

NEWSLETTER # 8

Victoria, Canada. November 2007

Greetings to all,

There have been some wonderful happenings since my last letter five months ago. My health continues to improve but I would like to put some weight back on. I can hear some of you say that you'd like to have that problem – but low weight correlates to low stamina in my case.

There have been ministry opportunities at several churches on this island and I continue to be privileged in speaking into people's lives. Besides ministry at my own church, Arbutus Christian Fellowship, I have spoken to a leadership retreat with St George's United Church, Courtney, to an Alliance Men's breakfast meeting, also in Courtney, a couple of church services and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at the University of Victoria.

*The highlight of these past months was a visit to Canton, Ohio where I was one of several speakers at a conference on **Revival**. This was sponsored by my favourite webpage www.sermonindex.net and you can hear my message on that home page. Besides speaking, I was one of two moderators responsible for introducing the other speakers and to lead the panel discussion group on the Thursday afternoon. It was an awesome time with about 1000 in attendance during the evening sessions and about half that number during the day sessions. Our speakers came from South Africa, England, Canada and USA and included Conlan Carter of Times Square Church, established by David Wilkerson (of Cross & the Switchblade 'fame'). Also speaking were Ralph Sutura, one of the Sutura twins, and Richard Siple, known especially in Canada for their involvement in the Canadian revival of 1971. You can read and listen to much about that on the webpage above also. All the speakers paid their own way to the conference, including their meals, hotels, airfares, etc. No honoraria were promised or provided. They were there because they wanted to be among others passionate about revival. What a contrast to the usual, big-money affairs so common in North America! The host church with Pastor Dave (40 years in that work) were so gracious in providing us with their facilities and logistics support freely, and the entire conference was webcast simultaneously throughout the world. Anne was able to see and hear my every action up front – so I had to behave myself!*

I delighted in fellowship with many wonderful people from many parts of the world – Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, England and made many new friends with whom I intend to keep contact. I was impressed with those who came to pray during the conference. One young girl came from Texas, a few days early, so she could pray – and what anointing there was on her prayers! As I had felt such liberty in my preaching and received many nice comments, I was quick to find her afterwards as I knew her praying was key to my anointing at that time. Another brother had spent 30 days in fasting and prayer in preparation for this time. I would not have known except that his son told me – he is too humble to tell others himself.

While we were in conference, other friends who came with me from Victoria were speaking on the campus of the local university. Let me recommend this web page telling of their ministry: www.timothyministry.com. What a thrill to know we have such men as Greg and Eli bold in their declaration of the Gospel. May the Lord keep His hand of anointing on them - and others like them – whom He is raising up today!

After the conference I had the delight of visiting some very special friends from my days on the Mercy Ship, M/V Anastasis. Pam Coursen was a nurse on board, now living 2 hours south of Canton; Dr Bing and Karen Henderson were our crew doctor and nurse, now living just 20 miles north of Canton. What a precious time of reminiscing we enjoyed together!

*Last week I added a side trip to my return from Ohio – a visit to our 'daughter' Vicky in Mexico City. We were her sponsors through Compassion back in the 80's and have become very close over the years. Her marriage is going through a difficult time following the birth of her fourth daughter so I wanted to be there with her. I was constantly hugged and kissed by the three older girls (14, 11 and 7) and spoiled by everyone else in the family. I love returning to Mexico City having lost my heart there on my first visit in 1998. It was a precious time, augmented by other quality visits to other 'daughters' – Montserrat of Anastasis days and Maritza and Marta, my translators on previous visits. Maritza now works in Dallas as secretary to Beth Alves, Founder of Intercessors International, so, on my departure she gave me Beth's book **Intercessors**. What a blessing! I am now reading it for the third time. It came at an appropriate time as I taught last Saturday, on my return, at a YWAM School of Intercession here, on the topic Authority in Prayer – a major emphasis of Beth's book!*

On Sunday I was again at Departure Bay Baptist Church, Nanaimo to speak at the induction service of their new pastor, Tim Klaassen. The church is healthy and happy with the promise of good things ahead. In two weeks time I speak at another Men's Breakfast (~40 men) at Sydney Pentecostal Church, on the topic close to my heart, Revival. I have received an invitation to look after another Baptist church, Bethel Baptist in Sydney, about 15 miles north of us. They are seeking a new pastor and have asked me to lead them throughout the month of December. I am also about to start a weekly Home Group – Bible study – in response to requests by two young families. One is never too old – or tired – to respond to young people with a hunger for God!

Enough for now! God is good and worthy to be praised.

May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering – Moravian 'motto'.

Rejoicing in HIM,

Gareth