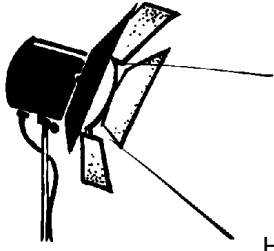


The Proactive Pulse



Amazing Growth Through Prayer Honoring Two Wonderful Witnesses for Christ



April
2009

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His name was unusual, "Hinton." I heard him mentioned to me as, "Someone you need to be careful around, preacher." He had built a reputation for opposing things that represented change or spending dollars. He let it be known that he was a pessimist.

In the first few weeks as the new Pastor there, I spoke with him and his wonderful wife, Marjorie. Their son Ted lived nearby, also. Ted is an incredible musician and both Ted and Marjorie jumped right in as we started a new outreach ministry at the church.

Now Hinton was from the "old school of marriage." Marjorie eagerly expected his arrival from work each day, had his dinner prepared, his paper ready to read and his every need provided for as he walked in. When he heard that Marjorie and Ted would be going to the church on Thursdays at dinner time to go out visiting, this represented a major change in things, which brought me into the center of Hinton's radar.

The first few weeks were tense. Hinton would come to the fellowship hall on the notion that he was "just coming to see what it was that was disrupting his family life". Everyone knew he was gathering research. One week, he was there doing more of the same, and my team members were not present. The leader of our outreach ministry, also named Jim, asked me, "Well Pastor Jim, since no one else is here to go out with you, why don't you, ask Hinton to go with you?" I had heard much more pleasant ideas. But I did.

Hinton said he would go if I promised he did not have to say anything. I replied that I would love for him to go if he promised not to say anything. A corner was turned in both our lives.

Hinton began to go with me each week and there were speculations that he was even being called, "The Preacher's new visitation partner." Amazing grace was taking place. The warnings still continued, "You be careful Preacher."

One night Hinton and I were sitting in my black, Mustang GT 5.0 at a traffic light in Acworth, GA. I bought the car because it really helped in sneaking up on unchurched families without them having a clue I was a Pastor.

Hinton asked, "Mr. Hollis, how long do we make visits until one of those Divine appointments that some of the Teams are experiencing happen to us?"

"It's up to God, Hinton. We can't predict that kind of thing you know."

"Yes, I know. But HOW does that happen to someone like me? I mean what do you have to do to increase the possibility?"

"Oh, simple. You just pray more and really listen for a word from the Lord." I looked over at Hinton and he had bowed his head and was praying intently. *Wow.*

The long light changed and I drove across the intersection. "What now?" he asked me. I was moved that he was dead serious about this. "Well, did you get a word Hinton? I mean did the Lord put a name of someone on your mind or the picture of a specific house?"

"Yes," he answered.

"That's great Hinton, but we have to get back to the church." I explained.

"Listen Mr. Hollis, are we going to go to this place or not? I mean I did get a name!" he insisted. *(continued on page 2)*



Honoring Two Wonderful Witnesses for Christ (continued from page 1)

We drove seven miles to the house. We walked up the walkway to the front door and I had Hinton knock on the door, "It's your leading Hinton. You got the word."

The door pushed open, only being partially shut. Inside was a young mother, sitting on her kitchen island sobbing, taking sleeping pills one at a time. We rushed in past her two little girls, who were also crying. We got the pills away from her. She assured us that she had only taken two of them so far.

She said, "My husband came home today and told me he did not love me anymore. He got all his things, put it all in his police car and said the next time I would hear from him would be through his lawyer. I have nothing left to live for."

We got her some help and she was able to put her life back together. She was eventually fine, but Hinton was never the same again after that night.

He saw the Holy Spirit use him to prevent a disaster and touch a family. It would be one of many Divine appointments in his life. He continued to reach out consistently, lovingly and passionately. Through many prayers, Hinton had been made new.

Sixteen years ago when I formed Proactive Evangelism Ministries, Hinton and Marjorie were right there for our first organizational meeting. They traveled with us across many states in America, giving testimonies of how the Lord transformed their lives and used them to reach many with God's Love.

Hinton and Marjorie reside in Acworth, GA. Hinton is recovering from a stroke at home now. When I visit with him he can say little, but I still see the twinkle of joy of the Lord in his eyes. We talk of outreach ministry memories and they pray faithfully for our ministry to grow each day.

We are praying for Hinton and Marjorie. Would you do the same? And we are also passionately praying for God to touch many others out there who may be pessimists and can be made new in the Lord. It can happen in your church too. I love you all.



Staff Spotlight: *Heidi Lauer*

Heidi Lauer joined the PEM staff in July of 2006. She is the head of our National Prayer Ministry and an integral part of the Pastor's Prayer Ministry. Heidi has lead a number of PEM Ministry weekends.

Heidi had this to say about her experiences with Prayer Team Ministry training, "*Prayer is the foundation for every ministry in the church. Prayer is powerful and effective in changing lives. It is our communication and communion with God. We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). So, why don't all believers do this? Most are fearful to admit they do not know 'how' to pray.*"

I remember praying basic prayers as a child. "Now I lay me down to sleep...bless everyone...Amen". As an adult, it did not change much beyond that. It wasn't until I became a leader with Bible Study Fellowship that I learned a pattern for prayer and was allowed to practice out loud, in a 'safe' environment. Praying became exciting to me.

When PEM came to work with my church in 2004, I attended the prayer ministry weekend. I learned so much more about prayer and saw the Scriptures that supported the teaching. I also learned how to teach someone else to pray and get excited about a new prayer life. During the two year covenant, my personal relationship with Jesus was strengthened and deepened.

I knew in my heart, PEM was the type of ministry I wanted to be a part of. I was excited that PEM team members always used Scripture to support the training we received. I was impressed by the PEM Staff who obviously loved Jesus and knew him personally. They genuinely cared about us and they were confident in their relationship with Jesus Christ. However, I knew my life circumstances...a husband who worked the weekends and two young children. I knew there was no way I could travel. I also knew I would not be able to get up and preach or speak in front of a large congregation. So, for six months, I wrestled with God telling him all the reasons this would not work. One day, I spoke to Rev. Hollis and asked him if there was a place for me in this ministry of PEM. His reply was, 'Of course there is...we've been praying for you for six months! I said, "I figured so because that is how long I've been wrestling with God". I joined the PEM team, trusting God fully, in July 2006.

I've learned God equips, enables and provides for those He calls. I have experienced miracles, witnessed many transformed and changed lives, and watched God create a new excitement for Him in churches that were close to dying. It is an honor and privilege to serve with the PEM team and along side our Covenant Churches. I have been transformed with God-confidence, boldness and joy that has resulted in a deeper, dependent and intimate relationship with Him."

The Miracles of LRE *Divine Appointments*

Loving, Relating to and Encouraging (L.R.E.) is not limited to ministering to people outside of the membership of the Church. PEM teaches a strategy for reaching out with LRE to those who have become inactive within the membership of the Church. These dear people are often ignored as Churches chase their first time visitors. Often Church growth “experts” will tell Churches to ignore their inactive members. That is certainly not consistent with Jesus’ admonition to be willing to leave the “ninety and nine” and seek the “one” lost sheep.

On a recent training weekend in South Carolina in which the strategy for reaching out to inactive members was taught, there was a wonderful Divine appointment when a team went out to practice what they had learned. Jim, Walt and Lois were a team who were assigned to visit a member family that had only been in attendance at the church a couple of times in the preceding four years. It had been over a year since they had last attended. When making such a visit, the team does not know if the person is hostile toward the Church or if they are simply “out of the habit” of being in church.

Saturday afternoon, the couple to be visited was at home, but they had company. Company is usually a reason for people to say that they can’t visit, but this couple was so overjoyed that someone from the church had come by to visit them that they invited the team in and introduced the team to their guests.

A very warm and encouraging conversation ensued and although not asked, the couple volunteered the information as to why they had not been in church. They had some very painful things take place in their lives (unrelated to the church) and had just lost their enthusiasm for almost everything, including church. They continued to express how much they appreciated the visit and promised to begin attending.

As an added bonus, their friends who listened attentively and interacted with us also promised to visit the church! The team was greatly encouraged by the visit. This family will be lovingly following up on, as it often takes a renewed relationship to get an inactive family back into fellowship.

See Our Calendar & More at:
www.proactive-evangelism.org

Our Calendar

April

19 Revival

District Line UMC, Bremen, GA

20 Envisioning

Darlington FUMC, Darlington, IN

24-26 Connect Groups

Macon Evangelistic Church, Macon, GA

24-26 Discovery & Reflection

St. John’s UMC, Atlanta, GA

24-26 Connect Group Ministry

Macon Evangelistic Church, Macon, GA

24-26 Youth Ministry

Summerton UMC, Summerton, SC

27 Envisioning

Chatsworth UMC, Chatsworth, GA

27 Envisioning

Carbon Hill UMC, Carbon Hill, GA

28 PEM Executive Committee Meeting
Atlanta, GA

29 Leadership Development

Chick Fil A, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

May

1-3 Lay Leadership Development
Tavares FUMC, Tavares, FL

1-3 Lay Leadership Development
Warren Memorial UMC, Atlanta, GA

3 Town Hall Meeting
Inman Park UMC, Atlanta, GA

13 Leadership Development
Chick Fil A, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

15-17 Faith In Action
Port Charlotte FUMC, Port Charlotte, FL

15-17 Sunday School Development
Wesley UMC, Dover, DE

25 Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

26 PEM Executive Committee Meeting
Atlanta, GA

27 Leadership Development
Chick Fil A, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

29-31 Spiritual Transformation Weekend
Macon Evangelistic Church, Macon, GA

Find us on the World Wide Web at:
www.proactive-evangelism.org

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What is Inside?

Amazing Growth
Through Prayer

The Miracles
of LRE

Calendar

Staff Spotlight

PEM NEWS

Have you ever seen an organizational flow chart? These charts show how an organization is set up and how ideas, people and activity flows through the organization.

PEM has put such a chart together for Churches. We then call it "The Big Picture of Discipleship Development in the Church." On the outside of the picture frame we write a single word several times. The word is "prayer".

Prayer is so foundational to God's blessing in ministry that we want people to see that it must literally "surround" all of the ministries of the Church.

In this issue of the Proactive Pulse, we want to share the exciting news that PEM is still intensely focused on prayer for our ministry and that we make Prayer Team Ministry foundational to our work with all of our Covenant Churches.



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