

# *The Clarion*

of

## *Christ Ministerial Fellowship*

*-a non-denominational communion of ministries with the purpose of mutual encouragement, like minded fellowship and love toward one another.*



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Save the date!!***

#### **Men's Retreat**

Friday, March 31 and  
Saturday, April 1 (Seriously!)  
Lighthouse Fellowship  
West Pittston, PA  
Watch your email for the  
registration form.  
The cost is \$20. For more  
information call Shane Nichols  
607 348-6381 .

#### **The CMF Gathering**

Wed., Apr. 26-Fri., Apr. 28  
Tuscarora Inn & Conference  
Center, Mt. Bethel, PA.

#### **Women's Retreat**

Fri., June 2—Sat., June 3  
At Trinity Memorial Church,  
44 Main St., Binghamton, NY.  
The cost is \$30.  
For information call Arlene  
Ghildardi 607 754-3709.



## **Who's That Knocking at My Door?**

Mark Waters

I think a lot about the times we are in. It doesn't take a prophet to see that we are in a time of tremendous shaking and upheaval. The shaking is not just in the world, it's in the church, too. The writer to the book of Hebrews tells us of a time

when God will shake not only the earth but the heavens also. He states that the outcome of this time of shaking will be the removing of all that is man-made and the establishment of what is of God. It is a time, both for the world and for the church, that the works of man are being judged. The man-made church will not survive this great shaking.

We see this shaking of the heavens pictured for us in the life of David, especially when he sought to bring the Ark back to Zion. David knew the glory belongs with God's people and it had been missing a very long time. There is no greater motivation a man can have than to see the lost glory restored among the people of God! This thing no doubt was a burning desire in the Lord Himself as well. So, David gathered all the people together and encouraged them; "Let's go get the Ark back!" What an exciting moment for the people of God! The glory that had been lost was coming back to its place among the people of God. David had the Ark put on a cart driven by oxen, and broke out in a tremendous reaction of joy, worship, and celebration that the Ark was indeed coming back.

Everything went well until they arrived at the threshing floor. The threshing floor is a place of shaking and sifting. The path to the recovery of the glory of God in the church will take us through the threshing floor. There at the threshing floor was a shaking. The Oxen must have stumbled and it shook the Ark severely enough that Uzzah felt it necessary to reach out and steady the Ark. I think he thought he was doing the right thing. It's speculation but it looks to me that what moved him to do that was a love for the Ark and what it symbolized. It was about to fall! He didn't realize it, but it was God that was doing the

shaking. The whole journey of the return of the Ark to Jerusalem was interrupted by a time of shaking at the threshing floor. David didn't understand it at the time but the glory is not going to return just any old way. He had to learn that the desire was right, but he wasn't going to bring it back the way the world would. It says that David was afraid of the Lord that day. No doubt he was probably a bit confused. He must have thought "God, I am doing this because it's something you want! Why aren't you cooperating?" Not knowing what else to do, David takes the ark to a man's house named Obed-Edom.

Obed-Edom is not a well-known character in the Bible. It is in this story that he is mentioned for the first time. He, apparently was just an average guy. He's never mentioned when we read about David's battles, he's not in David's list of mighty men, nor is he one of David's counselors. Really, up to this point we know nothing about him. This time of shaking that they all went through not only took them to the threshing floor, it took them to Obed-Edom's home. God's word is not clear on this, but it seems that Obed-Edom wasn't even with all those bringing the Ark back with David. It appears that he knew nothing about what had happened at the threshing

There is an invitation that came to Obed-Edom through the king's knock. "Will you be willing to open your life to God's highest purpose? Would you be willing for your life to be associated with the God of glory?"

floor. He's living his life as he did every day and all of a sudden he hears a knock on his door. When he answers it, to his great wonder, on the other side of that door is the king. The king? What would the king want with me? What would he be coming to my house for? Can you imagine what this guy must have thought! Here is the king outside my door and with him is the Ark of God and he is asking me if I want it in my house. The Ark was the greatest thing in all of God's kingdom at that time. There was nothing greater in terms of spiritual value and purpose than this Ark, and here is the king offering it to him. There is an invitation that came to Obed-Edom through the king's knock. "Will you be willing to

open your life to God's highest purpose? Would you be willing for your life to be associated with the God of glory?" It is easy to think of Christianity as merely a fire escape from hell and a free ticket to heaven, but it is more than that! In the gospel, there is the approach of the king to our lives with an invitation. It is a very high and great invitation! There is nothing greater in all the universe than for man to be brought into an intimate relationship with the God of glory and to realize that with all that He is doing in the earth, he is seeking to involve us.

Rev. 3:20 says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." The king's knocking presents a challenge to us. He is offering something to us. He is calling us into a life of intimacy with the God of glory. These are troublous times and much is happening that could steal our vision away from the king on to other things. As hard as it is for us as God's people to be shaken down to God Himself, let's let Him have His way and let's realize as well, that this time of terrible shaking includes with it a King who is coming to the door of our hearts and He is knocking. It is important to realize that all this shaking has not hindered God. He has authored it. His purpose is still moving on. The God of glory is here and He is laying hold of lives for something that is greater than our wildest dreams. In all the seeming negatives God's word gives us of the end of the age, that perilous times shall come, etc., I believe the King is also coming to our hearts and He's offering us something that He cherishes and values very much. It can't be said enough. There is nothing higher that God could invite us to! Over and over, as I wait on the Lord, sometimes troubled by what I see going on in both the church and the world, I hear a noise... Someone is at my door and He's knocking. Excuse me a moment. I better answer it and find out what He wants.Ω

*Mark Waters, Pastor of Bethany Christian Fellowship, Athens, PA grew up in a Christian home but gave his heart to the Lord in a real way in the late 70's. He was married in 1980 to Joy Ordway. In 1985 he was ordained to be the pastor of a church that was being pioneered in the North Central PA area. Mark & Joy have 4 children and 4 granddaughters. One is with the Lord. Mark's gifting is to teach God's word and his heart beats around the word of the revelation of Jesus Christ in His life, His finished work, and His eternal purpose.*

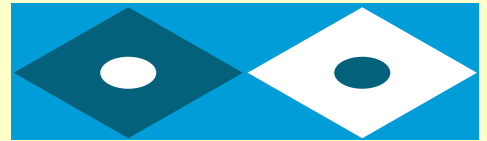
# The Heavens Do Rule

By T. Austin-Sparks

There is a great need today that there should be the rule of the Heavens. But the Holy Spirit has got to do it, and we have got to come to recognize the fact that what we see in organized Christianity is not it. The spiritual people of God are more and more feeling separated from the old system of Christianity and churches and ecclesiastical systems. People are recognizing a deep dissatisfaction with what has held the ground so long, and there is a cry for spiritual reality. Many sermons are clever and full of mental ability, but they are starvation to the spirit. There is all the activity, but it is not spiritual Life, and I believe the Lord is going to show us the nature of the thing that is in the heavens. The thing that man has brought down on to the earth and taken up and perpetuated is only at best a poor imitation of things in the heavens, but in a very large realm it is a caricature of heavenly things.

Man has taken hold of heavenly things and brought them down to earth and made them earthly things. That is where things all went wrong at the beginning. At the first, things were of the Spirit. The people gathered in their homes or anywhere. It was not the place. It was not the ministry. It was the Lord, and they were circled around Him. But then the day came when they said, "We must have public buildings," and then the architecture became a factor, and so things developed, and they became something on the earth for men to take note of. They wanted man to be attracted, and that was the first step in one of the greatest perils that has overtaken the church. For prestige, recognition, the world to be attracted, there is the result that you get the mixed multitudes in the church. If you can attach some big names to it, you can attract the people, and one of the devil's greatest measures has been popularizing the church. The preeminent thing is lost, that the church and Christ is a mystery to the natural man and that it is no use to expect the natural man to appreciate it. The church is essentially a spiritual thing according to the mind of God. What really governs everything is God's conception of things, not ours, and if we are going on with the Lord there is going to be a whole system of change and we are going more and more to view things from the heavenly stand-point. You have got to get into the heavenly system to get heavenly results.

from: The Heavens Do Rule - Chapter 2 {Daniel 4:26}



***Save the date!!***

***The CMF***

***Spring Gathering at  
Tuscarora Inn &  
Conference Center,***

***Mt. Bethel, PA is***

***April 26-28.***

***Pastors and workers are  
welcome. Watch for your  
registration form via  
email.***

## **Regarding the web site:**

You may have noticed that the web site:

**[www.christianmaturity.com](http://www.christianmaturity.com)**

has been down for a couple of months. We are presently working with our hosting company and hope to be live very shortly. Thank you for your patience.

Meanwhile if you need information don't hesitate to call Bert Ghilardi at (607) 754-3709, email [CMF7001@gmail.com](mailto:CMF7001@gmail.com) or

**by mail write:**

**Christ Ministerial Fellowship  
c/o Bethany Christian Fellowship**

**311 South Elmira Street  
Athens, PA 18810-1117**

# Within the Veil by Joann Laws

In Matthew 17:1 we read: “after 6 days Jesus took Peter, James, and John up into a high mountain apart.” The number 6 is the number of man. These disciples, these men were, in a sense, leaving the “earthy” or their human understanding to become better acquainted with things divine. Their being brought up into a high mountain “apart” shows us they were made ready or receptive to a greater, higher understanding of God’s purposes. We cannot receive spiritual things unless we are made spiritually receptive.

In Hebrews 10:19, 20 we are speaking of the “way” Christ consecrated for us through the veil; the veil of His flesh. Remember Christ identified with man in His being both man and deity. Jesus Christ Himself could lean to flesh or to any part of Him that identified with the fleshly nature. Jesus Christ had to be dealt a death blow to any part of fleshly leaning in Him. And this was so, that He enter into “all” His Father had for Him. And we know the Father yet has much in store for His Son, Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 17:2 we see that Jesus was transfigured or changed before the eyes of these three disciples. “His face did shine as the Sun and His raiment white as the light.” If we had been there, we would have seen on Christ the visible glory of God. Here, the disciples saw the visible glory of God. And, here, we catch a glimpse of more of what the Father has for Christ. We’ll touch on that in a moment.

Read Matthew 17:2-9. In vs 4 we see that Peter is still stuck on earthly tabernacles.

In verse 5 it may seem the Father was speaking directly, “Peter, don’t lean to your own understanding, but be more receptive to what my Son has to say.”

But in vs 3 we gain insight where Moses and Elijah are talking to Jesus. And I see that Moses and Elijah were encouraging Christ to go to the cross, to endure the suffering entailed that He come into God’s glory and all the Father has for Him, to say nothing of all He’d accomplish for “us” on the cross.

Jesus laid down the veil of His flesh at the cross, that He’d be veiled in God’s glory. We can say He traded the veil of flesh for God’s visible glory and for all His Father has for Him, such as is portrayed to us in Matthew 16:27. He’ll come in the glory of His Father, which is far greater than that glory that shone on Him on the Mt. of Transfiguration.

We read in Matthew 16:21 how Jesus had begun to speak to His disciples of His sufferings in order to prepare them for future events. Read Luke 24:25, 26. Christ had to go to the cross to come into greater glory. He traded the veil of flesh for His Father’s greater glory; to be veiled in this.

We said in Hebrews 10:20 Christ made a new and living way for us through the veil. In Matthew 27:50, 51 the veil of the Jewish temple being rent in two was prophetic of and a type of Christ’s flesh being rent for us. In this temple veil being rent we see the way is now open to all, Jew and Gentile alike. Now we know some of what Christ was to come into in allowing the veil of His flesh to be rent;

that is the greater glory of the Father. But what did Christ accomplish for us in His making a way through the veil?

The following are only a few of the wonderful things He accomplished for us on the cross:

- ◆ Christ became our high priest. Please read Hebrews 10:21. Now Christ, our High Priest goes before the Father for our sins seeking forgiveness for us. Even as Israel’s high priest did for them in going into the Holy of Holies seeking atonement for his sins and the sins of the people of Israel. 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He’s faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Hebrews 7:25 He entreats the Father’s favor for us. Hebrews 7:26 & 27 This is a new way. It’s not the Old Testament. It’s the New, and His sacrificing Himself for us is a once and for all sacrifice. There’s no more need for any further sacrifices. In Hebrews 10:22 we read how our hearts are sprinkled from an evil conscience. We’re freed from self-condemnation (Romans 8:1), from shame, from guilt and we are as it were washed in pure water. He made a way for us through the veil to be freed. Hebrews 9:14 tells us: “The spotless blood of Christ purged us and cleansed our conscience from dead works.” Dead works can mean fear, guilt, fear of alienation from God. Through the spotless blood of Christ our conscience is cleansed from dead works that we can go on to serve the living God. Are you taunted by something that happened in your life, or maybe by something you did? Jesus’ sacrifice, His veil of flesh being rent made a way to purge our conscience from these dead works. Now we can serve the Lord without condemnation. Condemnation is destructive and deadly. Did you ever notice how hard it is to go forward in God when you feel guilty or ashamed or when you heap condemnation on yourself, or others do? Through Christ’s shed blood we are freed.

What more did Christ accomplish for us in making a way for us through the veil?

- ◆ Hebrews 10:19 tells us we are enabled to enter into the Holiest of all. Free from limitations, we can approach Christ our Redeemer, our Savior, our King, our Bridegroom, our High Priest. There are no chains holding us back from the most intimate

**As Christ’s flesh was dealt with, so our flesh is to be dealt with that we come into His glory; that we be veiled in glory.**

relationship we can possibly have with Christ.

- ◆ Within the veil we see revelation and truth of Christ, of just who He truly is, breaking our misconceptions of Him. This truth and revelation was once hid from us by the veil.
- ◆ Within the veil we become a holy priesthood. 1 Peter 2:9
- ◆ Within the veil we too have the promise of God's glory veiling us as it did Christ on the Mt. of Transfiguration. Read Isaiah 60:1-3 Others will be drawn to Christ because of this.

Read 1 Peter 5:1 Peter, James and John saw Christ's transfiguration and they saw the sufferings He experienced. The glory Christ experienced on the Mt. of Transfiguration was but a taste of the glory He yet will experience at His coming. Read 1 Peter 5:10. He has called you and I to His eternal glory "after" our fleshly nature has been dealt with.

"after you have suffered a while", meaning after we've experienced some form of suffering, testing, or pain; "make us perfect"-mend us, complete us, prepare us; "stablish us"-set us resolutely in His direction; "strengthen us"-establish us, "settle us"-ground us.

As Christ's flesh was dealt with, so our flesh is to be dealt with that we come into His glory, that we be veiled in glory. When the veil of the temple was rent, His flesh was also being rent. This signified the new way Christ made for us all into the Holiest of all. Light on all Christ is and all He accomplished for us is released there within the veil.Ω

Joann was brought up on Long Island, saved, baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit there. She attended four years at Pinecrest Bible Training Center. After Bible School Joann and her husband Jim were asked to help a church in Sanford, NC. They then lived in Salisbury for two years, enjoyed fellowshiping with friends in Avoca, NY, and ended up in Salisbury, MD once more and pastored a church for 15 years. Presently, they host a monthly meeting in their home in Salisbury, MD.



## Missions Report

*I am writing this as we are winding down the last days of 2016. For Ric Vargas and myself it has been an outstanding year of missionary travels and we look forward to what the Lord has for us in 2017.*

*In the beginning, when we started out traveling together, seventeen years ago, neither of us knew what the Lord was going to do. It has been a process of unfolding and revealing and it seems the Lord has been more specific in the last five years as to what our focus should be as we travel overseas.*

### **Ministering to the Pastors:**

*Through the years as we traveled and developed relationships this need became quite evident to us; who is ministering to the ministers, the pastors? Many times it is not advisable for pastors to go to their own church people, for some thing, intimate things, need to be discreet. The pastors deal with their church and they are not immune from situations at home, their own marriage, children, finances, etc. and they need to be counseled and at times ministered to. This happens either by the Word as we teach and preach, by prophecy, as the Holy Spirit moves, or by fellowship, as we sit down together just to talk.*

### **India and Colombia:**

*Our last two trips of this year were to these countries. We have visited India many times and through our dear brother Melchizedek our trips get better and better. Once again, out of our relationship with Melchizedek, he knows us, knows how we minister, knows the burden of our heart, knows the focus God has given to us, so predominately we did pastors and leaders conferences. This trip was probably the best to date. We ministered to hundreds of God's leaders and by His grace He showed Himself faithful. Many were impacted.*

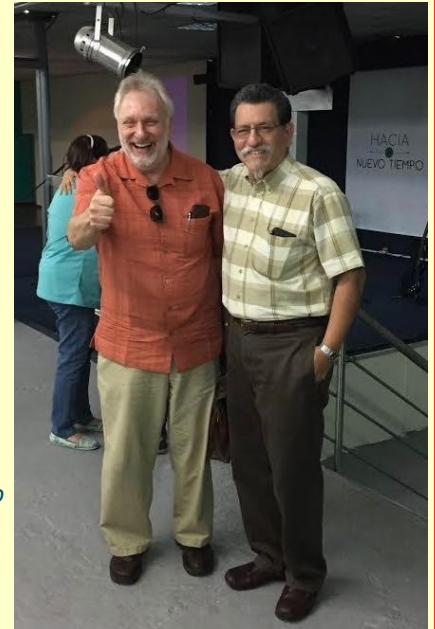
*In Colombia we went to several new cities where we had never been before and due to relationships with people we know for many years doors were opened. We are thankful to have Fredy & Gloria Lopez, Cony Rojas, people that know us and know our calling. People like Maria Paula and Carolina, excellent translators. The Lord has set a platform for future trips as He continues to open up nation and cities to us.*

*Bert and Arlene Ghilardi will be going back to Colombia this spring. Their ministry is different than ours; their focus is more of ministry to the local church.*

*Which brings me to my final point: there is room for others. If you have a desire or a specific calling to encourage, minister, to build the body of Christ speak to Ric or myself and we will try to accommodate you to fulfill God's plan for you and His church.*

*Ric and I need wisdom, strength, discernment. What open doors does God want us to go through in 2017? In closing let me give a big thank you. We appreciate your prayers, your concerns and your financial support as we continue on. May you have a prosperous New Year in Him!*

*Blessings, Lou Pressman*



# A Watchman to the People

by Mark DelliCarpini

*At the end of seven days the word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself. Again, when a righteous person turns from their righteousness and does evil, and I put a stumbling block before them, they will die. Since you did not warn them, they will die for their sin. The righteous things that person did will not be remembered, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the righteous person not to sin and they do not sin, they will surely live because they took warning, and you will have saved yourself." (Ezekiel 3:18-21)*

In this passage, God gives Ezekiel the command to be a watchman to the people of Israel. The Lord commands him to warn both the righteous who have lost their way as well as the wicked who do not know the Lord. God tells Ezekiel that he will be held accountable for people in both groups if the prophet does not warn them of their wrong-doing. Why is he being held accountable? God gives this mandate in order that they might repent of their sin and be healed. God calls Ezekiel to share in His heart for restoring people to right relationship with Himself. In this portion of Scripture, we see God's heart towards all people. God does not want any person to perish, so much so that He sent His Son to live a humble life, die a humiliating death on a cross, and then rise again in victory (Philippians 2:5-11). Even more incredible is that by God's grace, he has invited us to share in that same victory today through the indwelling Holy Spirit. As it says in the beginning of the book of Hebrews, *"in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son"* (1:2), we now have access to the heart of God through Christ. This calling to be a watchman is no longer just for the prophet Ezekiel, but for all who are born again in Christ. Today, if you are in Christ, you have everything you will ever need. God does not withhold any good thing from you. This commission that God gives to the prophet Ezekiel is now alive in all of us today who are in Christ.

**This commission that God gives to the prophet Ezekiel is now alive in all of us today who are in Christ.**

In the book of Acts, Luke records Paul's farewell to the elders in Ephesus before his departure to Jerusalem. In this stirring address, Paul lists everything he has done while ministering among the Ephesians for three years. He caps off this list in Acts 20:26-27: *"Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."* By Paul's use of the phrase "innocent of the blood of all", he clearly makes a direct connection to God's commission to Ezekiel. Paul understands the responsibility he has to the gospel message with which he was entrusted. This is the same gospel message with which all those born in Christ are also entrusted, though not all may have an apostolic calling on their lives such as Paul did. Therefore, how it is played out in each individual believer's life will look different, but the point is that we are all called to this same level of covenant relationship with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Paul asserts that he has acted as a faithful watchman to the Ephesians. He can claim this because he served them "with humility" and "in tears day and night" (Acts 20:19). He says that he did not "shrink back from declaring

the gospel to both Jew and Gentile alike” (vs. 21). By this and other qualifications he mentions, he rightly claims that he is not guilty of anyone’s blood. Paul understood that he had a covenant responsibility to all those he was in fellowship with. In Christ we are our brother’s keeper!

We are called to accountability with one another, and to be watchmen, not just to the righteous, or those in Christ, but to the wicked who are not yet in Christ. In Paul’s farewell to the Ephesian elders, he fulfills both aspects of that calling, for he faithfully proclaimed the gospel to “Jew and Greek alike” (vs. 21). God’s original call in the book of Ezekiel to both the righteous and the wicked demonstrates that we have a responsibility to those both inside and outside of the church. May neither aspect be found neglected in our lives as believers today.

In Acts chapter 4:1-22, Peter and John are brought before the Jewish high priest shortly after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. God had healed a crippled man through Peter, and several thousand were saved as a result of this miracle (Acts 3:1-10). The Sanhedrin subsequently questions and threatens them, but both apostles are bold and faithful to proclaim the gospel that they had received (Acts 4:19). The religious leaders then threaten and forbid them to continue testifying in the name of Jesus:

*“But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:14-20)*

The response of the Jewish leaders to Peter and John is representative of the devil’s response to us who are in Christ when we proclaim His gospel openly. The religious rulers knew they could not refute or do anything to change what had happened, and they also knew that it was impossible for them to quench the fire that lived in these two men. However, what a tremendous response from these apostles in the face of those threats! May that same attitude be in all of us, that we cannot refrain from speaking about what we have seen and heard—that we may be Christ’s true witnesses.

If you are in Christ today, you have a responsibility to be a faithful witness to that which Christ has done in your life and warn those whom God shows you. May we not shrink back from warning those in the body of Christ, and those

not yet in the body of Christ. However, as in the case of Peter and John, we must be aware that we have an adversary who is constantly seeking to discourage us from doing this. Although we may have at times allowed discouragement in one form or another to overtake us and prevent us from proclaiming the good news of Jesus, we must be even more aware that this adversary has no real power over us, because we belong to God in Christ. We must continue to partake of the good Word of Truth every day so that we may grow strong against the Enemy of our souls—and may we never cease from proclaiming the gospel of Christ with which we have been entrusted.Ω



**Nienna holding newborn Simeon  
and  
Mark holding Silas, 2 years old.**

*Mark DelliCarpini is an independent painter and contractor, as well as a substitute teacher for the Binghamton school district. He attended Shippensburg University for his teaching degree and then Bethany Bible Training Center, after which he married and moved to Binghamton, NY, where he and his wife and two children currently live. He and his family attend a home fellowship in Deposit, NY,. Mark is also involved in jail ministry with House of Bread Fellowship Church in Endwell, NY at the Broome County Sheriff’s Correctional Facility.*

# A New Beginning

by Bert Ghilardi

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We had one of the best conferences in CMF history October 26-28 in Mt. Bethel, PA at The Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center along the scenic Delaware River. The Lord's presence and the love among the brethren was at a high level for our inaugural retreat at this new location.

There was a strong anointing evidenced during worship at all the services which produced a very palpable unity and love among the brethren. We had many new faces as over 50 people gathered unto Christ and His purpose. We were stirred and blessed by the testimonies of two special guests from Cali, Colombia: Maria Paula Londono and Francisco Ramirez. We expect to work with these two precious vessels of God in the future in our out-reach ministry to South America.



Mark Waters led off the speakers on Wednesday night with a message on Beholding The Son. It was based on Athalilah's treason against the Throne and how those that identified with the Son and the Throne defeated her.



Thursday morning Dan Beaulieu's message was on the theme of how the move of the Spirit and Love of the brethren that was recorded in the Book of Acts needed to return to God's church of today. Dan was open and humble as he shared his past attempts to build God's church in his own strength ending in failure. It was an admonition to let God build the house.



Thursday night Bert Ghilardi shared out of Rev. 12, the coming forth of the Manchild linking it to the Old Testament story of David defeating Goliath. The topic was casting down the accuser of the brethren. Those overcomers that will defeat satan in the throne must learn to defeat the lion and the bear in their daily lives.



Friday morning Ric Vargas gave a prophetic word out of Jeremiah 1:1-4. He spoke a summary of the 4 kings who ruled during the prophet's ministry; 3 of which opposed God's law. Ric brought out that regardless of which king ruled God's word came. It left the people that heard this word with great peace and faith about the pending Presidential election: our God reigns!

We left this gathering knowing there is a blessed future for our fellowship together. We hope to see many of you the next time April 26-28, 2017.





# Hungering, Thirsting and Vision

Jim Laws

The word Ruth in the Hebrew language means Friend. I would like to propose to you that the Book of Ruth is based on building a relationship with God-coming into a friend relationship. In chapter 2 of the book of Ruth we see Ruth, a woman having a hunger and a thirst and vision created within her for spiritual things. She was not only hungry, but she was poor, so she went to a field to glean-a practice of getting food which was reserved for the poor. "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mt. 5:3. Boaz's servant stated that Ruth had started early in the morning to glean. Ps. 63:3 "O God, thou art my God' early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth fo thee..." She did not wait until the heat of the day or time of trial to seek, but her seeking started early in the morning. Do we only seek the Lord during difficult times, or are we a regular seeker? Let us pray that God will create a hunger and a thirst within each of us, that we will seek him earnestly. It is even a good practice to get up early in the morning and spend time with the Lord. That helps prepare us for the day's journey.

Boaz, a symbol of Jesus, came and took notice of Ruth gleaning in the field for her hunger and thirst would be satisfied in his field and his field alone. The Lord desires the same of us, though so many times we try to have our hunger and thirst satisfied in another field. Only Jesus' field will truly satisfy us. In verse 16, Boaz says to let handfuls of purpose fall for her. He desired to keep her in his field. Jesus will do the same. He sees we sometimes stray easily, so he leaves a blessing to keep us on the right path. Boaz tells Ruth to keep her eyes on his field. He desired to impart vision to her. We can only receive vision by keeping our eyes on spiritual things. She was to keep her eyes on the field that his maidens reaped. His maidens knew that Boaz would take care of them. Ruth was to learn from the maidens that he would take care of her. Oftentimes, God has us look to other people to see His faithfulness in their lives. Seeing God's faithfulness in other lives gives us faith to believe for the same faithfulness in our lives.

Thirst for spiritual things is being created in chapter 2:9. He told her to go to his vessels and drink. Don't even bring your own vessel to satisfy your thirst. Only drink from his vessels to be satisfied. Anytime that she was thirsty, she could go to the vessels and drink. That great scripture spoken by Jesus 2,000 years ago is more real than ever today. In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." John 7:37. Are we not living in the last day

We see Ruth in verse 10 wondering why Boaz has taken notice of her. She falls on her face and bows herself to the ground. She humbles herself out of gratitude. Jesus is looking for the same from us. He's looking for a humble spirit, a broken and contrite heart, that he can

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Physical Needs:

- ◆ Joseph and Gloria Nieves
- ◆ Steve Wilber
- ◆ Baby Bonnie: granddaughter of Jim and Joann Laws

### Mission Trips

**Missionaries:** Bert and Arlene Ghilardi

**Cali, Colombia:** April 4– April 18

Pray for:

- Co-pastors Juvenal Criollo and Celeny Galvez of Agape Mission Church
- Co-pastors Sergio, Nayibe and Maria Paula of Transforming The World Church

move in and through. But we must stay in His field. We must partake of what He has planted in that field. We must drink from His vessels- whatever is in those vessels. And if we do that, He surely will take notice of us, for He is a respecter of those who seek Him. A seeking heart will cause Him to take notice as opposed to an unseeking heart. In verse 11 Boaz says, "I have seen what you have done." Does not the Lord see all we do in our walk with Him? How we have left jobs, family and moved. Boaz pronounces a blessing in verse 12, "The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." You will be rewarded, Boaz says, because you have trusted the Lord to lead you. Jesus is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. Luke 10:35, "...when I come again, I will repay (reward) thee." Ruth sees that she

has found favor. He has spoken friendly to her or in other words has spoken to her heart. Does not the Lord speak to our hearts even though we don't feel that we deserve His speaking to us, yet He does? She felt that she did not deserve this kind of treatment when she said, "...though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens." Guess what? None of us deserve any special kind of treatment except for the grace and favor which is given us. And Boaz, like Jesus, sat at a mealtime and fed her with his own hand. He reached her parched corn or corn that was cooked to give the people strength to finish out the day. The Lord feeds us with His hand as we wait on Him and seek Him. His presence sits with us and we partake of Him. She was full and even has some leftover... "and was sufficed and left." (vs. 14) She even had some left over and gave some to Naomi." (vs. 18) "...and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed." When God feeds us, there is always some left over to feed other people. "And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes." Matthew 6:43.

Again these handfuls of purpose in verse 16 had been left for Ruth, for Boaz knew that the journey had been difficult. He did not want her to give up. God often does the exact same thing to get us through difficult times. Boaz even told the young men in verse 15 to let her glean among the sheaves. She had found grace and favor in his eyes. She stayed from morning 'till evening, gleaning. Quite a days work in the hot sun! Though to be with Boaz it was well worth it. And though things seem to get hot in our journey and things are difficult Jesus is well worth it. She comes home to her mother-in-law. Naomi says in verse 19, "Where hast thou gleaned to day and where wroughtest thou?" The word "day" means space of time. How have we spent this time that we are living in? Are we redeeming the day? The word wrought means occupy. How are we occupying the day? Are we in the Lord's field, receiving hunger and thirst and vision, or are we off doing our own thing? Are we receiving from the Lord to give to others? Ruth said in verse 19, "The man's name with whom I wrought today is Boaz." She occupied her day with Boaz. Do we occupy our day with Jesus? The literal meaning of Boaz is "In Him Is Strength." She knew her strength was in him. Is our strength in Jesus?

Naomi says in verse 20 that Boaz was a near kinsman, not the closest, but near. He was a redeemer, but would he play the part? Or would the other one who is closer marry Ruth and raise up children through her? Time would tell. But in the meantime, Naomi tells Ruth to do as he says, to stay in his field and to stay by his maidens. Could Boaz have been looking for faithfulness in Ruth's heart? Would she stray to another field, go after a young man or stick by his maidens? Boaz needed to see. Jesus needs to see in our heart if there is faithfulness to Him and if we will stay in the field that he has chosen for us.Ω

### *The CMF Clarion*

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Prayer requests, photographs, and announcements may be sent in no later than April 15th for the next edition, to: aghilardi@stny.rr.com

Blessings upon all who read.

***"I see a generation rising up to take their place with selfless faith, with selfless faith."  
(Hosanna: Burgie/Attaway)***

In my travels here and there I'm seeing the stirrings of the Holy Spirit among young people. There is a real movement of God in the lives of many who we have prayed would catch fire. Hunger to seek God and spend time in worship, making important decisions to leave behind the world and the momentary pleasures of sin, and a desire to gather together are all manifestations of the Lord on the rise! Hallelujah! I'm excited to witness the glory of the Lord upon them. Thank you for your prayer, encouragement and support for youth gatherings.

Arlene Ghilardi, apprehended by God 9/10/1971  
in the Jesus Movement in Toronto, Ontario, Canada