

Apostolic Helper

River of Life Ministries – Richard & Karen Hamm – New Life Family Church
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This Month's Articles:

- *The Hour Has Come*
- *The "Vice Grip of Decision"...*
- *Introducing... River of Life Ministries...*



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The Hour Has Come...

These are very exciting times in the body of Christ. We are all finding ourselves in distinct places of dealings of the Lord for the purpose of preparing us for His will. As most of you know, I have spent the last six years working in a full time secular job while at the same time seeking to obey the call of God on my life. It has not been easy, but, I can honestly say that the journey has been worthwhile. I cannot even begin to list in a

newsletter all that the Father has done in my life over the last six years, but, suffice it to say, it has been an ongoing work of restoration of spirit and soul, a renewing of strength and joy, a recovery of the simplicity of Christ and a refocusing of all my personal agendas to find His agenda – the eternal purpose which He has purposed in His Son, Jesus Christ. I consider it a privilege to once again be "called" by Him to avail

myself to Him fully that I may fulfill that for which He has ordained me from the foundation of the world. I also deem it an honor to be a part of your life and what God has called you to do. I look forward to being of service to you and your call and purpose in Him. Truly, the hour has come for us to forge ahead into a awesome future, prepared for us by our Father in heaven!

The "Vice Grip of Decision"... The Story Behind the Story...

I wanted to share with you how I came to my decision to "step out in faith" to obey the call of God once again in my life. As I said earlier, I've been in a six year process of extreme change and renewal by the Lord. During that time, I've looked for way to try and facilitate putting myself back into the ministry. This lead to many hours, days and weeks of frustration at times. Over the course of these times, I've finally begun to get a grip on what it means to trust Him for your future. As I've

tried to maintain some sense of control over my own life, He at the same time has been seeking to gain the control of it.

My departure from the secular work force actually began in September 2003. At that time, I was in a very comfortable job, making good money and just enjoying life. Through a series of events, not at all enjoyable, I was "led" to leave this job and return to a previous employer. I thought I could return to this job, make more money, have more time to

devote to ministry and thus, more completely fulfill the call of God on my life.

Needless to say, this job did not work out and it placed me in a vice grip, of being squeezed in my soul to choose between obeying the call of God on my life and just trying to "pay the bills". When it became apparent to me that I could no longer fulfill the call of God, I sought another job. I was now being "led" to take a...[Continued on back page](#)



Introducing River of Life Ministries....

River of Life is the “umbrella” ministry for what God has called Karen & I to do.

Twenty years ago, when we came to Pennsylvania to pastor a local church, we didn’t know that our call would lead us into ministry in other cities and states. We only knew that we were “sent” to be a “shepherd after God’s heart” (Jer. 3:15).

In our desire to obey, we began to get invitations to “**come over...and help us**” (Acts 16:9) from other pastors, churches and ministries, and over the last several years, we have had the privilege to travel to several states – Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and

Washington, as well as, several cities in PA. It has been an awesome thing to be able to be “sent” by our Father into the lives of so many of His people.

Karen & I are excited and humbled as we approach this next season of our life, considering ourself extremely blessed to be a part of His “**river of life...for the healing of the nations**” (Rev. 22:1-2)

“My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer...”
Mark 11:17

Our Conference Ministry....

Over the last two years, we have begun an outreach to local churches that is proving to be an invaluable way of bringing the apostolic/prophetic work into a city.

God has given us three venues for this outreach – First, a “**Worship & The Word**” conference, which centers around coming together to seek and worship the Lord, with an

emphasis on hearing a specific “**word**” for that local church, city or area.

Secondly, a “**Discerning the Times**” conference, which centers around coming together to hear a “**word**” that will bring “**understanding of the times...to know what to do**” (1 Chr. 12:32).

Thirdly, a “**Ministry of Helps**” conference, which is designed to bring a

deeper understanding of servanthood and the many ways a believer can serve in the local body of Christ. It has proven to bring much needed help to the pastor in fulfilling the vision of the local church.

We will be adding other facets of outreach as God opens the doors for our conference ministry.



Apostolic Prayer Initiative....

God has recently been dealing with us about the importance of prayer, both in our personal walk with Him, and also in our corporate life.

We are seeing that the need for “apostolic prayer” to be released into the

church for the work that is to be done in these, the last days.

We are just beginning to move into this arena, with much anticipation, that, “**if my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.” (2 Chr. 7:14)

It is a time to pray...as never before.

New Life Family Church....

New Life Family Church is a non-denominational church welcoming a diverse group of people from all backgrounds. Many times people have the wrong ideas about God and religion, and sometimes these preconceived ideas can paint a wrong picture of who He is. In a world full of inconsistencies, questions and change, it's good to know that God and His Word are the same yesterday, today and forever. We believe that by applying biblical truths from God's Word, you can find practical

answers for any of life's challenges and problems you face today. You can be a champion every day of your life when you belong to Jesus Christ.

We welcome you to join our warm, relaxed church family atmosphere and offer an invitation for you to come visit our church today. We're here to serve you! Whether you are new to church life or a committed Christian who is looking for a place to mature in your faith, you are welcome here. Our prayer is that, no matter where you are on your

journey, you will feel right at home here. Every person who comes through the doors, is a vital part of the body of Christ and important to us.

Our services begin at 10am on Sunday mornings and on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Worship and the teaching/preaching of the Word are a priority at every service, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We are presently meeting at 26B Springs Avenue, in the Gettysburg Shopping Center, just two blocks from the square on Route 30 West.

Come and visit with us. We hope to be able to minister to you and help you excel in every area of your life and fulfill your God-given destiny.

If you are searching for a church home, we'd like you to know that there's a special place here just for you.

If you have any questions that are not answered in this site, please feel free to contact us at 717-337-0738 or email us at relate2u@adelphia.net. We are here to serve you!

Richard & Karen Hamm
Pastors



The Vision of New Life....

At New Life Family Church, our motto is – “It’s never too late for a new beginning.”

Have you ever wanted a clean slate? Fresh starts don’t begin with a change of circumstances, but with a change of heart. God specializes in fresh starts and you can begin yours at New Life today!

Life, love a relationships are words that have been misused to the extent that they may seem to be pretty cheap words these days. Maybe you’ve been burned out by the use of them. Are you tired of

living life an inch deep and mile wide? Our superficial world can leave us feeling disconnected and unfulfilled.

It doesn’t matter if you are single, divorced, widowed, or celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary. We all need to feel loved, appreciated and worthwhile. Many of us have never had good role models to show us what a healthy relationship is like.

Join us a New Life as we explore ways to build stronger relationships and become better people. Here you can discover

God’s great love for you. It is a love that can meet your needs and will positively impact all the relationships in your life.

So, if you’re looking for: real life, real love, real answers, real relationships – come visit us this week. You’ll be accepted just as you are. We care more about who you are than what you wear or where you’ve been. You’ll find inspiring, simplistic worship; positive, practical teaching from the Bible, and, the opportunity to fellowship with people just like you.

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

John 4:24

Come, check us out.

We’re more than just a church service.

Discover how God’s love can change your life!

For more information, visit us on the web at: rolm.org or call us at 717-337-0738

Timely Prophetic
Words...



“...Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.”
Acts 27:31



“... received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved... God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.”
2 Thes 2:10-11



“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
John 17:3



Abide in the Ship....

In 1990, God spoke to me concerning the future of the church through a prophetic parable. In this parable, He opened my heart to Acts, chapter 27.

Paul is being taken to appear before Caesar, and during this voyage, a huge storm puts their lives in jeopardy. In the midst of this great storm, Paul

encourages those on the boat to **“fear not...but believe God...”** (v.24-25). The point being, that they were going to make it through the storm.

In speaking to me, the Lord make it clear that, in parable form, **“THE SHIP IS THE CHURCH”**, and **“THE CHURCH IN ITS PRESENT FORM CANNOT CONTAIN ME**

AND WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO”.

The church as we know it is in great transition. It is a time when we must **“fear not...but believe God”**, for Him to complete His work in us.

I will have more to say on this in later issues....

Lovers of the Truth....

We are living in the “last days” and one of the signs of these days is revealed in 2 Tim. 3:1-4, **“men shall be lovers of their own selves...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...”**.

Recently, the Lord has been dealing with me concerning 2 Thess. 2:10-11, concerning those who **“do not receive the love**

of the truth” and because of this **“God will send them strong delusion to believe a lie”**.

I am seeing this issue in people’s lives....God is seeking to reveal to them the areas of their lives that need change and help, and they are refusing the **“love of the truth, that they might be saved”**.

Jonah 2:8 says, **“They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy”**, and many are losing out on the life God is desiring to bring them into in these last days because they are refusing to see their lives in truth and calling on the grace and mercy of God to help in their time of need.

Revival or Relationship....

In Mark 3:14, Jesus **“ordained twelve, that they should be with Him...”**. This is the heart cry of our Lord in these days, that we would be **“with Him”**.

We hear so many that are clamoring for **“revival”** in these days, and when that cry is sent forth, it usually is release from our hearts in a desire for what will benefit us. Though I am not trying to belittle all the benefits of serving Him,

there is more to a true, God-sent revival.

He is desiring to do a work in our life that brings us into a more intimate union with Him...a relationship of intimacy, trust and obedience. This may result in our lives being blessed, but, we need to ask ourselves a question, do we want **“revival”** for how it will benefit us, or for how it will result in the extension of His kingdom

on the earth and into the lives of the lost, the sick, and the imprisoned?

What should we desire?

In this portion of scripture, He **“ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, that He might send them forth...”**. The implied priority was to **“be with Him”**, in relationship.

Relationship is our true need, and with it will come a true, God-sent revival.

About Richard & Karen...

We have spent the last twenty years in pastoral ministry here in Gettysburg. We have also had the privilege of many apostolic trips over those years. We look forward to what God has in store for us as we continue to seek His will for our life.

At the present time, Karen is working for a local community college as the secretary of the nursing department. As is usual with her, she is an invaluable resource to them. Spiritually, Karen is beginning to step out into a teaching gift that has always been resident in her life. She is also beginning to hit her stride

as a “nursing mother” in the kingdom. I know that the future holds much in store for her as she steps out in obedience to what God has called her to do.

As for myself, you’ve read the story in this newsletter about my journey through the secular world. It was a good time for me, but, I am now endeavoring to keep my focus on the will and purpose of God for my life. I am giving myself to the pastorate here at New Life, as well as making myself available to go out to those people and churches that He is sending me to, to be a source of support and encouragement in their

call and purpose in God.

As we begin in this next season of our calling in God, we are hoping that some of you, our family, friends and ministry partners that have been a part of our life and ministry over the years, will consider supporting us with your prayers and financial gifts. These are probably our two biggest needs at this time. We are in a time of great stretching as we are seeking His direction for our life and ministry. Paul said in 1 Thess. 5:25, **“Brethren, pray for us”**. We need your prayers! We also are personally believing God to provide



Richard & Karen

\$800-1000 per month to be able to stay in a full time capacity with the local church here and to also be available to travel two times a month to other cities and states. **Would you be willing to believe with us for this amount and would you consider sowing into this work?**

You can make checks payable to:

**River of Life Ministries
P.O. Box 4505
Gettysburg, PA 17325**

Thank you in advance for your support!

Our Apostolic Ministry....

As I share my heart on apostolic ministry, I must first say that I am in no way commending myself. I am desiring to manifest in my obedience that **“by the grace of God, I am what I am”** 1 Cor. 15:10.

What is an apostle? The word apostle means, **“one who is sent”**.

What does an apostle do? An apostle is one who is sent as an ambassador of the Lord **to lay foundation, and that foundation is Christ** – relationship with Him, for Him and through Him.

Our apostolic ministry is

one of being **“sent”** to those He links us with in spirit, to come alongside them to encourage, strengthen and support them in their call and purpose of God.

One of the primary desires that God has placed in my heart is a call to go to the smaller works and churches. Not everyone can go to the meetings and conferences in the bigger churches, and not everyone’s need is met specifically even if they do attend. But, everyone needs the impartation of the apostolic ministry into their life for maturity to

come to the body of Christ.

Our desire is to be a vessel for this need. To go where maybe no one else is going. To fulfill the heart desire of the Lord, **“till we all come...unto a mature man”** Eph. 4:13. This cannot be fulfilled without the impartation of all the manifestations of Christ’s headship, of which one is the apostle.

In these, the last days, the need is greater than ever for the body to come to full manifestation and maturity in the ways of her Lord. As the Lord continues to raise up and “send” forth more

**“Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand. .
2 Cor 1:24”**

laborers into the harvest field, it is our desire to be “helpers of joy” in the lives of those He sends us to – whether it be across the street, across town, across the state, across the nation, and even across the world.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
rolm.org

The Story Behind the Story...continued...

Continued from front ...

management position with a "Christian company". It seemed the answer. It was involved in an industry that was everything I could hope for, apart from the call of God on my life.

As you can well imagine by now, things did not go as well as expected. Before long, longer hours were expected of me, with more expectation being laid on me to fulfill my obligation to my new employer. The result was that I was placed once again in the vice grip of decision – to choose the will of God over "paying the bills".

When push came to shove, I made the decision that I would have to pursue "another job". This was a major frustration to me at this point. But, it was here that the word of the Lord came. He told me that another job would not be the answer. When I questioned Him as to what I was to do, there was silence.

What was I to do? Coming to a Sunday morning service a few weeks ago, I was not expecting Him to speak to me so vividly. During the course of the service, in which the message was in reference to John 12:27, "**...for this cause came I unto this hour...**".

It was at this point that God began to drop in my heart, a passion for His cause, His purpose, His glory. As I spoke to the house about embracing the hour, the time, the purpose, the destiny for our life, I had little idea that that word would be required of me in only a few days.

By the end of the day, I was already wrestling with His Word burning in my heart. Two days later, I was given an ultimatum, which again, put me in the vice grip of decision. It was at this point, when given the choice, my wife and I chose to be "courageous" and pursue the will of God for our life.

What you can do to help us:

As we step out in faith to obey the Lord, we know we cannot do this alone. **We will need the support of those who are connected to us in relationship.**

We would ask you to **consider entering into a prayer covenant with us** to pray for the continued leadership of the Lord as we endeavor to follow His plan for our life. We

would also ask you to **consider helping us financially**, as the Lord prospers you, and as He speaks to you concerning our ministry. **Richard**

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