



## INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by

RevC

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

### MOUNTAIN CLIMBING ONE STEP AT A TIME



As I was ending the July newsletter, I had some space left and added an illustration about when standing at the foot of a mountain the top does not seem so far. Halfway up the climb, however, you realize why it is called a mountain. Even after writing it, I wondered why I had added the illustration. I now realize this was the Holy Spirit, although at the time I thought the illustration was just some idea that came to mind in relationship to the work I am doing on the CTC online curriculum. Little did I realize at the time how God was setting me up for a surprise of monumental proportion, at least to me. What I find amazing about this is that God cared enough about this small part of my life to let me know that He was with me and wanted me to know that He would see me to the top of the mountain.

Last month I mentioned that I had only two more subjects to go through, Epistles I and Epistles II. I would be halfway through the project of making corrections in English grammar, spelling, and outline format to the CTC online program. When I opened the Epistles I class, I was faced with the letters (WW) at the beginning of the commentary. I knew that (WW) stood for Warren Wiersbe, the author of material that we had been using in nine of our 29 subjects. This was material that I thought I had copyright permission to use but found it was the wrong type of copyright permission. After several pleas to the David C. Cook publishing company, a personal plea to Mr. Wiersbe, and offering to pay a royalty for its use, we were told to remove the material.

I thought I had removed all of his material from the curriculum and replaced it with material from the **Preacher's Outline Sermon Bible** commentary that we have permission to use along with some of my own writing. Suddenly, the mountain in front of me had multiplied several times. Three of our four Epistles subjects have much of Wiersbe's material! I could feel the tears beginning to well up in my eyes because the replacement process is so much work and so time consuming. Most of our lessons are seven to ten pages and it takes me a full day to do a lesson and a half. It is not often that I get a full day with all of the other responsibilities. It may seem like a small thing, but it is com-

forting to know that God cares enough about each of us to let us know in advance that He will be there for us when we have a mountain to climb or move.

I know that many of you, too, are facing some mountain-sized difficulties. From what we see taking place, there may well be more mountain-sized difficulties ahead. Let me encourage you to draw close to the Lord and stay there so that when He speaks you will be able to hear His voice and respond properly. I still sense that God is not done tearing away the things we are holding onto that have kept us from the kind of relationship with Him that He desires. He is preparing His bride for what is ahead, but if we are not wise enough to be prepared spiritually, we may miss our hour of visitation. Do you have oil for your lamp? We are to be the light of the world, and the Holy Spirit is the oil that is to be in our lamp. God, help us to prepare ourselves spiritually and to take comfort in knowing that You care about the little things that are mountains to us! Thank you, Jesus, for your faithfulness!

### Blessings Found in the Midst of COVID-19

As I have shared before, I have not been able to travel during the COVID-19 crisis. The airports I need to fly into and out of are still closed to international travel and my passport is still at the Nigerian embassy in Washington DC as well. I know that with all of the bad that has come with the virus, there have also been some positives. I would like to share two positives that have taken place as a result of the current situation in our family. One is that I have had more time to work on the CTC online program than if I were traveling.

The second blessing is of a more personal nature involving my wife, Vicki, who has been experiencing what we believed were heart issues. For several weeks she was experiencing brief times when she felt pressure, as if someone had hit her hard in her chest, making it difficult for her to breathe. Knowing that her father has some heart issues and her mother a heart murmur, we felt it was something we needed to watch closely. The experiences were far enough apart, mostly at night, and did not last for long and seem to be eased by some chamomile tea and prayer.

However, she then experienced a couple of events that seemed more serious. One in particular made her go to her doctor who directed her to the local ER. They ran a few tests and could not find anything wrong but suggested she see a cardiologist. The cardiologist, a very nice Chinese woman, ran an EKG which was fine. She scheduled Vicky to wear a heart monitor, have an ultrasound of her heart, and a stress test. All of these tests were to take place over the next couple of weeks.

That same night, Vicky had a much more serious attack. At about 3:30 in the morning she sat up in bed with pain in her chest and finding it hard to breathe. Her mouth was dry, she was beginning to break out in a sweat, her heart was racing, and she felt pain in her left arm and down her right leg. Vicky was beginning to panic and soon asked me twice to call 911. I did not sense that was what God wanted us to do and laid my hand on her chest where I could feel her heart racing. I began to pray peace to her heart and body, coming against the attack of the enemy and any infirmity that the enemy was trying to inflict. Within just a few seconds I could feel her heart begin to slow down and her breathing began to ease. This event lasted about 30 minutes altogether and ended with Vicky taking her Bible into the living room where she could read and pray through the rest of the morning.

We decided that we needed to inform her cardiologist that next morning who directed us back to the ER for observation and testing. She has had several tests, all of which have not indicated any physical cause for the attack, as I expected. One explanation for the events could be stress from the COVID-19 virus situation. Vicky has taken this very seriously as she wants to protect her baby and family and has implemented strict measures in our family to help us stay healthy. Naturally, the virus situation is adding stress to all of our lives. If you overload on stress, eventually it will work its way out of your body in negative ways.

However, in Vicky's situation, I felt this was a direct attack of the enemy. He does not like what God has called us to do. He comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I also know that God has placed limits on what he can do. This morning we are home and Vicky is back to her normal self. I am thankful that the virus has kept me home so that I could be here for Vicky. The devil is a liar and wants to do whatever he can to discourage us from standing in faith on what we know is true in

Christ. I believe that he knows what God plans to do through the CTC program worldwide both online and in-class. I want to thank each of you who pray for us and stand with us whether I am traveling or working from home. Your prayers do make a difference in the covering that we have, and your support enables us to continually make a difference around the world.

You may not need to do as much as our family does to stay safe but caring for one another is something we as followers of Christ should want to do. I find wearing a mask to be a nuisance but am glad to do so for the protection of everyone. Let me encourage you to do so also.

Today I was listening to a message by Pastor Mark Quattrochi, lead pastor of The Chapel, in which he made the statement "**What informs us, forms us!**" How true that where we gather our information has a lot to do with our way of thinking and acting. This goes along with what I had already written on the front page. As followers of Christ, should we not make sure that we are taking in more of what God's Word has to say than what the world would want us to believe? Also, as parents, we need to help guide our children in this as well because video games, social media, and much of what is on TV does not nourish the spirit or encourage godly decisions and behavior. Please be careful and be responsible for what you listen to, watch, or involve yourself in — Let Us Keep God First!

Know I'm praying for you as God helps us up and over this mountain! Remember the best way to carry a heavy load up a mountain is "**One Step at a Time**".



The week I was in Columbia teaching last year we passed this burro every morning going up the mountain as we were coming down. Even



our small taxi had a difficult time climbing the mountain. All things are possible when we believe!

## TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

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