

*The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:*

**Evangelist**  
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**Associate Evangelist**  
Pedro Gelabert

**Spanish Minister**  
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**Youth Minister**  
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**Marriage Counselors**  
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### The Hurdles Of Life

During the last Olympic Games in China, the event that caught my attention the most was the hurdle race. The runners not only had to run as fast as possible, but they also had to jump over the hurdles. Once they jump one hurdle, they were faced with another one and then another one and so on until the race was finished. Some cleared the hurdles with ease, others made contact with the hurdles and even knocked them down, but managed to continue, yet others could not jump over the hurdles and as they grew weary and tired they fell down and could not finish the race. This is one of the events that best describes the life of a human being.

The Bible describes life as a race (Hebrews 12:1-3). One thing that all the runners in this race have in common is that they will all have to jump over the hurdles of life. These obstacles will come one after the other and will keep on coming until we finish our race. Each person will have their own hurdles in life to jump over. Some of these obstacles will come in the form of personal, career or financial problems. For others, the obstacles will come in the form of illness, tragedy or sinful desires that war against your soul.

As in the Olympics, some people won't be able to jump over the obstacles in life and will be disqualified from the price. On the other hand, there will be some who will persevere and win the race of life because they trained properly for it. The apostle Paul compared life with a race in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."* Olympic runners train to win a gold medal, but we run to win the crown of life that God offers. Shouldn't we also go into strict training?

Here are some instructions that God gives us in order for us to persevere until the end in Hebrews 12:1-3 *"...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."* According to this passage, we must first get rid of anything that keeps you from running your spiritual race effectively. Examine your life and throw off anything that masters you or keeps you from becoming like Jesus and achieving your full potential. You must also fix your eyes on Jesus. Think of your eyes as a camera and zoom in on Him. This means that you will still be aware of the problems around you, but your focus and attention will remain on Jesus. Why should you fix your eyes on Jesus? Because He has overcome the world and therefore you can be victorious in this life.

Another reason to fix our eyes on Jesus is because he also faced opposition, but yet He never lost heart. Consider how he was able to go through so much stress and still accomplish the will of God. In Mark 1:35 it says that Jesus got up in the morning while it was still dark to pray to His Father. This was the way He prepared Himself to face the pressures of the day. In Matthew 4:1-11 we can see that Jesus was able to fight temptation because the word of God was stored in His heart. This requires a lot of discipline in our part, but after all, we are supposed to go into strict training. As you jump over the hurdles in life make sure that you have your eyes fixed on Jesus. It is He who will take you to the finish line and will enable you to say *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."* (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

**The One Mile Challenge**

By: Robert Young Jr.

Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel!” Have you ever wondered, “How am I going to reach the world?” Well, I think sometimes without realizing it, we miss the fact that the world is always around us. As a matter of fact, it is waiting for us right outside our front door. As you walk through your front door you walk right into the world. Yes, once you leave your house you have just entered your most convenient mission field and yet, I dare ask the question, how many people living in a one mile radius of your home have heard the Gospel spoken from your lips? How many of those people even know you exist? My point is this, sometimes instead of talking to the person next door or across the street; we pick up our cell phones to call someone 10 or 20 miles away. Instead of writing a letter to a neighbor down the block, we write an email to someone 3,000 miles away. Instead of sending money to the person around the corner in need, we send money half way around the world (usually b/c we just don’t know the person around the corner and therefore don’t know they are in need). Our ultimate goal is to help or meet the needs of those near and those who are far off, but wouldn’t it be nice to begin with our neighbors? **My challenge to you is this**, get to know those who live and work in a one mile radius of your current residence. Get to know your community. Let your community get to know you and be in awe of Christ in you! Those who were first to join a community of believers stood in awe of the power of God (Acts 2:42-47). You too will be amazed at the impact of a community that has been converted to Christ, as you preach the Gospel and Lord adds to your number one soul at a time.

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*“The Lord added to their number...” Acts 2:47 Baptisms*

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DATE	NAME	TOWN
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8/20/08.....Zita Young.....Rosedale, NY  
8/27/08.....Paulette Ibeka.....Far Rockaway, NY  
9/5/08.....Kelly Ajahi.....Copiague, NY

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*“They first gave themselves to the Lord...” 2 Corinthians 8:5*

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Weekly Budget: \$ 8,500

DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
10/5/2008	294	\$9,606
10/12/2008	323	\$7,981
10/19/2008	291	\$8,482
10/26/2008	284	\$7,947

### Mastering Our Passions

By Bernadette Gómez

Have you ever thought to yourself: “It would be a miracle if I repented of \_\_\_\_\_!”? Do you believe it is possible to master your sin? Have you ever despaired and wondered if you will ever be the Christian woman you dream of being? I have felt this way and it has motivated me to study and plant seeds of repentance in my heart. My prayer, sisters, is that you will be convinced of the power you have in Christ, claim victory over your sin through Him and enjoy the fruit of repentance.

To master means to have authority or control over something. Yes, it is possible to master your sin. God tells us so in Romans 6:14. It says, “For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.” On the day you were baptized into Christ, sin was no longer your master. Christ is now your Master and you have the power to repent. Do you truly believe this? Remember Satan does not want you to believe the truth because he knows the incredible power you have now that you are a child of God. Determine to put behind you Satan’s whispering lies and squelch your heart’s deceitful feelings of inadequacy and hold to the Truth. You can master your sin!

Not only is it possible to master your sin, but God commands you to master your sin. Genesis 4:7 “If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.” *Keep in mind, if God commands you to do something, it is because you have the ability to do so.* In fact, you have already been given everything you need to master your passions: 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” 2 Peter 1:3 “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” Does your level of repentance show that you believe this?

Mastering sin begins with determination and resolve. 1 Corinthians 6:12 “Everything is permissible for me—but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me—but I will not be mastered by anything.” When tempted, ask yourself if your thoughts and actions will benefit you and those around you. Then ask yourself if the thought or behavior you are participating in has the potential to master you. Paul was determined and resolved not to be mastered by anything. Could the same be said about you?

You may be thinking, “Okay, I believe God gives me the power to repent, but I feel so weak!” God comforts us and reassures us in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that our weakness plus His power equals success: “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” Think about a time when you were tempted and gave in to sin. You fell into sin because you were not depending on God’s power; you were depending on your own strength. God’s power is made perfect in us only when we are depending on Him.

So how do we depend on God’s power? Let’s look at Jesus’ example. When Jesus felt overwhelmed, the scriptures tell us he prayed to the Father. (Mark 14:32-41). Jesus is God in the flesh, yet he did not depend on his own power or strength to remain pure. Instead he humbled himself to the Father and prayed for help. *The first thing we should do when we are feeling weak, overwhelmed or irritated is to pray!* What else did Jesus do? When Jesus was tempted, he fortified himself with scripture. (Matthew 4:1-11). *God is showing us that memorizing scripture and storing the Word of God in our hearts truly gives us power to resist sin!* When we pray, when we read the Word, when we memorize scripture and apply His Word in our lives, it’s at these times that we are humbling ourselves under the Lord and this is how we unite our weakness with God’s power. This, sisters, is God’s recipe for success!

May God bless you richly as you apply His Word!

**“For the building up of the Body...”**

**Ephesians 4:12**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night Bible class on November 26<sup>th</sup> (Long Island and City).
- 📖 **Devotional Services:** November 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 8:00 PM. Please come early to fellowship and encourage one another.
- 📖 **New Members:** Jim and Elle Tarrant have formerly placed membership with their two sons, Jay and Isaac.
- 📖 **Wallingford Youth Rally:** The Ward St. Church of Christ youth rally is November 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> in Wallingford, CT. Contact Roger Wine for more information.
- 📖 **Video Library:** If you have any items taken out from the video library, please make sure they are signed out or return them if you're done with them. Please see Rob Dixon in the back foyer Sunday after services for more information.
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 We are now reserving the front two rows for people who wish to be prayed with, during the song of invitation. Please try to find seating elsewhere. Thank you!
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- 📖 Address/telephone changes can be e-mailed to [directory@licoc.org](mailto:directory@licoc.org).
- 📖 **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

**MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

- ✠ Apologetics Press.....International
- ✠ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✠ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✠ Oswaldo Sanchez.....El Salvador, Central America
- ✠ Doug & Lucy McDougle.....Moscow, Russia

**“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”**

**1 Thessalonians 1:8**

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES**

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322  
*New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.*

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert ....(347) 392-4339  
*Individual House Churches*

Spanish Ministry.....(Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Charlie Gómez.....(631) 772-2889  
*New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.*

**UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS**

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Willie Tolison, and Bill Oden. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

**We Care Campaign Itinerary**

<b>2008</b>	<b>Location</b>
Jan 21 - Feb 1	Mesa, AZ
April 15 - April 26	Amarillo, TX