

*Supporting Pastors by Ministering to Christians
in Need of Guidance and Deliverance*



APF Newsletter—Vol. 2, No. 1

January 2, 2008

Dear APF Supporters,

Greetings to 2008!

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and are ready for 2008. We had a good Christmas time, as we attended five family celebrations. More importantly, we remembered the truth that God is with us. When growing up, Christmas was a great time because of the holiday activities. More and more, I see the evidence of God's presence with us, and Christmas is a great time to celebrate that reality. He came to be our Savior, and I'm thankful we can openly display our belief in Him.

Praises:

One way that it has been evidenced to us that God is with us is the way so many blessed us this Christmas. Cards and letters with encouraging words and nice financial gifts greatly supported us. More than once, I had sit down after opening the mail because of a donation that humbled me. I praise God for working in the hearts of our friends and family who support us.

Another praise is that Angela and I had prayers answered with some part-time jobs developing for us. We were able to smoothly handle some different hours...Angela only had to deal with some sore feet! ☺ The timing of holding counseling sessions also worked out well. It was definitely answers to prayer.

Praises belong to our God as well for the protection that He has given us. Last month, I asked for prayers for protection. It has been obvious to me that your prayers have been answered because we have not encountered as much spiritual resistance to our ministry as we did in October and November. Thank you so much for supporting us in prayer.

Some Thoughts to Consider:

Recently, I've been reading Charles H. Usher's book, *Satan a Defeated Foe*. The title of chapter 8 is: "Wanted! A Man to Stand in the Gap." The focus is on men and women standing against the working of the demonic host. One point that caught my attention is that the person standing against the demonic must be a person of vision. Such a phrase is vague to me so I had to read further to understand. He goes on to explain that this vision is to understand that the warfare is for the "whole church." Instead of focusing on his own community, he will enlarge the service to that of anywhere God desires him to serve. With this in mind, the person will stand against the works of the enemy wherever it is needed.

Two things come to mind to challenge me on this issue. First, it is often easy for me to focus only on my local area for helping people. Through prayer, email, and phone conversations, I can support people all around the world. This ministry, or any ministry, does not have to be confined to one small area. God can and does call ministries to go to places farther than we ever dreamed. I must be ready to go where He says to go.

The second point is to have an understanding of the attacks I encounter. Usher says, "...unless he is aware of the forces that are opposing him and understands the nature of the conflict that he is in, he will be unable to resist the principalities and powers." The curses that people speak against our ministries, or simply negative attitudes that may be held, shouldn't cause me to consider the person my enemy. It is the spiritual forces of darkness that influence people to oppose this ministry—no matter the fashion they oppose it. When I face resistance and opposition, there was a time when I very easily we get down and want to quit. This book has reminded me that even if people resist me, I must remember that the demonic is leading that charge.

I want to make clear that I am not suggesting that anyone who is opposing this ministry is demonized. The whole issue of demonization is way overblown. Not that we shouldn't be concerned about demonization, but the stigmatization that goes with demonization is overblown. The matters of the demonic is about their influence in what people think and do more than "possessing" them. Demons influence everyone from time to time, which is why we are to be alert and understand his schemes (1 Peter 5:8 and 2 Corinthians 2:11). Opposition to the Church and the ministries of the Church need to be seen from the perspective that Usher is sharing. The powers of darkness oppose us and influence people to oppose us.

It must be kept in mind, though, that no matter how our circumstances may look, the enemy is defeated. With this fact in mind, it is much easier to help people with confidence. I know that when the enemy is encountered and engaged, I stand in victory.

Prayer Concerns:

First, please pray for Angela, as she is quickly approaching her ninth month of pregnancy. Some things need to be finished at our home in preparation for the baby, but mostly the prayers are for good health for her and the baby. Also, pray for her to be free of anxiety and worry during the next month and the delivery.

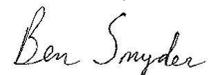
Second, I intend to start meeting with area pastors to share more about *A Pastor's Friend*. Please pray for area pastors to be willing to listen to my story and allow me to share with their churches.

Lastly, we have already scheduled an open house for April. Please pray for the planning and development of the open house so the community can be more aware of the ministry.

Final Thoughts:

Thank you all very much for your prayer and financial support. I can't say it enough how it humbles and blesses me. My desire is to be obedient and serve the Lord as He calls me. I could not do it without your help. Thank you again.

In Christ,



Ben Snyder