

THE HIGH CALLING

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRANCIS ASBURY SOCIETY

*Ministering
in
Latin America*

faithfully proclaiming
God's message to all



This is how God showed
his *love* among us;
He sent his one and only
Son
into the **WORLD** that we
might live through *him*.

1 John 4:9

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- new titles in our bookstore
- postings on activities at FAS with places for you to comment
- messages you can listen to online
- how to find us on Facebook and Twitter
- watch our videos (including our latest video on the Ministry Center construction)
- an index of available CDs and DVDs
- Titus Women's Ministry
- how to support us financially
- devotionals
- High Calling magazine
- Spanish resources
- upcoming conferences and events

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THE HIGH CALLING – WINTER 2011

The High Calling is published by The Francis Asbury Society, Inc., Wilmore, Kentucky. It serves as a link between FAS and its constituents and builds loyalty and awareness of the Society so that the doctrine of Scriptural Holiness may be proclaimed throughout the world. The Francis Asbury's sole purpose is to promote the teaching and experience of Christian Holiness as it is revealed in the inerrant Holy Scriptures. To accomplish this purpose, it is committed to sponsoring itinerant ministry, conferences, publishing, and the education of Christian leaders. Your contributions fund the ministries of the Society including the publishing of this magazine. Cover image istockphoto.com



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Beginning at the End

by Ben Hughes



Thanks to an upperclass English seminar I took with Paul Vincent my final semester at Asbury University, I

have been indelibly marked by T. S. Eliot's poetry, particularly during the more reflective seasons of the year, such as Christmas and New Year. Echoing in my head I hear, "In my beginning is my end" and "In my end is my beginning," the opening and closing lines of "East Coker," my favorite of his *Four Quartets*.

It is fitting that this issue of the High Calling should reach your hands at both the end of one year and the beginning of another, and even more fitting that I should be writing my first introduction to the High Calling in this particular issue. For various reasons, this will be the final issue in the current format. We are moving to a smaller, more frequent, free publication (of which I have been entrusted with oversight) both to decrease the financial overhead of production and printing, and to welcome more subscriptions by offering them for free. The High Calling will nonetheless remain an important part of the ministry of FAS, just as publishing has been and will continue to be a vital priority in our mission as a whole.

Having said that, let me offer a few words on the current issue. Most of you are aware of the Latin American Ministries arm of FAS, coordinated by Jim Harriman. It is an understatement to say that in 2010, LAM has experienced a good year of ministry. The Latin Americans who have heard the message of holiness this year as a result of LAM number in the thousands. In both Central and South America, the gospel has gone forth in power, thanks to the beautiful feet of those obedient to God's call. In this issue you will read, in the words of several evangelists themselves, some truly inspiring stories of evangelism to the ends of the earth.

2010 also witnessed the end of the old "basement office" of FAS and the beginning of life in the new Ministry Center. And though I now write this from my own office with a breathtaking view, the beginning of my

journey with FAS will always be those six final weeks in the basement, sharing a desk with Paul (and cases of books). In its first month of operation, the building has already hosted two highly successful events, the 2010 Fall Renewal Conference and a Christmas Open House, which welcomed over 300 into the peaceful building that was designed, above all else, as a sacred space for sacred purposes.

At the same time, in the midst of new beginnings for many, the FAS family at large witnessed a painful end. LAM Director Jim Harriman's wife, Pam, passed away after a long struggle with the rare autoimmune disorder called *dermatomyositis*. We have included Jim's touching tribute to her.

Indeed, to agree with Eliot, human experience, especially for Christians, inevitably brings us to the intersection of beginning and end. The beginning of our life in Christ is both the end of one life and the beginning of another. So let us celebrate, in this season, our God and savior Jesus Christ, who is the "lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Let us celebrate the end of sin, and the beginning of new life. Let us celebrate a God who, in his death on the cross, forever made all things new. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



The World is Our Parish

by Jim Harriman

together we can be instruments of Christ to have
an impact that will count for all eternity

Imagine trudging through treacherous Georgian swamps and sleeping in forests in the bitter cold in Christ's service, yet without the assurance of salvation? This was John Wesley's experience before his heart was "strangely warmed" at Aldersgate on May 24, 1738. Once God had sent the Holy Spirit to meet the need of his heart, we find Wesley writing in his journal on June 11, 1739:

I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it . . . my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation. This is the work which I know God has called me to; and sure I am that His blessing attends it.

A missionary to both America and England, Wesley was a preacher to the core, and he viewed the entire world as his parish. "Where shall I preach?" he writes. "Why not in Europe, Asia, Africa, or America" (JW Journal, June 11, 1739).

In his own footsteps, Wesley sent Francis Asbury from England to this great land of ours. But unlike Wesley himself, Asbury stayed. His passion to preach the message of full salvation spurred him on. Traveling thousands of miles through the American colonies at a time when America was not a friendly place, Asbury proved that he too was a preacher to the core. With the full truth of Holy Scripture burning in his heart, he faithfully proclaimed God's message to all, from the greatest to the least, as the essential foundation for everyday life. It is this passion that best describes what the Francis Asbury Society is all about.

Approximately 13 years ago, FAS launched the Latin American Ministries (LAM) program. With such a vast need for solid biblical preaching and teaching in Central and South America, an account was opened from which donors could fund travel for evangelists into that part of the world. Since the inception of this ministry, FAS has sent bilingual and Spanish speaking preachers of the holiness message

into almost every country in South America. We have also entered Central America and hope to be in every country there by the end of 2012.

Along with sending evangelists, the burden FAS carries is to see sound theological literature translated into the Spanish language. Due to the translation efforts of Rachel Coleman and Dr. Leroy Lindsey (it has been my privilege to work with them), five books have now been translated into Spanish (including one by Zondervan). These books, authored by Dr. Harold Burgess, Dr. Dennis Kinlaw, and Dr. John Oswalt, can all be viewed on the FAS website, and more translations are forthcoming.

In order to do evangelism and Spanish publishing, we need your help. Mission organizations and churches south of us are asking FAS for evangelists to come alongside their pastors and minister to their congregations. They want good books on holiness and the deeper life, and while FAS is attempting to fill that void, evangelist travel and translation work require funding. Would you consider becoming a consistent contributor to the Latin American Ministries at FAS?

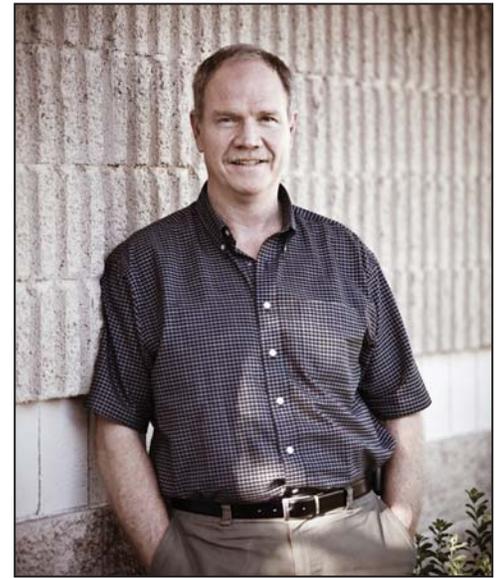
We cannot ignore our neighbors to the south. With an approximate population of over 568 million from Mexico to the tip of Argentina, the need is great. And while times have changed since those of Wesley or Asbury, they are *our* times. We do not travel in sail boats; we travel in airplanes. We may not cross swamps, but we cross the Gulf of Mexico and the Amazon Basin. We may not travel on horseback, but we carry the same message proclaimed by Wesley and Asbury. It is a message of salvation through Jesus Christ, one that asserts the deep workings of the Holy Spirit within the human heart. Together we can be a part of something that has an impact on the daily lives of men and women. But more than that, together we can be instruments of Christ to have an impact that will count for all eternity. The World is our parish!



Jim Harriman, Director of Latin American Ministries for FAS. In March 2011, FAS will be sending Jim to Medellin, Colombia along with Dr. Daniel Block to minister in the seminary there.



David Harriman — FAS has sent him to many countries in South and Central America including Panama in November.



Dr. Dan Spaite (emergency surgeon) — in September FAS sent him to Suriname, South America to hold a crusade. God wonderfully anointed his ministry in that small country!



Leroy and Kay Lindsey — FAS has sent the Lindseys to Paraguay, Costa Rica and Colombia. FAS will be sending them to Peru this coming year.



Daniel Duran (Pastor of an Evangelical Methodist Church, Mexico) — FAS has sent him various times to different countries in South America.



Luis Garcia (Honduran pastor with the World Gospel Church) — FAS has sent him twice to Paraguay.



Tom and Ellen Dunbar (retired missionaries with World Gospel Mission) — FAS sent Tom Dunbar and David Harriman to Cuba in the spring of 2010.

Cuba

the quiet revolution

by Tom Dunbar



Havana, Cuba

In April the Francis Asbury Society made it possible for Rev. David Harriman and I to travel to Cuba to minister to the Christians there. We found the Cuban Christians joyful and resilient, and ended up being ministered to by some of the finest of these.

The courteous reception at customs by airport officials and warm welcome by my hosts, Rev. and Mrs. Victor Gonzales (local pastors and Directors of the Methodist Seminary in Havana), shattered my previous expectation of a solemn, less than enthusiastic reception. Arriving on Easter weekend, I was treated to an immediate immersion into Cuban church culture—joyful and enthusiastic! On Easter Sunday afternoon, my hosts took me on a brief tour of down-town Havana. A beautiful city on the Atlantic Ocean, it sadly reflects years of declining care for the outstanding architecture and pride that once was Cuba. Noticeably absent are newer US cars—Cuban policy only allows US cars manufactured prior to 1958.

The primary ministry the Lord opened to me on this trip was the teaching of Scriptural Holiness. The first teaching opportunity came on the second day, when Pastor Victor asked me to teach a class to the members of the local church. While Rev. David Harriman kept busy with a heavy evangelistic preaching ministry, I was located for the rest of my stay at the Methodist Seminary in downtown Havana. A three-story seminary facility with classrooms, offices, dormitories and staff housing, this beautiful building houses the first Methodist church constructed in Cuba. It was here that I presented, for four intensive days, four classes a day on Scriptural Holiness to 39 second-year seminarians. All of these were full-time pastors who come from all over the Island for three, three-week sessions a year.

Immediately our hearts bonded. They listened attentively, even challenging me on various points, but were very receptive to truth. With access to books limited, and because it is essential that Christians know how to

discover truth directly from the Scriptures, I presented most of my material from Scripture. Evangel Publishing made available to me CD copies of the books *Dios Te Ofrece Su Gran Salvacion* by Wesley Duewel, and *Llamados a Ser Santos* by John Oswalt to distribute to each student. Early on, I recognized that their basic understanding of Holiness was one of progressive growth, and that their idea of heart cleansing was vague, that carnality has more to do with “doing” than with “being”. But they were open to all they could receive, and declared that they would be using these studies to present to their congregations.

Several believers also gave me personal testimonies. What marvelous grace! From an atheistic background to a fervent love of Christ; miracles of healing; deliverance from the predominant spiritism; from high positions in government to high positions in Christ. No complaining, only trust in their Lord and Savior.

Since the evangelical churches in Cuba are growing—the Methodist Church with a rate of more than 10% per year, and others following suit—and with the joy and resilience of these believers, it is almost like a quiet, but penetrating counter-revolution. As long as they maintain an apolitical stance they have complete freedom in worship. And what freedom! Both in worship style and in being able to evangelize, their hot Cuban blood takes advantage of that freedom. The prohibition to build new church buildings simply gives them the opportunity to use ingenuity in going to a “house church” mode. The Methodists have more than 280 churches throughout the Island, most of which are house churches.

Rev. David Harriman and I both received invitations to return, and we believe that there remains an open door for Francis Asbury Society to continue ministry in Cuba.

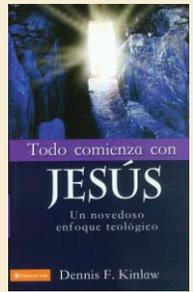
Havana, Cuba
April 2010



Recursos en Español

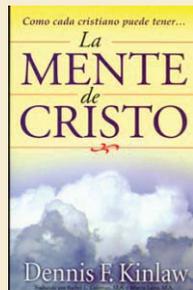
Todo Comienza con Jesus (Let's Start With Jesus) by Dennis Kinlaw

So often we begin the process of theological formulation not with the person of Jesus but rather with philosophical arguments about God's existence. How would our understanding be affected if we instead took Jesus as our starting point for theology?
\$9.99



La Mente de Cristo (The Mind of Christ) by Dennis Kinlaw

What causes people to spend their lives serving Jesus? Dr. Kinlaw believes the question is not *what*, but *who*. He further believes the answer is found in Scripture.
\$12.50



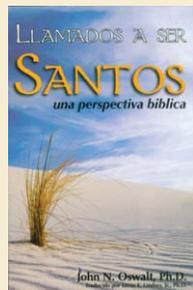
Predicando en el Espiritu (Preaching in the Spirit) by Dennis Kinlaw

A book for pastors and laymen alike who want to learn more about being the Christian God called him to be.
\$12.95



Llamados a Ser Santos (Called to Be Holy) by John Oswalt

How can anyone be holy? Is it possible to live a transformed life that pleases God? This book traces the doctrine of holiness through the Bible.
\$12.99



La Estructura de Nuestra Fe (The Framework of our Faith) by Harold Burgess

This book provides foundational truths that have sustained the church over the centuries as well as a short course in basic Christian beliefs.
\$9.95



God touches hearts in Northern Argentina

by Dr. Leroy Lindsey

Flying from Argentina to Mexico City, I thought over the past week, during which I had represented the Francis Asbury Society at a pastor and missionary retreat near Jujuy, Argentina. Having spoken nine times in six days, I was exhausted yet wonderfully blessed of the Lord.

The pastors and missionaries were very receptive to the Word in our series of messages from the Letter to the Colossians. The Lord had clearly broken down some barriers in hearts by Thursday, when many pastors and missionaries gathered at the altar. The message had been singularly blessed as I shared the Biblical teaching on the circumcision of the heart. Questions came as God's people struggled with their own doubts and as the Lord confirmed His message to His people that a clean heart is not only possible, it is essential.

Colossians came alive as we delved into the structure of Paul's logic and the rich word pictures he uses. The sequence in Paul's teaching in chapter 2, verses 9 through 15 made it very clear: one first believes and is pardoned, then can be blessed with the circumcision of

the heart in "the putting off of the sinful nature." "Grace and peace" also came to mean much more than a mere salutation!

One of the pastors shared with me that he had tried to preach and teach holiness for 12 years, but without being able to speak of his own heart-cleansing experience. He put his arm around me and said, "Now, brother, I have a date and a place, and the name of the American missionary brother who helped me see how clear the message is, and how possible the experience!" The trip was not without some glitches: my laptop computer started out fine, but then refused to cooperate. Thank the Lord for a substitute machine to use for the PowerPoint outlines! I was not exactly prepared for the cool weather, but I was loaned a sweater-vest, which I appreciated very much.

My week in Argentina—seeing the Lord unfold His Word to His people, helping pastors and missionaries to see that their mission is not in vain, encouraging them in their teaching of sanctification, seeing some enter into the experience, and helping them in their own daily walk in holiness—was well worth all the effort, preparation, and prayers of God's people.

Latin America responds

by David Harriman

Without question, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to the spiritual hurts and needs of all people. Today, Latin America is experiencing a spiritual awakening and an unusual response to the Gospel like never before. Hundreds of people are being saved and many churches are being planted monthly, regardless of organization or denomination. This is especially evident in Central America, where the percentage of evangelical Christians has become quite high. Another example is Cuba, where in spite of government restrictions, thousands of house churches have blossomed throughout the island. Even middle and upper class peoples are finding Christ.

With the increase of drug cartels, thievery, kidnappings, killings, marital infidelity, prostitution, sexual immorality and abuse of all kinds, society in Latin America remains in distress. Sin's entanglements continue to invade and destroy people's lives resulting in fear, anxiety, bitterness and moral corruption. But thanks to the help of the Francis Asbury Society, I, along with other evangelists have found endless opportunities to proclaim the Good News of hope, forgiveness and heart purity in several Latin American countries.

A few brief examples: we recently witnessed a man (separated from his wife) who went forward during an evangelistic service and found Christ; at the close of the crusade, his wife accompanied him and was also saved. There was a woman who left her bitterness and anger at the church altar and personally confronted and forgave the man who had raped her, resulting in his conversion. At another meeting, many pastors and church leaders sought the infilling of the Holy Spirit in order to live lives of purity and integrity. Hundreds of young people have also made commitments toward sexual purity in order to enter marriage with a clean conscience.

It is evident that Latin America is responding. There is a message to give and a life to be lived that will impact the Church and transform society in a powerful way. Isaiah the prophet said it succinctly: "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the things for which I sent it."

Proclaiming purity in Panama

by David Harriman

Panama is a melting pot of many races with great diversity and potential, making it the “Bridge of the World” and “Heart of the Universe” because of its strategic location and the Canal. According to Operation World, 19.3% of its population (over 3 million) is now evangelical Christian. The power of the Gospel continues to make its inroads into the hearts of Panamanians who are still lost and without Christ.

Charles Winters (a retired missionary) and I had the privilege of proclaiming the Good News in Panama City and the surrounding areas, speaking a total of 18 times to congregations, church leaders, youth and men.

God richly blessed His Word as people and church leaders sought spiritual renewal, heart purity, and a life style affecting marriage, the family and relationships at work and at school. Nine people sought Christ for the first time. A highlight service was the men’s meeting (singles and married) who made commitments toward purity and fidelity in a society where promiscuity and marital infidelity abounds—the 4th highest divorce rate in the world.

An added blessing was staying with two different families, and the opportunities that arose to interact, pray and counsel one to one in the churches.

Pray for Panama that God’s Spirit will continue to work in His church, and that lost society will continue to be attracted and drawn to Christ through the purity and lifestyle of His people.



Revival brings leaders and church members to their knees



The following article appeared in *The True Times*, Paramaribo, Suriname, South America edited by Jim Harriman

The Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ has started an awakening in the body of Christ in the Dutch speaking nation of Suriname, South America. Kneeling down with faces to the ground and praying fervently to God were symptoms of the beginning of a revival. Leaders from different denominations in Suriname have knelt together to ask God passionately for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. How they wanted a renewal first in their own hearts, so that they might influence the rest of their family, church, neighborhood and country. This took place during the Seminar of Christian Holiness that was given by David Harriman and Dan Spaite of the Francis Asbury Society, Wilmore, Kentucky.

The Suriname Wesleyan District hosted a crusade from September 5-12, 2010 in the capital city Paramaribo and in the town Moengo. From September 5-7, in the day services, Dr Spaite delivered Spirit-filled messages to the church leaders in Moengo. Pastor Martin Harderwijk of the Albina Wesleyan Church stated, "It was awesome to hear my father praying loudly in a crowd of people that came out to accept Christ in Moengo. Years ago my daddy became sick and went many times to the wicked doctor, but on that day he met the Doctor of all doctors. I slept in his room that night to give him advice on his walk with Christ. God is good to me. He has heard my prayer of many years."

According to Reverend Andre Pinas of the Moengo Wesleyan church, God has united His children in Moengo

to evangelize a lost city racked with crime and poverty. The church understood more than ever that holy living is the key to God's miracle in ministry.

Leaders in Paramaribo, the capital city, believe that the Holy Spirit will continue moving in their lives and city. "It is time for a change in the way of thinking in our churches. We must win people not for the church, but first for the Lord Jesus Christ," said Reverend Levi Iengibe, District Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church in Suriname. "I could not be in a better place than this Holy Ghost meeting," says Pastor Ingrid Nothan of the Moravian Church. "I am especially blessed by the way the brothers preached on holiness rather than on signs and wonders."

A group of young Wesleyans gathered together during break and said, "We need this kind of refreshment every year. Our hearts are burning inside." On Saturday night Rev. Harriman spoke to a crowd of young people on the subject "Purity Under Pressure". Many recommitted their life to Christ and pledged to live a clean life without sex before marriage.

On Sunday morning (Sept. 12) after preaching on forgiveness, everybody prayed for a pure heart that forgives. A lady went forward to pray for a new relationship with her husband. For months they had experienced marriage problems that had remained unsolved.

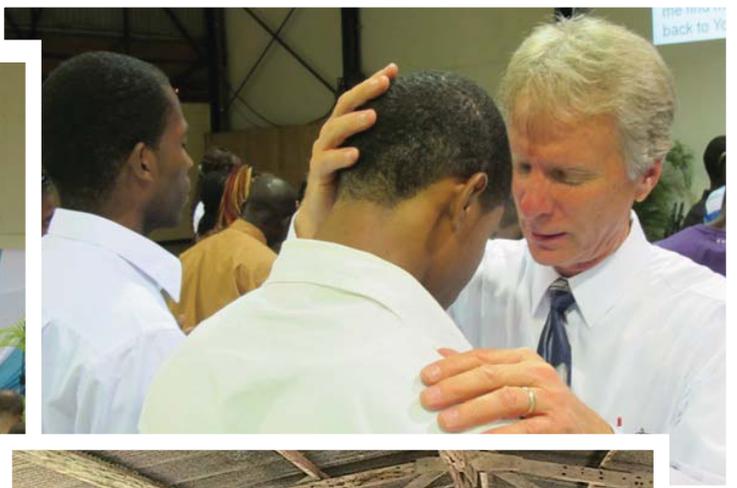
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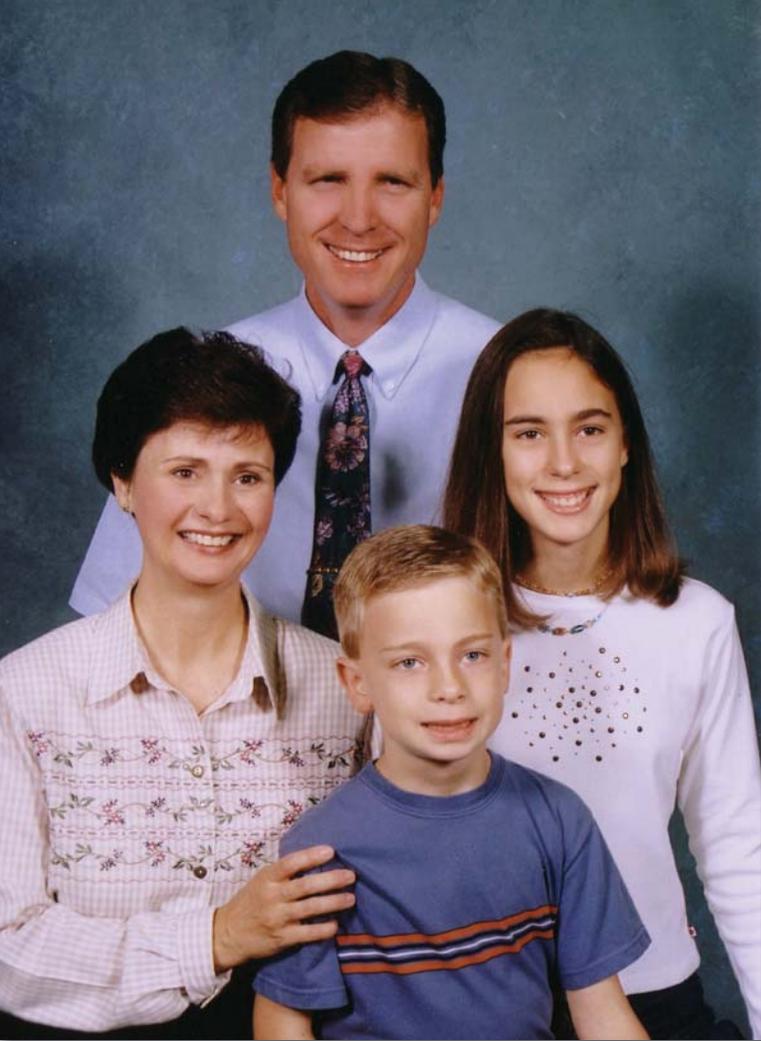
Br. Lloyd Djendje, member of TWC-Suriname

Reporter for 'De Ware Tijd', means 'The True Times'

Paramaribo, Suriname

South America





A Dedicated Life

tribute to Pam Harriman

by Jim Harriman and
Katie Ruegg (Jim's niece)

How does a husband write a tribute for a recently deceased and loving wife? It is something one never desires to do because the truth is, I would have loved to have grown old and wrinkled with my Pam. Unfortunately that was not to be. But when asked by the FAS leadership to write a tribute, I consented.

If you were at Pam's funeral on August 24th of this year, you would have heard my niece's eulogy of her. It was so inspiring. With Katie's permission, I have woven her words into this tribute to Pam.

Pam was born on March 29, 1958 in Phoenix, AZ to Rev. Gordon W. Johnson of Indianapolis, IN and the late Ruth E. (Frey) Johnson. She and her older sister, Cynthia (better known as Cindy), grew up in a godly pastor's home. As a result, Pam came to Christ at an early age. As a child, Pam was sweet, bubbly and full of energy. She had a creative mind and occupied her childhood days by playing with her older sister Cindy, helping her mother around the house, and participating in church activities. Pam was very compassionate by nature and especially empathetic to those "in trouble." One morning, her daddy asked her to pray during morning devotions and she said, "Dear God, please bless all the 'Tom Cats' and 'Dennis the Menace' too!" In her child's mind they needed help more than most.

As time passed Pam grew into a smart and beautiful young woman. Her father had taken the pastorate

of another church in California, and Pam became the quintessential "California Girl." She and Cindy spent many days at the beach, riding bikes and hiking in the neighboring San Gabriel Foothill Mountains. She made friends easily and was constantly surrounded by a group of her closest girlfriends.

The family moved to a new parish in Marshfield, Missouri, in the summer, when she was 16 years old. During her senior year of high school, Pam was crowned homecoming queen and graduated in the top 10 of her senior class even though she had *only* attended the school for one year. She was also crowned "Miss Marshfield" the same year during the county fair. The sweet girl from California was an instant star deep in the Missouri Ozarks, but she remained sweet and humble. It was there where she came into a closer relationship with the LORD, realizing that the world's ways were not God's ways. She dedicated her life in a fresh and new way, allowing the Holy Spirit to have full control of her life, her dreams, and her future.

Pam briefly attended Vennard College and Asbury College but chose to move with her parents to Tucson, Arizona. By this time Pam was deeply dedicated in her Christian walk and was an active participant in her father's new church, Noel Evangelical Methodist Church. Pam completed her college education at the University of Arizona and received a teacher's certificate in elementary

education. Teaching children was a passion of Pam's, and she thoroughly enjoyed teaching special education courses for 1st and 2nd grades.

About this time, I accepted an associate pastorate position at the same church in Tucson. Through this chain of events, I met the love of my life, Pamela Johnson. We were married December 30, 1987. A few years later we were given the gift of our firstborn daughter, Diana Marie. When Diana was an infant, Pam and I left for Paraguay, South America, where we served a term with World Gospel Mission. Although Pam missed her family back in the States, she remained true and offered continual support to me and our ministry. We returned to Tucson once our term was completed in 1994. Once again we were thrilled to receive a new member into our family, Isaac James.

We then moved to New Albany, Indiana during the summer of 1997 in order for me to begin my doctoral studies at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Pam did *everything* she could to assure my success in my studies. She earned the doctorate just as much as I did!

During this same time (Spring of 2004), Pam began experiencing weakness and her health steadily declined.

She was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease called *dermatomyositis*, which literally trapped her inside of her own body. Slowly, her skin and muscles began to harden and atrophy. We exhausted every treatment option during the past 6 ½ years in order to give Pam a chance for life.

After open-heart surgery to remove a benign tumor in the Fall of 2004, and with a turn for the worse we flew her med-evac to Mayo Clinic to try and save her life. God graciously intervened through medicine and specialized doctors. They were able to get her to walk again with a walker. She came home on New Year's Eve of that year, but continued to decline physically. The last time she walked was the Spring of 2005. Many hospital visits and emergency runs ensued. Pam had become paralyzed.

In the hopes of stopping her dreaded disease, and with the help of hundreds of people around the globe, funds were raised in order for Pam to receive an experimental procedure, a stem cell transplant. This procedure was performed at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, in the fall of 2008. It halted her disease, but it was late in coming. So much damage had already been inflicted on her body. Although we began to see positive effects of the transplant, her weakened state left her vulnerable to pneumonia and cancer. Finally this past

summer she was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. By August, she got pneumonia and passed away in our home at 1:50 pm, August 24, 2010.

Pam's journey took her from health and innocence to unbelievable suffering and now... new life. This last year Pam lived an extraordinary life "*on the edge*", somewhere between near death and life. Allow me to share my niece's unedited words:

The great thing about edges is the vantage point they provide. On the edge we can see both the past and the present together; history is made visible. This experience of living at the edge is not as unusual as you may think. We have all experienced it. Perhaps you have sat with

someone who was near death; or maybe you have witnessed a birth and you have felt that sense of awe; and the astonishing sense of well-being. Maybe you have had it in those ordinary moments when hearing the laughter of a child or watching a thunderstorm roll in. Suddenly, nothing else matters and you feel the presence of the Lord.

I shared this journey of living on the edge with Aunt Pam on Tuesday, the day of her death. I found myself drawn into her inner radiance, into a place where pain and fear gave way before a

lucid awareness of the nearness of life's source, *God*. I watched her spirit soar. I felt her freedom as she glimpsed something beyond the edge.

Some of us go willingly to the edge on our life's journey, some of us are driven to it, some of us find ourselves there by grace. But all of us get there at some time in our lives. When we do, may we open ourselves to the wonder, may we surrender to the mystery that passes understanding, may we find ourselves at the threshold of this eternal life, and know God is good.*

Pam is free today. She is healed. She suffers no more. She was my soul mate for 22 ½ years. My life has been forever touched and changed by a woman who loved me and our children and God unconditionally. Pam's final words to the funeral congregation were these, found on the inside front cover of her Bible:

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But, the world may be different because I was important in the lives of two little children named Diana and Isaac and in the life of one man named Jim.

*Reference- Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life, Philip Simmons



Jim, Pam, Diana and Isaac Harriman



Who is JESUS?

the most important question demands a personal answer

by Mark Royster

Throughout the Bible there are decisive moments of personal encounter, some obviously miraculous, others more ordinary. Sometimes God is speaking, sometimes angels, sometimes it is man to man. But in a brief exchange of words suddenly everything changes, not only for the people involved at the time, but for all of human history.

Think of the Annunciation. The Archangel appears to Mary saying, “Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” Luke reports, “Mary was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.” (No doubt one of the greatest understatements in Scripture!) Gabriel says, “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.” He presents it as if it is a done deal, but he speaks in the future tense. It hasn’t happened yet, and it won’t happen against her will. Mary says, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the Kingdom of God invades enemy territory. It’s D-day!

Or think of John chapter 6. The crowds have seen Jesus’ miraculous power and are ready to make Him king. Then Jesus says, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” Not surprisingly the adoring crowd evaporates. Even the disciples say, “Lord, this is hard teaching.” Jesus looks at them. “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answers, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

A third watershed moment familiar to us all is Mark chapter 8. Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do men say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others one of the prophets.” “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answers him, “You are the Christ.”

There is something about each of these encounters that draws you in personally. You sense that somehow you are part of the conversation too.

Matthew 11:2-11 may be the most poignant encounter of all. “When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to

him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’”

We have all asked it at one point or another. Some of us may be asking it right now. “Who is Jesus?” “Is He the one?” There is no more important question. And how we answer it is already determining every aspect of our lives. But it usually takes a crisis of some kind to bring this question explicitly to the surface. And John was in a crisis. Like a good prophet, he had spoken truth to power, and power had spoken back. He was in prison. Herod’s prison.

I doubt this took John by surprise. He knew Israel’s history, and as a prophet his career was pretty much on track. With few exceptions, prophets are imprisoned and prophets die. It’s part of the job description.

But John’s work had been a little different. He had been sent to proclaim repentance, of course. But he had also been sent to prepare the way for Jesus. And unlike the others who foretold the Messiah’s coming, the fulfillment of John’s prophecy was not to be in some distant future, but during his own lifetime.

Have you noticed that it is easier to have faith in things that can’t be proven until after we die? I think that’s why it is easier for people to have faith in Jesus as savior than as Lord. Savior is for Heaven. Lord is for here and now. Why not accept Christ and say the prayer? ... Just in case. If it turns out to be a fairy tale, no harm done, especially if you don’t tell anyone. But surrendering control of my life and my lifestyle to Jesus? Putting Him in charge of the only life I’ve got?!

John is wrestling with the here and now Jesus, not the pie in the sky Jesus. “Are you the one who is to come?” If not, then there are basically two options: 1) There is another one coming, or 2) There is no one coming. And it is all a big hoax. Either way John has been misguided and misled. And he’s in jail, not very likely to get out.

I don’t think we can over-dramatize what is going on in John’s mind and heart. Think about it: In Herod’s prison how much access would he have had to the outside world? How many visitors do you think he was allowed? Yet, somehow his disciples managed to come to see him. It

was the equivalent of his one phone call. Imagine how the conversation might have gone: *John, is there anything we can do for you? Is there anyone who can pull some strings? We might be able to bribe the guards to get back in next week. What do you need?* John says: “I need to know! Go find Jesus and ask him: Are you the one?”

Victor Frankl survived the Nazi concentration camps to become a pioneering psychotherapist and author of the book, *Man’s Search for Meaning*. In prison he observed that it wasn’t the strongest who survived, but those who had something that gave meaning to their tortured existence. John’s heart was crying out for meaning in a hopeless and absurd situation. If Jesus is not the Messiah, then he was not only wrong about Jesus, he was wrong about himself, and his whole life had been one tragic mistake.

And the same is true for us. What if Jesus is not the Messiah, Savior and Lord? What if He is not the eternal Son of the Father, who took on flesh, who came and died and rose and ascended, who will come again in glory, whose Kingdom will never end? If this is not Jesus, then there are two options: We wait for another, or face the fact that there may never be another.

One of the more memorable lines from the last presidential campaign was the slogan: “We are the ones we have been waiting for.” Can you imagine a more terrifying thought? No matter which political party, if we are the ones we have been waiting for, we are in a world of trouble. Does anyone still believe the human race can solve its problems? There may have been a time when that notion was plausible, but the last 100 years have made it a leap of faith beyond the range of sanity.

What if Jesus had said, “John, *you* are the one you’ve been waiting for. Believe in yourself, look within. Be the change you have been preaching?” The only bright side to all the turmoil we see around us today is that it exposes the absolute absurdity of every self-help salvation plan or offer.

Jesus says, “Go and tell John what you have seen.” Why do you suppose He didn’t just say, “Yes, I am the one”? Wouldn’t that have been a lot clearer? Why all this about blind seeing and deaf hearing and lame walking?

I can see several advantages to Jesus’ answer. The first is very sweet to me. Jesus says: “*You* go and tell John what you hear and see.” He’s talking to men who love John,

who have followed him, spent years with him. These were his disciples, no doubt as dear to John as Jesus’ disciples were to him. Jesus says, “*You guys* go back and tell John the stories, tell him about the miracles, tell him the testimonies, repeat to him my sermons and parables. “*Minister to John* with these things.”

Isn’t that a whole lot better than “Yep, he said he was the Messiah”? Straight theological affirmations have their place. But we were made for stories and for testimonies, told and retold by loving friends. And when the chips are down they are what sustain us. What a lesson in pastoral care!

But it’s more than that. Every one of those things that Jesus mentioned—the blind seeing, lame walking, the poor hearing the good news—run throughout the Old Testament prophets and the Psalms; see particularly Isaiah 35 and Psalm 146. By reciting those phrases Jesus is taking

John back to his roots and his identity. What an affirmation of John’s calling at a time when he seems to be doubting everything, including himself! Jesus says, “Look! I’m doing the things all the prophets talked about. Don’t you see the pattern? It all fits. We are in this together, John—you and me. And together we stand in the line

of David and Isaiah and Jeremiah and Elijah.”

When you know you’re in synch with Jesus you can take almost anything!

But you know this conversation wasn’t just for John. It *was* for him, and contrary to some of the commentators, I believe it really happened. But it was also for John’s disciples, and for those who were listening in at the time, and for those who remembered it and retold it, and for those who wrote it down, and for us right here today.

Jesus is reminding *all* of us what it looks like when God comes. He is showing us both the hallmarks of the Kingdom and the heart of the King.

Sometimes when we think of Christ’s coming Kingdom we relish scenarios of judgment, and especially the thought of scores being settled. Maybe John was indulging in a little of this himself. It is an occupational hazard for prophets when they get discouraged.

Remember Jonah pouting when the Assyrians repented and God forgives them! God says, “Why are you

We were made for stories and for testimonies, told and retold by loving friends. And when the chips are down they are what sustain us. What a lesson in pastoral care!

.....continued on page 21

2010 Fall Renewal conference recap

by Ben Hughes



From November 16-18, the staff and volunteers of the Francis Asbury Society welcomed over 60 registrants to the 2010 Fall Renewal Conference, the first event to ever be hosted at the new Francis Asbury Society Ministry Center. At the close of Tuesday night's opening session, one conference attendee remarked, "This stuff is steak." Indeed, for 36 hours, attendees, staff, and onlookers alike were treated to a spiritual feast of teaching, all centered around the Conference theme, "To Know the Love of Christ."

Dr. John Oswalt opened the Conference on Tuesday with a lecture on the Old Testament description of God's love, the exclusively Biblical term *hesed*. In a methodical yet enthusiastic presentation, he developed an understanding of *hesed* (usually translated "steadfast love") beyond the typical English translations. From the etymology of the word to its implications in the character and nature of Yahweh, Dr. Oswalt unpacked a deeper and richer understanding of the centrality of love to the God of the Old Testament, a sharp departure from the widely held belief that the God of the Old Testament is primarily a God of wrath. He concluded by pointing to Psalm 63:3, where the Psalmist exclaims, "Your *hesed* is better than life!" Given the depth of the idea of *hesed* presented, it would be hard to disagree with the psalmist after Dr. Oswalt's lecture.

Wednesday morning, after a continental breakfast in the basement meeting room of the Ministry Center, Dr. Joe Dongell began his first of a four-session series entitled *Embracing "The Main Thing"*. In his first lecture he showed how, at a time when Jewish leaders had identified 613 individual commands and prohibitions in the Law of Moses, Jesus came and put all 613 in perspective with his proclamation of the two "weightiest" matters of the law, namely love of God and love of neighbor. Following from this, his next three lectures expounded on the defects of human love in light of the demands of divine love, the fundamental divide between the two, and how the love of Christ alone, when it at last comes to dwell in the human heart, becomes the source and supply of otherwise impossible love. At the culmination of the series he pointed

to Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the first three chapters of which are dominated by a single prayer, "To know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge." This alone can enable us to fulfill Christ's commands, and to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

Wednesday evening, Dr. Ron Smith led an old fashioned "Love Feast" service of holy communion.

Dr. Kinlaw delivered the final teaching on Thursday morning. His thoughts centered around intimacy with God and the original intent of His relationship with man—begun in Adam and fulfilled in Christ—that we should relate with Him in the kind of loving relationship contained within the Holy Trinity. To close out the Conference, Ron Smith called for a time of silence and listening for the voice of God, which lasted several minutes.

In addition to the solid biblical teaching on the vast subject of the love of God, time was allotted after each session for small group reflection and prayer. Mark Royster, who planned and coordinated the Conference, worked this into the schedule, and each registrant was assigned to a group for the duration of the Conference. During the moments immediately following each session, the groups dispersed from the basement throughout the many small gathering spaces (staff offices, the third floor prayer room and study areas, etc.) in the new building. Feedback on the small group time was generally positive, as the weight and penetrating depth of the teachings certainly warranted a reflective response.

The FAS staff was also pleased with the turnout of attendees (registration had to be closed three weeks prior to the Conference) and adequacy of the Ministry Center for the first of what will certainly be countless ministry events. They look forward to hosting many more retreats, conferences, and the like, and feel tremendously blessed with a facility equipped for such sacred purposes. Their prayer is that God would continue to use the space to touch those who enter with the very presence of Him who alone is God, who Himself is love.





The
Making
of a
Disciple

Discipleship Summit
April 14 - 16, 2011

Titus Women, a ministry of The Francis Asbury Society, invites you to come for renewal, inspiration, and participation on having a holy heart and being a disciple of Jesus Christ. (Luke 14:27 NLT)

Speakers: Jodi Jansen, Beth Coppedge, Linda Boyette,
and Stephanie Hogan



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register online at www.tituswomensministry.org

Far-reaching Ripples of the Lydia Prayer Ministry

by Stephanie Hogan

“We’ll just never know how far-reaching the Lydia Prayer Ministry is,” Patsy Lewis said to me as we sat across from each other at my kitchen table. Patsy had followed God’s leading to come to New Jersey to lead a Lydia Prayer Retreat the first weekend in December. He had given her a fresh burden for this state months ago, even though she lives in Oklahoma. We were rejoicing in all that God did at this retreat and at another Lydia Prayer Conference held in November in Port Huron, Michigan, with Beth Coppedge teaching. In both meetings, God moved in with His transforming presence, and we marveled at what He did.

At the Millville, New Jersey Lydia Prayer Retreat, thirty women from South Jersey and Pennsylvania gathered in a small, quaint United Methodist church, and God met us there! Patsy was leading us through our Lydia Prayer Guide beginning with praying for personal revival. As she guided us, God’s presence was very real. He was working so sweetly in all of our hearts that we could not continue in our planned prayer agenda. A comfortable silence surrounded us as each lady seemed quite aware that God was speaking individually to her heart; He was working in each one of us. Tears began to flow, and the cries that accompanied them were audible. God was exposing ways in which we had been bound by the enemy, false thinking, our past, unhealthy relationships, inaccurate beliefs about God, and demeaning views of ourselves. He was healing hurts that have controlled many of us for years. I am not sure all of what God was doing in the hearts and lives of women, but it was obvious He was doing a major work. Personal revival had truly begun.

On a previous Saturday morning in November, 165 women gathered at a large, contemporary Missionary church in Port Huron, Michigan, and God was there as Beth Coppedge led us! Through the teaching of His Word, He came as women filled the altar longing to know Jesus personally enjoying a daily face-to-face, nose-to-nose relationship with Him. God did a deep work as women met together in small groups to pray. Out of that prayer time, several women who had been estranged were reconciled. Jesus transformed women and relationships!

So what is the Lydia Prayer Ministry, and what are

Lydia Prayer Groups? It is women who are willing to meet together in prayer to seek God for revival for themselves, their families, churches, community, the nation, and the world. In Acts 16, we read how the Holy Spirit led the great Apostle Paul and his men to a little group of women



Worship Time at Port Huron, Michigan

meeting at the riverside for prayer. One of the women was a businesswoman named Lydia. She was a worshipper of God and was seeking Him. God opened up her heart to respond to Paul’s message of the Good News of Jesus. Her response led her entire family to also follow Jesus, and they were baptized. Lydia then opened her home to Paul, and the first fellowship of Christian believers in Europe met in her house. “God used a woman’s prayer meeting to change the course of human history once. I believe God wants to do it again!” Beth Coppedge challenged at the Lydia Prayer Conference in Michigan.

Lydia Prayer Groups use Acts 1:8 for our model for prayer. Jesus promised His disciples, including you and me, that they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit and be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. As Lydia Prayer Groups meet together for prayer, we start by asking Jesus to begin a revival in me, to do a new work in me, to cleanse me from sin and to give

me a hunger for God and the things of God. Then we pray for revival in our Jerusalem (our homes and families), Judea (our churches and communities), Samaria (our nation), and the ends of the earth. Jeannine Brabon, a missionary to Colombia, defines revival so clearly: “Revival is when we come to the realization that Jesus Himself is the only One who is able to meet the deepest needs of our lives, and we stop looking elsewhere.”

Lydia Prayer Groups are meeting in almost every state across the country and in other nations of the world. Each is unique in how God has brought the groups together. Some groups consist of only two women. Stay-at-home moms may pray over the phone. Businesswomen meet for breakfast and pray. There are teen and children’s Lydia Prayer Groups. Latina groups are praying in Spanish, and women in various nations pray in their language. Some men have joined in prayer such as Dot and Sherman Reed from Tennessee. Dot says:

I’m at a loss to tell you all that our Lydia Prayer Group has meant to me during the past year. We began our Lydia Prayer Group nearly two years ago, praying around our kitchen table. Since then Sherman and I have rearranged our schedule so as to be back home on Thursdays when it’s at all possible. While we ladies meet to pray, several of our husbands meet in another room. On more than one occasion, one of the fellows has stopped their praying saying, “Listen to that! That’s the sound of our wives praying. Isn’t that the sweetest sound you’ve ever heard?” On several occasions some of our ladies say things, in reference to our Lydia Prayer Group, like: “It’s a highlight of my week! I wouldn’t miss it for the world. We’ve formed a bond of sisterhood.”

Recently God has raised up Little Lydia Prayer Groups. A grandmother, Sharon Belcher, from Ohio, got an idea to start a Lydia Prayer Group with children. She brings them to her home for a Prayer Tea. They pray, sing songs, memorize Bible verses, and then have a little tea party and play games. One children’s pastor in Texas started Daniel Prayer Groups for little boys. Some Lydia Groups in the United States have partnered with a group in another

country and have become sister Lydia Prayer Groups. They share requests and pray for the partner group’s families, churches, and country. That type of prayer is the way to revival! These are just a few examples of the ways God has been at work through the Lydia Prayer Ministry.



Small Group Time at Port Hurton, Michigan



Titus Book Table at Port Huron, Michigan

Is God leading you to start a Lydia Prayer Group? If you are already meeting in a prayer group, is He leading your group to start praying regularly for a specific country and for the world? Imagine how God might lead your group to partner with Latin American Ministries and pray for the evangelists as they go out to speak. Or maybe God will lead your group to intercede for a nation mentioned in this issue of the High Calling: Cuba, Panama, Suriname or Argentina. Who knows how God will lead you?

What Patsy Lewis, Lydia Prayer Coordinator, said is true. We will never know all of the ways God has and will use the Lydia Prayer Ministry. We won’t know this side of eternity all of the ripple effects of answered prayer. But what I do know is that God is looking for men, women, teens, and children who are willing to enter into a life of prayer that the **world** might know the transforming presence of the living Lord Jesus. How is God asking you to enter into His heart

through prayer?

For more information about Lydia Prayer Groups, please contact Stephanie Hogan at Stephanie@tituswomensministry.org or our office at 859-858-4222 or visit our website at www.tituswomensministry.org and click Lydia Prayer.

Please join us at the next Lydia Prayer Retreat February 4-5,

2011 at Lebanon First Church of the Nazarene, 812 North Cumberland, Lebanon TN 37087, 615-444-6585. Please contact us at office@tituswomensministry.org or 859-858-4222 for more information and to register for this free retreat.

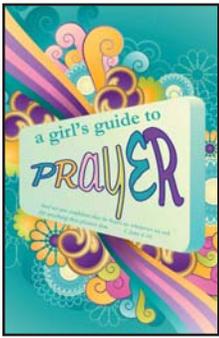


Lydia Prayer Retreat, Millville, New Jersey (Karen Sooy, Sandy Hogan, Stephanie Hogan, Patsy Lewis, Gwen Govia)

“When God wants to change human history, He begins with an intercessor.”

Dr. Dennis Kinlaw

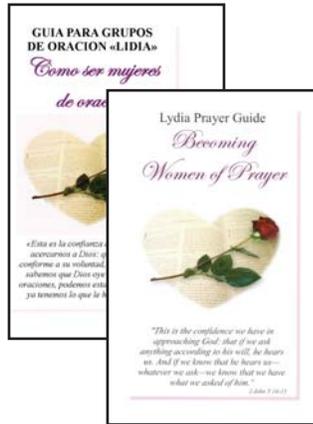
Lydia Prayer Resources



A Girl's Guide to Prayer by Susannah Chalkley

This full-color, vibrant 47 page book is an excellent resource to encourage girls to begin or deepen their prayer life. Written for girls ages 8-12, it is applicable for girls of all ages with engaging stories and discussion questions as well as journaling pages. It's a great tool for daily quiet times and small group discussions on prayer

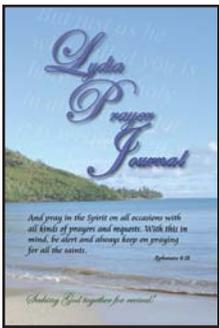
\$5.99



Lydia Prayer Guides

Designed to encourage and direct individual prayer group members as they strive to become women of prayer, sharing the joy of knowing Jesus personally and the excitement of living daily in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Also available in Spanish.

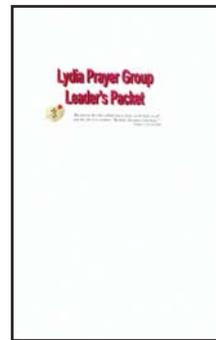
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Lydia Prayer Journal

This 224 page hardback, spiral bound journal includes wonderful instruction, inspiration and prayer tools. Each month has a scripture and world prayer focus, and the bottom of each page is lined with scripture and prayer quotes.

\$17.95



Lydia Leader's Packet

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Who Is JESUS?

continued from page 13

pouting, Jonah?" Jonah says, "I knew you would do this. That's why I didn't want to preach to them in the first place. I knew you wouldn't give them what they deserve!"

Jesus says, "Tell John about my mercy, and remind him not to be offended by it."

How do you feel about God's mercy? Is it hard to imagine Him forgiving those who have done you wrong?

For any number of reasons some of us may be asking: "Are you the one, Jesus, or should I wait for another? Are you the one, Jesus, or are we basically on our own?" I could say, "Of course, Jesus is the one. How could you ever doubt it?"

Or, I could tell you the story of a blind man He is helping to see, a lame man He is teaching to walk, a defiled

man He is cleansing, a poor, prideful, fearful man learning to trust the good news. My story. But not mine alone. It is what God does when we see our need and let Him in.

What an encounter! John asks a prophet's question, and Jesus gives a Kingdom answer: "Tell him what I have done with broken lives."

John's question still hangs heavy in the air. "Is Jesus the one, or do we look for another?" Until He comes again the answer remains the same:

"Tell the stories, tell *your* stories. Let me fill you with *my* love, and make you living proof."



The Perfect Touch for the FAS Open House

by Vicki New

As I left the office thoughts kept running through my head as I visualized my checklist for the FAS Open House which was scheduled for Saturday, December 4th. Mentally I checked off the things completed and worried over the things yet to be done. It had been an extremely busy week as our team worked out all the final plans for our big day. We tried to cover every detail—ads in the Jessamine Journal newspaper, Chamber of Commerce newsletter, church bulletins, a roadside banner, posters and fliers for local businesses, an email announcement to all our FAS family, CDs on prayer to give to our guests—and the list went on and on.

The Ministry Center was decorated beautifully thanks to Annette Diddle and Renae Thompson. A nine foot Christmas tree stood center stage in the front foyer adorned with beautiful purple decorations and gold snowflakes. Two seven foot trees stood in each corner of the board room and another nine foot tree was downstairs in the large conference room. Fresh greenery, pine cones, and berries with twinkling lights decorated the tops of all the beautiful oak bookcases in the hallways. The candles only needed to be lit; everything else looked perfect.

The keyboard and music stand were in place on the landing above the board room for Dan and Renita Koehn to play and sing carols. Krista Padgett was bringing her harp. I could hardly wait to hear the live music.

Downstairs in the conference room, black tablecloths covered the tables with white poinsettias for centerpieces. The serving tables were ready with glass and silver serving dishes. All the staff members were bringing homemade cookies as well as Marilyn Swaim, our caterer, who was bringing plenty of treats to adorn the trays. With a forecast of frigid weather, we planned for hot drinks of coffee, tea and cider. Ben Hughes put together a slide show from all the pictures we had taken during the construction of the building. It was to play from the projector while people were enjoying the refreshments, Christmas music playing softly in the background.

We had cleaned the building from top to bottom, straightened our offices, and were ready for the big day. Jennie Lovell made name tags for the staff to wear and put signs on

each desk so our guests would know whose office they were touring.

Saturday morning as I got up, eagerly anticipating the Open House, I looked outside with mixed emotions. I stood in awe as I gazed at the beautiful snow covered lawn and woods behind my house, though slightly discouraged at the possibility that all the hard work for the special event would be in vain. I was unsure if people would want to get out in such inclement weather. I went ahead and got ready, trying to find something festive to wear. After thawing out my snow-covered vehicle, I headed to FAS. “Well,” I thought, “if no one comes we’re going to have a lot of fun eating cookies for the next few weeks.”

But the Lord had plans for the day, and His beautiful blanket of snow was the perfect final touch for our holiday festivities. Over 300 guests came to gaze in admiration at the beautiful Ministry Center, and many commented on the calm, peaceful feeling as they entered the doorway. What a joy to meet so many of our friends and share this magnificent place we are so blessed to work in, to put faces to the names of people we talk with on the phone, to say thank you to so many of you who faithfully support us both financially and prayerfully!

It has been our prayer from day one of construction that this building be a place where people sense the presence of the Lord immediately upon entering. It is not just a building, but a sacred place—not ours but His. Charles Howell, longtime friend of FAS and general contractor of the building, has said,

When man raises his thoughts and offers his talents to God, what he creates often transcends the commonplace, and can even inspire awe. Buildings are like us. When they reflect the character and the true intention of their creator, they can, in some measure, “shape” all who enter, even as we, reflecting that same intention, can impact those we work with and walk beside. At the moment man recognizes he was created for a sacred purpose, his own purposes become sacred.

Even though the Open House is behind us, our door is always open. Please stop by to visit, and share with us the abundant blessings of what the Lord is doing through the many ministries at the Francis Asbury Society. Keep us in your prayers. We thank you and wish you a wonderful and blessed holiday season.



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"...Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

The staff of The Francis Asbury Society wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!