



# Shiloh Messenger

April 2013

## Curious Pilgrims

*“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them,” Hebrews 11:13-16.*

I love this particular scripture, because it reveals much about a pilgrimage that all of us are on. It is a journey called life. From the time we took our first breath, the journey began. For a great multitude, the journey is a supernatural one that leads to a Heavenly Country. For the others it is a journey of deception (2Cor. 4:4). I do not claim to have all the answers to the journey called life, but the Bible does. The Bible ( God’s Inspired Word) is a Treasure House of wealth, for the curious. **“I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure,” Psalms 119:162.** In the Word of God, the Holy Spirit reveals that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and He came to illuminate all who were living in darkness (Jn. 1:1-5). We know that down thru history and even now people continue to reject Jesus Christ as Savior of the world. Some just boast and say “there is no God!” **Romans 1:19** says, **“what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”** What is being said is, when God created us, He put an intuition in us to know that He exist and we should be curious to know Him. With me, I was attracted to the Light of the Gospel Message. My spirit man was awakened from a dark place and shown a path that leads to True Life. From that place I began my spiritual pilgrimage to know Christ and to make Him known.

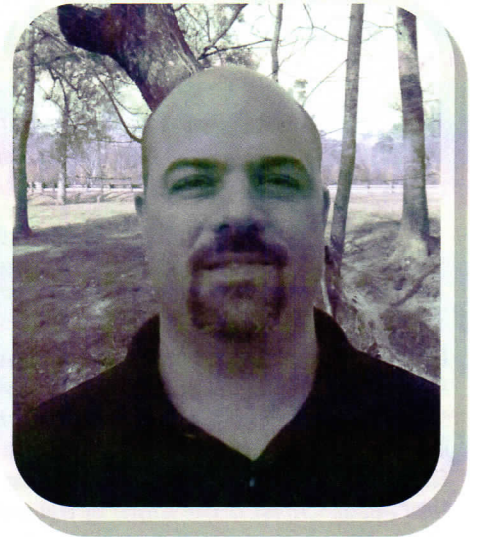
I have been shown much mercy and given much grace. This acknowledgement comes from a heart that realizes I have done nothing to deserve this blessed life. What have I learned from this Great Grace given to me? I learned it demanded a response. I responded in repentance, because His goodness was revealed (Rom. 2:4). I have learned the way to encounter Him is by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in **John 6:63**, **“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”** Life does not have to be difficult. Everything we need to know about our purpose in life is found in a deep intimate, loving relationship with the Holy Spirit. As He (Holy Spirit) reveals who God is, there is an invitation to discover more. The more I surrendered, the more I discovered Life is in the Son of God (Jn. 1:4). This curiosity about Christ Jesus is leading me to my destiny. I have a saying that both Deb & I quote, “I have not arrived, but I have left the starting place.” My wife & I have both discovered that we are on a journey that is taking us to a destination (a Heavenly Country). As we journey, we are compelled by a Presence to invite others to go with us, to this Heavenly Country.

It is amazing how the transformation of a carnal mind to a spiritual mind takes place. It is not by mystical means, but by an invitation to encounter Him in the Spirit thru Worship, Prayer & meditation in the Word of God (Rom. 12:1-2). God who designed us has put eternity in our hearts (Ecc. 3:11). There is this knowing in each one of us that there is more to life than we currently know. Intimacy with the Savior reveals secrets that are now made known to those who are curious to know more about Christ Jesus. **“The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,” Colossians 1:26-27.** The Lord always rewards a heart that is out to discover the riches in Christ. The Father delights to share His Heart in the things hidden for our discovery. He has never hidden things from us, but for us to discover. The very things that were once a mystery has now been revealed to a curious heart. God was intentional in creating a people, not satisfied with man made ordinances. He created us for encounters, thru discovery. The more curious we become about Christ, the greater the reward in revelation about Him.

The reference topic (top of page) verse in Hebrews 11 is all about a company of people who saw things from afar. There were things put in them by God that caused them to sojourn for years in order to accomplish what was given to them by God to complete. This great chapter in Hebrews is called the roll call of faith. Each and every individual encountered a God who invited them into a journey that would take them to a Heavenly Country. We do not know what all personally took place, but it had to be such an encounter that they forsook all (including death) to gain a City that would was not made with human hands. But what they saw from a distance is now revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. **“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God,” 1 Corinthians 2:10-11.** Most of us know that all of the people described in these passages (Heb. 11) died under an inferior Covenant. **“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,” Hebrews 10:19-20.** It is only thru this new and living way that we gain access into the Throne Room of God. It is in the Holy Of Holies with Jesus our Great High Priest that we have favor and obtain the proper perspective to see clearly in the journey. Everything that we need for our journey as pilgrims has been provided for **“in Christ.”** My prayer for you is in **Ephesians 1:18**, **“the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of inheritance in the saints.” Amen!**

## Students Testimony

Hello my name is Chris Harwell, I am 42 years old from Daisetta, Texas. I came from a broken home and my parents divorced when I was 7. My siblings and I moved between parents many times. I love my parents and I'm not sharing this to blame them. The enemy is a deceiver and loves to introduce sin through divorce and negative circumstances. I fell for the lie and made a decision to start huffing chemicals at 10 and started drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana at the age of 12. The one stable thing in my life was my younger siblings Matt and Tawnya. Then on November 22, 1987 a man which had been drinking ran over them in our front yard and killed them both. I was 16 and witnessed this tragedy and my heart became filled with anger, rage, guilt, sadness, rejection, and depression. Through my ignorance, I was mad and blamed God for this tragedy. I continued to escape reality with drugs and alcohol. I refused to deal with life through my rebellious behavior. In 1992 I started using crack cocaine. This drug would keep me in mental torment and bondage for the next 20 years. I have been to Jail over ten times, five secular drug rehabs, a half way house, a research clinic, and even a mental hospital, where I was prescribed more drugs. I wanted this madness to stop. I was crying out for help, but the world only offered me more steps to do in the programs of men. Nothing had changed on the inside of me, and I continued to medicate myself with drugs. This was a miserable cycle in my life and I had given up all hope. I was a failure at life, being a son, a father, and a husband. I finally became so broken down I cried out to God. Romans 10:13 says, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." God answered me with Shiloh Ministries. This is a supernatural Ministry where the truth about Jesus Christ is taught to lost men like me. I am no longer a slave to sin. I have been healed & set free. I thank and love Pastor Rocky and Sister Debbie for being obedient to God's call on their lives. Their sacrifice has allowed me to have a relationship with my Heavenly Father. I also want to thank my family for not giving up on me, for God has shown me how to be a priestly husband, son and father. My plans after graduating this month is to serve on Staff at Shiloh Ministries as a Servant Leader.



Hello my name is Eric Marcantel, I'm 21 years old & grew up in Kinder Louisiana. As a teen I battled with low self-esteem, anxiety and I was depressed all the time. I used drugs to hide it from everyone and drown the problems that I had. In March 2012 I was arrested for felony burglary. I had made a mess of my life and was desperate for a change. Sick of drugs I just wanted happiness. I decided to go to Shiloh Men's Ministries to get clean and hopefully have my charges dropped. Little did I know God had more in mind. One night I got on my knees and cried out to God asking him to help me with my car wreck of a life. I accepted Jesus into my heart and confessed him as Lord of my life. He took all of my shame, guilt and depression on Him when He died on the cross and rose again. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in me, when I died to myself and with Jesus I rose again. The old things have passed away and all things have become new. I have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. God has delivered me from fear and drugs. Now by His blood I have been set free from a life of sin. I have true happiness and choose daily to crucify my flesh and live by the Spirit. God has answered many prayers. I have a GED thanks to Mrs. Barbara Paige who is an excellent teacher. Thank you so much Pastor Rocky and Sister Debbie, Brother David, Cliff and Jarrod for your obedience to God's call on your lives and for the Love you have for all of us. To God who does more than I could ever imagine, thank you Lord. Thank you for breath of Life everyday. Thanks for my family and all the support. This June, I will be going into the missions field to follow God's will for my life. I have been called to the nations to preach the good news to every living creature (Matt. 28:19). I leave you with this, God has brought me out of darkness into light and He will do the same for you. Call on Him, He is faithful to save you and your family.



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