

Christ, Only Christ!

Proclaiming HIM Following HIM



April 2020

Flame of God

From prayer that asks that I may be
Sheltered from winds that beat on Thee,
From fearing when I should aspire,
From faltering when I should climb higher
From silken self, O Captain, free
Thy soldier who would follow Thee.

From subtle love of softening things,
From easy choices, weakenings,
Not thus are spirits fortified,
Not this way went the Crucified.
From all that dims Thy Calvary
O Lamb of God, deliver me.

Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire;
Let me not sink to be a clod;
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God

Amy Carmichael

Accountability Ministry

It's been a long time since I've given you a report about this ministry. Basically the goal is to help young men grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The church needs godly young men! But the enemy has a myriad of distractions and temptations to keep them out of the word of God, preoccupied with other things and weighed down with sin and guilt.

In case you are interested, here's the accountability list that we use.

There are four guys that come to the same assembly as me and we have been accountable to one another for several years. I feel very encouraged about how the Lord has used this ministry in our lives!

There are four other young men in Morelia (25 minute drive from the camp) with whom it's been a lot harder to be consistent. We've never had a good place to meet in town and most of the guys can only do the study really early or really late because of work or school.

In the last letter I mentioned that I hoped to do a "survival hike" with some of these guys. We were able to do the hike but only two of the guys went with me.

Accountability List

In the past week, month or since the last time...

- ~ 1. Have you gone to a place or been with a person in a situation that could prejudice your testimony?
☒ If so, where? and/or with who?
- ~ 2. Have you honored the Lord with all your finances?
☐ If not, in what way haven't you?
- ~ 3. Have you looked at any person or any thing in a way that caused you to sin or in a way that would make you feel embarrassed? What have your struggles been in this area?
☒ If so, where/what/who/when or why?
- ~ 4. Have you spent enough time in Bible study and Prayer every day?
☐ If not, when and why not?
☒ If so, when and how?
- ~ 5. Have you done something or said something for which you still need to apologize or ask forgiveness from someone?
☒ If so, to who and why?
- ~ 6. Have you obeyed the Great Commission—proclaiming the gospel to every creature and making disciples of Jesus?
☐ If not, why not?
☒ If so, how and when?
- ~ 7. What do you need to change so you can have victory? In what area of your life do you need daily accountability?
☒ Ask someone to contact you daily and ask how you're doing in that area.
- ~ 8. In answering these questions, have you lied to me?
☒ If so, in what?



Starting at the source of one of our local rivers our plan was to follow the river until we reached the place where the road crossed. We had never done it before so we didn't know how long it was going to take. But in the end it only took us two days to reach our goal. From there we came home by bus.

It was a wonderful time of fellowship with lots of profitable lessons along the way!



- *Dear Lord, keep these young men in Your Truth.*
- *Help them leave everything and follow You.*
- *May they lead others to Christ.*

New Ministry

Jorge, one of the new believers in our church was invited to speak at a rehabilitation center in Morelia. A few weeks ago he told me that he felt like the Lord wanted him to take advantage of the opportunity to share the Gospel there and asked if I would be willing to go with him.

The people in this center are forced to remain there for a certain amount of time and are very strictly monitored. It kind of feels like you're going into a prison! We were invited to return each week. Just yesterday we went for the second time and I'm really excited about having this unique opportunity.

We sing songs, share different verses with them, and Jorge brings a teaching. Right now we have a group of about 10 men and 4 women at the rehabilitation center. I feel like many of them are open and interested.



In this picture Jorge is sitting behind the little desk. He's a very good public speaker and the Lord has given him a passion for the lost.

Jorge's wife Ana still hasn't believed in the Lord but she is studying the Bible with Michael and Sofi and recently we have seen some positive changes in her.

The little girl and boy in the first picture of the prayer letter are Jorge and Ana's two oldest kids.

- *Heavenly Father, touch Ana's heart and take away her fear of man.*
- *Give us an open door in the hearts of the men and women at the rehabilitation center.*
- *Help us to speak the right words for our audience.*

Havilah Business

Several years ago I helped the Roa family start a small business in Morelia selling milkshakes, coffee and bread. We were hoping they would be able to make a living off of the sale of those things and at the same time offer Bibles and good Christian books on the side to make it a kind of ministry.

They have faced many challenges and have had to change location several times but even though they have sold very little, to this point, the Lord has provided for them. They have really been good witnesses for Christ and it was through them that my study with the university student, Jafet started. The Bibles and Christian books, of course, provide a perfect opportunity to start spiritual conversations.

Doña Margarita, a believer in one of our sister-assemblies owns a small shop (which she rents to a business), in a very strategic location in down-town Morelia. Every day, hundreds of people go to that area of town to shop for all kinds of different things. Many even come from the surrounding towns and villages. Several years ago I told Doña Margarita to please let me know if her shop ever became available. (She had been renting it to the same business for twenty years!)

A little over a month ago, she called me up and said: "It looks like the people who have been renting my building are going to close down. Are you still interested?" I told her that I needed some time to pray about it and that I would let her know as soon as I decided. I shared the news with my family and several friends, asking them to start praying about it with me. I thought that maybe we could help the Roas move to this new spot.

Much to my surprise, the Roa family felt like they should remain where they are for the moment. I've always wanted to start a small business like this myself but it had never really worked out for me to do it. To make a long story short, I've decided to open a coffee shop with Bibles and books at this location.

This seems like a bizarre time to be starting a business but I really feel like the Lord is leading me to do it. My prayer is that this business will be more than anything, a ministry location—a light in this very strategic spot. This is an area of town where so many people go. It will even provide a much-needed location in Morelia to do Bible studies and the accountability ministry with the guys.

Though getting prepared for opening this business has kept me very busy, to this point, I've been able to continue carrying on the other ministries as well.

- ▶ *Lord, guide me in the planning and preparation of this business.*
- ▶ *Use it to reach more people with the Good News!*
- ▶ *Provide the right employees to help out.*

What's Next?

This present crisis has closed down our camps and normal church services on Sunday and Wednesday nights. I've had to put three of my four Bible studies on hold. But thankfully I've been able to continue with all the other ministry activities.

Besides these other ministries, I will probably be working a lot on getting ready to open this new business. In truth, only the Lord knows "what's next!".

- ▶ *Heavenly Father, fill us with the knowledge of Your will.*
- ▶ *Help us to make the most of every opportunity to lead and be led closer to Christ.*
- ▶ *And may it be Christ, only Christ who is glorified in our lives and in Your work!*

Thank you so much for reading all of this and praying for us!

I am praying for you. HONESTLY!

nathan,

Your brother in CHRIST!

- ▶ *OUR LORD, COME!*