

Inspirations

The ACTS Foundation Bulletin for "Wednesday Women Warriors & Mighty Meditating Men"



#788 - Peace in the Storm

By The McIntoshes / prayers@actsfoundation.com / 4th week of September 2011

Pastor Chuck Crocker hosted two of ACTS prophecy conferences. He is also Jeff and Rosemary Harris' pastor. (Jeff is one of our ACTS Board members and Rosemary is a faithful prayer warrior). Sunday, August 28, 2011 the hurricane Irene hit Virginia. Pastor Chuck Crocker's church, Redemption Outreach Center in Chester, Virginia, was damaged. The power was off throughout the whole area, but, still, he opened the church and preached to those who gathered in the dark because power lines were down. One of members wrote another member the following email recounting the Sunday morning service--

Well, I went to church yesterday, and a BIG OLD tree had fallen on our church, light outs, and only a handful of folk, but there was a message from Pastor Crocker, even in the dark. He asked the Lord, "What is going on?". In one week, Virginia had a fire, (the fire was not newsworthy and it was over 100 miles away from Richmond, but the smoke and smell was so strong, you thought the neighbor's house was on fire)... an earthquake, and then a tremor... we had a hurricane and a tornado. The weather issues were centered in North Carolina and Virginia, but the news talked mostly about Washington, DC, and New York... Pastor Crocker asked the Lord, "What is going on?" And the Lord said (I am paraphrasing), "I am the Prince of Peace... We are to look up, and lift up." In the Greek the words look and lift mean resurrection. In the Greek the word Irene means "Peace". So, what was the message? Answer, God is in control and if you look up and lift up you won't be bent over with worries like the woman with the issue of blood for 18 years. If you allow circumstances to weigh you down, you will begin to bend over and look down, but looking down gives you one view and that is the view of dirt. If we look up, (resurrection), lift up, straighten up; the world, its mess, worries, issues--gasoline lines, no water, no electricity, folks standing in line for ice--none of these things shall move us because we have made a decision to look to the Prince of Peace, and He is not down, He is Up! This was the message he preached in the dark.....powerful.

Wow! This testimony is awesome! A crisis like a hurricane really reveals the character of people. Pastor Chuck has a wonderful heart for God. We love going to his church when we are in Virginia because he always feeds you Fresh Bread from Heaven. We heard him say one day that God will give him a message during the week but he still keeps a note pad beside him in the car because the Holy Spirit just keeps right on downloading while he is driving to church and sometimes he has to pull over to the side of the road and write. The message he left home with may not be what he delivers by the time he reaches the pulpit because the Spirit just keeps on pouring into him!

Friends, we all need to be listening to the Holy Spirit because we are living in a wild time. I.e, weather conditions are worsening the closer we get to Jesus' return. The economy is sure getting crazy. Political stability seems to be a thing of the past in most countries worldwide. Scripture tells us that when we see these signs we need to look up because our redemption draws near. While churches all up and down the East Coast of the United States closed their doors that morning, this man of God opened the front doors even with the steeple broken off due to a fallen limb, and he and Jesus gave a timely word to those who gathered. Talk about "Arise, Shine... while gross darkness covers the earth!" He sure did! The whole city was without electricity but the Glory of God shown brightly at Redemption Outreach Center! Bless you, Pastor! We have appreciated you all along, but, this testimony makes you stand out in the crowd! The McIntoshes