

Fire Ministries International

April 2017

Happy Spring Everyone!

I pray that, even as new life is coming forth all around us in nature, the Life of Jesus is also blossoming forth from within us by His nature! The wonderful thing about LIFE is that it is living!! It is not organized into motion, faked into being, or willed into manifestation. Life lives! Religious pressures tell us we have to try to do something that is not in us. God our Father put His Son in us so that Jesus would do the living for us and through us! Glory Hallelujah!

In less than a month I will be in Ireland for our annual "Family Reunion International Conference". I sense that the Spirit of God is excited for this gathering because He just keeps sharing and pouring forth God's heart in our preparations for this time. Please pray for all those who will be coming, and those who are still trying to come and need your prayers for God to help make it possible. I would also ask for special prayers over the Fire Ministries leadership team and the things in God's heart to develop us as dying seeds, able to facilitate and care for the things of God's heart in the nature of the Lamb.

Fire Ministries is still in the process of being incorporated, and prayer is still very much needed in regards to that process and how it will affect the future of the ministry.

Many of you have asked how my health is, and so I will use this opportunity to give a brief update. My thyroid seems to be functioning much better, thank you for all your prayers and thank you Jesus! Although the thyroid is improving, other symptoms still remain in regards to weakness. The wonderful thing is, the Lord fills up that weakness with His life, and whenever it is time to pour out He shows up! I am embracing that weakness, and trusting the Lord in regards to it. A practical need right now in this area is in regards to health insurance. A couple people have been sending monthly support to help cover health insurance. My health insurance is \$258.00 a month. I have support to cover \$150.00 of that a month, so I am still lacking the final \$100.00. There are also many supplements, special foods, and medications that the doctor has asked me to take to help in the healing process. These are also an additional monthly expense that is not covered in my budget at this time.

On a more personal note, I just finished attending my first bible school alumni reunion. Over 25 years ago God miraculously led me to be one of the first students at Accelerated Christian Training school. Attending that bible school has been one of the greatest things of my life. During our alumni reunion we also celebrated the graduation of Lindsey Earles and Catelyn Marsh (the class of 2017). I was asked to be the guest speaker for their graduation and I would like to share a part of that speech in my newsletter this month because it speaks of things from my heart in regards to the eternal blessedness I have known in being a part of those who are forever changed by the Lord we received in that school.

May the fire of our first love for Jesus burn brighter than ever! There is nothing more important than Jesus!

Together in Him, Kelly



The Bible School Journey

When someone comes to this bible school, they come to HIM, not a specific place or person... but to an environment set up by God with the intent of challenging, cornering, and pressing into every hidden chamber and part by the real and living Word of the Cross until Jesus truly is formed within. In times past we have laughed together about God's choosing, that God's choosing is not some deep spiritual and sensitive person of God who has such incredible potential for the things of God because of their tender heart. Rather it was and is just a small group of regular people, like fisherman from some small village who have nothing to offer God except an open heart, a little faith and a lot of love.

I remember two other students that came into Bible School in similar fashion as these two graduates did, these two girls (Mallory and Kelly) were the first two students in the school. I remember Mallory and I feeling deep within what could never be put into words but only experienced in regards to the powerful drawing of a living God to come here and know Him. Words can't define the deep stirring of God within when He is calling you in this way. People think you're crazy. It's a whim ... an ideal... a place to go for a season and then get back to the important pursuits of life. But you know this is God, the real God who is alive. The God who at one time didn't speak for 400 years just waiting for the right time to move in such a way that the Son of God could finally be born and manifest in a people instead of constant talk about it. The way the Spirit draws deep within has all the feel for this generation as it did in Noah's generation when certain animals felt an undeniable and overwhelming urge to gather to the ark because one creation was ending and another was about to begin. It's the same draw the disciples felt when one day the Living Word walked into their lives and all they could do was drop their nets and follow. Even after you begin to follow Jesus the deep drawing continues, like when Jonah finally came out of hiding and said, "Throw me out of this boat into that storm because I need to experience the real cross". Sometimes things get so bad that you need to be lowered out of the building in a basket like Paul once was... because now you are the basket case following a weak and slaughtered Lamb to the altar! Times like Paul on the Isle of Malta when the snake is biting you and trying to poison you and you just shake him off and worship God and keep following Jesus.

When I came to bible school, because of my background, I didn't know what a bible school was all about as the closest thing I'd heard of was joining a convent. Even though you are not sure what you are getting into, you are sure that you have busted the biggest move of your life just to be with Jesus. Apart from the internet and initiatives of human advertising, the Holy Spirit has drawn you and led you by His star to a hidden place like the manger in Bethlehem, a humble place set aside to bring forth Christ from within us. It is the opportunity of a lifetime; something bigger than our lives. Something beyond all our hearts could ever fathom, to know Jesus in a real and living way from the inside out. The opportunity to hear the Word of God and feel your heart burn within you in a way that makes you crazy to know Him more, to let that word of Fire burn away the dross within and form the Son. It is a hunger for the living Word that makes you search the scriptures well beyond class-time, deep into the night and early in the morning. Walking around with a tape recorder (or maybe an iPhone) to catch every last fragment so you can eat and feast and meditate and know Him more. Hunger to continue on when so many say, "Stop, you're getting out of balance, Jesus is important but not THAT important... what about YOUR Life?" That kind of hunger is in these students. That kind of passion for Him.

Here you will find hearts being dealt with, God's living Word going deep, lives being challenged to embrace a Cross most only prefer to receive in message form. I have been here since the beginning and there have been times when the halls were full of people, and every bed filled in the dorms... and yet, where was that sense of urgency, of not letting go, of standing our ground and staying till Christ be formed in us? Yet the two students that are now graduating have been of like-heart with those who have come and pressed in, choosing to become a home for the Lamb in their generation. They are receiving and now carrying a torch that burns within that through many desperate hours in the valley of decision they have allowed to be and remain ignited. This graduation is not just in ceremony, but in heart and spirit because of the manner in which these two have sought the Lord in a real way.

Bible school is a time to learn REAL FAITH in the midst of heart-breaking defeat and still run into Jesus, believing in His heart above everything you see in yourself and not letting go. It is a time to learn to use your wings to cover each other until Christ be formed... to see past the surface problems and irritations into the hearts of those who journey with you, trusting in the Seed to keep us until Christ is formed.

The pursuit of these graduates and those who have gone before them has not been for the diplomas or credentials. It's not for huge ministry opportunities. Their pursuit has been to know God in a way that finds his heart and Being and loves Him more than you love yourself. And that gets tested in ways that you never could have dreamed up during your journey. Everything from your sovereignly chosen roommate crafted by the hand of God to manifest every hidden part of you that needs Christ formed. Things like being asked to juggle for hours in front of a bunch of strangers or being a Psalm reader on the streets of Ireland after a week of being confronted with the Cross when you could have been touring Celtic landmarks. Staying up all night in a rocking chair only to get up the next day and start knocking on doors to get more pledges so you can go out on the mission field and share the Jesus you have been learning. Doing your chores faithfully from your heart knowing that this is part of letting Christ live in you. Or how about having someone you love and respect confront your wayward soul and afterwards you love and respect them more because you so deeply want the Lord? Learning to love correction instead of avoid it.

The heart makes all the difference. A heart for God... to love Him with all your heart, soul, and strength. Those choices to stay just for Him. Choices made in the middle of the night when your rebellious soul is keeping you awake over some God set up circumstances to corner your heart back to those core decisions of loving the Lamb more than your own life. And you say, "I am here for You. I am going through this for You". Choices made when you are just about to leave this place to get away from the dealing of God, and you just can't let your soul get its sweet release because a sweeter One has captivated you. Choices made in the midst of overwhelming feelings of defeat wanting to turn into depression when your heart struggles to the surface and says, "It is You, Jesus, that I love more than anything I am going through or feeling in my soul. Not because I am great, not because I haven't failed and won't fail in the future, just because I love You more". Choices to hope against hope that it is Jesus who is the hope of glory within and not this very earthen vessel ... that He called you here for the impossible. Not to teach you great spiritual depths and make you great, but to unveil a weak and rejected lamb as your Life and craft you to simply be His vessel, the place where He lives.

These students come on this journey together like Ruth and Naomi bound by the cross and many times in the face of loss and hard choices. Longing for the land of living bread and to bring forth Christ, pushing each other forward, bearing with each other in Christ's love, and maintaining the environment so that God Himself could look and see this school is alive and well.

The seasons change but our hearts for God continue on, pushing forward to know Him and make Him known. The students' season is changing and now they will be embarking into the world of bearing the cross that they have received deep into their ears and heart. To be dying seeds by bearing the dying of the Lord Jesus in their mortal flesh and bringing His sweet savor wherever they go as their inner altar remains ignited and hot. Never let that first love die. Never let anything or anyone become more important than His crucified heart beating in yours. No matter what happens He is the true Lord, your true breath and purpose... your Life.

There is something about being a part of something that is living and not institutional... being a part of Someone who is alive and not an institution. Being a part of a place that God raised up because of something that was in His heart. Being a part of that place because God drew you there apart from Facebook and the internet and human networking... and really He was drawing you unto Himself. And then staying the course when everything in your soul and flesh is drawing you to RUN AWAY as fast as you can before the cross really gets ahold of you! Not realizing that slowly, deep beneath the surface, He was changing you in ways so deep and unperceivable that you are a different person than the person who first came here. That deep in the womb of your spirit Christ truly was growing and this manger was truly a place to birth the Son. And so you leave here changed and ever-changing more and more into His image. You leave here still in an incredible union with the Lord God Who will continue to sovereignly guide your path because your life is bound up in the Son of His love.

Please pray for Lindsey and Catelyn and all the Lord has for them in this new season of following Jesus as Graduates from Bible School! Please pray for all the Alumni from ACTS Bible School, and the seed of Christ they bear in our generation.



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