

June 2002 - Gathering Clouds

Have you ever stood out on the plains or even in a wide open area and watched as the clouds gather on the horizon? Most of us don't even realize that anything is going on. The sun may be shining. We may be going about our business and living our lives. But above us the weather can be changing and escaping our notice. The clouds thicken and in the distance the skies may darken. Then flashes of lightening light up the sky, but still, we are unaware. As it moves toward us there is a quickening of the atmosphere. Lighting streaks across the sky but we cannot hear the thunder and may not see it coming. Then perhaps we smell the rain or catch the forerunner wind. Suddenly we are engulfed.

This is the sense that we had last weekend as we went through the city streets on Sunday. No one knows of the gathering clouds or the wind that is coming. It will rain. He will send fresh wind onto the church. There were worship teams from all over the city seeding the clouds last weekend from 6:00 PM Friday right through Midnight Saturday in the Brickyard at Chevy Chase. As we looked upon the people on Sunday we realized that they were totally unaware that the worship and intercession is reaching the heavens. The forecast is for rain. For nearly 30 hours we worshipped with nearly a dozen different worship teams. It was incredible. God loves worship. It attracts Him. He is searching for those that will worship Him in spirit and in truth. We are among those that are seeking His face and longing for His presence. He found us. We found Him. The presence of God from beginning to end was wonderful. Worship leaders moved in and out of The Brickyard and there was a gathering of the clouds. Some stepped into powerful places of anointing. It was as if they slipped on the oil of the worship that went before them. Throughout the night and day and night the name of the Lord was lifted up and we proclaimed the city of Washington, DC as a place for His presence and for worship.

In these last days He will raise up the tabernacle of David. This has so many meanings. It is said that the tabernacle was a place where the glory of the Lord was visible from all around. In this hour it is a place not built with human hands but it is the dwelling place of the Lord. He is places His throne in the praise and worship of His people and around His throne there is worship and praise and His glory. We come to seek His face and to join with a cloud of witnesses and a holy entourage of worshippers of the glorious and bright and morning star, our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

We are made for worship and He is worthy. So we come in worship and we come in intercession in the pattern of the harp and bowl of the book of Revelation. What a glorious calling. What an incredible honor to worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and to stand in the gap and keep watch in the city. There are rain clouds gathering. Soon we will smell the rain and feel the wind. This region is destined to be a place where the glory of the Lord is revealed and His name is exalted. Let us continue to press in to know the Lord. Let us seek His face and cry out for more of His presence in the city and the region. Let us continue to proclaim Him and His power and His presence and His majesty day and night.

July 2002 - The Building Shook

We were into the 25th hour of worship when the thunder shook the building. Worship began Friday night and lasted until Midnight Saturday 7/27. Just before 7:00 the teens that make up Qadash were worshipping the Lord on the drums. We could feel the change and it was as if there was a call to more intense warfare intercession. As we asked the Lord for wisdom and words of intercession the massive thunderclap drown out the drums. It was as if the Lord replied to our cries for freedom for the region and His voice was in the thunder and lightning actually struck the building putting out all the lights except in the worship areas. There have been reports that lightening storms usually precede meetings where the manifest presence of God is experienced. Worship attracts His presence and blessing and the thunder and lightening were the signature of God

His presence intensified as we moved from Qadash into worship at The Gate. The people moved to the front of the Brickyard as Holy Spirit came and set fire to hungry hearts. As hearts began to melt the worship filled the room. We prayed for a release of vision, calling and destiny. The hunger for God was intense and the living King who gives us the desires of our hearts came and satisfied the longing of our hearts to know Him more intimately and to hear His voice more clearly. He broadened our understanding of 2 Cor. 8:9. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, He became poor so that you, through His poverty might become rich." Jesus suffered the poverty of lost relationship with the Father at the cross so that all of us might enjoy the riches of open relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He became poor so that we could share in His riches. He endured the cross for the joy set before Him. (Heb. 12:2) The joy of intimate relationship with those He died for who are voluntary lovers of God.

Worship filled the electrified atmosphere. Prophetic and spontaneous songs opened a well for healing. With the music playing softly in the background we talked about the divine exchange of Jesus on the cross. Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness that we might be made righteous with His righteousness. He died our death so that we could live eternally. He took our sickness upon Him in exchange for healing in the atonement. (Is. 53:4,5, Mark 18:16,17, 1 Peter 2:24, Psalm 103:2,3) Many came forward for healing and healing teams of two or three gathered around each of them. Three people were instantly healed in the presence of the Lord. We rejoice in the awesome work of the Lord in our midst as Jesus is glorified. We worshipped and prayed for a release of healing, miracles and the manifest presence of the Lord Jesus in the churches and the city region. Healing and miracles flow from His presence and His presence is in worship and prayer intercession. He seeks worshippers. He is enthroned in our praise and worship.

In this place of intimacy He hears our hearts and we hear His voice. One woman began to sing the prayer of Jabez. (1 Chron. 4:10) Bless me Oh Lord. Increase my territory. That your had would be upon me. That you would keep me from evil. The words began to move upon the hearts of the people. It was if He was answering even as we were asking. People began to pray specifically for increased territory, especially in the knowledge of Him. There was a release of increased anticipation of fulfilled prayer and destiny. Ministry teams moved through the people blessing what God was bringing forth. One woman said she felt like prophetic words were being fulfilled. Others, through visions or impressions confirmed and agreed. Faith increased in everyone.

One read from Isaiah 54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back, lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left, your descendants will dispossess the nations and settle in their desolate cities." Washington DC will no longer be desolate but will be a place of worship of the Lord. Spiritual sons and daughters will lift up His name. He referred to the "gates of crystal" in verse 12. Another likened the gates of crystal to transparency before the Lord and before men such that people would begin to see Jesus in His people. Another read Revelation 22 concerning the "river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city." Along it's banks were the trees whose leaves were for the healing of the nations.

While we understand the direct implications and context of the Scripture we believe Holy Spirit is opening new levels of anointing in this city-region and for the people of God in this area. We are praying for the increase of His manifest presence in every congregation and setting. We believe raising up the level of worship and bridal intercession will continue to create a welcome atmosphere in the city-region for a new level of revelation of the knowledge of the Lord and for release of the word of the Lord, His presence, healing and power.

August 2002 - Hunger for His Presence

Last Saturday at The Gate people were encouraged to press into the manifest presence of God and to never be satisfied with less. If we come together and do not encounter the living Lord then we have not fulfilled our calling as the Church. Our hearts must be desperate for Him. Hungry for His word. Hungry for His presence. We must have the same desperation that Moses, David and Paul has for His Presence in our lives. (Ex. 33:15-19, Psalm 27:4-9, Phil. 3:8-11) Abraham is also in this company of hungry and desperate leaders. Abraham was obedient to God and God blessed him. As Abraham walked with God he worshiped him. "And there (Shechem) he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him." Gen. 12:7 and he moved to Bethel "There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord." Gen. 12:8. Jacob later said of Bethel. "This is none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven." The Gate comes together to seek the presence of the Lord. To be a house of prayer and worship Him.

Henry Blackaby writes in *Created to be God's Friend*. "Worship is a deliberate, steady, focused time with God. Worship anticipates not only an encounter with God, but also a clear next word from God. Worship is totally God centered! God focused! Out of worship comes a cleared and more focused relationship of faith and obedience with God. Worship is God's way of developing character and directing the life into the center of His will. Abram was supremely a worshipers, and his life is a testimony to this fact. The ultimate outcome of consistent worship is a life totally yielded to God, on Gods terms."

With these words of exhortation and encouragement to seek the face of the Lord we moved into a time of intense worship. Throughout the night nearly a dozen different people brought prophetic words, read portions of Scripture or songs. Several times portions of the chapters of Isaiah 55 and 60 were read. These were read and prayed over Washington DC the week before. We were encouraged to remember that the Word of the Lord establishes everything. The word received in faith accomplishes the purposes of the Lord and it never fails and His Church will accomplish His plans in the earth.

Isaiah 55:6-11. "Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return to the Lord. And He will have compassion on him, And to our God for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are you ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater: so shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty without accomplishing what I desire and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it." Isaiah 60:1-3 "Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you, For behold darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you. And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of you rising."

The intercession for Washington DC, the region and the nations turned to powerful intercession as we cried out for the fire of God to come and for His glory to be revealed in the Church. Psalm 97:1-6 was read and prayed and Exodus 23:20-23. In this season and this hour the Lord's presence will be revealed in the Church and the nations will

begin to see the glory of the Lord on her. The presence of the Lord will bring the Church into the place prepared for her and as we obey His voice He will be "an enemy to our enemies and an adversary to our adversaries." All the people will see His glory.

Holy Spirit then shifted and the war fare intercession for the city and the nation moved from fire on the land to fire in the core of our beings. As Holy Spirit confirmed several words that had been spoken people began to be gripped with the heart of the Lord and a call to personal holiness, repentance and obedience. Isaiah 4: 2-6 was read and we cried out for a spirit of burning. Another read Isaiah 6: 1-8. Isaiah, hungry and desperate in the presence of the Lord. Cleansed and transformed and prepared to be sent. Another read from Rev. 3:14-22. We are called to purchase gold refined by fire and white garments and eyesalve to anoint our eyes. The reproof and discipline of the Lord demonstrates His love for us. Prayer was lifted up that we would understand the discipline and that the spirit of revelation would come that we would be able to see clearly and know what it means to purchase gold, garments and eyesalve. Those at The Gate had come into an encounter with the Lord in our worship and intercession. The worship leader took us deeper crying out to God for more. We could sense His transformation in us as many lay prostrate before the Lord, seeking His face.

Jim related a series of visions that He had seen that all related to the move of God that had been taking place and then taught from John 6. Jesus spoke of the manna in the wilderness and said "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves." Jesus then said "it is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." Jesus is the Bread of Life. The word that He speaks, this rhema, word of God is spirit and life and as we discern the body we will find healing and life. With these words we took communion and we prayed for dozens who were sick. The Lord Jesus confirmed His word in healing.

The entire evening was one of harmony as Holy Spirit created a symphony of Scripture reading, prophetic words, visions, songs and revelation. 1 Cor. 14:26-33. We thank God for hungry hearts of fire. We thank God for His faithfulness to meet us as we draw near to Him. We long for His presence and His promises. We want to be able to proclaim as Jacob did at Bethel. "How awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Touch us with your holy fire. Cleanse us. Change us. Transform us. Cause us to be holy, as you are holy and send us Lord. We are praying for you.

September 2002 - Warfare Worship

Worship-intercession was continuous from Friday night, through Sunday midnight until the end of The Gate DC near Midnight Sunday as worship-intercessors from all over Washington pressed into the Lord.

In the first watch a young woman had a vision of an Eagle flying high with wings outstretched. Something like a jet stream trailed behind. It was like Holy Spirit soaring all over the world and the glory of the Lord being released and changing the atmosphere. Rev. 4:1-11 was read and intercession for His glory to fill the earth was sprinkled throughout the worship. Later we cried out for His heart and this theme, like the golden thread of His glory became woven into the weekend. In prayer and song we asked the Lord to give us His heart for the lost in the city and the nations. The Lord responded: "I will take away your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will change your thoughts and give you mine. I will take your heart in my hands and soften it in My love. You will begin to love with the love with which I have loved you." (Ezek 36:26-27) The worship and His presence changed the atmosphere as His glory filled the room.

One worshipper sang of the drums speaking the Word and releasing the voice of the Lord while the shining glory of the Lord comes down. A drummer in the late watch testified that his arm had been broken. Doctors told him he could not use it for 5 or 6 months. He testified of the healing power of Jesus that allowed him to paying for the watch and his church in about a month and a half. The Lord used him to proclaim His glory on the drums and his testimony! In the overnight watch the drums brought forth poetry and proclamation. The sound of the drums seemed to signal the coming end of Satan's time and all out war on the forces of darkness. In the first afternoon watch the drums were the background as intercessors declared the gates of the city open for the King of Glory to come in. The Lord strong and mighty. The Lord mighty in battle to come in. (Psalm 24:7-10) Later a drum solo brought to mind Joel 2 as the Lord prepares His army and for victory. The sound of marching feet ready to take the city. At The Gate the drums again called us to aggressive intercession and ministry that will set the captives free.

There is a new sound on the drums. A call to war. A battle cry. A call to freedom. The sound of victory. Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one and He will finish His work through His Church. Kingdoms are clashing and the Kingdom of God will prevail. The darkness has never pushed back the light but the people of God, the children of light are being called to push back the darkness and be filled with the glory of God until His glory covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. Manifest your glory in your church Lord. The light of the Gospel. (2 Cor. 4:3-7) Let the Church shine in the World as the city in Mathew 5:14-16. The verses spawned several spontaneous songs in the watches: "let you light shine. Light shine from the city. City on a hill. Let your light shine." An intercessor declared that the Lord was breaking down the strongholds of deceptions and delusion in Washington. We prayed for the Kingdom of God to be manifest in the city. One had a vision of different races crossing lines that split Washington into four quadrants and said he heard the Lord say "I am going to cast the sin of racial injustice as far from me as the east is to the west. Poverty will be broken and people will cross over the lines." Another saw relentless love moving through the streets pursuing the lost. Violent love seeking and saving the lost. She declared relentless love

would flow down Martin Luther King Blvd. We faced each of the directions and prayed and proclaimed freedom to the areas of the city. To the southeast. To the southwest. To the northeast and to the northwest. . Let the glory of the Lord be revealed in every area of Washington.

In early afternoon a spontaneous song said: "Take my hand. Hold my hand. I will fly you across the land. Like eagles you will rise up. Rise up like eagles. Take His hand. Hold on tight. Don't let go." Time to fly. Time to soar. Someone prayed that the Lord would take a hold of the Church and pull her out. Heal the eagles so there would be no broken wings. Psalm 103:1-5. The Lord is the one who heals us of all our diseases and renews our youth like an eagle. Isaiah 40:31 was read with an explanation that the verse speaks of being united. We prayed for unity and strength in the Church as she waits upon the Lord. We prayed for release of miraculous healing. One declared we would see the healing power of Jesus in the streets. Healing rooms would open and healing would flow.

The afternoon watches included intimate worship, One reported a vision of the throne with angels singing, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord. We responded in worship and our voices mingled with the heavenly sound of the angels. Prophetic songs and words flowed: "I am concerned with your heart. My desire is that you come into the chambers of my love. The holiest place. Those who need to know me will see me in you. Your heart is what I am concerned with. I have shown you that efforts by man to stop the fire is useless. My heart is for you. I am shaking my people first. Then I will shake the nations." We prayed: Change our hearts oh Lord. Make us more like you. Bring hot coals from the altar. Set our hearts on fire. Touch our hearts with your fire. Your heart of love. Your heart of fire. Give us hearts that reach out to others in your love. At one point the room fell completely silent and the presence of the Lord intensified. It was followed by responsive singing of His coming kingdom and His will being done on earth. We prayed that sounds of heaven would touch the earth. The sounds of the throne room. Let the worship that is in heaven come to earth. Greater understanding of the love of Jesus for His Church came through a beautiful song of the bridegroom calling to the bride "Ask of me and I will draw you closer" and the bridal response, "Draw me Lord and I will come." It is a time for the bride to get ready and time for a bridal movement.

The watchmen were called to the wall with a procession of banners and triumphant songs of the Lords reign in the city and the nation. Declaring His victory, His majesty and His glory the call went out for watchman to take their place in Washington DC. Later in the night watch at The Gate another intercessor saw eagles flying in formation over the city and prophesied. "Harvest is coming. Traditions have held the gates. Men of war. The spirit of Samson is upon you to rip the gates off their dark hinges. Rejoice before the Lord and open the gates for him in the city." Let the King of Glory come into the city.

October 2002 - His Healing Presence

We gathered in a circle at The Gate and took one another's hand to focus on the Lord and to hear from heaven. We connected with one another and with Jesus. We could sense His presence immediately as we moved into intercession. Prayer for immediate apprehension of those responsible for a series of sniper murders. Prayer for city and the national authorities. Prayer for the President. Prayer for the release of the presence of the Lord in the churches. Prayer for the nations. In a continuation of a theme that was heard repeatedly during worship-intercession someone prayed that His people would rise up like eagles and proclaim the Kingdom of God. Another prayed that the city gates would be open to the eagles of the Lord. Someone prayed that we would catch the wind of Holy Spirit and rise up like eagles. The musicians opened a time of extended worship with the song, "Fly Me like the Wind."

We called forth the watchmen over the city and prayed for a breaking of the warfare on their lives. The prayers became songs. We prayed specifically for areas of the city. One had us picture Martin Luther King Blvd and pray that God would manifest his presence there with relentless love. Intercession intensified as we prayed for young African-American men in the city. Someone prayed that they would give their lives to Jesus and that He would raise up an army of spiritual warriors. A word was spoken over one young man that God would use him like dynamite in the city. With grateful hearts we thanked God for bringing healing and deliverance to the city and for renewing our strength and our youth like an eagle. (Psalm 103:1-5) Someone read Revelation 22:1-2 and asked the Lord to release healing for the nations in this day through the Church. One woman had a vision of a giant sunflower full of seeds. Jesus shook the plant and the seeds fell into the river of life. The seeds were the Word of the Lord and the voice of God. As they fell into the river they became like giant battleships. Another proclaimed that the Word of the Lord never returns void. . We continued to press into His heart in glorious worship

David reminded us that we may teach, move in the prophetic or evangelism but as believers our primary calling is worship. We are worshippers. First and foremost and always we are worshipers. God is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. When we gather we are to be a house of prayer for all nations. His house is to be a house of prayer. The house of God is to be a house of prayer, of worship and the place of his presence. From His presence all of the works of Jesus flow. His presence brings His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. From His presence flows salvation, deliverance and miracles. There is a new sound of war in the worship. The song of the Lord that is coming now is a song of victory. You can hear it in the words, in the drums and intensity of worship exalting our warrior King. Exodus 15:1-22 is an example of this kind of worship and we are hearing the sounds of victory in the worship in this hour.

Exodus 15:23-26 goes on to speak of the tree that Moses tossed into the bitter waters of Marah to make them sweet. His victory is complete when the bitterness of captivity turns to the sweet presence of Jesus. The Lord completes his address to Israel with the words. I am the Lord your healer. Isaiah prophesies of the Lord Jesus in 53:6 ".....with his stripes we are healed." Jesus is the Lord our healer. He healed the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda. (John 15:1-9) Everywhere he went he proclaimed the kingdom of God. John sent his disciples to ask Jesus. "Are you the one who is to come or shall we

look for another?" Luke tells us: In that hour he healed many people of their diseases and plagues and evil spirits and restored sight to the blind. Jesus told them. "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead are raised and the poor have the gospel preached to them." He sent out the 12 saying "As you go preach, saying the Kingdom of God is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast our demons." Mathew 10:7. He sent the 70. Luke 10:9 "Heal the sick in it and say to them The kingdom of God has come near to you." (Read 10:1-23) He sent us to preach the gospel of the kingdom and to heal the sick. Mark 16:15-18. The Church should be working in the same way that Jesus was. When people ask: "Are you the ones or should we look for another?" we should be able to answer like Jesus did, the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the gospel preached to them." God is bringing the Church into a season of his miraculous power and He continues to confirm the words He has spoken about Washington DC.

Four or five years ago a group of intercessors in Washington DC took sticks or limbs from a tree and stir the water of Chevy Chase fountain at the North Gate of the city. They did this as a prophetic act and as they stirred the water they declared the gates of the city open for healing. They declared that healing would be manifest in Washington DC. The fountain is near The Gate and the community of Bethesda. Timothy Johnson and Tom Benson stirred the waters of Medical Lake outside Spokane, Washington in a prophetic act declaring that healing from the Lord would come from outside, into Spokane and from Spokane to the world. A short time later Cal Pierce opened the Healing Rooms of Spokane and people began to be healed and set free. The water is not the healing agent. The presence of the Lord is. He is the Lord our healer. He finished the work at the cross and when we pray for his kingdom to come and his will to be done as it is in heaven we are praying for heaven to come to earth with all of it's benefits. Healing, deliverance, resurrection power.

Tracy just returned from the Healing Rooms with a bottle of water from Medical Lake. Holy Spirit led us to anoint all those at The Gate with the water and with oil. The room exploded as Holy Spirit came with great power. Some felt a great weight upon their hands. Others felt the fire of God racing along their arms and body. Some were healed and everyone was aware of the powerful presence of the Lord Jesus and his command to go into all the world and preach the gospel of the kingdom while healing the sick and setting the captives free. The radical presence of God consumed us and when we recovered we began praying for the sick and seeing the miraculous power of King Jesus establish his rule over sickness and pain. The ministry of Jesus is for the whole body of Christ. When every member of his body ministers in power it a demonstration of the mystery of the ages which is Christ in us the hope of glory. We are a very small part of what the Lord Jesus is doing in the city but the prophetic words keep coming that Washington DC will be a place of worship, of his presence, of revival and healing that will flow to the nations. When He sets someone free His kingdom Has come near! Lord we will continue to pray for your kingdom to come and your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

November 2002 - Alabaster Box

Worship and the word of the Lord during the weeks of November at The Gate have taken us to new places in intimacy and our relationship with Jesus. Jesus has sovereignly healed people in every meeting for about six weeks. Healing flows from the presence of the Lord. He is the Lord who heals us and we believe a well of healing is being uncapped in the city and the region. These have been times of deep calling to deep as we follow Holy Spirit deeper and higher. We have experienced His presence in new ways that have taken us into extended times of total silence and we lay prostrate before Him. At other times we have fallen at His feet weeping and crying out to touch His face and know Him more

The first week we began crying out for a fresh anointing and His spirit of revelation to understand the mystery of the Kingdom and the mysteries of heaven. One cried out for hot coals from the altar and more fire as we are sent out into the city. (Isaiah 6) The worship and prophetic words led to teaching on the Kingdom of God by Sam Soleyn. (www.soleyn.org) The Kingdom is within and comes wherever a believer goes. The greatest mystery of all, hidden from the ages until now is Christ in you the hope of glory. We pray that each of us will allow His presence to be manifest through out lives so the Kingdom comes and His will is done in our lives on earth as it is in heaven.

What began the first week went deeper the second week. We prayed for the more fire from the one that promised to baptize us in the Holy Spirit and fire. (Isaiah 4:4-6) Fire to make us burning ones with the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom. Some smelled smoke in the room as we continue to pray for the city. Responsively the worship team called to the Lord and the Lord responded prophetically saying, "It is my delight to give you the Kingdom." Through prophetic songs and words the Lord poured out His love upon us. Someone had a vision of banners, blue, white and gold flying in the wind and the room filled with spontaneous songs calling us to fly in the spirit of love, to come up higher on the wings like eagles on the winds of His love. Come up higher and into the presence and the glory of the Lord. As we worshipped we came into a place where the presence of God was so rich that nearly everyone fell on his or her face before the Lord. For a long time we remained silent in His presence. In the stillness He spoke to our hearts intimately and individually. We were awe struck by His love for us, by His presence and the beauty of His holiness revealed during the evening individually. We also experienced corporate revelation that comes only as the body of Christ ministers to Him and to one another.

In the third week a team of young men and women ministered to a youth group in a nearby city and God moved powerfully, healing hearts, revealing His love to a young Muslim boy who gave his heart to Jesus and setting the youth group on fire for Jesus. Many of the youth began praying for one another and entered into a new level of worship and relationship with the Lord. The Gate is a multi-generation gathering with teens from 15 years of age to seniors 79. All are hungry for the presence of God and to see His kingdom come and His will done on earth as it is in heaven and we rejoice as each generation ministers to the next and the hearts of the sons and daughters are set on fire. The following night Tracy spoke of the revelation that Martin Luther had of the finished work of the cross and the message of the Gospel and the divine exchange. As if we ascended another step we entered into another level of worship and intercession. Worship

began and new sounds emerged. "Sounds beyond sounds" as one person put it. This night it was as if our prayers for the sounds of heaven were partially answered. Worship in a new dimension and left many weeping again and it was as if a new realm of His presence was opening up. The worship team began to weep and prophesy and the Lord continued to call His people deeper. For the second week in a row we were on the edge of corporate visitation. A place of reverence and awe as well as great joy and gladness. For a group of nearly twenty Pastors and leaders visiting The Gate the evening created a hunger in them and a desire to search the Scriptures concerning their experience. The following night they gave twenty-year-old Daniel a list of Scripture verses concerning their impressions of the evening. Ezra 3:2,3, Jeremiah 50: 4, 5, Joel 2:15-17, Isaiah 28: 21,22, Joshua 10:12-14, 2 Samuel 5:20, and 1 Cor. 1:25-29.

Some of these scriptures affirmed and confirmed the very words that God has used as He has called us in Christ Jesus to worship and prayer for the city-region and nation.

Worship in the fourth week can only be described as a luxuriant experience. It was as if His presence was rich warm and fragrant oils. Suddenly we were plunged into an even deeper place of worship and intimacy. It was if we were broken before the Lord like the alabaster jar spoken of in Mark and Luke. Mark 14:3-6 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly. Leave her alone, said Jesus. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. Our hearts are to be poured out for the Lord and our times with him are radical.

We were surrounded and enveloped by Him.

The initial cries were; "Open up. Open up the gates and let the King of glory come in. Open up the gate for the Kingdom is within." Jesus prophetically called us to focus on Him until we could see Him to come and wait on Him. As we did many began to speak of the visions they were having. One saw the river of God becoming a tidal wave that would sweep over the city-region. Another saw the temple and the outer court was a bed of coals and cleansing fire. Angels welcomed him into the inner court and as he entered in it was as if the Lord was opening up many new facets of Jesus. In prayer, prophetic words and song we were called to lay everything down at His feet. Spontaneous songs of His holiness filled the room. One singer sang "Take me into the Holy of Holies. Take the coal touch my lips. Here I am. Take me into the Holy of Holies." In response another singer sang the words of the Lord saying. "My bride, my beloved. I long to have all of you. I long to pour out my oil. Come to me. Come my beloved. I want to take you to a more intimate place. I want you to come into my garden. I desire you. Come deeper. I desire you. You are mine and I am yours. Come." Responsively, "Will you draw me? Will you calm me with your beauty? Will you know me? Draw me with your winds of love." The responsive words of the bride and the bridegroom and the creator and His creation flowed for a long time. For several hours we worship in the beauty of His holiness. Some could smell the smell of incense and of sweet fragrances. We were drawn into quiet times. Filled with awe. Responding in song, with instruments in prayer and proclamation. Bathed in His presence. A luxuriant experience that we long to sustain. A place where we dwell in His presence in the house of prayer as the tabernacle of David is restored. How

blessed are the people whose God is the Lord. This beautiful Jesus who will never leave us or forsake us and longs to be with us and who is enthroned in praise and worship.

December 2002 - Carriers of His Glory

We hope your Christmas season has been glorious. Last week I shared one of my favorite renditions of Gabriel's message to Mary found in Luke 1:30-33 from The Message, the New Testament in contemporary English by Eugene H. Peterson.

Gabriel enters and greets the virgin Mary with these words. "Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you."

She was thoroughly shaken, wonder what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her. "Mary you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great. Be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, He will rule Jacob's house forever. No end, ever to His kingdom

Mary said to the angel. "But how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you the power of the Highest will hover over you, Therefore the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God. And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is. Everyone called her barren and here she is six months pregnant. Nothing, you see is impossible with God."

And Mary said. "Yes, I see it all now. I am the Lords maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say."

This young virgin in humble obedience transformed the face of the earth as she brought forth this baby boy who was the God of all creation. I love the words of the song by Mark Lowry called Mary Did You Know? Copyright Word Music. Rufus Music 1991.

Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God?

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The Lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb.

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is The Great I AM.

In that day Mary was called to carry the glorious one, the Lord Jesus in pregnancy. This little child that would grow up and change all things by His glorious presence and life. Today, each one of you as a believer is called to carry His glory. It is Christ in you the hope of glory. It is as a carrier of the glory that you will change all things as His life is lived through you and expressed through your personality. Carriers of the glory! Change agents of the creator of the universe. The bride of Christ who in the fullness of time will manifest His presence in all the earth until His kingdom comes and His will is done in all the earth just as it is in heaven. Nothing, you see is impossible with God.

Let us simply say as Mary did. I am ready to serve. Let it be just as the Lord has said.