

Merry Christmas!

BMI Newsletter

BARNABAS MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

"Encouraging Pastors Who Encourage Congregations"

October-November-December 2006



Pastors Macel & Carol Ely

"Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you— guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us".

II Timothy 1:14 (NIV)

Guard the Deposit Entrusted To You

The Apostle Paul warns us to "Guard the good deposit that is entrusted to us". Barnabas Ministries International counsels with many Pastors who share the same old story. Too often they find themselves in serious trouble realizing they had let down their guard. They failed to protect the good deposit that was entrusted to them.

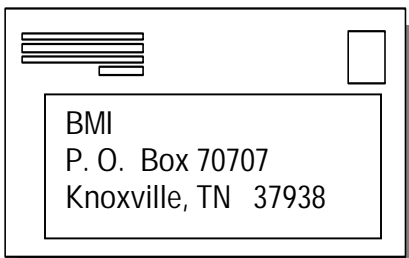
Jude says in verse three, "You must contend for the faith that was once entrusted to you". Contend means to take a stand or fight.

Pastors, I admonish you to not only preach sanctification and holiness, but more importantly; to live a life that is set apart. We must guard the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Jude also says in verse six, the angels that did not keep their positions of authority (or guard their posts) now suffer eternal punishment. If certain angels were cast out of Heaven because they didn't guard what was entrusted to them, we too will be judged if we neglect the deposit entrusted to us as well.

In Hebrews chapter two the scripture says, "We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore **such a great salvation?**"

Letter from Pastor Rick Johnson



Wanted to write and say how much of a Godsend Barnabas Ministries has been to us. We have served in ministry all our married life (soon to be 29 years). We are currently pastors of Trinity Faith Ministries where we have been for eight years.

Two years ago Brother and Sister Ely came to the church and ministered to us. The church was growing by leaps and bounds, little did we realize what was just around the corner. Brother Macel brought a timely Word from the Lord to us and to the church. The Word would prepare us for what lay ahead.

Just a few weeks later we faced the hardest trial our family and the church had ever experienced. Our family was literally torn apart. Those who we thought were with us could not be found. Thank God for our Bishop and his wife and Barnabas Ministries standing with us. Barnabas was there when we needed someone to listen, pray, and to help.

These past two years have not been easy but God has seen us through. Our family has slowly been healing and the church is on the upswing. When we faced the most difficult time in our own personal lives and in the life of our ministry, Barnabas Ministries was there. This ministry is a Godsend and bless the Lord He sent them to us.

November is a time when you give thanks. Brother Macel and Sister Carol, we want to thank you for obeying God.

Barnabas Ministries is about "Encouraging Pastors Who Encourage Congregations". We recommend Barnabas to anyone.

Again thank you for obeying God.

We are keeping your family in our prayers and so is our church. We are lifting your daughter and your granddaughter and the whole family up in prayer.

We love you both.

Sr. Pastors Rick and Martha Johnson

Barnabas Ministries International is a non profit organization with a 501 (c) 3 status with the federal government. All contributions are tax deductible. If you have not yet met your allowable charitable contributions for this year, PLEASE CONSIDER making a check out to this ministry. All contributions received by December 31, 2006 will receive a giving statement for tax purposes.

Make Checks Payable To: Barnabas Ministries International or B.M.I. Address: P. O. Box 70707, Knoxville, TN 37938
Office Phone: (865) 925-1544 Email: PastorsAid@aol.com or SisterCarolEly@aol.com

People Magazine took a picture of our Granddaughter Victoria while former tennis star Andrea Jaeger-now Nun, prayed for her. You can read this article in the latest issue of People Magazine with George Clooney on the front. Sister Andrea brought toys to Victoria, but the unfamiliar habit she wore frightened her. The only time she stopped crying was during their prayer.



Praise God! Our granddaughter Victoria made it through her third chemo treatment. It was extremely hard on her, especially on her liver. One day I was with her when a couple of her doctors came in. As they were examining her they reminded us of what we already knew. One doctor said, "You know that everything that we are doing with Victoria is only guess work. There is no protocol for her because there are no documented cases of anyone ever going through what she has" (meaning losing her intestines as a result of a biopsy). She will be having her fourth chemo treatment today, November 27. They will not continue with the aggressive chemo as planned, because of the state of her liver. The damage has tripled because of the harshness of the third round of chemo. Instead they will give her the type of chemo she had during the first two rounds. The last report we had received showed two of the spots in her head are completely gone now. I had mistakenly said in an update that the spot on the end of her spine was one of the spots gone. The spot on her spine was smaller in the last report and only one spot remained in her head which also appeared smaller. The doctor was delighted with the last report. After this fourth round of chemo they will do the scans again to check the status of the cancer. In December she is scheduled for a fifth chemo treatment and in January a sixth. After the six scheduled chemo treatments are finished she will then have to receive six months of maintenance treatments. The report today from the Oncologist wasn't good. He doesn't feel that the mild chemo treatments will kill the cancer. As many of you know, she must have a bowel soon. Please continue with us in prayer for our continued MIRACLES!

Victoria's hospital room number changes frequently. Please send all correspondence to their apartment. THE HOUSTONS—CARRIAGE HOUSE DRIVE # 9—FORT THOMAS, KY 41075

The month of October was filled with Pastor Appreciation Services. At Living Faith Tabernacle in Atlanta, Georgia I was honored to speak in the three English speaking services. They have five services each Sunday, two of which are Vietnamese and Hispanic. These special services were to honor Pastor Chris Bowen. What a delight it was to minister to a congregation who loves their pastor.

Sister Ely enjoyed speaking at a Ladies Tea at South Knoxville Church of God at a fundraiser for the Appalachian Children's Home. The men of the church served the ladies and also provided the entertainment. ☺

It was a pleasure to speak in a gathering for pastors and leaders sponsored by Visions of Praise Ministries in South Bend, Indiana. It was truly a blessing to see pastors and leaders touched by God's presence.

Also in October I ministered in a homecoming at New Life Fellowship in Oakwood, Virginia. What a thrill it was to reunite with people we hadn't seen in many years. The power of God was tremendously strong in the altar area. It was obvious that the church was prepared with prayer. The church had prayed before we arrived that we would leave refreshed and strengthened. Their prayers were definitely answered.

At the end of October we were honored to minister in a Missions Conference in Carol's hometown of Hamilton, Ohio, at Calvary Christian Center where Revs. Jim & Diane Mullins are pastors. What a joy it was to see so many fellow missionaries!

The month of November began with a special meeting I held for Pastor Phil Russell at Eastside Christian Fellowship in Cincinnati, Ohio. Although it was my first time there I feel I have known the Russell family for years. Not too often nowadays do pastors invite you for fellowship in their home, like the Russell's did. Carol and I enjoyed getting to know them and their children and grandchildren too. It is amazing what has been accomplished at this church since their beginning, just five years ago. I look forward to many returns.

South Knoxville Church of God here in Tennessee, is a faithful monthly supporter of Barnabas Ministries and it is always a pleasure to speak in the churches that are a vital part of this ministry. It is important for me to keep our supporting churches updated on this ministry. Pastor and Sister Branch are very sweet people and we are very thankful for their support.

What a pleasure it was to be the special guest speaker for the Pastor Appreciation Service for Soul's Harbor of London, Kentucky. Pastor Ronnie and Patty Ball are a joy to spend time with, and we counted it an honor to join in this day of celebration with them. Carol and I enjoy watching the people of Soul's Harbor work together. They remind us of the church where we had pastored for 18 years, Abundant Life Fellowship. The church has grown so fast since they have moved into their new building that they are now having to go to two a.m. services on Sunday. Thank you Soul's Harbor for your faithful monthly support!

This week Carol and I will travel to Alaska. I will be speaking to the leadership of Church on the Rock in a two day meeting at a campground. Sunday I will then minister to the entire congregation. This vibrant church is also a faithful supporting church of Barnabas Ministries. Rev. David & LaRae Pepper are the pastors. Pastor David is the son of William and Carlene Pepper, life-long missionaries.

The month of December will begin in Alaska. From there I will be ministering in Cincinnati, Ohio at Delhi Christian Center where Rev. Bruce Hensley pastors. Pastor and Sister Hensley have known us for many years, and we always enjoy our time with them and their congregation. Delhi Christian Center is also a faithful supporter of this ministry.

We are now filling in our schedule for 2007. If our ministry can be of service to you or your congregation please contact us at (865) 925-1544.



Barnabas
Ministries

INTERNATIONAL

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