Vision becomes Reality

The second quarter of 2019 was a blur. Wonderful connections happened at May’s SILS conference and I’m grateful to report fruitful experiences with coaching clients also throughout the quarter. Soon after accepting the invitation to Zacapa, Guatemala, the Lord gave insight on what He wanted to teach them. For months my focus was on creating FMM’s new workshop on our “Identity Agreement” to be launched at Hope of Life for their staff and nannies. The twice a day week long workshops would consist of our Identity Agreement, the Cycle of Addiction, the Cycle of Recovery and the Reflective Listening Exercise all interpreted into Spanish. It was an aggressive task. With exception of the Identity Agreement, all of this content has been presented for years. But, the Identity Agreement has my heart as it has been brewing in my mind since 2011. The Lord never misses it does He?! He was spot on, again! I’m excited to put this new workshop at the top of the list. Without our standard of measure secured in The Unchanging One our identity is in constant crisis. Look for more to come on this vital message for every Christian and “pre” Christian alike.

Thank you for your interest and support whether by prayer, volunteering and/or financial giving that sustains this work. Through the will of our Father, every prayer uttered and cent given produces much fruit.

THANK YOU!

Sexual Integrity Leadership Summit

I was blessed to chat with Jay Stringer, author of Unwanted, during Atlanta’s Sexual Integrity Leadership Summit in May. In my humble opinion, Jay is leading the next generation of Christian therapists in sexual addiction recovery. Check out his book, take the USB assessment and dig in to what is driving Unwanted Sexual Behaviors.

Second Tuesday Workshops

God’s Design for Sex

In January FMM began conducting workshops on God’s Design for Sexual Intimacy and Healthy Sexual Development. The door has always been open at Cadence to host whatever the ministry desired to teach. Several years ago we offered workshops on sexual addiction recovery. Although that message is desperately needing to be heard in the Christian community, it’s been a hard sell straight on. So then, the Lord gave instruction for FMM to change its approach and “back in.” He knew that discussions on His design were desperately needed too. Sexual design is a little easier for His body to embrace but we’re still talking sex. Some just have difficulty getting past the topic. Understandably. We’ve not been the best stewards of healthy sexuality much less the discussion of it. But times are changing. Thank God for bold souls, those people who aren’t afraid to step into the arena. Scripture tells us not to despise small beginnings. We started January’s workshop with two attendees and have slowly increased to an average 8-12 maybe more. Many come repeatedly (there’s a lot to sink in). But here’s the thing that thrills my soul... They desire to do something. These attendees (and a few have been in their early teens) understand the impact of these discussions or lack thereof on the culture both inside and outside the church. God has orchestrated some pretty fantastic events to get some people connected. The long and short of it is that most accept the baton that gets passed to them and we are changing things. God is changing things. Here’s a few words from their surveys... “It was so eye opening and beautiful.” “Awesome, I loved this!” “I appreciate what you do even though I felt anxious and fidgety during it.” “Good presentation. Excellent material.” “Once again, I am reminded to share this information! I loved the point of science proving scripture. I’ve seen other cultural information against pornography but seeing how science is for sexual wholeness is so cool!” “Sue, God has gifted you with the ability to pierce the heart and get to the point of what His design is for sexuality. Thank you for being obedient to His call on your life.”

Read more...
How do we even begin to convey the privilege and blessing that the Lord provided while on Hope of Life’s campus! Many times I heard Dawn utter, “This is life on mission!” Over and over again we were blown away by continual acts of service from the missionaries to the people in the villages. Fortifying the missionaries are thousands of Christians who flow through week in and week out to serve those over 280 villages in and around Hope of Life. Hospitals, schools, orphanages, care for the disabled and elderly... Wherever you see a need.

On our first day a young man named Caleb gave us a tour around campus. However the topic came up I’ve forgotten, but Caleb made a statement that gave deep perspective of the difference between being young in the US verses Guatemala. He said regarding the youth in America that they are mainly concerned about local happenings, dating or fitting in, but “carrying a dying child down a mountain will change you.” Throughout our stay Caleb showed himself to be a mature young man full of integrity. He is the fruit of living on mission. Kuddos Phil and Patti, and praise God! Fruit doesn’t fall far from the tree.

I had no idea what we were getting into. I knew that we were on route to Zacapa Guatemala to conduct workshops. Perhaps another person would have investigated beyond the legitimacy of the organization. But I didn’t think of it. I trusted the Lord and I trusted the missionaries that I was in communication with. They needed help and I was willing and not one but two confidantes joined me! When we got here... O dear Lord! Who knew! Stunning landscapes and views everywhere and some heartbreaking and heart warming at the same time. We were never disappointed. God, YOU are amazing. Your people, on mission... are YOU with skin on. We’d go back in a second, just say the word Lord. Slide through the gallery below and click on this link for more pictures and short video clips.

Associate Study Certificate
Making a Difference in our Generation

Forgiven Much Ministries is set to launch its long standing vision of the Affiliate Program. Although the program was crafted in early 2008, we hold the endeavor loosely as we seek to follow the LORD’s lead for the program’s implementation. The Associate Certificate is the first rung on the ladder followed by the Ambassador training and then ultimately the Affiliate Hub. Would you help us pilot this program to whatever level the Lord is leading you? The desire behind this strategy is to raise up an army of qualified persons to speak life and light into the darkness. To learn more click here. The Associate study is as follows:
The Associate gains an understanding of addiction recovery through core issue or trauma model methodology so participants can impact their world however the Lord leads. This could apply to family, small groups, facilitating a recovery group or a base understanding towards the Ambassador training to conduct FMM presentations.

- Interested persons would submit an Associate application with enrollment fee (fee waived during pilot) to participate in an organized discussion of selected videos that have been viewed in a particular time frame. We are breaking down the current video selection into weekly assignments. Please see this link.
- Sign Up for Associate Study class notifications here.
- Q & A Discussions set for Thursdays 7pm starting September 5th online/conference call format.

Meet Maribel Bogema, FMM’s Spanish Director!

Praise the Lord!! What a gift to this ministry! Maribel is a newly married, devoted woman of God and when she isn’t volunteering for FMM she’s working in Chattanooga as a speech therapist. Maribel loves to help the Latino community whether that is in speech therapy or connecting resources around town or translating wherever the Lord leads. Check out FMM’s growing Spanish Resources page!

I asked Maribel to share some thoughts with you:

“God has been working with me through some of my personal heart issues since coming to Forgiven Much Ministries earlier this year and has planted a vision of sharing the same healing with others not only in the states but to the Spanish speaking community. My passion is to equip mothers, sisters, brothers, friends, youth, pastors, and everyone in between with knowledge about their identity in Christ and true healing that leads to wholeness and joy. I was gifted with the opportunity to see part of this vision unfold while in Guatemala with FMM as we shared about Identify Agreement, Cycle of Addiction, Cycle of Recovery and the Reflective Listening workshops. God was there in such a tangible way, as He blew every expectation out of the water and then some! It was so neat to see the staff at Hope of Life begin to understand the tools they have to become more vulnerable with each other and themselves and be able to process feelings in a healthier way. God’s doing some cool stuff with this ministry and I’m excited to be able to pitch in.” Amen! FMM is blessed!

Welcome Carlos Salazar to FMM’s team!

Carlos was present when I gave my testimony to a local leadership team in June. We spoke afterward and discovered that we are kindred spirits! Not only that but Maribel already knew Carlos! Carlos is passionate about helping hurting people heal AND he’s a language service coordinator at a major hospital. Carlos quickly stepped up to say, “Count me in!” The rest will be history as God uses Carlos' willing heart and ability to translate FMM's CIAR training videos into Spanish. Look out world! Thank you Jesus for prompting hearts to come alongside this work!

Praises & Prayer Requests

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess 5:16-18

This little kid goat illustrates the word REJOICE! Be glad, gladness, as a kid goat frolicking in the field. I say, let us rejoice ALWAYS in the LORD!

Praises!!

- Visit FMM's Spanish Resource page! Praise God for Maribel and Carlos and their heart to help the Latino community! It may take a bit to translate all of FMM’s materials, but we've started, PRAISE GOD! Take a look!
- Second Tuesday Workshops are growing in popularity and punch! Bring your pastors and youth leaders. The Lord is raising up a small army willing to carry the message into the next generation.
- FMM's workshops are inspiring participants to join forces and enroll in FMM's Associate Study Certificate.
  Glory to God the vision becomes reality!
- FMM's board of directors and advisory board is growing! Six in total and still growing, praise the Lord. We are looking for a website designer/leader and event coordinator to join the team. If you know someone who believes in our mission send them our way! We move into this next season with zeal and obedience. God knows the plans He has for us and I'm grateful for His bringing this team. They are intelligent, passionate and willing. Glory to God!
- Thank you for praying for my mom! Some of you know the history of disconnection. Glory to God ONLY HE would have been able to orchestrate her willingness to move 10 minutes away and with such favor all around! When I say that He is restoring the years the locusts have eaten I mean exceedingly abundantly. Don't stop
praying for your family. If you’ve gotten discouraged take it back up. Declare the word of the Lord over them! Watch out family He’s not done! This is going to be good!

Prayer is Fuel

Prayer Requests
Please join us in prayer that the Lord would prompt hearts to support this work. FMM needs donors to support the ongoing costs of this ministry. I am thankful for those who give and am asking for others to consider giving on a monthly basis to help with the $500 monthly deficit that began the summer of 2018. One-time gifts are also appreciated. The Bible says, “You have not because you ask not or ask with the wrong motives,” so I humbly ask for support as this ministry plays a vital role to equip Christians to pursue God’s design for sexual wholeness. Will you consider becoming a monthly contributor?

Ministry Needs:

- **Urgent Need:** Increased financial support of $500 month
- Committed Students: Associate Certificate Students to pilot the program and replicate
- **INTRODUCTIONS:** Open the door and connect FMM to your church, youth pastor, agencies and organizations that you know. How might God use your connections to bring light into the darkness?
- General repairs: $800 (deck, closet light, electric cable at meter)
- Vacuum cleaner $100

If you would like to be included on the monthly prayer distribution list please email us.

Closing Comments
From the Heart

Getting this update out has been a long time coming. For good reasons – waiting for Guatemala’s fabulous trip, getting my mom moved up here and then one very sad reason… Maxx’s passing this past Saturday.

This ministry has had more occasion than not to be lonely. Friendships come and go in their intensity simply due to the course of life itself. No blame, no hard feelings, just the way it is sometimes. Early in ministry came Maxx, it was September of 2009. Another’s life was changing and Maxx was free to a good home. A pocket puppy. No cuter dog was ever born. He had clothes given to him, but wore few. A papoose of sorts and a bike basket he did use and the latter often. I became that woman. The one who would take her dog wherever she could. Maxx was the companion God gave without my uttering a word, He heard my heart’s desire. That’s a story for another day, but in between then and now were 10 years of love and joy. Sadly, seasons change.

Maxx became ill in April and his occasional testiness that showed itself nipping your knee because you got too close to his dish or frustration over his missing the many potty pads (yet again), became nothing. Anxiety increased with each need to up his meds and prayers that I would know when it was time so not to let him suffer. I missed that last one. His last moments were more than he should’ve had to bear. I held him tight, kissed him constantly and talked him through. I hope he knew how much I loved him.

I miss him more than I ever thought possible. His memory is everywhere I look. I am grateful to God that He chose me to love and care for this sweet bundle of personality and to be loved by him in return. His absence is deafening. Blue lays here on the table at the computer as I type, a fur ball of a cat. Maxx’s bed is empty. My heart aches. There are pictures of life with Maxx on each side of this post some are sliders with multiple shots.

Thank you God, I thoroughly enjoyed my friend.
Heartbroken,
Sue