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"Leading People To A Life Of Commitment And Productivity In Christ"

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The Prodigal November 2010

By Elisha Ramos

The Element youth Choir partnered with Road Less Traveled and created their first ever musical production called "The Prodigal". After three and a half months of practice and two powerful performances in November, the project became a great testimony and inspiration to all of the students who were a part of it. Not only did it open the eyes of our youth but it created a great opportunity to reach out to others. Sixteen people opened their hearts to Jesus Christ.



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BCI Celebrates 28th Anniversary Testimony by Genna Sterling Barlow



Aside from how my life has been touched when the church hosted a baby shower for me, to Pastor Jerry taking time to counsel and pray for me and my family. I would like to share with you two ways I have been affected since I started attending BCI.

The day I entered BCI I experienced love for the Lord, and genuine love for other people. I felt like I had come home, and I didn't ever want to leave. I have been blessed not only indirectly through my siblings, but also directly through my E12 experience. Before I had joined E12, I had always been scared to share prayer requests and struggles with anyone. But being in my E12 group it's not about gossip or slander, it's about truly sharing your burdens with each other and helping one another grow in our personal relationships with Christ. It has been life changing and freeing. It is always consistently encouraging, honest and based on God's Word. E12 has changed my life. As I learn, I grow. I can tell more friends about the Lord, and I always know I have my E12 family praying for me.

I would like to end by sharing a bible passage from Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Thank you, Bible Church International for blessing me. Happy 28th Anniversary!

-Genna Sterling Barlow

I praise God for leading me to this moment where I can tell you all how much BCI mean to me and how Bible Church International has affected my life. When I was asked to share about how BCI impacted me, I had to take a moment to step back and look at the past year of my life. In just one year, I married into a new family, started my own family, and was adopted by new church family, known as BCI.

When my family started attending BCI they loved it here so much that they were all trying to get me to attend. I was hesitant at first, but seeing my parents and siblings so happy and overjoyed about what they were experiencing, I started to break down.

However what ultimately got me to visit was the difference I was seeing in my teenage brother and sister who attended the Youth Group with Pastor AJ, As I saw the changes in their lives I started to want to check this out, because in a world where kids could get into so much trouble, there is still a group of teens who love and live for the Lord and if these teens are as awesome as my siblings say, then I have to meet the parents that helped make them that way.

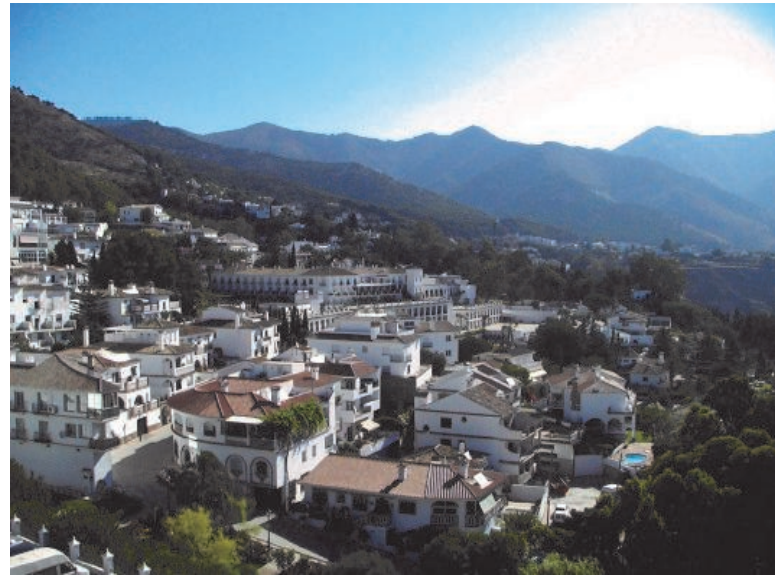
Adventures with God in Spain by J. James Lepasana



I landed in Marbella, Spain some-time close to mid-night their time after slowly wasting twelve hours at the CDG airport in Paris. Three ladies, all either in their mid-fifties or older, greeted me warmly, but by the way they were looking at me I knew their was a question they all wanted to ask. One

finally volunteered and said in her tagalog-english, "Wow, you look young, how old are you?" I realized about then that no one really had a clue how all this was supposed to work. Now, I realize that might have been the point all along.

The plan was to spend the summer in Spain serving in a community of OFWs with a church that needed a Pastor. I lasted something like three weeks, yet I have been marked by my short time there in ways I can hardly express in three short paragraphs. Through my experience God solidified in me a desire to care for the foreigner and marginalized in society, caused me to trust deeper in the mysteries of His providence and grace, started to break my desire to attain the approval of others, and pulled me back into deep fellowship with the people of my home church (thanks to Tita Mel and her G12 group). It was wild. God showed up this summer, or maybe, I'm starting to realize now, just how present He was all along.



On that first night, after saying goodnight to the strangers who picked me up from the airport and saying hello to the strangers who would become my apartment-mates, I got to my room and realized that very little outside of my trust in the person of Jesus mattered now. For the strangers I had just met cared very little of any of my previous victorious achievements. Nothing I had previously done really defined me anymore. Not the schools I went to or what I could potentially dream of doing in the future. I laid down that night and thought, "Really, I'm with people I don't know in a place far from anything I've known, to talk about the importance of Jesus and the cross. This thing about Jesus better be true." Then I cried. If Jesus is really who He says He is, the trip had meaning, if not, it would have been a waste of time. So here's the deal, Jesus really is God and his work on the cross is the only thing you can boast in, nothing else. If you really believe that, it cannot be business as usual for you. Nothing matters quite like HIM. Nothing at all!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2010: Miracle on Main Street and Fire of Hope



Beyond Description Youth Camp 2010

By Rachael Richardson

Imagine, at least a hundred students lifting up their hands in praise to a God who is BEYOND DESCRIPTION! Then imagine turning around and just thinking, HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

I arrived at camp expecting to get closer to God, and have a great time. By the third day, I was having a blast. I felt really close to God, the worship was awesome, and I was having so much fun. But the third night really brought me down to my knees. The worship was so powerful and the message was like WOW. What Devlin spoke about took me to my knees and just brought me so close to God. I had no idea that



such a level of emotion could take over my heart. Yes, I knew that I was the closest to God I had ever been in years, but this time, I knew that it was finally time to make a change, not just feel closer to God. At other times, I have felt His presence, but it would only come fast and short because I haven't really truly submitted to God my life or everything I had. As I worshipped God He spoke to my heart about my attitudes toward my parents, my friends and even what I write in Facebook and watch on television. As I returned home the fire in my heart kept burning and the words of God from Job



kept going through my mind: "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me, if you understand." God is awesome and majestic and so I want Him to have control of my life and I want to always remember His power and that He is truly—BEYOND DESCRIPTION!

Young Once to the Young Ones by Rhorie Richardson

Several of our BCI Young Once members were asked what messages they would like to extend to our younger generation. Here is what they had to say: Angelo Acuna is 86 years old, has 5 children and 11 grandchildren. "My desire for the youth is that they grow up the way we grew up, learning the values that we learned from our parents.

I have been exposed to a lot of religions but only Jesus can help us have a relationship with God. I pray that God will bless our young people with this kind of relationship".

Letty Lee is 82 years old and has 5 children and 8 grandchildren. Her favorite Bible verse is John 3:5 where Jesus said, "Verily, verily I say unto

thee, Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Her advice to young people is that they "respect their parents, study hard for school, be kind to everyone, be helpful at home and at church and to love God and participate in church regularly. But most importantly they should pursue a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lourdes Ramos is 79 years old has 7 children and 20 grandchildren. Her favorite Bible verse says "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). Her desire is that our youth would have faith in and love for God and would obey Him. Also that they would respect their



parents and grandparents because they have made so many sacrifices for them so that they can be successful in life. But most importantly that God Himself would become their inspiration. Jacinto and Socorro Cariaga (77 yrs old and 71 years old) both have 7 children and 11 grandchildren. "Always respect your parents, grandparents and your elders. Address your elders respectfully, don't just call them by their first name. If you want to say something ask permission, don't speak out rudely. Remember that destiny is a matter of choice, not chance. You have to work hard to achieve your dreams and God's plans. With God's help great things are possible."