

The Deborah Report

A Partner Update from Deborah Ministries International

July/August 2020

Do not be preoccupied with evildoers. Psalm 37:1,
God's Word Translation

The Word of God tells us not to be preoccupied with evildoers. This Word is so relevant, especially now during this season which began in February with the covid19 pandemic. It seems that everyone around us is preoccupied with one set of evildoers or another! Are there evildoers? **Most certainly!** Should we bury our heads in the sand and pretend they aren't snapping at our heels? **Most certainly not!** But the Word is very clear that we're not to be **preoccupied** with them. When we are overly focused on the evildoers—the troublemakers—we completely miss what God is doing. And, when we miss what God is doing, most likely we'll miss what **we are to be doing**. We have an opportunity to partner with God in things that have eternal value and carry significant weight in this temporal life as well. However, if we fall into the trap of allowing our primary focus to be distracted, we will find ourselves sliding down that slippery slope of frustration, anger, depression, sadness and a host of other negative and oppressive emotion-driven attitudes. **The strength, courage and will to rise above the turmoil around us cannot be found in a preoccupation with the turmoil.** It can only be found in a continual, interactive, relating to the Lord from a position of trusting Him.

I chuckle at the picture that just flashed through my mind—that of a two-year old child. When a child turns two, he becomes increasingly aware of his surroundings. He is willing to explore them by continuing to push the boundaries of his separation from his security—his mom

or dad. As soon as insecurity threatens or he gets overwhelmed with “all that’s out there”, he comes running to touch base and hang on mama’s leg a bit. As he stands there drinking in the security of his mom or dad’s presence, he gains the strength and confidence to move



out again to begin to conquer his world. That is a picture of what I call a continual, interactive, relating to the Lord from a position of trusting Him. In this scenario, our preoccupation is with our base of security, our Lord. Then, and only then, can we take on the rigors of doing our part to set things aright

around us, without losing ourselves in the turmoil.

The key here is running to our “base of security”, our Lord as often as is necessary for us to maintain a perspective of confidence. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, you are simply not running back and holding on often enough throughout the day. I believe this is what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, “Pray without ceasing.” Eventually, we learn to take our “base of security”—the presence of the Lord—with us so that we can draw the strength, courage and vision we need continually. But we can’t start there. We have to start like the two-year old and build from there. Let the negative or overwhelmed feelings be your reminder—it’s time to run back and hold onto Papa’s leg for as long as it takes, and as often as it takes to regain a better perspective! Remember, Jesus said that unless we become as little children, we shall not enter the Kingdom of heaven. This type of relating to Him is not something He ever wants you to outgrow. Instead, He waits with open arms and open heart to release Himself into you and your situation...as many times as you desire to lean into Him.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time. As you know, the pandemic has greatly affected other nations as well as ours. Our long-time work in Africa and Asia has us closely aligned with many, many pastors in those places. Uganda and Nepal have experienced the lockdowns and the radical effect of those lockdowns on their national economies. With churches shut down, pastors have little or no income. With schools shut down, nobody is paying the normal school tuitions that represent income for those who administer schools. That income can no longer go to feed and care for hungry orphans. Consequently, Deborah Ministries International has given significant financial help to many pastors in both of these nations, to stave off starvation of their families and orphans who depend upon them. Though we have not been able to travel to these places because of the restrictions due to covid19, we are ministering to these key leaders through various electronic outlets. And the funds that usually provide for our travel have gone into providing food, emergency medical care, and other life-saving avenues to those with whom we partner overseas. **Again, thank you for your faithfulness!** (Check out the photos on the back of some of those you have helped through Deborah Ministries International.)

One of the things that adversity does is reveal hidden things that need to come to the Light. As we stood on the cusp of 2020, the Lord spoke to our church that “All that can be shaken will be shaken in order that the unshakeable can be seen.” Little did we know at the time what a time of shaking 2020 would prove to be! The unshakeable is the Lord Jesus and his kingdom, the Kingdom of God. When we find our security in Jesus, the Rock, we cling to that which is unshakeable. However, sometimes it becomes necessary to allow a great shaking in order to help us see where we are finding our security.

For example, many in the American church have assumed that they have drawn their security from their faith in God. However, as the virus spread across the nation and even the globe, fear was rampant—even within our churches. Schools, churches, entertainment facilities, restaurants and most stores closed or came under stringent lockdown protocols. Protests and riots added to the turmoil and added to the fear. Sadly, many found that they had been getting their security from the American way of life they had always known. ***And now that way of life was shaking and threatening to fall apart in pieces at our feet.*** This season of great shaking has shown us as Americans what needs to come to the Light. Our feeling of satisfied security could not withstand the shaking of all the various ‘systems’ in which we trusted for our security—the medical system, the economic system, the religious system, the system of law enforcement, the education system and on and on we could go. That feeling of satisfied security and safety dissolved into insecurity and fear. “Feeling safe” became the all-important and illusive goal. And even when the various systems that make up our culture reassert themselves to bring a restored sense of order, the feeling of security and safety does not return. Why? Because we have seen the vulnerability, the fragility and we can no longer “rest assured.”

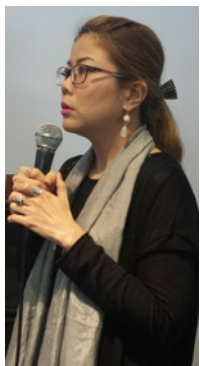
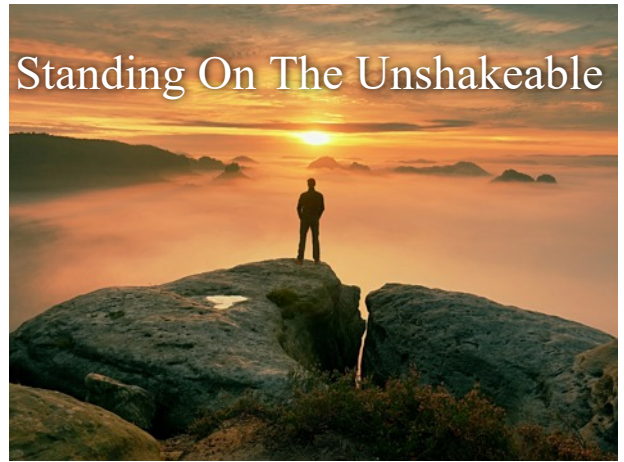
The good news in it all is that there is still a ROCK that is absolutely unshakeable. The security that He, Jesus Christ, offers is rock solid, never expires and will never come up against anything that can overturn it. However, it is imperative that American believers understand that though we are “one nation under God,” our nation, its systems and its culture ***are not synonymous*** with the God we call upon. Our trust must be in Him and Him alone. We can

love our nation and appreciate whatever blessings come as a result of living here, but we cannot depend

upon anything or anyone for our security except our Lord God. Yes, He can—and I believe He will, bring about a change and a great turning back to Himself—***but we cannot be effectively used as the vessel His church is meant to be as long as we are looking to the American way of life for our safety, security and peace.***

Let’s take a long, hard look at what the shaking has revealed. The Church of Jesus Christ was birthed amidst the oppression of the Roman government. All through the subsequent centuries, various geographical segments of the worldwide church have been under varying degrees of persecution and oppression from governments and/or people groups. Yet, through it all, true believers in Christ have found security and peace in the good news of His gospel, apart from any lifestyle this world has to offer. When you choose to live in “the cleft of the rock”—your sense of security doesn’t change daily with the headlines. His promise to never leave you nor forsake you is absolute and His ability to shield you “under the shadow of the Almighty” is without fail. If you have found yourself plagued by insecurity and unsettled by the turmoil around you, it isn’t because Christ is not holding up His end of the deal. It’s because you are expecting various aspects of American living to hold up His end of the deal. **And nothing except Christ can do that!**

Let’s continue to love America, pray fervently for her and contribute whatever resources we have towards her restoration in whatever ways we can. However, let’s repent of trusting in her to be and to do what only our Lord can do and be. Only after the Church gets her priorities realigned can we hope to see the rest of the nation follow!†



From left: Debbie Tran, Asia Director, CFIA. Deborah with Betty, a key leader of CFIA in Uganda. Joy, a pastor in Uganda. Emmanuel, CFIA East Africa Director. Your gifts have helped these help countless others!



Deborah Ministries International ministers in response to Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

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