

“Valley of Refuge” CHAIN (Concerts of Prayer, Rick Ridings, Pastor Obidike)

Concerts of Prayer: “Prepare the Infrastructure”

At a first-Monday-night-of-the-month prayer meeting they’ve been doing for over 30 years (Johnny Clayton, Barbara Conrady, etc), the Lord spoke to them, “Begin to pray for the river valley to be PREPARED to be a place of refuge: a place of refuge, healing, deliverance, rest, equipping, and sending out. Pray that the very infrastructure of our cities would be prepared for what is coming.” (This is quoted from an e-mail from Barbara Conrady, in response to my inquiry to make sure I had it worded accurately.)

Rick Ridings: “A Valley of Refuge”

This word lined up dramatically with a prophetic word given by Rick Ridings in the early 90’s while visiting at Grace Covenant Church in Alma, Arkansas. Rick had pastored for several years in Fort Smith (Maranatha - now Fort Smith Christian Center), and then went on the mission field to establish a 24/7 house of prayer in Jerusalem. In that word, he said that the Lord had shown him a few regions (seven, I believe) in the entire world that would become “Valleys of Refuge” in time of the Great Harvest and the Great Persecution (“great & terrible”) that was coming. It would specifically be a place of refuge for Jews who will be hated and persecuted with extreme violence, but, that each of these “valleys of refuge” would also be for all believers as well. The Fort Smith river valley was one of those places.

(I’ve just sent Rick an e-mail asking him if he has a transcript, or can give me an accurate account of that word.. but here are some of the parts I have heard repeated over the last - almost - 20 years. Basically that people would “come in droves” to be delivered, equipped, and resented... and that, just like in Egypt... although we are known and surrounded on all sides by plagues, enemies, death, hatred, and destruction, the Lord would “keep those in the river valley” - food, health, provision, etc.

Pastor Obidike (from Nigeria, to Destiny Church in Fort Smith): “The Fort”

A couple of years ago, a pastor and traveling minister (who has documented signs & wonders following him as he has ministered as an crusading evangelist around the world), was in a time of prayer, and the Lord told him “Go to Fort Smith, Arkansas!” He didn’t even know that Arkansas was a state in the U.S... and had definitely never heard of Fort Smith. Right away, the Lord told him, “It will be ‘a fort’ in the spirit just like it used to be in the natural. People will run to the fort for many reasons: they need safety from outside enemies and elements... they want to join the army... they need to be healed, delivered, fed, equipped, and then re-sent back out into the nations.”

He moved to Fort Smith in, I believe 2008, and became the pastor of Destiny Church in Fort Smith. I (Aaron Jackson) was at a Concerts of Prayer meeting hosted by Pastor Obidike not long after he first moved here, and heard him (first hand) share this word. This was the first time the other people in the room had heard his word, too, and it blew them away because of how precisely it lined up with the word the Lord had given them several years previously, with the exact same type of words: people coming for refuge, healing, deliverance, rest, equipping, and sending out.

Aaron Jackson: “No Divorce Zone” & “Cancer-Free Zone”

That same night, I told the group about a prophetic song that erupted during a time of 48-hour prayer & worship hosted by Paul & Katie Howell at the New Wineskins prayer room in downtown Fort Smith. As I was playing my guitar and singing Scripture, praises, worship, and prayer, the Lord reminded me of a bulletin

board, that is still up in town, by a divorce lawyer reading, "Divorce without the Drama". And I very clearly heard the Lord say, "pray that this man would find another career that he loves, because I am going to give believers in the river valley the authority over divorce, and the communication-twisting enemy who hates our marriages." So, I began to sing words along those lines, and the spontaneous chorus ("spiritual song") that ensued was basically "A No Divorce Zone, in the River Valley - give us authority, Oh God... A No Divorce Zone, in the River Valley - give us authority, Oh God."

A few minutes after that, the Lord said, "you have not, because you ask not, and you haven't been asking rightly, because you haven't known my will in these matters... I want to do the same thing with cancer. Pray it. Sing it: That believers would receive and walk in authority over cancer in the river valley." The chorus that came was "A Cancer-Free Zone, in this valley; A Cancer-Free Zone, in this valley." In follow-up prayer about "what will this look like, Lord?" the Lord showed me that "it's not that people won't get cancer, be diagnosed with it, or become terminal because of it... but I will give authority to heal it to those who will be persistent in their asking for this authority, and who will pray boldly for others - according to my sovereign will."

(Here's a link to an interesting related word spoken by Bill Johnson in Redding, CA, that I had not heard at the time, that someone who was at that meeting sent me days later: http://www.encountersnetwork.com/email_blasts/feb_2008_prayerstorm7.htm)

As I was sharing this in this Monday night Concerts of Prayer meeting, unbeknown to me, there was a hospital administrator (I believe - he works at one of the local hospitals for sure) in the room, who said that the Lord had put it on his heart to pray for "cancer specialists to be released into the river valley to document the incredible healings that would be taking place" and that "the city would need to start making street, sewer, and those type infrastructure improvements to handle the droves of people who would flood into the river valley because of this. After he shared this, Barbara Conrady (one of the faithful intercessors who has been in that Concerts of Prayer - 2 Chronicles 7:14 - prayer ministry from the beginning) shared the word (that I had heard her share before, but Pastor Obidike and this man had not) about the need for them to pray for the infrastructure of the city because of the people coming for refuge, etc (as I documented at the beginning of this chain).

Bring Prophets from the Nations to Tell Us:

Stuart & Colleen Price "Stirring Revival in Arkansas"

Just like the Lord called Pastor Obidike "out of nowhere" to come to Fort Smith, Arkansas - in about 1999, a man showed up in Van Buren from Australia, and ended up speaking at (then) Karis Restoration Center ("The Community Life Center" on Hwy 64, where "Liberty Fellowship" is now). You can actually read his word on his website at:

http://www.priceministries.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=7

I am going to copy and paste it here, though, just in case their website ever goes away:

In March 1999, the Lord laid a burden for Arkansas on their (Stuart & Colleen Price) hearts, & they began to intercede for revival in Arkansas. The Lord gave Pastor Stuart a vision in a large Annual Conference in October 1999 in Brisbane: It was like the hub of a wheel was centred over Little Rock, with lines like spokes of a wheel, going out all over Arkansas, and even some going over the borders into other States of America. Little Rock was going to be a springboard, to launch what God was wanting to do. On the ends of the lines, looked like blobs, and Stuart asked the Lord, "what are those?". The Lord replied, "they are churches, where I will move by my spirit, bringing Revival." This was such revelation, and with this, they took a step of faith, and began to plan to come to Arkansas.

They visited a Travel Agent, making bookings for March 2000, and believed God for supernatural provision

to come. In February 2000, just three weeks prior to coming they travelled to a State Conference, and while Colleen was talking to some Pastor's wives, she discovered that a Pastor friend had had an open vision concerning Arkansas five years previously. Excitedly they inquired and found that this Pastor had been praying for a young man who was going to be getting married, and while they were praying he saw a map of the State of Arkansas, (with the name underneath) and as he watched this vision he saw the Blood of Jesus coming down from the top of the State, and covering the whole of Arkansas. This young Pastor was so excited about what God had shown him, but after sharing with an American Pastor, who is now in Sydney, he became very discouraged when he was told, "nobody goes to Arkansas!" After some time he never thought a great deal about it. Talking with Stuart & Colleen he became so excited to hear that they were going in three weeks time. Pastor Stuart had asked the Lord to send someone else to Arkansas, as he was too busy with his church, and the Lord had told him that He had, and that they would not go! Stuart never asked that again. So, in March 2000, Stuart & Colleen set off for Arkansas, not knowing anyone, but trusting God and His leading, and with many people praying and believing with them as they came. The Lord had said that, He would show them, and cause them to meet people who would be instrumental in bringing about His will. They came to Little Rock, and prayed and sort God for 10 days, hearing nothing, but on 11th day, Pastor Stuart heard the Lord say, "this week I will open it up!" Praise God, and open it up He did. They had nineteen meetings in thirteen days, all over the State of Arkansas, and went on Radio and Television, just as the Lord had told Stuart.

Steve Evans "The Faucet"

In 1998, I had come into relationship with a couple of the leaders of a youth/young-adult prayer movement called "Rock the Nations" (Gary Black, David Perkins, Lou Engel, Cindy Jacobs, Ted Haggart, Mike Bickle, and many others were involved from all over the U.S.) In particular, I ended up in relationship with an extremely prophetic man named Steve Evans, who was originally from Wales. We invited Steve to come in and minister at our regional, multi-congregation youth/young-adult worship service "Second Saturday" and to spend a few days with our youth/y.a. leadership, mentoring and ministering, as well.

During his visit, we went onto the Steve Duignan talk radio show (AM950 - Fort Smith) to visit with Steve about the upcoming Second Saturday meeting. I had shared with Duignan some of the crazy, spot-on, very specific prophetic words I had heard Evans speak so far that week, and so, on the air, he asked Evans, "What is the Lord showing you about the region?" Evans said, "Well, let me ask."

So Duignan and I continued to talk for just a few minutes, and then Evans said, "He showed me this: There's a huge faucet above this region. Right now, it is only at a very slow trickle.. a leak."

(Around that time, we had already seen hundreds of first-time salvations, drug addictions broken, family and abusive relationships healed and restored - during the revival in 1997-1999 in Alma)

He continued, "But the Lord wants to open it up... all the way... and it gets opened up by your prayers, and your desire for Him to do so. But you have to know, that when it gets opened up... well, just picture what your backyard faucet would look like if you left it pouring out at full blast. It will 'totally mess up' the place where it's hitting first - nothing will be left standing as it used to... but, the water will ripple and rush out from there, and refresh and change the entire nation."

There have been several faucet, water-works, dam-breaking, outpouring type words spoken in the last few years - one from an IHOP team during a meeting at Crossroads in Alma a few years ago that was seconded by a word the Lord had given Glen Thompson (that were very, very similar to Steve Evan's word - which they'd never heard).

Pastor from Algeria: “The Lid” (+ Steven Mode)

Even though this man (who’s name will be removed because of the persecution in his country) is only in his 40’s, he is considered by many to be “the father” of the underground church in Algeria. Somehow, he ended up in Western/Northwest Arkansas, attending John Brown University, while sending MP3’s and webcasts of teachings back to the pastors he had established in underground churches in this nation known for violent Islamic oppression. I had met him through a relationship with common friends through an international ministry led by Sister Gwen Shaw, but then got the opportunity to sit down with him on a few occasions to help him get his MP3/Video set-up working for his pastors.

It would be easier to just go to my website to see this word, and some other related items:

<http://www.likedaviddid.com/life-blurbs/the-lid/>

<http://www.likedaviddid.com/life-blurbs/the-fruit/>

In summary, there is a lid over our region that is currently keeping much of our prayers and worship from fulfilling its purpose. I know the Lord hears us, but it’s kind of like the war in the heavenlies that Daniel describes in Daniel 10 (between the “Prince of Persia” and the archangels). The lid is “our reasoning”. The word (which I first heard from this Algerian pastor) was confirmed (in the mouth of two or three witnesses) by Steven Mode (who used to be the 10:45 worship leader and Heritage for several years) and a 14-year old girl (given the same words) within just a few days of each other. However, I was also given the encouragement to “not stop praying non-lid-related prayers during this time... because it will be like a ‘pressure cooker’ - soaking, infiltrating, and preparing the objects of our prayers - and one day, when the lid comes off, it will come off with a bang.”

History of Revival in the River Valley

I’m going to create a separate document that summarizes the major outpouring of God in (primarily) the Alma area back in 1995-1999. It will be located near the link to this document.

Encouragement to Prayer

There is a huge misunderstanding about “prophetic words” often found in the Body of Christ. This sentiment is that “since God said it, He will do it.” Well, for sure, if God says He WILL do it, then He will. However, most prophetic words are what He WANTS to do through and with us. This is not a New Testament phenomena. This is the way the majority of the Old Testament prophecies were given as well. Read Isaiah and Jeremiah (for example). The basic format of a lot of the Lord’s words are:

“This is what you’re doing, my children. This is what I wish you were doing. This is what I would do for you, your people, and your entire land - even the strangers in it - if you would do what I’m asking. But, this is what I will do if you do not do what I ask.”

This could be summarized:

CONVICTION >> PLAN OF ACTION >> INVITATION >> JUDGEMENT

A strong New Testament example of this, that should be enough motivation to “receive and respond to the Lord’s prophetic invitations” is Paul’s writing to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:18-19. Before Timothy was sent out into ministry (that sending recounted in 2 Timothy 1), he was prayed-over by Paul (and most likely his mother and grandmother) who prophesied over him (1 Tim 1:18) and imparted spiritual gifts to him (2 Tim 1:6) for the purpose of being effective in ministry and remaining strong in his faith. In verse 18, Paul tells Timothy that he

should “wage war using the prophecies spoken over him”.

Here’s an example of what that may have sounded like as Timothy did it:

“Father, Your Spirit said through Paul, that I would speak Your Word with clarity and power and authority while You have me here in Ephesus. No one seems to be getting it... I am not seeing the changed lives and radical faith commitments that yYou spoke through those prophetic words. But, I ASK You for them, Lord. You alone can change the hearts and minds of men, through the power of Your Holy Spirit, and I know that You desire to use my obedience. So, even though I am not seeing it yet, I believe You at Your word, and I ask You, Lord: make my words Your words - cut through the arguments and philosophies of man with Your clarity and authority. Give ME more revelation as I study the Scriptures, and the discipline, desire, and opportunity to spend more time alone with You, Father. Change lives through my words and the opportunities that You give me to speak. I ask these things knowing it is Your will, and in the name of Your Son, Jesus. So be it.”

We must take those prophetic words that we believe to be from the Lord, weigh them and try them against Scripture, practice discernment by the Spirit and through a multitude of counsel, and then “wage war” using those words. They are fuel for our prayer, and an invitation to partner with the Lord in His plan for our region.

Loving His Bride

Since the message you (Pastor Wes, December 3rd, 2010) are preparing for this Sunday is about preparation for the manifestation of the Messiah, I feel the need to include a string of some of the very short “one-liners” that the Lord has given me about unity and maturity in the Bride, that I know are absolutely critical to that preparation.

“Don’t Ever Slander My Bride”

One day during a prayer time in the World Prayer Center in Colorado Springs (before the sheetrock work was even finished), out of no where, I saw a picture of Jesus rolling up his sleeves to show me his big carpenter’s bicept, and He said to me in a very stern voice, “Don’t ever slander my Bride.” It was a serious warning, by which He was requiring of me to no longer say anything about the Church that wasn’t completely in love, completely true, completely at the right time, and completely necessary for her maturity. Why? Because no matter what I thought she looked like, it was His Bride, and He’s very jealous for her.

“Unity will NOT come through compromise; Unity can only come through unconditional love.”

As I first started trying to gather congregations together for works, worship, & service in the late 90’s, a phrase kept coming up, that basically said, “let’s try to find the lowest common denominator that we all share doctrinally, and focus on that, instead of our differences.” The implementation of this sentiment meant, “let’s completely avoid doing anything when we get together that might touch on someoneelse’s theology.”

Although I do believe we should be sensitive about when and what we share with people (I ask the Lord to lead me into those areas with “a burning in my bones”, so that I literally feel like I have no choice but to speak), our unity can not come through “avoiding the real you”. It can only come through knowing someone, in all of your and their immaturity - pet peaves, hurts, habits, hang-ups - and choosing to value them anyway.

“I’ll Take It!”

During a personal worship & prayer time one day, while at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City,

the Lord broke into the topic I was thinking about. (When He “breaks into my thoughts” by changing topics on me abruptly - this is often how I start the discerning process that it is the Lord.) I started seeing pictures of different congregations worshipping: Episcopalians swinging incense down the aisle... non-denominational congregations in fully-stage-lit, concert-like venues... Methodists standing for a gospel reading... African-Americans swaying to a big choir number... etc... then I looked up at the worship & prayer that was going on in front of me (that was so amazingly sweet)...

He then said, “ALL of your expressions of worship are immature...”

By “your”, I knew that He meant the entire Bride of Christ... and my own personal ones, too. He literally meant “ALL of OUR expressions of worship”. After a long pause of me thinking, “yeah, okay... I can receive that...” He came back in so still and gentle, with a heart-felt and heart-melting, “And I’ll Take It!”

Again, this one phrase spoke volumes to my heart and mind; I knew that He meant, “I want every last drop of it... no matter how little they’re actually thinking about Me while they do it... it’s often all that they know... and I’m glad to get whatever they know to give me.”

“Blue Hairs and Green Hairs”

Many people in my generation have a lot of “reasons” (read: “excuses”) or “obstacles” to why they are not living for the Lord. One of the most popular is that “all Christians are judgemental hypocrites - and care way too much about your money.” My own brother responded to an altar call one time, and was told by the person who met him at the altar that he needed to “go get his hair cut” before the man would lead him in the prayer of salvation. Sadly, I’ve heard this same type of story time and time again in my 15 years of (mostly) full-time ministry. Then there’s the reality of waitresses who consistently testify that Sunday afternoons are their worst days because “the people are more rude and condescending” and “they tip less”. The stereotype of “judgemental Christians” is too often the reality.

That mentality was one of the largest obstacles for me to “walk in Unity and love” for my Christian brothers and sisters. I have no problem extending grace and unconditional love to those who do not claim to believe in Jesus, or who do not claim to “be Christian”. But, especially when I was younger, I had a lot of trouble loving who I would immaturely refer to as “so-called Christians” (those who literally use the Lord’s name “in vain” by calling themselves by His name, but by not at least attempting to live like Him). Then, one day during a church-service, the Lord broke into my thoughts and said,

“Aaron, you expect ‘the blue hairs’ to love and accept ‘the green hairs’ unconditionally... but you do not accept ‘the blue hairs’ who are having trouble accepting ‘the green hairs’. If you can’t love them unconditionally, how can you expect them to love the painted (tattoo’d/hair colored), pierced, and addicted the way that you do?”

Translation: ‘The blue hairs’ would be the older, stereotypical, “religious” Christian I used to refer to as “so-called Christians”. ‘The green hairs’ are the “punk rockers” - those with visible tattoos, piercings, funny facial hair, gothic, etc, etc. We all have to be willing to “love the unlovable” - and that demographic looks totally different for each of us.