

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM  
BARRY & LINDA~



## Abiding in the Vine

Linda and I have been in the ministry for many years now. We have experienced some great victories and some greater defeats. The interesting thing is that we have learned more from our defeats than our victories. Those events are the things that have brought us to where we are now. The thing we want most in our lives now is to have a deeper understanding of our union with Jesus and His life being lived out through us. This may seem to be a very simplistic desire but the reality is that for the Christian, knowing and abiding in Him, is the greatest gift life has to offer. We have learned through experience that we in ourselves cannot live the Christian life. It's only as we yield, submit and surrender to His life flowing through us that others will see the fruit of the Spirit being manifest through us. It's His fruit not ours that people will respond to. There have been too many times that we have substituted, methods, books, how to seminars, systems and formulas for the true and living Christ living in us. When we give ourselves to the things the world produces we always end up frustrated because none of it is born of the Spirit, only of the flesh. This life we live is not about what we do for Him, but what He does in and through us. It's taken us many years after getting saved to find out what already was. That God has freely given us everything we'll ever need for life and godliness in Christ Jesus.

— Barry & Linda

# Pro-Active Evangelism

WHO DOES WHAT  
WHEN IT COMES TO  
WINNING PEOPLE  
TO JESUS?

One false belief I have observed over the years is that if you just live right, people will initiate the conversation and ask you about your relationship with God. I have hardly ever seen that approach succeed. It is definitely true that we



A GROUP OF PEOPLE PRAYING TO RECEIVE JESUS AS SAVIOR

need to live godly lives in front of others, but it should not stop there. Let's look at what the scriptures have to say. Look at JOHN 4:7, "There came a woman of Samaria to draw water; Jesus said to her, 'Give me water to drink'" Here is the dialog between Jesus and the fallen woman at Sychar's well. Notice that Jesus initiated the conversation when He said, "Give me water to drink." Now look at LUKE 19:5, "And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and saw him and said to him, 'Zaccheus, hurry up and come down; for today I

“ Jesus initiated the conversation. He was the soul winner and started the dialog. ”

must stay at your house.” Here is the story of the conversion of Zaccheus when Jesus won Zaccheus to Himself.

Notice that the first words that were spoken were spoken by Jesus. "Zaccheus, hurry up and come down." Jesus initiated the conversation. He was the soul winner and started the dialog. Now notice JOHN 5:6, "When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time he said to him, 'Will you be made whole?'" Jesus was at the pool of Bethesda. He was going to heal a man and win him to Himself. Notice who initiated the conversation. Jesus said, "Will you be made whole?" Once again He started the dialog with the lame man. Now look at ACTS 8:30, "And Philip ran to him and heard him read the prophet Esaias and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'" Here we have the story of Philip the soul winner winning the Ethiopian eunuch to Jesus. Notice who initiated the conversation. Philip did by saying, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

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ELIAS AND CAROL DEFENDING THE FAITH

## What is Apologetics?

BY ELIAS D' COSTA

Apologetics is the specialized area of rational and logical defense of Christian faith. It is derived from the Greek word *apologia* which means a verbal defense, a reasoned statement or argument. It involves answering any and all critics who oppose or question the revelation of God in Christ and the Bible.

The reason apologetics is necessary is because God told us to do so in 1 PETER 3:15, which says "...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." We are told to be ready to respond to anyone who asks the question, with the attitude of gentleness and respect, such that we may share the truth of what we believe.

### February Outreach Schedule

Please call (310) 327-3134 for locations and directions. Meetings start at 7:30 pm.

#### ABOUT US

Barry Felis Ministries is a tax-deductible, nonprofit organization.

Be sure to visit our new web page at:  
[www.BarryFelis.org](http://www.BarryFelis.org)

#### LINDA'S CORNER

## Embrace Your Weaknesses Part 2

As far back as I can remember I compared myself to others and I always came up short! Actually the scriptures warn against that. It says, 'We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.' Most of my Christian life I spent trying to perfect myself and hide my flaws, imperfections and weaknesses. I thought they were totally unacceptable to God, others and myself. Trying to perfect my flesh was nothing more than self-righteousness disguised as "being spiritual." Finally after spiritually burning out more than a few times I stopped looking at me and started focusing on Him and what He thought of me. Renewing my mind and receiving a new identity based on His finished work ALONE has totally made the biggest difference in every area of my life. I had to stop going by what I saw and felt and start living by faith. Embracing my weaknesses and faults has freed me to run to Him constantly exchanging my weaknesses for His strength. Like the Apostle Paul said, "I take delight in my weaknesses" (of which there are many) and now enjoy sharing with other fellow strugglers about the "better way" of "The Great Exchange." His strength for my weakness.

Here are some verses for further study. ROMANS 5:1, 8:1-4; 1 CORINTHIANS 2:12-16, 12:13; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21; 2 PETER 1:4; EPHESIANS 3:21 (Part 3 next month.)

#### PRO-ACTIVE EVANGELISM *Continued from page 1*

Finally please notice ACT 16:28, "But Paul cried with a loud voice saying, 'Do yourself no harm; for we are all here.'" The jailer was about to be saved. Notice, Paul spoke first. The Apostle Paul initiated the conversation by saying, "Do yourself no harm."

There are isolated instances when the conversation is initiated by the sinner, but for every one case like that there are many more where the conversation is initiated by the soul winner. Please don't get me wrong, there have been many many times that I have had an opportunity to share the gospel and didn't. Thank God that has been the exception. There has never been a time when I have initiated a conversation to share my faith that I have ever regretted doing so.

My point is simply this: I can guarantee that whenever you talk to someone about your faith, you will look back regardless of the outcome and say, "I am glad that I did that!" Remember that God is responsible for the results. We just open our mouths and go for it! The call to go and make disciples has always been a pro-active call.



GROUP PRAYER FOR SALVATION



SARA & STEPHENE SHARING THEIR FAITH