



LWF

FIRST QUARTER

LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

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THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE... A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DOUG DRAGAN

Bolivia!

CHURCH OF THE LIVING WATER UPDATE:

Our church plant in Comarapa, Bolivia currently has 100 children, 15 youth, and 25 adults attending on a regular basis. Many people are being blessed by this awesome ministry. The church is currently looking for a larger meeting place.

The Soup Kitchen Project is also going well. Phase 1 (dining hall, offices and bathroom) and Phase 2 (girl's dorm and bathroom) are complete. Phase 3 (boy's dorm) will be completed in 2009. This August we will be taking a team to do ministry, minor repairs and build a basketball court for the facility. You can check it all out at the following: www.handsofloveonline.com



We Are Moving!
See back for details

I remember vividly the day the Lord called me into the ministry. It was November of 1986. I was living in the D.C. area working for a poster company delivering posters around the Beltway. I had left the University of Maryland a few months earlier, where I had been attending on a football scholarship for a couple of years. I soon realized it wasn't all I thought it would be. I had known the Lord for about 10 or 11 years, but had really only got sold out to him a few weeks earlier. I was driving around the beltway working and listening to a teaching tape when I felt the Lord tell me I would be doing "that", teaching and preaching and helping people. I graduated from Geneva College in 1989 with a BA in History/Secondary Education. I got married shortly after that and I started ministering at Aliquippa Christian Assembly in October of 1990 as the Youth Pastor. Then I worked under Pastors Geno and Sam DeMarco at New Brighton Christian Assembly from September of 1997 until January of 2005 as the Children's Director and Pastor of Helps.

But back in September of 1995, God began to deal with me about planting a church. For a period of six months the Lord showed me scripture after scripture and how they would relate to starting a church and the type

of ministry it would be. The very first scripture was Ezekiel 47:7-12. It talks about the healing waters of God and how they flow from his throne. Then He showed me how if the church, which is his people, would yield themselves to the flow, the healing waters would flow freely from them and many people would come to know God's love and find purpose in their lives. I wrote everything down. I want to encourage you to do the same. If God is speaking to you it must be important. If it's important you should write it down. That's what I did and I called this journal, Emmanuel's Manual. It was God's manual for ministry for me to follow. A couple of years passed after that first entry and I began to ask the Lord when I should start this church. The first time I asked he said, "Not yet." Then I asked again and he said, "no." Then I would ask about the same time every year and every year I got the same answer: no! I had to learn patience. I also had to learn to be content. Paul said in Philippians 4:11, "*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*" However, contentment and satisfaction are not the same. Never be satisfied with the state you are in, rather be content and keep working to do better. After nearly 9 years

since my first journal entry God said, "Yes." It just so happened to be while I was driving around delivering papers, not posters, in a part-time job I had. That was in July of 2004. Now, over three and half years later, He is fulfilling many of those promises and dreams he gave me back in 1995. That's why I entitled this article; "*Through Faith and Patience...*" (Hebrews 6:12) because it is through faith and patience we inherit the promises. I knew what God had called me and asked me to do, so I stayed determined. I just didn't know when, where, or how. But I did know with God all things are possible. I had the faith, but my patience was wearing thin. Nearly nine years had gone by before I got the yes from God. However, every year I would take out my journal, Emmanuel's Manual, and read it and remind myself and God what he had promised. I could have stayed at New Brighton Christian Assembly and been content but not satisfied because I knew God had something else. I just needed to be patient. I'd like to end this article with a word of encouragement. I believe God has placed gifts, talents and dreams into all of our hearts. He wants us to continue to pray and seek his face. He wants us to be content with what we are doing for him now, but to not be satisfied or

get complacent. What is that thing that He placed in you? Whatever it is don't let it go. Don't give up your God-given dream! Through faith and patience you will inherit all the promises God has given you.

On January 9, 2005 we held our first meeting at the Hampton Inn on University Boulevard, Moon Township, PA. Our name, **Living Water Fellowship** is based on John 7:38 (...Out of your heart will flow rivers of living water) and Ezekiel 47, "the river of God." God has been so good to us. He promised my wife Nathalie and I if we would step out in faith and be obedient He would always provide "more than enough." Because of the Lord's faithfulness we began to grow and had to move from the Hampton Inn to the Embassy Suites Hotel on May 22, 2005. Another move that occurred in June of 2005 was our family moved from Beaver, PA to North Fayette Township, PA to be closer to our area of ministry. We feel called to the whole airport area and by the grace of God we will win many souls for the Kingdom of God. God has called us to take the Gospel around the world. Through our ongoing missionary efforts in Bolivia we are doing that. We also feel God has placed a vision in our hearts to plant churches like the Church of the Living Water in Comarapa, Bolivia. And to plant churches in the United States. Thank you all for your support and prayers.

If you would like to read about our vision and the mission God has called us to check us out on the web at: www.lwf-church.org.



Here are some high-lights from the last 6 months:

These past several months have been amazing. God continues to show Himself faithful. In September we were able to purchase a 6X8 cargo trailer to haul our sound system and church supplies back and forth to the hotel with much more ease. That with the addition of several new volunteers for the set-up crew, the early Sunday morning set ups have become much easier.

In September and October LWF experienced OUTFLOW. It was a 5 week servant evangelism outreach program designed to help believers become more comfortable sharing and showing God's love. It combined Sunday services and mid-week small groups with practical hands-on outreaches. It culminated on October 16th with a church-wide outreach. Instead of holding a service at the hotel, we sent the church out into the community to serve. In about an hour and a half, at three different locations, we reached 350 people with the Love of God.

December saw over 75 people attend our Christmas Candle-light Service. Several people gave their hearts back to Christ and everyone was blessed.

With the start of the New Year the Lord kept adding new families to the church. Pastor Doug enrolled the church in the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce to help spread the Word. He also was interviewed on the John and Stephanie show on 101.5 WORD FM. He shared about the church planting process and the vision of the church.

By February we were in full swing with activities and promoting the Good News. We also celebrated the 2nd Anniversary of Living Water Fellowship's Grand Opening. Pastor Larry Bettencourt encouraged the church to continue to move forward with the vision of God. Over 75 people enjoyed a pizza party at the Findlay Township Activity Center after the service.

With the help of several volunteers LWF held their first VBS. It was decided to be a Winter Vacation Bible School and because of its uniqueness, as many as 24 children attended. The theme was the Armor of God. They met every Saturday in February at the Alphabet Express Learning Center. The month



culminated with a special service on February 24th attended by over 100 people. Eight people accepted the Lord and many others rededicated their lives to Him.

In March we are anticipating God to continue to grow the church at our new place to worship and win more souls. The implementation of our evangelism teams and our one on one discipleship program will help to accomplish these goals.

Please continue to agree with us in prayer that God shows us favor in all these areas and more!



We're moving!

God has blessed us with the opportunity to share a facility with Grace Lutheran Church. It is an answer to prayer for both congregations. Our first service in that facility will be Sunday, March 30th at 9:30 AM. We have need of the following: children's paging system \$500, speakers for sanctuary \$250, monitors for worship team \$300, wireless monitor / speaker for nursery \$250.

If you would like to help purchase these items, make your checks payable to Living Water Fellowship and send to LWF, PO Box 522, Moon Twp, PA 15108.

Don't forget...

Beginning Sunday, March 30th, we will be changing our time and location!

9:30 AM

Grace Church

1192 Brodhead Road

Crescent Twp. 15046

Across from Crystal Garden and Landscape Supply - Moon Twp.

Join us for coffee and fellowship from 9—9:30 AM.