

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



Newsletter—Vol. 3, No. 2
February 16, 2009

Dear APF Supporter:

Greetings!

The last month went quickly and we've rolled into February already. For me, that means two birthdays in my family (Allison and Anthony)...so we can have cake and ice cream (or sherbet, as the kids like the rainbow colors)! I enjoy celebrating the children's birthdays and watching them grow. They seem to grow so fast. I really enjoyed the party we had for them.

Praises:

Praise God for the major work done on the office...I said it would take a miracle, and God is in the business of miracles. There seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. I am so thankful and excited!

Related to the building, an anonymous person has committed to match up to \$2000 toward its completion. The only issue is that the donation must be given to me and not APF. No tax receipt can be given. The building is not APF property, so APF cannot pay for the building. The financial support would likely cover the completion of construction. If donors reach the goal of \$2000, the anonymous donor will give \$2000 as well, giving \$4000!

In spite of a winter with more snow than normal (although a lot less than I remember as young boy of the 1970s), very few ministry sessions needed to be cancelled. I enjoy the snow, even the shoveling, but snow can cause problems with meeting times. So far this winter, it hasn't been a problem.

Something to Consider:

Matthew 4:23-25—Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Acts 8:9-24—Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

*Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."
Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."*

When Jesus and the apostles traveled and shared the Good News, they included healing in their ministry. In Matthew 4, the miracles that Jesus did caused news about Him to spread. Crowds of great number followed Him. Miracles, healing, freedom from demons, and relief from suffering had not been seen by the people before. It was very attractive indeed. The Lord Jesus gave the people something they desperately needed, and He also showed how much God loved them. The miracles drew people to Him and to repentance. God's power in Christ Jesus led people to believing in Him.

Similarly in Acts 8, Philip while preaching the Gospel, healed many. The healing done by Philip in the Name of Jesus was so powerful that the local healer, Simon, was even amazed. The power of God was revealed and led people to Christ. The people had not seen a power as great as that of the apostles in Christ. Simon wanted that power too, though he didn't fully understand that the power of God was not something to be purchased.

In non-western cultures, spiritual power is a commodity that is very valuable. Even within western countries, there are peoples that have this experience. In his book, *The Bushman and the Spirits*, Canadian Native American Barney explains how he came to saving faith. He, as he says many Native Americans there were, was very capable in witchcraft. He used it for both good and bad. Barney made a living with hunting and trapping and was quite successful. His success offended some other Native Americans, who put a hex on his traps. They also cursed his rifle. He went over a month without catching anything with his traps or getting anything with his rifle. Since he himself worshiped spirits for his witchcraft, he knew witchcraft had been done to him.

Barney made plans to see a more powerful witch doctor to reverse the curses, but a local missionary changed his mind. He told Barney that it possible that this same witchdoctor may have put the hex and curse on him in the first place! More than that, the missionary went to Barney's home and prayed over the traps. The next time out, Barney caught 17 beaver! The missionary told Barney he too could pray, and instructed him to pray over his rifle. Barney shot three moose in one day. All of this shattered Barney's worldview. The "white man's God" was more powerful than the witchdoctors, and he was led to Jesus Christ. The missionary showed God's power, just as Jesus and apostles did.

When Christians show God's power, it points others to Christ so that they can come to saving faith. It seems that in lands where spiritual power is understood and experienced, the power of God is much more revealed. Couldn't we in the West also experience God's power? I believe so. All believers are capable of praying for healing, dealing with demons, and standing against acts of occultism. Healing may not come every time, and battles can be rugged with the powers of darkness, but our God is faithful! As we continually have faith in Him that He still does heal, deliver us, and empower us, He will meet the challenge. I encourage you to believe that God is all-powerful and still is at work today, even in the West.

Prayer Concerns:

Please pray for continued growth of the ministry in 2009.

Please continue to pray for me as I teach a class at Jefferson Brethren on Wednesday evenings,

through May 6.

Please pray for God's blessing on those who call for help.

Final Thoughts:

When a person chooses to be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is no small matter. The Lord God Almighty Himself sings for joy (see Luke 15:10). In choosing Christ, we are rejecting Satan and his host. This means war! God is more than able to empower us in the war that comes when we join the winning side. Battles still rage, just as they did in the time of Jesus and the apostles. We too can minister healing and show God's power, and in doing so we can bring others to Christ and hinder the work of Satan's kingdom. May the Lord Jesus Christ be praised that He still heals and shows His power!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Snyder".

Ben Snyder