



Mo'Manna
Mo'Manna MAGAZINE
Spring 2011

Helping Visions Take Flight!

Mo'Manna's mission to helping
Christian's launch out into their vision.....
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From the desk of Mo'Manna...

It was in a small 2-bedroom apartment in 1997, that the vision of Mo'Manna was born. It was a vision to see God's love and His Spirit poured out into America through his people outside the four walls of the church. We felt Mo'Manna was called build a community to "feed His sheep" in a variety of ways.

Since our inception, Mo'Manna has operated quietly under the radar, providing financial assistance to a number of struggling Christian families, extending a hand of hope through a variety of outreaches, and helping fellow Christians get their visions get off the ground.

Today, we continue to build upon the foundation we have laid, acting as a vehicle to draw the body of Christ together. We are providing a safe hub for like-minded visions to launch, network, develop, and reach their goals. Through our subsidiary program, Mo' Manna provides a 501(c)(3) covering to those burgeoning visions purposed to share the Gospel outside of the four walls of the church. By offering a covering to unite the body of Christ, we feel that more people will be impacted powerfully with God's heart. We have already seen that this model is able to multiply efforts and maximize time and money to affect the community with help and hope.

We are happy to launch the first edition of the Mo'Manna Magazine. Each edition will focus on one main topic that God has put on our hearts to share and present in a variety of ways to help edify and encourage the body of Christ. Our Spring 2011 edition will focus on the subject of Fear. We also highlight two of the visions Mo'Manna has helping to launch. Please take a moment to learn about the great things that Bridge of Hope is accomplishing in the City Heights community of San Diego (page 3).

Through our magazine and website, we will continue to keep our friends updated with the progress of our subsidiary visions as well as share what Mo'Manna is doing in the community to "feed His sheep."

In Christ,
Stacey Mueller, Founder



For more information about Mo'Manna and all our subsidiaries, visit us online at,

www.momanna.org

Subsidiary Updates:

A Focus on Bridge of Hope & Hand to Heart

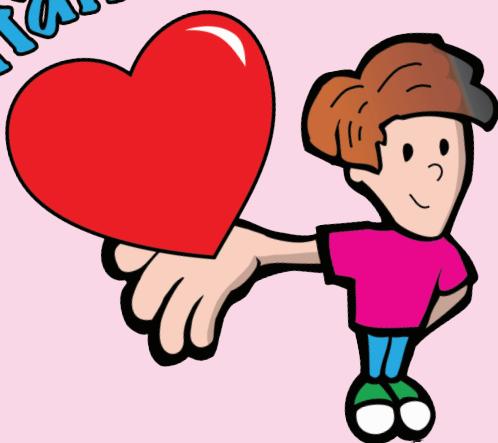
Sheri Briggs and Bridge of Hope had an amazing year in 2010. We are so proud of the work they are doing in the San Diego community of City Heights. Last year they hosted 3 community outreaches including their annual Christmas Outreach in December.

Bridge of Hope's storehouse continues to touch the community. Last year they saw approximately 520 people each month through the store, and distributed food to approximately 1,430 families per month in 2010—that equates to about 120,000 lbs. of food! Sheri was also awarded the Channel 10 News Leadership Award for her dedication to the community.

We expect God to do even greater things this year through Bridge of Hope as they look to expand their facility, food bank, and volunteering opportunities. God continues to pour in the resources and provision to serve those in need. If you are interested in volunteering and helping, contact Sheri at, sbrealtor@sbcglobal.net. You can also follow Bridge of Hope's activity on Facebook.



Hand to Heart



Athena Koester and Hand to Heart's mission is to encourage and inspire "at-risk" youth into unlikely heroes and leaders of tomorrow. Hand to Heart is pioneering a new program to connect young adults with strong mentors in the community to build character and leadership skills and to encourage them to reach for their dreams. Hand to Heart continues to put on workshops focused on teaching young kids how to serve their community. For more information on Hand to Heart, visit www.momanna.org.



Mom's to the Rescue!

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, MO' MANNA EXTENDS A HELPING HAND TO THOSE PEOPLE GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TRANSITION BY OFFERING FINANCIAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT. PRESENTLY, MO' MANNA HAS STARTED A "MOM'S TO THE RESCUE FUND" FOR A SINGLE MOM STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET. IN THE MIDST OF THIS TRANSITION AND OUT OF HER PAIN, GOD HAS GIVEN HER A BUSINESS IDEA THAT WILL TAKE HER PAIN AND TURN IT AROUND FOR HIS GAIN! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THIS FUND, YOU CAN ONLINE THROUGH WWW.MOMANNA.ORG. FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TAMRA AND HER "SALT OF THE EARTH" TESTIMONY IN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE.

I am a mom....with a purpose.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."
-Matthew 5:13

This is my story about being in a very difficult marriage, pushing myself way too hard for way too long and just simply giving more than I had without filling back up until I literally made myself ill. I had made many ideas up in my head, and in my spirit as I suppose, of what I 'should' do in life in all sorts of ways and who I needed to be that were not of God's speed or God's plan for me. **My story is a story of overcoming unhealthy patterns and strong holds in my life. It is a story of awakening to worthiness.**

I woke up one day, after having moved 6 times in one year, finding myself living in a studio apartment struggling to raise my 5 year old son. After a failed marriage, I closed my business and nothing was working. Every month I wondered how I was going to make rent. This was just not the way I wanted to live or what I wanted to show my son. I knew I couldn't do it alone anymore.

I fell to my knees in a way I don't ever remember doing. God, SHOW ME. What am I supposed to do? ...**LISTEN, TRUST, SURRENDER.**

I started listening. In the meantime, like I always have, especially since I became a mom... at overwhelming times, I retreated to a quiet salt bath, maybe a candle and some classical background music. This was my sanctuary. This is where I hear God. This is where I become clear and cry my eyes out or possibly soak in the victory of a good day.

Prior to all this, I had run out of my precious sea salts and I didn't have money to spend on anything- like that. I noticed that I took less baths for a while. Not only did I notice a difference in my skin and muscle recovery, but more importantly... I wasn't relaxing. **My life was ALL DUTY.** I was giving all I had to my son, my jobs, the 'struggle' essentially. I just flat out had nothing left. I had lost my 'saltiness'!

There it was, plain as day. These sea salts, not only in their health benefits, but in slowing me down and causing me to take moments to rejuvenate my entire being... had saved my life.

So, my journey began to start my company Salt of the Earth. I researched and found the best, most natural, highest mineral, quality sea salts from around the world. I've created an inspired proprietary blend for bath, as well as a few specialty variations. Also, a proprietary gourmet kitchen salt blend.

In my time of Listening and Surrendering, I discovered that I want to share what I have learned about sea salts and their internal and external health benefits, and I want to share my story. I want to share what I have learned as a mother, as a business owner and about someone who learned the hard way about going too fast and about giving without taking the time for God to fill me back up. I have a passion to share something that has improved my health not only by the science, but by the soul.

My dream is to one day have a home for myself and my son, where he can play and more importantly where we can stay for a long time, stability. For now, my first goal is a two bedroom apartment that is quiet and safe for us. One day at a time.

I believe that through this vision that God has birthed in me, this stability will be made available. I have short term and long term goals for the company. I have a grand vision that would be an amazing investment to anyone interested. I am looking for both small donations to help with living expenses while the business gets on its feet as well as investors for the larger vision of this business.

Thank you for hearing my story. May God bless you always and may you feel worthy enough to receive it.

Tamra Callahan
Salt of the Earth





Fearables & Proverbs

by stacey mueller

Proverbs 19:23 "The fear of the Lord leads to life: then one rests content, untouched by trouble."

The PA system at the middle school disrupted the norm....

With a calm voice, the principal announced that the school was in "lock down." Everyone was instructed to immediately go to the nearest building on campus and squat under the tables in the dark with the door closed. This wasn't a drill. It was the real thing.

The next hour seemed to last for a lifetime not only for the children, but also for the parents. The principal had emailed all the parents notifying them of the lock down. It was unknown how long it would go on. The message reported that a felon the authorities were trying to catch was on the loose that and no one was allowed on or off campus.

Many students were clueless as to what was going on because of the limited information. **As time passed, the "unknown" opened the door for imaginations to go wild.** As the students heard footsteps outside of their rooms, the fear began to swell. In a panic, screaming and crying erupted. While others were hearing these cries, terror gripped their hearts and seized their minds. Fear swept throughout the school like a hurricane ripping through an innocent town.

Two gripping hours went by, and finally the storm passed. The felon was nowhere close in proximity to the school. The lock down was lifted. Kids were asked to resume to their normal schedule, but much damage had been done. Now that those fears had torn down the walls of safety, how would the students cope? What would they do with those sustentative fears?

Fear has been with us from the conception of sin. However, with the advances in the media, it seems as though fear is bombarding us in all directions. **The truth is we cannot escape fear! We cannot ignore it. We cannot elude it.** But how are we handling it? Are we partnering with it and allowing it to become

a part of our identity, shaping our mind and our hearts? Or are we partnering with God so that He can help us keep our identity in Him?

So often in our attempt to cope with the fears we face, we try to do it in our own efforts and strength. However, **panic attacks, depression, hopelessness, anger, sickness, and jealousy are all bi-products of our attempt to conquer fear on our own.** And yet, we can see from this list, the results are so damaging to us and those around us. As a matter of fact, in response to dealing with fear on our own, we tend to make poor choices that produce big consequences.

Let's take a look at one example in the Bible of how fear caused one woman to take things into her own hands which caused some major damage. In Genesis 15, Abram (later known as Abraham) is wondering why God hasn't fulfilled his promise and given him an heir. God makes a covenant with him and promises that he will have more descendants than there are stars in the sky. Abram was good with that because he trusted God.

But his wife Sarai (later known as Sarah) didn't seem to have that same trust. She was getting anxious as time went on and decided to take the reins of control. In Genesis 16:2, Sarai requests of Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." The voice of fear was probably haunting her, "There is something wrong with you. Otherwise, you would already have gotten pregnant." Or it could have said, "You aren't the one God chose for Abraham." Whatever the voice of fear was saying to her, she took the bait and formed a plan. And the solution was really silly....

Abraham ended up having a child with Sarai's Egyptian

If we have an understanding of the awesomeness of God and truly trust that He is everything He says He is, then we would fear God more than fear itself.

maidservant, Hagar. This was not God's choice of fulfilling His promise to Abraham. This was Sara's solution to making that promise come to pass. She started despising Hagar and the son, Ishmael. Jealousy and anger ensued. Fueled by envy, Sara dealt harshly with her maidservant to the point it caused her to run away, temporarily. Every time Sarai had to look at Ishmael, she was convicted of her decision to not trust God. She didn't want to face that truth. Instead, she hid behind the walls of anger, resentment, jealousy and envy. And everyone around her was affected!

God was faithful to His promise to Abraham and opened up Sara's womb 13 years later. One can only imagine how difficult it was to live in those years when Sara spewed bitterness towards Hagar and her son. It caused a great division in their household. Eventually after Sarai gave birth to a son, God divided the two brothers, and that division still lives on today through the Muslim faith and the Christian faith.

King Saul gives us another example of how one man's fears destroyed his soul and affected a nation of people. King Saul was so afraid of what people thought about him he was willing to disobey the instructions of God. (1 Samuel 15) It cost him his throne. The fear of being rejected by the people also stirred up Saul's anger against an admired David. Enraged and jealous, he plotted to kill David. He had no peace. He had no victory. He earned no respect. But he was relentless in his pursuit of suppressing his fears through his erratic behavior; wielding his power and position to kill, steal, and destroy the things of God. (Sound like a scripture you know? John 10:10) This behavior was merely mimicking how Jesus described the devil, and it ended up costing Saul his life and the life of his sons.

King David however is a great role model to follow in handling fear. (He had a lot to be fearful of. He had a jealous king and his army trying to kill him!) Throughout all the psalms, we get a glimpse into David's heart as he is sharing his fears with God. He does not mince words or hide his feelings. He is very raw with God. He leaves his whole heart open before the Lord to examine and help him. He understands God is in control. And we see David has God's victory and experiences the promise of God in John 10:10. "...My purpose is to give life in all

its fullness." When David is pursued, God gives him peace. God gives him strategy. God gives him protection. God gives him faith to believe He will provide! And He does!

King David shows us the better way of handling fear is to allow it to drive us toward God. When we spend time with the Father, we learn what He is all about. We find ourselves in awe of how great He is, so much so, that our brains cannot wrap around His love, His mercy, His grace, and His protection. It produces what the Bible refers to as the "fear of the Lord;" an understanding that no one can take God's place, nor come close to His love and mercy. This fear is good. It is a fear that recognizes, "I am not in control because I am so little compared to the great God who formed everything. He knows all my thoughts and the intents of my heart. He loves me and is interested in helping me. Goodness! He is in control; not me!"

If we truly trust Him, then there is no room in our hearts for fear to dwell. This happens when we spend time with Him. Deuteronomy 31:6 says, "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." Throughout the Bible, God commands us to "**Fear Not**" more than any other command. We can develop a spiritual muscle to go to Him with our fears and ask Him to partner with us so we get His gift of courage!

The Bible simply says, "**God is love.**" It also says "**perfect love casts out fear.**" When we spend time with Love, we feel loved. A heart that feels loved is a heart filled with courage. A heart filled with courage will face fear and conquer it! The gift of Love is contentment! No worries, God has got it! The grace of Love is rest; God is at work while you receive His rest! Remember, His mere presence will cast out fear!

Here are some steps to follow when you are dealing with fear: (continued on page 12...)





THE EMPTY BOX

by stacey mueller

I was driving to the doctor once again, thinking about everything I have had to go through in the past couple of years. So many doctor trips, so many battles, and now, so many mornings I could barely move because my energy had been zapped. I knew something wasn't quite right with me, and in the midst of my drive, I began to pray, "Lord, you know how much our family has gone through. You know I don't even have the money to go to this appointment. But I am asking you to show this doctor what is wrong with me. Give him your wisdom. Give him your instructions. Help him to see exactly what it is I need."

As I was waiting in the doctor's office, I had a moment to reflect. It was about a year and half ago I got the dreaded phone call at 10:30pm. John, my husband, had been in a dirt bike accident and they were rushing him to the hospital to save his leg. I remember the feeling I had before he had left that night. I just knew something wasn't quite right. The news made me go to a place I was familiar with from my past; I went into survival mode. I was up all night searching the internet for a job as I was faced with the question of how we were going to get by these next months. I hadn't worked for eight years with the exception of running our non-profit which did not provide funding for our family. It was a scary place of unknown, and this faith filled woman of God had nothing but fear, anger, and guilt running through her veins that night!! Fear because I didn't know how to proceed. Anger because John's choice of recreation to me was short of good judgment as the provider of our family. And guilt because I was not sympathetic for my hurting husband!

In those days the spec home my husband built was sitting on the market for over a year draining our bank account dry. Dealing with that alone was stressful enough. Dealing with the lack of available work because of the recession was a double dose. Dealing with a lawsuit was a triple dose. The dog having surgery....can I go on? And now this? It was too much!

Thankfully, many people were praying for us, and if it wasn't for the prayers of God's people, I don't know how we would have gotten through. Each day God was continually whispering this in my ear, "Are you trusting me?" I began to recognize that every time I would wonder, take concern, be worried, or have anxiety about the things we were facing, I was operating out of fear and God was then nowhere near. The anxieties were stealing my joy and my strength and my mind was then riddled with torment. I began exercising this muscle of faith that needed to be stretched and pulled. Somehow in the midst of it I believed if I was strong for our family then God would get us out. So I was determined to try trust.

Then one day I went to a prayer meeting, but when I got there, I found out that I had written down the wrong day. I was so confused until my friend and her girlfriend took one look at me and said, "**This wasn't a mistake. I think this is a divine appointment. We need to pray for you!**" Little did I know that day would change me. They listened to all that I had been going through and asked me to think of a time when I felt that same trauma of having to survive. I immediately went to the day my mom and dad announced they were getting a divorce. I ran out of the house in horror. I couldn't accept that was happening to me. My dad fled the scene and I watched my mom suffer trying to keep her house while working

three jobs. I swore to myself I would never let something like that happen to me. I switched my major in college, bound and determined to be a success at all costs. I became my own god that day, relying on my strong work ethic, my determination, and my dedication to the task at hand to elevate me and move me forward. And it worked. I had become a success at each job I worked at, climbing the corporate ladder in style.

That day God opened up my eyes and showed me that I had been living a double life as a Christian. I would rely on God some of the time. But when times got hard, I would rely on me to make something happen while turning to God with the rest of me. I would get out my formula of reading the bible, praying the scriptures, keeping my thoughts right but never relinquishing it all to God. I still owned it. I still worked it. I still felt I needed to do something to make God work on my behalf. They prayed over that trauma in my life, and I repented for making myself a god and taking a vow I would never rely on anyone to make things happen for me. I asked God to come in and cleanse my heart and help me to trust in Him completely.

Something interesting happens when you begin trusting in your own efforts and relying on your own performance as a barometer of worth. Unknowingly, you set yourself up to fail because you are not made to do things alone without God. That empty "box" in your soul that gets filled up with your ideas, efforts, and performances is always thirsty for Him. And because it is always quenched and not satisfied, it is left to feel empty, unworthy, and shameful.

Several months later, as if we hadn't had enough to deal with, our whole family contracted the swine flu and we were quarantined for a week. It was after everyone was back on their feet and moving along that I knew there was a problem going on with me. Why wasn't I bouncing back as well? I was soon to

find out as I entered the patient room. Upon examining me, running some blood work, and getting the results of a cat scan, the doctor delivered the bad news. He told me I had a thyroid disorder called, Hoshimotos, which would eventually turn into a hypothyroid problem needing lifetime medication or an operation to remove my thyroid. To say the least I was not happy with this report but hopeful he would tell me something that could be done to change that gloomy outcome. **But the next few words threw me into a tailspin.** "Come back in six weeks so we can monitor your blood work, take a multi-vitamin, meditate, and you may want to try an acupuncturist. I cannot really do anything for you right now."

On the way home from the doctor's, I was having a major conversation with God. That diagnosis did not seem like an answer to my prayers. It felt like it gave me no hope or solution. And where was God in that!! They could have at least prescribed some medicine to make me feel better, but I didn't even get that! Nothing! Except the green light to come back and hold my hand to tell me things are still the same or worse! I was bummed out at God, and I was majorly bummed out that I was stuck feeling so horribly! A moment I can reflect I lost trust that God was working things out.

Two weeks went by and I could barely drag my body out of bed. I looked like all the life had been drained out of me and my kids were asking me why I was so sad all the time. They had no idea the difficulty I was having just trying to cook and take care of them. I thought I was putting on a good show, but when my little boy said, "Mom, you don't look so happy anymore," an avalanche of tears came rushing out of me.

The next morning, I woke up thinking a truck had hit me. I couldn't move my right arm without wincing in pain. The whole day I tried to keep it stationary because any slight movement made the pain unbearable. I

THAT DAY GOD OPENED UP MY EYES AND SHOWED ME THAT I HAD BEEN LIVING A DOUBLE LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN. I WOULD RELY ON GOD SOME OF THE TIME. BUT WHEN TIMES GOT HARD, I WOULD RELY ON ME TO MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN WHILE TURNING TO GOD WITH THE REST OF ME.



must have taken 16 Advil's that day! After no improvement by the second day, I asked my husband to schedule me an appointment with his acupuncturist he had seen for his back. I remembered in the back of my mind that my doctor had actually suggested me seeing one, but I had thrown the advice away thinking it was so far off the charts of helping me. **And after the appointment was made, the Holy Spirit reminded me of my prayer to the Lord asking for His wisdom with the doctor. He showed me how I had put boundaries and limits in my mind on how God should answer my prayer.** God was so merciful though to meet me in my moment of weakness. The next day the pain in my arm mysteriously disappeared as if I had never gone through those tormenting two days, and then I knew for sure, God was in this appointment. He was directing my path.

I went to my appointment with great expectation. I truly believed God had a better answer for me than the diagnosis of the doctor. It was His will I be healed and set free of these symptoms. I just didn't see my destiny wrapped up with a thyroid disorder. Not for the things God had in store for me. Not for the energy required of me to take care of my family. And certainly not because His word said He came to heal those with infirmities and diseases. How that healing would take place was in the Lord's hands. I just needed to be obedient.

Sometimes obedience and perseverance are the greater test than the actual trial and burden you are suffering from. The acupuncturist handed me the regime that I was to follow for the next 9 months. I was to brew this tea he prescribed (which I called "Jungle Juice" because it looked and smelled like something you would swoop off the ground of the jungle) and drink it three times a day. But that was the easy part. It was my new diet that brought me to tears. I was to have NO caffeine, no sugar, no meat, no dairy, and no juice. Basically my diet consisted of vegetables and rice!

Are you kidding, NO coffee??!!!

I had to cry!

I have to admit that each day on the diet it got a little easier because I was able to

get in a rhythm of making my meals and then making the families without falling down exhausted. I seemed to go along the months like I was on a rollercoaster. Some days I was climbing up on top with a new found energy, and then wake up to find myself coasting downhill as fast as I climbed up. I began to really seek God in finding out the root of my problem so that I could experience what God said in **1Thes 5:22,23**, “**N**ow may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and make your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at His coming. He is faithful to do it.”

There were two things He showed me on my rollercoaster ride. One was the fact that stress was the number one major reason why I had this thyroid disorder and it was a product of my survival mode mentality. Thankfully the Lord had orchestrated that prayer meeting for me so that I could be delivered from myself! I was able to start looking at my days differently and relax in Him, trusting in God's grace and to rest in His pace.

Secondly, I realized that because of living with a survival mentality for so long, I had fed a root of unworthiness that had grown in me and my body was responding to the thoughts my soul had adopted about myself. My body was now rejecting itself! I had an autoimmune disease and it all stemmed from not allowing God to reside in that box inside my soul that only He could fill; His love and His peace. And because I had taken things on myself and become my own little god, I was a target for stress and unrest. And because I had so much anxiety and stress, my body had become weary. And because my body had become weary, it stopped fighting for itself because it didn't deem itself worthy of the fight. And so my thyroid hormone was not being received by my body which was giving me this disease.

So I began another part of my regimen each day that God prompted me to do. I knew how powerful His word was and how it could feed my soul. I began speaking His word about my healing. And then I began speaking to my thyroid. “I command you thyroid hormone to be received by my body in Jesus name!”

By the end of October, I had now completed nine months of my tea, my diet, and my prayer regimen. We did not have any more money for me to continue going to the acupuncturist, and I was left wondering what to do. I went to prayer. “Lord, I have learned to trust you. I have believed that the path you had me on was directed by you. I believe you want to heal me. And I have done all that I know to do. But I cannot do anymore, and we don't have the finances to keep going to the doctor. I leave it all at your throne. I am going to trust You with the increase. I am going to trust you with my healing. And I believe you will set me free.”

After that prayer, I never took another sip of that tea. I started eating with my family the meals I cooked them! And I never once looked back and worried if God was going to heal me. When I was weak, I asked my husband to pray for me without reluctance. And when fear came knocking at my door, I ran to the Father and gave it to Him.

A year to the date I went in to the doctor, I went back to get my blood checked. My insurance needed to know where I was in my diagnosis. I walked into the doctor to get my results and looked down at the paper. All I could see in bold letters was the word **"NORMAL"**. I immediately asked if what I saw was what I thought. My blood work showed no trace of any thyroid disorder! God had completely restored my thyroid and healed me!

I could not sleep all night thanking Him for His faithfulness. As I take the time to write this amazing journey God has brought me through, I am so free to share His love. But more importantly, I have been so freed to receive His love. And my “spirit, soul, and body have been preserved blameless because He was faithful to do it!” I have been on some amazing journeys with the Lord where He has healed me, but this one was special. This one went deep so that I could experience His amazing love. **I don't know if I would have offered to give Him permission into this room in my soul, the “box” that I had kept God out of, had I not gone through this journey. He works all things for His good when we trust in Him!**

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, **17** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the **width** and **length** and **depth** and **height**—**19** to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; **that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

Lessons from Esther

Facing FEAR
Embracing FAITH

We can look at Esther and see she was also challenged with handling fear. She was faced with the fear of the King rejecting her at her request to see Him, which according to the law, would have resulted in her execution. But Esther did something we can glean from. She didn't hide her fears, or run from her fears or allow her fear to control her. But what she did first was immediately acknowledge her fears. Then she shared them with someone she trusted. And finally and most importantly, she ran to God with her fears.

In Esther 4:10, we see Esther acknowledging her fears. **"The whole world knows that anyone who appears before the king in the inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him in more than a month."** Mordecai, to whom she is sharing this with, is now given a defining moment to be used by God to help Esther. He could have sided with those fears and agreed with them. Instead, he chooses not to partner with her fears but addressed them with God's kingdom perspective of what could be accomplished through her position and obedience. "Don't think for a moment that you will escape there in the palace when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. What's more, who can say but that you have been elevated to the palace for just such a time as this." Esther 4:14 These words gave Esther vision beyond the fear that gripped her and her circumstances. God used Mordecai to deposit a

seed of faith.

Esther was now given her defining moment. She was faced with the choice of either walking toward God with her fear, or retreating within herself behind the walls of that fear and miss the opportunity for destiny.

In Chapter 4:15, we see that Esther seized the seed of faith that God had given her and carried it, and her fears, to the throne of God. We see evidence of this when she chose to fast and pray. God met her and gave her His strategy and His strength to execute it. We also see how she humbly reached out to God's servants for strength and help by urging them to join her in the fast. In that unity and submission to trusting in God, His wisdom was revealed and His plan was executed. And because of Esther's faith, the Jewish people were saved from destruction and righteousness prevailed. Esther shows us an example of how her faith changed the destiny of others.

Today, many leaders have been in a season of learning how to lean on and trust God completely in ALL things. This foundation that God has been pouring into His leaders is vital for His Kingdom purposes and for such a time as this. It is through these tests and trials that God has revealed in us all where the line of trust has been drawn in our hearts. We have had to be stripped of all the false securities our world has to offer. We have had to deal with our fears, doubts, and anxieties which revealed the areas in our hearts we still tried to control. We have had to believe



Lessons from Esther...

that God is the God of the impossible when we haven't been able to see Him in action, hear Him speak, or believe He was working in our situations. We have had to learn how to reach out and trust those God sends our way in our time of weakness. We have had to trust in Him completely. "We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish." Heb 12:2

Leaders that God is raising up today will have an impact on this community and the nation.

They will be challenged to face fear head on and to walk by faith, not by sight. People who don't know Jesus will be searching for truth because things will get tough. Even Christians will be challenged in their faith because the times will be difficult. But the leaders God has brought through the fire will stand in the midst of these challenges. They will be the seed carriers and seed givers. They will take their fears to God, and God will clothe them in His Word. The word of their testimony will penetrate weary hearts. They will be a pillar of faith, and strength to those who have none. They will join the list of heroes of faith we read in Hebrews 11. "By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned into strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. Women received their loved ones back again from death." Heb 11:33-35.

We know that there is no victory in the prison made of fear. In that prison rests hopelessness, insecurity, loss, destruction, loneliness, despair and ultimate death of seeing the promises of God. So to the leader who have been tested and tried; Breakthrough is coming! He will raise you up as a pillar of strength and honor because you trusted Him and have learned how to conquer fear with Him. You will have great boldness through this gift of faith. "For by it the elders obtained a good testimony." Heb 11:2 It is for His Kingdom come, His will be done that God is bringing His leaders forward in His strength and humility to lean on Him and to set the captives free.

...To those leaders who have been waiting and trusting in Him, God is on the move! He is releasing His people out from underneath their circumstances and moving them forward in a new foundation of faith; a faith where one that has learned how to fear the Lord and not be gripped with fear. God is giving His people a Kingdom perspective of what He is doing so they are able to rise above the fears and fly on the wings of faith...

God's Kingdom Come....a prophetic look...

by stacey mueller

The body of Christ is now standing at the edge of the Jordan. I see one foot wanting to step into the water, but the other foot is stuck in the banks of mud trying to get out to cross over the river as well. The roots of fear have the foot stuck in the mud and God is standing by waiting for those who are sinking in the mud to cry out to Him for help. Some are wrestling within themselves whose fears have closed the doors to their hearts to Him. This part of their soul has never been touched by His love. God is so patient. He is waiting to enter in because He wants to abide in us completely and does not want one to be left behind as His army marches forward. Across the Jordan is a beautiful, glorious place of peace and hope. There is no room in this Promised Land for fear to reside. In this land one walks through on the wings of faith to meet the Commander in Chief. Those who are crossing over hear His voice and walk obediently to His leading. It is a place that is planted in Him, preparing for the return of the King. So for those who are stuck in the mud, God wants the width, the depth, the length, and the height of your soul to know the love of Christ, being rooted and grounded in Him so your feet are swift to running toward Him and the destiny God has prepared for you for such a time as this! "And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you!"



Parables & Proverbs...continued from page 5

Here are some steps to follow when you are dealing with fear:

- 1 **Recognize** what fear is tormenting you.
Take those fears to the Lord.
- 2 **Be willing to release control** of it and allow God's big hand to pick it up.
- 3 **Repent** if you have allowed that fear to rule your mind and heart.
- 4 **Ask God to forgive you** and cleanse you of your fear.
- 5 **Take time to listen to God.** His voice will be filled with faith and direction.
- 6 **Put the dagger in fear** by **reciting OUT LOUD** scriptures that expose that fear.
- 7 **Go then on the offense.** Walk towards courage with God's strength.
- 8 **Thank God for His deliverance!** He is faithful!

did you know?...

manna cakes will be making a comeback!!!
...stay tuned!!

