

ARE YOU IN LOVE?



2014 was a 'Summer of Love' for a small group of Christians who began to meet in prayer at a small rural church in the far southwestern corner of upstate NY. It was a collection of persons ranging from their late teens to their late 70's and included those from every age decade in between. All of us had one thing in common, we were hungry for God with a desire to seek His face in prayer. We came from several different local churches and met every Tuesday night from 7-9 PM, but there were nights when some of us stayed for one or two hours more as we soaked in God's presence and the joy of Christian love and fellowship. These meetings were so exciting, that I would have skipped watching even the Super Bowl just to be there. Life in the Spirit is exciting.

Unlike most prayer meetings, this one was filled with life, spontaneity, transparency and free flowing movement of God's Holy Spirit. We ministered unto God with some singing and then scriptures, praises, confessions, prayers and gifts of the Spirit came intermittently like popcorn does when being heated. At times, someone would lead us to gather around another person to pray, prophesy or minister healing to them. Unlike most prayer gatherings, people were scattered around the sanctuary. Some roamed around, others sat or laid on the floor or the pews.

One girl usually stood facing the clock on the side wall. She was a real sparkplug at our meetings who also encouraged us to tithe our time for God each day. One time I remarked to her at the meeting, that as she stood before the clock, it was a reminder to us that she always had time for God. Those Tuesday prayer gatherings were also a stimulus for me and others to spend more time with God throughout the week.

The early believers in Jesus met in the upper room after his ascension, and it became the birthplace of the church. In a similar way, our Tuesday prayer gathering became a place where new ministries were born. By the middle of August of 2014, I informed our close knit group that I went to Florida for the winter, which caused them dismay. Soon after, the idea came to me that I could write them regular letters to keep the prayer fire burning throughout the winter. After a few days, God seemed to say to me: 'Why don't you start writing to them now.' As I sat at my computer on the Yahoo mail page, I glanced to the left column and saw the word SPAM. Instantly the words came to me.... Special Prayer Agent Message. What you are about to read is that first Special Prayer Agent Message that I sent to them on August 30, 2014. Since then, I have written over

275 messages to them and a growing number of readers. In February 2021, I finally started the website: **jesusreigns.net** It is a place where I will include many of those messages plus other teachings I have written throughout the past decades.

The prayer group at the country church stopped after about 6 years, but it continues with a few of us at a couple of different homes. I am extremely grateful to God for that special time with the Tuesday twelve and for what God has done in and through all of our lives. We have been sent out to change the world and that is what we are doing. Wonderful works of God usually begin with little seeds and small steps of obedience.

One thing I learned through the prayer gathering was the importance of the heart. One scripture that really impacted me and describes what happened to me in the summer of 2014 was this one. The Vineyard had a song based on it, which I often listened to that summer. Thinking of it gives me misty eyes about that summer of love.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple - Psalm 27:4

As you read through the various messages on our website, you will read some of the experiences in my Christian life and as a missionary for over 10 years in eight different countries. Here is the first prayer agent message that I sent out on August 30, 2014.

ARE YOU IN LOVE?

August 30, 2014 Prayer Agent Message #1

Like you, I can remember times when I fell in love with someone. There were certain signs your heart had been smitten.

- You couldn't stop thinking about them
- You wanted to spend time with them..... lots of time (especially in private) You wanted to share your deepest thoughts, you loved to hear their voice and just listen to them. Sweet fellowship.
- You could not stop talking about them, you loved to say their name. How sweet the sound! Those around you however, got a bit weary of you at times. Can't you talk about anybody else? Not really..... you were in love!!
- You wanted to know all about them. What do they like? What are their dreams? What can we enjoy doing together? You wanted to know about their past and their background etc.
- You desired to do only what pleased them and avoid what displeased them. They were number one!
- You wanted to meet their family, know them better, feel their acceptance

- You loved to tell them how much you loved them. You touched. You kissed. You hugged. Just to be close to their heart and feel its beat. No words on earth can describe how you felt. No words were necessary. You knew. This was love.

The above things are true of our human relationships but also apply to our relationship with God our Father, Jesus our Savior and Friend, and the Holy Spirit our personal guide and comforter. When we are truly in love with them, we will want to spend time with them - lots of time. Before this summer of 2014 I thought I loved God, but now I realized that my love had waned over several years of time. Sure, I thought about Him everyday, but I was just having brief chats with Him about struggles in my life etc.

The past few years I wanted a deeper relationship with Him like I once had, but things of the world had sucked away my energy and time. I got used to a normal that was really subnormal. Last summer (2013) I felt a small fire begin in me once again. The flame began to steadily grow over the winter. Early in the year, Pastor Erin told me about a small prayer group that had started on Tuesday nights.

She mentioned the book **Red Moon Rising**.

A year before I had purchased that book but now I have read it. It tells the story of how one young man from England started a 24/7 prayer movement in Sept. 1999. I got misty eyed reading it. After this I read another book: **The Purple Pig and Other Miracles** by Dick Eastman. Even more tears!! Dick has been my chief mentor in prayer. This book tells about his life calling to mobilize the church to prayer. He is considered one of the chief influences on the many modern day prayer movements. In 1971 he called young people to commit one year to just pray. His book: **The Hour that Changes the World** gave them ideas on how to pray for an hour with great variety. That 24/7 prayer movement helped start the Jesus movement of the 1970's. My favorite book by Dick is called: **Love On Its Knees**. A great book on intercession. I also have his tape series on this which I will try to convert from cassettes to a more updated format. In Sept. 1999 Dick also started a 24/7 prayer movement in Colorado Springs at the Jericho center. It was in Sept. 1999 that Mike Bickle also started a 24/7 prayer movement in Kansas City. All of these three movements were started unbeknownst to the others. Another lady in the Catholic church started a 24/7 prayer movement called Burning Bush. Guess when? Sept. 1999. Do you think God is up to something???

When I first started coming to the Tuesday prayer in early May, I had already purposed in my heart that this was going to be a summer for God. The growing flame of fire began to heat up in me. I so wanted to see revival in this area, but God had something else in mind. He wanted to burn out some chaff in my life. He wanted to restore my first love.....HIM. He has worked on me directly, but He has also used many of you to remind me of that sincere and simple heart devotion to Christ. For that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. During this time, there was another scripture that really impacted me.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. - 1 John 2:15 NIV

God has stripped away some things that I loved in the world. They were distractions. Since mid-August I've realized that I am truly in love with God!! When I get home from work.... often I just can't wait to get alone with HIM. My customers are hearing about what God is doing. I love being with you guys who are also so hungry for God. Years ago I used to say: Stay away from lukies (lukewarm Christians). They make God sick (Rev.3:16). Of course, we should pray for them but don't let their tepid water put out your fire. We will explore this subject a bit more next week. Thanks for reading and keep on praying. God loves to hear your voice! He loves spending time with YOU! I am glad we are on this journey together. johnbeckerink@yahoo.com

CLYMER HILL REFORMED CHURCH Clymer, New York

The church where I grew up and learned about Jesus through Sunday School, church services Sunday morning / evening plus Wed. prayer meeting and Vacation Bible School. It was founded by my Dutch ancestors from Holland in the mid-1800's. This is also the scene of our amazing prayer revival from early 2014 to 2020.



There is another scenic picture on the next page.

