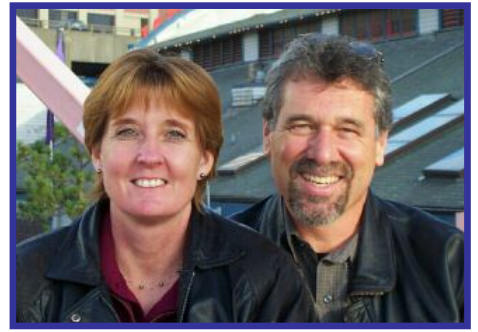


Hal and Cheryl Large Ministering in El Salvador

June 2007



My Dear Friends and Family,

Many of you have been praying for the purchase of property for the Family of Faith Church here in Santa Ana. On April 16th, two weeks before the date of payment due, I sent out an e-mail telling folks we were very close both to the date of payment (April 30) and to the amount needed to reach our goal (\$18,406.93). At that time, we had received in donations and solid financial commitments \$51,793.07 and that had been nothing short of a miracle. I thanked everyone, as I wish to thank you for your prayers and giving. It is God who *"is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us."* (Ephesians 3:20).

This has been the work of God in us and through us, according to His grace and the work of His Spirit. These are the works, *"which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10). These are not the works to be accomplished by the flesh, but the works accomplished according to the power of Christ and the righteousness of Christ, given to us graciously and received by us through faith. Faith doesn't take into account our weakness and inability as that which determines the outcome - it is rather the power and the promise of God.

It is like when God gave Abraham the promise his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. Scripture says he believed God and God counted his belief as righteousness. The key elements are God's promise, God's power and our belief. It says of Abraham: *"Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead - since he was about a hundred years old - and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised"* (Romans 4:19-21).

In that letter of April 16th, I shared an e-mail I had received from Kelly Miller of Indianapolis. Kelly was a member of a child evangelism team which visited Santa Ana in January. When she returned home, she was able to share her experiences with others. She wrote me concerning a little third-grade girl named Mary Kate who had raised some money for the purchase of our property and was sending it on its way. It is a story that demonstrates what God accomplishes when we will just believe him. Let Kelly tell the story in her own words:

Mary Kate will be so excited to hear the money is being sent. She has just amazed me with the spiritual maturity and dedication I have seen. When I came back from El Salvador, I shared my pictures with a group of 3rd-5th graders. The first week, I told them about the country, culture, etc. The second week, I had a chance to tell them specifics about our group, ministry, the people I met, and so on. I have a picture of the missions team and you praying over the land. I showed the group that picture and asked them to pray for you guys and for God to provide the money you needed to purchase the extra land you were praying for. After I finished with my presentation, the class was dismissed and the children met their parents to take communion. Mary Kate (a third

grader) came up to me and said, "I put my offering in with the adults today and I said I wanted it to help the church in El Salvador." I thought it was adorable. That week when the offering was counted, there was 35 cents for El Salvador. I figured that would be the end of it.

The next week, she came to church and told me she had gone through every pocket in the house, every couch cushion, and talked to every child and adult she could find about El Salvador. She had \$70! I couldn't believe it. She was able to talk to her education class and they all decided they wanted to pray for the church. They made a poster with some copies of my picture on it and a list of goals. They wanted to pray, get as many people as possible to pray, and talk to everyone about giving money. The following Sunday the total amount raised was up around \$125.

Mary Kate had started making prayer bracelets for people to wear as a reminder to pray for the church. She set up a table at her parents' small group right next to the door. She asked the adults to either make a donation or sign a list to pray. By the end of the week, she had over 50 adults on the prayer list. The following week was VERY exciting. That week was the start of the state basketball tournament. The schools really celebrate their teams. The school here in Greensburg had blue and white day (the school colors) to get everyone excited about the tournament. Mary Kate's cousin's class was asked if anyone had on blue and white. He had a prayer bracelet that Mary Kate had made and it was blue and white. His teacher asked him what the bracelet was for. You're not supposed to talk about God in public schools here, but Zach was able to tell his entire class about God, your church, and how the children were praying. By the end of the day, Mary Kate had half the school asking for prayer bracelets and information about El Salvador.

A couple weeks later, she put together a flyer that she handed out to every adult in our church. The quote at the top of the page read "God made the world in 6 days; surely He can do a miracle in one month for a church in Santa Ana." She decorated a giant bank and stood in our church lobby for the next few weeks, asking people for donations. She's now raised over \$200 and has so many people praying for all of you. I gave her your prayer letter from a while back and she's passed it around to people, asking them to pray for your specific needs. She told me that some day she hopes God will let her go to El Salvador to see the church you are going to build. She wants to meet the people she's praying for.

I'm so excited about all that God is doing. I am forwarding your email and pictures to Mary Kate. Please keep me updated on the progress. I know Mary Kate is anxiously waiting to see what God will do.

Praying and waiting to see God move!
Kelly

The day after I received this e-mail, I shared it with our church. The response was overwhelming. All we could do was stop and sing praises to God and thank Him for what He is doing for us through the faith of a little girl.

When Saturday, April 28th rolled around, just two days before the due date to pay for the property, we still lacked \$10,097.29 to reach our goal. On Sunday morning, I checked my e-mail before I went to church and received a letter from Kelly telling me that after Mary Kate had been invited to speak to the entire church, \$18,006.62 had been raised. You can imagine my rejoicing and thrill as I shared the news

with the church. However, God is a God of wonder and grace and will work in a way in which all glory and hope be given to Him alone. The next day, on Monday, April 30, I was making preparations to make payment for the land, when I received another e-mail from Kelly. She was very sorry, but a mistake had been made. It wasn't \$18,006.62 which had been collected but rather \$1,806.62! I fell to my knees (literally), for a moment unable to breath, and then could only lift my voice to God in prayer and praise and thank Him for what He was doing. There was a flurry of letters (and prayer) that day between Kelly and myself and we both came to a place of grace and trust in God and we began to see Him work. At the end of the day, we were just \$7,800 short. I met with the Mrs. Sandoval, the owner of the property, and explained the situation to her. She was very gracious and kind. In no way did she manifest a disrespectful attitude towards the church. She was understanding and gave us another month to make payment.

That day I wrote another e-mail and could only declare: "This whole situation is more about what God wants to do in His servant's heart than about protecting His image or reputation. So, my dear friends and family, we continue to pray, to wait upon God - in rest and surrendered to Him - with the knowledge God will accomplish His will for the church He loves. His mercy is everlasting and new every morning. What God did through Mary Kate will always be a testimony to me that He will work, not through the strong and powerful according to this world, but through the ones who in childlike faith follow Him. Our faith depends upon *who God is* and I know He loves us and will work all these things together for good."

So, we walked a bit more by faith. The church received the news with renewed conviction that God wanted to use them to be a channel of blessing. Cheryl and Kelly baked pies, others prepared food, many others dedicated special offerings to the Lord and, little by little, the funds came in. Folks in the States began to write me, promises were made, checks sent off and God moved by His Spirit in a sovereign and powerful way. It was the work of God through His people. By the third week in May, we had all the funds to pay off the property. On Wednesday, May 23rd, the money was placed in Mrs. Sandoval's hands, a week before the date extension she had given us. During the past year, over \$140,000 has been raised and the Family of Faith Church of Santa Ana has secured sufficient property - accessible, visible and strategically located - where we can begin to build.

This has been accomplished by God's gracious work through you who have prayed and given. We can all rejoice in what he has done and I want to express to you our deepest appreciation.

Please pray for us as we finish up the master plan for the church buildings and all the decisions the implementation of such a plan requires. Pray I will walk in God's Spirit and receive good counsel. There will be testing and trials - Satan's purpose to distract, disorientate and defeat and God's purpose to teach one to walk totally dependent upon Him - and I ask for your prayers for me.

Also, pray for special ministry opportunities we have in the coming days: Medical Team from Indiana (June 16-23), Preaching at a Youth Camp in Mexico where many are unsaved (July 23-27) and Teaching a Concentrated Bible Institute Class in Mexico City (July 28-August 4). Pray for Cheryl as she leads two women's Prayer and Bible Study Groups and has a very heavy load of preparing leadership, prayer and counseling ministry and in all ways shares with me the pastoral care of the flock. We need your prayers.

Yours for Souls,



If you would like to receive additional letters and updates by e-mail,
contact me at: hclarge@hotmail.com

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