



Trash Delivery Sunday!

by Bob See

This Sunday might go down as Trash Delivery Sunday at New Life! **We were all challenged last week to take the garbage bags (provided at the end of the services, though you are welcome to use any other bag you have at home), and go through our homes, asking God to reveal to us what is there in our lives that is a hindrance to our spiritual life, a hindrance to the extent that God is saying “remove this from your life.”** And this Sunday we are to bring our trash bags to church with us.

We will be taking our bags to a designated area in each venue, as we enter the auditorium (ie we won't have a “special moment” in the middle of the service where everyone parades their bags to the front; instead you will take your bag directly to the “deposit area” as you come in). Here are some more thoughts on this:

- Some of the things you might sense God wants removed from your life might be intangible such as thought patterns or attitudes – for that you can simply write them on a card and throw them in the bag. That becomes a symbolic way to tell God you want this removed from your life. Take the bag and toss it onto the pile.
- If your bag is see-through and the items you are tossing aren't covered adequately, consider re-bagging into a black garbage bag.
- You aren't limited to one bag – bring more - two or more if you need!
- As you go through your home ask God to reveal to you things that hinder your relationship with Him – these might be things that aren't necessarily “sinful” BUT they hinder your walk with God; perhaps things that waste time or items that feed your ego and pride.



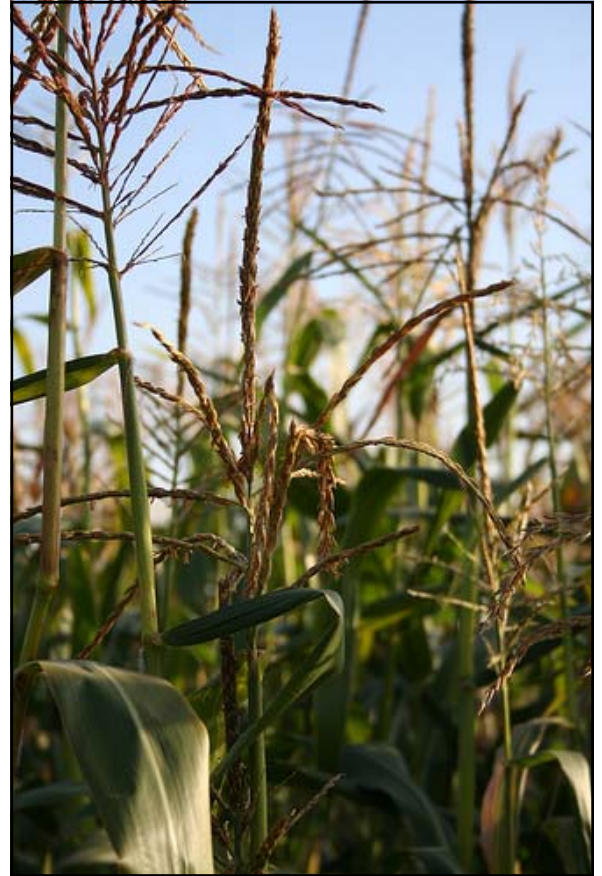
This is all prompted by God's call in II Chronicles 7:14 – ***“if My people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My Face and TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land..*** The start of all revival and spiritual growth begins with repentance and turning away from everything that comes between us and God. We are praying that this Sunday will be a day of breakthrough and deliverance and surrender, that people across New Life will experience victory and freedom as they respond to God's convicting power.

What Fuels Our Prayers is Our Desires

by Joanne Reutter

How in the world did a farm girl from Illinois end up on the Amazon River serving God? My family attended church faithfully, attended the schools, I was in the high school band, played softball-grew up in a typical American lifestyle. Then I went away to college, and had a deep personal encounter with Jesus. I met Ken in 1975, a very Godly man and an answer to my prayers, and we were married. We raised 7 kids- 4 of our own and 3 adopted. Then in 1994 we discovered I had breast cancer and life took a different path. I really asked myself, "Is this all there is to life? Is it to walk on the earth and spend my days and then go into an early eternity. My desires changed from being an average American wife/mother in an average family to being sold out for Jesus. He showed us that there is more to life than we had experienced. We wanted to serve Jesus. About the same time, another partner, (Marshall Heinold) at my husband's accounting practice (Heinold and Banwart in East Peoria) challenged him to think about missions in his later life. God had put the desire in our heart to do His will. We began to pursue missions, and then went to a conference for baby boomers. Thinking about retirement, and going on the mission field, we realized that God was calling us sooner than we thought. We ended up going to Brazil in 2002.

In The Journey of Desire, John Eldredge writes, "We all share the same dilemma—we long for life, and we're not sure where to find it. We wonder, if we ever do find it, can we make it last?... Our days come to us as a riddle, and the answers aren't handed out with our birth certificates. We must journey to find the life we prize. And the guide we have been given is the desire set deep within- the desire we often overlook or mistake for something else or even choose to ignore."



"Christianity is not an invitation to become a moral person. It is not a program for getting us in line or for reforming society... At its core, Christianity begins with an invitation to desire." The secret of your life was written by God in your heart's desire.

So how have our desires changed our lives? The first "desire change" is that we want to do what God wants us to do. Psalm 73: 25-28 says "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But as for me, it is good to be near God." And we are in Brazil right where God wants us.

- Desire for our kids to serve God—and thankfully, all of them are serving God. In fact, my son and daughter-in-law have had their faith tested to its limits as their daughter, on the day of her birth in September of 2009, jumped this life and went directly to heaven. In all this, they have remained faithful. Now we are pampering twin daughters that were born to them in November of 2009.
- Desire to complete God's mission for PAZ which is "To glorify God in everything we do, To lift up the name of Jesus and to reach 35,000 Amazon villages that have no evangelical church." In Isaiah 26:8 it says, "Yes Lord, walking in the way of your laws we wait for you. Your name and renown are the desires of our heart." That is why we are in the Amazon, to make His name and renown known amongst all the people of the Amazon.
- Desire to win 500 more villages to Christ-Project Amazon has planted over 500 churches and we want 1000 total or 500 more church plants by 2014.

- Desire to grow our cell group-The reason for our overwhelming growth is our cell groups/discipleship emphasis. The local Paz church has over 40,000 members in over 5,000 cell groups, where one-on-one discipleship occurs. We have 45 worship services every Sunday, in several different locations of the city, to accommodate everyone. We are in the process of building a bigger church that can hold 10,000 in the main auditorium. Our desire is to have 120,000 disciples (by the way, the population of Santarem is 275,000.) On average, over 100 people come to Christ every week. This cell group model is being reproduced all over the Paz bases— and not only that, all over the world. In fact, we now have a Spanish-speaking Paz church in Chicago, and a Japanese Paz church in Japan.
- Desire to speak well. Learning Portuguese after 50 years old is hard. I have buried people instead of sending them to the hospital, I have said I am a papaya cancer survivor instead of a breast cancer survivor, and my husband thought he was saying he was full when he was saying he was ugly!
- Desire to win people for Jesus: Manuel—77 years old was blind but now sees-enough to read the Bible, Julieta— an 83 year old is recovering from her second cataract surgery. She accepted Jesus as her Savior and Lord last year at 82 years of age, and has been very faithful to cell group and church. After she said the prayer of repentance, she felt a tremendous burden lifted from her shoulders. She, at 82, actually calls me her mom because I take care of her. She says God put her in my life to tell her about Jesus.
- Desire for people represented by Dona Luciana, a hardened religious person, who needs to know Jesus. It is a personal relationship that she needs, not just to think if she goes to church that she is saved. A desire to know all that God wants for us is what fuels my desires now. Before, if the person was religious, I let them think they were going to heaven. But unless we accept Jesus as our personal Savior, confess our sins, and believe in our hearts that we are saved, we are not.

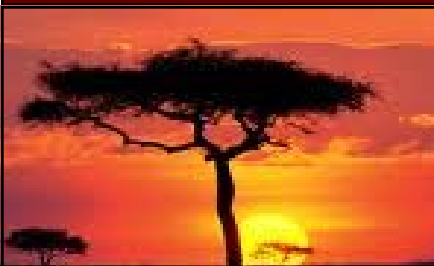
I recently read that what fuels our prayers is our desires. We pray with a passion for what we desire. Have you ever prayed for a basketball team to win, or for the miracle of a Cubs win, or maybe for a new car or bike? These desires fuel our prayers. But I have learned from being in Brazil that souls—people coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, now fuels my desire. It is my desire that you too would know this desire to serve God with all your heart, not as an added extra in your life.

So will you let the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things come in and choke the word—making it unfruitful or will you let God produce a crop of thirty, sixty or even a hundred, satisfying your desire to serve Him? IF WE LIVE FOR Christ, we will set our minds not on sinful desires, but on what the Spirit desires.

I Peter 1:13-16 says “Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in

Do YOU have a Kenya Prayer Story?

by Bob See



We are gathering stories about how God has answered Kenya prayers. Do you have a story of an answered Kenya prayer? Maybe it's a Kenya prayer request that is only partially answered at this time, or maybe it's a Kenya prayer that was answered months ago. We want to share people's stories – please let us know if you have something to share. We can keep your story anonymous if you wish. Please e-mail me (bosee@newliferonline.org), or Jason Morris (jmorris@mtco.com). **We hope to share these stories on March 21.**