



A ministry of
River Valley Christian Church
5900 Lake Elmo Ave. N.
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Phone: (727) 807-3548
E-mail: lttn@ymail.com



Dan & Marta Lewis

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a *light to the nations*... Isaiah 42:6

July 2018

Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV)

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

It is interesting to me, as we continue with our theme of peace for 2018 that the Bible tells us in the above scripture that peace is something to be pursued. Also, Psalm 34:14 tells us we should "...Seek peace and pursue it." Another way to say this is: *Look for peace and go after it.*

In a world as upside down as it seems to be right now, it is important for believers to seek and pursue peace because the enemy is certainly working overtime to keep everyone in a state of chaos, confusion and division. As we study the scriptures, it seems clear to us that no real peace can be experienced without a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and being firmly grounded in His Word.

I can personally attest to the peace giving power of the Word in a time of trouble. Before we ever launched out into the mission field, I had an inkling that God was calling us to something new and something very different. Marta had been praying for Mongolia and had even made a couple of trips there to "spy out the land". In fact, it was on one of these trips that while Marta was in Mongolia, I "presented my case" so to speak, to God. I reminded Him of all the reasons why I couldn't be a missionary. "What about my kids? What about my job? What about my age? (I knew I was either too old or too young to be a missionary) - what about, what about..." As if God would slap Himself on the forehead and say "Oh, yeah, I should have thought of that - OK, I'll find someone else."

When I finally got quiet for a few minutes, God was able to get a word in that changed my life. I don't mean I heard an audible voice, but I had such a peace and an assurance that if I would be obedient to His call, I wouldn't miss anything. God knows our hearts, and He knew that what I was really concerned about was giving up what I was familiar with and what I thought was supposed to be my future. One of the ways you can tell you are hearing from God is that there is peace. I was able to meet Marta at the airport as she returned from Mongolia and tell her that I believed God was calling us there. Peace!

A few weeks after my argument with God, we attended a Christian conference where a minister we respect very much spoke prophetically over me and said that God was pleased with

my obedience to His call, and that because of that, I wouldn't miss anything. Almost word for word what I had heard earlier! Well, now I was pumped! Not only had I heard from God, I had confirmation that I had heard correctly! Then, three weeks later I had a stroke! How can this be?

Lying in the hospital bed, I knew I had a choice to make - life or death. But here is the key: I KNEW I had heard from God that I was to go to Mongolia and I also knew I could not go as a "special needs" person - I needed a fully functioning body for what we were about to do. I knew without a doubt I was to go to Mongolia, and I had absolute peace about the future. Now, that's not to say that there were things going through my mind that said otherwise, but I know enough not to let those come out of my mouth and perhaps overthrow the plan God had for me. I learned that to have peace you have to seek it, and follow it. Well, God healed me completely, and as I look back at more than 20 years of ministry, the places we've been and things we have been part of, I am so glad I did!

In preparing this newsletter, as I usually do, I first looked for pictures that help tell a story of what is happening with Light to the Nations Ministries. In the left picture in the second row, you can see one of the youth group members of the Székelyhíd, Romania church teaching a Bible lesson to the children of the church. The first thought that came to me was that not one person in that photo had been born yet when we started working in Székelyhíd. Then, as I looked at this and other photos of the youth using the white-board for teaching, I was flooded with memories of the time when most of the people in the Székelyhíd church could not read or write. But now, after 20 years of stressing the need for education, there is a generation that not only has the knowledge and ability to read and write, they are using that ability to help the little ones.

We are thankful that the youth in Székelyhíd can see the importance of teaching the children and are doing whatever they can to pass on the knowledge they have. We thank God for all those in the older generation who have been born again and will spend eternity in Heaven, but without the basic skills that most of us take for granted, it is almost impossible for Romas to make any meaningful progress in life. We are thrilled to see more kids going further in school and being committed to following Jesus on their life journey. And we thank you partners, for helping make this possible.



Both pictures **above** are of presentations made by youth and children in the Light to the Nations church in Uszka, Hungary as they celebrated Pentecost Sunday in May. Pastors Jenő and Erzsike Orgován do a wonderful job preparing groups for praise and worship and special numbers like this.



Above left, right and below left: Youth from the Székelyhíd, Romania Light to the Nations Church oversee every aspect of the Saturday children's ministry under the direction of Pastor Karcsi Hendre and his wife Gizella. Teaching Bible lessons, games, skits and lunch are all prepared and presented by the youth of the church. Thank you Pastor Karcsi and Gizella and the youth for your faithfulness. **Below right:** The Botpalad, Hungary Light to the Nations Church children meet outdoors on a nice Spring day for children's ministry. We are thankful for strong children's ministry in all of the Light to the Nations churches.



We are in the planning stages right now for a conference in September in Székelyhíd. As you may remember, in April we held a conference in Uszka, Hungary that we feel was very successful. Unfortunately only a few from Székelyhíd were able to make the trip across the border to attend, so we would like to provide a similar conference for the church in Székelyhíd. We already have commitments from some who will be part of the team for this conference. Pastors Richard and Dana Womble from Living Word Fellowship in Laredo, Texas and Pastor Thomas Lohnke from Familiengemeinde Langenthal (Family church of Langenthal) Switzerland.

As we did with the conference in Uszka, we would like to provide a nice gift bag for the conference attendees. A

conference T-shirt, pen and notepad and some Christian books will be part of the gift bag contents. We will also be bringing some of the leaders and youth from the Hungarian Light to the Nations churches, and will need to provide housing and meals for them. Any financial help you might be able to give towards this conference will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all those who support this ministry. You are a very important part of this ministry and any harvest is your harvest. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated.

Love, Blessings and Peace!

Dan & Marta Lewis