



SPIRIT BREEZE

WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES Newsletter

Summer 2020

Where Do I See God At Work?

It has been said, and rightly so, “There is only one thing in this world you can count on, and that is change” (my paraphrase). The entire world has experienced unrelenting change during the last few months. These changes have been disconcerting, disorienting and can fill people with uncertainty and fear.

This newsletter is about seeing God at work in the middle of so much change and uncertainty. We, as God’s people, are aware that He is unchanging (constant), Sovereign and in complete control even when everything around us seems to be in chaos. Those who do not know God have no constant to rely on. It is hard for me to remember what it was like before I knew Jesus and lived, “...without hope and without God in the world.” (Eph 2:12).

I have to remind myself that I cannot understand the fear and confusion that those without Christ are experiencing, because my life is so dramatically different than it was before my salvation. So I see God at work in me during these unprecedented times. I feel the uncertainty others are feeling, but my hope is not in the circumstances of this life, my hope is in Jesus. God is working in me to make me more flexible, because without flexibility, how can we handle change? He’s making me more flexible in how I think about and act toward those who do not have a relationship with Him.

God is at work revealing His Sovereignty to the world, whether the world recognizes it or not. How still we have had to be! God tells us, “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10). The world is normally in a frenzy to do more, be more, have more and now we must be still. People are being faced with the fact that humans do not control everything! And that brings up the question: “If we aren’t in control, who or what is?” God is Sovereign. He will be exalted among the nations and in the earth.

My prayer is that God open our spiritual eyes that we may see the truth and be set free!

Wind of the Spirit Ministries

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Let us know how you have seen God at work during this pandemic. You may

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HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW
AND I KNOW HE WATCHES ME
by Larry Eddings

SCRIPTURE: “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy the both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.” Or, “without your Father knowing about it.” [Matthew 10:28, 29]

Jesus often used the things of nature to reveal the heart of God, even in those times when he was also revealing what was in the heart of man. Sometimes those illustrations that he used then, happen to us now, and we see and experience first-hand what he was talking about. We’re living in difficult times for the human family. It is often then that God reveals himself. It happened to me on Saturday, June 6.

Returning from my mid-morning walk on Clear Creek Trail, near where I live, I decided to water the various plants on my patio before going inside. As I went around to my patio, I noticed that my birdhouse had fallen to the concrete slab. As I went to pick it up and replace it on its stand, I noticed three very tiny, shiny objects nearby. At first, I thought it might be some slugs that show up occasionally.

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Looking closer I discovered three, very tiny, little newly hatched baby birds had fallen out when the birdhouse had hit the patio. The ant population had already moved in. None of the little birds seemed to be moving, but I had no desire to leave them to the ants. I carefully picked them up, removed the ants, and folded them into the palm of my hand. All three were no bigger than my thumb. Only one made any motion to indicate that it was still alive.

I blew the warmth of my breath into my folded hand in an effort to get them warm. Holding them in my hand, I continued to water my various plants before going into my house, where I then noticed that all three were moving. I wrapped them in a soft cloth and went back outside to pick up the birdhouse and repair the part that had been damaged in the fall. I shined light into the birdhouse and noticed that there was indeed a bird's nest inside.

I replaced the birdhouse outside in a more stable location and then returned inside to retrieve the little birds and to put back into their nest. As I began to exit the door, I noticed the adult Chickadee sitting on a nearby bush watching me as I placed the little birds back into the birdhouse. She did not fly away but watched as I carefully placed the little chicks back through the hole in the birdhouse. I made sure that she could clearly see what I was doing with her chicks.

As I returned inside, she flew immediately to the perch by the hole and looked inside. She sat there for about two or three minutes before entering the birdhouse. I watched. She remained inside. Very soon another Chickadee flew onto a nearby bush, then to a place near the birdhouse, and sat watching. After a while the one inside came out and they both flew away together. At first, I was wondering if perhaps they deserted the chicks because of the human smell from me handling them.

I watched off and on throughout the day. I need not have been concerned. After some time both birds returned, and one entered the birdhouse while the other sat nearby and watched. They have been coming and going throughout each day with food for their little offspring.

Frankly, it feels so good to experience the fulfillment of a Scripture that I had read many times. ***“God knows when a sparrow falls to the ground.”*** I also realized that God does keep an eye on his creation, especially to those helpless parts of God's creation – including us, that would be utterly destroyed had He, and we – in this case, not made the smallest of efforts to give them a chance for life.

Incidentally, I went to Lowes and bought a birdbath so that they could have water nearby.

“God's Faithfulness Over Our Fears”

by David Sablan Jr.

March 14, 2020, our family had our time together for an R&R (Rest and Recreation) in one of the beautiful Resorts in Los Banos, Laguna about an hour from Manila. It was a long-awaited family event since I began my retirement as a Pastor in June 2019. We had swimming, barbecue, and fellowship. What a grand time it was especially with our 93-year-old Dad; but not anticipating that that was our last (so to speak) get together physically.

That was also the day before our government announced that the National Capital Region (NCR) where Manila and Quezon City are located will be under Enhanced Community Quarantine or ECQ (Another term for Lockdown to avoid panic). On our way home we noticed that all types of vehicles were piling up the freeways rushing to go to the provinces and leave Manila. But we were blessed to be saved from a 3-4 hours traffic with our Dad in mind.

As of this writing (June 10) it's now 88 days to be exact, since March 15, 2020 where everybody are staying at home trying to be safe and healthy and be free from this Pandemic caused by Corona Virus-19. As of June 9, 2020, Total number of Positive Cases in the Philippines is 22,474; 4,637 recoveries and 1,011 deaths. We are all praying that the number of positive cases will have a significant decline and most of all a complete eradication.

But how should we continue to face this enormous or massive destruction some say more than the 911 incident on September 11, 2001 where about 2,996 died on that sad fateful day? How can we overcome all sorts of emotions like worries, anxieties, insecurities and most of all fear? Offices and malls are closed, Social services are regulated and most of all mass gatherings are prohibited especially worship services, Bible Studies and even funeral services are restricted.

Many questions arise like: “How long is this going to last?” “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?” “Is this Tribulation?” Or do we cry like the Prophet Habakkuk when he poured out his spirit to God-Elohim, “O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!?” Will Elohim give Habakkuk the answer he longs to hear? Or is this only the beginning of his test of faith?

Christians around the world are not spared from this wide-spread crisis in all forms: health, economic, social and spiritual predicament. How and where

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should we place ourselves before God and people? Our answer: At the feet of Jesus Christ in prayer and faith! My wife Jomel (or Josie to some) and I never lack anything since the start of this Pandemic. Though it would be dishonest for us if we say we didn't worry or feel afraid for these past days, weeks and months. Many emotional challenges are very much present in us both personal and relational. Considering this crisis happened barely a year after my retirement. The enemy, satan (I don't capitalize his name 'coz he doesn't deserve it—only Jesus), is "like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8, NIV).

But this wide-scale crisis has taught us and still teaching us many lessons and more importantly claiming and experiencing more of God's kept promises. One of God's wonderful and powerful promises is his faithfulness. I like all the synonyms of this word faithfulness and it all describe God: Correctness, He's always perfect! Authenticity, He's always true and genuine! Realism, He's practical! Closeness, He's an intimate Savior! and Accuracy, He always move at the right time and place! God has and will always be faithful to his word, actions and provisions.

Our Testimony

Emotions and spirit: There have never been a day that our feelings have not been tested and strengthened. We all know being and serving in the healing ministry calls us not only to teach but to practice it. I am talking about the fruit of the Holy Spirit stated in Galatians 5:22-23, NIV, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*" Love those who are self-centered, trying to do their own thing without considering others. Be at peace when you think of your friend or loved ones who are in the hospital and you're restricted to visit them and others died. Self-controlled, gentle and good, etc., when triggers like injustices, corruption and chaos are around you. But thanks be to God and his powerful words you meditate every day to remind and convict you to be steadfast, hopeful and grateful for the God we serve and worship is there for us. He cares for us and will provide for us.

Provisions and providence: I don't want to share on prosperity in the human perspective but rather the real prosperity in and through Jesus Christ our JEHOVAH - JIREH: THE LORD WHO PROVIDES. His richness and abundance that is always available from an able God! As in Phil. 4:19, TPT, "I am convinced that my God will fully satisfy every need you have, for I have seen the abundant riches of glory revealed to me through the Anointed One, Jesus Christ!"

Our sincerest gratitude to the Board members and officers of the Wind of the Spirit Ministries for the monthly financial support of \$500 you have extended to us from June 2019 up to February 2020 to help us in our adjustment and preparation in my retirement life. You all know that I opted for early retirement from active service (served the United Methodist Church for 33 years) to engage in a wider horizon in the healing ministry. When this pandemic started in March 2020 all my speaking engagements were canceled due to the closing of all churches and all religious gatherings were prohibited, and that really affected our financial

capability.

But our WOSM Board made an "extra mile" to love and to assist us by extending their monetary help for another three months from March to May 2020,4 not knowing that we will face a financial challenge. We took this Board action as a sure leading of God to help us go through this Pandemic. With that we are forever grateful!

Our thankful spirit was never reduced when some friends, church members would ask for details of our bank account so they can send some money for us. A nephew and niece would send groceries to augment our resources. Hallelujah!! Great is Thy faithfulness! Though fear will always be attacking us and a constant battle but victory over it is ours for God is on our side, as in 2 Chronicles 20:15 ESV, "*And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's."*"

On-Line Ministries: Lockdown but not lockup. Our faithful God never cease to provide opportunities for Jomel and I to bring the Gospel to wherever and whoever He pleases. Through the United Methodist Church-Wesley in South Pampanga, every week we produce pre-recorded sermons some for their Sunday Services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday celebrations, in addition, on May 19, 2020 I started giving weekly (every Tuesday) evening Devotionals which is shared in Facebook.

One exciting breakthrough is when I was invited to give a 45-minute preaching via ZOOM platform with members of the Filipino Methodist Fellowship in United Kingdom last May 31, 2020. About 26-30 people participated in that on-line worship service, and they assured me for another schedule.

Aside from giving on-line preaching, I finished one training course on "Spiritual Directorship" sponsored by the Upper Room USA's Walk to Emmaus through Webinar (Seminar thru Website), Participated in an on-line Global Prayer Movement like: Haggai International of which I am an Alumnus, Global Prophetic Movement by Cindy Jacobs, UNITE 714 to mention a few. I am also active praying for the sick thru cellphone or messenger.

Above everything I would like to affirm part of a hymn written by Frances J. Crosby, published in 1875 with subjects on Faith, Trust, and Assurance which goes:

"All the way my Savior leads me; What have I to ask beside?

Can I doubt His faithful mercies? Who through life has been my guide

Heavenly peace, divinest comfort; Ere by faith in Him to dwell

For I know whate'er fall me; Jesus doeth all things well."

Having our God to lead us whatever situation we are in nothing can go wrong. The Holy Spirit our ever-present guide, comforter, and strength will enable us to win every battle. The peace that passes all understanding gives us restful nights and as we welcome the dawn of each day, we are confident in, by and through faith in God that God will do every-thing well for us and with us all. So, we will choose God's faithfulness over our fears. To God be the glory!



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