



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

*Building Spiritual Movements Everywhere*

July 8, 2011

Dear friends and family,

We are spending this summer at Colorado State University @ Fort Collins, CO. Joe and I are taking seminary classes set up by Campus Crusade. And then there will be a 10 day bi-annual national staff conference. I am taking two courses: Old Testament Survey and God/Bible/Holy Spirit. They have been really refreshing to my soul. I am able to spend long periods of time meditating on scripture and hearing the Christ centered teaching of OT that is filled with hope for my present life. It is so good! The kids are in Christian summer camp like program that is also setup by Crusade. They too are having a blast! Although, many authorities in this world are not so good. I am thankful that God is using Campus Crusade for Christ as the authority over us to love us and refresh us.

I have not written our prayer letter for awhile. So I would like to share a portion of my personal journey. We have just finished our fifth school year in University of Massachusetts @ Amherst. It has been an amazing journey in serving Christ there. We have seen so many God sized stories in the lives of the students, which we have shared with you through the prayer letters and personally. But our family have gone through a difficult journey. In the past five year, we have seen two family members battled and survived cancer and two family members died from cancer. In addition, my grandfather past away and I lost an unborn-ed child (our fourth pregnancy). For a long time, I felt like death was surrounding me and is even within me. There were stretches of time where I felt the darkness pressing, and at times, that it's hard to breath. Chocolate, coffee, and sleep could not give me the strength move to out of those heavy cloudy gloomy days. Perhaps, some of you have been in that valley of darkness or is there right now. I hope and pray that you know that the story does not end there. Our God leads us in this journey of life and the valley of darkness is not the destination.



It's hard for me to describe everything, but I will try to recount some of the markers I remember as I journey out of this valley. There were periods of times where I can barely worship in church. My heart was so heavy and numb. Then one Sunday there was a song that triggered my memory. It goes something like this 'When I think about the Lord, how He saved me, how He raised me...' It was then that memories of the time I met Christ at the cross and gave Him my life. And then there were memories of when God healed my shattered heart and hopes and then there were many more memories of my past that played like scenes in a movie in my mind. I remembered God was so good and precious and so sweet (Psalm 19). I remembered Christ as my Savior, my hero. I remembered the Holy Spirit comforting me when I cried over my brokenness and He hover over me and intercede for me. Just as God reminded the discouraged Israelite (after they failed to take the promise land) of His grace in the past to motivate them. (Deut 1-4).

Then another period of time passed. It was one year since I lost my child. In those days, when I loaded our three kids into the mini-van I still felt the emptiness and pain of that empty fourth seat. That summer I had the privilege of reading Corrie Ten Boom's books. (The Hiding Place) She was a Dutch Christian Holocaust survivor who helped many Jews escape the Nazis during WWII. Because of the work her family did, they were captured and send to concentration camps. Corrie and her sister was sent to the notorious Ravensbruck concentration camp in Germany, where her sister, Betsy died. Before she died, she told Corrie, "There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still." I'd forgotten that. I then meditated on the depth of God's love for some time. And from her other books she describes her other experiences that testified to the fact that Jesus

Christ is victorious over death and the darkness of this world. Jesus won the battle over the darkness of my world and yours. So we are not without help, not without hope, not without a rescuer.

During the school year our staff team read 'Emotional healthy Spirituality' together. And it help me to learn how to grief over the lost. After some discussion, Joe and I named our child and planted a tree in our backyard in remembering of our fourth child. For awhile we debated whether we should have another child. But after some time trying, we concluded that perhaps this season of our lives has concluded. And we were at peace and looking forward toward the next season of life that God has prepared for us. This Spring after Big Break, we found out that we are pregnant again (our fifth pregnancy) It was a surprise! (I bought three pregnancy tests to make sure!!) Of course we are over joyed! Although, it has been the most physically difficult pregnancy, my heart has been filled with gladness. Our kids were so excited as well ! They also remembered my previous pregnancy and asked (regularly) if the baby was still alive. I had to admit with the joy I feel, there is still fear within me. We shared with our kids that no matter what happens, we and the baby will be in God's hands; there is the safest and best place for all of us.

As I studied Genesis this summer, I am reminded that God desires to bless us. It's revealed in the detailed, awesome, beautiful creation. God blessed Abram and so we could receive the ultimate blessing Jesus Christ. Did you know that the Psalms is known as the book of "Praise"? And yet many of them begin with such agonizing cry!

For Example Psalm 13:1 says, *'How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?'* Oh how well we know the melody of these songs!

But the message of the book of Psalm is that; it MOVES from lamentation to Praise.



Look at the end of these Psalms...

Psalm 145:1 *I will exalt you, my God and King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.*

Psalm 150:6 *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.*

Remember when Jesus was on the cross and He cried (quoted) from Psalm 22:1 *'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'* Have you heard the rest of Psalm 22?

Psalm 22:22-26 *'I will declare you name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you. From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows ...they who seek the LORD will praise him..'*

So what happen? How does one move from lamentation to praise?

Was it catharsis? Was it encouraging words? or time doing it's work of healing? (e.g. Hanna's prayer in 1 Samuel 1) It is silly to even try to have a formula or method to frame the miraculous power of God which delivers us from death to resurrection. But one thing for sure, Jesus have overcome lamentation, darkness and death and came through with praise and life eternal. If we are followers of Jesus, will we not also move from our lamentation to the same triumphant melody of praise?

And so I declare to you my friends! Once, I carried death within me, but now I have a new breath of life within me because my redeemer lives! Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD. I am certain that if Jesus is your redeemer, He will lift you from the pit of emptiness, as He has for me.

God Bless you,

*Jenny Chau*