



Eagle Vision Partner Letter

Deliverance from Your Past

July 2004

Dear Partner,

I pray that this letter finds you operating in the love of God. This month it seemed good to the Holy Spirit to write about being delivered from the past---your past mistakes, failure and experiences.

As a Pastor I've come across a lot of people who are still struggling with the past. The past is one of the major things that can stop our spiritual progress. Realize that God has graciously extended his mercy towards us even while we were yet sinners He forgave us from all of our trespasses.

That Apostle Paul was a man who understood that the pain of the past could stop your future progress. This was evident in his writing. In **Philippians 3:12-15** it says

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting** those things which are behind, and **reaching** forth unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I **press** toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: ...

The Apostle Paul was saying I'm not where I want to be yet, but there is one thing I've gotten a hold of and that is the importance of forgetting the past. (**Even if it happened yesterday, it's in the past.**) He says in **1Corinthians 15**

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

In other words, the Apostle Paul understood the value of being given a second chance and he chose to make the best of the opportunity.

I too have been forgiven of a lot of things, so I have a definite appreciation for the grace of God. (Grace is God's unmerited favor.)

Isaiah 43:18-19 says ¹⁸ Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Don't stay stuck in the past because God has great things for you in your future! Yesterday is gone, but tomorrow is the beginning of a new day of **opportunity and favor.**

Dwelling in the past is like driving forward in your car while looking in the rear view mirror! Make a decision to divorce yourself from your past. **Focus on today and make the most of it.** God's already forgiven you. You just have to accept His forgiveness and forgive yourself! By doing so, you will reach altitudes you've never experienced before.

The Apostle Paul wrote over two-thirds of the New Testament. What if he would have allowed his past to dictate his future. He would have never made an impact in the lives of every born-again believer.

Jeremiah 29 says¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. The Amplified Bible states it this way, **Jeremiah 29**

¹¹For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome. **God still has an awesome plan for your life. Remember, it's not over until you see your victory!**

STEPS TO STAYING DELIVERED FROM YOUR PAST

1. Only think about your past when it can help you appreciate your future.
2. Let go of anything that will hinder your progress (including some relationships).
3. Seek God for His plan for your life.
4. Be determine to cross the finish line.
5. Stay future focused and not past possessed.
6. See yourself as a winner.
7. Be determine to fulfill **ALL** of your potential.

In His Righteousness,

Harold M. Council
Senior Pastor

Ministry Update

- ❖ We'd like to wish Micah a Happy 5th Birthday. He is excited and ready for Kindergarten next month!
- ❖ We had a great time at the Kid's Night Out at the Skating Center last month.

Upcoming Event

Pastors Harold & Deirdre will be ministering at Mt. Calvary Freewill Baptist Church located at 602 S. Wooten Street, LaGrange, NC on Saturday, July 17, 2004 at 4:00 pm. Pastor Harold will be speaking to the Men's Fellowship Group & Pastor Deirdre will be speaking to the Women's Fellowship Group. If you would like more information about this service, please contact either the Mt. Calvary Church office at 252.566.4826 or ECCI's church office at 919.850.9954.