



SONS OF ISSACHAR EDITION!

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE HEARTS BURN WITH REVIVAL FIRES!

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The Greatest of These is Love, *by Lois Burgher*

As we begin this New Year I have been stirred with many thoughts of what to write and what is on His heart to share with you for 2005. I have waited on Him and three words have permeated in my spirit in the first three days of this New Year. This scripture I believe is the one that is speaking out clearly to me.

I Corinthians 13:12-13 (NIV)

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Yes, when we cannot understand the events and the calamities on this earth and when we see the sea come in and destroy that which we have known and take thousands of lives, as has occurred with the tsunami in southern Asia, our thoughts and prayers must go to what will always remain and that is **His love!**

His love takes us to the eternal perspective. We are spirits living in this flesh for a short time and what is lasting is only that which is eternal. And that which is eternal is His salvation, His adoption, and His love extended to us. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!

An observation I have made in my own experience and that of many around me is this: When calamity and adversity comes it is the flesh and the nature of the prince of this world to pull away from others and isolate oneself, to bring doubt, fear, and deception, and to turn to selfish thoughts hoping to preserve

oneself from the pain.

But, in the transformed nature of the born again Christian, our spirits filled with the Holy Spirit must take over. When He takes over we will love Him and declare His faithfulness, loving others, especially the helpless ones, care for the orphans and widows, and bring the joy of our salvation to a dying and miserable world, a world without hope.

This leads us to the other phrase that kept going through my mind the other night: *"Hope deferred makes the heart sick."* (Proverbs 3:12) We must know His nature and live in it. His nature always lives in and produces faith, hope, and love. *"Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD."* (Psalms 27:14)

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." (Hebrews 11:1,3)



Mother Teresa

And then the **greatest of all, and that is love.** Last night I had my thoughts go to the small book I have that was written about Mother Teresa. I thought that I would share some words she said concerning love. As I got onto my computer I had an e-mail forwarded to me from Iris Ministries and there in the e-mail was Heidi Baker quoting Mother Teresa's perspective on love, and their beginning an orphanage to care for the orphans in India! Praise the Lord for Heidi and Rolland and Iris Ministries!

Read these thoughts on love, and may we all be changed to see and be a part of His work in our dying world:

'Love has no meaning if it isn't shared. Love has to be put into action. You have to love without expectation, do something for love itself, not for what you may receive. Love in action is what gives us grace.'

'We have been created for greater things - to love and to be loved. Love is love -- to love a person without any conditions, without any expectations. Small things, done in great love, bring joy and peace. To love, it is necessary to give. To give, it is necessary to be free from selfishness. God has called me to simplicity, the simplicity of love. **I do not feel called to what many call greatness or success. My only call is to love more.** True love may cost everything. It may cause pain, and at the same moment bring joy.'

I ask Jesus for more courage to love without limit. God has called His Bride to be carriers of His love-glorify. To do this He leads us to deepen our life of sacrifice, prayer and abandoned love. To be true, love must empty itself of self....."

(Continued on page 4)

Remembrances Of Days Gone By, *by Rex Burgher*

As a young boy growing up in the 50's we didn't have much. But then as I think about it we really had all we needed. As a small boy of eight there wasn't much I was in need of that I didn't have, or maybe it was that there wasn't much I knew of that I needed so I didn't miss all that was out there for me. When I think back to those days there was only one type of jeans, and chocolate, vanilla or strawberry were really the only kinds of ice cream. Even salad dressing came in only a few styles: Thousand Island, Russian or Italian. I can remember that all the types of 'pop', if you live in the west, or 'soda' in the east, all fit into one machine and for fifteen cents you could have a soda and a candy bar.

I lived in a small world, our singlewide trailer was warm and there was always plenty to eat and plenty of games for us to play. I remember my mother had an uncanny ability to be able to cook all the food in one pan. First the meat and potatoes then after they were done the renderings would be made into gravy. Not exactly a South Beach Diet but if you didn't have potatoes there was always a big plate of bread, white of course, to pour your gravy over.

Funny, when I look back at those days I can't remember there being much color in them, almost like the black and white photos have taken all the color out of the days. Nevertheless it was a great time to be a child. The place we lived in by the creek was filled with the tallest of cottonwood trees. In the spring the cottonseeds would come out and soon afterwards the air would be filled with cotton floating through it, always getting in your nose as you rode your bike through the trailer court. In the fall the leaves would come down and my brother and I would make money by raking the leaves into huge piles that later would be carted away.

My father was in construction and worked very hard to provide for us, he and mom were good parents who loved us deeply, providing for our physical care but our church life was nonexistent. I never remembered going to church with them ex-



The little boy in the story

cept to funerals, so I never really had any experience with church or God. I remember each year we had to fill in a card at school and one of the questions they asked us is what our religious affiliations were and I would ask mom and she would mention that we were Lutherans. I wrote it down and didn't think much more of it. If anyone was a Christian around us I really didn't know it, so my life was pretty much void of any thought of where we were going to spend eternity.

Into this mix a neighbor lady a couple of trailers down from us came and asked my mother if she could take my brother and I to her church for Vacation Bible School. It was held during the evening with kids downstairs while upstairs the church would be hopping with revival meetings. My mother told me not too long ago when I was asking her about it all, that she couldn't find me one night when she came to get us. I had wandered into the meeting upstairs and there she found me just watching the people. Later I remembered it was a white clapboard Pentecostal church just off of 5th street in Rapid City, South Dakota and I do remember the place as being packed and very lively.

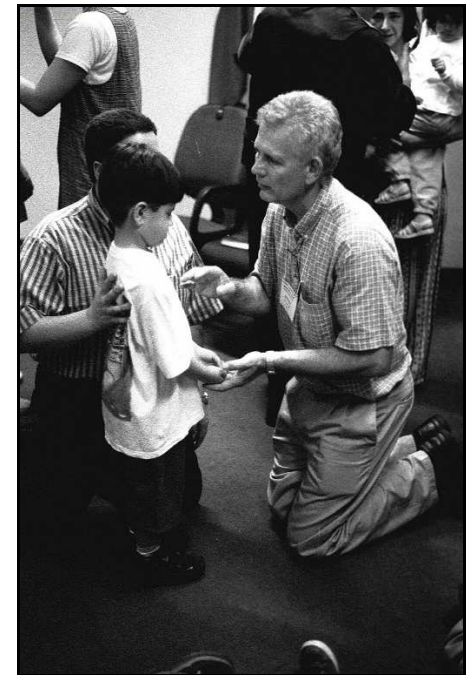
But it was downstairs that my brother and I spent our time for those three evenings during the summer of 1958. I don't know what my brother was doing as he was in another classroom but I do remember what happened because of those

meetings.

I remember myself lying upon my bed at night looking out the little trailer window above my head at the stars that shined so brightly. I must have been quite impacted by the stories of Jesus because I would look at each star and tell Jesus how much I loved him and how I thought that it was so wrong that he would die for us because he had done nothing wrong. I would cry myself to sleep telling him that I would gladly die in his place and that I loved him more than all the stars in the sky.

The passage of time placed that experience of my past somewhere in the recesses of my mind because there was no place for that tiny seed to grow. Time itself marched onward in my life and I had forgotten it had even happened by the time I became an adult with children of my own. In fact even after I had become a Christian it was not even in my memories though I remember going to a Vacation Bible School long, long ago. But God has a way of storing things for later.

It was in the summer of 1995 almost 37 years later that God would remind me of those nights



Rex praying for a young boy

Continued on page 3)

Cont: Remembrances, by Rex

Wild Order,

by Rex Burgher

lying awake crying out to him of my love and desire to die for him in his place. It was in the spring of 1995 and I was walking through the throngs of people lying all over the floor experiencing the love of God bringing healing, deliverance and fresh hugs from their heavenly Father. I was asking myself what did I do to deserve being used like I was to bring revival back to where we lived. The presence of God was so strong that night and His presence so powerful upon me that as I look upon those lying all around me my heart was overflowing with a supernatural love for all of them. I was just wondering why it was that the Father would bless me so by letting me be such an integral part of this move of God. I thought I would hear God say that it was because of my persistence in seeking him, or that my prayer life, Bible studying or something else grandiose that I had done was the reason but God didn't bring any of those things before me.

Suddenly without warning God opened before me an inner vision of a little boy laying in a bed crying out to God telling him how much he loved him, more than all the stars in the sky and how unfair it was that he died and that I would die for him if I could. Father God told me that it was because He was honoring the heart filled prayers of a little boy that I was used like I was that day. As the revelation of it all sunk into me I found myself sinking to the floor going back to being that little boy once again and loving God fresh and anew, crying tears of remembrance that I pray I will never forget.

Often we never realize that the seeds we are planting today will produce a sweet crop in the years to come, either in this life or possibly in the lives of our children. Maybe what we are experiencing today is because of seeds planted years ago and we are just now seeing the crop it has yielded. Either way, it is good that we all take time to reflect on the season of life we are in, and remember that if tears of love water the seeds the harvest will always produce a sweet crop.

THE END

We are all distressed about the tsunami that struck Asia a little over a week ago. No one likes to read about those who are suffering much less to see the pictures played daily over and over on our television screens reminding us of our own mortality. The reality of so many left without parents and spouses really touches us deeply. Never before has the world seen with such clarity and so quickly the extent of, nor has it ever mobilized itself so fast to come to the aid of so many.

I heard a Muslim man being interviewed on the television the other day and he said something quite interesting. He said, "It is hard to explain to people why God, who is supposed to love us would allow such a thing to happen." Even Christians are perplexed about statements like this. Why would God allow such tragedy to fall on innocent people? Even now the reports that 40% of those killed were children, only baffles us more. History points out that those who suffer the most during times of crisis are women and children. Authorities in Asia, which has one of the largest child prostitution populations in the world, are finding that those who traffic in such a horrendous crime are going through the ruins and taking young girls and boys to be used in their trades. In the midst of such suffering to see further exploitation of those already hurt is mind-boggling.

Two things come to my mind as these things unfold before us, they are as old as the Bible itself and constantly come back to the church time and time again. They are the reasons people give for disaster befalling on them. It comes from the Book of Job, which some historians tell us is the oldest of all the books within the Bible.

As many of us know, Job was a righteous man who had what many of us would call a 'modern day tribulation'. Suddenly and without warning the enemy, seemingly with God's approval, pummeled him till he was left almost all alone. His wealth was gone, his children dead, his own health miserable and his wife saying to him, "Why don't you just curse God and die."

During this time four of his friends came to console him, which they did for a time but after days of silence they could not hold themselves

back and came at Job with two very interesting propositions. The first is this: "*That the reason for your suffering is that you must have sin in your life*". The second is equally as naive: "*He knows the wickedness you will do later so God is doing this to you now so you will not suffer more later*".

So we have two dilemmas facing us, one is that we are suffering because we have un-repentant sin and the other is that God knows that we will end up being a very wicked person so he is punishing us now so that we won't do something really terrible later on in life.

That is really the backdrop behind all of the discussions that Job and his friends were having. Job was trying to justify himself and the others were hoping they could find something wrong with Job because if they could then they could somehow comfort themselves with the thought that what happened to Job could never happen to them.

God, on the other hand, had his own take on the whole situation and at the end of the book of Job, came out with His understanding and left everyone pretty much awestruck. In the first place God doesn't even try to answer any of their questions. He just lets them know that they couldn't understand it in the first place so why try and explain it. If you couldn't understand what holds the stars in their places and why the sea has a boundary then you really couldn't understand *why* it was happening to Job. God rebuked Job's friends because they were trying to justify themselves at Job's expense, as Job hadn't done anything wrong in the first place.

So the end of the matter is simply this: stuff happens in this crazy wild order we live in, and our only role is to love and help one another to its end. The thing Job learned was not to blame God for what happened and his friends learned that saying nothing, especially not justifying themselves at Job's expense, and just being with Job and loving him was all that they needed to do. The End

Letter From Heidi Baker

Cont: The Greatest...by Lois

Dear Friends, Below is an excerpt from a letter we received from Rolland and Heidi Baker about their plan to open up a orphanage in India. At the conclusion you will find where you can send money to help in this endeavor.

"After much prayer concerning the massive tsunami tragedy suffered by our brothers and sisters in South-east Asia, we announce with great joy the launching of Iris Ministries' first India base. Within the next two weeks, we will send out missionaries to establish a home near Madras for orphans who are tsunami victims in order to best funnel relief efforts to southern India. Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and limitless love to those who have had their lives and loved ones swept away in this unprecedented natural disaster. The purpose of this simple home is literally to love these children back to life and release them as part of the next army that will reach India for Jesus. As Mother Teresa said, "You love until there is pain, you love through the pain, until all that remains is love."

In 2000-2001, when Jesus called us to help feed Mozambique during some of the worst flooding in world history, we saw beautiful Jesus begin to break forth in the midst of darkness and despair with a glorious "flood" of revival. Now we are believing Jesus to do even greater works than these in India. Surely He is "shaking everything that can be shaken" in order to best call the lost into the Father's house,

bring in His bride from every tribe and tongue, and release His great end-time harvest. We are believing for a tidal wave of His glorious presence to sweep over those most affected by these recent events. We are trusting Jesus for an ocean of children to be rescued from India and beyond. Please believe with us for the glory of the Lord to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (Hab 2:14).

I pray your New Year is filled with the glorious promises of God. I pray you be taken to an even deeper place of love. As I have been praying and meditating on God's purposes for 2005, I feel Jesus taking us deeper inside His huge heart of love. My heart is drawn into abandoned, laid-down love. All within my life cries out for the plans and purposes of God to be birthed this year. I hear Jesus call us to find and take in the lost, orphaned and abandoned children. I hear Him say (Matthew 25) I am hungry, give me something to eat. I am thirsty, give me something to drink. I am a stranger, invite me in. I am in rags, clothe me. I am sick, look after me. I am in prison, visit me. Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me. Where there is love, there is always service.

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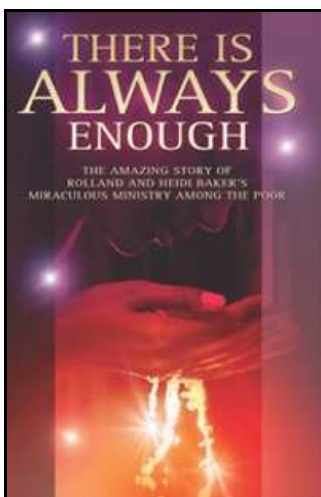
Heidi Baker
Support Address:
Iris Ministries, Inc.
P.O. 339
San Juan Capistrano, CA, 92693-0339 USA

I have heard many words the past few years and again specifically for this year of 2005, that the Lord wants to bring the church and individuals into greater revelation. As I have been praying I am convinced that the revelation is all about "Jesus", knowing Him, loving Him and obeying and walking in His ways. The definition of the word 'revelation' is: "the disclosing of knowledge to man by divine or supernatural agency". Jesus told us this in John 8:12, **"Again therefore Jesus spake unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life. As we follow Him, abide in Him, experience His love and give it away, and live by His word we will live in supernatural revelation knowledge and we shall have the light of life itself"**.

The Lord will accomplish that which He has destined and purposed for this earth and our call is to live and abide in Him all the more, seeing the events of prophesy unfold as He prepares His bride for His coming.

I pray that you will be filled to overflowing with His love, His peace and His light, and that you will be blessed with the fresh revelation knowledge of Him in this year of 2005.

Much Love In Him Who Is Love Itself, The End



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