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he sat up very straight in his chair and in a very dignified manner gave us a short speech about the future of South Africa and the type of leaders the nation needed. I witnessed him quickly transform from a warm and caring grandfather to a great leader and politician.

Six weeks ago, I was speaking at a church service in Johannesburg on Isaiah 58. I realized that we weren't far from Mandela's house. So we went to his home to express our concern for him. A number of family members were there so we left as to not disturb them. We left a note for him and his wife to thank them for their work on behalf of the poor. I included Isaiah 58:6-9, which I think applies to him.

Editor's note: Please visit www.DisciplesToday.net for a Mandela tribute from the Gempel's.

Maher Al-Hinn Dies in Car Accident

Middle East Leadership Team — Monday, 09 December 2013

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." — Psalm 116:15

On Sunday, December 8, our dear brother Maher Al-Hinn died in a tragic automobile accident in Beirut, Lebanon. Maher dedicated his whole adult life in the service of the Lord and his people. He most recently was serving as the co-evangelist for the Amman, Jordan church. Maher, along with Samar, his wife, were instrumental in the discipling and oversight of the churches in the Middle East, and Maher also served as a delegate for the Middle East family of churches.

The horrific one-car accident occurred as Maher & Samar, along with Sami & Fadia Sakakini, (co-leaders of the Amman church & Maher's sister & husband) were driving back into the city from a retreat, which included many from the Beirut church, as well as many of the leaders from the Middle East churches. All three passengers were also hurt in the accident with non-life threatening injuries and are currently hospitalized.

Mike Rock, an evangelist from the Los Angeles Church of Christ, was the guest speaker at the retreat in Beirut and worked closely with Maher in overseeing the Middle East. He has been a great support to the family during this challenging time.

Maher (43) leaves behind his wife Samar of 18 years, his three children Fadi (17), Yara (14) and Faris (6). Maher also leaves behind one brother, as well as six sisters & many nieces & nephews.

Please keep the whole family in your prayers during this most difficult time. Thank you for all your prayers, love & concern. We are so grateful, as many of you have asked how you can help. We will keep you updated as soon as we have more information.

Thank you,
The Middle East Leadership Team

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India: Young Congregation Blessed with Visitors
Indian News Network — Saturday, 07 December 2013
The Indore mission team decided to have their first invitation service on December 1st, 2013 entitled "Love Story". The small group of 14 disciples which includes few young Christians brought more than 230 new...

Blue Ridge Church of Christ Welcomes Singles to January Retreat
Brandon Halstead, Charlottesville, Virginia — Saturday, 07 December 2013
The theme of this year's retreat is "Resurrected Heart." As disciples of Jesus, we were buried with Jesus in baptism and raised with him through our faith in the power of God (Colossians 2:11-12), given new....

Salvation: Pass It Along
Martin Bentley, Commentary — Friday, 06 December 2013
We are immensely blessed by God to have been brought, by Him, to rebirth. He worked in our hearts directly and he worked through obedient disciples to teach us that a person is born again when they repent and are...

LA Sister Returns Home to Help Philippines Featured
Mj Saltz, Los Angeles, CA — Thursday, 05 December 2013
Do you ever have those moments in thought that in actuality, you are living in? That's where my mind has been the last several hours. I'm currently flying on Philippine Airlines headed to Manila where I will eventually land in Ormoc. I think I'm on hour 8 of the...

• UPCOMING EVENTS

Midwest Conference
Chicago, IL USA
January 17-19, 2014

DT Hawaii Fellowship Cruise for Singles and Marrieds
Hawaii, USA
April 27-May 9, 2014

US International Campus Ministry Conference
St. Louis, Missouri, USA
July 4-6, 2014

Vietnam Church 20th Anniversary
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
July 5-6, 2014

ICOC International Leadership Conference & Delegates Meeting
Singapore
August 22-30, 2014

International Singles Conference
Denver, CO, USA
September 26-28, 2014

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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HOPEww Celebrates Nelson Mandela

Written by HOPE worldwide
Tuesday, 10 December 2013 15:25



"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." – Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela will long be remembered as a great statesman, politician and liberator for the people of South Africa. We at HOPE *worldwide* celebrate his legacy of hope and remember his passion for bringing unity to a divided nation. Mandela will also live in our memory as a friend and partner in our mission to bring hope and change lives.

Pictured is Mr. Mandela with the HOPE Unity Award. He was the first recipient of this award which is given to those who have sacrificed personal liberties for the sake of uniting many in peace. To learn more about this award and its distinguished recipients, go to www.hopeww.org.

Mandela: A Leader, Liberator, Loving Grandfather and Friend
Dr. Mark Ottenweller, Director of Development Africa, Sr. HIV/AIDS Advisor:
While living in South Africa, I had the privilege of meeting and speaking with Nelson Mandela several times. In 2007, as I prepared to return to the U.S., I was invited to meet with him at his office. We talked about our families - especially his grandchildren and my children. We spoke a lot about the children of South Africa. It was evident that he genuinely loved the little ones and was concerned for their future. He also expressed a great deal of interest in HOPE worldwide's work for the children of his country, and he thanked us for all of our efforts.

The sons of Marc Aguirre, HOPE *worldwide's* Country Director in South Africa, had been given me a few questions to ask Mr. Mandela regarding the future of South Africa. I remember that as he answered their questions,

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