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November & December 2019

**This Month's Issue:**

**Keep Believing God  
Celebrating Twenty Years  
Equipping Center  
Consider Supporting Energize International**

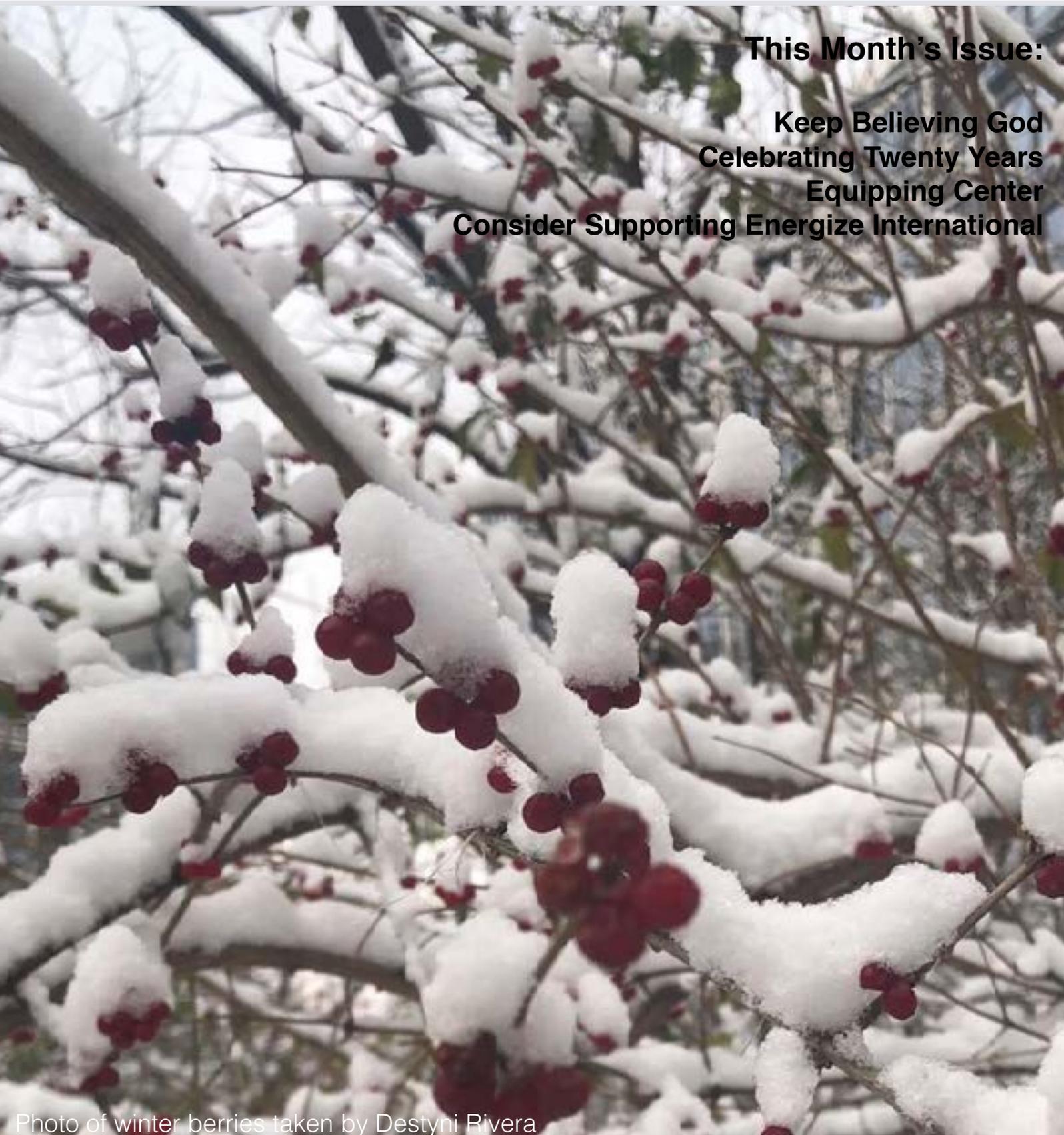


Photo of winter berries taken by Destyni Rivera

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

# Keep Believing God: The Final Installment

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In October I shared eleven descriptions of love as we continue our thinking on believing God in our lives. In this final article I share the importance of taking the time to consider what the Bible says that love is not.

## **First, love is not envious.**

I Corinthians 13:4 - Charity suffereth long, and is kind: charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

## **Second, love is not puffed up.**

I Corinthians 13:4 - Charity suffereth long, and is kind: charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

## **Third, love is not easily provoked.**

I Corinthians 13:5 - Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.

As we consider what love is not, let's continue to reflect deeply about our understanding of the God kind of love in Scripture.

Ephesians 3:19

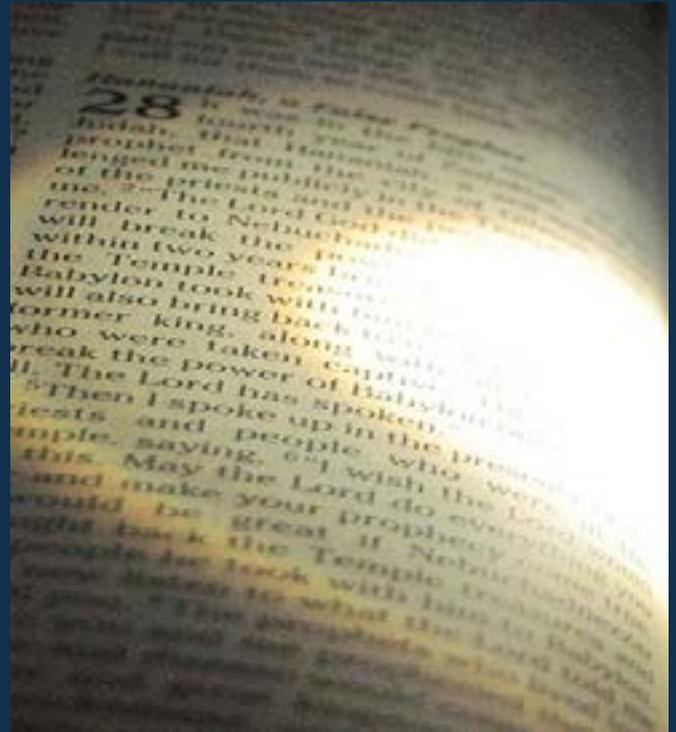
'To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.'

When I think about the Christian life, and I ask myself what is the number one quality that I must possess and develop as a believer, my answer is that I must pursue love and learn to walk in love each and every day of my life. It must become the center of everything else that I do as a Christian. The Bible teaches that if I do not have love, that I am like a clanging symbol.

I Corinthians 8:1 says "knowledge puffs up, but love edifies."

To be 'puffed up' means to have an over inflated ego and to think of oneself more highly than they ought. When we consider what it means to edify, it means to promote spiritual growth and it is something that builds you and others up spiritually.

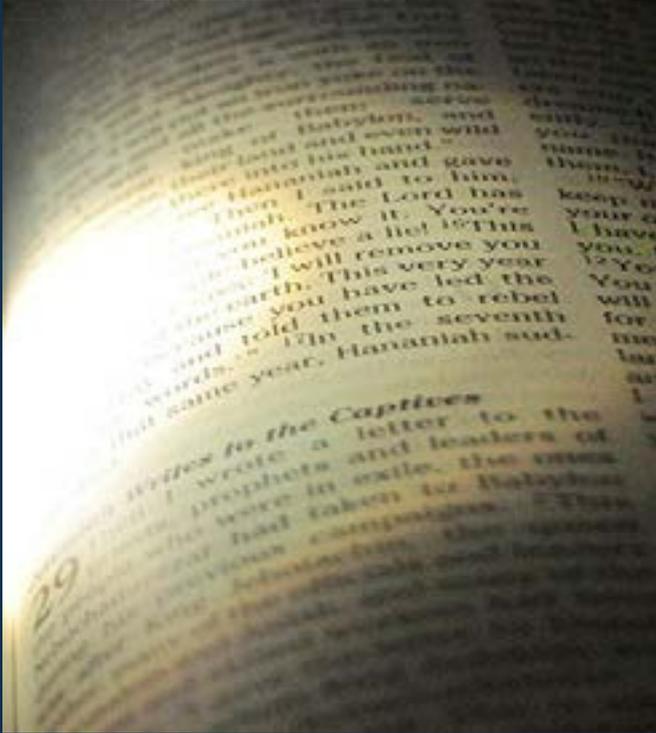
Hence, when our knowledge is directed by love, people will open their hearts toward us and they will appreciate us. But if our knowledge turns people off, this should be a sign that we are not walking in the love of God and that we are not practicing a life of love.



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So now when we apply love to living a life of faith, we begin to see just how important walking in love truly is. The Bible teaches us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Then we see that Galatians 5:6 shares that faith works by love. We can only conclude that the foundation of our lives must be built on love. If it is not, then our faith will stop working.

Hence, our faith is only as good and as strong as our foundation of love. So it is simply not enough to know all of the Scriptures or to be able to quote this Bible scholar or that one. We must maintain and have a focus of continually developing a foundation of love.



So, again, when I consider and reflect on my Christian life, my reflections take me to what I call 'my love walk.' Am I loving my wife and my children and taking good care of them? What this translates to in my life is if I am spending time with them, or if I am too busy. Do I love my neighbor? Or do I systematically ignore my neighbor? Here in China, if you stop and help a stranger on the street, this means that you become financially responsible for that person. What does love do in this situation? Does love let that person suffer and potentially die, or does love stop and help that person even if it might cost me something?

I would like to leave you with the following question: What would love do? Truly I believe that our world is looking for an answer to this question. And as believers, we have a decision to make. We must allow God's love to rule and reign and flow in our lives knowing that by doing this, we ultimately please Him. My challenge to all of us as we 'keep believing God' is to let the love of God flow to the degree that people see it and notice this love in us.

I pray that during this season that we find opportunities to reach the lost and the hurting and to allow Christ's love to shine in every thing that we say and do. They will see Him by our love.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas  
Pastor Randy

# Celebrating Twenty Years

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As Lori and I reflect on all that He has done in our lives for these past twenty years, I must say that I am forever moved by the prayers and support of our partners over the years. Some of our partners have made heaven their home, and they are cheering Lori and I on from heaven while others continue to pray for us each and every week. We have such incredible prayer support and we realize and understand that nothing happens in God's kingdom unless somebody prays. Lori and I are thankful for all of the notes and emails that we receive that contain encouraging words.

After twenty years overseas, there are those that we may have lost contact with, yet remain very dear to our hearts. We believe that there is no distance in the spirit. We are a community of believers and God brings us together to help each other and to serve each other. When I think about expressing heartfelt appreciation for everyone reading this right now, it becomes difficult to express this in words. I know that we ultimately do what we do according to the leading of the Lord. Hence, Lori and I are thankful for that leading which involves you in our lives.

As I look to the future, what is burning in my heart are the four resistant religions to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These four religions are Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Judaism. Most of the worldwide mission resources go to reaching areas outside of these four resistant religions with only one percent of all mission giving going toward reaching the people groups represented within these four religions. Here in this restricted access country of C, these religions are prevalent and in this up and coming year, I will begin a series of articles on how we can reach these groups.

Finally, I am excited and open to what God has for the future. even at my age, I am constantly reminded that I am still that same person who is running his race. And I continue make it my goal to run it in such a way that I will obtain the prize.

Be Blessed,  
Pastor Randy

# Equipping Center

We recently held an Equipping Center graduation and we celebrated our student, pastor Favour, who graduated with a Masters Degree in Christian Studies. The event was well attended and full of food, fellowship and some prophetic encouragement. Thank you for continuing to pray for the sem work. Although it is not easy, the Bible teaches us that all things are possible to him who believes. So I continue to believe for new financial partners for the sem work. I continue to believe for new students to join in m preparation work. And I continue to believe for wisdom on how to do all of this. In a restricted access country, it becomes necessary to have much wisdom to do what we are doing. And finally, we truly covet your prayers in all of this.



# Consider Supporting Energize International

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Help! I would like to invite you to sow a special holiday offering for the Equipping Center work. We need help in funding the sem work in order for it to remain stable and viable. Your gift helps us to continue to offer a top notch ministry leadership training program for those who sense His call on their lives. If you would like more information, please email me directly at [randal.eplin@yahoo.com](mailto:randal.eplin@yahoo.com). Thank you for your consideration in giving to the sem work.

Energize International exists because of the donations of people just like you who are likeminded in establishing His Kingdom on the earth. We live and thrive in a 'restricted' area for the sake of the Gospel. And we are doing some focused and strategic activity to help to establish His kingdom here.

## **Become a Monthly Partner**

- Commit to being a monthly partner with us.
- Sow Into the equipping center
- Pray and give as the Lord leads you.

## **Different Options for Giving**

1) New Option! See the paypal option below.

2) Make out and send checks to:  
Energize International Inc.  
3121 Henderson Circle West  
Lakeland, FL 33803

3) Estonia/ Latvia: Randal Lloyd Eplin  
Swedpank EE342200221014354178

4) Paypal: [Energizelifedaily@gmail.com](mailto:Energizelifedaily@gmail.com)

In the upper right and corner of the website next 'Contact Us' and click on the 'donate' link in the drop down menu.

Thank you for prayerfully considering becoming a monthly partner with us.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Randy & Lori