

Beloved friend in CHRIST---I pray that you are REJOICING in the LORD (Phil. 4:4) & are living VALIANTLY for the faith. These days in which we find ourselves DEMANDS such a COMMITMENT. I trust it is WELL WITH YOUR SOUL & as a consequence, you are seeking to ACTIVELY OCCUPY until our LORD JESUS comes again.

I'm always eager when I have the occasion to communicate with you through this newsletter. The reason is simple. I have a great love for those who LOVE the CREATOR of ALL things & HIS only begotten SON, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. If in some small measure something that I write becomes a word of encouragement or a little light in our troubled & dark world, I am humbled & grateful. To you who sent letters of appreciation, thank you.

PRAISE the LORD DAILY that HE came to pay a debt HE didn't owe because WE owed a debt WE couldn't pay. We must speak BOLDLY of the ONE who is the PRINCE OF PEACE to a world on the brink of total chaos & war. PRAY for President Bush, the military advisors, our military forces & for PEACE. JESUS CHRIST alone is the "still point" in a world that is spiraling out of control at breakneck speed & heading for a massive, unprecedented collision with its CREATOR. We dare not draw back in fear & paralysis from the potentiality of war & the specter of a second terrorist "shoe" dropping. We must PRAY for our heavenly FATHER'S protection & mercy & for the insidious cancer of world terrorism to be cut out. However, for our prayers to be effective, they must be FERVENT, they must be ONGOING & they must acknowledge our national & personal sin. We desperately NEED the outpouring of GOD'S SPIRIT in genuine REVIVAL in our land. PRAY without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17).

February was another blessed month of ministry & even brought in a bigger harvest of souls (over 350) than January, Praise GOD. Spent February 1st with Bill Glass Day of Champions at the L.A. Cty. Twin Towers. I was blessed to be a platform speaker & in the 3 services, over 150 prayed the sinners prayer. The first area we went to was the 7th floor, a place that rarely anybody is allowed to go. How sad & tragic it was to see men mentally unbalanced, violent, screaming, some naked & some demon possessed. In all my years of ministry, even the year & a half of being a chaplain at the L.A. Cty. Hospital Psych. Ward, this 7th floor was the worst. Some of us went cell to cell trying to share Jesus Christ & Salvation. There were no bars, but a solid plexiglass door. All openings were shut as they would throw feces on you. I thought "dear God, at childhood, a mother suckled that child & now satan is destroying him."

Preached & ministered at all four Skid Row Missions, Chino Women's, 2 Sundays at the Hope of Heaven Church, (always a blessing to preach at a

church), & Jacobs Well. Attended the graduation services of the men & women in the Los Angeles Mission Spiritual Growth Program. How wonderful to see the LORD change their lives, getting them committed, clean & sober, on their way to a productive life. This Mission has a most excellent program.

Also had 2 special days with my brother, Robert, who came to San Diego from Detroit to help his wife's sister in their new home. What a blessing for me to have a loving brother like Robert. He is an incredible human being & has recovered from his prostate cancer. Thank you who prayed for him. GOD is GOOD! (Nahum 1:7)

The LORD opened up a Sunday night to preach again at Wayside Prison & a Thursday night at the L.A. Cty. Jail. P.T.L! I always ask the LORD to continue to set passion upon my soul to serve & minister to those in pain & need, "that I would be watchful in all things, endure afflictions & do the work of an evangelist, fulfilling my ministry." (II Tim. 4:5).

I think about my favorite disciple next to JESUS, the Apostle Paul & Ím overwhelmed with his COMMITMENT to CHRIST. His was not an easy pilgrimage. In II Cor. 11:23-27, he was stoned & left for dead, but he STOOD UP & KEPT GOING. He was ship-wrecked, but he survived & KEPT GOING. His life was threatened, but he was let over a wall in a basket & KEPT GOING. He was whipped near to death, but he KEPT GOING. He was abandoned by some co-workers, but he KEPT GOING. HE encountered opposition from legalistic teachers who wanted to pervert the WORD of GOD, but he KEPT GOING. He had opposition from idolaters, but he KEPT GOING and when he reached the end of his life, he could say with CONVICTION & CONFIDENCE, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have KEPT the FAITH" (2 Tim. 4:7).

He knew that the Christian life was NOT a big "bowl of cherries", as discipleship had its cost. But he realized that it was the most NOBLE & WORTHY of all undertakings & I suspect that at this hour of history, we who LOVE the LORD must be REMINDED that those who seek to live godly lives in CHRIST JESUS will suffer affliction (Ps. 34:19).

We should, like the Apostle Paul, be willing to bear in our bodies the "marks" (STIGMATA) which come as a result of our fidelity to the LORD (Gal. 6:17). What allowed the Apostle Paul to keep going in midst of all his adversities was a fresh glimpse of the glory of his LORD. We are to stay fresh, on the cutting edge, manifesting the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23), & sharing our faith. We MUST read, study, meditate & stay in the WORD & get fresh glimpses of our LORD. Yesterdays MANNA was great, but it will NOT do for today. WE NEED NEW MANNA. It will keep doubt, a killer to faith

away, & it will make our faith strong. It will keep us focused on things of eternal significance.

Until next month, may GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU, & to you who sent love offerings, I PRAISE HIM & THANK YOU.

In His Majesty's Service,

Mel Novak