

July 2010

Dear friends,

It seems like forever since I last wrote a Newsletter to you. In large part this is because my life has become more predictable and steady as opposed to the years when I was on the road in ministry with Sharon and Jeff and their children. Yet I know many of you continue to support me and pray for me and thus want to keep in touch with you and keep you up to date on what is happening.

The Lord has lately been calling me back to a place of deeper intimacy and prayer. This is most wonderfully captured in the Song of Songs when the king reveals his longings for his Shullamite bride, saying,

***“Oh my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff,
Let me see your face,
Let me hear your voice,
Because your voice is sweet
And your face is lovely.”***

Song of Songs 2:14

As the Lord reveals His true desire for His Bride, as His own Bridegroom heart is opened to us in this passage, I have been drawn back to the place – of privacy with Him, of “being found” in Him, of deeper surrender.

“Oh my dove” denotes having dove’s eyes for Him, eyes persistently and contentedly gazing upon Him. He says to her, to you and me prophetically (even before it is happening in our lives

“You have dove’s eyes.” Song of Songs 1:15

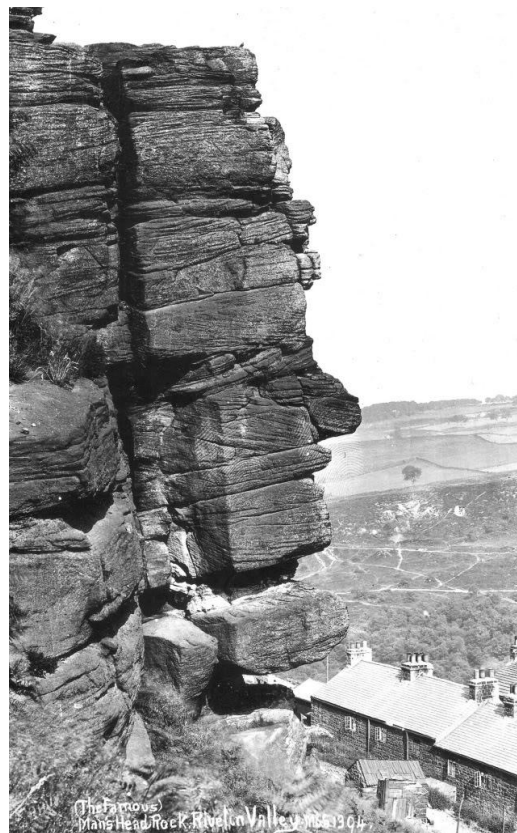
He seems to not be able to hide His longings for our gaze when He says

“Let Me see your face, - - (because to Me) your face is lovely.” Song of Songs 2:14

As well as

“Let Me hear your voice, - - because your voice is sweet (in My ears).”

So - - - there has been a quiet in my spirit. He has called me – to Himself – and I have said “Yes.”



Meanwhile, the wonderful opportunities He has given me to share His Word continue. The Michigan group continues to grow. We average around 20-24 people each week, many of them young children. The age range there runs from around 10 years old to some in their 70's. We eat together, then we have a time of worship followed by teaching of the Word. Our earnest hope and desire is to not cease meeting together, but to encourage one another, especially as we see the Day of the Lord drawing near.

Our home group has now been together for five years! We are a smaller group, but share in the same format, meals, worship, teaching – and ministry.

The Sunday morning meeting has become an interdenominational meeting. For some time I was greatly disappointed that the fellowship I attend had no room for an adult Sunday morning study, but as time has gone on, I see the Lord was orchestrating our move all along. We meet in a restaurant in the city. There some of us eat together, and then everyone in the groups shows up at 9:00 A.M, and we enjoy an hour or so in the Word. It is more difficult there to pray and minister directly to one another, but the Lord continues to grow us in Him. There are now folks attending this meeting from four different churches! And all of this takes place while folks NOT in our group are within earshot of us as the Word is opened! Kinda' sounds biblical, doesn't it! What a joy. We average between 19-23 in this group and have been meeting since 2002.

Finally the Fort Wayne House of Prayer continues to stand in the place of prayer for our region, for the Church, and for the nations of the world to come to acknowledge Christ as Savior. I no longer am a worship leader there, but have had regular opportunity to teach the Word.

I never thought I'd not be leading worship (though I do sometimes in the home groups) simply because music has been such a major part of my life for so many many years. And yet now, after the transition from being on the road doing traditional ministry to a new kind of itinerant ministry with almost complete emphasis on the Word, I have finally come to rest in this new calling.

As it has been since Sharon and I began travelling together in 1978, I continue to minister on a faith basis. The Lord has so faithfully moved some of you to support me both in prayer and financially. From the bottom of my heart I thank you.

Please pray for me for physical strength and well-being. Pray that I would discipline myself and earnestly seek the Lord regularly. Pray for the Lord to stoke hunger in our hearts for a deeper revelation of His heart. He has already revealed Himself in His Word. But my heart needs to be set afire as I walk with Him and hear Him (in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliffs – the place of private prayer) explain the Scriptures to me. You know, every day, I like the disciples on the road to Emmaus more and more! I want my heart to BURN as I listen for Him to reveal Himself to me in the Scriptures!

Do keep in touch. I am so grateful for each of you. If I can pray for you in some way, let me know. If you would have a desire for me to share the Word with one of your groups, be it in a church service or a retreat, call me. (260-312-3802).

Meanwhile, have a blessed rest of the summer, and look up – for your redemption draws near! Hallelujah!