

The Christ for Humanity Newsletter

THECFHCHRONICLES

P.O. Box 580127 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74158 Local: 918.836.2424 Toll Free: 1.800.411.0132

April 2004 Volume 12 No. 2

IS MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST? DO I START EACH DAY WITH HIM? AM I CON



God Works in Miraculous Ways

Christ for Humanity's primary goal is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by meeting very real physical needs. You can't imagine the joy our staff feels when we see God's hand working to help us fulfill His will in the lives of those who trust Him.

Each month CFH sponsors outreaches at 9 area Tulsa Housing Authority facilities. Christ for Humanity outreaches include a time of praise and worship, a short Bible message, prayer, and the distribution of food. A number of the facilities our ministry serves have been adopted by area churches which provide the worship service and distribute CFH food boxes. God is present at these events and is using inter-personal relationships between facility residents and church worship-team members to reflect His love and His glory. Below is an example of our Lord orchestrating His purpose in the lives of men.

Several weeks ago, the ministry received a call from a man whose father had just passed away. He wanted to donate a nearly "new" electric wheelchair to the ministry. This call generated tremendous excitement, as *new* wheelchairs are few and far between and *electric* wheelchairs are almost non-existent.

That very evening Christ for Humanity sponsored its monthly outreach at Murdock Villa, a low-income housing facility dedicated to physically and mentally handicapped people. As the ministry team from Fellowship Bible Church began passing out food at the end of the service, Ron Bebee, Jeff Mosher and Jerry Martens were approached by a double amputee in an old wheelchair. Matt Wakefield explained that his present wheelchair was on loan from a friend who now needed it himself. He humbly wondered if Ron or Jeff could help him find another wheelchair.

Matt Wakefield had never been afraid of work. After serving in the military, Matt took a number of physically challenging jobs, working in the oil fields, in a metal factory and on farms. However, Matt contracted a vascular disease affecting the circulation in his legs. The result – seven amputations, starting with his toes and moving upward. By 1996 both of his legs had to be removed, confining him permanently to a wheelchair. From that point forward Matt stated, "My whole life has been a struggle for survival."

Matt moved to Tulsa from Washington State about a year ago. While living at John 3:16 Mission, the Lord began to work in Matt's life. Though he had accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at a young age, Matt's stay at

John 3:16 marked a time of spiritual renewal in his relationship with Jesus Christ. Ten months ago, Matt moved into Murdock Villa and began attending the monthly worship service shared by Fellowship Bible Church and Christ for Humanity.

How wonderful is our God! The day Christ for Humanity learned it would receive a wonderful electric wheelchair, God made known to the ministry a very real need within His body. When members of Fellowship Bible Church and CFH staffers delivered the wheelchair to Matt on March 1st, his joy was evident and profound. At that time he mentioned that his disease is now affecting his hands. Given his degenerating condition, Matt would not have the strength and coordination to maneuver a conventional wheelchair much longer. But in His omniscience, God graciously provided exactly what His child needed.

“Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? . . . If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” Matthew 7:9 & 11



Ministry of the Month

Bud and Nancy Peterson with World Ministries

In 2003 Christ for Humanity worked with more than 100 local and international ministries, serving the poor worldwide. Our ministry strives to enhance the efforts of Christ's field workers by providing food, clothing, and medical supplies for distribution *free of charge* to people in need as concrete evidence of a loving God.

The ministry of Bud and Nancy Pederson in India is one Christ for Humanity is anxious to lift in prayer and serve with humanitarian aid. Discover the unique ministry the Petersons employ for effectively evangelizing this pagan land for Christ.

INDIA

. . . The name itself evokes images of a land filled with exotic fabrics, places, foods, and gems. India is all of these things and more. But the country's most valuable resource is its special and precious people. Already over ONE billion strong, India is expected to become the most populated nation on earth within fifteen years . . . so many people squeezed into a land mass about 1/3 the size of the United States!

Within this massive population, more than 1640 different languages and dialects are spoken. India is so diverse that there are more unreached people groups there than in any other nation on earth. Yet, with all these people, government census records estimate that only two or three percent of the population is Christian (all types).

However, ***God's spirit is moving*** in this great nation. In an unprecedented way, He is calling out *“a people”* for His name (Acts 15:14). Among the most responsive groups are the “Dalit” or “oppressed” people of India. These are people who have been marginalized and considered *outcasts* and *untouchables* for millenniums. Some estimates consider their numbers nearly equal to the population of the United States! Today, these men and women are open and searching as never before for meaning, purpose, and identity and are being reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

You might ask, *"How can such a massive group of people ever be reached and believe the Gospel of Christ . . . especially in a nation that prohibits visas for missionaries?"* The answer to this question is an interesting one, for God has opened an unparalleled "door" of opportunity. This *open door* is one of training national Christian leaders who can mobilize and equip workers to go into the "harvest" and "reap" it. Bud and Nancy Peterson with World Ministries are engaged in this equipping process. They are training "native" Indian leaders who know well their culture, people, and language. These workers, in turn, are winning people for Christ, planting churches, and multiplying disciples and church leaders at an unprecedented rate.

Many believe that India today may be one of the ripest harvest fields in all of church history. However, there are many obstacles to the harvest, not the least of which is the lack of formal ministry training among the thousands of native Christian pastors and workers. Poverty within this group is so abject that these men and women could never hope to study abroad. World Ministries' solution – train Christian workers right where they are with a biblically-grounded, culturally-adapted, highly transferable ministry program. The World Ministries plan is designed to fully equip pastors and Bible women for Christian service during two years of training.



Amazingly, due to the low standard of living in India, a ministry student can live on just \$20 a month, funds provided by partners in the U.S. or other Christians worldwide. Additionally, World Ministries supports a number of other special projects which help pastors-in-training survive or be effective witnesses. For example with a sewing machine (\$130) or a water buffalo (\$450), a pastor's family can live and send the children to school. A \$90 bicycle enables Christian workers to plant churches in other villages. \$250 provides literacy materials for a tribal group of 30, enabling men and women to eventually read the Scriptures for themselves. Clothing and medicine can also help these Indian missionaries touch many needs and reach many more people.

The harvest is great, yet the need for workers can be met through in-country biblical training programs. These Indian workers are only saying "COME AND HELP US" bring in the harvest.

Together with Christ for Humanity and many others, Bud and Nancy Pederson are asking God to do "great and mighty things" (Jeremiah 33:3) among millions of Indian people.

(For more information concerning evangelism in India visit BudPederson@aol.com on the internet.)

From the CFH Mail Bag

February 24, 2004

Dear Mr. Rollins:

On behalf of Dr. Crouch and the Board of Good Samaritan Health Care and In His Image, I would like to express our appreciation to you and members of Christ for Humanity.

We are grateful for your generous support through medications over the past years. Without the support of your organization, we would not be able to give away the medications to our patients that we do. I would like to share a few testimonies from our patients with you.

"Good Samaritan Health Services has provided me with hope. They have given me a reason to live. I can't say enough good things about them, the way they care for me. For 11 months now I have been helped with medicines, and I take a lot. I have lost 86 pound in 11 months. My heart was so backed up with fluid I was going to

die. Now I have been able to apply for the Advantage Program to qualify for additional needs there."

This man was on dialysis; he had congestive heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, kidney failure, and was almost totally blind. He has never been married but is now engaged to a Christian lady he met at his housing complex.

"I'm very glad to be able to come to Good Samaritan and get help with my medicine. If not for their help I would not be able to get my medicine. I really do believe they are a blessing from God. They are very kind doctors and nurses. I really can't put into words what this program means to me."

This man has been out of control with diabetes and COPD. He has multiple disabling conditions including chronic severe neck and low back pain from 3 degenerative diseases of spine. He is always so thankful for whatever help we give him. He is a retired fireman . . .

We sincerely appreciate Christ for Humanity for all the medication they give us.

Sincerely,

Bridget Burritt
Director of Development

Praises and Prayers

Plans for Christ for Humanity's July mission trip to North Africa have been finalized and airline tickets purchased. To date 18 men and women, primarily healthcare workers, have been accepted as team members, with three applications pending. During the three week ministry experience, team members will take a *Bridging the Gap* course to learn how to use their professions to advance Christianity in closed Islamic countries. Then the team will begin work in area health clinics and hospitals, helping local doctors meet the physical needs of the poor. As open Christian witnessing is forbidden in Islamic countries, relational evangelism is the best method for spreading the "Good News" of Christ.

Team Prayer requests:

- Most team members are raising their support to go on the CFH trip. Pray that God opens the hearts of family and friends to help these lay-missionaries meet their financial deadlines.
 - Evangelizing in "closed" countries involves some risk. Prayer warriors in the States will need to bathe the team in prayer during their time abroad for both safety and fruit.
 - Pray that many hearts will be softened by the love and dedication exhibited by the CFH ministry team.
-

God's Way

The Desire of Three Trees

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. In the twilight hours, they shared their hopes and dreams. The first tree sighed, "Someday, I hope to be a treasure chest. I would love to be decorated with intricate carvings so everyone would see my beauty."

The second tree mused, "Someday, I hope be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the far corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally, the third tree announced, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill, look up through my branches and think of God and how close to Him I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time, and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the

first tree, he said, "This looks like a strong tree. I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter," and he began cutting down the tree. The tree was happy because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a beautiful treasure chest.

The second tree heard the woodsman say, "This looks like a strong tree. I could sell this wood to a shipyard." The second tree was delighted because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from this tree right now, but I'll take it anyway." He cut the third tree.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenter's shop, to its dismay the wood was used to make a feed box for animals. The trough was placed in a barn and filled with hay – not the result for which the tree had prayed.

The second tree was used to build a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into two pieces and left alone in the dark. The years went by and gradually the trees forgot about their lofty dreams.

Then one day, a tired man and woman entered the barn. The woman gave birth, and she and her husband placed the baby in the hay of the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished for a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and suddenly knew that it held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got into the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. A great storm arose as the boat crossed the sea, and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. When the frightened men woke their sleeping companion, the man stood and said, "Peace." Miraculously, the storm stopped. At this moment, the tree realized that the small boat made from its wood had carried the King of Kings.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. The tree was carried through the streets as people mocked the man shouldering it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of the hill. But when Sunday came, the tree realized that on top of that seeming hill of shame it was as close to God as was possible because Jesus had been crucified on its straight strong trunk . . .

The moral of this story: When things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees in this story had its prayer answered – just not in the way it had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans for us are. We just know that His ways are not our ways, and His ways are best.

Little Known Facts about Iraq

The war in Iraq dominates the news. Yet, few of us realize that no other nation, except Israel, has more history and Biblical prophecy associated with it than this war-torn land. In this region of the world, human history began, and according to prophesy from here will also spring the seeds of human destruction. Iraq is more than a poor nation struggling to throw off the yoke of tyranny. Iraq was once the cradle of civilization – our paradise lost.

Location of the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 2:10-14, Revelation 22:2**).

Region of Noah's ark building (**Genesis 6:13-22**).

Became Babylon (the first world empire) and home of the Tower of Babel (**Genesis 10:8-97 & 11:1-4**).

Land of Ur – the birthplace of Abraham (**Genesis 11:31 & Acts 7:2-4**).

Location of Nahor – the birthplace of Isaac's wife Rebekah (**Genesis 24:3-4 & 10**).

Home to Nineveh (Jonah 3).

Babylonian captivity of the Hebrews – 586 B.C. (**II Kings 25:8-11**).

Location of Daniel's lions' den and King Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace (**Daniel 1:1-2 & 2:36-38 and Daniel 3:19-25**).

Babylonian King Belshazzar's "writing on the wall" (**Daniel 5**).

Later called Assyria, conquering empire of the ten tribes of Israel in 722 B.C (**II Kings 17:6**).

The *Book of Esther* took place here.

Land of the wise men from the East seeking the King of the Jews (**Matthew 2:1**).

The "Empire of Man" – city of Babylon (**Revelation 18:10**)