



WORSHIP EQUIPPERS FOR CHRIST

Missions Partner Network Update

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

JOY-FILLED GREETINGS from the Schultz's! Glorianne and I pray that this Advent and Christmas season will be a wonderful time of blessing for you and your family! I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on our ministry activities over this past year and ask for your help as we seek to get our prayer team and funding in place for 2018.



MINISTRY UPDATE

As I reflect on what's taken place through our ministry with Worship Equippers (WE) over this past year I'm reminded of the following four highlighted texts recorded in the account of our Savior's birth;

"Do not be afraid ... for behold, I bring you Good News of great joy which will be for all the people ... For this day in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" ... When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds said to them." (Luke 2: 10-11, 17-18 emphasis mine)

The account begins with **"Do not be afraid"** – timely words for us to hear today as we watch endless news cycles of random shootings, acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other calamities at home and abroad. I meet people on almost a daily basis who are overwhelmed with all the "bad news" and suffering along with many challenges in their own personal lives.

So, what should our response be?

Though it's tempting to change the channel, we, like the shepherds, have been commissioned to **bring the Good News** about our Lord Jesus Christ to **all the people** in our everyday world. Missiologists tell us that family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers have the highest potential of becoming Christians as they interact with our lives. Like **those who wondered as they heard the Good News** from those shepherds 2000 years ago we see people today express "wonder" (amazement) as their lives and families are transfigured by the Good News about our Savior!

Interestingly the Hebrew word for "wonder" comes from the root word for "miracle" which carries with it the idea that nothing is beyond the power of our wonder working God. It's first used in Genesis 18:14, when God says to Abraham; "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Likewise, the Evangelist Luke uses the Greek word for wonder to describe how the people responded to the Good News the shepherd shared with them about the birth

of the Messiah – the same word that is used to describe how people responded to Christ’s miracles when he caused the dumb to speak, lame to walk and blind to see.

As I reflect on the events that took place on the night of our Savior’s birth, I’m encouraged that nothing is “too hard” for our great God who only does wondrous things! I pray that this will encourage you and those to whom you minister as we co-labor to **spread the word** about our Savior!

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A PHONE CALL ...

During this past year our Good Shepherd has provided us with some wonderful opportunities for ministry! One of these unfolded as I was listening to a radio program entitled *Real Talk with Dr. David Anderson*, an African American pastor, author, and radio talk show host who is known internationally for building bridges across the deep divides of race, faith and culture. Due to some of the racial uprisings that had been taking place around the country he was inviting his listeners to call and share their comments on what they believed were the keys to racial reconciliation in our nation.

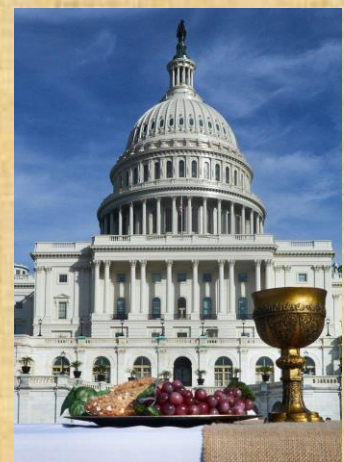
Though I don’t usually call in to radio talk shows, I felt impressed to call and share the vision that I’ve preached about for many years of Christians gathering across denominational lines around the Lord’s Table to humble ourselves, pray, seek God’s face in worship, confess and repent from all known sin, be reconciled to one another and then sent forth to evangelize our communities.

After listening to my comments about how this vision could relate to racial reconciliation as well as other challenges facing our nation Dr. Anderson exclaimed, “I believe that this is a vision for our nation!” and asked that I provide his producer with my contact information so that we could talk further. My call was followed by other callers who expressed their excitement about participating in such a gathering.



After his show ended, Dr. Anderson (unbeknownst to me) began calling pastors and other Christian leaders that he knew around the country to share the vision of gathering together around Lord’s Table in Washington D.C., to pray for America. They responded with a unanimous “Yes, let’s do this!”

The following day we were able to visit further about working together to host a *Lord’s Table Gathering*. Then Pastor Anderson invited me to come and celebrate the Lord’s Table at his multicultural church which has an attendance of around 4000 people from 52 nations. A few days later we had a conference call with some Christian leaders to plan for the gathering. We also began to see some wonderful answers to prayer which included being granted a special permit by the National Park Service to host the *Lord’s Table Gathering*, on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol on Saturday, October 21st.



Our service began with the singing of the great hymn, *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, which Glorianne, accompanied with a majestic sounding pipe organ setting on a keyboard followed by an antiphonal reading of Psalm 24 which was recited when King David brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem in ancient times and has since been used to help ignite revival and spiritual awakening in the lives of God’s people.

After a series of scripture readings, pastors and other Christian leaders (some who have been ministering to the lives impacted through racial uprisings and shootings in cities like Las Vegas) led believers who had assembled from churches of many denominations in heartfelt intercession for our nation! We then gathered as one (see John 17) around the Lord’s Table to remember the One who became flesh and entered the world at Bethlehem 2000 years ago to save us from our sins.



During the gathering curious tourists stopped to listen and many asked to receive prayer. One of the stories a pastor friend related to me involved a Muslim lady who came to him for prayer. When he had finished praying for her she took hold of the cross he was wearing on a long chain around his neck and kissed it to express her appreciation for the ministry she had received.

We have pastors who are interested in hosting the Lord's Table Gatherings in their cities in 2018. It is our prayer that as the Lord's Table is celebrated it will have served as a spiritual epicenter for revival and spiritual awakening. Will you join with us in praying that God will use us to help encourage and equip them for this ministry in the New Year?

Other highlights of our year included ministering at Christmas and Easter celebrations at the Embassy of Pakistan hosted by the *All Neighbors Ministry* and the Pakistani Ambassador that provided the opportunity to preach the Gospel to Muslim leaders. It even made the news in Pakistan!

Opportunities for ministry to the homeless at the *Central Union Mission* in Washington D.C. which included times of praise, preaching and personal ministry.

For our November Outreach we were granted permission from the head chaplain to begin celebrating the Lord's Table at our bi-monthly gatherings. It's a joy to see these men respond to the Gospel!





This year we launched our first *POIEMA Sacred Arts Retreat* which is designed to help equip believers to discover and develop their creative gifts to help make the Kingdom of God “come alive” for the nations. In case you’re not familiar with the word POIEMA, it’s the Greek word found in Ephesians 2:10 that describes believers as God’s “workmanship” (masterpiece or divine work of art) *“created in Christ Jesus to walk in the good works God has prepared for them to walk in from the foundation of the world”*.



WE also hosted Spring and Fall “Time with the Shepherd” retreats at a sheep farm nestled in a picturesque country setting in northern Virginia. These retreats help to equip believers for pastoral care ministry using live illustrations from our woolly friends, coupled with teaching from author and shepherd Philip Keller (A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23, Christ the Good Shepherd, etc.) Beginning in 2018 we can make this retreat available to your church using multimedia assisted teaching if you don’t happen to have a sheep farm nearby!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS ...

- We would appreciate your prayers for good health, safe travel and divine appointments to share the gospel as we lead our annual pilgrimage to the Holy Land, January 22 to Feb 1.
- Please pray for God leading as we minister at worship services, retreats, seminars and conferences that help to equip churches, church planters and ministries for the work of the ministry
- Please pray for God’s favor as we seek to help the body of Christ to gather across denominational lines to pray for our nation, celebrate the Lord’s Table, and go forth to evangelize their communities

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS

Since 1996 our ministry through Worship Equippers has been made possible through our community of ministry partners who support our ministry financially as the Lord leads. Would you please consider investing a **special year-end gift and/or a monthly pledge** today to help provide for the needs of our work? If you would like to co-labor with us in this way you can process your gift online today at worshipequippers.org, or complete the attached *Missions Partner Gift Form* below and mail it to: *Worship Equippers for Christ*, 21010 Southbank St. # 225, Potomac Falls, VA, 20165. May God use our partnership in ministry to reach many for Christ!

“Now may the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Yours for equipping the saints,

Dean+