

THE Good News!

CliffAnn Perry

The Good News is so much more than being forgiven. It is the reality of having God with us, it is the joy of living life as it was meant to be lived. It is the fact that every time we meet with Jesus, He brings change. We are renewed, restored, refreshed. The old has passed away and all things become new.

Telling that Good News can be just as exciting as hearing it for the first time. We get to see God at work and share His passion for His people and to fall in love with Him more.

In Wilmington we got to watch that change as one young man struggled most of the week. He didn't want to do the motions, was a distraction to others and needed an attitude adjustment. We prayed for him most days and I'm still not sure when it happened but God was at work in Him. By the last day he had asked to bring his guitar. We practiced a little and he played some songs with me but the heart

"God loves me for who I am!"

difference was amazing. It showed in his outward actions. He paid attention, participated, and was part of all we did that day. Somehow in the process of the week he had met with Jesus. He was not the only one. We heard about children who could be heard praying and singing to Jesus after we taught on prayer and could see His beauty on others' faces as they were being prayed for.

At Liberty, we watched as children chose to bring their brokenness, fears and hurts to Jesus and to sense His love and



Children in the Dominican Republic responding to Jesus' invitation to join His family.

peace as we prayed for them.

The Dominican Republic was a whirlwind of being on radio and TV, training teachers, trying to understand Spanish and to be understood, riding through the lush countryside and hoping to survive the drive through the cities. It was full days focused on Jesus. It was hearing more noise in a VBS than ever but seeing children meet with Jesus all the same and witnessing the change. It was teaching about all that Jesus will do for us and having a teacher be touched by God's love. The Good News is for all with ears to hear and that man was ready to hear that day.

The Good News is reflected in a statement by a very young guy, "Jesus loves me for who I am." In Colington, Wilmington, Dominican Republic and Ringgold we have seen lives begin to change as children and adults began to understand that Jesus loves them for who they are—His creation, His delight, His dear child. Many children have begun relationships with Jesus this summer and you have helped us to take that Good News. We thank you for your prayers and support. We ask that you continue to pray as we go on to Louisiana. We encourage you to continue to share the Good News where you are, to see Him at work and fall more deeply in love with Jesus.

Reflections of Our Summer Staff

Brittany Andrews

This summer God has taken me into a deeper level of intimacy with Him. He is teaching me about His character and particularly about His love for me.

I have always loved children, but God has increased that passion in me even more. We are called to be like little children in innocence and simplicity. The Lord has also impressed on my heart that despite any circumstance, He is still on the throne.

Even in 100+° weather, while CliffAnn and I were dancing to a song in Spanish [in the Dominican Republic], God poured out His Spirit and set many hearts free!

Levi Burge [Comments from a radio interview in the DR]

What do I do? I just do what they [CliffAnn and Fay] tell me to do, when they tell me to do it. And I do it to the best of my ability.

Editor's Note: We feel blessed to have two young people working with us who have learned to press into God and walk with Him in such maturity.



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Magical Ministry Moments

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As usual when the Lord's word goes out, people responded. Several gave their lives to Jesus, others asked for prayer, and still others, unchurched, got directions for the all day ministry session two days later and expressed gratitude that someone cared.

We visited with friends afterwards and then I wandered back stage to talk with Levi. We were chatting and rejoicing that the setting sun had relieved the heat a little, when Levi said, "Something awful is happening back here."

I asked him to repeat it and he did. "What do you mean?" I asked.

He pointed, shakily. Smoke was pouring from our surge suppressor/plug in strip. It came out of every outlet, seeping from beneath the plugs connected to those outlets, signaling melt down, surge, death to our sound system. He reached for the off button but stopped when I screeched at him—and then unplugged the plug from the extension cord.

We quickly disconnected all of our cords from the plug in strip and watched in amazement and horror as smoke continued to pour out, and kept increasing. I was praying—praying that it had done its job and already thinking of possibilities if it hadn't.

We gave it a decent burial in the trash, packed up and returned to the Mission House. We hauled all of the equipment inside, plugged it in, and with great trepidation turned everything on.

Every single piece powered up. There was no smoke. But would it still work? It did. My sense of relief was overwhelming (exceeded only by that of our friend with the generator). God spared Levi. God spared our sound system. Our deceased plug in strip did its job.

God is so good!

When we finish our ministry here on Sunday, we'll travel on to Hammond, Louisiana to do a children's crusade. We know that magical ministry moments wait for us, all along the way. **God is so good!**



Magical Ministry Moments: A Toilet, A Hurricane, A Sacrificed Life

Fay Nelson

Often ministry has moments of sheer magical joy. These are moments when you realize all over again the truth about God. He is good. He loves us extravagantly. He is intimately involved with all that we do. He delights to protect us.

"I just gave my life back to the Lord a few months ago, so I haven't raised my girls the way I should." The mother stood there, with conflicting emotions on her face. She had been excited on the first two days of our outreach when her daughters, about 9 and 4, gave their hearts to Jesus. Her story changed from pain to joy, just as her life had.

The day before, one of her daughters had thrown a toy in the toilet to see if it would disappear when the toilet was flushed. It swirled with the water and then stopped as it began to go down. It stopped, but the water didn't. A minor flood resulted.

No flood is minor to a parent struggling to support children, so the mother called the girls and demanded to know who had done this. The girls reacted as children do when facing doom in the form of an angry parent—they proclaimed their innocence. The classic stand-off resulted.

Imagine—an angry parent, two children facing doom, a hot, sticky June afternoon, a wet bathroom floor, a clogged toilet. The older child finally turned red and said, "I'm not going to give the devil any power over me. I won't lie any more. I did it!"

The toilet was fixed. The floor was mopped and cleaned. And a mother expressed her gratitude for the opportunity that we had given for her children to meet Jesus and for the teaching we had shared. **God is so good!**

Several weeks later we sat in an internet café in the Dominican Republic. Hurricane Emily was aiming straight for that nation. The decision was a difficult one, for the ministry was going well and we delighted to work with Pastor Eli. But the choice was really simple—the place we stayed was sound, but at ocean level. And though we'd love to have an SUV, we couldn't afford to pay for our rental vehicle if it flooded in a storm surge—nor could we risk being stranded and missing our remaining ministry commitments. So, we left two days early, trusting God that the workshops we taught and the puppets, stage and materials we left

behind would enable the church members to finish the VBS we started.

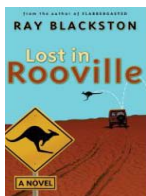
And they did. They had a glorious two days using the puppets and practicing the principles we taught them. Their immediate use of the information and their practice of new skills has carried them to new levels of confidence in ministry. We left rejoicing over the children who had given their hearts to Jesus while we were there and filled with excitement over all that God had done. And He did even more when we left. **God is so good.**

I'm writing this near Danville, Virginia near the end of July. It is hot, Dominican Republic hot, and the day after a life was sacrificed for the ministry. We did an outreach with our friends at River of Life Church at an apartment complex. God had already answered their fervent prayers and sent the daily afternoon thunderstorm hours early, dropping the temperature a few degrees into the low 90's.

As we set up, both the temperature and the humidity were rising. The generator hummed to life as dinner was being served. We presented our program.

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We Recommend



If you need a light summer read, Ray Blackston has done it again! His delightful characters are amusing, well drawn and their adventures are unbelievable. A vacation to the ends of the earth (Australia) provides the setting for two young men, best friends and friendly rivals, to propose to the girls of their dreams. In the midst of it all, they discover new insights about God's love for them.



Passion's latest CD, **How Great is Our God**, was recorded live and quickly became a favorite of our multi-generational ministry team. The songs are musically upbeat and excellent and selections range from new to standard chorus to hymns, all upbeat, and sung with Passion! You can visit them on the web at www.268generation.com.



Sandtown is an urban collective comprised of children and youth from West Baltimore's Sandtown Community. These kids rely on their natural talent and the training of their local church's music program. The CD also features an exclusive 15 minute enhanced video of their unique ministry and outreach.



The CD and the book explain John Eldredge's premise that we were born into the midst of a great story—a Larger Story. And we have a crucial role to play. We were blessed and inspired as we listened to the CD. More info is available at www.ransomedheart.com.

Schedule

Please pray with and for us as we travel and minister. Safety, refreshing, God's anointing and provision are our great needs! Thank you!

- July 31-August 3 **Abundant Life Church**, Hammond, LA
- August 6 **Maranatha Christian Fellowship**, Wilmington, NC
- August Ministry in Damascus, MD and Haymarket, VA as we prepare to return to Africa.
- September 6-20 **Sons of Thunder**, Livingstone, Zambia
- September 13-15 Crusade with **Destiny Ministries**, International, Lusaka, Zambia
- September 23-28 Ministry in North Devon, England.