

DISINTERESTED BENEVOLENCE

by Herb Montgomery
Director | Speaker



“As I passed by again, I saw that the time had come for you to fall in love. I promised to love you. Yes, I made a marriage covenant with you, and you became mine.” This is what the Sovereign Lord says.—Ezekiel 16:8, TEV

Even if He gets nothing in return, nothing back from His love, my dear friend, He has promised to love you! Period. God is not a man that He should lie. He never breaks a promise.

“Whether men receive or reject Him, He works earnestly for them. He grants them life and light, striving by His Spirit to win them from Satan’s service.” (Ellen G. White; *Review and Herald*, March 12, 1901 par. 5)

In Luke 17:12-19, Luke tells us of ten lepers. All were healed, but only one returned to say, “thank you.” What happens next is remarkable. What about those lepers who never came back to thank Him? The blessing, the healing is theirs to keep. Jesus did not heal them in order to receive anything back. Jesus simply healed them because He loved them. Is this truly what God is like? Jesus stated that he who had seen Him had seen the Father.

Ponder this thought this month. Is your picture of God of one who awakens in you love for Him, even if there is nothing in it for you? Of course, God has lovingly ordained that there are many blessings we receive from loving Him. But is God’s love strong enough to awaken love within us, even if there’s nothing in it for ourselves? By love is love awakened. And to love like this, with no interest in what’s in it for us, is the very fulfillment of the law Jesus came to write on our hearts. This is the image of Himself that He wants to restore in you. But it can take place only if, right now, you will choose to believe that He loves you unreservedly, unconditionally, disinterestedly, unselfishly, and benevolently. “Whether we serve Him or not...”

This is the love that changes lives. This month, may it change yours too.

“The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan’s deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires

only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work, only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world’s dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, ‘with healing in His wings.’” Mal. 4:2. (Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages* pg. 22) †

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Thoughts to Ponder—

“As our Mediator, Christ works incessantly. Whether men receive or reject Him, He works earnestly for them. He grants them life and light, striving by His Spirit to win them from Satan’s service. And while the Saviour works, Satan also works, with great deceit and unrighteousness and with unflagging energy. But victory will never be his.”

Ellen White
Review and Herald
March 12, 1901 par. 5

MINISTRY UPDATE

Adventists, Baptists, and Lutherans! Durant, OK

Three years ago, I had the immense privilege of conducting an evangelistic series in a small farming town known as Durant, OK. Last month, I returned for a weekend. I was truly encouraged to see how the church is still growing. But, before I share with you what took place during that weekend, I would like to give you the backdrop for what I wrote shortly after the first time I was in Durant.

Brothers in Christ—Herb Montgomery

The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary. I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption—the Son of God uplifted on the cross. This is to be the foundation of every discourse given by our ministers.

—E. G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 315. (1915)

Last October, I had the immense privilege of conducting three weeks of meetings in the small town of Durant, Ok. I had decided to base the entire series for an audience from any background, church or un-church, and to follow the advice of the statement you read at the onset of this article. Years ago, I became convinced that what people need the most is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and all of the other amazing things they can discover from the Bible need to follow and be based upon their primary encounter with the love that continuously surges in God's heart for them.

The meetings started off with a wonderful surprise. One of the elders of the church had grown up with one of the local Baptist pastors in the area who also does music ministry. The elder invited his pastor friend to come and do the musical



specials for the first two nights. Little did I know at the beginning how the Lord would work. Although the meetings were being held in the Adventist church, this Baptist pastor agreed, and, boy, were we in for a blessing. But the



greatest blessing was what the Lord would teach me through our encounter.

The pastor did the music for the first two nights. We discussed the fundamental need for everyone from every walk of life having a true understanding and encounter with the character of God

and His extravagant love for them . . . That Sunday, I was graciously invited to attend my new Baptist friend's church where he pastors. It was packed, and I could see why. I was so welcomed and loved from the moment I walked in the door that it was refreshing. The service was comfortable, culturally relevant, and yet Biblically pure. The sermon was outstanding. It has been so long since I have attended

any church service outside my own denomination, and I was honestly and pleasantly surprised. The passage that morning was Titus 2:11-13, and the main point of the sermon was that the same grace that saves us also teaches us to obey. Then the pastor surprised me again.

He announced to his congregation that he had been attending the series of meetings that were being held at the local Seventh-day Adventist church. He made me stand, and he introduced me to everyone, and then he spoke the very words that I was longing to say.

He said, "I know we have some differences with the Adventists, but I think there is plenty enough that we agree on too. I think we would get a lot further if we focused on the things we agree with the Adventists on rather than always fighting over the things we differ in." He went on to testify of the tremendous blessing he had been receiving through the meetings, and then he looked at his congregation, as said something I never thought I would hear a Baptist pastor say. "I'm going to be attending these meetings, and I want to see every one of you there too."

That next week, we had lunch together, and what a blessing it was. We both shared, back and forth, of our love for Jesus and His people. And I was amazed to see the bridges that God could build between His children. The pastor attended as many of the rest of the series as he could. He sat through presentations that were distinctly Adventist. We covered things that I know did not harmonize with some of the Baptist teachings, and, yet, he was incredibly gracious and open. He truly is a brother in Christ.

On the last night, he asked if he could just have thirty seconds before I began to talk. I readily agreed, and the words he shared that last night are still etched in my memory:

"I have been a pastor for over thirty years, but what



I haven't done for the last twenty years is to go to meetings because I just got burned out on all the garbage that's out there. And yet, I have found myself attending most every night of these meetings. Tonight, I just want to say I am thankful for three things. Number one, good friends (and he pointed to his friend who was our elder) who reached out and invited me to these meetings. Second, I'm thankful for a group of people who meet under a different name and on a different day, but whom I've learned are my brothers and sisters in Christ. And, thirdly, I want to thank God, that, somehow, in His infinite wisdom and love, He could see fit to look down and use this young kid from West Virginia to teach this Baptist pastor who's been ministering for thirty years new insights into His love and give me some things to think about. I love you like a brother, man."

I have never been so blessed by anyone's response to my meetings as I was listening to his heartfelt response that night. Roger, if you're out there, and you happen to be reading this, I truly consider you to be a brother in Jesus. You were a tremendous blessing to me, as well. And when all else fails, remember, "Give 'em heaven brother, give 'em heaven." I'll see you in the kingdom.



Last month was the second time I have been able to go back to Durant since the above-mentioned series. This time, we covered topics from God's Faith Awakening Love to the Sabbath, The Final Fate of the Lost, Death, the Latter Rain and, finally, Calvary. Each topic took us deeper into an encounter with the heart of God and the Love He has for each one of us. As always in Durant, we had a mixture of different denominations who attended. Of course, there were the local Adventists, but we also were blessed by having Baptists and Lutherans, as well, fellowshiping with us that weekend. It is always exciting to me when someone of another faith visits, and the first thing they hear from an Adventist pulpit is a presentation on the Gospel that, according to them, is unlike anything they have ever heard before. Praise God! For too long, we have left the wrong impression on our fellow Christians outside our faith. It's encouraging to me to see that being reversed. I'm reminded of that famous statement: "Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world. The proclamation of the third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; but the great center of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out. It is at the cross of Christ that mercy and truth meet together, and righteousness and peace kiss each

other. The sinner must be led to look to Calvary; with the simple faith of a little child, he must trust in the merits of the Saviour, accepting His righteousness, believing in His mercy. (Ellen White, *Gospel Workers* p.156)

I will be returning to Durant next April, and then again in November. We are going to be looking into a neutral location where we will be able to reach more of the small farming community. I solicit your prayers as this little church in the plains of Oklahoma seeks to profoundly lift up Christ for the blessing of those around them.

Mary-like Faith in Summersville, WV

As we shared in last month's newsletter, God desire is that, through the revelation of His love, He might awaken in us the same quality of faith the was inspired in the heart of Mary toward Jesus as her Savior. This month, I was able to visit the Adventist Church in Summersville, WV, and watch the presentation of God's character do just that in the lives of those who attended. Afterwards, one of the elders of the church came to me, and said, "I am convinced that this is what the western world needs! Adventism in the light of God's love, or rather, as you say, God's love through the lens of our Adventist teachings is the only thing that will win the hearts of secular North America." I could not agree more, brother. This is what we are to be about! To North America and the entire globe, may the cry be heard, "Behold your God!"

"O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" (Isaiah 40:9)

REQUEST A SEMINAR!

Would you like to experience God's love for you more deeply than you ever have before? Would you like your relationship with God to become more alive and passionate?

Would you like to truly understand the teachings of our church in the light of the Gospel of God's love?

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TESTIMONIES . . .

"Thank you, Herb. For the first time in my life, Jesus' sacrifice became real to me!" —J & L

"My mother had 3 out of 4 of her grown children sitting beside her every night in Herb's meetings! We were ALL blessed and shocked at how he presented things that were so clear! Thank you, Herb, for finally making sense to a family who needed to hear what you had to say! We can't wait to have you come to our church!" —MZ

"THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! I was only able to spend the first few days at Redwood Camp this year, but it was enough to renew my heart, hearing your message, Herb. Now, I am going to download the rest of the series. I am so grateful for this site for keeping me connected. I've also put in a request to my church to have you come. I hope they will. I will keep your ministry and family in my prayers." —JP

"I watched a video tonight by Herb Montgomery...I want everyone I know to see this video. I saw God tonight in a way I have never seen my Creator and Savior." —P

"Understanding God's love IS the answer to all our questions/problems." —ON

"I'm glad I had the opportunity to listen to Herb the last 2 years at Redwood Camp meeting. I feel his message is something very much needed in our churches today." —SV

"Herb, I heard your sermons at

"Herb is truly used by God to wake up our hearts."

Redwood Camp meeting, and was very touched. Especially the "Sounds of Rain" and God's love. I want to thank you for allowing the Holy Spirit to work through you. I am a baby boomer, and I saw God's love in an entirely different light . . . Thank you so much. I will keep you in my prayers." —PT

"We have heard Herb two summers now, at Redwood Area Camp, and what a blessing and inspiration he has been to us! God is truly using Herb and his family to bring an awakening of Love in our hearts and churches. I found myself perched on the edge of my seat so many evenings,

waiting to hear what was next! May God bless everyone involved in Renewed Heart Ministries." —MB

"Herb is truly used by God to wake up our hearts. We've been needing this for a long time. It's amazing how God will use a humble man to spread His Gospel of love to those of us who need to be reminded about what the Gospel is all about. Thank you, Jesus . . . for renewing our hearts to be passionate about You and YOUR LOVE for us." —R & C

"Thanks, Herb, for your simple message. I'm anxious to share this web site with all my friends!! My prayer is that you and your family (and Renewed Heart Ministries) will be blessed as you continue to minister." —TM

"I have referred several people to your website, and have felt compelled to ask my friends to give the church a second chance (like you asked of us). I feel like the woman at the well who could hardly wait to tell her friends what she has learned." —LF †



CALENDAR

September 7-8, 2007

Underground Oasis Christian Fellowship

October 5-13, 2007

Glendale SDA Church
Glendale, AZ
623.934.3295

October 19-29, 2007

Bakersfield Central SDA Church
Bakersfield, CA
661.832.2620

November 2-4, 2007

Good News Tour
Warner Pacific College,
Portland, OR
888.250.4612

December 8, 2007

Lewisburg SDA Church
Lewisburg, WV
304.647.5925

January 18-19, 2008

Charleston SDA Church
Charleston, WV
479.754.0675

January 25-26, 2008

Penn Valley SDA Church
Penn Valley, CA
530.432.2479

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