

The VINE & BRANCHES

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Jesus said, "For without Me, ye can do nothing."

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord,

So much has happened since I last wrote in the April edition of the Vine & Branches. The Weapons of our Warfare seminar was successfully presented three times since then, in Thassos, Greece, London, England and Ponchatoula, Louisiana. To God be all the praise and glory for these victories.

My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. (Ps. 34:2)

In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah. (Ps. 44:8)

We who are privileged to take part in the wonderful work of furthering the Gospel make our boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. (Gal. 6:14)

I want to express my gratitude to all who helped me during these events. In particular, I'd like to thank Dimitris Pelidis of Greece, Jerome Lucas of England and Steve Monahan of the USA for their labor of love in organizing and assisting me in these three classes. Each of these men have offered their own class report that is printed in this newsletter.

My itinerary in Europe lasted from April 11th to May 8th, 2001. Departing from Brownsville on Wednesday afternoon, I arrived in Thessalonica, Greece the evening of Thursday, April 12th. The next day, Rev. Todd Pekel, Aine Lucas and I set off for a day of sight-seeing on route to the island of Thassos. We planned to visit some of the cities mentioned in Paul's second missionary trip – which included his first trip into Greece in answer to the "Macedonian call." However, Paul traveled east to west – Neapolis, Philippi, Thessalonica – and we were traveling west to east. After taking in the sights of Thessalonica,

(mentioned in Acts 17:1), we drove eastward to Philippi (Acts 16:12), first, outside the city limits where we visited the riverside where Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:13-14). We walked along the ruins of the Roman Agora, the marketplace where Paul and Silas were beaten and arrested (Acts 16:19-22). We visited the traditional site of Paul's prison (Acts 16:23-24). We also visited the Theatre built by Philip II in the middle of the 4th century and looked out on the plain where the battle of Philippi was fought in 42 BC.

Continuing eastward, we came to Kavala, formerly known as Neapolis (Acts 16:11), the city where Paul first entered Greece. Here, Aine and I caught a ferryboat bound for Thassos. Todd spent the Easter weekend at the home of his in-laws. Aine and I spent the weekend as guests of the Pelidis family, and on Sunday, we enjoyed a very special Easter dinner with his family and friends.

Because of the holiday weekend, we did not begin the seminar until Monday afternoon. The class schedule also had to be modified according to the daily routine in Greece, which includes a time of afternoon rest. I knew many of the students from my previous trip to Greece, and it was for me a wonderful reunion. Once again, our hearts were knit together by the love of God. The bond of Christian love is an awesome and powerful thing.

There were many other highlights besides the class itself. I had the privilege, along with Todd, to lay hands on our brother Dimitris in ordination to the Christian ministry. Todd and Dimitris administered the water baptism on what turned out to be the warmest day of our entire stay in the beautiful waters of the Aegean Sea. Last but not least, I had the honor of presenting the daughter of Dimitris and Marjo in dedication to the Lord.

On Monday, the day after the class concluded, Todd, Aine and I returned to Thessalonica. I had five days "off" before the next class began on Saturday in London. Todd and I decided that rather than simply fly back to Athens,

we would rent a car and visit some sights along the way. Thus, we began the second leg of our tour of Greece, this time traveling southward. Monday afternoon, we left Thessalonica and drove to Berea (Acts 17:10-11). Early the next morning, we drove to Vergina and visited the ancient tomb of Philip, father of Alexander the Great, enjoying a magnificent view of Mt. Olympus along the way. From there, we drove to western Thessaly to see the famous Byzantine monasteries of Meteora. By day's end we had traveled all the way south to Corinth (Acts 18:1), where Paul once preached for 18 months. (Here again, our journey differed from Paul's original trip, as he visited Athens before continuing south to Corinth).

Wednesday morning, we visited the sites of ancient Corinth. We hiked up the summits of the Acrocorinth, and then visited the marketplace below. At midday, we left Corinth for Athens (Acts 17:15). Here we visited the Acropolis, walked around the Parthenon and climbed the slippery rocks of Mars Hill where Paul once declared "the Unknown God" (Acts 17:22-34). Later that evening, I had the pleasure of teaching at the home church of Kostas and Sophia Babalis. Thursday morning, Todd departed for Brownsville and I flew to my next stop, London, England.

Rev. Pikel has put together an hour-long presentation on Paul's answer to the Macedonian call, complete with a slide presentation of cities and landmarks along the way. Already, he has made this presentation in three churches.

The class in South Harrow, England was to begin on Saturday morning, and so I spent Thursday and Friday resting and preparing to teach again. It is an interesting challenge to teach a live seminar. This class in England was my 14th presentation of the Weapons of our Warfare, and I am always amazed how different each class is, even though I use the same format and most of the same Scriptures. What is "fitly spoken" for one congregation may be inappropriate for another. So, in many ways, I spend the time between classes trying to forget the previous presentations, so I can start afresh.

The class was held in the Grange Farm Community Center, the former site of the "Great Barn" of Grange Farm in Roxeth. Here the renowned preachers John Wesley and Charles Spurgeon both preached the Word of God. Now these grounds are used to house the underprivileged and outcasts of society. And

here, God has promised to provide "an oasis in the wilderness."

The town of Roxeth is now called South Harrow. It is situated below the very wealthy and exclusive Harrow-on-the-Hill. Overlooking all of Harrow is the St. Mary's Church, consecrated almost one thousand years ago, in 1094. Sir Winston Churchill and Prime Minister Nehru of India are among the famous alumni of the Harrow School for boys.

Two days after the class was over, I was reunited with my wife and children at home in Brownsville. It had been a long trip, almost a month. This journey, along the same steps as Paul, as Wesley and Spurgeon, was very convicting to my soul. I can only pray that I prove as faithful.

Just three weeks later, Todd and I drove to Ponchatoola, Louisiana for another class, this time hosted by my dear friend Steve Monahan. Over 20 years ago, under a different banner, Steve and I did the best we knew to further the Gospel in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. To be working together again made our reunion all the more sweet.

This class was a real treat for me. Oddly enough, I don't get that many opportunities to preach to Americans. Also, this class was largely made up of teenagers. Besides all this, I was in the company of earnest and devout Christians who inspired me immensely throughout the week. A special thanks to Mike and Patti Houlihan and to John and Ellen Wilson for their gracious hospitality to Todd and me.

I am happy to report that my new book, *The Weapons of our Warfare*, is back from the printers and ready for distribution. So far, I have received many favorable responses to this work. I'd like to thank all the good folks at Winepress Publications for their help in this project.

This week, I depart for another class, this one to be presented in Rosenau, Austria. My good friend Rudolf Illavsky is the host of this class, which will be presented in English and German. It will be my earnest endeavor to make this the best class yet. Once again, I thank you for your prayers and financial support that help make these events possible.

In the service of His Majesty,
the King of kings,

Rev. Tim Sullivan



Durable Riches

-or-

"How to be RICH
beyond your wildest dreams!"

by Rev. Tim Sullivan

In the second book of Chronicles, we read of King Uzziah, the sixteen-year-old ruler of Judah.

And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper. (2 Chron. 26:5)

What God did for His servant Uzziah, He will do for all who call on His holy name. God is no respecter of persons. To all who seek Him, God promises riches and honour.

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. (Prov. 8:17-18)

The riches of God are not to be confused with the temporal riches of this world, those riches that provide fleeting pleasure but offer no lasting satisfaction.

Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied. (Prov. 27:20)

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. (Eccl. 5:10-13)

There could be nothing sadder than to reach the end of your days on earth only to realize that you wasted the gift of life on frivolous endeavors. Therefore, God instructs His children not to waste their time in the futile pursuit of first acquiring and then holding on to temporal riches.

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. (Prov. 23:4-5)

This is the siren's song of temporal riches. "Give yourself to me, and I will take care of you," she whispers seductively in your ear. Then she flies away "as an eagle toward heaven." This is the deceitfulness of riches, certain to choke the Word out of your life.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. (Matt. 13:22)

Our heavenly Father warns us repeatedly of the temptations and snares that await "he that hasteth to be rich."

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. (Prov. 28:20)

He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him. (Prov. 28:22)

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live. (Prov. 15:27)

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. (1 Tim. 6:9)

It all comes down to the one great question: Who do you trust? We are not to put our trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God.

He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch. (Prov. 11:28)

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.... (1 Tim. 6:17)

Who you trust, you will love. And who you love, you will ultimately serve.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim. 6:10)

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Matt. 6:24)

We who desire to serve God do not labor to be rich in this world, but to be rich in good works.

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (1 Tim. 6:18-19)

The richest man is the man who can freely give.

He knows God's river never runs dry.

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. (Prov. 13:7)

The poorest man is the man with the white-knuckled grip on the little he has.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. (Prov. 11:24)

He that is rich in God is ready to distribute as the Lord commands. He gives to the poor and to the necessity of the saints. He distributes to the work of the ministry, a sacrifice wellpleasing to God.

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. (Prov. 19:17)

Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. (Rom. 12:13)

Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. (Phil. 4:17-18)

The riches we seek are not the temporal riches of this world. We know that gain is not godliness, but godliness with contentment is great gain (1Tim.6:6). Therefore, we must take heed and beware of covetousness.

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. (Lk. 12:15)

You do not want to be like the man Jesus spoke of in parable who had to face God knowing that he'd laid up nothing for eternity, but only for himself.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. (Lk. 12:15-21)

If you would be rich beyond your wildest dreams, labor now to be rich in the things of eternity, rich with the treasures that endure.

That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. (Prov. 8:21)



And He saith unto them, "Follow Me"

By Rev. Todd Pekel

We are all followers. In fact, it's not a question of *if* we follow, but more a question of what or *whom* we follow that counts. The way of man is not in himself. It is simply not in man to direct His own steps.

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. (Jer. 10:23)

The apostle Paul, while writing to the saints at Corinth, reminded them of a truth that pertained to us all *before* we became Christians. Namely, that we were led.

Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. (1 Cor. 12:2)

Before becoming Christians, those brethren in Corinth were led (ie. they followed) to the worshipping of idols. This truth is again spoken of in the epistle to the Church at Thessalonica.

For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; (1Thess. 1:9)

Of course, idols come in many shapes and sizes, perhaps there is none more prevalent than the idol of *self*. This too, is typical of our state before becoming Christians.

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (Eph. 2:2-3)

Before becoming Christians, we "walked according to the course of this world." *Before* Christianity, we were "fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind." *After* believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to be followers of *Him*. His first directive to those who would know Him is the simple, yet demanding edict, "Follow me."

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And

Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. (Matt. 4:17-20)

Imagine Levi sitting there thinking, "I wish I had a dime for every time I heard *that* excuse," as he went about the business of collecting taxes the day Jesus walked by. Maybe it was "just another day at the office" as he did his duty that eventful day. Anyway, picture him there as the Lord says to him; "Follow me."

And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him. (Mk. 2:14)

Look at that! These men dropped *everything* and followed the Lord. Whatever they had been following before; whether it was life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, or some kind of esoteric, new age stream of consciousness feel good philosophy, suddenly and totally *changed*. Indeed, there is no greater change that takes place than when a man becomes a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. For some, however, the cost of following the Lord is simply too much.

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. (Mk. 10:17-21)

Even though this young man's question was answered, it appears that he didn't follow the Lord. This, of course, shows us that it's never a matter of *convenience* to follow the Lord; it's always a matter of *conviction*.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. (Mk. 10:22)

Peter then reminded Jesus that they had left *all* to follow Him (perhaps fearing he had made some kind of mistake). The Lord then tells Peter and all those who will follow Him of what they gain not only in this time, but also in the world to come.

Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundred-fold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. (Mk. 10:28-30)

One of the most familiar portions of the Holy Scriptures is the beautiful and comforting twenty-third Psalm. In it we see the Lord as our Shepherd.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psa. 23:1-3)

As a shepherd, He *leads* His sheep.

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. (Jo. 10:2-4)

Notice that the Shepherd goes *before* the sheep and the sheep *follow* the Shepherd. This is the true relationship of our Lord with His people.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: (Jo. 10:27)

The question is not *if* we are followers. That's a given. The question is; *whom* do we follow? Our Lord, Jesus Christ says, "Follow me." May God bless those who truly follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

*If any man serve me,
let him follow me; and where I am,
there shall also my servant be:
if any man serve me,
him will my Father honour.
John 12:26*

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Pray Without Ceasing

By David Mantock

Too often in life we use prayer as our last resort or final act of desperation, when really it should be our first act in all that we seek to do. As Christians, our course of action is quite simple, it is: just pray and do. Pray according to your situation and then just do what you have to do.

Prayer is defined in the Collins English Dictionary as “thanks or appeals addressed to God.” This definition gives only half the story, because you see in the Scriptures that prayer is communication, and communication is two ways, so you should also expect to hear from God.

In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me. (Ps. 86:7)

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. (Ps. 91:15)

You will also see that prayer is conditional, and that there is only one way to pray, and that is according to the will of God. You have to humble yourself and turn from wicked ways; you have to keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

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 (2 Chron. 7:14)

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. (1 Jo. 3:20-22)

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him (1 Jo. 5:14-15)

It could not be plainer and simpler. If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us, and we know that we have the requests that we desired of Him.

David was close to God. One truth that he knew with certainty is that we serve a *living God* Who is

dynamic.

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the LIVING GOD [Emphasis added]? (1 Sam. 17:26)

We do not serve some dumb idol, we serve a living God Who is actively seeking to love you and answer your prayers. He is there around every corner, trying to make things better for you. It says in 2 Chronicles 7:14 “seek my face”, because you can have intimacy with God Who wants to know you on an individual basis.

Jesus Christ is our great example, and He gave us the Lord’s prayer which, apart from being a beautiful prayer, also is a model for our prayers.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (Matt. 6:9-13)

The one thing I want to emphasize here is forgiveness which is a fundamental truth in getting your heart truly open to receive God’s blessings. So much bitterness and heartache can be cast away when you forgive those who have trespassed against you. Thanks be to God, for He is living, active, and willing to teach us.

A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps (Prov. 16:9)

God can direct your steps even in prayer, so that you walk with power in this aspect of your life. God has called us out to be warriors, even in prayer. When He directs our steps, we will not miss our targets. Also, no man can work out a solution like God can, because human wisdom and knowledge can in no way compete with God’s. He is almighty, and He can continually cause you to triumph, even in the most challenging of circumstances. So instead of expecting us to know or understand everything, God gives us the simple task of casting all our cares upon Him, so He can care for us.

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. (1 Pet. 5:7)

Another wonderful aspect about prayer is that we can give thanks and make intercession for other people.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (Eph. 6:18)

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; (1 Tim.2:1)

These are some of the reasons why we should strive to stick to Paul's inspired exhortation, "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17).



The Weapons of our Warfare Class in
Thassos, Greece
Reported by Rev. Dimitris Pelidis

To my mind there is no better verse to describe what God did to bring into fruition the Weapons of our Warfare class in Thassos than Jeremiah 10:23:

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

For years, I had been living in Thessalonica with my wife Marjo and children. But when God directed the steps of my friends Todd and Evi Pekel to move to the USA so that Todd might continue his biblical studies, God also directed them to invite me to move my family to Thassos and assume control of their language schools. Even in light of their great generosity and God making it clear that He wanted me there, it was still hard to leave behind the city and the brethren I had known for so many years. Sometimes it is our attachments that keep us from cleaving to the Father and growing in Him.

Once settled in Thassos, I became very concerned about my service to God and His people. I thought it would be great to organize a "family camp" on this beautiful island, a week of fellowship for Christians near and far. I took it for granted that the Lord would bless such an endeavor, so I immediately reserved a hotel, and issued announcements. I sat back in anticipation of a great response. Oddly enough, it never came, and I became increasingly uneasy about the whole situation. Then one day on the ferryboat ride to Thassos, it dawned on me that all this time I had been assuming that God was backing me up. Sadly

enough I had never actually asked Him if it was His Will to do this or not. Grieving over my sin, I asked God to forgive me and inquired of Him to give me a clear answer, one I would not have to wonder about. As soon as we disembarked, we went straight to work, and as I was putting the key into the keyhole, I noticed a cassette tape that had been left in one of the flowerpots outside the school. This was not the first time a tape had turned up in this fashion. However the title of the teaching immediately caught my attention. The message was "WHEN GOD SAYS NO!"

Later that evening, we listened to the tape. It was as if this teaching was specifically for us. How stunned I was to receive such a clear answer in such short time. God's postal service is never late for answers of truth. His NO'S are just as good as His YES'S. The question is how often we check with Him before taking action.

After this valuable lesson I was still feeling rather stale with my service to Him. That is when Marjo pointed out that there was a WW class scheduled in Wales during our summer holiday, the only time that I could afford to be away from work. I found out there was one last seat available. God had opened the door for me, and that's how I ended up in Wales.

During this class God really magnified Himself before me, bringing me to my knees in the realization of His greatness and wisdom. He showed me that this was His war and that I should fight the battles that He assigns at the time that He has arranged for me to fight them. He also taught me that preparation for the battle is equally important as the battle itself and that during the time I thought nothing was happening He was preparing me for His work. Returning home refreshed and fortified in the spirit, God reminded me that the summer camp would have been held at the same time as the class in Wales and that if it hadn't been for that emphatic NO of HIS I would have been way off course and very miserable.

I told Tim that I wanted to host a WW class in Thassos during Easter. Without me being fully aware of it, God was already working in my heart and in the hearts of those whom He had called to be part of it. It was so easy because God was behind it all. Because Easter comes before the tourist season begins, there was only one hotel and only one restaurant open to cater for us, and they were the ones prepared by God for this special event. One by one, brothers and sisters, friends both old and new, began registering for the class.

In the days prior to the class, Easter was being celebrated, and the air was filled with joy as the locals were greeting each other with the greatest message of all times, "Christ is risen. Indeed He has." Then the class began with simple teachings from the heart of God straight to ours, with people operating the mighty power of God in edifying and healing each other, with the blessing of the Lord bestowed upon His people, with baptisms and a dedication. It was God Who was at work within us and it was God Who was being exalted.

At this point I'd like to thank the Father, Lord of heaven and earth because He has hid these things from the wise and prudent and has revealed them unto babes. A special thanks also to Rev. Tim Sullivan for his hard labour in the Word and to Rev. Todd Pekel for his valuable assistance. Thanks also to you all who have helped with prayers and in other ways as well. In the days since the class ended, God has opened the doors for us to have Sunday services for Christian tourists on the island. So, if the Lord ever leads your steps to Thassos (and may we always allow Him to lead the way!) don't forget to look us up and come to our church. We will be so happy to see you. God bless you.



My name is Jerome Lucas and I live in London where we have just completed a "Weapons of our Warfare" seminar. It was wonderful to see this event come together, almost one year after it was taught in Cornwall, England. Shortly after the Cornwall class, the Lord worked in my heart to reach Christians in the local churches in the area where I live in South Harrow in London. It was great to see 5 different churches represented in this class.

The seminar started on Saturday, the 28th of April and there were 11 students attending. Two students came up from Swansea in Wales, one from Hook in Hampshire, and three others were Christians whom I have known for many years. The schedule was fairly relaxed. We started every day at 9:00, had a lunch

break at 12:00 and resumed again at 1:30, finishing by 5:00. Things went very smoothly thanks to the wonderful efforts of the women who helped so willingly with cooking and child-care. I would like to mention Meike Wetzling who came from Germany specifically to help my wife Aine, and also Tony and Sarah here in London, whose input was so invaluable to God first and His people secondly who benefited.

I had the privilege of attending most sessions, and once again I was amazed at the physical change in people's outward countenance as a result of what was happening within. It is only the goodness of God that leads people to repentance, to change from the inside out (Rom. 2:4) confirming that this was a work of God and not man. Everything can go well physically but "except the Lord builds the house they (we) labour in vain that build it" (Ps. 127:1). Our lives have to be directed by the Lord for our work to have lasting effect. Many people's hearts were healed and softened, which only the Lord can do. It was also a lovely plus for us to have Angie's miraculous little Hannah present (10 months old). She too was very impressed by the teaching and her audible approval was heard by much cooing and gurgling.

On Saturday May 8th we had our very unique baptism service. Angelyne and Mimi were the two students being baptized. This again was a very meaningful occasion as only the people who were baptized can attest. But when one is touched on the inside it always seems to manifest on the outside and both these wonderful ladies showed outward evidence of being very blessed.

On Sunday we had our graduation service, and also the Blessing of the Lord over the new students. This truly was a great witness of the Lord working within us. We can only look forward to seeing great fruit unto holiness in the coming weeks and months ahead (Rom. 6:22). The only way this can be achieved is if we obey the doctrine which is given to us in the scriptures from our hearts (Rom. 6:17).

There were numerous moments through the week that we saw the hand of God at work. It reminded me again how we serve a living God, Who knows only too well the needs of His people. The scriptures that were shared, the fellowship that was enjoyed, the praying that took place, and the work that was done all worked together to meet the heartfelt needs of the people present. God is so accurate in His dealings

with us it behooves us to be equally accurate in our dealings with Him. Yes our Lord Jesus Christ is building HIS church and when we allow Him the Lordship and follow His leading it truly will be His church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it (Matt. 16:18). Amen.

That leaves me with just one more thing to say – that is a big thank you to my brother and friend Tim for doing what God has called him to do – to teach the Scriptures to God’s people with great clarity, simplicity of speech, wisdom and integrity so that they are without excuse.



God Is Merciful

by Stephen Marcano
London, England

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. (Psa. 103:8)

God is merciful...I can tell you how many times I have heard that phrase and indeed told people of GOD’S mercy to those who would hear it, funny though how we sometimes say things but have little understanding of their meaning ourselves.

I sat a class in April 2000 called the “Weapons of our Warfare” this was truly a “GOD send” and I had not realized how much of an impact this class would have on my life until I sat it with my brothers and sisters in Christ, again in May 2001, to hear the word of GOD rightly divided and to finally understand who GOD is and to see His plan for the human race unfolded in front of me, was to say at the least a miracle! For many years I had rejected GOD and His word even though I had been saved, I walked as the natural man walks today, in vanity, single mindedness, and covetousness, not caring for the things of light but the things of darkness, anyway we all know where the eventual consequence of my actions would take me, yes to the point of death, it was then that I looked to GOD and begged for forgiveness and mercy for my rejection of Him and His word, and just to confirm with me that He had forgiven me, He sent to me a woman of GOD who I can tell you I had never met before, she came and spoke the word to me and ministered to my need. So I gave myself to GOD and He

was merciful to me and delivered me!

Anyway, as I say I took the “weapons of our warfare” class in April 2000 and I thought to myself hmm this is great because all I literally have to do is wait upon the Lord for guidance and act upon it, I felt I didn’t need the body of Christ, me and GOD were going to do great things together, hmm...this obviously should have been my first clue but again I started to think that I knew better than GOD, big mistake!! And again slowly I was slipping away back into the old man nature, my brothers and sisters were trying to tell me that distancing myself from the body of Christ was not going to help me fulfil my ministry, and again I did not listen.

Well I can tell you if you don’t listen to your brothers and sisters in Christ, then GOD will have a “chat” with you (I recommend listening when GOD talks to you through your brothers and sisters in Christ, it can save you a lot of grief). I knew that I was wrong but because of my PRIDE and my GUILT I still refused to listen, people were starting to notice the change in me and I can tell you it was not a good one.

So after a time the “Weapons of our Warfare” class became available again, it just tore against my very being, the conflict within me to do the class again. WOW! Big WOW! I must have been asleep the first time I took it, no, it was GOD who was revealing to me His word, it was He who humbled me and showed me what is His truth, the sacrifice He made for me, for us, for the world and it was on the last day that we received communion that I realized the significance of His sacrifice (Jesus Christ) towards us. The hymn Amazing Grace just touched my heart so much, I was crying like a baby! For those of us who took that class, to say that there was great deliverance is an understatement. I am so thankful that we have a GOD who is slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy, I thank GOD for His mercy and love and for those who are working together with Him for mankind to come to a knowledge of the truth.

I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my GOD; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver me from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence...

He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Psalm 91:2,4



The Weapons of our Warfare Class in
Ponchatoula, Louisiana, USA
 Reported by Steve Monahan

On June 9th 2001, a group of brothers and sisters in the Lord met in a cypress-paneled room just outside of Ponchatoula, Louisiana, USA, to hear Rev. Tim Sullivan present his seminar on The Weapons of our Warfare.

For some, this was the first such seminar. Others had sat through numerous classes on the use of the gifts of the Spirit in the church, but this turned out to be a rather different experience; different because it's not entirely accurate to say that Tim was teaching *his* class. It's true that he labored for eight days, leading us to scripture after scripture, building precept upon precept, offering no conjectures, making no assumptions, and never dragging us down a rabbit trail of biblical research....but the class is not *his*. Tim said several times during the presentation that his greatest concern and aim was to stay out of God's way. He pulled it off, for it was through the remarkable clarity and simplicity of the teaching that the Holy Spirit instructed, convicted and enlightened each student individually - personally.

I'll give just a couple of examples. I've been a tongue-talking, interpreting Christian for over twenty years, yet one morning as Tim taught on those utterance gifts light broke upon me and I received a stunning new understanding of what it is to edify the church. A thirteen year old boy learned that God could and would reveal hidden things to him and enable him to heal the sick. He also received faith to do so...and he did. It was different for everyone, but everyone received richly.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 reads as follows:

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

I believe that this commission is being carried out. Glory to God!

Testimonies from the workplace

Seeing GOD at Work

Not long ago, I was scheduled to leave Anchorage, Alaska on a 12:45 a.m. flight to go to a meeting in South Carolina. If you know me, you know I wouldn't want to be so far away from my husband, Ray, but he was unable to go with me so I hesitantly decided to go without him. He was working the night shift but was able to take a few hours off and take me to the airport.

Before leaving for the airport, I noticed my house keys on the desk at home and decided not to take them because Ray would be picking me up at my return and I wouldn't need my own keys.

After a full day of work, I got to the airport for my flight about 11:30 p.m. There are only three flights into the Savannah airport, two of which get in after dark. Because I would then have to drive about an hour to the meeting location, I chose this particular flight so I could get there during daylight.

While waiting to board, they told us something wasn't working on the plane so we were delayed about an hour...which turned into two hours. Ray had to go to work so I waited alone. At each hour the airline person announced, "one more hour before we'll know [if the plane will be able to fly]". After awhile, it was obvious I wouldn't get a flight early enough to make my flight connections. So I stood in line to change my flights. Finally, they said the flight was cancelled because the part needed to fix the plane was in Chicago. After an hour of standing in line (which was now 4 a.m.), I reached the counter. As they were working on my changes, I was paged overhead and had to leave the desk to answer the phone — it was Ray asking if the flight was delayed. I was glad he called as I was about to consider getting on a flight which would arrive in Savannah at night (he said that would not be best). Well, after that phone call, I had to go to the back of the line! Start over!!!

When I got to the front again, they said the plane was (somehow) fixed; it would fly although now 5 hours late. The pilots were over their legal work time but could fly anyway. I still had missed my flight connections so I couldn't go on that one anyway. The only way I could make my two day meeting without missing most of the

time would be to fly later in the day, be routed through Seattle and get to Savannah the following morning. I chose to fly the later of the two options. I decided to go home to wait for the later flight. Ray was busy at work so I planned to go home by taxi.

When I got into the taxi, I remembered I didn't have my keys. "No problem," said the driver, "I can get into any lock, except a deadbolt". Thinking it wasn't a good idea to let a total stranger break into my house in the early morning hours, I politely told him, "That's okay, all our doors are deadbolts." Gladly, that is true. So, I requested he take me to... the police department...(where I would wait for Ray). The driver said they would be closed at that time and since it's a small department I thought he was correct. Hmm, what to do? I then received the thought and said, "Take me to Providence", which is the hospital where I work. So I camped out on my rehabilitation unit in a spare bed for two hours. I then got up, went to my clinic to finish some work and waited for Ray to take me home. I also made my reservation changes at the South Carolina hotel to let them know I'd be arriving the following morning.

While at the clinic office, my boss came in and said, "If you're routed through Seattle, you better call [the airport]; they had an earthquake." I thought, "Very funny" But it was not a joke! Now, we don't have a television at home and if I wasn't at the hospital, I wouldn't have known until later, after getting to the airport, that the Seattle airport closed because of the earthquake! I called the airline and there were no flights for me to get to my meeting conveniently. By that time, I began realizing, "maybe I'm not supposed to go...". I thought that "twice is confirmed" [that is to say, with two things happening to prevent the flight, I probably wasn't supposed to go]. So, I called Ray and he agreed. If I had taken the other flight, I would have been up for nearly two days, would have been stuck in an airport during an earthquake, not have had anything to eat or drink for nearly a day and worse of all, all that without Ray at my side.

I see God at work in the details. I left my keys at the house and so I was at the right place to find out about the earthquake. I waited until I was inspired to get in line for the flight changes and then just when I was going to make a compromise, I was called away from the desk. When the plane was flying anyway, I couldn't get on that flight. When choosing to go on a later flight, the earthquake closed the airport. Plus, because this was "an act of God", the airline will refund the cost of my flight. The hotel will not charge me for the cancellation. The meeting people will send me tapes of the lectures I missed. Plus, when we went to the airport to

cancel the tickets, there were two quarters stuck in the ice by my car...which covered the two quarters I spent on phone calls from the airport!!!

So, I wasn't supposed to go to the meeting. Why? I don't really know. I did have some "special" patients in the hospital at that time. One patient recovering from a stroke had expressed his relationship with Jesus and was thankful I was his doctor; another one is emerging from a coma and I like to be there daily to help them during that time. Besides these, there were others who apparently needed my attention that weekend.

The Lord knows why I wasn't to go to that meeting. Was it more than just that I'd be in an earthquake zone away from Ray?!! If that alone was the reason, that's enough! The Lord knows...and He even covered the little detail of my spent quarters. AWESOME! Praise His wisdom and might and power and love. I hope this expands your faith to look for God at work in your life.

*Dr. Joella Beard
Anchorage, Alaska*

I was working in a hospital in Slidell, Louisiana, which is about 30 miles east of Covington. I was scheduled to work on Friday November 21, 1997. I had tried to change days with my co-workers, but alas, it was of no avail. No one was able or willing to change their days. I was a little frustrated, as I really thought that I needed off that day. What I ended up doing was running all my errands the day before on Thursday, November 20 instead and I went to work as scheduled.

November 21st was a very busy day. We had lots of women in labor, and delivering. I was scheduled to work 8 hours, and instead was there for over 10 hours. While I was there we saw on the television news that there was a big thunderstorm moving throughout the western part of the parish (county). A tornado had been sighted and actually touched down in Covington, which is the town that Mike and I live in. The tornado had touched down in the part of Covington where I had run all my errands the day before. Even the time frame was the same. God knew where I would be and even the time that I would be there!!! He protected me from being there, try as I would to "rearrange" things on my own! Needless to say I was very blessed and in awe of our God.

*Patti Houlihan
Covington, Louisiana*

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

Publications & Presentations

The House Of God by Rev. Todd Pekel

Chapters entitled: *Christ The Spiritual Rock, Christ The Foundation, Christ The Chief-Cornerstone, Christ The Head, Christ The Temple and Christ The Door.* (58 pages, published 2000). Suggested donation \$10.00

By Rev. Tim Sullivan:

The Weapons of our Warfare

Forty-four chapters of Biblical teaching on the Weapons of our Warfare, the nine spiritual gifts given by God to the Church today. (432 pages, published 2001) Suggested donation \$20.00.

Walking On The King's Highway

Including: *A Time of War; The Prosperity of the Lord's Servant; Discretion Shall Preserve Thee; The Generation of Jesus Christ; Disappointed in God; Holistic Christianity and Walking on the King's Highway.* (110 pages, published 1999) Suggested donation: \$10.00

Auf Der Strasse Des Königs Gehen

The German version of *Walking On The King's Highway* translated by Beatrice Mantock. (84 pages, published 2000. Available in Europe only). Suggested donation \$10.00

If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall

Lessons on: *Faith; Virtue; Knowledge; Temperance; Patience; Godliness; Brotherly Kindness and Charity.* (120 pages, published 1998) Suggested donation \$10.00

By The Grace of God I Am What I Am

Featuring: *Precepts and Premises; A Fountain of Life; The Evidence of Things Not Seen; But Ye Say and By the Grace of God I Am What I Am.* (100 pages, published 1996). Suggested donation \$10.00

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THE WEAPONS Of Our WARFARE

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July 1 to 8, 2001 Rosenau, Austria (English/German)

September 29 to October 7, London, England

"If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall"

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