

April 2007

Dear friends and prayer partners,

It's Spring! Hooray! My goodness, how precious to experience something other than the deep freeze emphasized with wind and blowing snow! The goosebump population in this part of the country increased markedly this winter, but experts are predicting their eventual demise when temperatures rise to 60° and above. I'm ready! How about you?

The Lord afforded some times of wonderful ministry these past three months. In addition to preaching and teaching opportunities both in church settings and at the Fort Wayne House of Prayer, I conducted two women's retreats, one in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the other in Southwestern Wisconsin. Several ladies surrendered their lives to the Lord Jesus, and many more indicated their desire to stir up "into flame" the fire of their first love for the Lord – and press in for an even deeper relationship with Him. Glory to His Name!

It was my great privilege to attend a 3-day conference hosted by Ft Wayne Renewal, a group of pastors who pray together regularly for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our city. The speaker was a lady named Rhonda Hughey and I tell you, she was like a blend of Jesus and John the Baptist! I say that in terms of this: she was very refined and filled with grace and simultaneously she just said things like they were! Wow! We were challenged to believe that God is eager to pour Himself out upon us, upon our churches in revival, upon our cities in what will only be able to be termed as Divine Intervention and Transformation..... but He is waiting for us to do what He commanded in 2 Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, turn from their wicked ways and pray and seek my face....."

Rhonda quoted to us statistics from the Barna Group. George Barna Jr. is a Christian pollster who keeps statistical tabs on the church, the good, the bad and the ugly – all over the world. He reports that the morals that permeate our nation today exist in evangelical churches in the same degree. She supported this statement by quoting several statistics comparing evangelical church members vs. the nation as a whole. It is simply shocking. Long story short: we in the church name the name of Jesus, may or may not attend the church and tithe, but our practices are indistinguishable from our non-Christian countrymen.

God has told us the results of such compromise when He says, *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear (your prayers).* Isa 59:2 Along with this is the obvious fact that this is not God's plan. It is not His plan for His Church, His Bride, His friends to be ineffective, but rather, that we exercise dominion over the earth.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and those who dwell in it.
Psalm 24:1

And we also know that when God first created man to be His friends, He gave man and woman dominion over all the earth. They abdicated that lofty position when they rebelled against God.

Our conference speaker's conclusion is that we, like our Biblical counterparts, have compromised our relationship with the Lord by personally mixing the values of the world with our relationship with Him. As a consequence, we, through whom He wants to flow and change His earth, are not usable to Him in our present condition. In His mercy, God has shown us what we must do if we desire Him to come and visit us once again with His forgiveness, grace, mercy and transforming power. His requirement is in embracing 2 Chronicles 7:14 for ourselves.

Acknowledge my own compromises in my walk with Him.
Repent
Seek His face and pray.

He promises that **IF** we will do that, then **HE WILL hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land!**

How desperately we need Him to visit us in all of His Godly power! The results of this conference have been that a group of us who attended it have made a commitment to 21 days of fasting and prayer, of repentance and seeking His face. I so look forward to God changing me as I walk through these days. It has been sobering yet filled with grace and hope.

If you would like to read Rhonda's book, I'd be glad to send it to you, (I've bought a large number and am making them available as a part of my "tentmaking") or you can order it yourself online or from a bookstore. I'm going to be teaching it in Sunday School beginning in April. The name of the book is "**Desperate For His Presence**" by **Rhonda Hughey**.

My hope soars as I read about places where God is **today** gracing groups of people with His Manifest Presence and literally transforming their communities. As they sought Him with all of their hearts, asking God to cleanse them from their mediocrity and set fire to their hearts, He is answering these prayers and reviving His Bride there in unprecedented holiness!

Dear ones, let's get really serious about our place on this earth as the Body of Christ. Let's seek Him with everything within us! See you at the place of prayer! As you do that, would you also remember to pray for upcoming ministry I have committed to? I would so appreciate that.

You are so dearly loved. I cherish you, my dear brothers and sisters in our Lord. In some mysterious way, we are His favorite – each of us – and His favorite, all of us! How great is our God! What wondrous love is this????

Your sister and handmaiden,

Robin Lee