

## Rope Holders

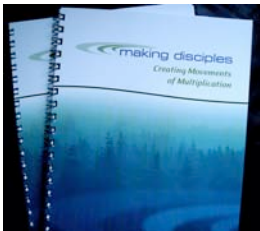
Lately, because of a friend's comment, I have been thinking a lot about "rope holders". In Luke 5, four men make an effort to see their paralyzed friend get near Jesus. But because of the crowd, they were unable. Unwilling to give up... they climbed the roof.. made an opening and lowered their friend "right in front of Jesus". (Luke 5:19)

These men were rope-holders! Men who had big hearts... unspoken heroes. We don't know their names because they served behind the scenes. Yet this miracle would never have happened without them.

These friends were creative... persistent... probably with a good sense of humor and willing to take some risks... used by God for a miracle that would not have happened if it were not for these "rope-holders".

Luke records that "Jesus saw their faith". In other words, faith is visible! It was very visible to Jesus. Jesus saw the faith of these "rope holders" and acted because of that faith.

As my prayer supporters you are my "rope-holders". I could not do what I am doing without your help. I've watched Jesus open doors... do miracles... as a "rope holder" you have helped make it possible. Here is some of what is happening:



1. The manual is ready for testing! After two months of hard work... from writing... working with a graphic designer... coordinating printers... and developing a 250 slide presentation... IT IS DONE... at least for field-testing. The new manual is entitled "Making Disciples... Creating Movements of Multiplication". It will serve as a generic manual for use Internationally with all types of ministries. Thanks for your prayers and support... you were my rope-holders.

2. On May 4<sup>th</sup> I head to eastern Asia to train 30 top leaders in disciple making. An organization of several hundred workers in Asia is asking me to present the material for their leadership team... seeing if we can craft a partnership in training their staff. I need your prayers as I teach this new manual.

3. From there, I fly to Bangkok Thailand where I will present this new material to 260 leaders of Campus Crusade from about 40 different countries at their Asia and Oceania National Leadership Conference. This will be my second opportunity to field test this material... but with proven national leadership. Please pray for the active manifest presence of the Lord as I teach. Ask God to give me great wisdom, humility, and clarity of passion as I teach the Life of Christ and movement building to these national leaders.



4. Next month I fly to Manila Philippines to help a gifted young leader create a ministry designed to train other youth workers. Randolph Valesquez, (in the green shirt) is a veteran Sonlife trained youth pastor in the Philippines who believes God is calling him to step out by faith and create a not-for-profit training organization for youth leaders of the 50,000 churches in the Philippines. As God miraculously called me 25 years ago to start Sonlife North America... God's hand is upon Randolph to do the same in His country. I believe Randolph is one of the 60 new country leaders we have been praying for... to fulfill the vision of seeing movements of multiplication in 100 countries by 2020.

5. From there I fly to Australia to be with the forty Campus Directors of Campus Crusade in Australia. They also will be going through the new movement building manual. Pray... pray... pray!

You are my rope-holders! Jesus has seen your faith and is opening doors I never dreamed possible.

### On the home front:



Just last weekend... my middle daughter Jamie got engaged. I'm as excited as she is! His name is Brandon Grant and now I get to have another man in the family. With three daughters, one wife, a female dog, and a cat who acts like she is a female... it will be great to have a son-in-law. Brandon is a student at Lincoln Seminary... for six years he started and led a campus ministry at Illinois Wesleyan... and is now the college pastor at a large church in Normal Illinois.

Not that I want to brag too much... but he is a great guy who loves the Lord and loves ministry! Their engagement was in a field of tulips in the Seattle area.



### Some reports from around the world

#### From Mark Edwards in Costa Rica:

We are in a time of reaping here in our little town of San Isidro. Over the last few weeks we have seen 11 high school kids in our town come to Christ and many more on the edge. We launched a ministry called Vertical Culture for the kids on the street in our town and God is really working. God has so radically changed some of these hardened street kids and now to see them take the step of baptism in front of the community is radical.

My heart burns more than ever to see this next generation be true disciples of Jesus and we are doing everything we can to creatively challenge them to the greatest cause of all — being like Jesus. The prayer movement here is also underway. We produced 5,000 rubber bracelets that say 270,000,000. We are handing them out throughout Latin America and challenging people to pray daily for the 270,000,000 Latino youth in the Americas (North, Central, South and Islands). This is a huge step of faith for our team, but we are praying for a miracle movement of prayer to sweep the Americas with these prayer reminders. Pray that these bracelets will cause people to pray for this next generation to hear and respond to the claims of Christ.

#### From Steve Kaptain in Nepal:

Camp was incredible! Each day there were several hundred people in attendance, despite the current government upheaval in Nepal. We are fairly confident that we reached our goal of over 1,000 in attendance over a three day period.

Amazingly there was no curfew during our camp. There were strikes and protests. All shops were closed and there was no public transportation. Despite this, people kept attending. Some young people walked for miles in the morning to attend our camp, walked back in the evening, and then returned again the next day. One young person was beat up by police on his way home. He told them he was coming home from a church meeting. The police called him a liar saying that there are no public meetings today. Finally they let him go. Undeterred he came back to our camp the next day. That night he and four of his friends stayed the night at our house. The day after our camp was over the king de-

clared a state of emergency and imposed a curfew. Guns were firing less than fifty feet from our house. Yes, it's a little bit stressful.

This has definitely been our best camp so far. Please pray for my family, for the work and for peace in the country.

### On a lighter side

A couple had been married for 25 years and were celebrating their 60th birthdays, which fell on the same day. During the celebration a fairy appeared and said that because they had been such a loving couple for all 25 years, she would give them one wish each.

The wife wanted to travel around the world. The fairy waved her hand, and Boom! She had the tickets in her hand.

Next, it was the husband's turn. He paused for a moment, then said shyly, "Well, I'd like to have a wife 30 years younger than me."

The fairy picked up her wand, and Boom! He was ninety.

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Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

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An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

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A man appeared before St. Peter at the pearly gates. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the man offered. "Once, I came upon a gang of bikers, who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him on the head, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. I yelled, 'Now, back off!! Or you'll answer to me!'" St. Peter was impressed, "When did this happen?"

"Just a couple minutes ago."

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A nursery school teacher was delivering a minivan full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children fell to discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster. "No," said another, "he's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."



**Global Youth Initiative**

*Support for Dann and Char Spader or the ministries of Global Youth Initiative can be sent to:  
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