

CONDITIONED TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL!

Ladi Davies

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

Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Evangelist
Charlie Gómez

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Paul says in **Phil 1:12-13** **“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”** Evidently at this time our dear brother was in prison, which as a condition **seemed** like something bad. To an outsider (and perhaps many in Philippi at the time) it appeared that something had gone wrong, perhaps Paul had lost God’s approval and had been abandoned by God. Perhaps he was being punished for some secret sin, or he was no longer needed by God and so had been placed on the sidelines. Not so, Paul says, to the contrary he says “what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel”. Being confined in a prison cell Paul was being placed in a condition or being ‘conditioned’ by God to advance the gospel of Christ!

His seemly bleak condition could certainly have led Paul into depression, anxiety, disappointment, thoughts of failure, self-pity or could have caused him to shrink back in his faith or even give up on God completely; and hence prison would have been a deterrent to the gospel, rather than an advancement of it. Instead Paul saw his condition as something God intended for *good* -- to **advance the gospel of Christ!** What a mindset! This is a mindset that is really undefeatable; that looks at every *perceived* negative condition as just another opportunity afforded by God to advance His gospel!

Now advancing the gospel doesn’t only mean sharing the gospel with others, which of course we must, but in the original language the word ‘advance’ has also to do with **chopping down whatever impedes progress**. Hence our present condition appears tailor-made to help rid us of things in our lives (pride, distractions, hypocrisy etc.) that impede the progress of the gospel of Christ, and in so doing will lead to an advancement of the gospel! We are speaking here specifically of conditions that appear out of our control, not those caused by negligence, poor decisions or sin in general (though God evidently can still work in such situations).

Some food for thought: have you accepted the present condition God has placed you in? Are you content in it? How has God used your present condition to chop down your pride, distractions in your life etc. i.e. things that impede the gospel’s progress? Are you thankful that you, like Paul, are also being ‘conditioned’ **to advance the gospel?**

“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” Joshua 24:15

FAMILY MATTERS

REAL LOVE Don Strittmatter

Love has to be one of the most abused concepts in the world and unfortunately in the Lord’s Church as well. We use the word “love” as a catch all for anything that we like, prefer, crave or desire to describe our thoughts in our daily communications with one another. The application of love in our lives automatically defaults to our flesh and what our emotional feelings are toward people, places, or things. It is at this moment we either accept our human nature default setting or we apply the Holy Spirit’s filter and criteria of real love through our knowledge of the Scriptures. Godly love is made up of many characteristics that take conscious thought, sacrificial submission, and daily practice to achieve and apply in our lives. In **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**, we are given a lesson on what real love consists of and the importance of it. Real Love supersedes knowledge, it supersedes sacrifice, and real love even supersedes faith in its importance in the end.

The practice of this real love can only be achieved through our submission to the help that can only come from God’s Spirit. We cannot achieve this kind of real love relying on our instinctive human nature. But it is this real love that Christ’s followers are called to live by and be known by in this world. Jesus gave us a “new command” in **John 13:34-35** to love one another as He loved us. How much love did Jesus show to us? What was He willing to do for us out of love? Yes, the cross is the intersection of God’s love for us and our source and motivation to love with God’s definition of real love as our response to the love of Christ. Applying real love in our lives takes a never ending need of prayer, meditation and the daily application of **2 Corinthians 10:5** to take every thought and feeling and make it obedient to Christ. **“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.”, (Romans 13:8)** reminds us that our only debt that we still owe Christ for his life sacrificed for our sins on the cross is our love of one another.

“And the Lord added to their number” Acts 2:47

BAPTISMS

Vaughn Hinds	September, 2015
Chanene Hinds	September, 2015
Tanisha Pierre-Louis	September, 2015
Andy Charlirin	September, 2015
Enoch Gelabert	August, 2015

Robert Young Jr.	August, 2015
Ariana Andujar	August, 2015
Fabiani Fortune	July, 2015
Kayla Dixon	July, 2015
Caleb Brown	April, 2015

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
July 2015	251	\$9,343
August 2015	233	\$8,571
September 2015	272	\$9,726
Weekly Averages for Q3	250	\$9,164

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

YOU MUST ALWAYS BE READY... LUKE 12:40

Claribel Rodriguez

This article is about **readiness**. To be ready is to *be prepared, complete, equipped, organized, arranged or set*. Readiness requires humility and a willingness to learn from someone else – not from your own thoughts or perception of what you think readiness is, as the Scriptures teach us in **2 Tim 3:16-17**. Only when you are willing to be taught, rebuked, corrected and trained in doing right will you be thoroughly equipped (*prepared; ready*) for every good work.

My dad taught me this principle as he raised me. He was always ready when it was time to assemble with the saints and encouraged me to be ready, because my mom was usually slow and my sister and I were distracted as well, fixing our hair and our clothes. If we were not ready in time he would leave and we would have to walk to services! Thank God it was close by, only a five minute walk! I learned by having a “readiness attitude”; preparing myself to arrive at any place or event 20 minutes before the appointed time. It took a lot of humility and willingness to be trained for this to happen!

We can learn something from Martha and Mary’s interaction when Jesus was present in their home (**Luke 10:38-42**). Although Martha had a servant’s heart, the very things she desired to do for people became a distraction for her own needs to sit at Jesus’ feet. Sometimes in our very desire to serve we can turn the things we do into distractions that prevent us from having a *readiness attitude*. Remember, as Jesus told Martha, “only a few things are needed”. Mary, who may have appeared oblivious to Martha, actually chose what was better for her, and in the end, she was better prepared – she was ready!

There are many distractions that will prevent you from developing a *readiness attitude*. To-do lists, pressure from others or yourself, being overcommitted, or overwhelmed and just simple laziness. Dad always encouraged me to get my stuff together and in order, so that I wouldn't be late for my appointments, work, school or the Kingdom. If I was busy blow-drying my hair or combing it, he encouraged me to do it even earlier so that I would not have any excuse. Being late or arriving late may show an attitude of carelessness, laziness, or indifference. It doesn't motivate others to be on-time and to have a *readiness attitude*. God wants us to be ready and waiting and it is with that attitude we will be able to serve (**Luke 12:35-40**). If we're late or not prepared, that means we don't have a servant’s attitude. As Jesus explains in the passage, servants are always waiting on their master. If we have an “always ready” attitude we will be early at work, with our families, and especially in the Kingdom. It's an attitude that will show across the board. Our readiness for mundane things, the things in this life, is a measure of our preparedness for God’s Kingdom and eventually eternal life. But don’t let the details of the mundane distract you from readiness in the Kingdom of God!

When I was single I always encouraged my sister to try and get herself and her family ready to get to services early. Her justification was that I was single and I didn't know what it was like to have a family. Now that I have a family I know that there is still no justification for lateness of any kind. You know my husband Pedro is a preacher and I have two boys. I cook breakfast, prepare their clothes and encourage them to get to the assembly early. My only problem is language, since I have to sign fast to get us all going!

May you be blessed and a blessing in your *readiness attitude*!

“Good works, which God prepared beforehand” Eph. 2:10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: Oct 14th, Nov 25th, Dec 23rd, Dec 30th
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: Oct 18th, Nov 15th, Dec 20th
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: Nov 1st at 3:45PM
- † Children’s Ministry Supervisors’ Meeting: Oct 25th, Dec. 27th at 3:45PM
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch Space link!
- † All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- † Address/telephone changes can be sent to directory@licoc.org or posted in the Directory Group on LIChurch Space.
- † **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!

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel” Mark 16:15

MISSION WORK

- † Apologetics Press.....International
- † We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- † Ron Clayton.....India
- † Queens & Long Island Harvest Campaigns.....Central Islip, NY
- † Hope of Life, Orphans, Lifeline Int’l (providing orphan rescue, adoption assistance, and children’s homes)....International
- † Healing Hands Disaster ReliefInternational

“Watch your life and doctrine closely” 1 Timothy 4:16

BIBLE CLASSES

Long Island Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Arthur Shlesinger (631) 293-0632
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Pedro Gelabert (347) 732-2101
St Luke’s Baptist Church Laurelton Sr Center
133-21 232nd Street
Jamaica, NY 11413

College Ministry

Thursdays 7:20pm-8:20pm

Ladi Davies (631) 413-5863
SAC Room 308 at Stony Brook University
100 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Spanish Ministry

Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Charlie Gómez (631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

Sunday Bible Classes

Grades 2-12 and Adults

Sundays 12:30pm-1:15pm

Pedro Gelabert, Robert Young
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.