

B.M.I. Newsletter

BARNABAS MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

“Encouraging Pastors Who Encourage Congregations”

January-February-March 2005



Pastors Macel & Carol Ely

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”

James 1:2-3 (NIV)

Testing of Your Faith Develops Perseverance by Macel Ely

Pastors, as all Christians, must expect to be tested. These tests are not sent to make us fall, but make us soar. They are not sent to defeat us but that we might defeat them. They're not sent to weaken us but to make us stronger.

Therefore we must not complain about them, but rejoice in them. For the reason of testing is to purge us of all impurities. These tests make us fit for the tasks that lie ahead in our ministry.

So face your testing with joy today, knowing that God is developing through your faith perseverance for tomorrow.

TESTIMONIAL

Dirty Laundry

by a Pastors son, Gad A. Painter



My room at the fraternity house was littered with dirty clothes and empty beer bottles. I knew that Mom and Dad would be there soon to take me shopping for food. Halfheartedly, I threw a couple of bottles in an already full trash can and buried the rest behind it. It was obvious to anyone what was happening in this place- lots of partying. Mom and Dad showed up and I could see the disappointment on their face when they entered my room. They never said anything about it. They told me how much they loved me and that they were praying for me. I hugged them as they left and decided it was time to drown my pain away with another beer.

That occurred ten years ago and thankfully God has changed the direction of my life. Being the son of a Full Gospel pastor, I was raised knowing God's Word. The obvious question is "Why?" Why would a pastor's son turn away from everything that he knew in his heart was right? The answer is anger. I was mad at God for calling me to the ministry and I was mad at the church for being hypocrites.

I watched my Dad work two jobs to make ends meet. The church could not afford to pay him enough to support a wife and three kids. I admired him for his determination but I did not understand why God would allow us to do without. The underlying financial pressure was apparent even when he was able to leave his other job. Let me clarify one thing, we never went hungry and we always had shelter and clothing. However, I could see the frustration when they could not afford to buy things we needed. A seed was planted in my heart. I vowed that my family would not have to endure the same thing.

At the same time, I felt imprisoned by the eyes of the church. You see, I had to be the perfect child for the perfect pastor in the perfect church. I could not press toward the mark; I had to live the perfect lifestyle. Several times I participated in social activities with other teenagers who attended our church only to be punished by my parents. It was acceptable behavior for their kids, but not me. I saw the duplicity of their lifestyle and had to suffer the consequences. As a result, I felt isolated. I did not understand how someone who professed to be a Christian could be so judgmental.

Ultimately, I turned my back on God and the church. I ran from God by joining a social fraternity. The appeal of friendship and fun lured me. I knew that God would not be here. He would not pursue me in a lifestyle of sin. Surely this was the place where I could be accepted for who I was. I fell for the biggest lie of the devil. God by His Holy Spirit would convict me of my actions and I would drink to numb the feeling. The outward beauty of that lifestyle is masked by the inner misery that accompanies turning your back on God. The solution was drowning away my feelings with alcohol. After ten years of running away from God, I turned back to Him. His love conquers anything.

Through it all, God was glorified. I apologized to the congregation and forgave them for the wrongs that had been committed. I gave control to God and he has brought healing to me and my family. He has begun to open doors for me to share his simple message of love and forgiveness. Sharing this with you is evidence of God at work. Satan stole ten years of peace and joy from me and God is restoring it double.

Barnabas Ministries International is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. All gifts are tax deductible

OUR ITINERARY CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BMINISTRIES.ORG



B.M.I
P.O. Box 70707
Knoxville, TN 37938



Thank you Barnabas Ministries International for your ministry of refreshing that you provided for my wife and myself! We had been pastors in the same town at that time for seventeen years when a most challenging season took place in our lives. We had become very weary, and unknown to us a mutual friend had shared with you that we could use a special blessing of getting away for a spiritual renewal. We were so surprised when you called and said we were to be at a certain place to just get away and be

revived. Although my wife and I have known the Ely's for many years we were not fully knowledgeable of what Barnabas Ministries International was involved in doing. We know them to be people of integrity with a heart to reach out and help those in ministry during their time of need. This ministry is long over due within the body of Christ. Ministers give of themselves to stand with families year after year as crisis situations come to those they minister to. But who helps the man and woman of God when they have a need in life? We can testify that BMI does with no strings attached. We love you and again say thank you for loving us.

We encourage the body of Christ to prayerfully consider being a regular supporter of this much needed ministry.
IT IS GOOD SOIL!

ART & JOYCE THOMAS

James 4:2 "You have not because you ask not"

We know that it isn't in everyone's heart to be a Barnabas to pastors, but to those of you who do understand the importance of this ministry we wanted to share 2 specific needs that we are asking and believing the Lord to send finances for:

- * Our monthly motor coach payment—\$725.34
- * Expenses for conference for pastor's wives in September

First Ladies Conference

September 29 & 30

Hosted by Barnabas Ministries International

at the Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, TN



Our evening speaker is Diane Robinson Mullins —Diane brings with her a life time of pastoral experiences. Her father Pearl Robinson was pastor of Hamilton Christian Center until his death in 1977. Diane's father and brothers were killed in a plane crash. Diane and her mother, Nancy Robinson Vaughn, continued through the greatest crisis of their life by trusting in The Word of God. Today Diane and her husband Jim, pastor Calvary Christian Center, a church with great passion for their community, located in Hamilton Ohio. Come expecting to be strengthened after hearing inspiring and anointed messages from God. You are sure to leave this meeting with renewed vision and purpose!

Our morning speakers will include Ann Dantin from Leesville, LA-Linda McClure from Water Valley, KY and Estelle Wells from Abbeville, LA

For more information or to register call the BMI office at 865-925-1544 before September 1



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