times. I love that. From the eyes of God, I think it's the same thing for a believer on his or her way to heaven. They fall to sleep, after a long battle. They wake up in heaven, where everything is fresh, like the flower growing out of coal dust.

We lost a lot of neighbors in our neighborhood this past month. I try to use that concept when I am talking to the parents or loved ones of the deceased. I always feel so much when I am counseling the grieving. Pray for the right words in my mouth. Pray that they are filled with grace, wisdom and tact.

It is best to give counsel BEFORE the time of death though. It is even BETTER when they are young.

Naked we come into the world, naked we leave. The important things you carry with you, even when you are asleep. That is why we want all the kids at Pure Heart to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

-- Fellowship

John 20:24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

I have a friend, an example in my life who says he is a 'fellowship junky'. He really is. He absolutely loves to be in church. Any church, I envy him. He believes almost everything, it's kind of amazing actually.

I am not big on going to church. I wish I was, but I am not. I go, but not as whole heartedly as I know I should. I have been really disappointed with pastors and churches in general. Also, I have disappointed other people myself, with my own actions. The old saying is, if you find the perfect church, DON'T GO! You will contaminate it. Jesus on the other hand has NEVER disappointed me.

People tend to 'sell' their churches. I heard a pastor the other day say that 'If your child does not attend a big church with a big sunday school class, you are being negligent'. I have heard pastors tell their flocks what type of church to go to. \*It always seems like THEIR church is the only one that qualifies\*. My opinion is, if you feel welcome and you get spiritually fed on the Bible, that should be your church. Once you find YOUR church, don't change. If you go to a church that you LOVE, you are in the right place. I think that is why there are so many of them, everyone has different tastes and styles of worship.

We all need FELLOWSHIP. We need true Christian fellowship MORE than we need to go into a building for an hour a week. Doing both would be ideal, but that doesn't always happen. If you can't find a building to go to for an hour on Sunday morning, that is no excuse not to get together with other believers during the week. It is vital to your spiritual life. The Bible says when two or more are gathered Jesus is there. Two isn't a church. Two is you and your wife. You and a taxi driver. You and a bum. When you are interacting with another person, Jesus is there. When you are both Christians, you are having church.

Without fellowship, as in Thomas' case, you begin to doubt. The Bible tells us to exhort one another. Sometimes that will totally put someone else on track. Hopefully you will get back on track as well.

Fellowship is ALWAYS for the other person, not for you. If you look at it in that way, your own faith will be built up and you will stop doubting. And you will be a blessing to others

Humanism

Acts 8:18-19 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Simon thought he saw a formula that he could purchase to get God's power. The only problem is, the gifts of God are invaluable. You can not put a price on it. You cannot make it a patented formula. Still to this day people try to cheapen the Gospel by commercializing it.

A well known christian teacher recently said 'In order to avoid being humanistic, every time you help others you have to give a sermon about Jesus'. I don't know about you, but if I am in need a sermon is probably the last thing I want to hear at that moment. The teacher was trying to put Christianity into a formula.  $X+Y=Z$ .

Lots of times when you help people there really isn't time to give them a sermon. Don't worry about it. If you LET your light shine where ever you are, people will know you are a Christian and Jesus will be praised. Whatever you do will bring glory to Him. Formulas fail. Jesus never fails.

According to Wikipedia, "Humanism" typically refers to a non-theistic life stance centered on human agency and looking to science rather than revelation from a supernatural source to understand the world.

Formulas are humanistic attempts at understanding something in a scientific format. That's how religions are formed. Religion is a science. Science is all about formulas. It doesn't matter if you do it without love, or even thinking, as long as you complete the function. People want  $2 + 2 = 4$ . It takes all the guess work out of everything. It gives on a false sense of security as well.

I love telling people about Jesus. As St. Francis of Asisi said 'sometimes I even open my mouth!' I see people who forcefully inject the name 'Jesus' into every sentence as insecure about their faith or passively hostile. I also have noticed that they only do so when there are other Christians within ear shot. This is another example of formulas that do not work as intended.

You can either have faith in your religion or Faith in God. One or the other. With God,  $2 + 2$  does not always equal 4. Formulas are fallible. God is not. You can trust in God all the time.

You have to listen to Him in prayer and through His Word. Then you follow His lead. He leads Winnie and me to help the poor children.

Our job with children is to teach them to trust Jesus. To have faith in Jesus, the solid Rock on which we stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

Happy

Proverbs 29:18

he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

I love to listen to teachers about happiness. Most of them are right on. Most of them really are just encouraging you to have a morning devotion. This is my mechanical way to get happy, THE FORMULA as I had mentioned before. It seems to work, WHEN I REMEMBER TO DO IT. I like Neruo Linguistic Programming. There is a lot of truth to it, but I see it as morning devotions, you will see the similarities... I just heard a really good teaching by Shawn Achor

It used to be that people thought that happiness was genetic. There are things you can do to make you happier, IF you decide that you actually want to be happy. This is kind of my amassed version of all the happiness teachers out there... I like Shawn Achor the most though. Shawn has the most POPULAR TED talk out there.

This is a combination of what Shawn teaches, and a few other teachers, again, morning devotions does a lot of this as well.

BREATH!

1. BREATH
2. REVEL
3. EXERCISE
4. APPRECIATE

5. THANK

6. HELP

25 minutes a day, while you are doing other stuff, will help you to be happy.

BREATH, when you wake up, or when you are pressured or upset. BREATH, concentrate on inhaling, holding your breath, exhaling long.... Not only does it help with anger/unhappiness, but it also is good against insect bite stings, pain, etc. Try it, it works. Only takes a few minutes. Breathing helps you to relax.. I like to do it when I first wake up, because I usually wake up stressed to start the day.

REVEL. Revel in the latest thing that made you really feel good. Your kids, your wife, the sunrise, the sunset. START THE DAY with this. Focus on it.n Focus on good things, the positive, it starts you mind EXPECTING to see good things. If you are expecting to see something good, you usually find them. If you are expecting to see something negative, you will find that too. 2 minutes reveling in a good memory, expect to see something good today too! 2 minutes.

EXERCISE, something easy fun and light, 15 minutes, just to get the cobwebs out

APPRECIATE, write a short paragraph to yourself, about something you appreciate, that makes you feel good. Write it , and read it. 2 minutes max.

THANK God for your gifts, benefits, blessings and health. Thank God that you can take care of your family and others. God honors a grateful heart.2 minutes

HELP others,, there is nothing that makes you happier than helping others. Holding a door, giving someone a lift, it's all good, and doesn't take much time. A few minutes a day, helping someone else with no motive other than to help.

ACTUALLY THIS ALL IS KIND OF LIKE MORNING DEVOTIONS.



THE BEST WAY TO BE HAPPY IS BY LIVING A LIFE THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD. AVOID SIN. DO WHAT JESUS TELLS YOU TO DO, YOU WILL SEE.

John 13:17

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”

Formula for misery

Hold grudges +

Remember nothing but bad things first thing in the morning+

Complain +

Don't love+

Don't pray +

Don't read the Bible+

Don't be with other believers +

Don't help others +

Don't travel +

Don't serve+

Expect everyone to serve you +

Don't exercise +

Don't leave the house +

Drive everywhere you go +

Only do stuff that is comfortable +

Love only money +

Be a miser +

Expect the worst +

Only think of yourself = a miserable existence

Windows

People say the eyes are the window of the soul, but they are misquoting the Bible.

Matthew 6:22 "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness."

They are right, the eyes reflect the light of the soul or the darkness of the soul. I have seen it. I think we all have.

Very rarely do I see darkness in the eyes of little children. No matter how hard their lives are, no matter how much evil they have already seen. That's why we call our ministry Pure Heart.. their hearts are still pure. I don't like theological arguments, but these kids are innocent.

Our job is to give children a chance to have a LIFE full of light, instead of just the first few years.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5: 16

AGG

John 16:21

A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

AGG! I think I invented this word 30 years ago when I was a car salesman. AGG is what I called aggravation. When I was too aggravated to speak correctly, I would say AGG instead of 'I am handling a piddly little problem'. Someone would ask me why I was visibly upset, and all I could say was AGG and rush off,, and they understood. My problems were usually because the finance lady or tag lady was pestering me on something trivial that they needed from a customer who bought a car 2 months ago. Well, that was my point of view as a salesman. Everything except closing the deal was AGG, in my selfish opinion. To the finance lady, or the title clerk, or the customer who was waiting on his new car plates, it was probably pretty important. At that time I sold around 30 cars a month. My last month I sold 60 new retail units. I quit because the AGG was mind boggling. There was no joy after the sale, only AGG.

We got a shipment of Bibles this week. A crate is just as expensive and time consuming to bring in as a whole container. So, 2 weeks of complete AGG, and 600 dollars later, and we got the crate of Bibles through port and customs. This afternoon we have been happily handing out Bibles and religious material. The JOY of giving out a new Bible to someone who has never owned one before, of giving a sunday school teacher materials for the next year, or a child his first back pack filled with great stuff, totally outweighs the AGG. This morning I woke up with my stomach churning, in a cold sweat about this crate of Bible. Now the JOY of blessing other people totally outweighs it. As a matter of fact, I can't even remember the AGG that pervailed my life a mere 12 hours ago.

Kind of like life, followed by heaven. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

The glory, the joy, of heaven, FAR outweighs the AGG that we go through in this life. It kind of makes the problems we go through in this life a little easier to bear doesn't it? When we get in a shipment, I deal with the AGG because I know the blessing is coming. It is the same as anything else that we have to deal with. We deal with it, because of the glory and joy that await us.

Just pray that I remember it when I am in the heat of battle.

Objectives

Psalms 27:4 (KJV)

4 One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

We want only one thing, to please the Lord with our lives, and to help others to know Him. Not to brag, just to clarify. We are here to serve God.

Our objective is God. We can only serve one thing. God or something else. We can't serve God AND something else. Not even ourselves. We can serve God OR serve manna \*money\*, stuff, politics, religion, ideologies or anything else. But not both. It would be like having a personal servant, to serve your every need. This servant could NOT have another job somewhere else doing the same thing for another person. God is a jealous God.

The beautiful thing about serving God is that a lot of beautiful things happen along the way. Children are served. Your fellow man is served. You study to show yourself approved of God. \*not just reading the Bible, but being intentional about being a better person, kinder, gentler, more positive. You watch your talk, \*I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO\*, you watch your attitude. It doesn't just happen. It's an intentional action. The money, the stuff, the resources are just TOOLS to complete the objective. Money is like a hammer that is needed to pound the nails if your objective is to build a house. Our objective is to serve God, God wants us to help children. Everything else is a tool that He will give us along the way to help children, our one objective.

OBJECTIVE:

TO SERVE GOD:

1. Believe in Him. If you can't believe in Him, ask Him to help you. It is impossible to believe in Him if He hasn't given you that gift. DO NOT LOOK DOWN ON UNBELIEVERS. Pray for them, that God may give them that gift as well.

2. Ask Him to save you. Thank Him for sending God the Son, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, to the Cross of Calvary to die for your sins. Accept that supreme gift! John 3:3 says 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'

3. Ask Him to speak to you through His Word, to make you more like Him. Believe and Repent is what Jesus says. Believe first, and then repent of your sins, as you see that you are sinning through God's Word.

4. Do what you believe He is showing you to do.

GOD HAS GIVEN PURE HEART A SINGULAR OBJECTIVE.

To feed, help, nourish, hug, love and teach impoverished children. To teach them so they can have an education and a job. To teach them about Jesus so they can love Him and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

We want to do more, please pray that we get the adequate resources to be approved to do so through the Government.

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Outrunning

John 20:4

So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

I just saw a very snide comment by a christian lady today. Her comments are always self glorifying, and demeaning to others. Today she was making fun of those who have small children, taking them to easter egg contests etc. She, and some other christians seem to spend all their time ridiculing others instead of looking for Jesus. I have known this lady for almost her whole Christian life. She has always been this way. Are people like that true believers? I don't know. But I do know one thing, You can't look for Jesus and look at others at the same time. When you finally see Jesus, you WILL see others afterwards, but in a totally different light.

The picture below is of John and Peter racing to the empty tomb. I love this. I saw it at my friend, Pastor Gordon Wilmot's many years ago. I said, "I WANT THAT!" Gordon and I have both been missionaries for many decades, working with indians, and the impoverished people of central and south america. Gordon Wilmot said, NO, you can't have my picture. I said, not the picture, the REVERENCE! I want that hushed reverence that I see in the faces of John and Peter as they were looking for the Lord. That look of expectation, that bubbling sense of Joy.

I used to run cross country. When you ran cross country, if you looked to the side you slowed down. We used to do anything possible to distract the runner in front, including spit on the guy we wanted to pass. If you looked to the side, you lost your pace. John just HAD to say in the verse above,, I WON!

This is a picture of an intense race. Neck to neck. But they didn't need to worry about looking to the side. They were FOCUSED on their goals. You can see in their faces disbelief, unbelief, belief, anticipation and a dare to hope at the same time. They are not looking around. They are not judging. They are not worried about how they look. They are not thinking of others. They

only want to see if Jesus and His promises are true. They have invested their lives in the Lord, and THIS is their payday~ This is OUR payday.

Focus on the empty tomb,, don't let others disway you. Don't fight along the way. Outrun yourself on the way to the empty tomb.

Jesus is alive.

Imagen: The Greatest Easter Painting Ever Made - Crisis Magazine

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Master

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

I struggle with this verse.

While there are no slaves in Nicaragua, nor in America, we do serve a Master. We either serve GOD, or someone or something else. Money is just one of the ways we 'serve'. We vote for our master with dollars. Where your money goes is probably a pretty good indicator of who you are serving.

I work a secular job (or two) to provide for my family and our ministry of helping children who are living below the poverty level in Nicaragua. I am trying to make money, AND live by faith at the same time. \*We spend a LOT more than I make, so the difference comes in from donations\*. We only get a few steady donations, the rest are sporadic. Also my pay as a salesman is inconsistent. And, the bills and money we spend are totally unpredictable. An accountant's nightmare. We have medical and legal emergencies, stuff breaks, lots of unexpected things happen when you are trying to really keep an open door and to serve others.

When you work for money, and need money to take care of your wife and kids AND feed and educate poor children, it is hard to distinguish between serving the Lord and serving money. This is something I feel that God just showed me. It would be easy to serve only money. The fact that we don't have any savings nor insurance, EVER, means that we spend it on others, for God's glory and honor. That is the litmus test. Everything you have eventually goes to who your true master is.

My good friend Mirna Duarte Flores recently said, 'Money is just a tool to use to serve your master better.'

Matt 4:10. Deut 6:13 and Josh 24:14 all say the same thing, When God repeats something 3 times, it's pretty important.

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve.

So, if you have to serve a master, why not choose a master who loves you and serves you?

Payday

Matthew 20:9

And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

Payday is today!

I both hate payday and love payday. Today is a bittersweet day. It is like having a multiple personality disorder. The first one is that of a miser and the other is that of a philanthropist.

I hate payday because it's expensive. We pay a LOT more than one penny. Worse off, we never have payroll until the last minute. We literally live hand to mouth. No insurance for ourselves, no safety net, no savings! Making Payroll is always a time of tension and panic. IN DECEMBER WE HAVE TO PAY DOUBLE, BY LAW! Even as I write, I feel the 'pavor' bubbling up.

It is a sin to feel this way. God has ALWAYS made payday happen. Even when my 'steady' contributors and sponsors have problems donating, GOD always makes payroll. That is great! I should NEVER worry. Jesus tells us NOT to worry, but I do. God is faithful, I am not.

I love payday because I love blessing people. Around 12 families are totally blessed beyond measure because we pay them a decent salary and provide for their medical expenses through insurance. That part of PureHeart alone is a ministry in itself, to about 60 souls. Most of our employees are sole supporters of multi-family households.

It is a great feeling to be an employer in a country where true unemployment is at around 60%. Honestly, I have the best staff in the world. I really don't know any other place that has as much cohesion and love between us and our co-laborers. We have a team that doesn't conspire, lie, nor steal. We have a team that covers for each other and who make sacrifices for the good of

all. It is a remarkable team, really. Laughter often rocks the Winner Home. It is the best feeling ever! It is an honor to help my teammates to make it in this world and to help their loved ones.

It is NOT my payroll to make, it is God's payroll to make. It's God's ministry, not mine.

God has two pay days.

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

There is a lot of misunderstanding about sowing into the Kingdom of God. The truth is, if you are living a life to truly please God, you will receive a GOODPAYDAY. If you are living a life to please yourself, you will have a BADPAYDAY. God is a lot more generous and has a lot more resources than any of us have.

The best payday is God's Payday, Eternal life with Christ Jesus in Heaven. That starts with the 2nd best part of PAYDAY, you being there with Him! The best part of PAYDAY? Seeing others there as well, because God used you to help them get there.

God bless us with wisdom as we approach a certain PAYDAY!

-my friend, brother and pastor, Emer Jamil Flores Luna when he was in Seminary. 28 years ago... this christian man of integrity has not changed the whole time I knew him,, a GREAT pastor and teacher.!

Just waiting for him to start a church that I can go to.

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so, the conversation today went like this... 'why do you always ask for money to take care of hungry and needy children?' My answer, ' why wouldn't I? I am a Christian, it is my duty as a true believer to take care of them' I don't make enough by my regular job to do that, so we get donations.'

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Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, ecclesiastes 12:1

So, the leader of a 'competing ministry' ( is there such a thing? Really???) gets 500 a month per location, so they put in a comedor (feeding center) 2 blocks away, again with the stipulation that



the children that eat there cant eat anywhere else. So we just save their lunch so they can have something to eat before the go to bed.

We tell them to eat at as many feeding centers as they can.

We love it when they get a lot to eat, these people obviously don't.

I guess that is the difference between pastors and hirelings.

True Christians are not territorial.

I am never ever suprised by 'missionary wars' anymore

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If you do not love you don't know God because God is love

1 John 4:8

You can qualify. Quantify it. Explain it. Deminish it. Simplify it. Rationalize it. Redicile it. Demean it. Mock it. Literilize it. Academize it. Break it down in the original languages. Intelectualize it. Use it to justify unkindness.

Still doesnt change it. If you don't love people, you really need to get repent of it and get saved

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I learned from some of the toughest schools the US Military has to offer, that when you think you are totally spent,, and can't move another inch, you still have about 60% in the tank. Your mind tells you it's time to quit a LONG time before you actually have to quit. It's all in the mind.

Spiritually, mentally, and physically it's all the same.

I found the best way to start the day is by thanking God for the good things. Refuse to think of the problems. Start the day on a positive note, of gratitude and thanksgiving to your Creator and Saviour.

The sound of kids laughter bright and early in the morning helps a lot toward a positive mental attitude as well.

empower: to give power to

#### ◀ Proverbs 26:4 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.

If you are answering a fool according to his folly, you are empowering them. Usually when someone says something weird, it is just a way to get attention. I think it is best to just keep your nose down and don't respond. I have seen lives changed when someone empowered them. I have never seen a life changed as a result of a foolish argument. You empower what you talk about.

Once, at a car dealership, I brought in my own computer. \*before they were common\* A low level manager came up to me and said 'oh, btw, don't look at porn during business hours!' I thought to myself, 'okeyyyyyyyyy?' He saw the computer as a dirty thing, probably because his heart wasn't in the right place. It didn't even occur to me. A computer to a true believer is just a work tool. A computer to an unbeliever is something else. In the 70's, preachers empowered the computer age by preaching against it all the time. You empower what you focus on.

#### ◀ Titus 1:15 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

Why do people get so angry about innocuous things like movie theaters, computers, internet, facebook, tv, things like that? I know people that see the devil in everything. it's almost like they are devil worshipers. If your eyes are on Jesus, you don't have to worry about anything else. You are empowering Jesus to take control of your life. You as a follower of Christ are pure, so all things are pure. Pure by definition is like a cathartic process. IE. a wound that needs be drained of impurities. Pure people don't hold on to the bad. Pure people are empowered by Jesus.

Empower the good, purify yourself with the pure cathartic \*releasing\* process. I love interacting with others because I always learn something. Social Media is great way to interact with others. I have learned so much on Facebook. Mostly what I have learned is about maintaining relationships with people from completely different backgrounds. There can be righteousness online, and users empowered by God's Spirit.

The market place is a great place to learn. Rather than driving, I prefer walking or going in bus or taxi to places. My son says I make friends every time I go somewhere. It's because I empower others to tell me their story. They are much more interesting stories out there than I can tell. Plus, I have already heard what I have to say. Afterwards, I usually share the Lord with them, but ONLY after I have empowered them to tell me their story.

I LOVE going to farmers markets rather than fancy grocery stores. 1. Because the simple farmers can use the money from my purchases more than the entitled trust fund babies that own the large grocery stores. 2. So I can develop a relationship, so I can interact. I have learned so much the past 5 years because I have empowered myself to empower others.

Empower what you believe in, NOT what you don't believe in.

You empower what you respond or react to. Responding is positive. Reacting is negative. If it causes a reaction, and it isn't really that important, it is usually best to just walk away. You don't have to correct everyone. Mike MacIntosh says, 'If you go around giving everyone a piece of your mind, eventually you will have no mind left to give'.

At PureHeart it is easy to respond to the good kids and to react to the bullies. I have learned from the very children themselves, that the best way to react to a bad situation is to ignore it. We try to CATCH the children doing good (respond) , and ignoring (rather than reacting to) the bad \*unless it's flagrantly bad\* (white slavery, trafficking etc). We empower the do gooders. The naughty ones just kind of get bored.

I have a friend who is a crack addict / prostitute. She has been on the streets selling herself for crack since she was a little girl. Once a guy beat her up. I reacted, but she said, 'Pastor Dean, we are Christians, we have to forgive'. She was a lot purer than I was in that moment. I learn more from these guys down here, than I teach, I can assure you. I hope that she is empowered by God. My wish is that all that we minister to are empowered.

◀ John 1:5 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Introduction

◀ John 14:27 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Jesus was talking about a Peace that is translated from the greek word 'EIRENE'. This peace is much more supernatural and richer than the cheap 'SHALOM peace' that people commonly use. SHALOM peace is conditional. It is dependent on the circumstances. Healthy kids, money, no war, is SHALOM peace, but that can diminish in a heart beat. I wake up every morning with SHALOM peace until I think of the realities surrounding us. Then it is time for EIRENE peace to step in.

◀ John 16:33 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

I can say I am truly surprised when believers are surprised by problems in their life. We shouldn't be. Jesus warned us, but again, told us that He is giving us our EIRENE peace, which we can only have if Jesus is living in our hearts. EIRENE peace is non conditional. We have that peace with it doesn't make sense to have peace. It is there as a living and visible testimony that we are set apart. When the world is caving in on us, we have a supernatural peace. That makes the world and it's spectators want what we have. When they see our peace, they ask us and want what we have.

I have had the privilege on my secular job with life-flights to see true believers having peace when there is no EARTHLY reason to have peace. They do have a heavenly reason. I love the doctors and non-believers reactions. What a testimony when someone has a peace that passes all understanding.

Let's jump forward in time. Jesus died, and left His peace. Paul \*then known as Saul\* was BIG TROUBLE for believers in his day. Jesus said, don't be troubled. Saul was a religious MONSTER coming to kill them. Jesus overcame Saul, and saved him. Jesus will overcome YOUR MONSTERS too.

Saul changed his name to Paul, and became a leader of the early Christian church. Nero Cesar was a MONSTER too, he made ISIS look innocent. Nero hated Christians, and loved to kill them. Paul was arrested and this is what he wrote from prison.

◀ Philippians 4:6 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

We are PureHeart work with children who have NO earthly reason to have supernatural peace, but they do have a Heavenly reason to be at peace, from our Heavenly Father. We teach them that they can have peace, even when the world says they shouldn't. We teach them to ask God to help them, and to ask us. God uses us, He LETS us be used by Him, it's a privelege. We can't help them if they don't ask.

Likewise you can help us to help them too. Here is how you can help the children of Nicaragua. Again, it's not for us, it's for them.

1. The tires of our vehicle are balder than my head. 2. Soap 3. Sewing supplies 4. Woodworking supplies 5. Construcion supplies 6. School supplies 7. Pre-School Supplies 8. Bibles 9. Cooking Supplies 10. Electric Bill 11. Insurance and salaries for teachers 12. Taxes 13. Accountants

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The Gospel of Poochie Jr

I am often amazed that the big kids don't bully Poochies little brother, Poochie Jr

Two days ago, i got a glimpse at the reason why,,, a big kid took his food and he just laughed and gave him his juice too. They slapped him hard today, and he smiled and hugged

Bullies get no satisfaction out of torturing him!!

I HAVE GOT TO GET THAT!!!

I am totally convicted!! A two year old demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ REAL TIME

Friends

I heard on a country western song once, 'Friends forgive each other's sins'. Although it's a little irreverant, \*ONLY GOD CAN FORGIVE SINS\*, there is a lot of truth in that.

◀ John 15:15 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Jesus said we are friends. If this were not so, he wouldn't share things with us

This week I was fortunate to be able to spend time in the states. I initially had a business meeting with my friend Mark Petschel, who owns a buying club called TRUmendous. It is a start up company that plans on sending 25% of it's profits to PureHeartChildren'sFund Afterwards, I got to visit with friends that support us. I even got to do a little work while I was at it. Don't you just love to work until you sweat sometimes? I love it, especially when you are doing it with your friend. Friends bare each other's burdens. Friends intervene when they see their buddies suffer. Enoc was God's friend. God spared Enoc a lot of grief.

◀ Genesis 5:24 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

My time in Florida was spectacular. Friends are better than family in a lot of ways. They are like adopted family. I like to call them family that you choose. You choose them, and they choose you. They WANT to be with you, and sacrifice to do so. You know that you are not an inconvenience. They go out of their way to be with you, if at all possible. Ideally, friends and family should be the same, but many times they are not. I have some family members that are my friends, but unfortunately not all. Friends forgive, friends don't judge. Friends think like you, or not. Even if you agree to disagree, they aren't critical. They forget the negative things of the past. They are fun to talk to and to hang around with. As shown even in the case of Enoc, friends are fun to walk with.

I tried to see all my friends there, in one week, but that's not possible. It's easy with friends though. They know you you can't see every one. Friends understand that. Friends are easy. Friends are a salve to the soul.

Like I said, I got to work with a good friend. A Godly man. We all work. Missionaries work. Workmen work. Moms work. Salesmen work (although you STILL can't convince me that lifting a little plastic thing and speaking into it can qualify as work). The question is: Do you work with and for your friends, or are your co-workers not you friend? The answer is that Jesus is your friend. Work for Jesus and you will enjoy whatever you do.

I love to work with friends. It is fun to work with people that you love, and that love you...Friends work with us to support the staff and children of PureHeartChildren'sFund. they say that the person that loves what he does doesn't 'work' a day in his life. Working with my friends to bless others is FUN. Connecting with friends, fundraising for missions etc. can seem like work, to the person who doesn't understand this concept. It isn't easy when you need to see lot of friends in a short period of time. But it isn't work, if you are enjoying yourself.

I didn't have enough money to rent a car. When you are visiting a state where you have lots of friends, people want to see you; you try, but when you are depending on other people for a ride, for lodging, for food, it makes everything difficult. A good friend \*AND EXCELLENT COOK BTW\* offered her home as a base camp. Those who could, visited me and picked me up. Those that couldn't, at least knew I was available.

It is fun to see and hear from people you love. It is fun to work with friends in construction because it is like playing in a giant sand box with your buddies. Business meetings with friends are also like a social event with your buddies.

God is our friend, as Jesus says in John 15. I look forward to spending eternity with my friends and my best friend,

Jesus.

I love working with and for my friends. It doesn't matter how distasteful or hard it is. If it is with my friends I love working. If it is to make a friend successful, even more so. I think it is the same with God. He loves the relationship with us. He loves to see us struggling, and then looking to Him for help. Whatever we do, no matter how mean the people we work with are to us, we can LOVE what we are doing. Because we are working with our best friend, Jesus.

◀ Colossians 3:17 ▶

Verse (Click for Chapter)

New International Version

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

LIGHT

◀ Genesis 1:4 ▶ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

I flew with an ex calvary chapel pastor the other day. I knew of him. He was a great teacher. He had a large calvary chapel in Missouri. I taught at his church, and he traveled around a lot as an authority on the Bible. He proudly declared to me that he no longer believed in the Bible.... it shook me to the soul. He said he was studying what happened to the 400 years of silence \*between the last chapter of the old testament and the first chapter of the book of Matthew\*. He said a lot of the persian culture and way of thought went into the New Testament, so he didn't believe any more.

Recently it has been revealed that Daniel, the Israelite probably influenced heavily the persian culture. What was a stumbling block to the ex pastor was to me a great revelation. Daniel's, Ishak's, Mischak's and Abednigo's teaching and influence affected the whole persian culture. It lasted for over half of a millenium. What a legacy! Light prevailed. They were captives, and they revolutionized the world.



One of the ex pastor's excuse for not believing was that the persians worshipped light. I do too, God is light. We are light if we have God in us. Even in beginning God created light and darkenss.

Light and darkness can not co-exist. I asked the ex-pastor, well, what about Jesus? He said 'what about him?'. The ex-pastor and I soon ran out of things to say.

It reminded me of Billy Graham's crisis of faith. He followed an evangelist named Templeton. Like the guy on the plane, one day Templeton woke up and said, I DON'T BELIEVE ANYMORE. Billy Graham was shaken, and went into the woods. Billy Graham decided to continue to believe, and Templeton went on to become a billionaire. On his deathbed, a reporter asked Templeton, 'do you miss Christianity?', He said no, not at all. Then the question came, 'do you miss Jesus?', With a tear in his eye Templeton replied, 'yes, I miss Jesus.'

◀ 1 John 1:4-6 ▶

We write these things so that our joy may be complete. And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

John called himself 'the apostle that Jesus loved'. He knew who he was in Jesus. He knew what the true light of God was and was enthralled by it. At the last supper of our Lord, John laid with his head against Jesus' chest. He probably could hear His Lord's heartbeat.

John wrote five books of the Bible. He was heavily impacted by the first five books of the modern Bible and much of the old testament, because that for them WAS the SCRIPTURES. Also, his verbage was heavily influenced by the Persian culture of the time, because that's when he lived.

1. the book of St. John, \*one of the synoptic books\*, (EYE WITNESS OF JESUS AND LIFE AND MIRACLES)

2-4 1-3 John,

5. the book of Revelations that was written probably when he was living his life in prison on the island of Patmos \*They tried boiling him to death in a vat of boiling oil, but he didn't die, so they exiled him\*.

◀ John 1:5 ▶ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

We are light, we have the light in us, and we shouldn't keep it under a bushel, but let it shine from the top of the hill so all can see. We don't have to change other. We just have to shine. When we walk into a room, people notice. We don't have to say anything. When we say something wrong, people, the unbelievers correct us. They that live in the darkness love the

light, although they will never admit it. They know it will change them, but they can never change us. After we have had experience the beauty and light of God, our only goal is that others live in it's beauty and light as well.

When we have the light in us, we will have a heart for the lost. Feeding widows and orphans will no longer be a chore, but a blessing. Visiting the sick and imprisoned will be an honor. Most of all, those who truly LOVE the Lord, will love others, ANYONE who truly loves the Lord as well. The brothers are not those who go to church, or wear a cross. Nor even those working for the Lord full time in a church somewhere. The brothers are those who love the Lord their God with all their hear,sould and mind.

◀ 1 John 3:14 ► We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

### **Back ache!**

My life, as I know it, seemed to come to an end last night.

Well at least I felt that way. I carried six boxes of baby food to a little pocket of people down a slippery path. Didn't weigh much, it's baby food.

Got home, took my shoes off and sat barefoot in our little playground enjoying the cool night air, feeling the dirt with my toes. A couple hours later I could not get up out of the chair. My back was completely frozen. Once I tried to move, the pain was excruciating. The Winnies were scared.

I finally managed to get upstairs and get into a comfortable enough position to fall to sleep. I was miserable. I thought of a life not being able to do what I do. The horror! My life literally passed before my eyes.

I remembered what my pentecostal friend Mike Continenza told me, and I laid hands on myself and prayed and asked God to heal me. I fell to sleep and woke up fine, a little sore but fine.

I read Judges the other day, and was made aware that Israel always had problems with God because they kept on forgetting all the good things God has done for them. I am guilty even now of that. God could have left me with a locked back forever but he didn't.

"Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come"

These familiar words come from the second verse of "Come, Thou Fount." It is a hymn written by Robert Robinson in 1757. You can listen below.

Back then everyone knew what an Ebenezer was. Nowadays few people do.

In 1 Sam 7 Samuel put a stone as a reminder of what God did for Him. He called it Ebenezer.

Reading the Bible for me is an Ebenezer, it reminds me of God's goodness

We should all commit today, 1 Jan to reading the Bible through in a year. I personally like Blue Letter Bible's plan. Blb.org

We should all have Ebenezer points in our life. How many times this past year were we truly afraid, and we prayed, and God pulled us through?

Every reader of this, I bet has prayed through many things this past year, and the fact that you are reading this means you survived.

Have you raised an Ebenezer thanking God and made an effort to remember His goodness in 2017? 2018 will be much better if you did.

## **Pain**

### **Revelation 21:4**

*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

King James of Scotland dressed as a beggar and walked among the poor to feel their pain and to identify with them. He knew that if he walked around dressed like a king, he wouldn't get the real story. He wanted to relate to his people, on their level. He wanted them to open up to him.

God did the same thing by sending His Son Jesus (Emmanuel, God with us) to live among us, to feel our pain and to identify with us. Jesus was tempted and suffered just like us. He fulfilled the law of sin and death to gracefully give life eternal! Without His grace it would be impossible.

Pain is one of those things that is good, bad, and normal all at the same time. Pain is a sign that you are alive. It tells you when something is wrong. It warns you. It strengthens you. It molds and shapes you. It teaches you. Everyone alive has pain.

Muscle pain is good if you have exercised, bad if you haven't. Foot pain is good if you have been going and telling it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is king. Bad if you just sit on a couch or pew somewhere getting sugar diabetes. Pain is a sign of aging, a warning sign and merciful reminder that we are all mortal.

Pain tells you when something is wrong. It goes away when everything is back to normal. It is extremely painful for a soldier to be deployed but that pain is forgotten when he comes home.

Women go through a lot of pain giving birth to a child. That pain is not even remembered when that little thing lets out it's first little cry.

Paul says the greatest pain on earth is not comparable to the joy when we get to heaven. That is my paraphrase from **Romans 8:18** 'For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.'

The joy of being in heaven, and the freedom from pain and sadness, I believe is why all the tears are wiped away when we get there.

Pain makes us more like Christ, and increases our likelihood of being saved and going to heaven. The anguish of sin brings us to our knees so we can cry out to God. Only He can save us, as it says in **Psalms 107:12** *He subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.*

They cried to the Lord in their trouble. Then they cried to the Lord and he saved them from their distress.

That's also what Paul said in **Col 1:24** *'Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.'*

While we are here on earth, here in Nicaragua we want to alleviate as much pain and suffering on this earth as possible. We want to add to Christ's church, to help these children to get to heaven, by helping them and also by teaching them to cry out to the Lord.

On this Christmas I hope we remembered, and keep on remembering Christ. Jesus embraced the pain of going to the cross for us. Mary, His mom, embraced the pain of childbirth as well as the horrific pain of seeing her baby being crucified. God the Father suffered as He watched His Son die as a sacrifice for our sin, in order that we can someday have no more pain, and live with Him forever in paradise.

## Tithe

### Hebrews 7:9

*And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.*

A tithe literally means 10%.

I learned in seminary that theologians love to argue. Worst of all, theologians aren't very kind people as a rule. FB proves it even more. Arguing is sin, because it's vanity.

Paul said in Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

Agreeing to disagree is a rare concept. Several popular ( and as Paul points out, foolish) arguments that stand out in my mind I are:

1. Did the good samaritan really do something admirable and that we should follow?
2. What exactly is the love that John talks about when he said God is love?
3. What churches are in apostasy?
4. Tithing is scriptural or no?

All these arguments seem to be self serving. The first three I think are argued about so fiercely because like I said, many theologians are not particularly nice people, and they are vain.

The fourth is because of greed. Either they don't want to give. Or because their salaries depend on how much the flock gives.

Non tithers eagerly point out that Jesus only talked about tithing once. The guy that tithed wasn't saved, and the guy that didn't tithe was saved.

Thankfully I am not a theologian, nor a Bible expert. I love Jesus and just want to serve Him and please Him by helping the impoverished to have a future and a Hope.

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*

Here at our home, we avoid arguing. Arguing and opinions are for angry people. No time for that. We just want to help others. We are not a church so the legalistic old testament concept of tithing doesn't even apply to us. Fact of the matter is the New Testament concept isn't only 10%, but 100%.

In the New Testament, the Lord owns all, not just "a tithe". 1 Cor. 4:7 is interesting: everything we have is from Him! He owns our possessions and we are stewards, not owners giving a percentage.

Last night summed up my theological view of tithing or any other point of contention among the brethren. God speaks to people differently. The good samaritan is a great example in my life. I love doing stuff like that, Jesus did too. God's love to me is love for everyone. Last foolish argument, greedy people need to let go of their money, because they love it, it's their God. Generous people don't need to tithe. They give a lot more than 10% anyway.

So I got to teach at a very humble church in Rubenia last night. Pretty rough neighborhood. I got lost trying to find the church, not a good idea for a gringo walking around lost asking for

directions with an American accent in a gang infested barrio at night...using his smart phone as a flashlight.

I was down to our last 20 bucks (one bill) and the Lord prompted me to put all of it in the plate. It is permitted here to break a bill out of the plate. Winnie hates it when I do that.

As I was leaving the daughter of the Pastor put an envelope in my pocket. When I got home it had \$60 in it. We are going to have a decent weekend. God tripled what I hesitantly gave.

Funny how God always shows me not to worry about trivial things like theologians arguing and money. He sure isn't.

## **Fingers**

### **John 8:6**

*This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.*

Hmmmm that sounds familiar, lets see who else wrote with their finger...

### **Deut 9:10**

*And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God;*

The pharisees were trying to prove that Jesus wasn't God by using the Ten Commandments against Him. This is about a woman caught breaking one of the ten commandments. They knew God can not contradict Himself because He is Truth. Jesus (Son of God, God the Son) is the Word made flesh, He was writing with His finger I think to show He wrote the Ten Commandments as well:

God is a being. He has eyes, a mouth, ears, hands, and He even has fingers. The finger of God is so powerful, it's frightening. We as believers shouldn't be afraid of it though, because we know God is good; and He will use it for our benefit.

South of the border often times the sun set casts rays straight upwards, and they look like fingers. They call it Fingers of God. Whenever I see these fingers of God, I have to praise Him. I know he is good, and his fingers are for us.

### **Psalms 8:3**

*...consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars.....*

Everything that God does is good. The works of his fingers are good. He knows us. He wants us to use what He has made for his glory. The same fingers that God used to write his 10

commandments are the same fingers He used to create the universe. These fingers made us, and they can defend us.

Jesus said in **Luke 11:20**, “But if I with the finger of God cast out devils...”

Jesus said the finger of God casts out demons. If He made them, he can control them. Jesus used his fingers to heal the sick!

### **Mark 7:32**

*And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him.*

**33** *And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;*

**34** *And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.*

**35** *And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.*

God gave us fingers because we are created in His image. We can use our fingers too. We can use them for good. We can use them to pat a little boy on the head. We can scratch an itch, or reach that last finger full of peanut butter stuck at the bottom of the jar. We can hold our spouses hand, and dial a number to call a friend to encourage.

Fingers are also used to teach. We've all heard them, mothers counting off reasons to not give you something, children giving you reasons why you should give them something, and always the example of 1 finger pointing at someone means 3 pointing at yourself.

I use my fingers for my favorite song ever, “Este Dedito”. (This Little Finger). I think I am the only adult that likes it. Kids like it of course.

The song is:

“This little finger went to church. This little finger didn’t. This little finger sang praises to God. This little finger didn’t, but this little finger, such a little finger, do you know what it says? Glory to God’...

Anyway, I like it because the most insignificant finger can do the most important thing ever, to praise God. That is the only reason we are on this earth. To praise God and to make Him known to others.

We can also use our finger for bad purposes. When Winnie first got her driver’s license, she drove alone to the store. She came back red in the face. I asked her how it went. She sat down with a sigh. In a despondent tone she said, “Someone gave me the finger”. I probably shouldn’t have laughed, but I did. We have all been there.

I have pointed my finger at people accusing them. I have had fingers pointed at me as well. It isn't pleasant.

Amazing how something as small as a finger can bring so much joy, or so much shame.

A finger has power to bless or to curse.

I choose that my little finger, and the rest of my body mind and soul, brings glory to God, and not accuse nor curse anyone.

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## Encourage

Encourage – to give courage. We as Christians are here to encourage one another. We live in scary times, we can use all the courage we can get.

My pastor is down here from Burton Ohio. What an encouragement. When someone is tired, they become Discouraged. Cowardice soon follows. Their effectiveness and personal walk is affected. When they are Encouraged they are brave. Their energy is renewed. Things are good again. When they are in fellowship with others, they have courage. When they are alone, they suffer attacks of fatigue and fear.

Pastor Mike and his team are not only encouraging Winnie and me, but everyone else. They have given courage and built up our staff, our helpers, the children we serve, Pastor Astrubal and Maria. All people anywhere near our ministry in Nicaragua has been touched with encouragement this week.

This visitation reminded us all that God designed us, His people, to be a social people. Just being around someone that believes like you, encourages you. The encouragers don't have to be anything great. They don't have to be famous, strong, smart, or attractive. They can be mundane and plain. The only thing they need to do is to be present in order to give you strength and to build you up. That's why it is important that we always seek the company of other believers, no matter how they are packaged.

That's the beauty of encouraging others. You don't have to be witty. Sarcasm, competition, slander, negativity, or arguments are ever needed. Encouraging others is fun, and is healthy for you. It's positive to all parties concerned. Encouraging others is a true win win situation, and is required by God that we encourage others, and build them up. What a deal!

There was a pretty obscure character in the Bible that no one has heard of. His name was Joseph. Although no one knows his name, he was responsible for healing relationships of the disciples themselves. He encouraged the disciples. The disciples went on to fame, and he is remembered only by his nick name, Barnabas, because he encouraged the disciples to do great things, and to work together in the early church.

### **Acts 4:36**

*Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"),*

We aren't all going to be famous. We aren't necessarily talented, nor pretty. We all can encourage others however. Regardless of whether or not we are talented, smart, pretty and

famous, we still can encourage others. 100% of all the christians in the world are here for one reason, to encourage and to build up one another. Once we get in the habit of doing that, there will be collateral effects as well. Non-christians will be encouraged and built up. Hopefully to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. In the process of encouragement and edification, the lost will see the harmony and the kingdom of God and get saved.

Anyone and everyone should encourage others to follow Jesus and to live a life that is pleasing to Him. This team from my home town has really encouraged me as I am down here to encourage others to do good, and to Love the Lord with all our hearts, souls and minds.

#### **Romans 2:4**

*The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.*

#### **Lines**

#### **Psalms 16:6**

*The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.*

If you don't like waiting in lines, do not live in a developing country.

I never liked lines. The Army ruined my taste for them.

Children love lines, like waiting for food, presents, or a piñata. They are waiting for something. As a re-born Christian, I now love them again because it is an excellent opportunity to testify and to share the love of Christ with others.

Also, if nothing else, it is a great place and way to pray.

Long lines, to a point, are actually pleasant to me if I am not in a hurry to get someplace.

The elderly do not like to wait in lines, and they do not have to in Nicaragua. An elderly lady cut in front of about 20 of us today, without even an apology... no one says a word. They expect the elderly to cut in front of them. That is one of the things I love about Latina culture.

In general, lines and waiting are for the young (or in my case, young in heart). The older people get, the less they like to wait. As patience in lines decreases, love of complaining and being 'irked' increases. A sign of age.

Count it all joy when you are waiting, as that means you have something to wait for.

I am waiting for Heaven and to meet Jesus face to face, and want to bring as many along with me in *that line* as well... as the quote from the Bible above, a goodly heritage.

#### **Finder Keepers**

## Genesis 4:9

*Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"*

Caine was in big trouble. He just bumped off his brother Abel because God accepted Abel's sacrifice of a first born, choice lamb. Caine was also mad because God rejected his personal sacrifice of yucca and other stuff like that, which came out of his hard work on the ground.

Kind of ironic isn't it that people would kill other people because of God's favoritism? Oh wait. That still happens! God does have favorites. Also, He has favorite ways of doing things. He is Omnipotent (all powerful).

God created the earth. He showed Adam and Eve how to cover their sins, by the shedding blood. The old testament was written (and played out) to show why we need Jesus' death on the cross of Calvary to pay for our sins. God killed animals and covered Adam and Eve with animal skins after they had sinned in the garden of Eden.

Killing an innocent first born lamb (Jesus) is our covering for sins as well. Abel offered a lamb, the best lamb to God, a blood sacrifice. This was a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice. Cain offered stuff out of the ground that he labored over. Fruits of our own work and hands will never save us.

God already knew Caine sinned. Only God is Omnipresent (every where at once) and Omniscient (all knowing). God saw Abel being murdered. By being a kind and gentle Father, God still wanted to have a relationship with Caine. He asked Caine where Abel was, and Caine was a smart aleck... "AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?" Wrong answer and an even worse attitude. Caine was in trouble because of his attitude and selfishness.

God probably thought to Himself, "Well, as a matter of fact, YES YOU ARE!" We all are our brother's keepers. It's in our job descriptions as Christians. We are to keep our brothers safely and with love. We are to love our enemies. We are to pray for those who spitefully use us. We are to give them a blanket if they are cold. We are to feed them and give them shelter. We are to protect them from bullies.

We all can be doing a better job at being our brother's keepers. Finders keepers, losers weepers. We should weep over people we don't win for Christ, or for people who don't know Christ. If God let's us find someone, let's become the keeper of that person. Love them, help them.

I find that our best sermons are said when we don't talk. Keeping your brother warm, safe and fed is a much better sermon than a half an hour lecture.

Imagine all Christians taking this to heart and really committing to being our 'brother's keeper'. The result would be overflowing churches with sober drunks, married ex-prostitutes and a thriving body of Christ. Pastors would be friendlier, bums would feel comfortable asking parishioners for help, waitresses would actually want to work the Sunday lunch shift, and many more people would be saved.

Are we at Pure Heart our brother's keepers? Yes we are. We have a long way to go, but yes, we are. It all has to do with the attitude.

## **busYness**

### **Luke 2:49**

*And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*

When people tell me they are 'slammed' or 'busy' I get frustrated! We are all busy. Relationships should always take precedence over agendas. Especially if you are a follower of Christ.

Being busy comes with life. Moms, dads, grandparents, and kids alike are all busy. Thieves and scam artists can be 'busy' as well. Even old retirees are busy with life after work and the elderly are busy as well with doctor appointments. It never ends.

Everyone is busy! That's life. The only people who aren't busy are dead people. And most of the dead people are probably wishing right now that they had been busier working out their salvation than buying and protecting more useless stuff.

BusYness is neither bad nor good. There is no honor in busYness. It's like breathing. Just do not let it get in the way of what is important.

Business IS good though. We need business for our physical lives as well as our spiritual lives. Jesus said He was about the business of His Father.

We should be busy about the business of our Heavenly Father. That kind of busYness is good. Also, you will notice (I do anyway) that when I am busy with the business of my Father, I am never too busy for others. When I get into busyness on my own, people are a distraction. That is a good litmus test to gauge if what you are doing is for the Lord, or in your flesh. This is how we can know when we are out of the will of the Father. When we become busy with only our own busyness, the feeling there is panic, not peace.

### **Luke 10:38-42**

*38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.*

39 *And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.*

40 *But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me.*

41 *And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:*

42 *But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

Martha and Mary were a classic example. Mary was just sitting, hanging out with Jesus. Martha was doing whatever women do in kitchens. Mary knew Jesus was there to see *them*, so she rightly concluded that the kitchen stuff could wait. We need to be more aware of who is around us. Also we need to always be aware of our Master and His business.

People and their souls are the business of the Master.

As we go about our day to day business, focus on the Lord. I guarantee you, if you are *listening* to Him and obeying Him, you will be busier than ever, and not even be bothered by it. In fact, your *busyness* will bring you much joy and satisfaction.

Being *able* to be busy for God is a privilege that we need to be thankful for every day.

**Move**

#### **Acts 20:24**

*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

I promised myself not to become an old man stuck in the past, but to keep moving forward. Now here I am quoting my drill sergeants and tac officers from 43 years ago.

Everything in the military was about movement. The most used command in training and in the field was MOVE!!

Move or die.

Move it (what ever IT may be).

Move and you don't need 'sniffle gear.'

Move and the critters don't eat you.

That is a great reflection of what the world teaches. I have been proven time and again that it works! It is worldly wisdom. All the *move* commands above apply to the real, physical life. If you take a nap during the day you can get mosquito bites which can lead to dengue. Sleeping on the ground at night in the boonies will get you eaten by a lot more than mosquitoes. If you keep moving outside when it's cold you don't need a coat. Movement keeps you warm. If you sit around all day, stagnate, you die. In battle you are a sitting target if you don't move continuously.

We as believers, however, have a source which is much higher and wiser on top of what the world teaches..

### **Psalm 46:10**

*Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

Being still has to do with the heart. Many borderline believers use it as a spiritual cop out. They use it as a biblical excuse to be lazy, selfish and inconsiderate. Like many things in the bible that are taken out of context, it turns a healing word from the Lord into something vile and blasphemous. We are told to be anxious for nothing, yet at the same time we are told to go out of our way for others. David, on the rooftops at a time when the kings go to battle, is a perfect example of what happens to a believer that doesn't keep moving. The good samaritan (a member of a false church) was the crazy, extravagant God lover.

God's attributes, like the crazy and extravagant love, are something that we get when we are saved, when the King of the Universe comes to dwell in our hearts. Being still means to wait and trust in God. We know who is defending us. Being still is confidence. I am a lot more confident in God's abilities than in my own.

Being still also means we don't have to run around the world trying to minister to everyone. God has it perfectly under control. Being still means we get to do a great job with those in front of us. Praise God that He wants us to be still *here*, with our couple of hundred children. Our presence here every day allows the children to have confidence in God. They see us, extravagantly, crazily in love with them, catering to their whims as much as possible and they see that their Creator is not only 'Not Angry' with them, but *loves* them very much. It is so much easier to talk to someone when you trust them and know they truly love you and that they aren't angry.

### **BeAttitudes**

### **Matthew 5:16**

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Winnie and I used to tell our kids when they were grumpy that we didn't like their attitudes and that they had 3 minutes to change it. We used to quietly laugh as we would see their adorable faces scrunch up with determination. It always worked! A change of attitude starts from the inside. We ordered them to change how they were being.

One day Little Deannie tried reverse psychology. I heard mommy reprimanding Jr, and he answered in his little toddler voice "I don't like your attitude." Needless to say, *that* did not work out very well for Deannie.

Authorities dictate our attitudes, not the other way around. Authourities tell subordinates how to be.

Jesus, our ultimate authority, dictated what our attitudes are to be in what are called the Beatitudes. For the purpose of this writing I call it Be-Attitudes, but really, why are they called the Beatitudes? The word is from the Latin beatus, meaning "blessed," or better put, 'happy.' Like any good authority, Jesus is telling us how to *be* truly happy, forever.

The Beatitudes describe the attitudes that you need to Be-having to be happy. Only evidenced when you are a Child of the Living God. Actually it's kind of like the chicken and the egg philosophical debate. I believe you can't Be-Having an attitude that will truly make you happy until you are born again.

I got saved by reading the beatitudes. The be-attitudes tell you what your attitude will be once you get saved. That was something I desperately needed. Many times reading the same beatitudes make different people want to get saved. Even Mahatma Ghandi was attracted to Christ through reading the beatitudes.

Our flesh, and wordly philosophies, are 180 degrees out of whack with Jesus' beatitudes. I think an easy sign that you are born again is that your attitude and desires are completely different than before you were born again.

When you have the rebirth experience, you are a new creature, different. Sure you fail and fall, but your desire will be to conform to the beatitudes. If you follow them, you are happy. If you don't you are miserable. Your spirit is now dominant and it wants to please God, not your flesh.

Blessed people are Happy people.

Jesus tells us how our our attitudes will be once we get saved. They will become radically different from what tv, the world, your drill sergeant or your teacher would teach you.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.



- Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Jesus tell us, His children, to be light or to be the example. It will bless our lives and those around us.

### **Matthew 5:16**

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

God's light within us shines the brightest when there is the sharpest of contrasts with this dark world.

Love your enemies, give two things when asked for one, turn the other cheek, and your attitude will reflect God the Son, the Son of God to this fallen world.

**YOU**

### **Matthew 6:25**

*Therefore I say unto YOU, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

'You' is a very personal word. In the wrong hands it can aggressive, impersonal and invasive word.

My friend went to college and one of the professors had the last name Yu (as in you). He said you can call me Professor Yu, Mr. Yu, teacher Yu but Never ever call me 'Hey YOU!'

As an Army private, you never want to hear the dreaded words 'Hey you!' If your squad leader was pointing at you with a sneer on his face you were probably going to have a really bad day.

On the other hand, you is the most beautiful word when applied with love and caring. Especially when used by the Creator of the Universe when He talks to you! Jesus talks to you with love and caring. When Jesus says you, He, with great tenderness, means me and you, all of us.

Although I personally answer every email, message and text from everyone, immediately, I wish I could talk to you, personally and more frequently. But I can't. I am not everywhere at once. Even if I could, I don't have the love nor effectiveness for you that Jesus has.

Not only does Jesus love you more than anyone else does, He is more effective. Jesus is love and He is everywhere. He is with you. Although I talk to Him about you (500+ subscribed readers) a LOT, He already knows! Your prayer requests, your challenges and your victories are important to me, but you are even more important to Him.

When I can't sleep at night, I intercede for you. I try to address every prayer request and need as the Lord leads. It's not much, but it goes a long way with the help of the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the legions of angels. When you pray for me and the precious children we serve, it also goes a long way.

You are important to me. You are important to Jesus too! You are so important to Him that He died for you.

Jesus is already taking care of your problems and your needs that you don't even know about it yet. After all, He died for us while we were still sinners, while we were still not even aware of what was waiting for us without Jesus' sacrifice.

As I pray for you, I know you pray for us here and the children we serve. You help us as we help them, through prayers, reports, awareness, connections, and financial gifts. We pass it all on to the end user, the desperate children. A beautiful win win relationship for you, us and them.

Jesus's relationship with you is more important than all other relationships you can have. Jesus calls you His friend if you Love Him and Follow Him. Friends with God forever is very impressive!

#### **John 15:14**

*You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you will ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 I command these things to you, that you may love one another.*

I love you my friend. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for not clicking the

**T.E.A.M.**

**Colossians 3:16**

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

**All working together-**

**T.E.A.M. - Teaching, Encouraging, Admonishing, Ministering**

**I have never seen an American pastor, of any teams that have been down here, reprimand the praise and worship leader of a Nicaraguan church we have been at. I was dying. Afterwards**

everyone knew that it was the truth, and it was needed. He simply said to the praise and worship leader, God wants to use you, but He can't because you are too prideful. He went on to say, 'your group is great, but they don't trust you because you don't have their back.'

Did you realize that there is no 'I' in TEAM? As a team, everyone has to be concerned about every one else. One selfish person can destroy a beautiful work.

Without a TEAM behind them, there are very few people who can proudly point at their chests and say I did it. Businesses and churches fail because leaders are more interested in their own success than the welfare of others. No teamwork is possible without that concern.

If you are a believer, even God is part of your team:

Romans 8:28

For all things work together for the good for those who love the Lord!

Loners that aren't part of any team miss out on life. People are social beings. I think that is why social media is so powerful in an age where it is becoming easier and easier to become a recluse. It is not natural nor healthy for people to be shut in from others.

We just had a team of 30 north Americans staying with Pure Heart here in Nicaragua. When you add in all the helpers, translators and staff we have a team of over 50 people cohabiting, teaching, encouraging, admonishing, and ministering to our 200 + Pure Heart children and their families on a daily basis. When you include their families in the count, we are serving around one thousand souls. On top of that we were at a different church every night doing the same thing. God is good. That was fun! It went seamlessly thanks to the teamwork (which is ultimately a result of good leadership).

Now we are about to be doing the same thing with another group that is trickling in as we speak.

Thank you Pastor Mike Continenza and all 28 of your members of the Middlefield Abundant Life Church of God for coming down and teaching, encouraging, admonishing and ministering to us also in a much needed way,

Acceptance

Genesis 4:6-7

The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

We shine brightest when we shine together-

The modern term for acceptance is validation. People need to be accepted. But they want to be accepted by man, not God. They are wrong! Man is fickle. Out of site out of mind, no matter what you have done for them. How do we get accepted by the only One in the universe who matters?

Acceptance by God is hopefully the goal of all of us, because He already has accepted us. He knew all your bad things you were going to do before the foundation of the world, and He chose you and died for you anyway.

History has taught us that some want acceptance from God so bad they are even willing to kill for it. God isn't so dramatic though. He has already accepted us, through His Son. There is nothing we can do to make Him accept us more nor less. We have the choice of accepting Him or rejecting Him, but His desire is that we accept Him.

Basically you accept Him because He accepts you through His Son's sacrifice and then out of gratitude you only want to do the things that are acceptable to Him. Cain was under the law. Religion is man reaching for God. Futile! Grace is God reaching for man. Now that is Good News!!

God isn't looking for great singular actions as much as He is looking at your love, heart, honesty, charity, decisions, and choices. Decisions to obey Jesus, to be a good testimony (even when no one is watching), to be honest and faithful are quite seemingly small and inconsequential things. However, together they will get you enormous rewards. Following Christ isn't a Sunday-school prayer but a lifetime commitment of no compromise. Being saved (accepted) isn't noisy or showy, it's just a fact that you are a friend of God.

I personally don't think where you worship God has much to do with anything. God wants us as believers to be together. That's a pretty broad paint brush. I know people in the worst possible churches (in my opinion) that have the most marvelous walks with God, and people who go to the best church (again imho) acting like little devils outside of the building.

Bad compromises can lead to bad decisions, which lead to opportunities for sin to take hold and lead us down the path of destruction. That's why we must take control and rule over our thoughts and actions if we are true followers of Christ.

It's a choice. Even when we make a wrong turn, (sin) God knows if we are choosing Him in our hearts. Love covers a multitude of sins. A lot of times we make the wrong decisions but God in His infinite mercy accepts us and gives us a chance to make it right.

It's like the law. Winnie and I got in trouble with the law. Our neighbor called us and we went over and her infant was lying lifeless in the hammock. It's little body was warm and flexible so I gave it mouth to mouth until a spider came out of it's mouth and into mine. We took the baby to the nearest hospital. They stopped me from carrying the baby into the ER and told me to take it

to the morgue. We took the baby to the morgue and we were detained by the police because it is illegal to transport a body in your own car. We explained everything and were eventually released because they saw that the desire of our hearts were for good not for bad.

Choose God! Sure you are going to make mistakes, you are going to compromise your walk with God. It's ok. Talk to God, He is crazy about you and chooses you.

We deal with the kids here with velvet gloves. We talk more than reprimand because that's how God does it. We accept them no matter how bad they are because they are our kids.

Joshua 24:15 ...choose this day whom you will serve.... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Shine

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance[a] upon you and give you peace.

We shine brightest when we shine together-  
Shine means to give out a bright light.

God's light, shining out of his face, onto you!! What an interesting blessing, but what is it? It is a blessing of evangelism. Spreading the good news of Jesus. When God's face shines on you, you shine God to others. Spreading the Gospel.

The shiny moon does not give off it's own light, it can't. There is no light produced from it. The moon merely reflects the sun's light. Human beings produce no light either. What light we give off as Christians is from the reflection of the Son's light (like the moon reflecting the sun's light).

When I first went to the mission field, a mental patient told me I was shiny. I get told that a lot down here either because I am bald or because I am the only tanless one in the tropics. I choose to believe, however, that it is because I have let Jesus into my heart, to dwell within me. His Holy Spirit comforts me and I reflect His shining light.

Followers of Christ shine His love to a lost and dying world. This 'shine' calls attention to us whether we want it to or not. People who have to hope see hope in us. People living in turmoil see peace in us. Thieves, users, and con-artists see us as weak and vulnerable. Beggars and

desperate people see us as relief. The intellectuals and grouches see us as naively annoying. Don't try to hide it! Jesus commands us in the beatitudes to SHINE.

Matthew 5:16 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

God shines His face on you so you can show Him to others. The reason we show what we do so much, is to glorify God. When we feed a child, God is glorified. Plus, we are making it possible for God to shine His face on others, giving them salvation as well. When we do good things, we are reflecting God's light.

God's light is to save men, to give them eternal life. Most of the time, salvation starts by showing others God's love for them. Very rarely does it have to do with our words, but by our works and actions.

ISAIAH 60:1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Jesus is the shining light in everyone's dark storms. He shines through us.

You all have been a bright light of blessing and hope for so many. Your giving, prayers, and assistance for every facet of our ministry have made an amazing difference.

We shine brightest when we shine together.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

## Stinkeye

Stink Eye- *-a facial expression of distrust, disdain, or disapproval*

Giving someone a dirty look!

**Proverbs 6: 16-19** *These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

*17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

God hates a proud look, or what I call, the 'stink eye'. Also known as a dirty look. Sometimes we can look at someone wrong and not even mean it. The only time I ever spanked Deannie Jr was when he gave the 'stink eye' to a humble rural pastor. Granted Deannie was only 4, wasn't

feeling well and had a long day. Without exception, however, there is never an excuse for the 'stink eye'.

While the eyes are a window to the soul, it does surprise me that a proud look is the first thing on God's hit-list. Even before lying and murder! A proud look reveals a proud heart, which God resists. More importantly, it makes someone unapproachable.

I think the main reason that God hates the proud look *most* is because it is more likely to become a habit of His followers. *Usually* the other 6 aren't done by believers on a regular basis, but the first one, the haughty, proud look can be committed by any of us if we aren't careful.

Most of the looks on our faces, and how we are perceived by others, are unintentional. Our hearts affect the look on our faces, and visa versa. The looks that our faces give off affect our hearts and our tones. That's why telephone salesmen have a mirror in front of them. Smiling and dialing is the expression. A smile affects their tone and mood for the better.

**Proverbs 15:13** – *A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.*

Literally, I have seen the most physically hideous people made absolutely gorgeous by the joy in their heart. Conversely I have seen the most beautiful people made hideous simply by the sadness or pride in their hearts.

It is said that if you have joy in your heart, you might as well let your face show it. Sometimes in the course of the day it's easy to forget about our expressions, and what we show the world around us. What we shouldn't forget, however, is there is only one chance to make a good first impression. A dour look does not make a good first impression.

A bad, judgmental, or worried attitude shows up as a frown or a superior look. It keeps people away from you. It kills the relationship before it is even birthed. If they don't like you from the beginning, how are you going to be able to share God's love with them. It is easier to swim downstream than upstream.

I think the key to removing the 'stink eye' as an option permanently, is to control your thoughts. Thinking too hard; planning, calculating, and judging gives me the 'stink eye' look on my face without even trying. So I try to avoid thinking negative thoughts. I know it's hard. Extremely so when finances are concerned. Just remember that it is very important if you are a messenger of the Lord God most High.

God loves us extravagantly. He loves a 'hilarious' giver. He delights when His children throw their cares to the wind and puts aside their own feelings to serve others. He loves and gives because that is who He is. He doesn't want us questioning Him and His character, He wants us to imitate Him.

God hates pride because it removes Him from our thought process. He hates pride in us also because it sends a message to anyone who can see our faces when we are thinking prideful thoughts.

No more pride, self righteousness, nor trust issues with God, means no more 'stink eye' issues. Problem solved!

## Relief

### Acts 11:29

*Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:*

Friends, the Bible says, can be closer than brothers (relatives). I think it is because you can choose your friends. Rarely do I see someone who is best friends with someone related to them.

That being said, Christian brothers are some of my best friends. Friends share each other's passions and pain. Friends are quick to come to each other's relief.

When other people are suffering, I suffer. The Bible clearly tells us about *not* plugging our ears to the cries of desperate people. Knowing that there is someone suffering keeps me up at night.

Thank you so much for all the relief work we can do because of your donations! Amazing how many lives have been impacted. Your donations may have even saved a life or two.

This week we have been helping with the people washed out by hurricane Nate. One poor family lost all 15 of their cows. Those cows and the mud hut where they lived were their only possessions. When floods like that happen there are more stories like that along the path of the flood waters. Media says around 24 people drowned and 27 missing.

This is a story from today about 4 of the 27 missing:

## Juan de Dios and Family-

As the rains were coming down from Tropical Storm Nate, Juan de Dios was safely in his home with his wife and 2 boys by Bat River (Rio Murcielego) on the Pacific Coast of Nicaragua.

At 4 am, water from the swollen Bat River rushed through the only door of his humble home. He saved his family by kicking out the back wall. His wife's leg was injured, and his youngest son almost drowned in the process, but he was able to keep his family alive by floating with the current together. They were washed upon a hill down stream. They were stranded there for 14 hours until a fire boat came and saved them.



Juan de Dios was a successful man by Tola Ojochal standards. He was a home owner. He had a large crop of beans ready to harvest, a small patch of corn doing well. He owned 4 horses and 60 chickens.

The river took everything he owned except his family of 4, 6 chickens and the small patch of corn. Everything else he had was washed out to the pacific ocean.

Because his family was swept away, the Tola authorities declared his whole family formally 'missing'.

Today I drove by this noble and happy man with his small family. God, I believe, prompted me to stop and talk to them. I found out that even a week later, all they had were some sticks attempting to fashion a shack.

Their happiness and joy really convicted me. He was so happy and thankful a week later simply because his family had survived: I was so convicted. This guy had *nothing* but his health, his family, and his faith. Seven days of nothing!

ANF has provided food, cloth, pallets, clothing for hundreds of families. Between Samaritan International's food and transportation, and the food and supplies donated by ANF we were able to get Juan de Dios and family way ahead of the game. Thank you Ulrik Leah Y Lauren Oldenburg for letting us work out of Hacienda Iguana.

We fortunately have been able to provide much relief like this, working with other groups.

God knows. His eyes are on the sparrow. He is with the grieving parents. He is with the hungry and cold victims. And He delights when He sees us actually sending relief to them.

Joy

### **Nehemiah 8:10**

*...the joy of the Lord is your strength.*

**Nehemias 8:10** *...el gozo de Jehová es vuestra fuerza*

Gozo is the Spanish word for joy. I don't know why, but gozo seems to be such a much richer word than joy. I have a friend whose sister's name was Joy. We called her Gozo because we were both learning Spanish at the same time, and Gozo was funnier. I tried that with Winnie Joy but she wasn't too crazy about it.

I feel kind of like a hypocrite because today I had an 18 hour bus ride and wasn't very joyous. I had to fix my passport (every 90 days) and my company is trying to get cruise ship life flights out of Guatemala. Well, today I learned that 90 days isn't always 3 months. So I was fined for my one day overstay *and* now have to take another long bus ride to Mexico before I can return to my beloved babies and country of Nicaragua. Also, a coyote (money changer) tricked me out

of \$40. I was mad, still reeling from the 91 day snafu. God reminded me that satan can't kill me, he can only steal my joy. The rest of the trip is *great!!!*

Everyone tells us to be joyous as Christians, to be full of joy, but few can tell you really how to do that.

Here are some things that will help you to have that joy in the Lord that ALL of us seek.

1. Fellowship- get out of the house, and meet new people. Share time with old friends and new friends. Be a great host and even a better guest.
2. Laughter(usually a direct derivative of fellowship)- when you are out and about, funny things happen. Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone.
3. Jesus- only when You spend a lot of time with Him, alone. Relationships work but you need to invest time in it. In *your* presence Lord, is fullness and JOY, *you* are my portion.
4. Build up others- you will be amazed how you get joyous when you help others.
5. Understanding God's desires and seeing His hand in the outcome. Proof once again that He loves you and is in control.
6. Obedience- especially when it has to do with blessing others and denying yourself.
7. Completing a job or task well.
8. Thanking God in everything.
9. Freedom- remember when we had our first day of summer vacation back when we were in school? It was joy unspeakable to be set free from the slavery of school. You cannot be joyous and be in slavery to addictions, sin or anything else.
10. Contentment with the little things.
11. Expectations- when you open the Bible, meet a person, go to church, or begin to pray, have a sense of expectancy that God is going to do something or teach you new things.
12. Decide to be full of joy. Don't just act like it. It's a decision. Joy is an action, do something like pray, praise, give, help, encourage and Joy is there.
13. Play! Make life fun. Do things you like to do.

That's the joy of teaching children to have joy in spite of everything.

## Gleaning

Leviticus 22:23-And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

As a Christian I am always astounded when I want to introduce someone to another Christian, but that Christian doesn't want to meet them. It shouldn't happen, but sometimes it does. Especially if the person I want to present brings nothing notable to the table. Most of my friends and people I minister bring absolutely nothing outstanding into a relationship.

I think disinterest in others is something that a worldly, religious church leadership has taught it's congregants, and it has spread like a cancer among the religious because it appears to be spiritual or something. More than anything, the typical church goer looks up to his or her pastor and they try to copy their behavior

Indifference is the opposite of Love. God is love so we don't want to be the opposite of Him IF we are true believers and followers of Him.

Fields in the Bible represent the world. Although Leviticus, Jesus and the book of Ruth were talking about real fields, there was a symbolism as well. Many times the words in the Bible have more than double meanings, it has 4 or six meanings for the same word.

When the Bible is talking about Israel or King David for example, I know God is referring to me personally, the religious/spiritually lost, sinners, Christians in general or the church of today. Gleaning also applies to me although we are strictly lower middle class. We glean the scraps left behind by the King so we can humble ourselves, and to thank the King. He leaves us scraps to keep us going, knowing that we are heading for a far greater place.

Gleaning means leaving crumbs from the harvest for the poor. It also means getting something from what seems to be worthless. I am always amazed for example how a bum doesn't pick up pennies, not even down here in Nicaragua.

People need to look down on something. Bigotry and racism is a classic example. Even the poorest of the poor have to look down on things. I think God gave the rule to leave gleanings as a self policing social security system. If someone was too proud to pick up the scraps, they probably weren't desperate enough.

We as Christians should also pick up the scraps from what the religious has left behind. Pretty people, popular and healthy people, the rich get absorbed by worldly, religious churches of rapidly. Ambitious hirelings love rich and pretty people filling their pews. They talk to them, and make them feel welcome. The rich make the worldly church pretty, the pretty people attract other pretty people. Not true of true pastors, they love and talk to everyone.

Gleaning is a noun as well as a verb. Crops left intentionally on the ground is considered gleaning. Looking for, searching and picking up these crops is also called gleaning. I call it evangelism and mining pearls of wisdom

I have found that I have learned (gleaned) the most beautiful life lessons from the 'less than perfect' people I have met in life. People that I was reluctant to get to know. Even non Christians teach me a lot. I learn about myself, God, and how to LISTEN expectantly,

attentatively and with love.

I challenge you to spend time getting to know someone you really don't want to meet. A lot of times Christians use the word 'discernment' as a cop out phrase to not getting to know someone, but I really think that is an overused term, and very rarely from God.

Don't use religion as an excuse for arrogance, superiority or laziness. Take time to go the extra mile and get to know others even though at first it may seem like you will get nothing out of it. I guarantee that you will be pleasantly surprised and end up glorifying God in the process, more times than not.