



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

February 2009

**“So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD.
His going forth is as certain as the dawn;
And He will come to us like the rain,
Like the spring rain watering the earth.”**

Hosea 6:3

Dear Beloved,

Hosea had a really tough ministry of portraying God’s attitudes towards Israel through symbolic actions like marrying an adulterous woman! Thank God that on the resurrection side of the cross of Jesus, we aren’t called on to publicly acting out such extreme demonstrations of God’s instructions! Yet, there are many ways that our callings by God are similar to that of Hosea because we are all called to be His living witnesses, and that means how we behave, not just what we believe or preach. Hosea knew how to receive from God the strength and courage required to do the things God called him to do: **“...press on to know the LORD.”** That’s the only way we can too, no matter how hard or how seemingly easy the task before us!

For example, we have just re-read The Heavenly Man (Monarch Books, 2002) which chronicles the trials of our brothers and sisters in China. They have grown in the Holy Spirit and grace of God to be able to handle deprivation and punishment that makes our flesh crawl! In the process, the presence of Jesus is formed in them so strongly and clearly that they find evangelizing the lost very easy. One such purified-by-fire saint says, “When they see Jesus in me, they want to get to know Him.” Sounds easy! But the Jesus he reveals is the Jesus that he was transformed into through the fire. That’s not so easy.

Now we know that learning to have faith to boldly witness—with our behavior— (especially on the job we depend on to support our family), or to dare to pray for the sick and demonized (especially in public outside the walls of the sanctuary) is a far cry from maintaining a testimony of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior through horrific physical torture or facing sure death. But we all face many spiritual challenges that are less than the extremes facing our brethren in foreign lands, and God wants to establish our faith in Him wherever our walk with Him takes us and whatever that walk costs us.

The Apostle Paul declared that he counted, **“...all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him...”** (Phil. 3:8-9a). Counting all things to be as loss for most of us here in America would include our reputation, friendships, financial gain, or position at work.

For example, how hard is it for you to approach a stranger with a healing Word of Knowledge when the Holy Spirit softly speaks into your ear? We know it is harder for some than for others, but it is “walking on water” for all of us – even for those of you who are especially anointed for that purpose.

Why? Because we are all just learning to heed the voice of God without fear of the consequences. That’s a main facet of our pressing on to know the Lord and believing that He will be there for us as surely as the dawn will come and as refreshingly as the spring rain which waters the earth and makes another crop year possible.

If Hosea had that clear a revelation, how much more should we who are born of the Spirit believers?

We are all being called on to relearn afresh that God wants us to obey His leadings and to, **“Trust in the Lord with all (y)our heart and do not lean on (y)our own understanding. In all (y)our ways**

acknowledge Him, and He will make (y)our paths straight.” (Prov. 3:5-6) That kind of living trust in our Lord Jesus comes only from spending time in fellowship with Him!

That is the cry that we think God is putting in the Body of Christ today. It doesn't matter that we aren't being imprisoned for believing in Jesus (yet), and it doesn't matter that we aren't being slaughtered for our faith in the living Son of the one true living and Almighty God (yet). And it doesn't matter that we aren't forced in a position to renounce Jesus as Lord to be able to buy and sell (yet). What matters is that we are pressing on to know Him intimately, not just to know intellectually about Him, and to know the fullness of His call on our lives. As long as we are doing that, we will be prepared by Him to stand in the midst of whatever persecution comes our way in the future.

This is not a time to relax or to settle down spiritually! This is a time for all of God's saints to press on and to reach forward to what lies ahead! So we all must set our hearts to join the Apostle Paul's cry: **“...I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”** (Phil. 3:12-14)

As we press on and press in, God is doing neat new things in our lives! I will never forget the night we were sound asleep from getting home very late from a conference trip, and I was awakened by a gentle pressure on the side of my head. At first I thought it was Gretel's hand, but she was curled up on the other side of our king-sized bed. Nevertheless, I was definitely “awakened!” so I got out of bed. I looked at our digital alarm clock. It was 1:37AM. I sensed that Jesus had wakened me and wanted me to look up scriptures with the address in the Bible of 1:37. I thought I actually heard Him say, “Luke.”

“But Lord, my Bible is in our office and I don't want to wake Gretel up.” Then I felt a compassionate approval to make a note to look up 1:37 scriptures in the morning, starting with Luke, so I went back to bed and fell sound asleep.

The next morning I could hardly wait to read my Bible and search for the 1:37 verses starting with Luke's gospel: **“For nothing will be impossible with God.”** What a great blessing! We had just been hearing about some of the “impossible” things God is doing through the young generations of believers that “oldies” like us are supposed to be spiritually parenting.

Then I looked up at the preceding verse (:36) and God's message to us struck home! **“What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's already in her sixth month.”** In Elizabeth's “old age” she brought forth the miracle birth of John the Baptist! She didn't give up! And here we are approximately at two-thirds of our Mosaic life expectancy of 120, and we are just getting re-revved up!

No, we are not anticipating another child, but we are *expecting* great new things from God through us! And so should all of you—especially those of you who are on the senior side of life.

Surprisingly, there are only two other 1:37 verses in the New Testament: John and Mark. Read together they say: **“And the two disciples (Paul and Gretel) heard Him speak, and they followed Jesus. And...they found Him...”**

Can you understand why we are so excited?

To seal it all for us—and we hope for all of you, too—was a phone call the morning we were experiencing this renewing from a very prophetic couple who proclaimed that they had just heard the Word of the Lord for us and for them: *“Keep going! Keep going! Keep going!”*

We are energized and excited, and just a little scared, but we are determined to press on and to press in to the throne room so that we can be part of God's victorious army. We pray that you will join us!

Love, and expectant hugs,

