

# NEW BEGINNINGS

## The Still Small Whisper

*Why is intimacy with God a struggle?*



This week, before our Women of Faith Conference, I prayed and asked God what He had to say to us, as the Women of Faith staff. This is what I believe He spoke to my heart:

He took me to I Kings 19, where Elijah is hiding in the cave and waiting to hear from God. You probably remember the passage. It seems a great wind came first, and Scripture tells us that God was not in the wind. Then an earthquake came and shook everything and we are told that God was not in the earthquake. Finally a fire came in all of its fierce display and yet God was not in the fire.

Now we know that God was in all of these things...in that He

created them and brought them to Elijah at that moment in time. However, His voice was not in them, and Elijah was waiting to hear God speak. He was waiting for God to come to him in a personal way.

At last, a still small whisper came and God was in the whisper.

God is still in the whisper today. Unfortunately, with the whirl and craziness of our excellerated lives, we are hoping to hear Him in the wind of activity, the earthquake of our crisis times, and the fire of fervent business. Then, we wonder why we don't have the intimacy we desire, why we don't hear God. What I believe He reminded me was that He placed

### Spring Prayer Director Retreat 2008

Come and help us celebrate our 30th year as a ministry. We will also be celebrating Betty Reber's 80th year. Both are good reasons to rejoice.

We will be meeting on a Thursday thru Sunday, April 23-26, 2009, at Cheri Fitzsimmon's lake house in Cedar Creek, TX. It is about an hour outside of Dallas. There are pictures in this newsletter of our 2008 retreat there.

Just the beauty of this place alone is very healing to the soul. Don't miss it next spring. You'll be so glad you took the time to come. God meets each of us in a beautiful way.



intimacy in us when we accepted Christ as our Savior. He said it was a gift of grace that came with our salvation. It has always been there. We just haven't availed ourselves of the gift.

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## **SHARING OUR WALK**

*by: Sandi Patty*



Sandi and Don

One of the most important seasons in my journey came a number of years back as a result of my meeting Lana Bateman.

Someone from my Bible Study Fellowship

Class gave me her book about 16 years ago. It was called **God's Crippled Children**. I remember reading the book and thinking how many "other" people I knew needed this kind of prayer. I began to make a list of those I could give it to, those who really needed it. It was as if God was saying to me, "No, Sandi, read it again. This one is for YOU."

As I reread the book, I quickly realized this truly was for me. I called Lana in Dallas. I was honored to meet her and spend a week with her there. Because I was beginning to remember some sexual abuse I had experienced at 6 years old (at the hand of a family friend), I was not yet ready for the emotional healing prayer time. She introduced me to a professional counselor there in Dallas who specialized in the type of abuse I had experienced. She then prayed for me as I began my healing journey.

Each day, Lana drove me to the counselor's office. She waited for me as God began to access the buried memories and feelings of what had happened to me in the early years of my childhood. At the end of each session, Lana drove me back to the Cooper Clinic, where I was staying, and the next day, we returned to the counselor again.

It was a very intense time, as God began

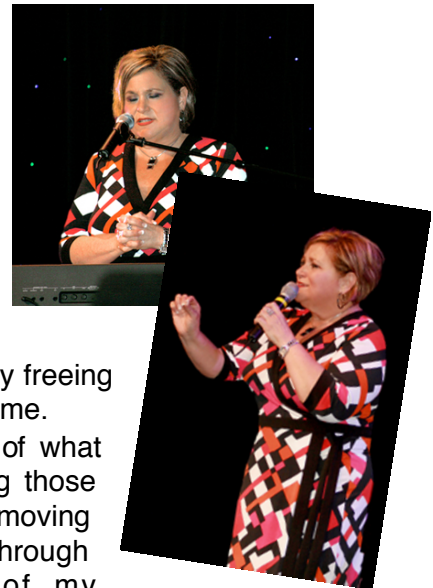
to show me what had been buried in my mind for all of those years. What a revelation! I returned to my home and continued to work on these issues. God was doing an amazing work in me.

The years passed, and my path with Lana didn't cross again until I began to travel with Women Of Faith a few years ago. I was so blessed to be able to reacquaint myself with her. I sensed that God was calling me to a new level of healing. It was time to bring spiritual closure to all of the work I did in counseling through the years. Lana and I began to talk and pray about going through the emotional healing prayer time and God eventually made the dates available

My time with Lana, going through the emotional healing prayer, was just that--very emotional. We walked through my whole life and brought understanding and closure to so many areas. We released those who had wronged me and I was able to offer a deep forgiveness to each one. It was exhausting and unbelievably freeing all at the same time.

Because of what happened during those two days, I am moving more quickly through other layers of my journey.

I feel, because of our walking through the lifetime prayer, old wounds truly no longer have the grip on me they used to have. God has indeed set me free in so many areas. He has broken many chains that bound my heart. I am now able to be more transparent than I have ever been before. I can openly share so many things I had kept hidden away in my heart.



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## THE STILL SMALL WHISPER...CON'T.

our salvation. It has always been there, we just haven't availed ourselves of that gift of grace.

It takes a choice on our part. A choice to push away the pressing things of life and get alone in silence. Then all we have to do is go inside, to that place where Christ lives in us and wait for that still small whisper.

He is there, but we have to get quiet enough to hear a whisper, not a shout.

I love to hear people say, "Wow, I want to tell you what the Lord said to my heart."

Although there were times when He spoke in the midst of something happening, more often than not, He spoke during a quiet time, in a quiet place. Oh, and by the way, it wasn't a shout.

Our God is so gentle with us and so kind. I find that when He speaks through our thoughts, He is the same.

I believe it grieves our God when we run to and fro seeking for the intimacy that He has already given us. He is longing for us to receive the gift and act upon it.

Give it a try. I don't think you will ever be disappointed. He's waiting for us in that quiet place. Will we meet Him there?

Father, help us to find the time and fill us with the desire to get to that quiet place where we can hear you whisper in our thoughts. Help us to see that it is You and not ourselves when those thoughts clearly come from the Lord who loves us. Comfort us with Your love. Fill us with Your wisdom and teach us who You are in brand new ways as we seek the miracle of Your still small whisper.

In Jesus' Name

## SHARING OUR WALK...CON'T

It is amazing what changes in us when we deal with deep areas of forgiveness. What a critical part of our healing.

Lana once said that God's people are sick in their souls because of unspoken words. This could not be more true.

Don't we all have things we have never said to another human being? I think this is true in most of our lives. We take our secrets and grow up, leaving the child of our hearts behind. My healing journey took me to that little girl down deep inside of me.

She held all of my pain. She needed for me to come back for

her, and to embrace her with my love and acceptance.



God was waiting for me to do just that. Then, at last, He would have access to all she was meant to be.

I never realized, as I do now, this little one held the wonder, childlike joy, and trust is so natural to a healthy child. These qualities are so important in our relationship with the Lord.

The little girl of my heart needed to be free, free to be a real part of who I am as a woman, and a lover of Christ. I now see how much I have needed her.

What a joy she has become to me. Yes, it is true. God can go back for the wounded little girl's heart inside each of us...and *tiny feet can grow to dance again!*





Last May of 2008, some of our prayer directors from Texas met at the home of Cheri and Mike Fitzsimmons on Cedar Creek Lake outside of Dallas.

Those attending were Lynne Schaub, Temple, Texas, Elaine McFarlane, Belton, Texas, Diane Thompson, Austin, Texas, Lana Bateman, Forney, Texas, Cheri Fitzsimmons, Dallas, Texas, Betty Reber, San Antonio, Texas, Cathie Rosemann, Grand Prairie, Texas, and Nancy Keller, Bakersfield, California.

It was four wonderful days of sweet fellowship, relaxation, worship, and time on the lake with water skis and kayaks.

It had been a few years since we had an opportunity to be together. We had a great time off reconnecting with each other and spending time together with the Lord.

Cathie Rosemann took care of the meals. They were so creative and beautiful. We didn't know whether to eat them or to look at them! By providing our meals, Cathie made our time so special. Thank you sweet friend!

The beautiful surroundings were very healing...like

## OUR SPRING RETREAT APRIL 23-26, 2008

the fountain on the left. There is just nothing like nature to heal the soul and the frenzy of city life.

Next spring, April 23-26, 2009, we will have another retreat for our prayer directors. We are hoping that prayer directors will come from all over the country.

Please consider this your invitation. Just let Lana know (214-240-9924) and your spot will be reserved. We do have to limit our numbers due to space available, so contact her ASAP.

We start on Thursday, hoping everyone will get in fairly early. You can fly into the Dallas Ft. Worth Airport. We will endeavor to help you get from there to the lake. We want to have several women arrive and depart near the same time so we can coordinate the drive. So, please put our date on your calendar so you can begin to pray about joining us.

Isn't it amazing that Philippiian Ministries has been in existence for 30 years? How is that possible? God has been so good to us.

Along with celebrating our 30th anniversary, we will also be celebrating Betty Reber's 80th year of life. We can't tell you how we are to have such a reason to rejoice! Betty is the most amazing 80 year old we have ever known and we can hardly wait to celebrate with her.

So come for a soul-soothing four day retreat filled with laughter, love, worship, and fun! Don't miss this retreat. It will invigorate you for the rest of the year and our Lord will breathe new life into your spirit as we worship Him and delight in each other.

# PRAY DIRECTOR RETREAT 2008



## Guilt Prevents Freedom in Worship

Not long ago the Lord began to speak to me about the issue of His children abandoning themselves to Him in worship. I had never considered the topic before, but I believe it is very important to all who want to please Him with times of praise and worship.

First, I believe He said many of us don't abandon ourselves in worship because we feel guilty. We may feel there are sins we haven't been confessed or dealt with. We feel unworthy.

This is what I believe the Lord showed me.

When Lucifer fell from heaven, he had been the worship leader and had therefore directed all the praise and worship of God. Most think that he fell because he wanted God's power. While that is true in part, he preeminently wanted God's worship. For that reason, he comes against God's people when they move toward this special time with their Creator.

It is the enemy's goal to make us feel unworthy. He helps us to feel that we have said, done, or thought things that are not honoring to our Lord. In this way, satan can prevent us from abandoning ourselves to worship. He also keeps us from all the benefits of whole hearted praise, as worship can do amazing things for our hearts and the souls.

The enemy's goal is to stop any worship from being directed toward God. When he comes

against us, God's children, he also comes against God. Satan robs us of all that free worship, and freeing worship can do.

God longs for you to be delivered from Satan's tactics. He wants you to understand that all you have to do is speak seven simple words, "Lord, have mercy on me a sinner." At that point we, His children, can enter into worship and praise unencumbered. After this simple confession, acknowledging that are sinners, saved by His mercy, there can be full abandonment to worship.

He looks only for a humble heart that acknowledges one's state. All is immediately forgiven. He needs no list of sins, for He saw them all. He needs no falling on one's face. He desires only a basic acknowledgment of humility before Him and then you are free.

Try to always remember these words I believe He spoke. They can forever change your worship:

"I long to loose you from your unworthiness, that you might lose yourself in My worthiness! I am always in the process of leading My people to freedom. Let Me lead you now to this new place in worship."

*Lana*



## Thoughts For The Day

The very first temptation in the history of mankind was the temptation to be discontent...that is exactly what discontent(ment) is - *a questioning of the goodness of God.*

*Jerry Bridges*

I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been thought about, born in God's thought, and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest, and most precious thing in all thinking.

*George McDonald*

You can tell the size of your God by looking at the size of your worry list. The longer your list, the smaller your God.

*Unknown*

Every evening, I turn my worries over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway.

*Mary Crowley*

Be assured, if you walk with Him and look to Him, and expect help from Him, He will never fail you.

*George Mueller*



## Ministry Services

### BOOKSTORE

Philippian Ministries' maintains a supply of teaching tapes as well as copies of the book, *God's Crippled Children*, by Lana Bateman. The cost of the book is \$14.25, which includes shipping and handling. If you are a Texas resident, the price will be \$15.49, which also includes tax. You may request an order blank for Lana's other books and tapes including the books: *Bible Promises for the Healing Journey*, \$13.25 (plus \$.90 tax in TX), and *The Heart of Prayer*, \$15.50 (plus \$1.07 tax in TX).

### NEWSLETTER

The Philippian Ministries' Newsletter is available free to those who have given a yearly gift of \$100 for the support of the ministry. Others wishing to be placed on the mailing list are invited to make a tax-deductible gift of \$10.00 along with a request to subscribe to our newsletter publication.

### MINISTRY OUTREACH

Philippian Ministries has been blessed with growth and expansion to many cities throughout the US and Canada in the past 30 years. For the prayer director nearest you, please write the ministry office.

### SPEAKING REQUESTS

If you desire information about Lana speaking for your church, conference, retreat, or seminar, contact our office at the address below. We will be glad to send you the information you desire.

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Let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email... You can call our office at 972-552-1097 or email us at [philipmins@aol.com](mailto:philipmins@aol.com).



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Sandi Patty's Testimony

