

The Almond Branch of CMI

Cyrus Ministries International
Rich & Kay Fick, Directors

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Becky Davis

Receiving the Zeal and Passion of God *by Rich Fick*

The Desire and Plot to Cast off the Restraints of God's Laws--Psalm 2:1-3

"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords [restraints] from us.'" (Psalm 2:1-3 NKJ)

We live in an age in which kings and rulers seek to free themselves from the restraints of Christianity--if not in this life, then in the next. Our society is quickly becoming a place where most anything goes. Moral standards are becoming lessened, if not absent.

We live in a time when some business and governmental leaders gather for a time of partying and "raising hell," to use their term. At this event they first go through a ritual of bringing to death their cares, through a "Cremation of Care" ceremony. They want to be free of cares so they can enjoy the frivolity of the gathering. In the ritual, a coffin containing the body of "dull care" is carried in by the leaders, who are dressed as priests. This coffin is burned as a sacrifice to the owl god, representing the wisdom of man. When "dull care" has been cremated, and wisdom and direction given by the forty-foot owl figure, the men are free to operate in a carefree environment. Then the partying begins.

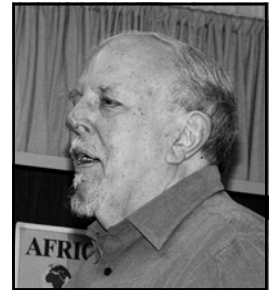
The partying at events like the one described above is but a re-enactment of much of what happens on college campuses at fraternity and sorority parties. I know; I was exposed to these things and readily participated in them when I went to a well-known liberal arts college. A favorite song we sang at our fraternity beer blasts contained the phrase, "For it's not for knowledge that we came to college, but to raise hell while we're here." The men described above openly confess this time spent at their annual gathering is like a re-enactment of their "carefree" college parties.

Some religions promote a heaven where men can have free release of their lustful desires; they are promised access to wine and virgins to be used to satisfy their unrestrained sexual desires.

The Bible's moral standards are looked upon as old-fashioned, or only for "conservative Christians" and

are not to be imposed on others. In fact, even wearing or openly displaying Christian symbols is no longer permitted in some places, because it might offend those living outside the moral standards of the God of the Bible. The Bible says this will happen. The verse quoted above even says

that the nations will become enraged at the Christians, imagining themselves able to live without the restraints of God. History has shown that a nation need not be totally Christian to survive. However, when a nation begins to openly mock and flagrantly reject the standards of God's moral law, that nation will not last. History has shown that also.



The Response of God the Father --Psalm 2: 4-6

"He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." (Psalm 2:4-6 NKJ)

God is a God of passion. He is a God of love. He loves people. He loves to reveal Himself, His ways, and His nature and purposes to people. He knows man's rebellious nature, received from Satan and imparted to man when man chose to listen to and obey Satan rather than God. He is a loving God, wanting show His love and His righteous ways to people, and to impart His nature and character to them so they will love His ways and presence as He does. God is passionately angry at the rebellious and God-mocking ways of Satan and of fallen man. He has chosen to vent His righteous anger on His sacrificial Lamb. Man received his sinful ways and desires from Satan. God can take them from man and put them upon His sacrificial Lamb, if men desire to be free of them.

God has a plan to remove evil from the earth and heaven. Then Satan will have no place for himself or his desires except in the darkness and fires of hell. In hell, Satan will fully vent his rage against the ways and nature of God. Then all restraints will be removed from Satan and his angelic followers and from the

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people who want to be with him. They will be able to lust after each other, to behave violently against each other and to lie and cheat each other with no repercussions. All the restraints of God's morality will be completely removed.

God accomplished His plan through Jesus, His Son, becoming the sacrificial Lamb. God put the sin of the world on Jesus. Satan crucified Him and tried to hold Him in hell. God sent His Spirit to give Jesus the power to come out of hell and to come back to life. Now Jesus has the God-given right to rule over Satan because of what he did to Jesus. This has been God's eternal plan.

God's response to those who mockingly try to cast off His restraints and to keep God's people from bringing the ways of God's kingdom into themselves and the world, is to laugh at the absurdity of their plans, to show them His displeasure, and to distress them. We can expect these things to occur as the rage of the nations increases against the moral restraints God has given society.

When God told Moses to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt so that they could worship Him, the Pharaoh of Egypt refused. God then began to show Himself more powerful than the gods the Egyptians were trusting in. They trusted in the god of the Nile, so He turned it into blood. They trusted in the sun god, so God brought darkness on the land. They even believed that the Pharaoh was the manifestation of their primary deity and that his son was the heir-apparent to the throne, so God killed all the firstborn in Egypt. God is able to deliver His people from the bondages of their enemies--physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. His purposes for His people will come to pass, even though the kings and rulers of the earth band together.

God's answer--that He is speaking to the kings and rulers who are trying to mockingly come out from under the truth that God has created all things for His plans and purposes—is, "I HAVE SET MY KING ON MY HOLY HILL OF ZION." Jesus Christ is Lord. He is king over all. God's response today is the same as it was 2000 years ago when Jesus, in the weakness of sinful flesh, was on the high mountain in Israel. God said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:5 NKJ) God is speaking, even when men are not listening. He is speaking through His Son, through what He has done, is doing, and will do. "Listen to My Son," is His word to the kings and rulers who feel they can remove themselves and their lands and nations from God's righteous restraints.

The Word Being Spoken by Jesus, Who Reigns on Mount Zion--Psalm 2: 7-9

"I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" (Psalm 2:7-9 NKJ)

Jesus is speaking. He is speaking the decree God had previously spoken to Him. He is declaring that God had affirmed the truth that He was the Son of God. Jesus knew this and had previously declared this many times during His life on earth. Men could not grasp this without revelation from God. When Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was, Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16 NKJ). Jesus responded to Peter: "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 16:17). It takes God to reveal God. The Father wants to reveal the Son. The Holy Spirit is sent to reveal Jesus to us. Jesus wants to reveal the Father to us. There is a Divine love affair in the Godhead. Each of the three Beings loves and respects the character, the work and function of the other. They are One. This is the word God wants Jesus to declare: that He is the Son of God and the firstborn from the dead, called to reign over the nations and to possess all the earth.

God raised Jesus from the powers of hell and death. He raised Him so that Jesus could be our heavenly King and High Priest. On the day of Pentecost, Peter revealed this to the Jews who were gathered at Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had fallen on the disciples, as Jesus had promised would happen. After receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter had a new boldness. He said, "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" **Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ"** (Acts 2:32-36 NKJ).

God made Jesus Lord and Christ. As Lord, He reigns from His place on heavenly Mount Zion. As Christ, the Anointed One, He is our High Priest. Peter was quoting from Psalm 110 when he spoke about God's commitment to bringing all things under Christ's

Acrostic Word

During the day before the Friday night worship on August 17, 2007 at Big Rock, I had been asking the Lord for a word for the group and the worship that evening. During my Bible reading that day there was a Psalm that I couldn't seem to turn away from. Yet, I was not seeing any connection to the meeting or hearing anything specific that the Lord might want to speak to me or to the group. Just before the meeting was to begin, I picked up my journal and asked "Lord – what do you have for us tonight?" And then I began to write as I heard this word very quickly and clearly. After writing these short, clear statements, I went back to the Psalm to see if these phrases had any connection to the Psalm. And at first glance, I could not see a connection. But, as I looked at the word, I saw the power and direction that the Lord was speaking in each statement. Then I saw a foot note in my Bible for the Psalm "This is an acrostic poem in Hebrew". It was then that I noticed, in fact, this hastily scribbled word was also an acrostic poem from the Lord. Isn't the Lord just amazing and creative?! Be encouraged by the Lord. Spend time praying about each phrase and ask the Lord to speak to you. You will be blessed!

--Lyn Rowley

Give Thanks to the Lord for:

- † Testimonies of answers to prayer
- † Fruitful times of sharing with Efrocine and Joash in September
- † The generosity of God's people in blessing Efrocine, Joash and the Kenyan pastors
- † Greater depths of revelation, understanding, and commitment the Lord is leading us into
- † The Lord's blessing on Tim & Terra's wedding and Dan & Aylin's time with us
- † Faithful supporters of CMI

Advance **B**oldly
Come up
Don't despair
Eternal things will come with **F**ire
Great and Mighty are My Words
Heaven is coming to earth
Invite me in – invite me in
Judge ALL by My Word
Kneel at My throne
Lie at my feet
Much, much more is to be
Now is the time
Open your spirit to the new
Position your heart to receive
Quicken your soul to hear
Rest in me
Send forth My Word
Trust my leading
Utimize the gifts I have given you
Victory is at hand
Watch – wait and watch
Exhort others in My path
YES
 My **Z**eal will perform this
 Says the Lord

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almondbranchcyrus@comcast.net
 We would love to hear from you!
 Becky Davis & Lyn Rowley

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

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dominion. Psalm 110 says, "The LORD [the Father] said to my Lord [the Son], 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.' The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, you have the dew of Your youth. The LORD has sworn and will not relent, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm 110:1-4 NKJ).

The Father has told the Son to sit at His right hand until He, the Father, brings all things under Jesus' feet. Jesus is to rule from Mount Zion. He is to be our eternal High Priest. Jesus knew this Psalm. He often quoted it. Now He is declaring from heaven this truth, that He is the Son of God and that He is to rule over all the nations. He was to ask the Father for the nations, and God would give them to Him. Jesus asked and God gave them to Him. We know this because He told His disciples: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:18-19 NKJ).

Jesus has been made Lord and Christ. He has been brought back from the grave to accomplish this. He is to break in pieces the nations, and rule them with a rod of iron. This is His commission, and He is speaking this word from His place on the Heavenly Mount Zion.

The nations that are rising up with a rage and in their own vain imaginations shall be broken as He enables and empowers His disciples to bring about the reign of His kingdom and power. While the nations rise up against God and against His Christ, God will rise up in Jesus and in His people and give them victory over their enemies. This is what the prophetic vision given to Nebuchadnezzar described.

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he saw a great kingdom arising, seeking to unite all the kingdoms of the earth, but while this was happening, Nebuchadnezzar also saw another kingdom arising which would destroy the kingdom of united kingdoms. This kingdom would remain forever. The Bible says, "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44 NKJ).

The Admonition for All--Psalm 2: 10 -12

"Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and

rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him" (Psalm 2:10-12 NKJ).

The nations will rage, but the passion of God will rage in Christ and in His people. Our passions will be set on fire for the things of God. We will become zealous for good works. We will have the zeal of the Father and the zeal of the Son. Our High Priest will remove sin from us and we will be holy and without blame, without spot or wrinkle.

We need to be wise, with the heavenly wisdom of God. The wisdom of this world is fast being revealed as totally insufficient for the coming situations. Only the revelation knowledge and wisdom of God will suffice. God is ordaining these events so that He can make His power and glory known in His people who will diligently seek Him and follow Him in these days. Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God. Jesus Christ is the Holy One of God, able to bring His holiness and righteousness into the hearts of His people and to manifest God's love for His people and His wrath for the evil ways of this world's system. Remember God's promises in the days of the kingdoms of evil arising: "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44 NKJ).

Kiss the Son--receive righteous affections. Become intimate with Him. Share your heart, your emotions, your desires, your attitudes, with Him. Let Him share His heart with you. Learn to meditate on Him and on His word. Spend time in intimacy with Him. Worship Him in the beauty of His holiness. Let your heart be a temple of His emotions. Let your spirit become united with His. Let your body be a temple of His for Him to operate in and through. Live in His new covenantal relationship with Him. Learn to be His bride, filled with His nature and ready for the battles ahead. Receive into all of your being, love from God for you, love of God for the world, and love of God for God. Only God can do this. Only God will do this. He loves the world and His people. He has many others to be brought into His kingdom in these days. He will do it. The Father is filled with a passionate zeal to see the kingdom of His Son brought into all the world, our hearts, our land, and the heavens over us. Jesus is filled with zeal to see God's kingdom established in us so we become a dwelling place for His Father. The Holy Spirit has a passionate fire to impart into us to see these things brought into being. Let us praise, honor, and follow our zealous and passionate God!

Receiving the Zeal and Passion of God
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When I was at Mount Sinai 29 years ago, the Lord brought this Word into my spirit to speak in these days:

“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:25-29 NKJ).

Pray for us and for each other that we all might receive grace to walk in these ways in these days.

Cell Phones for a Well in Kenya

We have become aware of a company that buys inactive (but still functional) cell phones, etc., allowing us to responsibly dispose of these items and raise some funds in the process.

Cyrus Ministries International will be using these funds to go toward the drilling of a much-needed well in the rural area of Kenya where many of Joash’s churches are.

If you or anyone you know has inactive cell phones (also Blackberry, PalmOne, etc.) to dispose of, please pass them along to CMI for this purpose.

If you would like to make a direct monetary contribution for the well, contact Rich & Kay at 815-286-3637.



Dan & Aylín Fick visited Big Rock in July. They shared the vision they have for their ministry in Sucre, Bolivia. Dan & Aylín were married in January and most of us met Aylín for the first time. She is a lovely young woman with a gentle spirit.

I Dress to Please _____.

As Efrocine began a group session “for women only,” she had each of us fill in that blank. As we considered that question, she shared with us the importance of letting how we dress express who we are; our clothing should be a visible expression of our spirit! That of course includes often going against the current tide of what’s in fashion, in order to dress modestly rather than seductively. (Pursuing Godliness in all things needs to be on our agenda, whether or not it’s on the agenda of those determining what’s “in”!) Expressing our spirit also includes wearing colors that make us feel “alive” and styles that feel comfortable both physically and emotionally.

Efrocine concluded our session by sharing some thoughts about how to look “put together” rather than “thrown together,” including some ways to compensate for individual variances from “ideal proportions.”

I believe I can speak for the group when I say we went away with new insight into ways we can glorify our holy, loving, creative God!

--Kay Fick

Please join us in prayer for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| † Continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit and His gifts each time we gather | many creative expressions of our adoration of the Lord |
| † The Lord’s timing, direction and provision for land and retreat facilities | † The fulfillment of words and visions God has given for CMI |
| † Ongoing development of discipleship and devotional materials | † Intercessory prayer support and financial provision for all the Lord is calling CMI to accomplish |
| † Ability to hear the Lord clearly and grace to obey Him implicitly | † People with needed technical skills to be available |
| † The Lord to continue to be glorified in our Worship nights, and the Holy Spirit to inspire | |

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Get a calendar at
www.cyrusministries.com—
just click the
“Current Activities” button

OR pick up a copy
at Big Rock,
OR call us for a copy!



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

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Retreat**—“Living in the Kingdom” Saturday,
November 10 @10AM-4:30PM
- ▶ **Fellowship Meal** (bring a dish to pass)—Saturday,
November 10 @5PM
- ▶ **Worship Service**—Saturdays, November 10 & 17 and
December 8 @6PM

Regular Meetings

- ▶ **Holiest of All Study** Big Rock Mondays @1-3PM
- ▶ **Communing with God** Big Rock Tuesdays @7PM
- ▶ **Worship, Prayer & Proclamation** Big Rock Thursdays @7PM
- ▶ **Praise & Worship** Big Rock Fridays @7PM

No Meetings December 19 — 30!