

FOLLOWING THE HARVEST

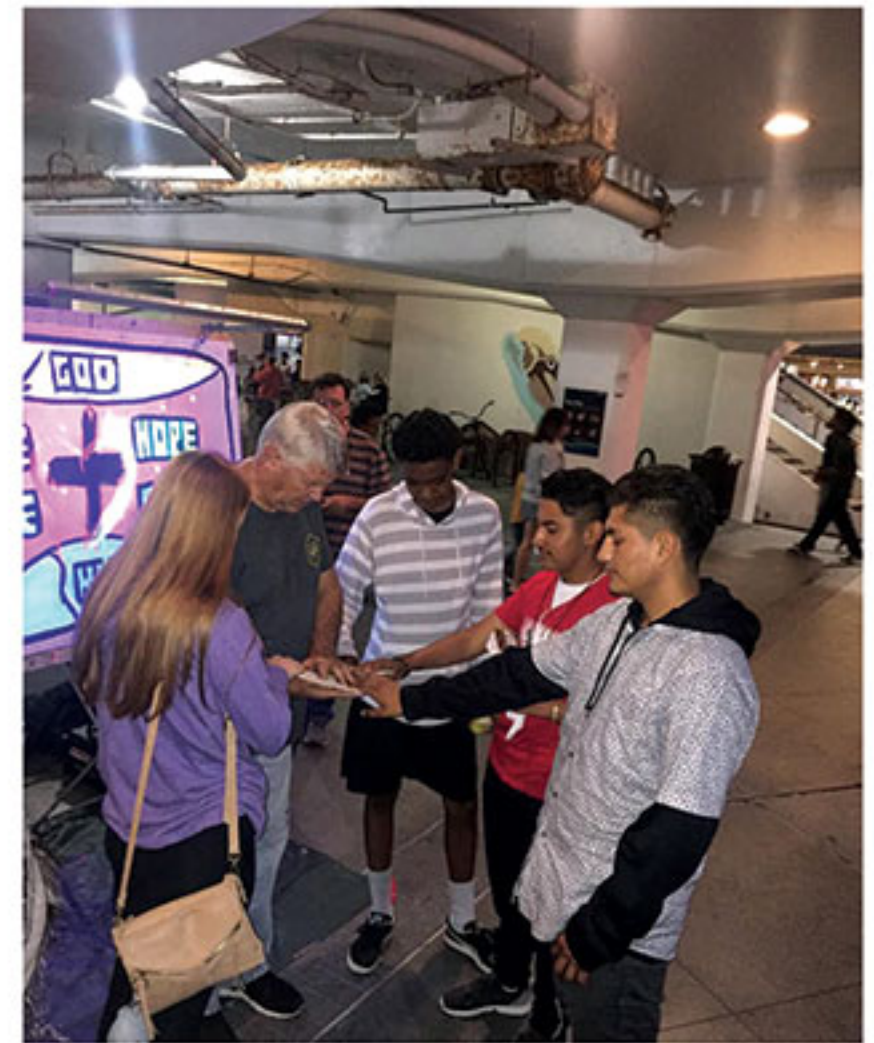
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Looking unto Jesus the Author and the Finisher of our Faith

It seems to me that there are so many things in this world that try to keep us focused on anything but Jesus. Health problems, lack of finances, relationships gone wrong, problems with neighbors, the list goes on and on. I find that many times when I'm about to go on an outreach strange things seem to happen. It might be a physical, mental or emotional thing that rises up to prevent me from preaching the gospel affectively. For the most part I am a very pragmatic person. I do not blame every bad thing on the devil as some people do, but there are times when it becomes apparent that there are evil forces at work that cause me to get my eyes off of Jesus and onto the problem. The Bible tells us to "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

By way of example, on one Saturday afternoon I was planning on going out to preach with our outreach team at the Seal Beach Pier. Our next door neighbors decided to cut down a Magnolia tree that was on our property without our permission. I was very angry because it was a beautiful tree that provided shade for our house. That night I tried my best to preach the gospel. At the same time I was thinking the whole time about our tree being cut down. Needless to say I was very ineffective with my presentation. Things like this seem to happen at the most inconvenient times. That is when we need to be reminded that there is a spiritual battle going on in the heavenly realm and that we are very much a part of it.

This is a common occurrence with all of us if we are born-again Christians who are advancing the Kingdom of God. It could happen at your work place or with your children acting out or even like my situation with our neighbors. One of the best things to do is to be in prayer over anything that would distract your mind away from Jesus. The good news is that we have an advocate in heaven praying for us. His name is Jesus Christ! "But thanks be to God who ALWAYS gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." No matter what your going through know that Jesus is praying for you in the mist of it and He will ultimately give you the victory.



Barry leading young people in prayer



Barry and Linda Praying for a family



Preaching the gospel

The Lord is For You!

David the psalmist wrote these beautiful words in Psalms 118:7, "The Lord is for me among those who help me ..." David, Joshua, Jeremiah and other heroes of the faith had their mighty men of valor beside them to help do the work of God. I have learned that no ministry, mission or church can be a one-man show. When the Lord calls someone into ministry He brings people along side to help support, strengthen and encourage. The Body of Christ has many members, "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function."

Those who support this ministry financially, who participate by going out with us on a regular bases or pray for us are really the body and blood of what we do. We could never do this ministry apart from those faithful supporters and helpers that come out with us. The Lord is truly for us among these precious people He sends to help us. We are so very thankful for each and every one of them.

This precious promise of God sending helpers to you is no different. You can claim His help at any time whether on the job, at the school, in the neighborhood. Wherever you find yourself God has promised to provide helpers for you serve Him. Sure, sometimes we are too proud to ask for help when we need it. From time to time we all have to humble ourselves and ask for the help of others. At times our own pride can hinder what God wants to do through the help of others. "Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." So whenever needed, ask for help.



"Enjoying Marriage" - Part 2 by Linda Felis

In our last newsletter I shared a few tips and ideas on promoting growth and having a healthy marriage or any relationship for the matter. I don't want a ho-hum, colorless relationship and if you're reading this you probably don't either. The scripture teaches we need to make our marriages a priority. You as a couple should come first, but so many times marriages become child-centered, resulting in the marriage becoming stale.

Sometimes we need to fan those flames so our relationships don't become boring. It takes planning ahead. Remember those fun dates when you were dating? Plan them again and have fun without the kids.

It glorifies the Lord when others can see how much we love each other. So recapping, here are some tips on making your marriage flourish:

- 1) Be a quick forgiver, it is vital and so important (Holy Spirit help us)!
- 2) Praying together is crucial.
- 3) Study the scriptures and practice what the Word says about our communication. The words we speak are either building up or tearing down. Let's let our words not be negative and critical but encouraging and uplifting. What a difference that makes!
- 4) Always show respect for each other whether at home or in public. Other people and your kids are watching. Show respect, admire, honor, esteem highly and value one another's importance.
- 5) Don't make mountains out of molehills. I use to catastrophize a lot of things when they were really no big deal. Choose your battles wisely.
- 6) Cultivate and pray for daily humor which adds so much fun and color to our lives.

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH SCHEDULE

September 1st - Newport Pier
September 2nd - Hermosa Pier
September 8th - Huntington Pier
September 9th - Redondo Pier
September 15th - Balboa Pier
September 16th - Manhattan Pier
September 22nd - Redondo Pier
September 23rd - Santa Monica Pier
September 29th - Prayer Meeting Barry's Home
September 30th - Seal Beach Pier

About us

Barry Felis Ministries is a tax deductible, nonprofit organization.

Be sure to visit our web page at www.followingtheharvest.org