JESUS NOW

November 2014

Dear Prayer Agents,

All true Christians believe that Jesus lived, he performed miracles, he died and rose again and went back to heaven. - Jesus Past

All true Christians believe that Jesus will come back again one day and take His bride to the home He has been preparing for them in heaven. - Jesus Future

In John 11, Lazarus has died. His sisters are mourning. Jesus arrives. Martha and Mary both tell Jesus that they believe that if Jesus had been there before, Lazarus would not have died. They believed in **Jesus of the Past.** 

Martha did tell Jesus that she believed that Lazarus would live again at the resurrection. She believed in **Jesus of the Future.** 

Mary and Martha are like too many Christians today. They believe in Jesus in the Past and Jesus in the future.... but they do not believe in .......**Jesus Now!!** 

Eternal life is not just for the future but for NOW. Jesus came that we might have superabundant life - John10:10. That LIFE is ZOE in the Greek. It is God's LIFE in it's fullest. Superabundant LIFE!!!!

Through Jesus.... all things were made. In Him was **ZOE** and that **ZOE** was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. - John 1:3-5

A week ago three of us stuck around after the prayer meeting. As we chatted it was evident that God wanted to do something more in Kristin's life. After some prayers Doug spoke the word ZOE over her and instantly she was struck with God's ZOE life. She collapsed and later said that she was set free that very moment. God's LIFE brought Light which drove out the darkness!! Jesus' words are Spirit and LIFE!! (ZOE) - John 6:63 I close with a Greek rendering of Hebrews 4:12

'The Word of God is living (ZOE) and powerful (energes= active, operative, effectual) and sharper (to cut as if by a final stroke) than any two edged sword, piercing (it penetrates / Greek=to reach through) even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.'

I believe in JESUS of the PAST, JESUS of the FUTURE AND JESUS NOW!!!! How about you? John

**GREAT THINGS** 

November 2014

Dear Prayer Agents,

Great things.....those words bring me tears. I am in awe at what God has done in the past six months. When I returned from Florida this past April, I desired to make this 'A summer for God'. God did more than I imagined! / Ephesians 3:20. We find similar sentiments in this wonderful verse from Jeremiah.

# 'Call unto Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things you do not know.' / Jeremiah 33:3

This past week I have been thinking on James 4:8. 'Come near to God and He will come near to you.' God was waiting for many of us to come near, to seek Him. It just so happened that many of us responded to the Spirit's prompting about the same time. 2014 turned into a summer that will long be replayed in our minds and cherished in our hearts.

Prayer produces intimacy. Intimacy leads to births. God has birthed many things among us. New desires...dreams...visions...and opportunities to serve Him and His body. This weekly prayer agent message is one of those births. Years ago God showed me the key to staying on fire for Him. It was in Romans 12. One day these words jumped off the page of my Bible and hit me!

### 'If it is teaching, let him teach.' - Romans 12:7

A few verses later Paul tells us: 'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.' - Romans 12:11

When we use the gifts that God has given us...that is how we keep the fire burning in us. The list of gifts in Romans 12 are called **motivational gifts.** Each one of us has a gift that 'moves' us. It has been wonderful to see how God has sprinkled His body with various gifts. We are edified, including the one using that particular gift.

God has taken me through various aspects of ministry: devotional prayer, evangelism, intercession, spiritual warfare, leadership, disciple maker, teacher and writer. It was not too long after I got the word: **'let him teach'**, that God opened a door for me.

While in London, I had received a letter from a church in Florida. Bad news. They were dropping my monthly mission support due to their money shortage. About a week later, on a Wednesday, I was praying with Sucha in our prayer room at church. He was a university student I was discipling after he had come to Christ from the Sikh religion. I shared with Sucha about my lost income and told him that I felt that God would provide for me in some way. Within ten minutes, the telephone rang. Sucha answered it and told me that 'A Dr. Browne wants to speak with you'. (I had no idea who he was, I learned later that an American in England had referred me to him)

Dr. Browne asked me if I would come to teach at a Bible School in another part of London starting next Monday! I immediately said yes. God had provided a new source of income in a most unexpected and remarkable way. But now I had a new challenge. Dr. Browne had asked me to teach a course on Pastoral Theology and I would have to write the course myself! Over the next four days, God helped me study and write about 16 hours per day. I looked up every reference about sheep and shepherds that I could find in the Bible. Later on I was asked to teach several other courses and even to write several correspondence courses. All this was life changing for me. God had finally brought me to things that would be most satisfying and fruitful. I was using the gifts that God had designed me for.

The summer of 2014 has been life changing for many of us. God has awakened dormant gifts or has increased our maturity in their use. I have seen it happen in several of you. I am so excited for you! God is giving birth to new things. God has great and mighty things planned for us. Next week we will explore this subject further.

A prayer: 'Father, thank you for entrusting us with many good gifts. You have given us eternal life, your loving presence, and spiritual gifts to build up one another. Increase our sensitivity to you in living in these realities. Thank you for a wonderful summer of adventures with You and with one another. As the weather gets colder, may our spiritual fires burn hotter for You! We pray this in the Name (the endorsement and approval) of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.'

John

## CALL UNTO ME

November 2014

**Dear Prayer Agents** 

Dawson worked in a lumberyard, but he wanted to change the world. He read that 'Nothing is too hard for God' and God even said: 'Is there anything too hard for Me'./ Jeremiah 32:17,27 God then challenged him. If you really believe that.... then call unto Me!

### Call unto Me and I will show you great and mighty things you do not know. - Jer. 33:3

He asked a friend if he believed that. He did. Dawson said that he did too but he had not yet seen those great and mighty things, but he wanted to. He and his friend began a prayer meeting in the mountains over Los Angeles from 5 to 7 am each morning and on Sunday from 4 to 7 am. As they prayed for their Sunday School boys the numbers grew dramatically. Word spread. In more California cities they received calls from churches that wanted help with their Sunday Schools. After several weeks, Dawson and his friend were praying for people to be saved in every state and then to the islands of the sea. God was answering. After 42 days their prayer burden had lifted.

After 3-4 years Dawson (Daws) realized that he had letters from every state and in some foreign islands where people had come to the Lord and disciples were being made! Great and mighty things! Daws had started a disciplemaking ministry called: The Navigators, that has reached untold millions. He was a pioneer in discipleship in this modern era. Billy Graham finally persuaded him to help them in followup of converts.

Daws often asked Christians, 'What's the biggest thing you've asked God for this week? I remind them that they are going to God, the Father, the maker of the universe. The one who holds the world in His hands. What did you ask for? Did you ask for peanuts, toys, trinkets, or did you ask for continents? I want to tell you young people, it's tragic! The little itsy-bitsy things we ask of our Almighty God. Sure, nothing is too small - but also nothing is too big. Let's learn to as our big God some of those big things He talks about in Jer. 33:3."

Daws and his friend were willing to pray for as long as it took in the mountains each day. Over 35 years ago I longed to find somebody to agree with me like this. I wanted to see those great and mighty things. I did find a couple of brothers in London for a time that I could pray with in special agreement. I remember praying with one Brazilian who was staying at a room in the church. As we agreed in prayer for a financial need he had, I asked that God would slip some money under his door. A few days later it happened.

#### Now back to Dawson's words:

"I don't think time has much to do with whether God hears me or not . But, I do believe that time has everything to do with whether my faith is built up as I pray and as I stretch out in asking. I don't believe that God will ever give those great and mighty things of Jer. 33:3 to those who just have their little conscience easers or some quick prayers before jumping into bed for the night. I don't think God has anything big for you if you can't take 1/48th of your day to be alone with your Almighty God and Father. I rather doubt whether He is going to do very much for you."

Dawson Trotman died at age 50. He saved a drowning girl in a summer camp lake by holding her up until help arrived, but it was too late for Daws. Time magazine ran an article in 1956 describing his life. The caption under his picture said: **'Always holding someone up.'** The article went on to say that **''He lived to save others''**. Daws gave 30 great years to winning others to Christ and most of all to making disciples who then went on to follow his example.

God has inspired me this summer through Dawson's life. I am reaching out farther and higher to that Almighty God. I have seen glimpses of the future. I see great and mighty things waiting for me there. May God touch all of our hearts.

John