

The Almond Branch of Cyrus

Cyrus Ministries International

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The Maturing Bride of Christ

Excerpts from the teaching by Rich Fick

The people of God are called to be the bride of Christ. We are called to live in that close relationship with Jesus as a bride does with her Bridegroom...

The Song of Solomon in the Old Testament gives some insight into how God brings the Bride of Christ into maturity...Open your Bibles to Song of Solomon 8:5-14:

Verse 5: ...God brings us out of the ways of the world, through the wilderness, and then into the place of maturity...We lose sight of the fact that God delivers us from Egypt, or Babylon, into the wilderness so He can prepare us to cleanse our promised land so then we can have peace.... God is preparing us, as the bride of Christ, to be a spiritual people, prepared for the spiritual battles ahead where the kingdoms of this world will seek to destroy His people. (Rev 19:7; Rev 17:12-14)... The mature bride returns from the wilderness, according to the Song of Solomon, leaning on her beloved. She has been trained and prepared through her wilderness experiences to become totally dependent on Him...

Verses 6-7: The Shulamite is the bride, she is asking the bridegroom to
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The Almond Branch of Cyrus Ministries International

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." Jeremiah 1:11-12 NKJV

Why the Almond Branch? The almond is the first tree to bloom after winter. It is a forerunner of the awakening of springtime, a symbol of newness of life out of the death of winter. In this season we need to be awakened and to watch for all that the Lord is doing in our life and in those around us and in the world. The almond blooms are also a sign of fruitfulness. This is a reminder of the good harvest that is ahead. When Aaron's rod produced ripe almonds it was a symbol of the priesthood that was to come. The Branch is a symbol of kingship and prosperity. Jesus is called the Branch. And we are branches of the true Vine (John 15:5-6). We are called to "branch out" and be fruitful. God's life is coming into places of death and darkness, and new connections are being made. It is our prayer that through the communication of this publication, *The Almond Branch*, you will be awakened to all that the Lord is doing in this new season and brought into new places of fruitfulness.

Give Thanks to the Lord for:

- ♦The Presence of the Lord and revelations He gives as we encourage people to sit before Him in His tabernacle and to worship Him
- ♦Changed lives as the Lord ministers to people at Big Rock and in home groups
- ♦Willingness of Lyn and possibly Becky to do some office work on a volunteer basis
- ♦Increasing opportunities to meet and network with new people and ministries
- ♦Ongoing relationships with people from other countries
- ♦Faithful and supportive board members
- ♦All who contribute financially to the ministry
- ♦The work of Lyn Rowley on a manual for children's ministry
- ♦The work of Becky Davis on the website
- ♦Vickie Johnson's work in beginning to establish the "House of Prayer" aspect of the Ministry Center and in organizing the office
- ♦Vickie's commitment to make the Ministry Center available for worship and prayer many hours during the week.
- ♦This newsletter!
- ♦Deliverance for Kay from serious illness



The Almond Tree in blossom
on Samuel's Mountain, Israel

The Maturing Bride of Christ (continued from Page 1)

keep her close, abiding in His love. She knows the fire of His jealousy, which removes from her everything which hinders love...The fire of God's love and judgments will cause the spirits of evil to fear the fire of God in us, and will enable our dwelling places to be shelters for others in the battles ahead. (Isaiah 4:2-6) She knows this cleansing, protective fire of God comes out of His heart of love for us...

Verse 12: The mature bride speaks to her Bridegroom, in whose vineyard she is working, that she will return a substantial portion of wealth to Him and also give a portion of the wealth to the other laborers. God expects us to prosper in His kingdom, not just spiritually but also financially...

Verse 13 (THE BELOVED): The Bridegroom now encourages the bride to speak to all those who dwell in the garden. The mature bride will now have her sphere of influence increased. She will be asked to share with all those who are in the gardens into which she has been brought... Then she goes into places where He sends her, preparing a place for Him. All throughout she is being tried, corrected, cleansed, filled, expanded and encouraged...

Verse 14 (THE SHULAMITE): The bride has matured...The Bridegroom knows she has much more to fulfill for Him in His kingdom. He woos her out of her ways of tradition and out of her own expectation, into His ways. She knows the battles to come, but also knows the eternal destiny of His kingdom coming through the saints of God...

For a complete copy of this teaching, contact Cyrus Ministries by phone, mail or e-mail. There is also an eight tape series that covers the eight chapters of the Song of Solomon. Let us know if you desire them.

Big Rock Ministry Center

Big Rock is open for meditation!

The Lord has provided us with a way for the doors at the Big Rock facility to be opened during the days for times of soaking and meditating in an atmosphere of worship. If you would like to come to just soak or meditate, then just note the times below and come whenever you wish. But we do ask you to please call first for any scheduled time changes. The number to call is (630) 556-4302.



**Big Rock Ministry Center,
Rt. 30 1/4 mile east of Dauberman Road.**

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays 10:00-6:00; Wednesday 12:00-6:00; Saturday 10:00-4:00

Big Rock is remodeling!

Some of you may have noticed a few small changes in the Big Rock facility. One project we want to see happen is the remodeling of the bathrooms and hallway right outside the bathroom doors.

We have made it easy for you to help us with this undertaking by putting the items needed on a gift registry at Wal-Mart. This way it is easy both physically and financially for all that wish to help. Simply go to Wal-Mart's gift registry (found at the Jewelry dept.) and type in Cyrus for the first name and M.I. for the last name. (Make sure you put the periods after both the M and I for the last name). The machine will print out the list for you to view and choose from

Now for those of you who love to paint and do the hands on help, contact Vickie Johnson (at meetings or call (630) 556-4302) and she will be sure to 'put you to work' when the supplies arrive!

Want to see more pictures? Go to the website—www.cyrusministries.com

The Fragrance of Cyrus

⇒ A report to give you a brief “whiff” of how the Lord is moving in weekly meetings and manifesting His presence!

What is God doing today? Rich says, “Worship; communing with the Lord; praying; getting prayer; teaching and understanding.”

In general: ♦People with needs are receiving ministry; ♦Those whose lives have been in turmoil are receiving healing and hope; ♦People are being drawn closer to the Lord; ♦They are being encouraged to know that God is speaking to them; ♦They are taking the Lord’s promises more seriously for their lives; ♦People are encouraged to see “**THIS**” happen in their own neighborhoods; ♦The Lord’s name is being lifted up; ♦The Lord is being given some part of the praise and honor due Him; ♦People are being trained and equipped to be who the Lord has called them to be; ♦Children are being encouraged to come closer to the Lord and hear Him; ♦There is a sense of an “open heaven”; ♦People can walk into Big Rock and have their perspective shifted to see God’s perspective; it is as if there is a doorway into a safe place to see from a spiritual sense; ♦Big Rock is a place to encounter the Lord; People coming in and wanting to take “**THIS**” to their homes

And more specifically: ♦A woman filled with fire as God heals her ankle so she can proclaim ‘Our God Reigns!’; ♦People have been freed from long-standing fear and bondage; ♦Two baptisms: A woman healed at Big Rock, baptized at Home Fellowship with her husband who came out of and renounced a cult; ♦A marriage healed through divine revelation from God; ♦A woman healed of asthma and neck pains; ♦An intercessor from a large church was told of strongholds in community and told to network with Cyrus; ♦The Glory of the Lord is coming in time of worship; ♦People are getting prophetic words for others in Home Fellowship meetings; ♦A woman freed of leg pain and insecurity able to dance in front of the Lord; ♦Man coming out of his wheelchair after three years and beginning to walk unaided by his cane; ♦God has answered prayers of moms for their prodigal children: three lives have changed since the prayer times began and there is evidence of God working and changing lives in the rest.

What is “THIS”? Mentioned above, “**THIS**” refers to the peace, the presence of God, the open heavens, the deep worship in spirit and truth, the manifestations of the Holy Spirit who comes with healing, words of knowledge and wisdom, visions and power, and the anointing to go out and take “**THIS**” to others. “**THIS**” is what is happening at Big Rock, at Home Fellowships and every place where Cyrus ministers!

A Report and Testimony from the Tuesday Worship and Ministry Meetings: The Tuesday evening meetings carry the title “Open Heaven.” This is very appropriate for the meetings that have drawn increasing numbers of people in the last few months. Most meetings start with a brief sharing and introduction, followed by WORSHIP!. We have had visions of angels, and have ‘seen’ the heavens opened so the Glory of God can be poured out on the people of the area! A few words I have recently received: “Worship: This is what life is about! This is why I was created!”; “The heat of His presence gave me a ‘sontan’. His loveliness is my loveliness. I have a sontan in that His likeness can be seen in me!”; “I confess that I have thought of David’s Tabernacle as a camp tent — small, short. But it is large! Huge!”— Reported by Becky Davis

Check the enclosed calendar for the times and places of the all the meetings coming up. In December, assume meetings are the same, except for the week between Christmas and New Year’s when there will be no meetings. Hold December 31, New Year’s Eve open—plans are underway for a New Year’s Eve worship and fellowship. Call us for details!

Coming Events

Saturday Worship: Worship every Saturday in November At Big Rock. On November 6 Cyrus will host a Harp & Bowl ministry team. The “Y” band will be with us for a night of wonderful, intimate worship. On November 13 and 20, join us for Tabernacle Worship at Big Rock.

Prayer for the Nation: On November 1 at 6 AM, we will begin a time of continuous prayer and worship for our country and continue until 10 PM Tuesday night after the election is complete.

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” (Rev 19:7 NKJV)

Want a first-hand experience? Come to a meeting!

A Testimony from Kay

In May and June, I (Kay) had hundreds of blistering, itching welts on my body. The pathologists' report identified them as "pemphigus vulgaris," which medical science says is a rare, incurable auto-immune disorder. Early in July, the Lord led us to some natural products that supply nutrients our bodies need in order to function well. He used these products, along with prayer, to restore my immune system, and today I have no symptoms of pemphigus vulgaris!

We had an educational meeting for people interested in learning how to **enhance the natural healing** functions of our bodies. I can tell you more about some things our bodies need to bring us into vibrant health. Just ask or call me and I will tell you more!

A Zoε Center in Big Rock

⇒ Rich writes of a new word God is birthing today.

We are born with a natural human life. The Greek word for this kind of life is Psuche. God has life in Himself, a life that is infinitely above the natural life of man. The Greek word for this kind of life is **Zoε** (zhō-āy). Man was created with the ability to receive into Himself the life of God. God put a tree of life (**Zoε**) in the garden of Eden. Man chose to eat of a tree like the nature of Satan and the natural life of man became corrupted.

Jesus, the Son of God came in human form. He came to restore us to having the ability to have the life of God in us. He said, I have come to give you life (**Zoε**) (John 10:10) We call our headquarters facility of Cyrus Ministries International a "**Zoε** Center". We have been called by God to provide a place where people can know, experience, receive and impart to others the **Zoε** (life) of God. God is present and is moving in us and in this place as we gather together.

The Tabernacle of Zion

God promises to provide tabernacles on Mount Zion as a place of refuge during the difficulties of the last days. (Isaiah 4:5-6)

We, as Christians are to dwell in Mount Zion. (Hebrews 12:22) There are instructions given for the preparation of such a place. There are promises given for God's presence and glory to rest on such places. There are many instances in history of God providing such places during difficult times.

This summer, Rich gave a series of teachings exploring some of the promises, instructions and examples of how God has protected His people during difficult times. The Lord promised to restore the Tabernacle of David in Amos 9:11 and to "*rebuild it as in the days of old.*"

Big Rock is one such place today—A Tabernacle of the Lord.

Then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain. (Isaiah 4:5-6 NKJV)

The Almond Branch of Cyrus

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed of the current activities of Cyrus Ministries International and to keep the fire burning in your heart for the work of the Lord and that which Cyrus has been called to do.

This newsletter will be published bi-monthly and be available by mail, e-mail, or as a download from the web site. To let us know how, or if you would like to receive the newsletter, simply write us at the Cyrus mailing address on the back of this newsletter, or e-mail us at almondbranchcyrus@comcast.net. Let us know if you would prefer future copies sent by e-mail!

Whatever your preference, we would love to hear from you

Becky Davis & Lyn Rowley

If you have a testimony from a Cyrus meeting, we'd like to hear from you!

October 2004 Calendar

November 2004 Calendar

Mini-Reports on Basic Ministries Within Cyrus

Booklets: The newest addition to the Cyrus Ministries Booklets is *God's Plan and Purpose for Children* written by Lyn Rowley. Through the pages of this booklet, the plan of God to empower and use children is revealed. This booklet as well as many others, may be requested on the enclosed form.

Tapes: Teaching tapes are available on the *Song of Solomon* series recently held at Big Rock. Through these teachings, linking Song of Solomon to Revelation passages, Rich reveals Gods plan for *Maturing the Bride of Christ*. This tape series is just one of many that are available at your request on the enclosed form.

Worship: Most of the worship time at Big Rock in the last several months has utilized the anointed worship CD's of Terry Macalmon. The three CD's (Sound of Heaven, Live Worship, and I Came To Worship You) provide a door into times of worship and praise. If you haven't yet heard Terry worship, come to Big Rock! Tapes and CD's are also available at www.terrymacalmon.com or your local Christian bookstore.

Web Site: Becky has been working on a new and improved web site!! The new web site will provide easier navigation, printable books and articles, and improved photo albums. If you want an e-mail notifying you when the change is made, please send an e-mail to cyrus-web-site@att.net.

Cyrus Kids ROCK!: Children are always welcomed and included at all Big Rock meetings. Come with your children or grandchildren or invite friends or neighbors and experience the presence and power of God as the whole family worships together. Watch for more *ROCK!* opportunities in 2005.

International Ministries

2004 Itinerary:

January 2004; Rich visits Bolivia

February 2004; Rich & Kay visit Israel and South Africa

March 2004- Rich and Kay visit Bolivia

April 2004- Rich Kay, and Lyn visit Kenya and Uganda

Cyrus is receiving requests from people to be networked with the ministry. Rich and Kay are considering plans for international travel next year. They will revisit and also add new sites.



Amos and Dorcas with their cow and her calf



Email from Uganda: Dear Man of God and the entire team that you came with, on behalf of the Appointed Harvesters Ministries, I would like to take this opportunity to Thank you for the great Ministry which you rendered towards the People of our Church and those that came from the different churches, to crown it all, Uganda in particular. May the Almighty bless you so much...May God bless you a thousand times. --Reverend Michael Lutalo

Cows for Kenya

The ten cows delivered to pastors in Kenya are now 13—calves have been born! At this time, there are funds to buy 6 more cows! Rich and Joash are working on the timing of the purchase of these cows. Because of the dry season and drought in Kenya, there is a food shortage, making it difficult to feed more cows.

Cyrus is considering supporting some of the pastors who don't have the property to support a cow by giving them \$50 a month.

The first calf has matured and has been given to a new family. The ministry is bearing fruit!

Contact us about how you can be a part of Cows for Kenya!

Please Pray for:

- ♦Enthusiastic participation by many in the opportunities offered at the Ministry Center and in home groups
- ♦People who are struggling with addictions to drugs and alcohol
- ♦An adolescent girl who is caught up in the occult; some family members are Christians
- ♦Troubled marriages
- ♦Further establishment of the Tabernacle of David--at Big Rock, in home groups, in families, and in individuals
- ♦Ability to lead people into greater depths of intimacy with the Lord
- ♦Development of leaders from other countries
- ♦Provision for key leaders to come here for training
- ♦Establishment of a complete training curriculum
- ♦Ability to hire staff
- ♦Provision for CMI to pay rent on our facility
- ♦The Lord's blessings and anointing on Becky as she works on the website and for all things to come together to get the new website up and running
- ♦For the Lord's continuing anointing upon Lyn as she finalizes the Children's Ministry Manual, and for His leading as she considers further expansions of the material
- ♦Ability and provision for CMI to fulfill God's plans for ministry to the nations—expanding outward from Israel
- ♦Development of all ministries the Lord wants to take place at Big Rock
- ♦Faithfulness for Kay to get prayer needs, calendars, etc., to the intercessors in timely fashion
- ♦The Lord's guidance in establishing a work in conjunction with a ministry in Ottawa
- ♦That God will be glorified as people come to worship Him.

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. (Rev 22:17 NKJV)

Kids R.O.C.K.

A report from Lyn Rowley

Isaiah 9:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end"

As the world gets darker in these days, the Kingdom of God is increasing to overcome that darkness. Part of the increase of God's Kingdom is children being used at younger ages, so that they can bring more light into the darkness of the world around them. **That increase is also the increase of the vision for Cyrus Kids ROCK!** When the Lord opened the door for the beginning of a children's ministry program at Big Rock, my vision was for a small local program that might train and equip the children of people who were attending Cyrus meetings. But the Lord's vision was much greater! It was the hand and working of God that brought me to Africa and opened my eyes and my spirit to much more of what the Lord has planned to increase His kingdom. The first step in that new vision is to share what God has been speaking. *God's Plan and Purpose for Children*, the newest Cyrus Ministries Booklet gives an overview of how children have always been used by God and what that may look like now and in the future. **It is my prayer that everyone will take the time to read this booklet. This is not just for parents or Sunday School teachers.** In order for God's plan to be worked out, the WHOLE body of Christ must be prepared for how the Lord will be using children in the days ahead.

The need for materials to train leaders and teachers as well as meaningful curriculum to empower children is still in process. I have already begun work on a manual that would be useful, especially internationally, in educating and training teachers and leaders. I continue to receive emails from both Kenya and Uganda with requests for this material. But this process is truly a step of faith – into uncharted territory. Each time that I personally experience a worship time that includes young children, I learn something new. Every time that children are present at a Big Rock meeting, it is a glimpse of things to come. And it is all a work in progress.

Please continue to hold this vision in your prayers. Come and enter into what the Lord is doing!



***Serving God as
He Unites
Heaven and
Earth in Christ.***

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