

May 1, 2005

Keeping yⁿ Touch



Whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear
of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one
mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
Philippians 1:27



Matthew 13:23

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.



Info Center

Dear Readers,

May 1st, 2005

Spring has arrived. Praise the Lord! Farmers are in the fields, grass is growing, trees are budding, flowers are blossoming, and thunderstorms are occurring. Spring is such a beautiful season. Creation comes to life. Enjoy each and every moment.

It is an honor to present you with another bulletin to strengthen your relationship with Christ. There is a terrific word from Brother Martin Kluson called Ish and Ishshah, which reveals many basic principles of God needed to walk the straight and narrow. Also, we have testimonies from the participants in the Esther Play that was filmed in Dubuque, Iowa. A prophetic word from Brother Burt Asbill is included. Brother Barak Asbill has a word in here to enlighten you with. Finally, there is another segment of The Virtuous Woman, written this time by Stacy Asbill.

We would be very blessed to hear what the Lord has been doing in everyone's soul. Submissions can be sent to:

News Bulletin, PO Box 409, Mahomet, IL 61853 or
send an e-mail to KITBulletin@truevine.net.



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Sonlight Gospel Illinois Convention

The Mahomet Fellowship is pleased to host the July 4th convention! The dates are as follows:

July 1 - 4, 2005

At: Living Word Omega Message
1202 N Lombard St
PO Box 409
Mahomet IL 61853

Meeting Times are:

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 10AM and 6:30PM
Monday morning 10AM

A meal will be provided after the morning meeting on all four days.

*For housing with the brethren or for more information, contact:
Mrs. Joyce Shaffer at (217) 367-1237 or
Mrs. Stephanie Schneider at (217) 202-1055
E-mail sonrisebrothers@hisurfer.net

*A block of 10 rooms is reserved at: **Sleep Inn** (about 15 minutes drive)
1908 N Lincoln Ave
(217) 367-6000

Rooms are non-smoking, unlimited people, \$49.10 + tax

There is a free continental breakfast and an indoor pool.

Please call and make your reservation on your own credit card, mentioning Living Word Omega Message. The rooms are held for the nights of June 30 and July 1 - 3. If you have any problems, call Mrs. Schneider (217) 202-1055

*Several other hotels in the area are:
Red Roof Inn (217) 352-0101
Microtel (217) 398-4136
Super 8 Motel (217) 359-2388
Days Inn (217) 356-6873

We ask that every family that attends brings 5 dozen cookies to share. Thank You!



The Lord is giving us yet another opportunity to hold a summer convention. This time at another location and at another time than in the past few years. Nevertheless, we believe that it is a time appointed by the Lord, a time when He will write his law into our minds and hearts and confirm us in faith in Christ Jesus.

- **Location:** Hotel Murano, www.hotelmurano.cz mountainous area approx. 70 miles north of Prague
- **Term:** 9/24/2005 – 10/1/2005
Arrival on Saturday, September 24th, first meal is lunch
Departure on Saturday, October 1st, last meal is breakfast
- **Accommodation:** In newly rebuilt 2 to 6 bed rooms with a bathroom and a balcony.
- **Transportation:** From Prague to Murano hotel will be provided by Prague fellowship.
- **Prices:** Include accommodation and three meals a day:

Adult from 15 and up / day:	US \$130
Child 5-15 years / day:	US \$100
Child 0-5 years / day:	free of charge

 Payment is to be made at the conference.
- **Registration:** Please confirm your participation by July 31st, 2005 at the latest by means of an on-line registration form available at www.patmos.cz.
- **Meetings:** Sunday through Friday, morning meeting at 9:30, evening meeting at 6:30 in a conference hall of the hotel.

We believe that the gathering together of the Body of Christ and the ministry, which God has given it as a gift, will bring to all of us a strengthening in His grace, re-establishing of His vision and edification of the inner man in His love. All of you are warmly invited to participate with us in the work of the Lord in this hour.

Prague Fellowship



In His Likeness

Brother Barak Asbill

February 27, 2005

First of all, it's very good to be back. There's no place like home. It was a good time to go abroad and see the work of the Lord, and the work that God is doing in our brethren's lives. They are no different than we are, for they have the same struggles, the same challenges in front of them. The beautiful thing is, the Word of God is universal in application, so when we see Him moving and working in our midst, it's a marvelous thing and it is something that God is worthy to be praised for. He's in the business of restoration. He's in the business of redeeming. He's in the business of bringing His Body to completion. There are many distractions out there, both here and abroad, that would want to hinder us as Christians from reaching that objective.

If you have your Bibles, you can turn over to Ephesians chapter 4. There's something here that I want to look at this morning. Starting in verse 1, it says, ***I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,***² ***With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;***³ ***Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***⁴ ***There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;***⁵ ***One Lord, one faith, one baptism,***⁶ ***One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*** Hallelujah. We know Ephesians 4 is a blueprint of God's purpose and plan that He had from the beginning. In Genesis 1:26 it says, ***And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness,*** and then in verse 27 it says, ***So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*** As we can see from this reading, God only did half of what He said He was going to do at that time. You see, we bear the image of God in three parts; I am spirit, soul, and body. He is Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. However, God did not finish creating man in His likeness because that was

something that was given to you and me to decide whether or not we want it. And so, this is the issue: do we really want it? God had no intention of creating us like the angels, because He wants someone that will choose to be like Him. Before we can do that, there's something of another nature, of another disposition that we have to put aside, we have to prefer Him above that. So, you find the process of God beginning with the Word that says, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God** (John 3:3).

When I began to look up the words in these particular passages in Ephesians chapter 4, you have verse 6, **One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all**. First of all, the word "Lord," if you translate it back into the Greek, means, "a supreme authority." The word "God" is "supreme divinity." Now, the word "Father," in this passage, is kind of generic in the Greek. It just says "Father." But that word in and of itself ought to embody enough meaning to us to give us an understanding. It says in John chapter 1, verse 12, **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God**. Interestingly enough, the word "son" here is the word "teknon," which means "child" or "an immature disposition." I like that, because it shows a beginning point, yet when you read it in the English, it gives you a hope of a promise of receiving an end to the beginning. When we read the genealogy in the Bible, it says, "So and so was the son of, who was the son of, who was the son of..." You realize that the Bible never mentions grandchildren, never uses the term "grandfather" or "grandchild." It is always "the son of." So, no matter how many people in the world choose to be Christ-like, they will always have a direct connection with the Father, and therefore have that opportunity to be able to come into that place of fellowship that the Bible defines as sonship.

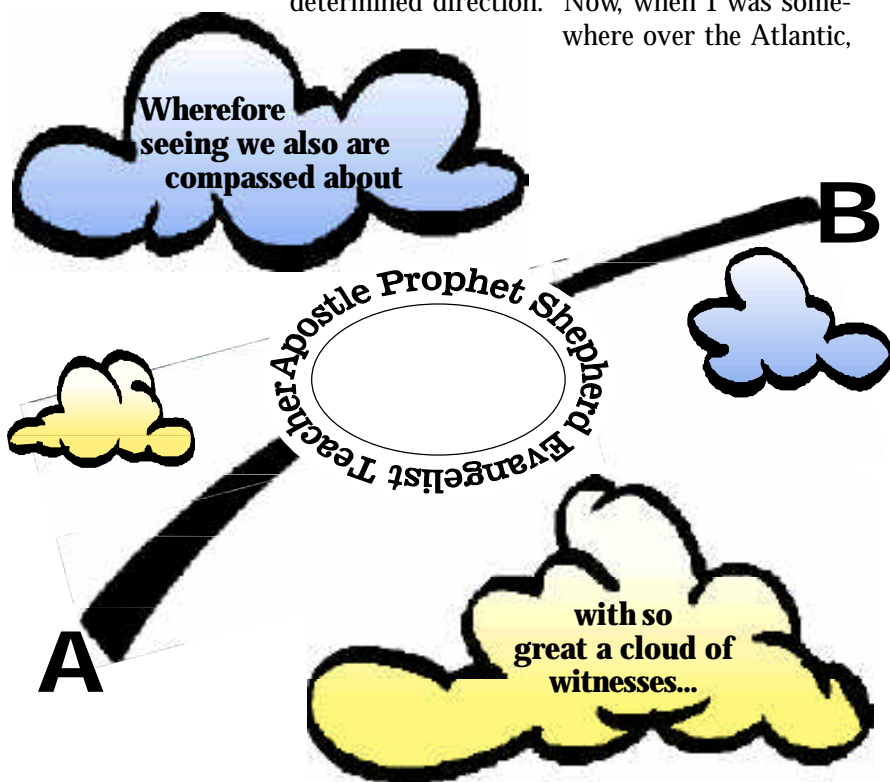
So, you have **one Lord, one God, one Father**. It is the character of God's supreme authority, His supreme divinity, and Him as our Father that is working the "let us make man in our likeness" into our souls to bring us to that divine state of being, even as God is in a divine state of being. Now, that doesn't mean we become a god, but that we become like God. All you have to do is look at my children, and you will be able to tell whom they belong to because they bear the image of me or their mother, or both of us. Hallelujah. But

divinity isn't something that's down here where we are. It is something that's up here where He is. The intention that God has for mankind is that man would exert himself, abandon himself and abandon this world for the reality that is called divinity.

It is interesting to look at the story of the woman with the issue of blood. When she pressed through the crowd and touched Jesus on the hem of His garment, the Bible says that virtue flowed out of Him (Mark 5:30). Somewhere in my studying, I came across the idea or the thought that the virtue that flowed out of Him was the divine nature. When it was imparted to her the divine nature superimposed itself over her carnal condition that was then subject to the law of sin of death. And because it is a higher law, it cancelled out the previous law, and the right or the claim that the disease had through the aspect of sin and death. Hallelujah. I am sure that the woman was never the same again. She had a living reality of the living God that not only touched her physically, but did something inside for her. I am sure that this transaction of having touched and been touched by a living God was a life changing experience and she was never the same again. There was something of a pressing through the humanity that was around Jesus, that, as she touched Him, God honored her faith. As she pushed through the barrier to touch Him, He, in turn, reached out and touched her. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

Now, let us look closer at this particular passage found in Ephesians 4:6. It says, ***One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*** When we look at the word "in" you all, it is fascinating to find that "in" means "a relation of rest." Strong's Concordance defines this word "in" (#1722, en) as being intermediate between two other Greek words, the first being pronounced as "ice" (#1519, eis) and the second being pronounced as "ek" (#1537, ek). Okay, let me put this thought in a drawing, if I may. Hallelujah. Let's say that this is my direction of travel. This is the point (A) from which I have started [see next page for illustration]. This is me (X), or you could put yourself in there, and this is my destination or my point of arrival (B). Hallelujah. Therefore, keeping within the context of these three Greek words, my position at (A) would be considered "ek," denoting the position from which action or motion proceeds, (X) would be "in transit" and (B) is "eis," indicating a point reached or entered.

So, you have a point from which you begin, and you have a point to which you are to come. Let me put it this way. When I was going to and coming from Europe, I got into an airplane, and though I was in the airplane sitting at the terminal, I would be considered in this position (A) – “ek” - with the intention of moving in the pre-determined direction. Now, when I was somewhere over the Atlantic,



I was in this position (X). I’m still in the same airplane. I’m still in the same seat, but I am in a position of rest. Yet the plane that I’m in, or the vehicle that I’m in, is taking me from this position (A), to arrive at this position (B). Now, this is a type, a natural example of something that God is doing to bring a people unto Him. Staying in context with Ephesians 4 being a blueprint for God’s plan, it says in verses 11 and 12, **And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;** ¹²**For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.** Hallelujah. So let’s

say that (A) denotes the place where I was born again, (spiritually speaking) and point (B) is the place where God calls me His son. Now, in order to get me from point A to point B, He has to provide a vehicle. The framework of this vehicle consists of the five-fold ministry: apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers. If I, therefore, receive from these divinely appointed ministries and am a partaker of the Word, the Word, in turn, will bring about a transformation, a change in me that brings me closer to my final destination of being called a son! Hallelujah. Now, the intent of this thing we call the five-fold ministry is, as they labor in the Word, they are, in reality, working themselves out of a job because the hope is that we would all come into the fullness of the gift that God has deposited in our lives.

You look at the Word and it says, **One God and Father of all who is above all**. The word “above” will give you the word “superimposition” (#1909). Let us look at Romans 8:2 and it says, **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death**. We have the law of the Spirit of life, which is a higher law than the law of sin and death. There is something in the nature of God that has the ability, if we would allow the law of the Spirit of life to be superimposed in our soul, to supercede the law of sin and death. **Who is above all, and through all and in you all**. So we come to “through.” When we look at the word, “through,” we need look no further than our own personal tribulation. It says in II Corinthians 3:18, **But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord**. There are particular circumstances in our lives, and each of us experiences a slightly different manifestation. But it is as we yield to the fire or tribulation in our circumstances, the hope that God has is that when we come out on the other side of the tribulation, we will have received a revelation of His character, of His nature, of who He is. It is more than just a mental understanding. It is a reality that He will work in the fabric of your life. God said to Abraham, “Now I know” (Genesis 22:12). That is God’s objective when we are tribulated, that He will be able to say, “Now I know.” What He knows is that He sees something of Him that wasn’t there before in you and me just like He saw in Abraham.

We are going on this route, on this path, incrementally, and

we go from tribulation to tribulation and the glory that the Bible is talking about when it says we go from glory to glory, the glory is the revealing of Himself in me and in you. Hallelujah. But you know, we really are the governors that determine the outcome per tribulation. Most of the time we spend our energy and our effort trying to get out of the hot seat, trying to get away from the pressure, trying to alleviate the discomfort. When we do that, we miss the opportunity to receive the gift of glory that He wants to reveal in you and me. Hallelujah. That means that, if we dare look up, spiritually speaking, we will find something of the character and the nature of Him that we can reach up and grab hold of, that will superimpose itself over our current existing condition. It's just like the woman that pressed in. She was reaching out into a higher place, into a higher realm. Jesus Christ was the embodiment of the character and the nature of God walking in the midst of humanity. As she recognized that, her condition being so desperate, He was her only hope. That is why we get tribulated, because God wants us to get to a position or place where we become desperate. I don't know that it always has to be that way. I mean, I believe that we can exert tenacity and an energy and a fervency in pursuit of God. Hallelujah.

However, it seems like God is always having to resort to tribulation to get us from one point to the next because, unfortunately, we seem to spend most of our time mesmerized by the realm in which we live. Just the rigors of life and the responsibilities which we have with regard to our individual needs and our family needs can be overwhelming at times, and they can be an anesthetizer, a neutralizer, something that creates a kind of numbness to spirituality and awareness. You know, you work all day, then you go home, and of course you're tired, and when you're tired, your ability to be spiritual is that much less than it was at the beginning of the day. Pretty soon you have two or three days back to back of that routine. We can go the whole week long, and come into fellowship, and we tend to look at fellowship as the opportunity to recharge our batteries for the coming week, so we can do it all over again. In reality, fellowship should be the culmination of the experiences that we have been having with God during the week. If each of us are being tribulated and coming to that revelation of the glory of God, allowing His sweet presence to come into our lives, He becomes part of the fabric of some new area of our soul, and that is the experience that we bring together.

Now, if this is happening on an individual basis, what kind of excitement could we create if many individuals, who had the same experience that week, came together on Sunday? Then we would be in a position where we could then do the will of God collectively. The church was not created to serve God's people, but God's people were created to serve the church. As they serve the church, there's something of a demonstration of the power of God that goes out from that church that begins to touch the community for which the church has been established. Then you can have what they call revival.

Now, this travel from one point to the next has a time frame. As we were singing this morning, I began to see something, and I don't know if I can put it into words. I began to look at the tabernacle and the way it was set up. The perimeter of the tabernacle is 300 cubits. We know the number 300 is a type of the sons of God. We see the number 300 with the story of Gideon (Judges 6 and 7). Through a series of tests, out of 33,000 men, only 300 qualified. Just because you're in the Outer Court doesn't necessarily guarantee that you're going to be part of the 300, because the service and function that pertains to the Outer Court was designed of God to promote man into the service and the function of the Holy Place. Likewise, the service and the function of the Holy Place was designed of God to promote man into the position and the experience that we call the Holy of Holies. At the beginning is the design and intent of God to tabernacle with man in the Holy of Holies. We see it in the perimeter of the Outer Court that measures 300 cubits.

Look at it as if it were a seed. Within the seed is the complete genetic make-up or map for what that plant is going to be like. How tall that plant is going to be, how many leaves are going to be on that plant, what kind of fruit is going to be on that plant, and how the fruit is going to get on that plant. All of that information is already inside the seed. So the word of the overcomers (300) was already at the beginning of the gate of the Outer Court. Even at this point, there was something of an impartation or a genetic make-up that was made available to you and me. If we get plugged into it, the intention of the Word is to take us through the midst of the tabernacle, and into the experience of the Holy of Holies. The problem is, we get caught in the function of the Outer Court or in the function of the Holy Place.

Now, the Bible characterizes this picture in Revelation 12:1, ***And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: ²And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*** Pertaining to the Outer Court, the Bible says in Revelation 11:2, ***But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*** If you look at Noah's day, the Word that Noah preached was a Word of salvation. I have to believe, it would only seem reasonable that Noah, when he built the ark, built it with the intent of housing people besides himself. Because only eight chose to be inside the ark, there were a lot of people who, when they were drowning, remembered Noah's word, and perished with the hope that a man called Jesus Christ was going to come and deliver them from the position of hell. So, God must allow the Outer Court to be trampled underfoot, because there are some people in the Outer Court that the only means or method by which they are going to be saved is by being trampled underfoot. It will be in the midst of their time of calamity that the Word that they are going to remember will be the Word of salvation.

So, you see the Outer Court being trampled under, but you see the Holy Place being taken by the devil. It says in Matthew 24:15-16, ***When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)¹⁶Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.*** I believe the same thought applies to the Holy Place as it does to the Outer Court. There are some people who choose to remain in the Holy Place, and the way that they are going to be driven out of the Holy Place is by the devil coming in and assuming his position of authority over that place. We have begun to see that manifestation out here in the world of churches. We are seeing the abomination of desolation beginning to stand up, and there are people out there in the midst of that system that are being shaken, because something deep down inside of them is saying, "This is not right." What they do with it, however, is given unto their own recognition. God will always leave Himself with a witness. Everything He does has a witness, so He will always make a way of provision, a

way of escape, to those that want to be saved.

I believe that we are in a time when things are being held back. You see, the Holy Place cannot be done away with until the Holy of Holies comes into function. The nature of the Word that we have been hearing over the last couple of years, and over the last year in particular, is that we are in transition. We have been hearing, 1) We are not ready, 2) Because we are not ready, we have the availability to get ready. Therefore, if we are hearing, we are also able to receive the power that is in the Word that is able to make us ready. There is something of a restraint that God is exercising in being gracious to give us more time. I think one of the ways we have seen that manifested is the fact that God gave us another four years with our current president. Before the abomination of desolation comes to fullness, the people of God must be in the Holy of Holies. When God said, **And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors (shepherds) and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,** He gave us all that we need. If we are able to receive the Word, if we are able to hearken unto the Word, then we will become the Word. Then we who call ourselves a church, will be transformed from the idea of what a church has been in the Holy Place to what a church is going to be in the Holy of Holies.

Remember now, we are looking at the woman and she is pregnant. We are in that time and we are approaching that time of delivery. We are in that time. We are pregnant and we have the availability to be part of the child that is going to come forth out of the midst of the church, or we can remain as part of the woman church. The child is a male child, and being a male child, he is a life-giver child. God is looking within His church for the transformation from life-receiver to life-giver. Before you and I can be a life-giver, we must have a permanent source of life. The only way we are going to receive that source of life is as we, as individuals, allow the transformation to take place, and allow the things that we have been, to cease and no longer exist. Praise the Lord!

The Word says in Hebrews 4:11, **Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest.** Verse 1, **Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.** There was something of an understanding that I

received when I thought about my simple airplane ride. While I was in transition from one continent to the next, I was in a position of rest, but first, I had to get myself to the airport. Not just when I wanted to, but at a certain time, because the plane was going to leave whether I was on it or not. I had to be prepared to go through the checkpoints. In other words, there were certain items that could not be on my personage if I wanted to successfully go through the checkpoints. This is all in the attitude of laboring, **let us therefore labor**. Then I was through the checkpoints and in the lobby waiting for the airplane to be prepared so I could get on it. That still didn't make me on the airplane. I could have gone through all of that, I could have been there on time, I could have successfully passed through the checkpoints, and still missed the airplane. There was something of an action that I had to exert in order to walk down the ramp and physically put myself in my assigned chair. Think about it. When they give you a ticket, they give you a seat number. They have the plane mapped out, they fill it up in a certain way, and they give you a certain number. You understand what that means. There is a position in God assigned to every individual, if they want it. A lot of times, we're out there looking around and we don't want our seat number, we want somebody else's seat number. We don't realize that when we do that, we cancel out our opportunity to be part of the Body of Christ. The other thought was that of me laboring to get on the airplane. Once I'm on the airplane, it becomes their responsibility to see that I get to my final destination. So that means that that airplane has to have enough fuel to get where it's going. They have to think about that. That airplane has to have the food to feed the occupants of the airplane. All of the logistics involved with flying an airplane, all the amenities to make my ride successful and comfortable to the final destination is embodied in the airplane. So, how much more are all the things that pertain to God and godliness already embodied in His plan and in His blueprint which He has given to you and me? We just have to make sure we get on the airplane. I can go a long time looking at the typology of the airplane. It starts at ground point or ground zero, and it goes into the heights of heaven. You know, it is talking about a spiritual experience, and even more than a spiritual experience, it's talking about a spiritual existence. The more we practice and exercise ourselves in obedience to the will of God, the more we become like that environment that we go into, and less like the



The Virtuous Woman

...as women,
striving together for the
mark of the high calling
in Christ...

Let The Son-Shine In!

By Stacy Asbill

The Lord has been speaking to my heart a certain principle that has been a great help to me as my position as a mother pertains to my children's spiritual well being. If your home is like ours, then perhaps this will be a blessing to you, too!

Our story begins at the start of the day... Our family is waking up, ready to face a new day. Some are waking up happy, some slowly and sleepily, and then, the inevitable... a grumpy one! Now, the grumpy one is not the same person everyday. It can be any one of us depending on circumstances, or, more frequently, being open to an attack from the enemy. So, as this grumpy attitude begins to move, you see that it is like a rotten apple in a barrel – it begins to affect all the apples around it. Pretty soon the joy and peace that was once there begins to ebb. And while, as the mother, you are able to maintain equilibrium for awhile, you find that the spiritual life that was there at the beginning of the day is slowly being drained away.

Recently we have been hearing some excellent words pertaining to the sin/hell that is within us, working to keep us in that place and position of hell rather than coming into that place of sonship that God so desires. Foremost in my mind has been this thought as I am dealing with my own soul and the lives of my children. I find, though, that as I begin to address the situation that is moving in the midst of our home, the knowledge of where my child is and where he or she ought to be is not enough to help them resist the thing that is moving in their soul and help them into that place that they need to be in. So I began to ask the Lord, "What can I do? I can lay things out so clearly and yet it is not enough to help this one to rise up and have peace restored to our home.

What is the key to our problem?" God began to speak to me the principle found in John 3:30 that "He must increase that I might decrease." I began to see a container full of one substance, but as another substance was added to the container, the former occupant was superseded by the latter. So it is with God - as we allow the things of the Lord to begin to invade our soul, it causes those things that are moving contrary to the Spirit of God to be displaced. John 1:1-5 says, ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*** I found it interesting that the word "comprehend" is "katalambano" in the Greek (Strong's number 2638) and means, "to take eagerly, seize, possess, apprehend, attain, obtain, perceive, (over-)take." So we see that where it was once darkness, now there is light. When the light comes in, the darkness must flee - it can not overtake or possess what is now light. The more light you bring into a room, the less darkness there is in it.

Now, I am a very practical person and nothing excites me more than to see something in theory work wonders in practice! In fact, just the other day we had a marvelous opportunity to do so! As this grumpy, bad attitude thing began to move, I just began to praise the Lord with my whole heart, all the while praying, believing that the life of God was flowing and invading our home. We got into the Word and looked up verses pertaining to the difficulties that had been occurring and then began to pray. The life of God was flowing in our home and the darkness could not remain! Now, the question I began to ask the Lord was, "Why was this time different?" We read the Word, pray, and sing together. Why are some times different than others where you really sense the presence of the Lord? Well, I believe that, when we come to a place of recognizing our desperate condition and dire need for Yeshua, we then cry out to Him for His touch. As it says in Psalm 42:1, ***As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God,*** so our souls should be longing for the presence of God. We then come to a place of being open to the infilling of the Lord, and as He pours out of Himself into our soul, the sin and hell that resides there must flee. The sweetness of His presence ministers life, not only to ourselves, but to our children, also! So when hell begins to rise up in your home, begin to praise the Lord and let His life flow into your soul and let it flow to your children and may His peace dispel all darkness. May the joy of the Lord be your strength!

Discerning the Time

Sunday, March 13th, 2005

Mahomet, Illinois

Living Word Omega Message

Brother Burt Asbill

PROPHECY – BROTHER BURT ASBILL

For surely... the messenger of the covenant. Yea, He shall come suddenly. He shall sit within His temple as a refiner's fire and as a fuller's soap, that He might purge the house of Eli, that He might bring sanctification to the service of the Most High God. Surely, even as it hath been spoken, yea, that judgment must first begin at the house of God, which house ye are. For surely I say unto thee, if thou wouldst judge thyself, then thou wouldst not be judged. For I say, I am bringing a Word of deliverance; I am bringing a Word of clarity; I am bringing a Word of definition, saith the Lord. If thou cannot hear, and if thou cannot see, then thou art blind and thou art deaf; and if thou art blind and if thou art deaf, thou must but ask of Me and I shall heal thee, saith the Lord. I shall bring purity into thy heart. I shall bring purity into thy soul, for thou hast even spoken with thy lips this day, that I might re-establish myself in that place of preeminence before thee, and in the place of preeminence within thy house. For surely I must work within thee and I must walk within thee, but I must have thee submit thyself unto Me. Thou must submit thyself unto the Word. Thou must submit thyself unto the covenant that thou hast made with Me in the very beginning, saith the Lord.

Yea, I say unto thee, My people, it is time for thee to flee out of that Holy Place. It is time for thee to flee unto the mountains, saith the Lord. For it is the mountain that thou fleest to from whence cometh thy salvation. For I say unto thee, trouble and tribulation doth abide and doth wait. Yea, even now is it being held back, saith the Lord. And I am going forth that I might mark My servants. Yea, that I might seal them, saith the Lord. For surely it is the hour of tribulation and trouble, and

surely it hath been prophesied down through the ages by My prophets, saith the Lord: the time of anguish, the time of sorrows, the time of great tribulation, saith the Lord. But I would that I could cover thee, even that thou might come and abide under the shadow of My wings, saith the Lord. But I say unto thee, thou must be pure, thou must be cleansed, thou must be sanctified, and surely I have sent forth the Spirit of sanctification by the power of the Word that I have brought unto thee. I have given thee the ability to wash thyself, saith the Lord, in waters that thou might be clean, in waters that thou might be sanctified, that thou might be purified and that thou might enter into that place of rest, saith the Lord, under the shadow of My wing. Thou must abide in Me and I in thee, saith the Lord.

It is the time of the coming forth. It is the time, saith the Lord, of the bringing forth of the fruit, saith the Lord. It is time for the sons that I have desired from the very beginning to begin to rise up in the midst of My house, saith the Lord, and begin to proclaim the acceptable day – the acceptable day of the Lord is here. I say unto thee, surely, come out from among them. As I have ministered unto thee in times past, so I would minister unto thee this day that thou would come out. That thou would come out from among them and partake not of the plagues that would come upon this people. Oh, I say unto thee, be not of hard heart, be not of hard mind, but I say, look unto Me that I might purge thee, that I might bring forth that fruit of righteousness, saith the Lord.

PRAYER – BROTHER BURT ASBILL

Father, we want to humble ourselves before You this morning. Our place of humanity is not something that we want to parade into the presence of the living God, but we want to be covered with the Blood of Jesus Christ. Father, we want the Spirit of God that worketh the remission of sins working within the fabric of our soul, bringing down every idol that would exalt itself; every throne that would have a position, a place of preeminence within our soul. Whether it be our mind, our emotions or our desires, Lord, we would that You would begin to dissimulate that position, that place of dominion, that You would bring an end to self and exalt the Kingdom of God. We would that You might be lifted up in a position, a place of preeminence, that You might bring forth a revelation of Your inherit-

ance which was in Your saints. My God, it is not by might, and it is not by power, but it is by My Spirit, saith the Word of the Lord. And so it is that we would this day want to submit ourselves to the power of the Spirit and to the power of the Word.

Father, Paul testified to the power of the Word working mightily within him. So I would that we could have that position of experience. Oh God, that we might find ourselves in a similar position of servitude with an attitude that is conducive to life and liberty. Not that we might make it in, but that those that are round about us and those that are lost, those that are entangled within the bondage of humanity might be loosed, my God, to rise up and to move into that position, that place of safety that Thou hast created for us from the beginning of time.

My God, it was in the thought of God from the very beginning, that we should be, as it were, and as the terminology issues, sons of God. And so it is, God, that we would want to submit ourselves to that Spirit this morning, that we might have the fullness of Your Word, and that we might have the fullness of Your Spirit. Father, we are not talking about a measure or a part. But we are asking, God, for the fullness therein that Thou said is a portion unto those that believe. And so it is, God, we would that we could be in that position of faith, be in that position of saying, "I believe."

Oh God, help us this morning I pray, in Jesus' name – in Jesus' name.

WORD - BROTHER BURT ASBILL

DISPENSATION OF THE FULLNESS

Praise the Lord. I have a few thoughts I want to share with you this morning before Brother duCille comes. I trust it is a prelude to the Word that he will bring, and that it will help, compliment, and confirm. Hallelujah!

You know, I have just returned from Europe and I'm here to tell you that the beast is alive and well. It has an insatiable appetite, and it is gobbling up nation after nation to fulfill its destiny, to fulfill the Word that has been prophesied in the Bible. Hallelujah! We go about our business as though nothing has changed, because we can't see it, we can't hear it, and we really don't know what is going on except for that which is related to us in the scriptures. But what I'm telling you, is that what we see in the papers isn't even a piece or a part of what is

actually happening in the realm of the spirit over there. As Satan begins to set up his hierarchical command, the devotees to that purpose are sacrificing themselves for the sake and the will of hell. Hallelujah! We need to be a praying and a fasting people. We need to be a people that are on fire for God. Not in the fact of trying to establish a church, or establish a work, but that the will and the intent of God that He intended from the very beginning might be made manifest within the realm of our humanity, as well as in the realm of the world. Hallelujah!

If you have your Bibles, open them to Jeremiah chapter 4 and listen to the Word of the Lord. Jeremiah 4:1, ***If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove. ²And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory. ³For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. ⁴Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings. ⁵Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities. ⁶Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction. ⁷The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant. ⁸For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the LORD is not turned back from us. ⁹And it shall come to pass at that day, saith the LORD, that the heart of the king shall perish, and the heart of the princes; and the priests shall be astonished, and the prophets shall wonder. ¹⁰Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul. ¹¹At***

that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to fan, nor to cleanse, ¹²Even a full wind from those places shall come unto me: now also will I give sentence against them. We are living on the brink of destruction, we are living in the time of the manifestation of the wrath of God. But in the midst of the wrath of God, God is desirous to raise up a people, to raise up a church that is called the First Fruits, the 144,000. He wants these people that have the nature of God within them to begin to manifest that nature within them, as well as within their set of circumstances.

The Word that came to me this morning is the Word that God began to prophesy to the church over 40 years ago when I came into this message. That Word was **“Come ye out from among them.”** That Word is just as pertinent for this time, for this church, for this hour as it was for the church in the dispensation that I grew up in. We were living in a dispensation that was looking for the fullness of time. But we are now living in a dispensation of the coming of that fullness of time. The Word of the trumpet that was being sounded at the time of the dispensation of the church was, “Come out from among them lest ye be partakers of her plagues.” And you become, as it were, desolate, and come under the hand of authority of the living God. Hallelujah!

The time of church and the place of playing is finished. This is a true saying. Hallelujah! It means that there is something of a seriousness that God is laying before us. The gospel of the world, the gospel that is being preached is, “He that whosoever would! He that will! Let them do as they will!” You cannot go about your business leaving God out of that position, out of that place of authority over your life if you are hearing this Word. This word calls for total sanctification and consecration of yourself unto the plan and the purposes of God.

What I am saying to brethren is that the beast is rising up. It is setting itself. It has an agenda. It has a Constitution, and that Constitution is to eradicate God. They are gobbling up men! They are gobbling up nations! They are gobbling up dominions and thrones! Hallelujah! Its mouth is open to gobble

up this people. It is not a time, it is not a place for us to sit and contemplate. It is not a time to be on our lees. It is a time to be on our knees before the Lord in humble contrition and brokenness, asking God to work out the will of sanctification and purification. Hallelujah!

Go over to Jeremiah 4:19 where it says, ***My bowels, my bowels!*** This is God's lament over the church; God's lament over His chosen. Judah is a type of the called out. Jerusalem is a called out of the called out. Jeremiah 4:19, ***My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war:***

We go to bed and we get up and we think that because the things that are today are the same as yesterday, that they are going to be the same tomorrow. But it says in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. It says destruction cometh upon the land, and my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Hallelujah! Glory to God.

Jeremiah 4:21, ***How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? ²²For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.***

We are more interested in the preservation of our personal position, our personal preference with regard to ministry and church and theology and terminology than we are in fulfilling and becoming the will of God. Do you want to know something? It doesn't make any difference what your opinion is. It doesn't make any difference what your theology is. If your theology is not in line with the end-time gospel that is coming forth in this hour, by the unction and the anointing of the Spirit that God has set in the earth to bring forth the revelation of His coming, then you and I will suffer the consequences of that position. There was sent a man called John the Baptist. It was his sole responsibility to usher in the dispensation of grace as God came. So it is in this hour; there is a ministry that God is raising up in the land with the Word they are once again heralding that He is coming! As it was in the dispensation of grace, God chose to use a man. That man was

despised; he was rejected; he ended up in jail and his head was taken off by a legalistic, preferential society that preferred comfort and a place of solace, and the opportunity to fulfill their lust!

My God, is it any different in this hour? Oh no. You know that it is not just that time is repetitive. Time is coming to fullness, and as it was in the demonstration on a singular, natural level, with natural men working out their position of salvation, so it is on a collective basis on the ushering in of the dispensation of the fullness of time.

Jeremiah 4:22, ***For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. ²³I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.*** There is a Word that is coming in this hour if we have ears to hear, if we have hearts to perceive, if we have a will to submit and determine that we are deciding and determining to be the Sons of God. There is a Word that is coming in the midst of this chaos and confusion that is saying, “**LET THERE BE LIFE!**”

It makes no difference whether you see it or not. It makes no difference whether you believe it or not! On the negative sense, you can go to bed tonight and get up in the morning, and think things are the same. Hallelujah! But I'm telling you that they are not the same. The “machine” is moving ahead, and the “beast” is coming to a place of preeminence, and we are all going to be coming under the domination of the world, the world system that Satan has desired from the very beginning. He desired a manifestation of himself in the midst of all humanity. He wanted to bring forth the nature of that “son of perdition”! Hallelujah.

Jeremiah 4:24, ***I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. ²⁵I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. ²⁶I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD.*** We are more concerned with our own place, our position of theology, our own position of preemi-

nence, our place of personal ministry, than we are with the culmination of the ages that are coming upon the land and the people that are being swallowed up by death and hell. "If my people will humble themselves." It says in II Chronicles 7:14, ***If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***

It is time! It is time! We are in the communion of the Lord for the last days, brethren. We are in communion with the Father and the body. We are drinking of His Blood; we are breaking His Body. Hallelujah! What is it that you are going to do with those articles that are being consumed and taken in this type of environment with the characteristic of this Word which comes out unto you? You are not free! You are not free of blood-guiltiness! It says that he that drinketh unworthily, drinketh damnation unto himself (I Corinthians 11:29). There was a position, there was a place when God tolerated our laziness, our humanness, our position of selfishness. There was a time and a place that He winked at our foolishness, but – **NO MORE IS GOD WINKING!** Hallelujah!

There was an interesting verse that we read the other day. What was it? Isaiah said, "Command ye me." Isaiah 45:11, ***Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.*** There is another place in the Bible where the writer of Ephesians wrote this. He said the same thing, but with different words. Ephesians 1:18, ***The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...*** as to know what? The gift of the inheritance that is Christ's inheritance that is in His saints! ***...that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.***

Are you weak? Are you lazy? Are you despicably contrary to righteousness? Hallelujah! "Ask ye Me concerning the will and things that I have with regard to My sons" (Isaiah 45:11).

May God have mercy on us! May we be obedient to the Word, to the calling and to the election!

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and*



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Foreword by Pavlina Davis

Dear Reader,

The message you are about to read was preached in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, in July 2002. At that time, the Lord laid on our hearts to hold a week long summer camp for the youth, who are a vital part of our fellowships. When I say youth, I mean it was six young people (one boy and five girls). Have you ever been at a camp with so few individuals? It doesn't even sound like a camp but rather a big family, doesn't it? However, what we were to learn was a simple principle of God: ***For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*** (Matthew 18:20). God was in our midst so mightily that the lives of all those present were changed forever, young as well as old. Not that we did not know the Lord before: all of us were saved by the Blood of Jesus, baptized in water and many even were baptized in the Holy Spirit. However, the presence of the Lord in our midst was so strong and marvelous that we were not able to remain the same. Our lives took a new and a fresh dedication with regard to our walk with Jesus as well as our service unto Him.

The whole week had three basic rules in the natural:

1. Obedience at the first call. We have seen many times in the Bible that people called by God were disobedient and as a consequence of that disobedience, they lost their calling, the presence of God in their daily walk, and many times even their lives. Therefore, we wanted to learn to be obedient to the Lord through obedience to those who were in authority over us. And so we obeyed when somebody asked us to do something or not to do something and didn't question it, as many children and young people are used to doing these days. What blessing did we receive by doing that? You would have to ask our young people, but I am confident they would say, "Great blessings!"

2. No complaints were allowed to be heard from the mouths of any of the participants (both young and old). We didn't want to be as the children of Israel in the wilderness who kept complaining and complaining and complaining until God could not stand it any more and destroyed many of them. We wanted to receive all the blessings God had for us with a grateful heart, thus having the joy of the Lord with us continuously. Have you ever noticed how unhappy people are when they are complaining?

3. We had to eat everything that was set before us after giving praise to God and asking Him to bless and sanctify it. This rule was not only aimed at satisfying our cooks, but mainly to learn another principle

of God - thanksgiving to Him for all we were receiving. We also understood in the Lord that one day these young people would be sent to the mission field. They would be expected to go to many different places in the world where they would have to eat everything offered to them in order to not offend a willing giver and thus not close the door for preaching the Word of God. (This rule proved to be particularly helpful on the foreign trips to the USA and Jamaica that followed in the next couple of years.)

What did we manage to do during the whole seven days? Every morning we would have time in fellowship where we would study different scriptures in the Bible about faith. We read about men of faith, learned why they were called by God as such and how we could become men and women of faith so that our Father in heaven would be pleased with us. We also read different missionary stories and saw how God moved because one individual believed in His power.

After our Bible studies, we would proceed to some daily activity. We spent time in the woods finding hidden Bible verses and learning them by heart. We had a contest in downtown Prague in order to learn about the history of, as they say, the most beautiful city in the world, which was founded in the 11th century. We visited one of the famous Czech castles called Konopiste, where we not only learned how to survive in the desert, as well as how to communicate well with one another, but we also were able to have birds of prey fly right over our heads, touching our hair and landing on our arms. Sometimes we would just go swimming or hide in the house and rest. But in all of these things we were learning to keep our minds set on God and to walk with Him.

One day, after spending a very powerful morning having the Lord speak to us about faith and us praying that He would give us real life experience which would build our faith, we were traveling by car in this little village when one of our cars ran over a dog. It really was not the driver's fault, as he was not able to prevent the dog from jumping into the street at the last minute. The car stopped and everybody jumped out of it. The dog lay dead on the road. His owner, a man about 75 years old, was standing on the sidewalk ready to cry. One of the brothers had compassion on the old man and went to him and asked him, "Would you mind if we prayed for your dog?" As the man didn't object at all but seemed to welcome the offer, the brethren surrounded the dog, laid hands on him and prayed for the spirit of life to come back to him. Suddenly, the dog rose up and ran away. When the old man saw it, he shouted, "You must be holy men!" and the door for preaching the gospel was opened.

Our evenings were dedicated to spending time together in the

Lord. Sometimes we would watch a video with different stories to build our faith; sometimes we would sing and share our own experiences with God; sometimes we would have preaching on different subjects. One of these subjects was partnership and marriage, which we take the liberty to present to you in this bulletin. Why was this very message so important for all of us? Because the Holy Spirit gave us the understanding that our life does not begin after we get married, as many people who are looking for their life partner think. We also understood that our life can be very happy and fulfilled before being married as well as after being married, or very miserable and unfulfilled both before and after being married, all depending on our aim and perspective with regard to our life and walk with God. Basically, we have learned about our purpose in life, how to find happiness, how partnership fits in it all, and how dating can destroy a great part of our souls.

The last day of our camp, we just sat together and shared our testimonies about what the week meant to us. (You can find some of them after the word.) To sum it all up, we have never been the same since. Our lives have been changed for eternity. Since that time two years ago, we all have made a big step forward in following the Lord. Our young people have surpassed many adults in the knowledge of God, in hearing His voice and walking in His paths.

We commit this message to all those who are desiring God's best in their lives. We are trusting Him to open your understanding so that you might receive as much blessing and deliverance as we did.

On behalf of those who participated in the camp, yours in Christ,
Pavlina Davis

I sh and I shshah *(Man and Woman)*

Martin Kluson Prague, Czech Republic July 2002

I think God has given us a great opportunity to be able to gather together here today. I have on my heart to flow in God and to rejoice in Him for He has given us good things. Do you know what we are going to talk about today? We are going to talk about God having called us to be free. (Translator's note: The word for "free" in the Czech language has the same meaning as the word "single.") I would like us to feel free at this very moment. Be free, brethren, free from all feelings which are

coming to you, from all fears, from everything you have brought with you and what man faces throughout the day, as well as from everything that man is condemned by, for God doesn't condemn. God doesn't condemn! The only moment we feel God condemns is when we condemn. Do you know that? When you stop condemning, you will find out that nothing is condemning you. For God doesn't condemn you. And who else has the right to condemn you? So be free.

God has called us to be free, to be free from sin. This is the greatest of God's calling. I think the biggest problem we have is when we, as Christians, do not grasp hold of God's calling. It is a great shame, for God has called us to be free. We know it, but we don't walk in it. Instead, we walk in our religion, in our fears, bondages, and condemnations. But the gospel means "good news" so that you can shake off all pointless thoughts, all fears and bondages, as well as condemnations, and you can be free. Then someone can come to you and tell you whatever, but you know the truth. He can tell you, "Brother, you are doing this wrong, you are wrong there, you are such and such, you are horrible in this, you are not doing this and you are doing that." But you are free because you know that God has received you. You know you have a relationship with God. You know that it is clear between you and God, and you can be free.

So, this is roughly tonight's topic. We are having a meeting for single people here and this is what we wanted to talk about because it is the basis of everything. It is the basis of marriage,

Do you know that a much greater commandment of God is what we should do, rather than what we shouldn't do?

and the basis of everything related to marriage, as well as the basis of our whole walk. God has called us to be free. Christ has come into our lives to set us free, to loose us from sin. One of Satan's greatest deceptions happened right in the beginning in Genesis and I will read it to you. God made man in His image and told him what he was to do. Notice this! He told him what he was to do. Do you know that a much greater commandment of God is what we should do, rather than what we shouldn't do? Do you know that God doesn't care too much about what we shouldn't do? Who, therefore, cares about it the most? Devil and man! When you realize that during your whole day you perceive God as somebody who is telling you that you are not to do something, do you know who is talking to you? The devil. God doesn't spend His time telling you what you are not to do. God doesn't spend His time telling you what

you are not to eat. God tells you, "Eat this." Therefore, when someone comes to you telling you what you are to do and it is righteous, then it is the Lord. God says, "Do this, do that, but beware of this." This is the Lord. However, if you are under the impression that your whole life from the morning till the evening is conducted by the things you must not do and you have a mind to constantly rebel against it, then you have to know it is not of God. You are to be free. God didn't come into our lives to enslave us. He came into our lives to restrain us in a certain way; He came to restrain us, but unto righteousness. I can see that one of the biggest problems of this subject, the subject of marriage and life before marriage, is that we don't know God, that we are afraid of God. We don't know that God is good. Somewhere we have succumbed to the lie that God comes and says, "You mustn't do this, you mustn't do that, you mustn't do that. . . ." and that life with God is basically full of suffering and cannot be any different, because through suffering we must enter into the Kingdom of God.

A few days ago, I was on the road with a brother with whom I really like to spend time. He has been feeding somewhere on something, (I don't really know on what) because recently he has been growing very fast in the Lord. I am almost afraid he is going to outgrow me soon. 😊 I feel very good being with him in the sense that this brother, somewhere along his way with God, came to the understanding that God is good and that He means well for his life. Also, what God is giving him is only good, and as he keeps taking and taking from God, he has no time to sin anymore. I want to say that this is God's thinking; this is God's principle. I am glad I can agree on it with this brother and I always feel good in it. When we are together, we don't talk about what we mustn't do and what is wrong to do, but we talk about how good God is, what He has been doing, what He has given us, and what else is still awaiting us in our lives. I believe that, thanks to this, a certain liberty has come into this brother's life, a certain knowledge and expansion and opportunity to follow on with God.

I would like to read Genesis 2:16. I am sure you know the context of the story when God created man and set him in the paradise. Ask anyone, including Christians, what God said to man, and they will answer you, "You mustn't eat of such and such a tree." Let us have a look at what the Bible says. Genesis 2:16, ***And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.*** God said this. It means, . . . ***Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.*** How many trees were there? Two? Eight? Ten? I am sure there were more than two, weren't there? Verse 17, ***But of the tree of***

the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. How many trees of the knowledge of good and evil were there? One? And how many did you say there were of the others? Eight? Ten? You know, this is God's thinking. God didn't come into your life to say, "You have two trees here, eat of one but don't eat of the other." Or, "Make sure you do not eat of this tree!" But God says, "Look, I have given you the whole orchard. You have here one tree next to the other. One fruit tree next to the other. Each one of them will feed you and bless you. There is only one tree here in the whole orchard that I do not want you to eat of. Not because I just don't want you to, but because the day you eat of it, you will die."

I am going to read to you how the devil, the serpent, thinks. It is in Genesis 3 and it has a headline, which really is not a part of the Word of God, but is very truthful: "About the first sin and sorrowful fall of man." The fall of man was absolutely sorrowful because man died and was separated from God. Genesis 3:1, ***Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*** The devil comes and says, "Has God forbidden you everything? Has God restricted you? Has He taken away everything from you?" Do you understand? He was very smart. It is written here that he was very subtle. The woman heard it clearly, but at this moment she was not yet deceived. Verse 2, ***And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*** At this point, the woman made a mistake. She shouldn't have talked with him. Not at all. Although she reasoned with him well, she should have sent him away immediately! "Get thee behind me, Satan!" should have been her reply. Unfortunately, it was not. ***And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.***

You know, brethren, God has given us to eat of all the trees. If you want to remember something of today's Word, then remember this: God has given us to eat of all the trees. God's principle is, "Eat!" Satan comes and says, "Do I understand correctly that God says you mustn't eat something? You mustn't eat all of this? You mustn't eat anything

here? You poor people! Is He starving you?" And you reply, "No, not at all. We eat of all the trees. He has told us only about this one tree that if we eat it, we will die." And Satan replies, "Come on, you will not die. No, you will surely not die. Look! God knows He is holding you a little short. Try to explore it for yourselves; check it out. No, you will not die, but you will be like God! You will be mature! You will know everything, you will learn everything." And so Eve looked and said to herself, "Well, after all, it looks good. Looking at it, it is good to eat, pleasant to the eyes, a tree to be desired to make one wise. I will be smarter, I will have some knowledge, I will understand something, I will be more mature." And so she took it and ate. What happened? Who was right? Did they die or not? They did die. Do you know how I know it? Do you know how I know who is right? God is always right. This is how the devil sometimes comes and deceives us. He says, "Ye shall not surely die." And man does not obey God and says to himself, "Well, see, I didn't die." Don't be mistaken. They did die. They died because God is looking at life from a different point of view. God is not concerned so much about us dying physically, if we get hit by a car somewhere, or something else happens. But they realized that they were not free anymore! Suddenly, they were afraid. They were afraid of God. They were afraid and suddenly they ceased to have a relationship with God in their lives. They ceased to have peace with God, they ceased to have righteousness, and a great fall came into the whole of mankind. Do you know that what happened in September in America (9/11/2001) is the result of Adam and Eve's fall and death, the result of the fact that death came to Adam's life and it began to manifest itself and creep everywhere? Their son became a murderer. And so, did they die or not? They did die.

That was the first chapter of our subject for the day. Do you understand it? I believe it is important to understand what is happening so that nobody can deceive us. For example, when someone comes on TV and says something, God can give you knowledge, as if you went into the room where it was being made and listened to what was being said behind the scenes. Somebody may say, for example, "We have to tell the people now, before the election, that we will give all of them CZK 500 (Translator's note: approximately \$18). That way they will vote for us, but then we will not give them anything." God has been revealing things to us so that we would not be deceived when somebody comes telling us something, so that we would know the truth, so that we would know what is going on behind the scenes. You know, God, through the Bible, is revealing things to us which are behind the scenes. We can see the story only on one level and therefore we have to pray and say, "Lord, show me

how it is, so that when Satan comes to me, I will not be deceived." Has the devil ever come to you? Has he ever talked to you? In a moment like this, you first have to know that he is the evil one. You have to know it. When he comes, you need to know that he is seducing you into death. He will reason with you, he will press his points to you and say, "You can't do all these things!" Watch out! He will also be saying, "Are your parents telling you, or your brethren, or God, that you will die? No! You will not die! Don't be afraid!" Be afraid! Because, by man giving himself to the devil, death comes into his life.

The headline in the 3rd chapter of Genesis is truthful because it really was a sorrowful fall. You know, not only death entered in, but also life departed. Suddenly, Adam and Eve were doing much worse than before. Do you know how they lived afterwards? They were exiled from paradise so they couldn't eat all that good fruit anymore. They had some eight, ten, maybe thousands of trees that were good to eat. Do you know what kind of feast it was? Fruit without worms, full of life, full of juices! But they died and lost it all. This is what I would like to tell

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you. I don't want to talk too much about the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but I want to talk about the good fruit, as this is what God has for us. God has good things for us. Life with God, which He is offering to us, is full of good fruit, so much so that you won't even know what to do with it all. So much so that you will be full to overflowing.

So much so that there will be rivers of living water flowing out of your belly. God has good fruit for you. Their disobedience meant they harmed themselves, for they lost this good fruit. They lost everything, and suddenly they began to sweat; they began to labor and they began to eat the herbs of the field so that they would survive. This was the fall of man. I am on the height, where I can get fed with good quality fruit, and suddenly, bang, I fall down and am creeping in the dust.

God is calling us to be free, to eat the fruit and enjoy it. God is not calling us to come out of Egypt, but to enter into the Promised Land. This is God's principle. What is the coming out of Egypt for? God wants us to arrive in the Promised Land. Do you know what the Promised Land is all about? Listen to what God says. He will lead us into the

Promised Land, which is overflowing with milk and honey. God says, "I have brought you out of Egypt." Do you know what Egypt is? It is the world: slavery. When God says, "I brought you out of the world when you were saved," it is not the most important thing. What is most important is that He is leading you to the land full of milk and honey, full of delicious things. Do you know what kind of fruit was there? Delicious! Do you know how big the grapes were? Huge! Two men had to carry them on a rod. They took a rod, hung a bunch of grapes on it and two men carried it. God is calling us to eat fruit so that we would be doing well. Do you believe in prosperity? You should believe in it, brethren. God is calling us to prosper, to eat the fruit. If you don't eat the fruit, if you are not doing well with God, then ask God. Sometimes we need to go through a certain wilderness to get to the Promised Land, but it is not about forty years. It is not about us walking forty years in the wilderness. Something wrong happened there. God is not calling us to spend our whole life in the wilderness, but to spend it by eating honey and milk. The land will be overflowing with delicious things, delicious fruit. Do you know that? Do not be cheated; do not be deceived! Do not be seduced by the devil who is telling you something else. You would not be the first one. Don't be deceived! God has wonderful things for you, excellent land, so that you would conquer this excellent land and walk in the fulfillment of the Lord. Amen. With this, we therefore close the first chapter.

I was saying, "Be free," for this is the fruit; this is the fullness of that fruit; this is the fullness of God. I believe that if your ears can hear, if you can hear in the Spirit, then you should feel bubbles in your inward parts. Even as when Joshua went into the Promised Land and saw it, he came back and said, "It is an incredible land! This is a tremendous land! This is a land where there is fullness of fruit. Just wonderful land! Yes, there are giants there, but it is an excellent land." Joshua and Caleb were the only two men who finally entered in, out of all those who had any responsibility, who were twenty years old or more. The others were saying, "There are giants there, it's terrible! Well, there is some fruit there, too." They saw the same thing, but at the same time they didn't see the same thing. Pray that God would give you the vision of Joshua and Caleb so that you would see things the way God sees them.

Marriage. Before we get to talk about pre-marriage, we need to know what marriage is. When we want to enter into something, we have to know what we are entering into so that we would know how to enter into it. Therefore, we will start the second chapter by talking about marriage.

Who devised marriage? God. It was not the Czech Republic, nor

the Slovak Republic, nor the Pope (he basically came up with the thought that it is wrong and said that those who are to lead by an example should be single, therefore, unmarried). No culture made it up, not Indians, not ancient Greeks, but God. It is God's institution. God created man as a man and a woman. It means, if I understand it correctly, that man is not whole if he is only a man or only a woman. He or she is missing something. It is interesting, isn't it? God created man as a man and a woman. So, what are you missing when you don't have a husband or a wife? For example, children. Or love. If you want to love, you cannot love when you are alone. Friendship. And God has put it into our hearts. God is, of course, fulfilling these things in us and many of them He is able to fulfill in us by Himself, but do not be afraid of marriage if you don't have a special gift to remain single. This is a very rare gift and definitely could not include half of you. I would dare say that none of us here has it. It is a special gift for a specific task and for a specific time. God says, "I am the One who has given marriage. I have devised it, and I know how it works." Have you ever seen God having done something wrong? No. He has never done anything wrong and, therefore, even marriage, in God, is a wonderful thing. God has given marriage and it is a wonderful thing. Why has God given marriage? So that we would know God, so that a man would not be alone in getting to know God, so that he would not be alone in what God wants from him.

You know, we do not live so that we would just marry and have children. God has much greater and better things for us than "only" marriage. If we only had marriage and children, it would be quite boring. Our life would not be fulfilled. If you think that your life will be fulfilled in marriage and in children, it is not true. It is not true. Your life can be perfectly fulfilled even before you enter into marriage and before you have children, and at the same time it can be perfectly fulfilled when you have marriage and children. Or, your life can be totally miserable before you have marriage and children and be the same after you have marriage and children. Do you believe it? Maybe a little bit more miserable. If you have a miserable life and you are waiting for marriage to deliver you, then it is a tragedy, for it will be even more miserable. It is necessary to have your life fulfilled first and not to seek marriage and not to have a need for it. Your soul will be fulfilled. God will fill your desires. God will give you marriage because He has a certain plan with you. Do you know that it is not you who says, "God, give me marriage," and God who says, "OK, OK." Do you know this? It is quite the opposite. God says, "I have a plan for your life. Now you are zero years old, you have just been born, and I already have a plan for you and I am preparing different situations for

you. One situation will come in ten years' time. I have one individual who is going to be born in two years. When he is eight and you are ten, I want you two to meet at a playground that you don't know yet, and I want you to tell him about Christ and save him. I have a plan for you. You don't know it because it is going to be in ten years' time. But I need you to do certain things. Learn to crawl now so that you will be able to get to that playground. Do not despise it. Learn what I want from you. I will take care of the rest. And by the way, I need you, when you are fifteen (not that God would want something from us once in ten years), to save the man who will be drowning. And in order for you to understand how difficult it is to be drowning, I am going to let you drown a little bit when you are twelve."

God is dealing with us. Let us not think that it is us who are directing our lives and let us not try to direct our own lives. Don't direct your lives. You don't have a mandate for it; you don't have the abilities for it. You cannot take your destiny into your own hands, so don't do it.

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It's foolishness. It would be as if I allowed my daughter to drive a car. She likes to hold the steering wheel at a parking lot very much; she turns it and says, "Kristynka is driving." Should I possibly start the car? Should I do it to her? Do you understand me? Do not take your life into your own hands! Allow God to have your life in His hands, because He knows what is to happen in two years' time, in ten years' time. He knows who is supposed to meet you and when. He knows where you are to be directed. "And by the way, when you are twenty-two years old, I have a plan for you. And when

you are twenty-eight, I have an individual here, who is a dear sister, who was born three years before you were, or maybe five. I have a plan that I need to do through your lives, and therefore I will put you together when the time comes." (When you are twenty-eight or so, God will give it to you.) "And it is I who has a plan for your life. By the way, when you are this and this old, I want to give you a child. And then, I want to give you one more and even three more." I don't know how many, I am not God. I don't know it even for my own life. I don't even want to know it. I don't want to make it up. I don't know where the wind is going to blow me, I don't know where the Lord is going to blow me, and I don't know what God

has. I only know that God has for me to feed on the fruit. So it is necessary to enjoy life with the Lord, to seek to be fed, and to do well.

Do you think that God is incapable? Or that He would forget you? That He has counted it wrong? "Oh, I have totally forgotten now. I have been taking care of Africa and this one has grown old in the meantime. I wanted to give him somebody. What should I do now? I have missed it somehow. I wanted to send this one to school but it is late. This one should have been born, but I also missed that." Do you understand? Do you think God can miss something, or be delayed? People say, "children forgotten by God" or "land forgotten by God." "Oh, I have forgotten here, nothing is growing here. Well, I have been in Africa with Bonke taking care of a revival there, and I have totally forgotten Bohemia; it has totally slipped My hands. So, I will fix it somehow, we will somehow put it together, even though it is not the best... I had this sister for that brother, but he got married in the meantime... hmm... what now? Get divorced?" That's foolishness! Don't we think about God like this sometimes? Don't we say to ourselves, "Lord, you have missed it here a little somehow. It has slipped Your hands a little." Or He says, "I wanted to bless this man. I told him to go to the left, but he went to the right. I will not bless him then." Is God like this? No, He is not. He is not like this by principle.

Tell me, is God better than I am? Of course He is. Is God a better parent than I am? Certainly He is! Does He love His children more than I love mine? Yes, He does! Until the appointed time: one day I will love my children as God loves, one day I will be like God. But it is not yet today. Let's take this: I have a daughter. Do you think I would let her ruin her life? Do you think I would let her run into the street where cars go when she is two years old saying, "I have told her she should not go there"? Do you think I would do that? No, I wouldn't! I would give her appropriate correction. Do you think I would let a lid of a little hassock fall on her hand when she is two years old because I told her not to open it? Do you think I would do that? Yes, I would. Do you think it would hurt her? Yes, it would. Why would I do it? Because I love her. Because I love her, I will let the lid of the stool fall on her hand. The pain will soon pass away, even though she might have a bruise. But I will not let her run into the street so that she could be killed. It is not appropriate. It is Catholic thinking: "You have now made a mistake. I told you to go to the meeting, but you didn't, so I will kill your child." This is the devil himself. Be free, brethren. God hasn't called you to make a mistake and repent so He would then ruin your life. Send the evil one away. Repent of the sins you have done, but do not believe the devil that God is here to ruin

your life. God is here to bless your life. If you are nodding your heads now, if you are agreeing with this, I want you to begin to live and think like this. Begin to think like this and say it to the devil. Ask God to change your thinking. God hasn't come to ruin your life. God hasn't come to ruin your life! God hasn't come to ruin your life, brethren! He hasn't come into your life to rob you. God hasn't come into your life to hurt you. God hasn't come into your life to expose you to mockery and shame. God hasn't come into your life to condemn you, but to deliver you. There are people who come and want to stone you, but not God.

They came with a prostitute and said, "According to the law, she is to be stoned. What do you say about it, Jesus?" Jesus hasn't come to destroy nor to condemn, but to deliver. Do you think He left it alone and said, "Well, it is legitimate." No, He didn't. He did something that touched her life and she was saved, set free from her sin! For Jesus told her with authority, "Go and sin no more." So she went and didn't sin anymore and was forgiven, even more than the Pharisees (John 8:1-11). God hasn't come to destroy. God is doing everything so that He would build up and save. God has come into your lives and stood up in them. Do you know why God saved you? So that He could vex you? So that He could destroy you? So that He could rob you? Or so that He would bless you? Brethren, set your mind right. Set your mind right. God has come into your lives to set you free so that you might walk in fullness, in joy, in peace, in righteousness. Do you know what the fruit of the Spirit is? Suffering? No! Don't be mistaken! The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Galatians 5:22-23). Don't you know that God has called you? And that the fruit of the Spirit is joy? God has called us so that we would do well. God has not come to destroy and ruin our lives. To me, this seems very important. If we understand this, then I think we have laid the foundation so that we can talk about marriage and pre-marriage. If we don't understand this, then we will always be walking in unbelief, wondering whether the devil is not, by some chance, right, wondering whether God, by some chance, wanted to keep something good from us. Eve was not sure. She was telling herself, "Hmm, maybe this God really wanted to rob us of something." And Satan was able to catch her on it. He said, "You will not die, don't be afraid. God is just frightening you." And she believed the devil more than God, but God meant only good for her and the devil meant evil! Don't believe the evil one when he says, "Don't be afraid, it's not so hot. Do not let anyone deprive you. While you are young, the fruit is pleasant to the eyes, tasty." Don't be caught by it! You would not be the first one.

Marriage is an excellent thing. God gave me marriage. I have known it for only a few years, so I cannot say that for the last fifty years my wife and I have been doing excellently. When I talk to different older people, they tell me, "You know, I have had this last job for twenty-eight years." I always reply, "Well, I have been in this world for twenty-eight years." Brother duCille says that he and his wife haven't had an argument for the last fifty years. As a matter of fact, I haven't been here half of the last fifty years. However, I think that from what I have experienced, I can say, "Brethren, marriage is an excellent thing." The Promised Land is an excellent thing in God. What is it all about? What is marriage all about? Tell me: Is it that it is great that we can be together and talk from the morning till the evening? Yes, it is. You will manage for a while, but then you will need to get some sleep, too. What else is marriage about? Is marriage also about the fact that you can go for a walk with somebody? Yes, it is. That somebody will cook for you? Yes, it is. Marriage is about all these things. But marriage is mainly about having somebody with whom you are one. Do you know that? God has given you somebody with whom you can be one. Is marriage about sex? Yes, it is, as well as about many other things. I don't know if you will believe me, but it is a relatively trivial thing compared to what God is giving us. Sex is a good thing, as other good things are, but God is giving us an entirely different depth, an entirely different level, which is much more precious, for suddenly you have someone you are one with, on all three levels of who you are: spirit, soul, and body. It means that, on one hand, you have one spirit, soul, and body (man); and on the other hand, there is another spirit, soul and body (woman). Suddenly, they click. Because they are not perfect, it needs to settle a little bit, but they click together and flow together. God's intention has been fulfilled: they completed one another, and they are one. This is an image of Christ and the church.

They are one and can flow together. They realize they are one in spirit, one in soul and one in body. Don't be deceived by the world when someone offers you something lower than this, when they tell you that you will be one in body. Yes, but what about the soul, and what about the spirit? Maybe somebody who is set better in the world will tell you, "They should be one in soul and in body." Then what about the spirit? Don't reach out for anything lower than wanting to be one in the spirit, in the soul and in the body. God will lead you and God will flow through you. Do you know how? You will be as a pipe, which God will flow through. Blessing and anointing will flow through you. God will pour out His anointing and His blessings through you, His honey, His fruit, and you will be like one half of the pipe, and the other half of the pipe will perfectly click together

(you and your mate), and you will be able to flow. Think about the fact that God has known you from the beginning. As when we were joking before, saying, "You are zero years old and God knows what will happen when you are ten or twelve, etc." Remember, it is God's plan. He has a plan. God wants to send you somewhere. You know God has for you, for your lives, greater plans than just marriage. He wants to fulfill this plan, also, by adding unto you a partner somewhere along the way, as well as by adding unto you other things you need, for example, children, but other things, too. I will make it a little lighter... for example, a car. God knows what you need. It is written, "God knows what you need (Matthew 6:8, 32)." If you need a car in your life, in His time, God will give you a car. If you need a wife, God will give you a wife. Understand it as such. Seek

...and you will be like one half of the pipe, and the other half of the pipe will perfectly click together (you and your mate), and you will be able to flow.

God's will so that you would be on His path and not hindering God. Give yourself to the Lord and say, "God, I trust You. I trust You for my life. I trust You will lead me well. I trust You will lead me at school. I trust You will

lead me at work." Do you know God has a job for us? By the way, do you know there is something better than a job? The whole plan of God is greater. Amen.

So, I want to tell you that marriage is about God having someone for you. I don't have him/her. I don't have anyone for anybody. Neither does Brother duCille have anyone in his pantry. If I tell you that he has two pantries at home, girls in one and boys in the other, and every time when someone needs one, he pulls one out, will you believe me? Of course not, it is not so. So don't ask people, don't set your eyes on them and don't expect them, by some chance, to have someone for you in their pantry. Do you think God is incapable so that you have to come to Him and say, "God, hurry it up a little, it's taking too long." Or, "Now I am here alone, God will hardly give me anyone here, so I just need to have a look around a bit." Do you think God needs your help in this area? When God tells you to have a look around, then have a look around. When God tells you to move, then move. But you need to trust God for your life.

If you don't believe God or you don't want to believe or if you feel that this is not for you, then none of the rest is for you and you don't

have to be bothered by it. One doesn't go without the other. If you feel that walking with God, God's calling and God directing your life is not for you, then don't let the rest bother you and do what you need to. But if you feel you want God's calling and the highest things of God, and you want what God has for you, you want the fruit, you want to fill your life with riches in God, then endure. Marriage is, then, about you being in the fullness, having fullness, having unity. I don't want to hang around in this place, although there are so many things we could talk about.

Do you know when a man is married? From his birth. I was praying and asking God, "God, when were we married?" God said, "As early as from your birth." Interesting. At that time I remembered one thing that happened to me when Kristyna and I, approximately two years before we got married, understood that we belonged to one another. I knew that Kristyna was the second half for me, that she was the one who would walk with me in my life. But I didn't come to her and say, "Hey, shall we go for a walk? Shall we be friends?" Not at all. The first time I ever came to her and began to talk to her about anything (except for the things of Christ), was when I asked her whether we were going to be together... (I had no clue we should date. I didn't believe in dating.) I came to her, I took her aside before the church meeting started and told her, "God spoke to me. You know, He called me to a battle and I believe you should go into that battle with me. Could you please pray whether you could go into this battle by my side?" And she prayed and said, "Yes."

And so, one evening, we were in a situation that we knew we would go together into this battle and somewhere along the way we had to get married. Of course, we started to make preparations for it. And God suddenly spoke to me, "I want you to promise Me something." I said, "Of course." God said, "Promise Me that the two of you will serve Me with all your lives until your death." This can be easily said, but how do I know what is going to come? But God was saying, "Promise it to Me." And I replied, "By the way, who is 'the two of you'? 'That you (the two of you) will serve Me?'" Understand me. We are talking about marriage here, so the first one that comes to your mind is Kristyna and me. But it didn't come to me. Imagine, you are at home alone in the evening and God says to you, "Promise me that you (the two of you) will walk with God." Who? My family? The Church? Who is "the two of you"? And God said, "You and your wife." "What? Do I have a wife? I am single! I don't have a wife!" But God replied, "You have a wife. And I want you to promise Me that you and your wife will go with Me, that you will walk with Me, and that you will give Me your lives unto the death." To argue with God is not easy, but

after all, "God, how come I have a wife when I don't have a wife? We are not married yet, if you are talking about Kristyna." God said, "For Me, you have been husband and wife from the beginning of creation." I was so desperate about it. I was lying in bed and kept thinking, "I have a wife; I don't have a wife. What then is the wedding for? When are we together, how does it work then?" And God showed me that there are certain stages in life, and, of course, there are some things you will enter into only after the wedding ceremony. But God perceives it in such a way that He has a partner for you even before you are born. You know, I was born a little bit sooner than Kristyna. God was working on me and He knew, even before I was born, that Kristyna was going to be born. He already knew at that time that He had Kristyna for me and He was working on her. I didn't know her. I didn't know her for ten, fifteen years. God was working on her as well as on me and He knew everything. He knew I was going to be born again and that she was going to be born again. Do you understand? It was very shocking for me. God knew I was to have a partner for my life, somebody who I would go to battle with, and He knew who she was, what her name was, what she was like, what her character was like.

*Let's call her I shshah.
Do you know what that means?
In Hebrew, "I sh" is a man and
he called a woman "I shshah"...*

We are now getting to chapter three: What to do before you enter into marriage. I like to talk about this subject because I believe it has a certain revelation. You need to realize, brethren, that God has a husband or a wife for you somewhere. She exists somewhere. Let us call her Eve - in general, a woman. Let's call her Ishshah. Do you know what that means? In Hebrew, "Ish" is a man and he called a woman "Ishshah" because he didn't know any better name to call her. Let's then also call them Ish and Ishshah.

So, God has, dear sisters, your Ish from the beginning of the world. As I was saying, none of the brethren has him in his closet, so God has him. God has been working on him. God knows about such particular details that are going to face you in your lives, which you have no clue of. Is there anyone here who can tell where he is going to be in five years? What he is going to be in five years? How he is going to feel in five years? Can anyone tell me? Can anyone tell me how he is going to feel in ten years, or in forty years? But God knows it. Can you tell me what

kind of a partner you are going to need in forty years' time, in twenty, in ten, in five? You can't, but God knows it. God has somebody for you, your Ish or Ishshah, who is being created. Maybe he is now sitting in a meeting somewhere else and is listening to the same Word. Or do you know that maybe he is not saved yet? Or maybe he is. God has to save him somewhere along the way. God has to deal with him somewhere along the way and somewhere He will bring you together. But, do you know, God already has him? Do you know God had him even before you were born? God has been working on him, God has been preparing him. Do you know which country he comes from? Maybe from Hungary, or

*Do you know that you can be
unfaithful before the wedding?
Somebody comes into your life
and wants to play with you. Are
you to be played with?*

from Turkey. God has your Ish for you, your Ishshah from the beginning of the world. I trust it is clear to you. As I was saying at the beginning, if we don't believe in God, we can throw it all away. So far, no practical advice has come, only that God has Ish and Ishshah for you. But this is the foundation which needs to be built on. If you believe it, you can rest. He who already has someone doesn't have to ask God to give him a partner. You don't have to ask God not to forget you. God knows very well and He will take care of your situation.

The time will come when God will tap you on your shoulder and say, "Young man, I have one Ishshah here for you." "Sister, beloved daughter, I have one Ish here for you. Don't worry." So imagine now that you have a husband or a wife. How do you feel? I want you to take it seriously. I am not saying it just generally. How do you feel knowing that God has a partner for you somewhere? Good? Experience it. It is a confidence, it is a rest. Experience it, each of you personally, and begin to love him or her, this Ish or Ishshah. You know, when you know this, pray for him. Say, "God, this is my Ish. I ask You to bless him today. I ask You

that he would know You, that You would be with him today, that You would be changing him and giving him knowledge and love for You. God, I ask that he would love You in the first place. I ask that he would love You, that he would walk with You, that we could be one. And I ask You, God, that he would love Africa, if You want to send us to Africa. God, I ask You that he would know how to sleep having a window open as I do." This is how I prayed. I like to sleep having a window open and it seemed silly to me if my wife didn't want to sleep with an open window, for we would have to somehow agree on it in the evening or sleep separately. So I was saying, "God, don't forget for my wife to be able to sleep with an open window." However, I would certainly advise you to ask God what you are to pray for. I just read an article on the Internet today where one sister was talking about how she was praying when she was thirteen. She made a list of fifteen things she prayed for. Then she hid the letter and when she was twenty-one, she opened it and laughed because point number twelve was that he would like broccoli. Fortunately, the other ten points were about him loving God in the first place, and serving Him, that he would be a man who would want a wife that would be scrupulous about taking care of children, that he would be a man who would want to have many children. So she was praying in a right way. Pray for righteous things. (I had one thing there, too, I wanted that open window.) Don't be afraid to pray to God. Trust Him. Pray and bless. You don't have to make it the central point of your life, because that is God. This is only one of the things, only one of the things.

When you pray for this particular man or woman and some "Mr./Ms. Cowboy/Cowgirl" comes into your life and wants to start something with you, you will suddenly say to yourself, "Hmm, I cannot be unfaithful to my Ish/Ishshah." Do you know that you can be unfaithful before the wedding? Somebody comes into your life and wants to play with you. Are you to be played with? Are you like a piece of cheese, as my wife says? One brother was saying that we are not a piece of cheese so that somebody would bite into it and give it back. Do you understand it? You are premium goods. You are Ishshah or Ish for that particular one who God has been preparing for you.

Imagine a man comes and begins to "unwrap" my wife. The wrath will rise in me. I would pick him up and throw him out the door. Plain and simple. How can anybody explore my wife? How can anybody entertain himself with my wife? Get away from her, this is my wife! How can you flirt with her? How can you wink at her? Only I can wink at her. How can you call her "honey"? Only I can call her "honey." How can you go for a walk with her in the evening? Get away from her! Do you think a brother

could come in the evening and go for a walk with Kristyna? Fear would not allow him! How could he coo with Kristyna on the telephone? She is my wife and the mother of my children. How could somebody play with her in his mind? How can you bear on my wife? She belongs to somebody! She is even married! How could somebody walk around like a lecher and play with cheese? As that brother was saying, "To unwrap, taste, and give back." And what about me, then? I will come to the store to buy cheese and it is gnawed at, unwrapped! Emotionally devastated. I want to tell it, "I love you," and it replies to me, "I know, I know." What do you know? You are not to know anything. Your emotions are to be pure, your heart is to be pure, not wounded. I then come to my Ishshah, knock on her heart and say, "I love you," and she is afraid. "What are you afraid of?" "Oh, I have experienced so many of those wounds." "What kind of wounds? Who came to hurt you? Who came into your life to hurt you, my Ishshah?" I came to have fellowship with my wife, with my beloved wife so that I could cover her, overshadow her, love her, flow with her, pray with her, and have friendship with her. Suddenly, you see somebody had already opened this cheese before you, and pretty harshly. And you say to yourself, "Hey, careful, this is my Ishshah!"

What if I haven't married Kristyna yet? Do you think there is any difference? Can you imagine that I would be jealous? Wouldn't you be? Wouldn't you be jealous if someone else entertained himself with your wife? You have a wife, you have been keeping yourself pure, you have been keeping yourself in righteousness, and then somebody takes her for a walk. A strange man takes her for a walk. She is my wife! I will be taking her for a walk when the time comes, when God tells me that she is my wife.

But we didn't know this at that time. We didn't have the full knowledge of everything from the beginning. We didn't do everything perfect and right. But understand it. God's plan is that we would do everything right. Imagine that I am a single boy and, for example, I like a certain sister. So I will call her, "How are you doing?" But what if she belongs to somebody else? Maybe her Ish is in the same fellowship or maybe a totally different one. How can I come and begin to unwrap this cheese, brethren? Be careful of what you touch. Be careful of where you are committing any crime. Watch for your cheese. Watch for your cheese! And defend yourself in body as well as in soul, as well as in spirit, for that Only One. Why should anyone ruin your life? Do you think the first one who comes and says, "I love you..." Do you know how he thinks? As about cheese, he wants a bite. Don't be naive! He comes and wants a bite. He bites, tastes, and wants to bite more next to it. And then he

gives you back the cheese nibbled off. He doesn't care how you feel. He doesn't care at all. As Brother duCille said, a young sister went home from the meeting in the evening and met a young boy who was telling her he loved her, and she believed him. It was a lie. He loved her as much as I loved the chicken for lunch today. I didn't care how the chicken felt. I wanted to eat it. So he slept with her that night and the next day he wasn't interested in her any more. She ended up with AIDS. Don't be deceived. The world cannot love; it cannot have God's love. It comes and goes and a bite remains. Maybe it is only in the soul, but even that is too much. God has a plan. God has a plan. Hold it. Guard yourself. Do not let the devil deceive you.

I am telling you here that the whole garden is full of fruit. Don't reach out for anything lower. If somebody comes telling you, "You cannot do this, you cannot do that, you cannot do that..." then it is the devil. I will have much more. God hasn't robbed me of anything in my life. The only thing God has robbed me of is disappointment, trouble, unfulfillment, and suffering. God has a partner for you. Believe it and behave

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accordingly. When somebody comes to you and wants to entertain himself with you, then tell him that you are already engaged. "Sorry, I'm engaged." "Oh, I didn't know. And who with?" "I don't know yet." Or, "I already have a girlfriend." "Which one, which one?" "It's none of your business! But I do. Thank you, I don't want it." "But am I not better?" "No, you're not, just for the fact that you are asking this way." "I already have somebody. I will not go with you, even just for a walk. My dear one may not like it." Everybody will understand that. "I won't wander with you in the evenings. My beloved would not like it." Everybody will have to understand it. Even though everything is totally different

in the world these days, I think it is still a pretty strong argument. At least you must have it. What if I know and have a revelation that this is my wife? I haven't told her yet because God hasn't told me to tell her yet and I am praying for it. And suddenly I see that somebody else is "somewhat interested" in her. It can hurt me! Be careful. You don't know who your Ish is. Maybe he has been growing with you from your birth. Or Ishshah. Keep yourself pure. Keep yourself pure because God is offering you a huge orchard of fruit and good things. Don't be fooled. When you allow yourself to be fooled, nothing better is waiting for

you, only worse. And if you are confused in your mind, let it be. Repent at that moment and tell God, "God, I don't want anything less." Be prepared to make a decision and say, "No. I will not reach out for anything less. I will not reach out for anything less." God has the best thing for you, the right one. Use it as an argument when somebody comes and would want to unwrap you. Don't trust him, brethren! Don't believe him. "I love you." "Do you love me? Do you love the Lord? You cannot love me if you don't love the Lord. You don't even know how to love, you don't even know what love is. Here is the Bible, read I Corinthians 13, this is love." Don't be deceived. Only a person who loves the Lord first can love you. Only he knows what love is. It actually starts by this if you want him to seriously love you. Do you want your husband to love you? Do you? Do you want your wife to love you? Don't reach out for anything less. If you want it, why would you choose anything less? And in addition to that, you will hurt them by giving your heart to someone else for a while.

You know, God can wash away many things. God really can if we repent of what we did yesterday. Not of what we will do tomorrow, but if we repent of what we did yesterday, God can cover and wash. Not that nothing would have happened and everything was gone, for then you have to go through certain things and bear your consequences. This is how it is. If it were not so, God would say, "You are free to sin. I will fix it all later." So, sin is not without consequences. But God can cover things in an unbelievable way and allow the piece of you which has survived to enter the Promised Land forty years later.

Know, then, that this is the most important thing that you need to understand in this area. It is absolutely basic before we can start with practical issues. Consider yourselves as if you were engaged. Engaged. Maybe you don't know him, maybe you do, but you are engaged. "I am engaged. Go and unwrap some other cheese. I am not for sale. And even more, I am not cheese for sampling." It is like, for example, when you come to the supermarket on Sunday and they have cheese for sampling. You will taste it, also this one, and some more. Isn't this what is happening in the world? Yet, it is exactly how it works today. Girls are for sampling. He comes, tastes her and gives her back. What is that? In God, you all are an excellent match. Do you know that? I am not saying it just somewhat generally, but I mean it specifically for you. All of you who are here are an excellent match in God. I am thinking that God has given us an excellent potential here. You are beautiful people. Why would you scale yourselves down to such a level that you would make out of yourself cheese for sampling, instead of exclusive cheese that is only for

the one, the right one who will come? What for? For what reason does man throw away the high calling, the high vision, throws away all the fruit, and becomes cheese for sampling? So that somebody would put you back on the shelf? Defend yourself with all ten of your fingers! Defend yourself with spiritual weapons! God has called you to great things and great promises. Don't let anyone make out of you cheese for sampling.

Maybe you are thinking that I am talking about the body. Yes, I am talking a lot about the body, but also about the soul. Why should anyone taste your emotions, your feelings? Somebody comes and flirts with you. Only in the soul, only Platonic. Was Plato an apostle that we would have Platonic love? One, two, three of them... It is the same. Seemingly less dangerous, maybe it doesn't have such huge consequences; it is hard to tell. Maybe not, but we are not talking only about the body. I am not talking here about things of the body, I am talking about your emotions.

So, imagine that we know and we are ready to keep ourselves for only the right one, for this Ish or Ishshah. Is it so? Let's say we laid down the foundation and we said, "Lord, I want it. I want it because You have good things. I don't want to ruin my life. I believe that You haven't given me life so that it would be ruined." And now we are finally getting to our subject. Let us therefore assume the foundation as being laid. Let us start another chapter. Maybe the last one.

Let us imagine that I have made a decision. I am a young man (or a young lady) and I have decided to say "Yes" to all of this. I take all that we have been talking about here today, or perhaps I have already heard it before, and I am saying, "Yes. I want the best things, the greatest things, and I will not substitute them for anything in the world. I want them." What should I do? Pray. Seek the Lord before anything else. Sanctify your whole life and focus it on God. Do not be occupied with your Ish or Ishshah. Pray for him when God lays it on your heart, pray for him genuinely, but don't pray, "God, bring him into my life at last." You don't have to remind God. God knows it very well; God has His time. Do you know that God had that hour set even before the beginning of the world? You won't speed it up. Even if you prayed as much as you could, you would not speed it up. It is like with my little daughter, Kristyna. "We are going swimming," I say. "On Saturday." "Daddy, we are going swimming!" "On Saturday." But it is only Monday. "Daddy, we are going swimming." "On Saturday." "Today?" "On Saturday." "Tomorrow?" "On Saturday." The child just doesn't want to understand it. I said, "On Saturday," and in this respect I am God to her in a

certain way, so it will be on Saturday. And she won't be able to do anything about it. I said, "On Saturday." Why? Am I going to let her wait? Absolutely, because Saturday is the best time for swimming. I have prepared it and devised it as such and so on Saturday we will go swimming. She has two options: either she can suffer until Saturday, or she can be occupied with something else until Saturday, and on Saturday we will go swimming. Why does she want to be occupied for five days with getting me to go swimming sooner, when I have said in the beginning that she will not get me to do it? She will be troubled for five days and then we will go swimming. What good is it to be troubled that we will not go swimming until Saturday? Just take it as it is. We are going to go swimming on Saturday. Daddy said Saturday. Does it seem too late to go swimming on Saturday? No. I know what is best for her life. Have I devised it so that I will let her be troubled until Saturday? She is troubled by herself. "I have good things for you today. Today we are going to be talking at the dinner table. Today we are going to be praying together, today we are going to be playing tag, or I don't know what all we can be doing together. You have a perfect day. Mommy and Daddy have the perfect contents of the day for you. A part of those contents is that you would go to bed. You don't want to? I know what is good for you. You have to be strong. Do you understand me? Don't worry that we are going to go swimming on Saturday. Just take it as it is. We are going to go swimming on Saturday."

God has that day, let's say, November 12. If I knew that day, if God revealed it to you... If I knew and could tell you, for example, "Brother, it is November 12, 2002." I would say, "I am not going to give you the name, but I will tell you November 12, 2002, and a half a year later you will get married." The brother would be set at ease and would be doing his work until November 12, taking care of his things. November 11th would go by and on the 12th he would begin to be slightly anxious. And I would say, "Your Ishshah's name is so and so." Now imagine that God has it like this. I don't know the date, but God knows it. Through all the obstacles, He knows it. And I know that He is going to do it.

I had known it for a long time before a certain brother and a sister knew they belonged to one another. It is such a peculiar feeling. You know it, and you observe those people, and pray for them. You pray and you don't talk too much about what you know and that is good. But somehow you observe those people and it is such a peculiar level of God. Suddenly you begin to understand God a little bit and you say to yourself, "God is looking at our lives like this. God knows when it comes and who it is going to be and what it is going to be." And you can see how

those people are searching and how they are going here and there and you are saying to yourself, "I wish they would rest. I wish they would rest and leave it alone." Suddenly they meet and get married as God appointed it. At that time it was a special privilege God gave me. I don't even know why, maybe it was just so that I would pray.

And so I want to say, "Know that God has." I am a young man, a young woman, I don't know who belongs to me, who my Ish, my Ishshah is, and so I am praying for him or her and saying, "God, I want to be ready."

Do you want to appeal to him? Do you know how you are going to appeal to her?

*Do you want to appeal to him?
Do you know how you are going to
appeal to her? If you walk with the
Lord, you will be attractive for him.*

If you walk with the Lord, you will be attractive for him. You don't have to have a spe-

cially combed forelock just in case he was amongst us. I will give you an example: I am a young man and maybe my Ishshah is among us. I will unbutton the little button a bit, I will slightly pull up my little sleeve, my biceps have to come out a little bit. You cannot see it but it is there. 😊 I will also put on the latest jeans, I will put on my little glasses, and I am cool. And that Ishshah, righteous Ishshah, will come and look around and say, "Lord, I wonder whether You will be speaking to me today. But certainly not about my husband because there is no one here that I would want. These boys here are so juvenile." If you want to attract a girl in the world, then unbutton your little buttons so that your two hairs are seen and put on some ragged jeans. It is now very fashionable. I recommend tearing it under the knee here, and girls, it is absolutely ideal to tear it here under the back pocket. Go and he will get caught. Such a boy will get caught. Do you know how you know him? He has his jeans torn here under the knee. And he will know you by your jeans being torn at the back under the pocket. You will meet like this and you will know each other by this. You are calling to somebody similar to yourself. You are calling and saying, "Hello, a tear calleth unto the tear." (Instead of deep calleth unto deep [Psalm 42:7].) It is so. You have to make it clear to yourself who you are calling. And I also want to tell you: don't come to the meetings with your jeans torn. You will not be able to find a "tear" like this here. You will have to go somewhere in the world. Maybe you don't have to go to a bar, but I am sure it is good there; you will find the other "tear" there, somebody who has a similar hairstyle, similar

tears, and is a similar crack. You have to decide who you are looking for in your life, who you want to attract. So if you want to attract him this way, then you have to look like it. But if you want to attract a righteous man, he will not notice you with a tear. He will not include you in his short list. Never. God will not be speaking to him. He will be rejecting it. God will say, "This is a wife for you," and he will reply, "Oh, get behind me, Satan." Poor fellow. He doesn't know. He doesn't understand. He is saying to himself, "I can't even look into this girl's eyes, she is almost naked. I can't even look at her properly. I have to look somewhere else all the time." For he is an innocent, righteous man and he is saying, "I can't even look at her." Or a girl will come and will not include you among the candidates. "This boy here, such a teenager. The only thing that he is interested in are some tears. He doesn't even know how to button up his shirt. He doesn't even know how to come decently dressed to the meeting." If you therefore want to attract purity, walk in purity. You know, you will attract the other way, too. You would be surprised how you will attract. It works. And the world knows how it works.

So, I have made a decision, first of all, that I will concentrate on the Lord. I don't have to take care of the other things at all. Do not be troubled until God gives you the right one. People, do not be troubled by it. Wait, it will come, God will tap on your shoulder and say, "By the way, the time has come, I have Ishshah for you. She is the girl, the one who is sitting here, the sister." "Oh, she is beautiful. God, I don't even deserve her. She is beautiful. This is the person you have for me? Thank you, God."

I, therefore, concentrate on the Lord, I seek Him so that I would increase my price. For there is a certain brother, a certain Ish, praying and saying, "God, I ask You that it would be a righteous woman." So be righteous. "I ask You, Lord, that she would be a servant." Be servants. "I ask You that she would know how to take care of me well." Take care of yourself well. You know, you can be servants at home. Learn it. Serve at home. Love. Obey. "God, I ask You that she would be an obedient wife, that she would not be rebellious." Do you want to attract him? Be obedient, don't be rebellious. Do not behave foolishly, but behave righteously, purely. You will not let yourself down by your behavior and if you do, then it will only be in front of a tear. But you don't mind that. You want him to notice you and say, "God, this is bone of my

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bone." Tell yourself, "I will increase my price in his eyes so that God could give me to him." Work on this, work on your own righteousness so that you would increase your price in Christ. Love God, serve the Lord, and follow God. And keep telling yourself, knowing that when God reveals to that Ish that you are his wife, his heart will rejoice and he will say, "God, I have obtained favor of the Lord." You don't want God to tell him, "This is a wife for you," and him say, "God!? Is she going to argue with me my whole life? She doesn't even obey her parents and she is to obey me? There is rebellion working in her life in every step. Oh! She doesn't even know how to dress. I don't even know if she is a girl or a boy. Do I have to be explaining to her how to dress? Couldn't she hear from You? Oh!" If you want to increase your price in Christ, it will mean that God will be able to give you a good Ish.

And vice versa, brothers. I don't know why I keep looking at the girls here. It is the same for you: "God, this boy doesn't even know how to take care of his own soul and he is to take care of me? It is not even raining, only the sun hides, and he is miserable. And what if I come and am not feeling good? Is he going to swear at me, also? God! He has a responsibility to do this and he is not able to take care of such things. You tell him, 'Please bring it,' and he forgets. You say again, 'Please, could you bring this,' and he forgets for the second time. And he will not do this and he is not able... Is he to take care of my children? Will he forget to feed them? Maybe sometimes? Can I lean on him? Is he a man? Is he a grown-up man? Is he mature? Won't I have to take care of money at home so that he can manage, poor fellow? Won't I have to encourage him every night so that he will not give up on life?" Don't forget, brothers, that women also want to say, "Oh, thank you, Lord," when God tells them, "This is your husband." "God, thank you. I am glad he will be the father of my children. I am glad he is the one who will always understand me and who will always cover me under his wing when I come to him, one I will be able to lean on, who is responsible, and who is submissive to the Lord and the authority over him. I knew he would come. I knew, God, I had that confidence and it is such a comfort, it is so pleasant to my heart. I have been watching him for years! I didn't know he was my Ish. But I remember this boy from a conference and from there, too. We have been together in the fellowship for a few years. I know how he thinks, how he behaves, how he approaches his life with responsibility, how he obeys wise advice, how he does not resist wise advice, how he obeys the Lord, how he obeys the brethren, how he obeys the elders, the way he functions. God, I know that when we have a problem, the first thing he will do is go to the church and to the elders. He will pray and

say, 'Brethren, help us, we are having trouble in the family, we are having a problem. Sin came into our lives and we need help.' God, I can rely on that, I have seen him do it. I know he will not run into a corner and will not walk into the world. I know that when a problem comes into our lives, he will not pick up and run away." Or, "Are you giving me this brother? Sin came into his life and he said that it was someone else's fault. It means that we will have problems and he will scold our children and me. Are you sure, Lord?" Or do you want that sister to say, "God, it is pleasant. I have seen him be corrected and take it upon his shoulders and say, 'Yes. This is my problem. This is my mess. I am solving it. I will take care of it. I receive it. Lord, forgive me that I have not been walking in righteousness in this issue. Forgive me that I have hurt.' I have seen how a problem happened because of him, and he said, 'Yes, it was me. I apologize to all.' I have seen how he was broken, how he was sorry for it. And he took out his last CZK 500 of his savings and paid for what he caused. Oh, God, I will take this. It means that if he does something wrong he will come and apologize. He will know that it was he who opened the door to the devil, and not only that, but he will say, 'I am sorry, it is my fault,' and will pick up that devil by his lapels and throw him out the window. I can rely on that."

Are you asking what you are to do before God gives you a husband or a wife? Seek the Lord and keep increasing your price in Christ. Seek righteousness so that you would be a good match.

The time is coming but because of your eagerness for holiness you don't even have a thought about your partner. Hallelujah! You need to be busy in Christ like this. You know, brethren, even because of your wife, because of your husband, walk in righteousness. "I would like to be spending evenings with him. I would like to be praying with him in the evenings. But he does not pray in the evenings. He watches nonsense on television. God, don't you have a husband for me who will be praying with me in the evenings when I need it?" "God, I would like a wife who will be at home in the evenings. I would like to come home, I would like to come from work, and find that she is waiting for me at home. I would like to find that she has her home in order, that she is waiting for me, that she is full of life, and that we will be sharing our life together. I would like to find out that she doesn't wander. But, God, this girl doesn't spend evenings at home. She wanders somewhere." God is giving you all these months and years of life, while you do not know your Ish or Ishshah, to endeavor to please the Lord and please your Ish or Ishshah. Brethren, strengthen yourselves in God and be courageous.

So, we have come to the point that you walk in righteousness.

Suddenly God taps on your shoulder and says, "I have a partner for you." You know I will be talking about an ideal case here as it is supposed to be. You do with it whatever you want. You can say that it is foolishness. You can say that it is not for you. You can say that I am exaggerating. You can do all of this, it is not my business. But I believe that a day will come. Some of you have one advantage, you have believing parents. You are quite covered in this area. If I was a girl, what would I do as a girl? I would be waiting and taking care of God's things. I would not be worrying about my Ish at all. I would be praying for him. He is my Ish. I don't know his name, so I would be praying for Ish. But I would not need to go somewhere, to the market, in order to find him. It would be sufficient for me to seek the Lord. And one day my parents will come to me and say to me, "How are you? What is God speaking to you?" "God is speaking to me that I should sanctify myself." "Is God speaking to you about your partner?" "Yes, He is. I have my Ish. He is the one I am waiting for." "And is God speaking to you something about Frank here?" "Well, I have been trying to drive it out for some time now." You know, parents have one peculiar thing, they love you. They love you and they would want the best partner for you. We are talking here about believing parents.

I am a young man. What should I do as a young man? A thought begins to come to me. I take it and say, "I will not submit myself to such things." "Kristyna..." "No!" "Kristyna..." "No, no, no!" Do you know what I mean? When you cannot help yourself any more, go and see your parents. It is a problem in some of your cases, isn't it? Well, I had the same problem, and I didn't have anyone to go to, either. But you have people at church. I went to the elders. Do you know that I went to the elders long before I went to Kristyna? I needed help. I was saying, "Brothers, I have a problem with one girl. I cannot get her out of my life. I pray, I repent. Pray with me so that God would forgive me. Some Kristyna keeps coming to my mind and I can't help myself." They were saying, "What are you doing?" "Well, we go together every day to school by bus. She goes from one village, I go from the town. We keep meeting each other on the bus. We are both hungry for God and so we are sharing about God." They were saying, "Well, it is hard when you go together by bus. We will be praying." I was telling myself, "Oh, so the problem is the bus. I will take an earlier bus." It was madness. I had to get up at five o'clock and take a bus at five thirty, so that I would not meet this girl. I meant it seriously. I was not going to have my life spoiled because some girl enticed me, because I talked to her and we on got well together in Christ. So I had to take a bus at five thirty. Six thirty you arrive at school, you hang around town and wait an hour and a half before the

school opens up, because you came an hour and a half early. You have to go to bed earlier because of this. Life is not easy.

I went to my elders and presented them this issue: "Brothers, I have my Ishshah and some girl here is getting into my life. She is a wonderful girl, but what should I do? I don't want it." However, Kristyna suddenly turned up at church and the elders began to understand that it was somewhat different, that she was the one, that she was my Ishshah. But what now? I was somehow backing out, I was taking a bus an hour earlier and who knows what, and the elders now came to me and said, "So, what is going on with that Kristyna? How did you solve it?" I said, "Well, I am taking a bus an hour and a half earlier, but I still somehow cannot get rid of her in my heart." The elders replied, "Hmm, why don't you pray and ask whether by any chance she is the one?" Interesting. After all, I would not mind it at all. It was a bold thought. Could this be?

So I was praying and saying, "OK." But understand, I went first to the elders several months prior. I was saying, "God, I will not get it wrong." I had already thought once that it was a certain girl and so I went to her and said, "Let's pray," because I found myself going for a walk with this girl. I was saying to myself, "You are going for a walk with a girl, it is strange. We will either get married or we will part. Why should we be going for a walk together?" And so before we even held one another's hand or anything like that I was telling her, "You know, let's take some time, we will not see each other; you pray, I will pray, and we will find out how it goes." At that time I hadn't gone to the elders yet, so we prayed and God said, "No." I was a little bit unhappy about it because I had already loosened my emotions, but we had stopped before we set anything in motion. I was saying to myself, "Such a pleasant girl." But afterwards she turned somewhere else. (I had no clue; it was not because of me, because she came with a stronger "no" than I did.) Half a year later she turned to the world. At that time I was saying, "God, thank you." I didn't know what would come, but God knew it.

I was then saying to myself that I did not want to walk wrong, and so I talked to the elders several months prior, telling them, "What do you think about it? How do you see it? What can I do? I need advice." I thought I needed to repent. I repented. It didn't harm me at all. Do you see? It didn't harm me at all taking an earlier bus. And they suddenly said, "Hmm, so pray whether she is not the one." They had already known that she was the one; basically everybody around us knew it. So I prayed, but of course Kristyna didn't know as of yet. I came to the elders and they gave me advice. I prayed and said, "Yes, this is how I understand it.

Simply, yes."

So I went to her and said "Kristyna, God called me to a battle. Will you go into it with me?" And Kristyna said, "I will pray that it would be God's will." ☺ "So, pray whether it is God's will and let me know." Kristyna prayed and prayed and suddenly said, "Yes." I never told her that we would be dating. I told her that we would get married, that she should go into a battle with me. I remember that our first trip led to the elders at Prague. There had already been some elders here, people who had wisdom. We said, "We believe it, some elders in Opava believe it, too, but I need to be sure. I need to be twice sure. I am not going to have my life ruined by some mistake." So we came here to the elders whom we thought were elders, but they were not entirely, and they said, "And what about the two of you? Are you dating?" I replied, "Dating? We are not dating!" "Well, how come you are so close to one another?" "Well, we are getting married." "Why then are you not dating?" "Actually, we don't know. God said we were to get married, but He didn't tell us we were to date." So they tore us apart a little bit, because they were not really elders as we thought. We were awfully unhappy because of it. They were telling us we were to date each other and we didn't want to date. I didn't want to date her. I didn't want to date anyone. Why would I date anyone? I wanted to marry my wife and fight my fight of faith.

I just want to show you that our desire was clear. Fortunately, Mark and Janet Jantzi were here. I didn't know them. I had just heard that they had prophetic anointing or some gift and that they were elders, very much elders. They truly are elders in Christ. That was my first trip, a few days after we heard from God, even before we did anything... so this was the first thing. We said to ourselves that we had to go and see them and so we went. We rang the bell and I said, "Hello, I am Martin, you probably don't know me, and this is Kristyna, and you probably don't know her, either. You know, we have a question." So we told them what God had spoken to us. They asked us such strange things. For example: How old we were (what does age have to do with it?), how old we had to be to get married in the Czech Republic, whether Kristyna knew how to sew or cook. You wait to hear some, "Thus saith the Lord," and instead of that they were asking her whether she knew how to sew. It was so clear to them that they even forgot to tell us. So we said, "And do you believe that this is of God, that we belong one to another?" "Sure, it is clear!" So we said, "OK, God." It was a confirmation that everybody in the church saw it and understood it to be of God. At that moment it was totally safe. And the first thing I did anytime I heard that somebody had any doubt, because I didn't want to make a mistake, I sought

him out, "Do you think it could be wrong, and that all the others are mistaken?" If he was at least a little bit an elder, I went to him and said, "I didn't suspect you having a doubt. Is there any problem with it?" "No, there isn't. I believe it is of God." "OK, OK. I ask you, if there are any of the brethren in the Spirit who feel there is any problem, I would like to know it. I want to know it, and I will go away from it if it is not of God." Nobody came, everybody was encouraging us in it and everything looked like yes, so we got married.

Therefore, what to do until you get married? Basically, nothing! Seek the Lord, prepare the wedding, and meet the parents. If your parents are believers, instead of going to the elders you can go to your parents. That is the absolutely ideal situation. Say, "Dad, Mom, it seems to me that this Kristyna..." But we do not have this luxury here too much. So, go to the elders if there is no believing father.

Unfortunately, we didn't have all the knowledge at that time.

*Why start up and engage
the clutch when you don't
want to go anywhere?
Why loose emotions or the
flesh into a process that you
don't want to finish?*

God told us many things, but we didn't obey and understand everything in time. I believe there is no need to rush anywhere. Either with emotions, or with any relationship in the flesh. I am not going to be talking about it now in detail, as I don't believe that it is the most relevant issue at the moment. I will

just mention it briefly and when it is relevant to you, stop by, and we can talk about it more. Do not rush anywhere. The less you rush, the better. She is your Ishshah, you don't have to taste her. God knows very well how things are going to work. You don't have to taste her, either emotionally or physically. Hold back in all areas until the wedding. Hold back. There is no need to rush into it immediately, saying, "This is my Ish, this is my Ishshah," and be spending five hours every day walking and talking somewhere. It is not necessary. There is no need to play with fire. As in the flesh, so in the soul. But we will talk about this some other time and somewhere else.

As it is miserable when you get intertwined with somebody else and then back up being left with different wounds, it is the same misery, but of a far lesser extent, when you get intertwined emotionally. God created things so that they would work, so that a certain mechanism

would be set in motion. For example, it is the same way as you start a car: you start it up, engage the clutch, etc. Why start up and engage the clutch when you don't want to go anywhere? Why loose emotions or the flesh into a process that you don't want to finish? Leave it alone. It will all come in its time. Why do you need to talk until the evening so that you would then depart and each of you goes after their own business? Why should you be troubled? Why should you be entering things that you will have to put the brake on? What kind of a game is that? But this is really for some other time. I just wanted to mention it so that you would have it in mind when it is relevant for you and then we will be able to go through it.

We have already heard a lot tonight. I trust we will be able to take this Word and ask the Lord to give us the understanding and revelation that will set us on the right path of God with regard to marriage. Let us take some time now and if you have anything you want to tell God, feel free to do so. May the Lord bless you all.

Prayers prayed by the young people right after the Word came forth:

Lord, I thank You so much for the Word You have sent us today. I ask You that none of us would murmur but each of us would wait for what You have prepared for us. I ask You that even I would know how to wait for my Ishshah and that I would never murmur nor bargain whether she could not come sooner or ask why it is not sooner. But I ask You that You would give her to me at the right moment; I ask You that she would be the right one for me, that I would like her how it is most possible. I ask You she would not be any "torn jeans," but she would obey You with her whole heart. The same way I will obey You with my whole heart for I also want to be liked by her the same way. Amen.

Dear God, I also want to thank You for this Word. I thank You that this is a Word which sets us free, which encourages us. Thank You that we are encouraged today to seek You and Your will in our lives. Thank You that You always come with chastisement as well as with encouragement at the same time. Thank You for it. I ask You that when we leave this place, this Word would be planted deep, deep into our hearts, so that we would apply it to our lives. Thank You that it was preached before we even began thinking about this subject. Thank You that it came in time. So I ask You, God, that You would do this act in our lives.

We receive this Word into our hearts, we thank You that it came and that it brings such liberty in the spirit and soul, as well as body. Thank You that we can rejoice in all these things. I also thank You that this Word was able to break the deeds of the devil. Amen.

Lord, You walk through every heart in this place tonight. You see every heart that is making a decision before You to do righteously. I ask You that You would seal every such heart, that You would seal those decisions and direct the steps of each one of us who is making a decision to do righteously. Lord, direct our steps towards You. And I ask You, Lord, that we would be busy with Your deeds. God, that we would seek before You what it is that You are asking of us. I ask You that You would give us tasks in Your work which will keep our minds as well as our hearts busy, which will keep our hands as well as our feet busy so that they would walk in the places of righteousness. I ask You, Lord, for each one of us who is making a decision tonight for righteousness so that during the time of waiting for You, for Your revelation, for Your righteousness and for Your truth, You would open our eyes so that we could see what is Your task in Your work for us, where You want us to add our hands to work, where You want to send us as Your servants. Lord, let us be busy with Your things and not with the things of this world. Lord, I entrust each one of us into Your hands and have great hope that You will fulfill in us what You have promised. I believe You are mighty, for You are God and there is none like You. Amen.

Testimonies - September 2004

It is wonderful to know what our God is like and how He is able to save even those who have not asked for Him, nor have sought Him. He makes Himself to be known by them (Isaiah 65:1). Hallelujah!

The youth camp was, for me, something like an opening of the eyes. In short, I was able to see very clearly who God is, who I am, and all those questions people usually ask were answered for me. I was able to see the peace and confidence God's people walk in with Him day by day in purity and holiness. I realized the difference when I compared them with myself and was ashamed of my own life. I know that at that time God created in me a great desire after righteousness and this desire has been driving me further and further as my horizon begins to open up more to God's purpose with humanity. I am very thankful for that. There is one thing I learned: man is a creature of desires (no other creature has

such contradiction in their desires as man does) and if this strong weapon is directed in the right direction, then it will do a great work.

I wish you all, that, as you read this word about walking in righteousness before God, it would give you the desire God has given me.

May God bless you!

Ada (16)

I remember this camp very clearly. It was a milestone in my life. My mom had taught me to know about God and to love Him. But at this camp I saw the REALITY of God in man's everyday life. It touched me and it gave me a desire to know God as Abraham did. He was called a FRIEND of God!!!

I remember the word for young people very well. I have still been listening to it on the tape over and over again up until this day. It just shows I still need to know the right direction in this world which is full of compromise. There is so much TRUTH, FREEDOM, and PURITY in this Word.

I believe that if you have read it and believe it, God will bless you, sanctify you and set you free as much as He did me.

Linda (16)

This camp meant a lot of grace and changes for me, spiritually as well as physically. The word about Ish and Ishshah came very much in time and it was a big "cut" in my path. It was so clear that I didn't have to hesitate whether I would believe it or not. I began to see things I had never seen before. It came to me that God thought it out so wonderfully. When I thought about God preparing my Ish somewhere, I felt very good and, at the same time, very safe. But I know God still has to change me a lot so that I could be for my Ish the woman from Proverbs 31. And I still have time to make sure that my first husband is Jesus Christ.

I want to encourage all you girls that you would know your Ish is somewhere out there. But do all you can so that you would keep yourselves pure and unbiten.

We are very blessed that God sent us this word. I feel much grace in it. May the Lord bless you.

Karolina (14)

God had to make a lot of changes in my life. Among other things, He also changed my perspective on the relationship between man and woman. Before I heard the word about Ish and Ishshah, I had the same opinion as most of the people in the world have, that I will date somebody,

we will “love” each other, I will feel good... I never thought about what would follow after that, only that my desires and my emotions would be satisfied. Praise the Lord that He sent His word, which is His truth, and it set me free. The Word about Ishism was a step by which I stepped out of the world’s perspective to God’s perspective. However, it was only a beginning. God continued to prepare me, is preparing me, and I believe will be preparing me for His great plan with my life. I also believe that this Word is not only for me, but also for all those who have their hearts opened to God.

God bless you all,
Bibi (16)

If I were to make a list of my life-changing experiences, the very first would probably be the youth camp, which was organized by dear brethren in Prague.

At that time, I was in a horrible state. Despite being saved and baptized in the Holy Ghost, I had totally departed from the Lord. I was deceived. I wanted to enjoy the things the world offers and thought that I would have plenty of time to repent and return to the Lord when I was older. I thought that Christian life was only for older people. However, nothing of that is true! We as Christians have NO time for having a good time! Don’t take me wrong: I don’t mean that Christian life must be boring and clothed in sackcloth and ashes. What I mean is that God doesn’t want us to waste time. He has given it to us so that we would spend it in the fullness of His promise. What is His promise?

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD. But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people (Jeremiah 31:31-33).

Hallelujah! God is so merciful that He is still offering His promises to those who are willing to accept them. But I didn’t see it at that time. I thought I had to make great sacrifices in vain. Even though I had heard about the Lord my whole life, I was going out with my friends, started dating and smoking... I am the type of person who always wants to be in the very front line. (God has been teaching me recently that the one who wants to be the first must first learn how to be the last!) I was the

first one in my class who had a girlfriend; I was the first one smoking... Even when marijuana came along, I was one of the first guys who tried it. (Fortunately, the camp came a week after that so it was the first as well as the last time!) It was horrible, no life and no vision.

Thank God that He is faithful even when we are not. One sister in Prague wanted to organize a camp for the young people from Slovakia. I didn't want to go. It seemed to me that it would be just another boring Christian meeting. I am also the only man in our fellowship and I was bored of being only with girls all the time. But my mother said I needed to go, so I obeyed. Some people say that obedience can save one's life. I have to say I would have been in a very desperate situation if I hadn't obeyed at that time. It changed my life completely.

The word by Brother Martin was also life-changing. For me, it still is one of the best words I have ever heard. I wanted to translate it into English because I liked it so much. I thought it would be useful for many young men because the young men of today are in danger. The devil sets a lot of snares to destroy young men. I would advise everybody to read a book by J.C. Ryle called "Thoughts for Young Men" in order to get a deeper revelation of Satan's plans for us.

One brother said one time that dating is lethal for young people. It is very true. When a young Christian doesn't have a revelation of his Ishshah or God's plan for marriage, he has a problem because he is either going to try every "cheese" which is available or think about marriage more than about God. God is saying that we should seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and ALL other things, including marriage, will be given unto us. No man was created to get married first and foremost. We were called to receive our calling, election and promise of God and walk such that we would fulfill it.

I realized that the Lord is going to give me good gifts and I believe my wife will be one of them. And I really want to wait for the Right One. I want to be pure, clean and sanctified and also, I want to be ready for her. I want to be responsible so that I can take good care of her. The last thing I would want would be my beloved Ishshah regretting marrying me. I love her and therefore, I am going to do everything that is necessary to be a good husband from the Lord to her.

Hallelujah, I believe the Lord will lead you into the full revelation of His great plan even with regards to holy matrimony. I pray the Lord would seal the Word He has given to us.

Lord bless you all,
Oliver (17)



Kid's Chronicles

By Anna Trotter

I learned about the body. I remember when Mommy made all the children stand up with their pieces of paper. First, the body looked all grumpy and it did not have the right heart. The heart was completely black. There were lines of blood flowing on the body. The body was in pieces. The body was broken. There were unrighteous things flowing through it. First on the body was grumpy things then everyone got to read verses and we went up and stuck on the paper like peace, longsuffering, faith, gentleness, meekness, and temperance. There were also some of obeying. We took off the grumpy things and put them in the trash. Then we put on the things that were obeying and loving and being kind. The Blood of Jesus was flowing through all of us when we put the good things on the body. Mommy drew arms, a heart, a head, toes, fingers, and legs. The person holding the part of the body got to stand up when all the righteous things were on it. Then, when we were all done, when it had all good things on it, it was all put together and the heart became white and clean. It means that I should have my heart all clean. The good stuff that was flowing through the body was stuff that should be flowing through me.

One Sunday morning, we were at home and I wanted to have all the children standing up on the stage singing a song. When we went to the meeting, we got there right on time, and I asked Mrs. Davis if we could have all the children standing up on the stage and she said she had been thinking the same thing. So, we got up to stand up and sing, "I Got Peace Deep Down Inside Of Me." I felt nice.

Healing - By Isaac Trotter

The devil has been hammering on us. We have been sick for a couple of weeks. It is like Caleb is sick and then gets better, then in one or two days later, I get sick. But my body fought hard and beat the germs. Praise God for that! Now I am feeling 100% good. Mom told me that because God allowed us to get sick, it was for good, not because He forgot us. And we had to endure because it says in the Bible that we should endure to the end. If you are sick, endure to the end and believe God will hear you, because He will if you ask Him.



Esther

Susan Herrig, Producer
Brethren,

Ever since “Little Tree,” our young people having been seeking the Lord as to “What next?” God was faithful to speak to our hearts and so the journey of the story of “Esther” has begun. As many of you know, we have already filmed “Esther” and are now in the editing process (more about this later). We thought you might enjoy some testimonies from our wonderful experience. The KIT Bulletin has so graciously agreed to publish these testimonies in the next couple issues, so sit back and rejoice with us as to what God has done.

Abigail Schaepe - *Sasha/Little Maid*

My testimony about the Esther play is...

Ever since I heard about the Esther play I wanted to be in it. As I thought about it, I thought I wanted to be a maid. I talked to my mom and she said that sister Sue had something special for me. One day I got an email from sister Sue and she asked me if I wanted to be a maid! I was so excited that I spun around. I wrote her back and said, “I would love to!!”

Moriah Asbill - *Little Maid*

As many of you probably already know, the Dubuque fellowship put together a play (movie) about Esther. I was so very blessed to have been able to play the role of one of the queen’s maids in this film. I had so much fun even though we were at the studio for long hours. There was a lot of filming going on which meant that we had lots of replays and retakes. I got tired but it was so worth it because most of the time it was fun to do it over again and even though it sometimes took awhile, God always came

through and blessed the whole cast!

I am thankful that I got to take part in a play that will possibly be seen all over the world! I personally liked the costumes! All of the costume makers did a VERY good job! I love “olden days” themes and so I really just loved my costume! Every thing looked so real, I thought I had traveled back to the time period of Esther! When the directing people said that they couldn’t have done it without me, I was really blessed, because even though I didn’t have a speaking part, I really felt good inside because I realized that even the small parts play an important role in the whole product. I guess that, in a way, the people with little parts had really big parts, too, and man, I sure didn’t realize that when they said they were doing a play called “Esther” that it was going to be what it turned out to be! I am really very glad that I got to participate and I was just so blessed by this play.

Johanna Asbill - *Little Maid*

May I Serve You?

I was very excited when I heard that there was going to be a play about Esther. I was even more excited when I learned that I had a part in it! I was to be a little maid serving, first of all, Queen Vashti and then later on, Queen Esther. Part of the preparations before the play even began, was studying our character’s position, what their personality might have been like, and even picking out a Persian name. Mine was Adeleh, which means, righteous, just. We had several practices in preparing for the play. A week before we were to begin shooting the play, I went up to my Grandpa and Grandma Herrig’s. This gave me the opportunity to be a part of preparing for the play. This involved going to the studio to check out the lighting and how the cameras would be set up. The day before the play began I helped move costumes and props to the studio. I also helped clean off the artificial plants that we were using in the play. The next day, Tuesday, we started the shooting of the play and I was in my very first scene! I was dressed in my little maid’s costume and had my hair done. We also wore stage make-up so that we wouldn’t look pale and shiny under the hot and bright stage lights. Throughout the week, I would have times that I was in a scene and then there were also times that I

wasn't in a scene. During those times I would help by steaming costumes to remove the wrinkles and getting the things that people in the next scene needed. Most of our days shooting the play began around nine or ten in the morning and we would work until around nine at night. In between our scenes, we would eat snacks - because we were in our costumes and couldn't get them dirty, we would have to wear garbage bags while we ate. It was pretty funny to see all of us in garbage bags.

I was very happy to be a part of the Esther play! I was extremely blessed to work with my head maid, my fellow maids, and especially, Queen Esther! Even though it was a lot of hard work, we had a wonderful time.

Esther DeLap – *Farideh/Fair Young Maiden*

My test-imony

Well, you're all probably wondering why I call it my "test"-imony. It's because the entire week was really a huge test to see how we could handle everything under pressure. During the first days, we could feel a huge amount of pressure, especially later on in the day when we would still have maybe 3 scenes to shoot and it was after five. But every night we would always get done every scene that we needed to get done! I was continually blessed how God moved in our midst. I still am, because if God hadn't been in our midst then we wouldn't have been able to make it thus far. God really has a huge plan for this video, and I'm honored that I was able to participate in it. Thank you for all your prayer and support!

Katie Lux - *Princess*

I really enjoyed being part of the "Esther" play. It was hard work to get all the costumes done, but we did it together and got it all done.

I was really blessed by how hard everybody worked at getting the play ready to go into the studio. The play went really well and I think everybody did an awesome job.

One of the highlights of the play was when the makeup artists were doing the makeup. They had to make some of the actors into Ethiopians and Egyptians. The makeup artists had to

darken actors' skin with dark shades of powder.

The last day of the play we had to be out of the building by 4 p.m. because the building's manager had to go to a meeting. He told us that if we did not finish we could come back at 6:30 p.m. We did not finish, so we all went to Golden Corral in our costumes and had supper. Boy, did we get a bunch of funny looks. That was pretty funny.

I really enjoyed doing the play with everybody who was involved in it.

Joseph Sigwarth - *King's Page*

I was very glad and excited to be chosen as the king's page. I thought it would be fun and easy. On the first day we filmed I had a part in the last scene. I was fine until it was time to go into the studio; that's when the devil started to come against me and to say, "You can't do it", and that I might wreck the scene if I did something wrong. So, I began to pray against the devil. When I got into the studio and Miss Eubank told me what to do, I begin to think, "I can do this, I can do this," and immediately God gave me peace and during the rest of the week I had peace knowing that, through God, I can do it.

Lydia Sigwarth - *Little Maid*

I guess I should start at the beginning. Last December or early January, when I first figured out we were "probably" doing Esther, I had NO idea what it would take. I admit a few times I complained and had to do a lot of overcoming especially on the preparing of the set. Stuffing pillars with inky newspapers for two hours was not my idea of a "fun" time! I learned doing God's will doesn't always include my idea of a "fun" time. And sometimes it does, you just have to buck up during the "un-fun" time and later (such as filming) you might have some fun time!

The actual filming of Esther was an indescribable experience! I got to know a lot of people that I never knew before. Like Ms. Eubank, I used to just think of her as a lady in Mahomet that played the piano. Now to me she's a wonderful director and a friend. Some of you know my 14-year-old birthday was during the filming. It'll be a birthday I'll NEVER forget!!

Debbie Sigwarth - *Head Maid*

In the movie *Esther* I had the part of Esther's head maid and my sister, Lydia, was one of the little maids (To all my little girls, Moriah, Abigail, Johanna and Lydia: I really enjoyed working with you! You all were a blessing...)

The Lord really moved in the filming of the movie. There are many testimonies and a lot of stories, but one that has stuck with me the most is how the body of Christ worked together, and accomplished the goal that had been set before us.

When we went into the studio we had never before set up the backdrop or the rooms, and most people had not tried on any of their outfits. But the body pulled together: the backdrop was set up and looked like stone; a way was figured out so that the entrance of the king's gate would get taken out and put back in easily; some of the sisters went to work with trees and plants and... we had a king's gate. When the time came to set up Esther's rooms the set was moved around, pillars were added, and the sisters went to work again, making a garden, curtains and couches, and prettying up pillows with material and ribbons. It was amazing to watch as things just started to come together. Suddenly things weren't just pillars and material any more, you were looking at Esther's room. Every single set up was the same. It's not that our flesh didn't show up on occasion, it's just when it did show up it was recognizable right away because a bond in the spirit was broken, and then you dealt with it and got back to what you were supposed to be doing and quit what you weren't supposed to be doing. I was humbled many times during the week, recognizing my own inadequacies, but each time the brethren made it very clear they still loved me and that the best thing we could do was not to have condemnation, but to get back on track and continue till we had reached our goal. There was no complaining about the long hours, getting up early so you could make it to the studio (by 7:30 the one morning), having to put makeup and turbans on and filming the same scene over and over again. When "One more take," was announced everyone would return to their original places, fix any problem they felt had happened, encouraged each other and were ready to roll again. One thing that blessed me and helped us all to get ready was the prayer we would have every morning. We would

stand in a circle, hold hands and one of the elders would lead us in prayer. There is a unity when we all pray together, standing and interceding for a common goal. My family would pray every morning when we went down, but there was a special strength when we would all pray together. The one morning we prayed, but neglected to hold hands, and that day the devil had a strong attack formed against us, and the focus was lost a little, but the elders discerned this and from then on we always held hands when we prayed.

The play could not have happened if the Body had not pulled together as it did. It was a great experience and I think all who were there are very glad that they were and would be willing to do it all over again.

Katie Sigwarth - *Costumes/Princess/Camera Crew*

My Esther journey began the night we gathered in Dubuque to go over casting and crew assignments, the getting-the-ball-rolling meeting. Everything was going smoothly, but I was getting edgy, I wanted to know what my part was. I wanted to be in front of camera at least a little, and I knew I would be kept busy behind camera; I just wanted to know exactly what my job was so I could get started. Well, the night went along and I still didn't have a job. When we got to costumes I thought, "I can do this." So, I volunteered. Well, that sounds easy, right? That was my thought, that it couldn't be that hard, or take that much time. Boy, was I wrong. I thought, "Small cast, a few costumes, voila, I'm done."

Well, we had a thirty-nine person cast and I figured that we made over eighty costumes. The king alone needed eight different costume changes. At the beginning, I was optimistic. I kept telling myself, "We can do it, no problem." Well, I am sorry to say I didn't stay that optimistic the whole time. I started panicking, and worrying we would never finish in time. But just when that happened, some of the sisters offered to help. God knew just what I needed. We could have never finished without their help. In case I didn't say it yet. Thank you all so much. We finished the costumes just in time, with no time to spare, in fact we still made costumes during the filming, but God is good.

My time behind the camera, technical-wise, was bigger than

I thought as well. I figured I would run a camera sometimes, and that was it. I guess I under imagined everything that would happen. I ended up in the control room helping Sister Susan Herrig with the editing. I now have an enormous appreciation for what Sister Sue does. It's an intensive job that requires a lot of work and attention. Helping her wasn't easy, but it was definitely an overcoming and learning experience. My job was to keep track of what camera to go to next and whether the shots were right. I also had to stay five seconds ahead of her at all times. Let me tell you, it's not easy, but now that I look back at it. It was a lot of fun and I would do it again in a moment.

I did get my time in front of the camera as well; in fact I even had a line. That's not my in-front-of-the-camera-testimony though. I was on the list of extras that were in the fasting and praying scene. Well I thought, no problem, I'll kneel by an empty table and fold my hands and close my eyes as if I were praying. Nope, when we got to that scene we told that we were actually supposed to pray vocally. Well, I was thinking "O.k. how am I supposed to do that?" So, I knelt down in my assigned spot (not next to an empty table) and began to think and pray, asking God to help me. Well, when we started the scene I began to pray "Elohim," "Yahweh", all while asking God to help me. I also had to concentrate on what I was saying. Let me tell you its hard to not pray in tongues and not say Jesus (the Jews didn't say Jesus, it was before Christ.) It was then that God touched me. I began to feel what the Jewish people felt at that time, to think what they were thinking; about what was going on and how they were pleading with God for their lives and the life of their queen. It was so strong and real that I began to cry and I am sure that if the scene had not ended soon after, I would have really cried. Now, you need to know that I am not a very emotional person. I don't cry at the drop of a hat. It was just so powerful and real that I just couldn't stop the tears.

Despite all the work, warfare, stress, and everything; it was a marvelous time in God. I learned so much about the body and the workings in the body. How God gave us all gifts and as we let those gifts work it creates something beautiful, something designed, produced, and directed by God.

Susie Sigwarth - *The Royal Stonecutter*

I would like to begin by saying how extremely blessed and thankful I am to everyone who has worked tirelessly to complete the filming of Esther. Their willingness and sacrifice humbled and blessed me beyond words. Not just our local brethren here in DBQ but the brethren from Mahomet and other fellowships “jumped in with both feet”. I would like to express my own deep thanks and appreciation to each and every one of you!!!

There is much that could be said, and the testimonies and blessings that I have experienced could fill a book. I only really have time and space to share a portion. I was put in charge of painting the set. I had not considered it a very hard thing to do, paint is something that I have some experience in and I enjoy doing very much. The more I worked on it, though, the more difficult it seemed to be. I had a very limited timetable and not as much experience as I would have liked. I wanted to do the very best job I could. Everyone kept telling me how good the set looked and encouraging me, but I didn't think it was very good at all. I kept thinking if only I had more time to work with it and make it just how I wanted it. I didn't have time though; I was already pushing the limit. I worked as hard as I could, but it didn't seem to be enough. I had been asking the Lord about it. The Lord had been speaking to me that I needed to lay aside my personal opinion and not be a perfectionist. So along the way I would see something I didn't like or there would be some difficulty and the Lord would speak to just let it go and keep on working.

We put up the set on Monday and I still didn't like it very much. The colors seemed all wrong, the lines and shadows were off. I went home that night feeling like I had let everyone down, and they didn't even know it. The next morning we went to the studio to start the week of filming. I walked down the hall looking through the windows of the studio and at the set, and somehow it looked different. Through the whole week of scenes and scene changes, every time I looked at my set the more it looked like a stone wall. I was baffled! I had been looking at this set for weeks. I knew every inch of it and yet I would look at it and it wasn't my set any more it was the stone wall in Shushan the palace. I began to see that God didn't need more time. He didn't need

or want me to make it what I thought was perfect. This scripture in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 is exactly what the Lord was teaching me.

Second Corinthians 12:9-10, And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

I am so glad that God is not bound by my weaknesses. It seems to be quite the opposite; His strength is made perfect in weakness. I am so thankful for all the infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions and distress involved in the completion of the task because the power of Christ was able to rest upon me. I know that in my own strength it would probably never have been finished, and if it had, the result would not have been as effectual, and most of all it would not have been in God's perfect will and plan.

Stephanie Sigwarth - *Princess*

As I look back at everything that went on over the last few weeks there is one thing I know for sure. There is no way we could have done it with out God. I look at what was accomplished, how it was done and little ideas God gave every one involved, during both the filming and the preparation of Esther and all I can think is what an awesome God we serve! These things are going to make this movie of Esther more then we ever thought possible. I was given the privilege of being on the camera crew during the filming of Esther. At times it got very tense and even frustrating, but as soon as we would stop and pray it seemed like every thing would just start to fall right into place. Someone would have a thought or an idea and it would just build. When I would look back at what we ended up with I am in complete awe of what God was doing. I have never seen the body of God minister in such a way ever before. Everyone had a specific place that God had for them to fill and they did it with every thing they had.

God gave us much grace with the man who ran the studio

where we recording the film. He went far above and beyond his call of duty. He stayed late so we could finish and even opened early so we could be sure to finish on time. At one pint he even offered to let people watch videos in his office so they were not bored in their down time.

Over all there was a lot of laughing, crying and becoming better acquainted with our brethren. I don't know a bout everyone else, but as for me I know I will never be the same again!

Andy Schaepe - *Teresh/Harbona*

There were a couple of things that God showed me during the week of filming. The first thing that God showed me was how precise He is. We had so much to accomplish in so little time and yet as everyone did their part, (from the costume and make-up people to the props and scene changers, then you have the actors and director with the control room and camera people) it all came together. But I must add, the “key” to the success of this endeavor was keeping focused, not only on what our particular job may have been at any given point, but more importantly, keeping in a place of prayer and watchfulness, which brings me to the second thing that God spoke to me. This was on the last day of filming and Brother Peter was rehearsing some of his narration where it talks about being ready against that day. That word “ready” was like Velcro; it just kind of stuck to me. Maybe it was because of how focused and ready we had to be in doing this play, whether it was acting or running cameras or whatever your particular involvement was. With me, it was running one of the three cameras and playing the parts of Teresh and Harbona. I found I had to pray while I was running the camera to stay focused on what I was doing, because at first, it was easy for me to get distracted watching the brethren acting out their parts from behind the camera. They were doing such a marvelous job and I would almost forget I was a camera man. Well, I need to bring this to an end by saying that I was thoroughly blessed by having the opportunity to be a part of this with so many of the brethren. May God bless you.

Mary Story - *Vegetable Lady/Princess*

There are many things that happened before and during

the play that touched me, but I will limit them to three. When I first heard about putting on the Esther play, I thought it came at a most crucial time in regards to the word that we are hearing for these last days. I didn't know how much time that I would be able to invest in it, but I told Sue that she could count on me to do what I could. She asked me if that meant in front of, as well as behind, the camera. I said, "Sure," thinking that I would not be needed in front of the camera. A while went by and Sue called and asked what I thought about the week of March 21st or else we would have to wait until summer vacation. I said that we could do it for March 21st. I kept thinking that it was crucial to have it done as soon as we could or else we would miss it in the Lord. But, I also knew that my talent is certainly not in set design, nor is it in making costumes. That crew was really going to have to work to meet the deadline. Things were starting to come together. Characters were being filled for the numerous roles. (Slightly more were needed than Little Tree.) Somewhere along the way, Sue informed me that I would be one of the people that milled around outside the palace. I didn't give it much thought until the first rehearsal down in Mahomet. After that I was ready to tell Sue that I couldn't be in front of the camera. I have never acted before and didn't want to start now. The next Sunday came and we had rehearsal in Dubuque. It went much better for me. I felt like I had destinations for my previous aimless wandering. This was going to be alright. Sue called me that night and asked what I thought about the rehearsal. (It didn't go so well.) I told her that we could do this. That it will all come together. I told her how I had changed from one week to the next. I knew that it was only the Lord.

The next thing that I was so blessed and amazed at was something that I didn't realize how much the Lord was in until after the play was finished. Sue had asked me to break down each of the scenes to who were in them and the location of each. Then, Sue and I got together one night and worked on the filming of each of the scenes. That can be difficult because we only wanted to change the set as few times as possible and we had to make sure that our characters for the scenes were going to be available at the time their scenes were being filmed. Knowing all that, we proceeded to figure out when each of the scenes were to be filmed.

We had many changes in the script after that and we only had to make one change to the filming schedule. At the end of our filming Esther, we knew that God was directing us that night because the filming schedule was excellent. Mark 7:37, "And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well..."

The third thing I'd like to share happened at the very end of the filming week. It was Saturday night. We had put in a very long, difficult day and it was late and we were all packing up. I heard someone talking to Jim, the man who worked at the studio and made it possible for us to do the filming. He was very concerned about the people from Mahomet having to drive home yet that night. He said that we needed to pray for them that they have a safe trip home. I wanted to cry. Here was a man that had spent more time at the studio that 6 days than any of us. He had to be there to open up in the morning. He closed when we were finished at night and some nights that was 10:30. He worked the extra long hours to help us out. He never rushed us. He gave totally of himself. He didn't get paid for the extra hours he spent. How many times do we complain when asked to do something? Oh, most of us don't say it out loud, but we think it. How many times do we think that someone else could do it, not us? How many times do we go above and beyond what is asked of us? I walked away that night thinking about Jim. He went the extra mile for a group of people he hardly knows. He set an example I will never forget.

Jill Atencio - thank you to all my brothers and sisters...

Praise God! He is good and awesome and more powerful than any slimy, greasy devil!!!

I realized we must be on the right track because there was such tremendous warfare. Even before filming, when some of the group was down in Champaign, I was really aware of how the enemy was trying to bring thoughts of division. I knew that we needed to pray for unity. That was probably the key thing I heard the Lord tell me throughout the last 6 weeks... Unity, Unity, Unity! The songs that were brought forth and the prayers were many times for our Body unity.

Now, I will tell on myself... there were many times that I

thought, “God, why didn’t You give us more time? I can never get this done in time!” And then the sneaky devil would add to the fire... “If other people would move faster, you’d have more time...” But, praise Go. He got my attention and quickly gave me some correction to be praying for all aspects of this instead of just my part.

After a time, I began to really get better at recognizing the attacks of the enemy and was quicker at praying and interceding for others. The Lord also brought some pretty good revelations to me concerning how this time structure was very needed... how, at least, I needed a good hands-on experience with how I needed to get moving! He was showing me through the play that He has a time table and that, regardless of how we feel about it, His deadline is His deadline. So in the natural is the spiritual!!! Yikes... have I done all that I could to be prepared for the end-time? (You can guess my shameful answer!!) But, in His graciousness, He was teaching me this without condemnation. He just really wanted me to learn this!

And what a blessing! We were absolutely cramming, every minute of every day... not just one... but ALL of the Body. It was the most beautiful BODY experience as of yet. We had little girls doing hand sewing, we had some bringing stuff home to cut out, bringing it back so others could sew, some who could paint jewels on cups, some who could paint wood to look like limestone, ones who knew how to make a few plants look like an entire garden, others who knew how to make the same background look like several different scenes, kids teaching adults techniques, adults sharing their skills with kids, prayer warriors holding up our arms the entire time... We were all putting forth everything we had.

At one point, I was talking with another about a need and I just said very openly that for some things we were just going to have to believe God. I just didn’t have time to plan it out as of yet, and it was a lower priority than other things. This person agreed.

And believe God was exactly what we did... and exactly what we received!!!!

The Wednesday before filming, one sister in Christ casually mentioned that her sister had some things like plants and stuff we might be able to use. Now, I had been shopping at Vinnie’s and

scrounging at my mom's, but hadn't been able to put 100% into the whole scenery thing. So, on a Friday night, we went to the sister's sister's home... WOW! I just about did a tap dance to see how God provided. And not only for us... but I know that God is using this movie to bring that family into Him. There was something of a pull within their hearts that we all recognized. But, it gets better! This woman not only let us borrow 2 complete, stuffed-full van loads of plants, pots, wall decor... but she came on 3 days of the week to set them all up!!!! (Isn't it just like God to have it planned that this woman had the week off for vacation?) She doesn't even know the Lord... yet!!!

Ok... so there we are, building sets. Our ideas for couches and tables and chairs didn't fly. (One thing about being a "costume person" is that what looks good for the set, doesn't necessarily work good for the camera people...sound vibrations and creaking.) But, God knew that too!!! He is so perfect, He knew the perfect way to take care of it and had the brothers and sisters with that expertise right there on the spot. I never knew you could do so many things with just a piece of gold string or hunk of plywood!

I was so totally blessed, that on Thursday I was sharing with a sister that, in times past, instead of recognizing how God orchestrates things, I would have been consumed by condemnation that I didn't do my job good enough. But, praise God, here I was able to see how we all fit together for His plan and purpose.

Well... time to tell on myself again. There must be some of the pride and condemnation inside that God needed to reveal, because on Friday, the enemy started whispering condemnation into my ears... and I listened. Not too much... but it was there. Then on Saturday... wham! I was just about shipwrecked. But God knows... and we had some pretty good prayer... power packed, beat-the-devil-at-his-own-game prayer!!! This helped, but I had to allow God about a week to fully work things through for me.

I have read of George Mueller and C.G. Bevington and have really pressed God to have that kind of faith, that if I truly believe God has ordained something, then, no matter how it looks, I will continue to walk it out believing He will provide. Well, I lost sight for a bit and God had to show me that I didn't goof

things up. I wasn't suppose to have everything... HE WAS! and I was to believe Him for it. If I had everything in my own strength, where would He be glorified in this project? One scripture that came to me was speaking of our salvation, that it is a gift of God, not of man lest we should boast! Well, God was totally saving me out of some of my "self" issues... and showing how HE did the work in the play and that it wasn't my genius or gifts that accomplished it! Isn't He wonderful?!?!?

I'm so grateful for what He has done through these past 6 weeks - the love that has been woven in our midst; to a greater body than the previous movie; showing us the need for our "body" to be not just those in our own little fellowships. I guess it goes on and on... the lessons from the Lord. And I imagine... as we have premieres (how can we not???) and possibly sharing at nursing homes (they'd love it!?!?) and maybe even a neighborhood movie night at our respective buildings (who knows God's plans???) we will continue to see testimony and blessings of teaching from our awesome Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Peter Schneider - *Narrator*

To be quite honest, the arts per se are not necessarily my cup of tea. When Brother George asked me of my interest in handling the narration of "Esther," I acquiesced as opposed to volunteered. I thought it would be better to narrate and not have to memorize lines.

When we got to the studio and as the make up was applied, the sets were viewed and the costumes were delivered, I began to get a sense of the serious efforts of all those that were working in the "behind the scenes" part of the play. I was convicted of my own lack and the necessity to bring it up a couple of notches just to find the level of those that had been working diligently for weeks. Everyone there, the actors, the set designers, the camera people, the directors and producers, even Jim Barefoot, the man in charge of MediaCom, were excited and joyful for the opportunity before us all. The long, hot days were not a problem. It seemed to add to the excitement.

As we got into the early filming, I began to see that reading

my lines was not going to do justice to the script, so I began to memorize them. There were a lot of them. On more than one occasion I had two long lines in one scene. It was a tremendous exercise in doing something I was not necessarily thrilled with and being able, as I was obedient to the Lord in it and really seeing and enjoying the presence of God in our endeavor as each one left him or herself on the stage.

The young people I worked with were phenomenal. The set work was tremendous and it was a joy and a privilege to work with all that participated in the Esther filming. We had to war against the darkness intruding during the Haman scenes especially. Thanks to all of those who participated. It was beyond what I ever hoped it would be. God met us and we were able to do beyond our own ability. Prayer and perseverance were necessary for the grueling shooting schedule, the exactness of the director and producer, the unction of the Holy Spirit required it from each one of us. It was a wonderful collaboration and a testimony of what we can do when we are able to walk in the unity of the spirit and are diligent to be pleasing to Him.

God bless you all that helped us to be successful in our effort. I trust that those that see Esther will be blessed.

Stephanie Schneider - *Costumes/Make Up/Sets/Props*

I have had many thoughts about the opportunity to participate in the “production” of Esther.

When Mrs. Herrig called me a few weeks before the production, we had just returned from a 3 week long trip. There were already several things on my plate and I was not sure how to shuffle everything to make room for the trip to Dubuque. I told her I did not think I would be able to come. She encouraged me to try and added that there would be plenty to keep me busy and that my help would be appreciated. (I kept this thought and pondered it.)

The day Mr. Schneider planned to leave (departure was planned for noon) was a day I needed to be in the greenhouse transplanting with Shannon. When I was still in the greenhouse at 2:00 in the afternoon, it seemed that Dubuque would not be happening for me. I still had this list of “things to do” that was beck-

oning me. I got home around 2:30 and Mr. Schneider had not yet left – in fact, he was still in town working. So...in a step of faith, I began packing (for both of us). Once Mr. Schneider arrived home, we packed into the truck and left to pick up our passengers from their respective homes and were actually on the road to Dubuque by 5:30.

The next morning was a rush to get to the studio. I walked into the costume/makeup/lunchroom and was asked to fix a “troubled” sewing machine. I went straight to work and found it was not to be. Then we set up machine #2 (I should have listened to that “still small voice” that said I needed to pack my sewing machine in the truck). It would be 2 days before I could ask some of the newly incoming from Champaign to gather this, that and the other - especially my sewing machine, and deliver it all. There was makeup to do, (some of that high school theatre makeup experience even paid off). I firmly believe that God does not waste any of the things we have gleaned from our experience. Of course, with last minute costumes, costume repair, a multitude of trips to Hobby Lobby for more trims, and fabrics - even one for feathers - the intensity of the pace was quite a stretching experience, but overall, it left me feeling a pleasant sense of accomplishment.

All this aside, I was so impacted by the diligence of all of those involved. It was evident from the first sight of the organization in the costume room to the excellence of the sets. I had been in the studio before and the transformation was remarkable. There are so many detailed memories flooding in it is hard to pull just a few out. I was able to sit in the studio for one of the scenes. It still brings tears to my eyes. The phrase “for such a time as this” has been one that I have pondered for a long time. Watching that scene brought such a poignant reality to that phrase. I thought about how many of us will need to really be prepared to face that very issue. And in that, I saw one way God will use this production to prepare many to face that issue straight on. No pretense, no bravado, just “if I perish, I perish.” I was born for such a time as this. I am so grateful God moved to put me in the place where I could be involved and of whatever help I could be...because, you see, I was born for such a time as this.