

## Teaching for 10-15-08

### Preparing A Place

The Presence of God will dwell in the midst of a prepared people in a prepared place. God's Presence does not come to dwell by accident. He comes to a place that has been prepared with the anticipation of His arrival. This is seen in the examples of the Tabernacle with Moses, the Temple with Solomon, and countless historical examples down through the history of God and man. So then there are questions we must face; *If we truly desire the Presence of God in our midst, do we know how to prepare a place for Him? Are we willing to pay the price to do whatever preparation is necessary for God's Presence?*

### Contemporary Realities

A recent update from The Sentinel Group is a good example of modern day preparation. A portion of this report, entitled, *The Forest Prayer Meeting*, has now been posted on the Prayer Transformation Ministries website on the Stories page ([click here](#)). Prayer Transformation Ministries Executive Director, Steve Loopstra was a participant in this extraordinary prayer gathering, and has some first hand insights into the preparation of a place for the manifest Presence of God.

### Perseverance

In many parts of Brazil, intercessors and pastors have consecrated locations they call *Prayer Mountains*, or *Prayer Towers* where they meet with one another and with the Lord to pray for their cities. In many of these locations, the presence of God is palpable and sometimes overwhelming. But as you listen to the stories of these places, one of the first things that becomes evident is that prayer has been going on at these locations for years. Persistent focused prayer has been going on for years in many of these locations. As George Otis, Jr. writes in this Brazilian update, *One of the hallmarks of the growing Brazilian prayer movement is its no-nonsense approach to corporate intercession. People don't pray just to say they have... they pray until God visits them. They pray until change is manifest in the life of their churches and their cities. They pray through to victory.* In very practical terms, it means that a few dedicated followers of Jesus Christ have paid the price in time and sacrifice in order to be on site praying. Not simply for a few days, but for years. A powerful lesson for our microwave, instant anything culture.

### Obedience

A number of years ago, the speaker at the Annual Celebration Banquet was Dale Schlafer, President of the Center for World Revival and Awakening. He coined a phrase that was powerful and challenging. The phrase spoke of the importance of obedience. Dale said that we should all have a mindset of *radical, immediate obedience*. Be willing to do whatever God tells us to do, no matter how radical it might seem to our logic or to others. We also needed to be ready and willing to obey immediately, and not ponder our response. This lifestyle of radical, immediate

obedience characterizes the believers who are experiencing God manifest presence at these Prayer Mountains, and Prayer Towers. For example, at the Prayer Mountain in Teresópolis, One pastor had been there, living in a small pup tent for 80 days at the time of our visit. He was there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, praying for his city. He brought no food or supplies with him, and trusted God to supply whatever he needed for each day. At that Prayer Mountain, the presence of God was compelling to say the least. Perhaps the Lord is allowing us to experience these hard times, so that we too can learn how to have a lifestyle of *radical immediate obedience*.

## **Consecration**

In many locations where God was manifestly present, there was an amazing sense in the hearts of the people, that they were on a sacred mission, that this was holy ground. As described in *The Forest Prayer Meeting*, the Brazilian pastors had two locations along the path where they stopped and consecrated themselves, and at the second they recognized the holiness of the place they were entering by taking off their shoes (remember, this was the middle of the forest). For the people entering the desert community of Algodao de Jandaira, it meant stopping by a unique tree to pray and consecrate themselves before entering, and after leaving the town. In each of these and other examples, there was a dedication to holiness and the sacredness of God's presence. It was a realization that this was not about them. It was about what God had called them to do. It was about His Presence and their willingness to pay any price to have God come in answer to their prayers. In the hearts of these believers was a quiet dedication to the purposes and the holiness of the work God had called them to do, and they would let nothing pollute God's purposes.

God is no respecter of locations or cultures. What God is doing this very day in Brazil and nearly 700 other places around the world in transforming revival, He can and will do here. But we must be willing to persevere, to be obedient and to consecrate ourselves to His agenda. Prayer Transformation Ministries is dedicated to casting that vision, and equipping the church to cooperate with God to see transforming revival come to our cities and states. Take a couple moments and visit the Stories page on our website to read some of what God is doing. We hope it will inspire and challenge you to persevere until He comes in His manifest Presence.