

Tuesday, March 17, 2010 Presbyterian's Meeting, Prayer and Encouragement Time  
Synopsis Changes will look like this:

Job 14:7-9 For there is the hope of a tree, that if it be cut down that it will sprout again, That the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground, Yet, through the scent of water, it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.

God is bringing restoration and though the former structures may have been deformed, passed its season of usefulness, been weakened by storms or pests, It's structures may be taken away, but the roots hold it's DNA. The seed of the tree is left in the remnant of the stump. There is hope for the roots as there are new sprouts within the existing DNA.

Mark Rose remembered a dream like threads of a picture coming together. He remembered threads of a dream from several weeks ago. the aquifer and the water springing up and being refilled in the current season. God is not abandoning the past, but is promising "As I was with Moses so I will be with you." Be ready for His moving. There is really nothing we can do to replenish the depleted aquifer, but God has and is pouring out, to water and replenish the earth.

Jer 2:13 For my people have committed two great evils: They have forsaken Me, and the fountain of living waters. And they have hewn out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns which cannot hold water.

God is saying, "Dig out the wells. Dig where I tell you. You cannot rely on last seasons programs, forms, functions, methods, techniques, but we must thirst and hunger for His outpouring and springing up. Last season is broken cistern..."

Numbers 21:16-18 And from thence, they came to Beer: that is the well whereof the Lord spoke unto Moses, Gather the people and I will give them water. Then Israel sang this song; Spring up O well; sing ye unto it! And the princes digged the well, the nobles of the people digged it, by the direction of the lawgiver, with their staves.

Moses had his staff from the victory of another season; it had been the staff that had turned into a snake. It was a symbol of the past successes and the authority he garnered from the past victory. It was used in this moment to reopen the well for a new generation.

One of the Brothers saw a picture of a huge violent tornado which began to produce fear, but as it came closer, it went into him and God said that He was the tornado. We are not to run from the coming storm, but to remain stable and stay in position and we will find that he is in the storm and will use it to shape us. Be ready. Embrace my spirit, Embrace It!

God began speaking to us about wells and the redigging/opening of historic wells. The campground was selected by the digging of a hole which filled with water overnight. The waters of revival, spirit passion, calling to spirit-led ministry are still being drawn from by new generations.

Gen. 26:18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water which they had digged in the days of Abraham his Father; for the Philistines had stopped up the wells after the days of Abraham.

Is. 12:3-4 Therefore With joy shall ye draw water from the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon His name, declare His doings among the people, make mention that His name is exalted.

2 Kings 3:16 Make the valley full of ditches

Prepare for what is coming. Put methods/functions to hold the harvest in place

Chris Wadle: Pastor from Big Springs (check out that place's name) talked of their church being well off, good programs, historical church, but with a great sense of dissatisfaction, leading to prayer meetings to cry out for what God was wanting to release in a new season. God showed Pastor a picture of a Roman slave ship with rows and rows of rowing people. From his position on the deck it looked really good as he looked down at the order, effectiveness and the moving ahead they were experiencing. Out of the corner of his eye he caught a glimpse of another ship. There was a strong wind blowing and this ship had it's sails set to the wind and was moving 10 times faster than their little ship.

Phil Parker: Pastor from Scottsbluff

2 Kings 18:3-4 Hezekiah's revival and removing of idols and icons of past victories. Specifically, the bronze snake was destroyed

"We have become fond of the snake"

We must be willing to look at all our methods, processes, and idols of previous moves and victories. We cannot keep for perpetuity that which was given for a moment. There are things we need to smash. We may need to look at the way we do district council. What God is doing may be radically and uncomfortably new.

"Let your mind be BLOWN by the spirit to go outside the norm."

Terry B. reminded us of the birthing of Christ's Place church in Lincoln in the late 1970's. Dave Argue looked at the college students, realized they needed fed, and needed to sleep in on Sunday mornings, so their plan was to meet at noon on Sunday and eat together, then have service from 1:30 to 4pm. This was a radical departure from the "cookie cutter" church forms we were used to at the time. It was radically different. God may be calling us again to culturally reshape and reform to meet a new generation.

Nadine Sandoz: Dwight reminded us that several years ago his wife Nadine had a vivid dream of the church they were pastoring being consumed by a fire which they could not put out. From the fire emerged a new structure, radically different, stronger, unlimited in its form, without the limitations of the old structure.

A new paradigm is like a growing child. The old shoes were great at the time, but they are for a time. Once the child is formed and grows, the old shoes must be cast off as they were for another time. The leather structure was to serve the formation, not limit its growth. We need to refit periodically.

Earthquakes reveal weaknesses already present in the current structures; show flaws that may have existed all along, but become drastically evident in times of shaking. Michigan is experiencing great financial shaking. The church is having to face its inability to respond. The shaking is exposing the detriment of past season's structures.

God doesn't have an issue with the lost, but with the church. "If MY people..." God is calling us all to new levels of obedience. God told the church they would be sent to the whole world, but they did not obey that call until they were sent through persecution at the time of Stephen.

God is not sending people to us, but sending us to the world. We must empower, train, and release people to the marketplace, to the world to engage in practical spiritual ministry outside the walls of the traditional church. The gathering may become more of a celebration of the successes and manifestations of the Kingdom on the streets and homes. Eating together, meeting from house to house, and experiencing the power of the spirit in the real world are marks of this New Testament church.

When the Holy Spirit comes, we must be in position to be ready to receive what God is pouring out.

Jay shared a prayer from Abraham Lincoln "we have forgotten the God who made us great". There needs to be a repentance of self-sufficiency. Prayer was offered and agreed with.

Proverbs\_\_\_\_\_ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and LEAN NOT TO YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING...

Dwight Sandoz: We are in need of redigging and restructuring the old wells and creating some new ones. Perhaps what we are hearing today is leading us to restructure our district, our meetings, our district council, and even the function of these presbyters may change. We may need to be more of the "Elders" of the District. Leading in these kinds of meetings, challenging us to more practical spirituality and

Gary Hoyt: Some districts are restructuring to the place they are even changing the name of the District to be the "ministry network" (Iowa district?) It may require us to put away some of the formalities that are scattered through our meetings, and instead make time for relationship and the kind of flow we are experiencing in this meeting today. We may be challenged to include some technology we don't currently use to connect in creative ways to share the things of God with our younger ministers.

WE are asking for Holy Spirit power. For Boldness, for new ways/methods. God is challenging to leave the shore, push out of our place of security, our possessions, our methods.

Gary Hoyt: Saw a closet where there was a lot of activity. Perceived the activity was not in the natural but angelic in nature. Asked about the closet and was reminded of his wife's rule that of you want a new shirt, you have to get rid of an old one. We must be willing to release the old to be ready to receive the new.

Steve W.: The process by which the old tree is removed is by intentionality, that the old structure is no longer valid, broken, outdated, and weakened by age. For whatever reason the old was removed, our natural bent is to try to regrow the old structure after it's previous form. The root must remain functional and will supply the new growth, but the old structure cannot be regrown. It needs to be organically structured, shaped by the hand of the husbandman who knows what is healthy for the new plant.

There was here discussion about the healthy pruning and cutting of the vines to make them produce new and more effective fruit.

Dwight: We must learn in this new reformation to work outside our previously held boundaries. Will need to learn to blur the lines of territorialism. We will work with any or all who share our root system:

1. Lordship of Christ
2. Authority of Scripture
3. Empowering work of the Holy Spirit
4. Fellowship of believers
5. Mission of the church

We will need to work with all who share these principles and will begin to be involved to help others who may not have structures which will support them in their work. We will become more apostolic (not in the vein of gathering people or ministries to oneself) in the process of helping, assisting and supporting other ministries in practical ways.