



"There is one thing that we do on earth that we will continue to do in Heaven. That is to praise and worship God. That is why we view life on earth, for those who love Jesus, as choir practice for Heaven...In light of that, there is no more important activity of the human heart than to praise and worship God. This is the reason we exist."

*- Michael Coleman
President, Integrity Music*

January 25, 2008

Dear Worshipping Heart:

In all the varied streams of life that might converge to facilitate a meeting of our lives, this tried and true method of the written word will have to suffice. I am writing to tell you about a significant change that is occurring in the direction of my life and ministry.

Since I was a small boy singing "Jesus Loves Me" in the pure tone of an unchanged voice with my Uncle Jim playing the accordion, through years of training (formal and informal), through a diversity of expressions and technology, and through a continually refined focus on leading corporate worship, God has been uniquely equipping me for the work of replicating and sharing His investment in my life with others. Not that I haven't been doing this for the last couple of decades... In fact, as I reflect on the lives that I've been privileged to walk with over the years, I have been both the teacher and the student in many instances. Though I didn't always see the impact or reason at the time, I know in retrospect that nothing occurred outside of the providence of God. You've heard it before... "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!"

A NEW BURDEN

There is a new burden burning with fresh fuel in my heart – A burden to raise up worshippers who worship God in spirit and truth. That's who the Father is seeking. (See John 4:23-24) And I'm not talking about just giving guitar lessons, or worship team dynamics here. I included the Michael Coleman quote above for two reasons. 1) It's a really good quote! Pretty hard to argue with it – even the Westminster Shorter Catechism agrees ("Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.")

But wait. We all acknowledge that. That's why we do church every Sunday, right? Sort of.

2) Look at that quote again. It says “*There is **one thing that we do** on earth that we will **continue to do** in Heaven. That is to praise and worship God.*” In 1999, a dear friend and mentor opened the doorway to a new paradigm for worship and intercession combined. Scripturally it is contained in this view of worship in Heaven as expressed in Revelation 5:

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:6-10 NIV

HARP & BOWL

This new paradigm, called “Harp & Bowl,” shattered my previous understanding of worship. The scriptural mingling of music and intercession meant that my musical offerings were no longer about performing well or singing the latest worship music. It really represents a restoration of the Tabernacle of David (referred to as “David’s fallen tent” in Amos 9:11 and Acts 15:16), where our sole reason for being is to minister TO the Lord.

In addition, this new old thing was beginning to be fleshed out in Houses of Prayer in a 24/7 fashion all over the world. Leviticus 6:13 said – “The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; **it must not go out.**”

Clearly you see I have a little momentum and zeal behind this. I even established a mission statement for my life and ministry:

By the Grace of God I will:

Sincerely Listen (in a pure & undefiled relationship)

Skillfully Exalt (according to a more excellent & jubilant way)

Priestly Model (with an intercessory attitude in a discipling lifestyle)

and Humbly Reflect (aware of my fallen condition & my adoption
as a son of God)

the Beauty of God (molded by love and obedience).

However, I didn’t just walk into this new paradigm in fullness and authority. In fact, as I shared my new passion, I got push back and lots of “so whats” and it didn’t take long before I felt lost, succumbed to the attack and went underground. Frankly, it was a dark time. A time for a vision to fall to the ground and die, so it could be resurrected. Call it the dark night of the soul, the Refiner’s fire, the Potter’s wheel, whatever. I was getting an extreme makeover of the heart. Some of you know what I’m talking about.

Over the next 6 years, I began the journey of **proving** that what I thought was God's direction for worship could actually interface with the world in which I lived. How does intercessory worship fit into a local church's worship service? What heavenly good does worshipping 24/7 do for people here on planet earth? If God intended this to be His end times army, why didn't He make it all a little clearer?

SOME ANSWERS

After dealing with these questions (and many more), I have come to some conclusions about my life and my mission.

The first is more of a confession... I am nothing without the sustaining grace of God in my life. Whether I'm engaged in intercessory worship or producing a promotional video to pay the bills, everything holds together and has purpose. Colossians 1:16,17 says..." For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

The second is that I have been created by God with a passion for touching His heart, ministering TO the Lord. All of my past experiences, my education, my ministry credentials, my work resume, all have converged at this time and place to beckon me into a single-minded, whole-hearted pursuit of the pleasure and approval of Jesus above all else. Whether this pursuit is expressed in a two-hour intercessory worship set in the House of Prayer or a 20-minute worship set on a Sunday morning worship service, this is the place of God's release and peace for me.

The third powerfully follows the second -- there simply isn't time to think and plan and look ahead for the day when I can afford to do something radical like this. There simply is no better time to step out in faith and obey the Lord's sovereign call. The time is now – the call is clear.

OUR NEW ECONOMY

Practically, this is a very confusing equation. How does this all work? How do you feed a family, pay a mortgage, and put gas in your car? Fortunately, we (my family and I) are taking incremental steps toward fleshing out this faith calling.

I continue to work as a freelance media producer. By working on both sacred and secular projects I am able to earn a reasonable amount of money. In addition, Marcia has two part-time jobs that add to our income. My more flexible schedule allows for time to minister at Outreach Center, the Siloam Springs House Of Prayer and beyond.

Over the past two years I have been blessed to receive several invitations for itinerant worship ministry opportunities (some even with honorariums). And as I

have asked God to release more focused training and mentoring opportunities, He is opening doorways for just that – the desires of my heart.

A TRIP ABROAD

I have accepted an invitation to travel with a ministry team to Vienna, Austria and Olomouc, Moravia during the middle of March. In Vienna, we will minister over the course of 5 days in two Houses of Prayer and two local churches. My primary role will be as a worship leader. Then we travel to Olomouc to minister for 4 days at a Pastor's Conference, both to the ex-patriot staff and to between 400 and 500 local pastors. I'll be ministering as a worship leader and a teacher in breakout sessions focusing on sharing the integration of worship and intercession – essentially the "Harp & Bowl" model.

The trip is from March 9th to the 20th and I will be traveling with Tony Nichols, Pastor of Antioch Church in Siloam Springs, as well as Ron and Bonnie Burtraw, a dynamic ministering couple also from Antioch Church.

Here's where you can help. My expenses for this trip will run between \$2500 and \$3000 (airfare, accommodations, meals, transportation and travel cases for equipment). In every way, this is a missions trip – we are giving ourselves to the local groups and the Pastor's Conference as obedient offerings. Would you consider helping with a tax-deductible contribution to help me get there?*

Additionally, I plead for prayer covering for our team, for the families left behind, and for a surplus of freelance work for me both before and after the journey. I will miss two full weeks of work and as anyone who has been a freelancer knows not working means not billing. And there's no vacation time to cash in. If God moves you to give to us beyond the mission trip to help maintain our cash flow, please contact us directly. May He bless you over abundantly.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Thank for enduring this long way to the request. I felt that the story of my journey would encourage you and in some way express the tremendous work God is doing in me. If I can offer you further details about what I've shared, my trip in March, or if you'd like to explore some itinerant ministry in your circle of influence, please call me anytime. Cell phone is best – 479-263-2704.

Thanks in advance for your support and prayers.

For the Kingdom come...



www.worshippinghearts.blogspot.com

* Please send your tax-deductible gift to Outreach Center Church, 21181 Oak Ridge Road, Siloam Springs, AR 72761. **Make checks out to: "Outreach Center" and a note designating "Snediker Mission Trip."** Please don't write in the memo section – attach a separate note. Thanks for following these instructions.