

# The Almond Branch of CMI

## Cyrus Ministries International

### Rich and Kay Fick, Directors

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## A Thought for 2008 *by Rich Fick*

As I was meditating and praying about the coming year, the thought came, "Stand Tall, Walk Straight, Appropriate and Celebrate, for God will be Great in 2008." Here is a brief exposition on these thoughts.

**STAND TALL!** This word resounds from the heavenly throne. When God gives such a decree, we can know that great grace will be coming so we can fulfill His decree. When God speaks, He enables His people to respond and to receive the empowerment both to become willing to do what He is decreeing and to do what He is asking us to do. I believe God is asking us to stand in these days. Many are fearful, but God says, "Stand." Many are faltering and are weighed down with the cares of life, but God says, "Stand." Many are living as if they were in a fog, unsure of their calling and destiny, but God says, "Stand."

When God called me to go to Mount Sinai in 1979, He confirmed the call by pre-announcing the birth of our second child, Tim. When I was there, He spoke through Hebrews 12:22-29, foretelling of a great shaking that would come on the earth and in the heavens, causing the removal of things that were not of His kingdom, so that only the things of His kingdom would remain. He had written of these things in Hebrews, encouraging us to listen to Him who is speaking from heaven (Hebrews 12:24-25). As we learn to hear His daily word for us, we can rest in His almighty power and love. As we gaze on Him who has been exalted and reigns in the heavens, we can rest assured that He is able to bring us through difficulties and give us additional grace and provision so that we can help others in their times of need.

We need to realize that the warfare in the spirit realm is continually increasing and that we need to know Him in an ever-greater way as the Captain of the Lord's Army. He is the One who has started the war against the evil ways and evil spiritual powers of this world. We are called to put on the whole armor of God. These "pieces" of armor are not things we are to try to emulate; rather they are descriptions of the very nature of God that we are to receive, live in, bring into all areas of our life, and use against the devil's plans. These are imparted into us as we focus on Christ and become partakers of God's Nature. Our enemy, Satan, is a liar and the father of lies. As we receive and live in the truth of God's character, the lies of Satan and of this world are exposed and we can cast them away from us. The Bible says, "*No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me, says the LORD*" (Isaiah 54:17 NKJ). Words will be spoken against us and against the truths of God's Word.

Satan will accuse us of our sinfulness, placing guilt and shame on us, directly or through others. But God forgives our sins as we confess them, and He removes them from us and cleanses us.

Jesus then has victory for us, as He overcame all of our sinful desires when He bore them on His cross. The Bible tells us there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ. The Bible promises that if we walk in the spirit we can have victory over the sinful ways of this world. God has victory for us.

Let us stand tall in His victory. He won the victory for us and will win the victory in us and through us. **WALK STRAIGHT!** When we hear God's command to "walk straight," we need to see it coming from a loving Father. He knows the environment we are living in, and He is speaking this kind of word to us because He cares greatly for us and our overall wellbeing. But also we need to see Him calling us to do this. He promises to go before us to make the crooked ways straight for us. He will remove the stumbling blocks that trip us up. He will remove the seemingly insurmountable things that get in our way when we try to walk in God's ways. He does this by going before us.

Jesus has already gone before us. He was made weak like us, subject to the temptations of the sinful flesh, the world and Satan. Under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit, He was able to do what His Father was leading Him to do. He walked straight by keeping His eyes on His Father, doing what He saw Him doing. He waited on His Father. He spoke what He heard His Father speaking. He trusted in His Father, believing that His will was best for Him. He became weak like us so that He could be our example. He went to the cross so He could pay for our sins and take them into hell for us. He died so that His life could be multiplied and made available to us. He was raised from the dead and went into heaven so that He could be the administrator of His life into us and fulfill His calling as our heavenly High Priest and Mediator of the new covenant.

In these days we can **WALK STRAIGHT TO GOD**. Jesus is our heavenly High Priest, who lives to make intercession for us. He died for us, so that now He can put His holy life into us. His life in us will enable us to do exceedingly great and glorious things for God in the days



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**A Thought for 2008 (continued from Page 1)**

ahead. Difficulties are coming into the world. Immorality and pressures are increasing. Our need in this hour is for God's supernatural life and power to come into us and be manifest by us. That is why God calls us to WALK STRAIGHT to His throne of grace. We WALK STRAIGHT to God so that we can WALK STRAIGHT for God. God has promised to reveal Himself to the world as a loving and gracious Father. We are the means through whom He will do that.

We should WALK STRAIGHT for God, by showing the world the only way to live. God will show Himself as a forgiving and loving Father to us so we can declare these things to those we live among. God will empower us with His love so that we can show His love to others. He will impart His holiness into us so that we can live above the lusts and passions of our sinful flesh and the world. Jesus Himself was beset with the weakness of sinful flesh, yet He did not give in to those lusts. He was tempted in all ways like we are, the Bible says, yet He was without sin. Now He can bring that life into us, as our Heavenly High Priest and as the Mediator of the New Covenant. We can WALK STRAIGHT FOR GOD because we have WALKED STRAIGHT TO GOD in every moment of our lives!

APPROPRIATE! According to the dictionary, the word "appropriate" means "to set apart for, or assign to a particular use, in exclusion of all other uses; as, a spot of ground is appropriated for a garden." We should appropriate the blessings God has given us; we should set them apart for the particular purpose for which they were given. This involves the act of consecration, of dedicating to the Lord, for His use, what He has given us. God has purchased our whole being with the blood of Jesus. We belong to Him, and He wants to use us for the purposes He had in mind when He created us. The Bible says we are His workmanship, created in Christ unto good works (Ephesians 2:10). If I use something I have received from God for the wrong purpose, often difficulties and problems develop.

When I was living for the high of alcohol, I was using many of my God-given gifts and talents for my own purposes. I was abusing alcohol by using it excessively. I was abusing the days God had given me, by letting the desire for the effects of excessive alcohol dominate my life. I was using the financial blessings God was providing me, to keep up my alcohol-focused lifestyle. The sinful use of God's provision caused me to go through difficult times, because of my self-centeredness and desires for self gratification. But God in His mercy redeemed me. He brought me back into the eternal plans and purposes He had for me. He used my self-inflicted difficulties to cause me to cry out to Him. He has, through His life in me, caused me to want to use appropriately all He has given me.

God has a plan and purpose for all He has given to us. Paul says we should present ourselves a living sacrifice unto God. We should consecrate our members, time, talents, and treasures unto Him for His purposes. We are priests unto God, called to serve Him and to live for Him. We are to appropriate all we have and are for His service. Life becomes

**Thank the Lord with us for:**

- † The depths of revelation and magnitude of His Presence He has been graciously giving us
- † The blessing of seeing Him work deeply in the lives of people as we gather at Big Rock
- † His financial provision through His people for the ministry
- † Those who regularly uphold in prayer the ministry and those involved in it
- † New and ongoing opportunities to be involved with other parts of the Body of Christ
- † Testimonies of those whom God has touched through the ministry

disjointed and difficult when we live for ourselves. The Bible says, "He died for all so that those who live should not live for themselves but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:15).

Jesus lived this way. When He came into the world He said, "A body You have prepared for Me, ...Behold, I have come--in the volume of the book it is written of Me--to do Your will, O God'" (Hebrews 10:5,7 NKJ). When He was being given the grace to be our Heavenly High Priest, He said, "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth" (John 17:19 NKJ).

In His mercy God is teaching me that He is able to use ALL things for His Divine purpose, which is for me to become infused with His life through Jesus and to be His heavenly vessel as He brings all things under Christ's dominion. He continually shows me my desperate need to be made a partaker of His Holy Nature and to know His eternal, Divine purposes for me and for all of His creation. After He showed me how to embrace all that happened to me, and all that I did, He is able to use these things for His Divine purposes. What He is doing for me has enabled me to declare from my heart experience: APPROPRIATE AND KNOW GOD WILL BE GREAT IN 2008!

CELEBRATE! When we honor, praise or commend someone or something, we celebrate. In our society we might celebrate our favorite team's victory or someone's birthday. It is good to celebrate! It is best to celebrate the most honorable Being or the greatest of all accomplishments.

We can celebrate through worship. We can learn of the magnificence and splendor of our great and glorious God through reading in His Word of His character, nature, actions and desires. We can know about God's character and nature as we study His names. Our Father has called Himself, "Merciful," "Glorious," "Longsuffering," "Goodness" and "Truth." He has called Himself "Your Holy One," as He not only is Holy, but He delights to impart His holiness into us, making us partakers of His Divine nature. Jesus promises to reveal Himself as our Wonderful One, our Counselor, our Mighty God, our Father of Everlasting Things, and our Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit reveals Himself as the Spirit of

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

## A Thought for 2008 (continued from Page 2)

Revelation, Knowledge, Counsel, Might, and our Comforter. The Bible reveals many other names and attributes of God, giving us cause to celebrate our great God through worship.

We can celebrate what God has done. We can reflect on our personal testimonies. We can reflect on the complete victory Christ has won for us on the cross, where He conquered the powers of hell and sin, suffering at the hands of Satan and the people. ALL FOR US! We can celebrate knowing that God empowered Jesus with the Holy Spirit and that He is now our heavenly High Priest, able to impart His life into us and to send the Holy Spirit to enable us to do all God calls us to do. We can celebrate because we are receiving a life that is dead to the ways of sin and alive to God--a life that loves to do God's will. We can celebrate because God, in Christ, is committed to uniting our whole being with His so that we become one with Him, as Christ and the Father are One.

We can live with our spirit celebrating Him during all of our day. Jesus lived this way and now lives to bring these ways into us. We can celebrate knowing that God is able to give us wisdom, grace and power to bring His supernatural love and wisdom to others through us. We are His ambassadors for His heavenly kingdom. His kingdom will continually increase--in us, through us, and for us. Let us Celebrate, for God will be Great in 2008!

### Please join us in prayer for

- † An increasing outpouring of God's glory on each of us individually and as we gather
- † An increase in the desire and ability of God's people to receive His grace to live holy lives
- † Increased financial provision, from a broader base of people, to accomplish all God has called the ministry to accomplish
- † The anointing of the Holy Spirit upon the upcoming monthly retreats and regular weekly gatherings
- † The ability of all of us at CMI to receive, appropriate and put into practice all the Lord wants to impart to us
- † Powerful breakthroughs in the lives of people who come for prayer
- † Direction and provision for retreat facilities in the Lord's perfect timing

### Update on Kenya by Lyn Rowley

Our friends in Kenya have asked that Cyrus Ministries International pray and stand with them during this time of civil unrest in their country. Since 2001, the Lord has been providing opportunities for relationships with churches and pastors who represent the 3 major tribes in Kenya. In this time of unrest and shaking, the Christians (that make up about 45% of the population of Kenya) need to rise up and come together in unity, to seek the Lord's answers for Kenya – and they are!



*Prayers Beyond Boundaries Ministries* is a grass roots mission to mobilize Kenyans to pray. Through this program, Christians are gathering together all across Kenya– regardless of their tribal backgrounds – to pray for unity and strength for the Church. Only Jesus can bring true freedom from the roots of fear, anger and violence, and generational wounds, and bring forgiveness, healing and restoration, first to the body of Christ and then to the nation of Kenya. Let us pray that the people of Kenya will know that Jesus is the answer, rather than seeking a political solution to the recent violence.



Joash Ligami



Lucy Nguniri



Peter Gachara

*Lord, let there be light in Kenya! Let Your light shine in everyone who knows you, that the darkness would be dispelled. Bring your revelation and your wisdom to all those who gather to pray. Give them spiritual eyes and ears to see you and hear your voice. And bring your revelation, wisdom and encouragement to them. Jesus, you are the answer! Bless the nation of Kenya, Lord, and bring forth your destiny for that land! Amen*

Letter To Hephzibah *by Kay Fick*

*I recently received a phone call from a woman I had prayed with about a difficult relationship at work. She had just told a friend who was going through a similar problem about our prayer, and the friend asked if I would be willing to email her the steps to go through. With the thought that the information could be helpful to some of our readers, we share that correspondence with you.*

*To respect her identity, we'll call the friend "Hephzibah" [see Isaiah 62:4 KJV].*

Hi, "Hephzibah"!

The Lord is so pleased when we His children appropriate and apply what He has accomplished for us, so I know He's delighted that you want to do that with the distressing situation you're in at work. Since I'm doing this without ever having met you, I may explain something you already know and fully understand. If that happens, please pardon me--it's just that I don't want to take something for granted that would leave you wondering or confused and would therefore be a distraction from what the Lord wants to do.

With amazing frequency throughout Scripture, we're told to "behold" (see) something. Often God told someone to behold something He was about to do, as when He told Joshua to see the victory He was about to give over Jericho, or when the angel said to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive." He also says to behold things that are true in the realm of the spirit. For example: "Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5), "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you;" (Luke 24:49), "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves;" (Matthew 10:16).

We find it very helpful to BEHOLD Jesus with us as we give him what's troubling us and receive from Him what He wants to give us instead. Since Jesus promised never to leave us, we know that He truly is with us, so we're not imagining something that isn't true, but rather using our imagination to more fully experience the truth (and The Truth!). If you are unable to "see" Jesus in your mind's eye, don't let that stop you from going through with the prayers; of course He hears and answers either way--it's just that beholding seems to give an added dimension to the experience.

Isaiah 53:4 tells us Jesus has "borne our griefs and carried our sorrows"--so we know if He's already taken them upon Himself He doesn't want us carrying them around as well!

Anything God asks us to do He will give us the grace to do as we rely upon Him. Grace, by the way, is not only God's undeserved favor or His pardoning of our sin, as many think of it. Often its meaning in the New Testament is "the Divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life" (quoted from Strong's Greek/Hebrew Dictionary)--in other words, His empowerment in our life

One of the hardest things to do--and therefore one of our biggest needs for God's empowerment--is to forgive those who are wronging us. It's helpful to remember that while Jesus was suffering unfathomable torture on the cross, He forgave those who crucified Him. That means that He has within Him the ability we need to have in order to forgive those who are hurting us--and He's more than ready to impart that ability to us! Everything Jesus is and has He wants to give to us! WOW! We just need to receive it from Him

. It often happens that we've done our best to forgive an offender, but then something triggers a response in us to make us question whether we've really forgiven him at all. If we're still carrying the pain and other negative emotions his behavior brought to us, we can set our will to forgive and give it our best shot to really mean it, but the negative stuff inside causes unforgiveness to take hold again. Therefore we've found it very helpful to deal with the "junk" before getting to the forgiveness part.

WHEW! With all that as foundation, let's get started! (I'm going to assume that you can visualize Jesus in various situations and will write in that way. If you can't, just ignore that part and speak the words.)

*Lord Jesus, I ask you to continue to lead me as I write this, and to guide "Hephzibah" as she follows along with the "steps" You'll give us. Give her the courage to face whatever You bring to her mind during the process, knowing that You're bringing it up so she can hand it over to You and be freed from its influence in her life. Give her an abundance of grace to accomplish all You want to do in and for and through her at this time. Amen*

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## Letter to Hephzibah (Continued from page 4)

You might want to start by "seeing" Jesus there with you, committing this time to Him, and asking Him to guide you and to reveal what He knows you need to deal with.

As He brings incidents, hurtful words, unfair expectations, etc. to your mind, let yourself experience them, and as you do, recognize all the emotions that you had at the time they occurred. If there are a lot of incidents that all belong to the same category and elicited similar emotions, you can group them together.

As you recognize each emotion and feel it, see Jesus in front of you holding a big garbage bag; throw the negative emotion into the bag. Linger on the incident(s) long enough to let all the emotions rise to the surface--always giving them to Jesus by throwing them into His bag. Don't be afraid to "re-feel" what you felt at the time; now you're GETTING RID of it, and the future memories of the incident will be without the pain it's always brought before.

When you've completely dealt with one incident (or one group of incidents), thank Jesus for freeing you from the effects of it and ask Him what He wants to give to you in place of the things you put into His bag. Look at Him and wait for Him to impress something on your mind. When He brings something to mind, tell Him you receive it from Him, and thank Him for giving it to you. Tell Him how His gift makes you feel, and notice how He feels in response to you.

You can then ask Him to bring another incident to mind. Follow the same procedure as often as necessary.

When you're freed from the negative emotions and filled with the Lord's alternatives, the next step is to forgive the offender. If necessary, ask the Lord to give you the willingness to forgive--or even the willingness to be made willing!

Begin by seeing Jesus on the cross, and you and the person who has wronged you standing in front of Him there. Confess any sinful reactions to the other person that you've had. Reach up to Jesus and receive the forgiveness He's purchasing for you. Thank Him for forgiving and cleansing you. Then ask Him to forgive the other person. Reach up to Him and receive the forgiveness He's purchasing for the offender, then turn to the person and extend that forgiveness to him, saying something like, "(Name), in the name of Jesus I forgive you for \_\_\_\_\_. I no longer see you with those sins on you, because Jesus has paid for them. I release you completely." Then see yourself tearing up all the "IOU's" you've held onto against the person. Pray a prayer of blessing for the person.

Since the problem is one you're currently living through, you'll probably need to do an abbreviated version as situations arise--the sooner the better, so the hurtful emotions don't have a chance to fester and multiply, and so the person stays free from the bondage our unforgiveness can keep him in.

Please feel free to ask any questions you need to; I'll be happy to try to answer you.

May the Lord richly bless you! I'll be praying for you.

*Kay Fick*

*Hello Kay,*

**THANK  
YOU**

*Thank you so much for your email and the steps to receive Jesus' forgiveness for those who have hurt me and to ask Jesus to forgive me for harboring the hurt and anger towards these people. Through the process I realized God not only reveal one particular person has wronged me, He has brought forth a few more that I needed to receive forgiveness for and release them from their wrong-doing against me. It is like a group therapy process. I had buried them all and let bygones be bygones but they were never gone.*

*It was a liberating experience. After I have prayed and gone through the steps, I feel lighter, like a lift from the curse--the haunting images are taken away! The relief came when I prayed the blessings for them; it was genuine and heartfelt because I no longer see them as having wronged me.*

*Thank you for writing this email and providing the foundation and the process. I really appreciate the time you took. I have been very blessed with my friendship with [our mutual friend]; she has been a tremendous friend and support. I have also learned from her spiritual journey and it has been a great blessing.*

*Thank you for your prayers. I hope one of these days I can meet you and thank you personally for your kindness.*

*Hephzibah.*

## Let There Be Light *by Lyn Rowley*

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light" and there was light." Genesis 1:1-3*

Early this year the Lord spoke to me first in a dream and then in a Word. In the dream there was a meeting at Big Rock but the room was very dark and misty.... I kept rubbing my eyes to try to get a clear view. Several people were cleaning their glasses and we were all talking about how dark it seemed that night. People continued to come into the room and it seemed that the room was getting darker and darker. Some people were flicking the light switches, some were sure it was the bulbs and they went for a ladder, some were checking out the fuse box. Others were looking for candles and flashlights. A couple of people were trying to open the blinds and some even went outside and turned their car lights on to shine through the windows. Suddenly I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned around, but no one was there. And then I heard the Lord say "let there be light". But nothing happened. And then my mouth began to burn and I knew that I needed to DECLARE this. In the dream I actually stood on a chair and screamed "Let there be light!" and suddenly the room cleared completely and filled with this amazing glory-light that was just incredible. I awoke from this dream - just bathed in this light like I had never seen/experienced before.

This is the word that the Lord gave me when I woke... *Behold, the darkness is invading into my people and my places. See the subtle way that it sneaks in under the doors and into our hearts. Take an inventory of your physical surroundings and take an inventory of your heart. Search deeply and I will reveal all that needs to be removed and restored and renewed. Stop looking for solutions to spiritual problems in worldly places. Don't look at the darkness, but focus on the light. But also keep your physical world in order. SEEK MORE LIGHT! Bring order to your physical body - your health - your mind - your soul. Bring order to your home, your workplace, your worship space. DECLARE - "Let there be Light" and all things will be brought into order. DECLARE "Let there be LIGHT" and my plans which have seemed too heavy to carry out will be light as a feather. DECLARE "Let there be LIGHT" and the darkness of disease and unrest will be dispelled. DECLARE - "LET THERE BE LIGHT" and see freedom and healing and health and restoration and My reign come to you, and your family, and your town, and your nation, and the world. DECLARE 'LET THERE BE LIGHT'!*

As I have been "digesting and chewing" on this word, I realized the number of times that I first look for "worldly answers" when there are problems or difficulties in my life rather than seeking the spiritual issues behind these things. And how often and how easy it is to look at (discuss, lament, recount, believe) the darkness, rather than focusing on the light. It is also clear to me how out of order my world has become. So, join me, for the remainder of 2008, in declaring "let there be light"! And let us give testimony each time that the light brings restoration into us or through us, so that many can be blessed. LET THERE BE LIGHT!

## Healing Rooms DVDs *by Becky Davis*

The Tuesday night meetings are currently reviewing the Healing Rooms training DVDs. If you have been a part of CMI for the last five years, you will know that we have watched training videos several times. This is the fifth time I have been a part of the training and each time new concepts and interpretations of scripture grab a hold of me and my spirit. The sessions cover the Provision for Healing, Faith for Healing, How to Keep Your Healing, Roadblocks to Healing, the Anointing of the Holy Spirit and the Authority of the Believer. This particular, latest version of the training has had a special anointing of wisdom and understanding. One of the first points made in the Healing Rooms training, is the connection between salvation and healing. Isaiah 53:4 says, "Surely He has borne our griefs [*kholee* = sickness] And carried our sorrows [*makob* = pain];" [NKJV] which links the work that Jesus did on the cross to the healing of the sickness in us. In John 3:17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved [sozo = to be whole]." (NKJV) we see that the Blood of Jesus was poured out for our sickness. Cal Pierce said, "Healing is salvation impacting the natural man." We should proclaim, "I am healed because Jesus bore my sickness and healed my pain." When someone prays to ask Jesus into their heart, when they confess their sin and their need for Him, does anyone doubt that the prayer is answered? Do we say 'maybe you've been saved if you work hard enough?' No, we accept the promise made that if we confess our sins, He will forgive us and if we ask Him to save us, He will save us. Why then, do we question whether God will heal us if we ask? Why do we doubt we've been healed when we don't see a miraculous healing the moment we pray? Do we doubt salvation if we don't see a miraculous instantaneous change when someone prays and asks for salvation? No, we know that God will work out salvation in the individual. Why not the same for prayers for healing? Join us Tuesday nights!

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*The training is full of one-liners by Cal Pierce.*

*Here are a few Cal Pierce-isms:*

- † "We should become a sign and wonder."
- † "Too often, we want it our way instead of YAHWEH!"
- † "God wants us to be a really peculiar people."
- † "Disbelief is not not believing the truth, it is believing the lie!"
- † "Don't get stuck at the cross of Jesus. The cross is the entrance to the Kingdom."
- † "Revelation is not something you get - it's someone you know."
- † "We should have such an attitude the devil ought to say, "Oh no! They got up [today]!"

### **COME TO BIG ROCK! A Testimony by Shirley Hake**

"My name is Shirley Hake and I'm from Maple Park." That is the way Rich Fick usually has us start each meeting - that is, with our name and a bit of information about ourselves. It has taken me a long time to realize that with each little, personal statement we are not only getting to know and care for one another, but that we are coming into the understanding that we are useful and important to the Kingdom of God. At least, I believe, that is what most attendees are seeing. As for me, because my 15 years of attendance at Cyrus has been quite sporadic, I am just now grasping that concept. As the Lord is opening the eyes of my understanding, I find myself desiring more and more of what the Holy Spirit is teaching through Rich and Kay Fick.

There has been a lot that I haven't understood about Cyrus Ministries, but I am so glad that God kept putting Rich and Kay in my path. They were always so kind and encouraging whenever we would meet - whether or not I was attending Cyrus at that particular time. We ran into each other early last spring and Kay invited me to come to the Tuesday night session of, "Hearing the Voice of God". I accepted that invitation and committed to the twelve week course. Seven months later I am still attending. My life has certainly changed over these last months and I cannot see myself ever disengaging from Cyrus Ministries again.

Through the Tuesday night classes I have learned to better discern the voice of God by using the journaling technique that is taught in the book, "Hearing the Voice of God.". This book made it clear how to differentiate between my imagination and actually hearing what God is saying or perhaps seeing what Jesus is doing in a certain situation. I have struggled with this concept in years past but now it is remarkably simple to invite the Holy Spirit into a dialogue and feel quite confident that I hear his voice. This book also teaches a "back up" system of searching the Word of God and being held accountable by spiritual advisors to keep one from being deceived by the enemy. I have found that these times of intimacy have not only helped me discern the answers to some difficult questions but they have also brought me to a new level of trusting in God's faithfulness and love. This has been such an exciting experience for me that I have simply had to declare several times that, "I finally got it!" This was what the Holy Spirit, through Rich and Kay, has been trying to teach me all these years. I am so delighted with this new revelation that I cannot wait for Tuesday night to see what else I can learn of God.

God's delivering power also came to me on a Tuesday night during that first twelve weeks. It seemed to me that all my life people had been ignoring me. However, God revealed to me that they were not ignoring me, they just couldn't hear me. While my voice sounded very loud to me, it was like whispering to those sitting right next to me. So, I am now practicing speaking in my new, more useful voice. My husband's reaction: "I can finally hear you!" What a blessing for both of us, because I thought he was ignoring me too!

We have, under Rich's tutelage, explored a new freedom in worship during our classes. Rich has also been teaching, with much enthusiasm and anointing, about the time surrounding the crucifixion of Christ. Following Jesus from Gethsemane to his ascension, Rich has helped us to understand what was accomplished by our Lord at each point along the way. These teachings have been deep and very enriching. Most recently, we have been learning that God actually desires to put his holiness, his purity into us. What liberating lessons these have been especially as I ask for more of him and less of me. Our Tuesday nights have also been blessed by several international guests. Each one brought their own touch of the Holy Spirit as they shared their stories. These guests have encouraged me to look beyond my immediate surroundings for a more global vision of what God is doing.

If you have never been to a Cyrus Ministries International meeting or if you haven't been in a long time, I would like to assure you that it is a safe place for your heart and that you and your giftings (yes, you do have some) are vital to the Kingdom of God. I certainly cannot imagine a better place to learn how to use your gifts and feed your relationship with your Savior. So, I invite you to come and see if this is the place where God might capture your heart and your attention once again. I am surely glad that I did. All praise to God!

#### ***CMI Poem***

*by Becky Davis*

**broken bodies .... healed in spirit  
captured minds .... released to freedom  
prison cages .... doors wide open  
set the captives free!**



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*The Almond Branch of CMI* is available by mail or as a download from the web site. If you would like to receive the newsletter, write to us at the Cyrus Ministries International mailing address to the right, or email us at [almondbranchcyrus@comcast.net](mailto:almondbranchcyrus@comcast.net). We would love to hear from you!  
Becky Davis & Lyn Rowley

Cyrus Ministries International  
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Get a calendar at  
[www.cyrusministries.com](http://www.cyrusministries.com)—  
just click the  
“Current Activities” button

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



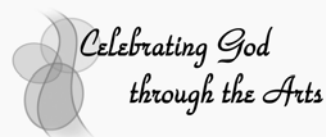
*Serving God as  
He Unites  
Heaven and  
Earth in Christ.*

### Upcoming Events

Retreat—Destiny of Nations: Uganda’s Example—Saturday, March 8, 2008 10:00am -5:00pm  
Celebrating God Through the Arts—Saturday April 12, 2008 1:00pm—8:00pm  
(A Karitos Christian Arts Event—See below for more information)  
Fellowship Meal (bring a dish to pass)—Saturdays March 8, 2008 & April 12, 2008 at 5:00pm  
Worship Service—Saturdays, March 8, 15, 22 and April 12, 19 and 26 at 6:00pm

### Regular Meetings

- ▶ Holiest of All Study Big Rock Mondays @1-3PM
- ▶ Healing Room Videos Big Rock Tuesdays @7PM
- ▶ Worship, Prayer & Proclamation Big Rock Thursdays @7PM
- ▶ Praise & Worship Big Rock Fridays @7PM



Saturday, April 12, 2008

1:00pm—8:00pm

Big Rock Ministry Center

Discover how the arts are used to celebrate God. Enjoy music, dance, visual arts, story, photography and multimedia. Learn more in workshops on writing, visual art, fiber art, photography, dance, hip hop and prophetic music.

This is a Karitos Christian Arts Event. Proceeds go towards the Karitos Christian Arts Conference that will be held July 31 - Aug. 2 at Living Waters Community Church in Bolingbrook, Illinois. For more info: [www.karitos.com](http://www.karitos.com) or call (630) 393-6516