

The Clarion of Christ Ministerial Fellowship

-a non-denominational communion of ministries with the purpose of mutual encouragement, like minded fellowship and love toward one another.

In this edition:

Page 1

Who Will Give the Eulogy?
Ric Vargas

Page 2, 3

How Are the Brethren
Abroad? Bolivia, India
Lou Pressman

Page 3

Upcoming Retreats
CMF Contact Information

Pages 4, 5

A Drawing to Zion—
A Testimony
Arlene Ghilardi

Page 6

How Are the Brethren
Abroad?
Cali, Colombia
Arlene Ghilardi

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Who Will Give the Eulogy?

Ric Vargas

Through the years we all have attended funerals of loved ones and dear friends. As we sit listening to the stories, some familiar, some new, we are able to hear others "speaking well" of the deceased, giving thanks for them and for the privilege of sharing their life.

Eulogy comes from the Greek word *eulogia* meaning to speak well of. Eulogizing is a comfort to the family and friends in their time of grief, but it also seems sad to wonder whether the deceased ever knew how those people felt about them or that they cared so much for them.

The Apostle Paul often ended his letters acknowledging and giving thanks for the many lives that were an integral part of his own and his ministry. They are only names to us, but by the language Paul used to describe them, we are able to hear him give their 'eulogy.'

Romans 16 may be the best and longest example of Paul's practice.

Reading how Paul described those dear to him, makes me want to know them and have them in my life. But, truth be told, we all have similar people that are, as Paul describes, 'sisters, helpers, those who have laid down their necks for us, well-beloved ones, kinsman, chosen ones, fellow laborers,' etc.

Let's look at how *eulogia* is used in The New Testament. It's found in Luke 6:28 and Romans 12:14. "Bless them which curse or persecute you.." 'Bless' in these verses is the word *eulogia*. Matt. 5:44-45 also says that if we 'bless' (*eulogia*) 'our enemies and those that hate or spitefully use us,' we will be "the children of our Father which is in heaven." Herein lies the real challenge for us. Are we able to speak well of those who curse us or persecute us? Are we able to muster up enough good thoughts to form a eulogy for the person or persons who have offended us?

Perhaps today is the day we will determine to 'eulogize' someone that we have taken for granted. Maybe we need to sit down and write a nice eulogy to a person who has been an asset and a strength in our life while they can still be blessed by it. Then we won't have to say, "I just wish I could have told him in the living years." *

Could this also be the day we will determine to eulogize someone that has cursed or persecuted us? Do we need to sit down and write a nice eulogy to that person or persons who treated us wrongfully? Possibly, in doing either of these, we ourselves may also be comforted. Excuse me now while I sharpen my pencil & get some paper. Ω

* Songwriters- B.A.Robertson & Mike Rutherford, The Living Years lyrics

HOW ARE THE BRETHREN ABROAD?

BOLIVIA

What a wonderful Kingdom we have been chosen to be a part of. Arlene Ghilardi asked me to recap our trip to Bolivia for this issue of the Clarion. In the meantime, yesterday, I was on the phone with a brother from Japan making plans for Ric and myself to be in Tokyo next fall and Monday, September 25, Ric and I leave for India, wow!



We were in two cities in Bolivia, La Paz and Santa Cruz. The thing that grips me most about Bolivia is the hunger we are seeing from God's leadership. We held many pastor's conferences and leaders meetings and to the glory of God they wanted more. When we are with people with that kind of hunger God delights to pour out His Spirit in a special way to encourage and strengthen our brethren who are on the front-

lines. In return they shower us with love and what can I say it's fellowship the way God intended it to be.

There is also a wonderful move of God happening with their youth. While we were in La Paz one of the churches we are very close with, Kairos, was hosting a Youth Worship Congress. They invited worship leaders and teams from various areas of Bolivia. I believe between five hundred to six hundred attended. The reports we heard were outstanding. It must have pleased the heart of God to hear all these young people expressing their hearts to Him.

Being in Bolivia is an agape-fest. The love, their desire to please the Lord, their gratitude is almost too difficult to put into words. Of course, we thank the Lord for these opportunities and we are indebted to you for your prayers and even your financial support. I think that one of the Scriptures that speak loudly to Ric and myself is Galatians 6:10 "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith".

Blessings,
Bro. Lou Pressman

HOW ARE THE BRETHREN ABROAD?

INDIA



India is Changing!

Brother Ric Vargas and I have been traveling to India for about seventeen years. Sometime we would go every year sometimes every other year and in that time we have seen at first subtle then dramatic changes. It is on this recent trip that one of those changes seemed subtle and yet profound. One of the main cities we travel to in India is Vishakapatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh, that's where our brother

Melchizedek lives and ministers. While in Visak we stay in a particular hotel that caters to families and

business people. This is where I noticed the subtle yet profound change; business women! Young professional business women, briefcase one hand and smartphone in the other are traveling alone, having meetings with clients and executives. Now to us this is ordinary, even common but to India "times are a changing".

Why do I bring this up? For in a similar way the church is changing, and may I add for the better. Women are taking more of an up front roll and pastors, especially younger ones are seeking the true purpose of their calling. In every Pastors/Leaders conference there were younger men and women/wives of pastors who were hungry and soaking up the truth of God's Word. Pastors wanted to meet privately with Ric and myself for they needed guidance, direction. The public meetings and the private ones make up what we do. The church in India has been tainted by western hyper-everything but that is being rejected by this new, young generation of Bible believing men and women. India is changing and thank God so is the church.



Bro. Lou Pressman

A Drawing to Zion A Testimony Arlene Ghilardi

My first meeting with the God of Mount Zion was in the winter of 1975.

I had met the God of Mount Calvary September 10, 1971. He captured my heart with His love and the washing of His precious blood. Peace and joy flooded my teenage heart and I entered into a day to day relationship with the One whose existence, less than a year previously, I had denied. After 3 and an half years of seeking Him, learning His voice, and radical obediences I was beginning to feel a peculiar drawing.

I was attending a home fellowship of mostly young people. We fellowshiped for hours in worship and the Word. We were tender plants growing in the knowledge of God. As a group, we were coming to a place in the Spirit where we began to cry out for more of Him. We were baptized in the Holy Spirit and in water (the leadership there made sure of that); a foundation was being laid in our lives. We somehow knew there was more in God than what we had.

Then came the winter of 1975. I had lots of time on my hands. My second semester of college was a light course load as I had accomplished many of the necessary credits in my last year of high school. I went to college classes in the morning and had the afternoons to myself. It was a great set up. One afternoon I remember sitting at the kitchen table at home. No one was there. Everybody else was at work. The Thompson Chain Bible and the Strong's concordance were there, and so was the Holy Spirit. "I think I'll study the word 'Zion'. It comes up so often in the Bible, I wonder what it means?", I thought to myself or was it the Holy Spirit thinking His thoughts in me? I started at 2 Samuel 5 where Zion is first mentioned. Hours passed until I ended up in Revelation 14:1 where the Lamb stands on Mt. Zion with 144,000 who had the name of the Lamb and his Father written in their foreheads. There are 160 verses in the Bible that mention Zion: 153 in the Old Testament and 7 in the New Testament (spelled in English: Sion). It was a simple study but the beginning of a gripping of my heart that I would never shake off.

The first thing that the newly anointed King David did was take the stronghold of Zion from the Jebusites who ruled there, and set up his kingdom otherwise known as the City of David. Taking the citadel of Zion involved a battle. It was an uphill battle. All those who see the God of Zion and desire to apprehend the God of Zion will be opposed. The enemy of our souls opposes the people who desire to have the rule of God in their hearts. Satan is after God's throne, therefore he opposes all those who desire to have the Lordship of Jesus Christ in their lives. *Jer. 30:17* Zion is the dwelling place of the King. It is the place of His throne. It is the place where we see the God who rules. *Ps. 2:6* It is the place of God's affection. *Ps. 132:13* In Zion we meet the God who is fervently jealous over the purity of His people. *Zech. 8:2* It is the place where there is no room for other gods. We see the passion of God for His people at Zion. The book of Hebrews 12:18-29 tells us that as Christians we do not identify with a geographical place like Sinai where access was denied the people of God with the exception of Moses and Joshua. **But rather we are called to a spiritual mount, an heavenly place, Zion (vs. 22).**

The CMF Fall Gathering

Wed., Nov. 1-Fri., Nov. 3

Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center,
Mt. Bethel, PA. The registration
deadline was October 11, but if you
now find yourself able to join us for all
or part of the Conference, we'll find
room for you!!

For more information call Mark Waters
570-888-1055



Women's Retreat Save the Date!!

June 1-2, 2018

Location TBD

Spring CMF Conference 2018 CMF CONFERENCE

Save the Date!!

April 25-27 at the Tuscarora Inn &
Conference Center, Mt. Bethel, PA

Keep our youth in prayer!

November 3-5 many of our youth will
descend upon Camp Ladore in
Waymart, PA. Please lift this camp and
the leaders in prayer as the youth
experience times of worship, prayer,
receiving divine impartation through
the word.

Here we meet the Judge of all, we meet Jesus, the mediator of the covenant that invites us all, through the washing of His blood. In the spiritual place, Mount Zion, we are called to respect His word and not refuse Him that speaks from heaven. His voice shakes the earth and the heavens from Zion that those things that are temporal; that are of the old creation, fleshly and born of this world will be removed. Further, to all those who abide His passionate presence for purity, He will give a kingdom which cannot be removed. (vs. 28) They are established in grace, pleasing this consuming God of fire with respect and godly (clean, pure) reverence.

Zion is the place of spiritual vision. The higher you go the better vantage point you have. It is the place where we behold our God. *Is. 40:9*. The watchmen shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion. *Is. 58:2*. Mountains in scripture are places of revelation. In Zion God is seen and known for who He is. *Ps. 50:2* In Psalm 84:7 we read, "everyone of them appeareth before God." The Spanish rendering says that in Zion they will see God.

From Zion there is an outreach of God into the nations. The beauty of the Lord *shines out* from Zion. The law of the Lord and the word of the Lord *goes forth* from Zion. All manner of people are drawn to Mt. Zion. *Is. 2:3*. There will come a time when flocks of people will say, "Which way to Zion?" because they will be seeking out our God. *Is. 50:5*.

The children of Zion are a praising people. *Ps. 147:12* They are a joyful people. *Ps. 149:2* They are a people that rule and reign in the midst of their enemies. *Ps. 110:2* The people of Zion love the judgments of God. *Psalm 97:8* They love to see justice in the earth. *Obad. 1:21*. We have come to Zion, the place of spiritual plenty; plenty of rejoicing (singing); plenty of fellowship (flowing together); plenty of joy (wine); plenty of sustenance (wheat); plenty of oil (healing and the power of the Holy Spirit) *Jeremiah 31:12* *Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.*

I believe that spiritually speaking we are in the time of the building up of Zion in the earth. There is a working of the Spirit to draw the people of God to a closer walk with Him. There is a people who do not allow any unclean thing, nothing that is strange or foreign to God in their heart. They come to Him sincerely to know Him and to let Him reign in their lives. The Lord can set up His headquarters in them out from which He can reprove the world of sin, defeat the work of the evil one and effectively reveal who Jesus is even unto the nations. This is done by beholding the glory of the Lord. *2 Cor. 3:18* tells us that we are changed by beholding the glory of the Lord. We look for His appearing in glory these days. It is impossible to focus on two things at once so let us turn aside from the world and its distractions; even the worldly distraction that is in the Church, and focus on the lovely Lord Jesus. Ω

***When the Lord shall
build up Zion: he
shall appear in his
glory. Ps. 102:13***

Psalm 87

His foundation is in the holy mountains.

² The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

³ Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

⁴ I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there.

⁵ And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.

⁶ The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.

⁷ As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee.

HOW ARE THE BRETHREN ABROAD?

COLOMBIA

Once a month Bert and Arlene Ghilardi are visiting with 3 churches in Cali, Colombia. The following are some news highlights from each church.

Agape: Pastors Juvenal Criollo and Celeny Galvez (in Latin American cultures the wife maintains her maiden name)

October 19, 20 Agape hosted a prayer vigil event from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning. Five additional churches joined them in the all night prayer, praise and preaching event. Well over 100 people were gathered to seek the Lord together. They very much sensed the presence of the Lord in their midst.

Juvenal says that as a church they are in a season of fruitfulness, unity and growth spiritually and numerically. He says this is a fulfillment of prophecy given by Ric Vargas on Lou and Ric's last trip there. The word was that the church had gone through various seasons in its history and was about to come out of a dry, winter season into a time of growth and fruitfulness.



Bert with Juvenal, Esteban (son) and Celeny

Transforming the World: Pastors Sergio Londono Y Nayibe Martinez and Maria Paula Londono



Dinner with the Board of Directors of Tranformando El Mundo. Maria Paula is taking the picture.

Transformando el Mundo has gone through a lot of transformation this year. Pastor Sergio retired from secular work to become lead pastor in August. As a church they have come out of the Baptist denomination to join in the fellowship of believers at CMF. Maria Paula is teaching weekly out of the study of Joseph Nieves' book on the kingdom of God. The people are very hungry to hear the word of the Lord and the pastors themselves are hungering and thirsting for more of Jesus. Please pray that the Lord helps them find another place to meet. They presently meet in a recreation hall in a park at 7:00 a.m. on Sundays. They would like a place to seat 150 of their own.

Ric and Lou will be with them in Cali Sunday, November 26 to ordain Pastor Sergio.

La iglesia de Salvacion Y Reina: Pastor Juan Diego Santana and his wife Ana

They took over an ailing church from his father in January 2017. We met this couple for the first time in April and we are having some teaching and discussion on church issues once a month.

They are very desirous of maintaining purity in their midst and are willing to pay the price to have it. They are bi-vocational and tending a church of about 30. I do not have a picture to show you of JuanDiego and Ana. This is a photo of their church gathering last April.



Please keep Lou Pressman and Ric Vargas in your prayers as they will be in various cities in Colombia 11/17-12/7.