



THE PIPELINE

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ROUTINE- THE PASSION KILLER!

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7 NIV

As we came home to Dunklin this month, I was suddenly convicted and awestruck by God about the integrity of our walk and the need to be totally dependant on Him. It was a sudden thing when in the middle of a conversation with a good friend of mine in Stuart that it dawned on me, my relationship with God had become like stale bread. It is still o.k. to eat, it won't harm you but it is stale, the flavor is gone and the texture is dry. How did this happen? I loved God with all my heart, all my soul and my whole being; I was on fire and serving God in the ministry but why did I felt stale with God? Can anyone relate? I bet I am not the only one who has gone through this. Then God showed me why I felt stale, and it was through the hardest relationship I had to own up to, that was through my wife, Vivian. I love her more now than ever but through my busyness I had not courted her, nor romanced her nor spent quality time with her for such a long time. Just like most of us men, once we have conquered, we have arrived; now we just make sure our moat and walls are in good condition. Admit it men! You probably did the same thing.

While in Dunklin I began to notice cute little things about my wife, my desire for her grew and the hunger to court her grew even more. Then I realized that in Dunklin I am out of my routine, old habits are radically challenged, a different lifestyle is being enforced on me by circumstances and situations. It dawned on me my marriage for a time has become a routine. Every single day we got used to the same thing over and over again-STALE! Then God put it in perspective, “Roni, this is what happened to our relationship-STALE!” Going back to the conversation with my friend, we were talking about the ministry and the key to help people from falling back into their addictions. We discussed the different men we knew who seemed strong but fell back suddenly to drugs, alcohol and other things. We concluded that the only way to beat this is if we radically fall in love with Jesus. (Continue on page 2)



Graduation Sunday for men in the program and their families

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COMING DOWN THE PIPE

- **April 20-22 2007 Homecoming in Canaan Baranoa, Colombia**
- **June 2007 Colombian NET Meeting and Conference**
- **July-August 2007 A one week short-term mission trip to Colombia**

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ROUTINE- THE PASSION KILLER

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Being in love causes you to be on your toe and not throw God's blessings out the window. Do you know what takes the romance out of any love relationships? **ROUTINE!** Routine is good for discipline and if you need to get things done; but if you are cultivating a relationship you have to daily go out of the routine. Routine is comfortable, it is safe and there is no challenge but both marriage and God cannot be that way. Lou Carey once said a relationship with God brings uncertainty with security. The security part is by faith. I now see why we fall back to sin (substance abuse, alcoholism, sexual addiction etc.) It is because our relationship with God has become a routine: we have taken the romance and passion out of it and made it boring...**STALE!**

God uses the circumstances and situations of our lives to get us out of the routine so that we can fall in love with Him perpetually. Why? Because "He cares for you." Sadly in the recovery ministry we had made routine (methods) out of many aspects of our relationship with God. Even our healing has become a method or routine. This is why many fall back; they achieved being sober, they achieved getting their families back, they achieved getting a job, a house, a car and a "stable life," then what? Life has become a routine of trying to maintain all of these things. I believe this will be a constant tension in us. There is no easy way out; we need to keep our romance with God in the forefront. I am falling in love with my wife all over again. I am falling in love with God all over again. I recommend to you all my fellow-journeymen to do the same thing, it is not the program that will give you life, but programs are just catalysts to bring you to a decision to love God and be passionate for Him. Without this, life simply ebbs out of us. Go ahead live on the edge, remember what Lou Carey said a life of uncertainty but filled with security, Know Him, Be passionate for Him and let go!

In Christ,



Roni and Vivian Lacuesta



LIFELINE: How you can help

- Be a monthly donor. Simply send a monthly check to Canaan International, Inc. at 3342 SW Hosanah Lane Okeechobee, Fl. 34974. All donations are tax deductible.
- Do you have air miles available? We can use any available American or Delta air miles. Just call (772) 597-2841, ask for Todd and say that you would like to donate air miles to Canaan International, Inc.
- Most importantly we want to ask you to be part of our prayer support. We need prayer warriors to constantly intercede for us. Please write us at:
info@canaaninternational.org



THE FUTURE: AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK EXTENSION PROGRAM

Recently we have formed a committee made up of professionals who love Canaan and have been touched by God to help us restore drug addicts, alcoholics and their families. We have asked them to use their knowledge and expertise in Agriculture and Livestock to help us build Canaan into a self sustaining camp. As a result the Agriculture and Livestock Extension Program was birthed. The idea is to evaluate the land and implement productive projects that would help Canaan be self sustaining. Through the studies done in Canaan, the International Training Center then formulates training modules that would help leaders from Canaan and those who would come from all over Latin America to learn how to build Cities of Refuge. The idea is that Canaan and future Cities of Refuge would cultivate their own food and also generate income from these projects. To do this the committee enlisted the help of the Northern Cattleman's Association of Colombia to study the potential of our livestock project. The result is a joint venture in which we will revamp all of our agricultural and pasture areas to create a symbiotic and integrated farm that would provide sufficient feed for the livestock but at the same time maximize our crop productions for our own use and to sell at the market. As of right now we are in the process of drilling more wells to provide for the irrigation needs of these projects. We will also enlist volunteer agronomists and scientists who are volunteering to teach our men new techniques in agricultural practices. We will be changing up our cattle, goat herd and hogs to reproduce quality herds of all types that would produce food for the camp and income through sales of these animals. But most of all through these experiences we will be able to train not only leaders of Cities of Refuge but local farmers to elevate the standard of life in our local communities giving back to the people who allowed us to be here.



Tomato fields



Red Carneros (cross bred goats)

OTHER PROJECTS

We started this year with a huge blessing, the Lord saw it fit through our construction ministry Raising Canaan, to start building our 2nd staff house. In our last issue we announced the culmination of our first staff house, our director general Enrique Daza is now settled in a place he can call home. We want to thank all of you who have donated and prayed for this house. Not long before he got moved in we started clearing the land beside his house to get ready for the 2nd house. We are currently hauling in fill dirt for the foundation of the house, it will take us two months to put the dirt in place, compact it and pour concrete. Please pray for this housing project that the Lord will supply all the finances needed to finish the house in a timely manner.

As you remember we received a donation of several computers from the local University in Barranquilla, Colombia. We are in the process of remodeling what once was the old kitchen to make it into our Virtual Training Center for our Servant Leadership Training, Staff and internship program. One of our Colombian supporters pledged to provide the desks for the computers and one of our alumni's offered to help us setup the network and install the softwares needed. We hope to get this project done by summertime. Please pray for the provisions we need to remodel this building.

Please pray for us as our daughter City of Refuge Sion in Lima, Peru recently requested for one of our best men to be sent to their place long term to train and help bring the vision of their City of Refuge to the next level. This is a very difficult decision our elders and staff will need to make but very necessary to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and fulfill the vision God gave for Latin America.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support. Without which we would not be able to accomplish many of the tasks laid before us as we have reported to you in this issue. Many lives are being saved and families being restored but there are more work to do. We need your help! If you are interested in being a monthly donor or would like to help in one of the projects mentioned above please write us at: support@canaaninternational.org and let us know how you can help or call us at (772) 597-2841 and ask for Todd Haskell. Thank you and God bless you all.

BUILDING CANAAN INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Canaan International is not an easy task, it's mission in itself describes the challenges we face today and in the future. But we really believe God established this international community and He will fulfill His vision. Canaan International, Inc. was born out of necessity and in the heart of men who would want to see drug addicts, alcoholics and their families free. As a result these same men realized the problem of dysfunctionality is not only with these kinds of people but also with church people. So Canaan International became a vision of providing a healing community for both the substance abuser and church people who have fallen into diverse dysfunctional habits.

It all started with a man named Eduardo Jimenez whose heart was broken for his people in Colombia. He responded to the call God gave him one day in Miami and contacted Andres Ruiz who is also a Colombian American to share with him his heart and see how they could bring to fruition this vision Eduardo was seeing, a City of Refuge for drug addicts and alcoholics in the heart of a war torn and violent country where 70% of the world's supply of Cocaine comes from. They met with Brother Mickey Evans founder of Dunklin, the first City of Refuge of it's kind in Okeechobee, Florida since 1963. Brother Mickey is a visionary whose passion and calling from God is to restore drug addicts and alcoholics then raise them up to be leaders. They went to Colombia in 1997 and surveyed the land Eduardo was donating for the City of Refuge and from that point on the vision became a reality and they called it Canaan which in the bible was also known as the promise land.

The year 2003 brought in a fresh vision for Canaan, it was evident that God did not only want to create a City of Refuge in Colombia but this same City of Refuge is to be the heart that would create arteries throughout all of Latin America and the Spanish speaking people for all other countries. Dunklin was overwhelmed with requests for training from all over the world, they were doing such an excellent work raising up English speaking leaders but it has always challenged them to train the Spanish speaking people. It was evident that a whole new team was needed to respond to this call, a team that would also know well their culture not just the language. It was evident Canaan needed to become an International Training Center that would birth out cities of refuge in Spanish speaking countries. This same year Canaan International, Inc was born in the U.S. to act as a pipeline and management of resources for the model City of Refuge in Colombia. The board, volunteer staff and mission teams were formed along side Dunklin to support and build the Training Center of Canaan Colombia. Through this international collaboration the city of refuge in Lima, Peru was born and is currently in it's infant stage. Through Canaan International, Inc. Canaan, Colombia was able to train the Peruvians and send a combined Colombian and American team to Peru to help in building up their City of Refuge. Currently there is one Colombian with the Peruvians mentoring them and in a couple of months Canaan will send another Colombian missionary to help them.

The vision is for Canaan Colombia to be the International Training Center and will birth out Regional Training Centers in each Spanish speaking country such as Peru. These Regional Training Centers will birth out regeneration centers and other Cities of Refuge in their countries. All of which will be autonomous and eventually be self sustaining. Canaan International, Inc. will be a conduit of human and financial resources to provide the expertise and capital to keep the International Training Center and it's model City of Refuge on the cutting edge so as to be able to provide missionaries and train leadership from other countries. This year we can see how God is pulling all members of His body to work together in spreading the gospel "to release the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed and proclaim the favorable year of the Lord." He has brought together other ministries using Canaan International, Inc. as a hub such as The Women's Refuge, Raising Canaan, Shekinah Ranch and Dunklin International Training Center to equip the saints to do the work of the ministries. For further information about Canaan International, Inc. please write us at info@canaaninternational.org or check out our website at www.canaaninternational.org