

The Almond Branch of CMI

Cyrus Ministries International
Rich & Kay Fick, Directors

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Come Up, My People

by Rich Fick

The Bible says God dwells in the high and holy place (Isaiah 57:15). He lives in the heaven of heavens. Jesus reigns over the earth from that place. God invites us to come up, to come boldly to His throne, from where He will help us. Through Christ we have the right to come to the throne of God. Through Christ we can receive the desire to come into His dwelling place. Through Christ we can see our need to come up. Through Christ we can hear the call of God to come up.

We have the right to come up to God's dwelling place through Christ (Hebrews 4:15). We need to come to His place and continually receive help, wisdom, direction, energy and life from God. We can share our needs and cares with Him. Especially in these difficult and dark days we need God's Divine will, direction and life to be imparted to us. When we come up we see things from God's perspective. We become aware of His plan and ability to bring forth His purposes for us and for His creation in all circumstances of life. We have a sense of peace when we experience the reality of His presence and His reign, limiting the forces of evil which would try to hinder or destroy God's eternal purposes for us.

Through Jesus we can receive the desire to come up to God's dwelling place. He lives in the high and holy place. Jesus wants us to be there. He prayed that His followers would be with Him where He was, that they might behold His glory (John 17:23). As we see Him in His glory we become changed, Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:18. As we see Him in glory, we want to worship His beauty. We draw nearer to Him and become surrounded with His Holiness. We have a sense of the purity of God, and His holiness leads us to let go of the sinful ways that try to keep us attached to the ways of this world. As we behold and worship Him in His glory, we find ourselves lifted up above our enemies (Psalm 27:5,6). We begin to know the deceitful ways of our enemies and become better able to live in the victory Christ has provided us.

We are coming up to be the warrior bride of Christ (Revelation 19:6-8). We are being called to intimacy with Christ and then to entering the battle against the

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The Zoë Center at Big Rock

If we were able to go to Israel this month, we would be fortunate to see the blossoms of the almond tree—creamy white with pink, fragrant and prolific. These blossoms are the harbingers of spring—the visible presence of the promise of life, growth and fruitfulness.

So it is at the Big Rock Ministry Center, or the "**Zoë Center**". Zoë, or life, is visible there—the Lord's presence can be felt and seen in others—as the harbingers of life, growth and fruitfulness.

There are three Greek words for "life" that are used in the New Testament:

"bios" – the biological life, the life of the body, as written in Luke 8:14 and Mark 12:44. We get the word 'biology' from "bios".

"psyche" – the heart, soul and mind together, soul life or the seat of the personality, as written in Matthew 6:25, Mark 10:45 and Luke 9:24-25. We get the word 'psyche' from "psyche".

"zoë" – life as God has it, the quality of life that is elevated, rich, full, spiritual, "life intensive", as seen in John 5:26, 1 John 1:2, Colossians 3:4 and 2 Corinthians 5:4. We get the word 'zoo' from "zoë".

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Give Thanks to the Lord for:

The Lord's anointing upon the various home groups

Testimonies of people healed, freed, and empowered through the ministry

Enthusiastic and skilled newsletter editors

The use of sound equipment for the big worship room

The opportunity for CMI to be blessed as we bless others by the Mannatech nutritional products

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD!
Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among
the peoples!*

Psalms 105:1 NKJV



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

Come Up, My People (continued from Page 1)

spiritual forces of evil (Revelation 19:11-15). We are called to come up, to be strengthened and to be given wisdom and direction, and then to go back down (Joel 3: 9-11). The forces of sin are increasing, and the antagonism towards the church is also increasing. We, the people of God, are in a war whether we like it or not. We can try to ignore the war--and be overcome by the powers of evil. We can fight against the anti-Christian people and against the sin in the world from our place on earth--and be increasingly ineffective. Or, we can heed the call of God to come up—and be the overcoming warriors He has destined us to be.

The events of life are calling us to come up to higher ground. The earthquakes and their resultant influences on the seas dictate that when the shaking of the earth comes we must come up to higher ground. God promises to shake the heavens and the earth, but in His shaking, the things of His kingdom shall remain (Hebrews 12:25-27). The Bible says that there will be earthquakes and people will be angry with God. The Bible says that Satan can cause storms. Scientists understand the things that happen during an earthquake, and have various theories as to when and how they might occur. What caused the recent disaster? I don't know. I believe the key is not to try to figure out whether this event was of natural causes, or of God or of Satan; rather to know these events are occurring and will occur. When the shaking of the heavens and the earth comes, God has a plan for His people. He says, "Come up." He promises to bring His people through by bringing them into His holy place (Psalm 91:1) He did this with the children of Israel when they were confronted by the Egyptians and the Red Sea (Exodus 15:13). David constructed a tabernacle for the Ark of the Covenant. He would go there and sit before the presence of God, receive instructions from Him, and then go and fight the battles (Psalm 27:4-7). We are called to do likewise. God promises us victory, and sends us to help others in the world.

Jesus knows what it is like to come up. He went into hell for us, with our sin. He was raised from the lowest of the lowest places into the highest of the highest places. The Spirit of God did this for Him. Now He reigns, calling us to come up, and He is sending His Spirit to bring us into His holy place.

Let us go and reign with Him. We can reign in the spiritual realm and then come and serve in the world. Let us go up! Hallelujah!

Four Themes for our Meetings in Big Rock

Beginning mid-January, the regularly scheduled meetings at the Big Rock Ministry Center will have the following themes:

Tuesday Mornings—10 AM until Noon

Growing in Prophetic Ministry: God is speaking from heaven. He calls us to listen and to declare what He is saying to us. These meetings will focus on increasing our ability to hear the word being spoken to us through promptings of the Spirit, dreams, visions and revelatory words from God. We will also cover declaring prophetic declarations to ourselves our families, and to others and He leads us. Emphasis will also be on speaking the prophetic word over lands, communities and nations.

Tuesday Evenings—7 PM until 9 PM

Functioning as the Warrior Bride: We are called to know our destiny and relationship as the bride of Christ. We can grow in our intimate relationship with our Bridegroom. Out of this intimacy we will be able to follow Him as He leads us into the places of war He has prepared for us. We will be reviewing some of the paths of becoming the bride as given in the Song of Solomon and will be sharing our battlefield strategies and activities.

Thursday Evenings—7 PM until 9 PM

Living in God's Eternal Purposes: God has created us and the heavens and the earth with a purpose in mind. He is bringing all things to His purpose which He had before He created the world. We will look at His revealed purpose for His people and how that might speak to us as to our part as individuals. We will also review His purposes for communities and for nations. The Bible says He is working all things according to His purpose, and He invites us to participate with Him.

Saturday Mornings—10 AM until Noon

Living as Saints: God calls us saints – Holy ones. He provides us with His nature and His Spirit to enable us to live as saints. He has always had this in His plan and calling for us. "Be Holy as I am Holy" was His word to the children of Israel. We will look at God's unfolding call and provision for us to be Holy as He is Holy through Christ. He promises to perfect His bride in His holiness before He returns.

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.

Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:2-3 NKJV

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

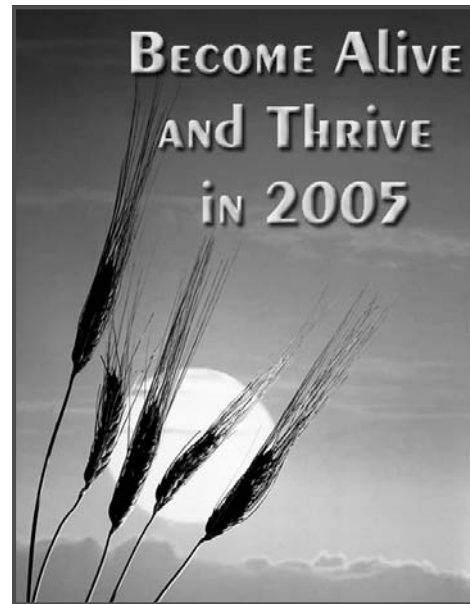
Become Alive and Thrive in 2005

This theme has been given as a focus for this new year. We will share some thoughts on this theme in each of our 2005 newsletters. We believe that God is leading us into “being” in this year. He will be imparting more of His life into us so we can just “be”, and not have to “figure out” what to do or “strive harder” to accomplish things. We can just “be” and out of this we can come to Him for life therefore we can “become” alive and do and thus thrive. Lyn Rowley has the following thought on what it means to thrive.

In late November, I was asking the Lord how to pray for CMI. The word I heard was *Become Alive and Thrive in 2005*.

The facility at Big Rock is now the ZOE Center, a place of God’s life. And CMI is coming more alive through the life of God. What does it mean to thrive? A check of Webster’s Dictionary shows thrive means -

- **To prosper, to be successful in economic management**
- **To grow vigorously** (living or growing with full, vital strength, forceful or powerful. Strong, energetic. Ready to act with energy) **or luxuriantly** (very productive, fertile, growing with vigor and great abundance, lush and teeming, having richness and extravagance)
- **To improve physically**



WOW! There is so much contained in one word – thrive! To prosper, to have everything that is needed. To be full of the forceful power of the Lord. Having strength and energy and being ready to act. To be productive, to multiply all that the Lord has given. And to have health and healing as we improve physically. Halleluiah! **The Lord is calling CMI to “Become Alive and Thrive in 2005”!**

You may have heard the term “failure to thrive” used to describe infants or children that are doing poorly. These children, many in situations of great economic need, also are not receiving the care and nurturing of loving parents. Specialists now realize that even when children receive enough food and water, they can experience failure to thrive if they are deprived of physical and emotional contact. **The Lord is calling His church to “Become Alive and Thrive in 2005”!**

Looking around at the church in the United States, it would seem that many are experiencing “failure to thrive”. Even though the Lord has provided food (His Word) and water (His Spirit), many in the body seem to be struggling to just survive. There seems to be little growth, not much strength and less power. The church seems unable to accomplish the great commission. What the church may be lacking is that close intimate contact with their Heavenly Father.

CMI has been sitting at the feet of the Lord. Just as David sat at the feet of His Father in his tabernacle, we are all called to come up, to rest and to experience the deep love of the Lord that nurtures and empowers us. CMI has been going deeper in the love of the Lord for His bride, the church, through the study of the Song of Solomon. Big Rock, the Zoe Center, continues to be a place to experience that closeness and intimacy with the Lord. As we hear the Word of the Lord through teaching and Bible study, watered by the Spirit in worship and prayer, we also receive strength, power, wisdom and direction as we sit at the feet of the Lord.

It is the plan of God for each one of us to thrive. Pray this “thrive” word for yourself, your family, your church and CMI. Just as we cultivate our Bible Study times, our prayer and worship times, we need to set aside time to just be with our Lord and grow into a place of more intimacy with Him. If you haven’t already gone deeper into the Song of Solomon, make 2005 a time to do that. Tapes and resources are available. Come to Big Rock and sit at the feet of the Lord.

Become Alive and Thrive in 2005! Amen!

Lyn Rowley

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Become Alive and Thrive in 2005!

The Zoē Center at Big Rock (continued from Page 1)

It has been good to begin understanding the different meanings and uses of the Greek words for “life”. The Bible takes on new and deeper meanings as we hear more about the “zoe” life of God. We learn even more when we begin to experience it in the meetings of CMI. Here are a few of the bible verses that speak of “life” and the Greek words for each:

John 10:10b I have come that they may have **life** (zoe), and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His **life** (psuche) for the sheep. NKJV

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's **life** (psuche, or all the body, soul and mind, aspirations and expectations, ways of thinking) for his friends. NKJV

Matt 10:39 He who finds his **life** (psuche) will lose it, and he who loses his **life** (psuche) for My sake will find it. NKJV (“bios”, or the physical life is not the word used here.)

“Zoe is the life God calls His people to, the life Jesus died to give the, and the life they have when they walk in His ways.” (from Words to Live By, Bethany Publishers.) An early century scholar wrote this: “It is as you walk in holiness of *bios* that you temper your *psuche* which allows for *zoe*.” We can't say it any better than this!

Becky Davis

Where Are the Calendars?

The calendars are not included this month in the Almond Branch Newsletter. The weight of the extra page puts it too close to the limit for postage — so, where can you get the calendars? Three places: Calendars are available at the Big Rock Ministry Center; look for them if you attend any of the meetings there. If you have internet access, they are on the web site: www.cyrusministries.com on the Current Activities page. If neither of these options work for you, call or write CMI and ask for a calendar to be mailed to you. You may also e-mail Cyrus-Web-Site@att.net and get a PDF file by e-mail that you can print on your computer.

Upcoming Special Events

➔Solomon Kepkey of Parakletos Ministries, Cape Town, South Africa will be speaking and ministering in prophecy and words of knowledge Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Big Rock Ministry Center.

➔Effrocine Auerbach will be teaching for several days between February 27 and March 2 at Big Rock Ministry Center. Call CMI for dates and times.

Please Pray for:

- For provision of resources needed for the international travel we are called to do
- For empowerment of each person involved in CMI to fulfill all God's purposes—corporately and individually
- For development of effective teamwork to fulfill the goals of CMI
- For effective dissemination of, and the Spirit's anointing upon, all CMI materials—booklets, pamphlets, tapes, newsletters, website
- That the Lord will effect the surrounding communities through Cyrus Ministries International



The Lion Roars!

The Almond Branch of CMI

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 CMI 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 CMI 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

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

Mini-Reports on Basic Ministries Within CMI

Healing Services: Once a month on a Saturday at 3PM, there are Healing Services at Big Rock. It is a time to bring friends and family who are in need of God's healing touch. Here is a testimony from the November Healing Service at Big Rock:

I did not go to Big Rock to be healed - I went for the presence of the Lord. I did not expect or even realize that I needed to be healed. After the worship time, during which the presence of the Lord was very real, Rich had a word that someone needed healing in their knees. I have had pain and discomfort in my knees for many years but did not think this was for me.

When Rich first said this I looked around the room for someone to come forward. No one did! Then Rich asked again, and still no one moved. Then when Rich asked the third time, my heart was pounding and I knew I was the one to get prayer. Rich prayed for my knees and since that time, I have had NO PAIN in my knees! I came to Big Rock for the presence of the Lord, but the Lord had something much more for me. The Lord is so faithful! —Diane Bottoms

Worship Services: On at least two Saturday evenings each month, there is a Worship Service at Big Rock. This time includes worship, prayer, and communion as well as someone sharing a thought for the day. Join us as we gather and celebrate together as the body of Christ.

Fellowship Meals: In conjunction with the Healing Services, we have been having times of fellowship with a pot-blessing meal. We are definitely blessed by the time to share, build friendships and enjoy good food! Here are some recent pictures taken at a Fellowship Meal:



Kathy, Hubert and Pam at a recent Fellowship Meal

I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places; that you may know that I, the LORD, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel.

Isaiah 45:3 NKJV

International Ministries: An Africa Report

We are blessed by the reports we are receiving from Africa. The Cows for Kenya project is alive and well. Calves are now maturing and being given to other church leaders. We are planning with the people for the next batch of cows to be made available for the church leaders. We are receiving reports of expanding evangelistic outreaches, lives being rededicated, people being healed and the structures being changed to meet the needs of the people. We are receiving reports of significant growth in the ministry of intercession.

A leader of the intercession ministry reports, "I would like to let you know we are fine and have increased in number and we have seen the hand of God working things out in the ministry since we were last together with you. Do you remember the day you prayed for the intercessors and anointed them? Well, I hope you will not forget such a wonderful experience in the Lord's anointing."

We are being encouraged and requested to return to Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Bolivia and Israel. God has also been speaking about members of our team coming to Chad. We have several people who have expressed an interest in accompanying us when we make our return visits. We have spent the last six months building the local ministry and networking with intercessors and apostolic leaders in the Midwest. However the international heart is stirring.

Pray that the funds will be made available for us to go to each of the places God has asked us to shepherd His church, and that we also might be able to help some of the leaders to come to America this fall for a CMI International Training Institute.

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

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**BECOME ALIVE
AND THRIVE
in 2005**

Upcoming Events:

- Solomon Kepkey ministers at Big Rock Ministry Center February 22, 2005 at 7 PM
- Effrocine Auerbach teaches at Big Rock Ministry Center at the end of February—call for dates and times!
- Healing Services @ 3PM in Big Rock: February 12 and March 19.
- Saturday Night Worship Services @ 6:30 PM in Big Rock: February 12 and 26, and March 19 and 26.
- Fellowship Meals @ 5:30PM in Big Rock (bring a dish to share): February 12 and March 19.
- Tuesdays @ 7PM in Big Rock: “The Warrior Bride”
- Thursdays @ 7PM in Big Rock: “Living in God’s Eternal Purposes”
- Tuesdays @ 10AM in Big Rock: “Growing in Prophetic Ministry”
- Saturdays @ 10AM in Big Rock: “Living as Saints”

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