



FRIDAYFAX 2.0

Issue # 14, Oct 15, 2007

Kingdom-focussed E-Mail news-bulletin with inspiring reports of God at work around the world, with special emphasis on the current global reformation of Church and Missions. **Editor:** Wolfgang Simson. Subscription: €30/ US-\$ 40 per year. Freitagsfax 2.0, PO Box 1248, D-79397 Kandern, Germany. Email info@ffax2.com; website: www.ffax2.com. © Dawn Europa e.V.; 22 issues per year, available in English and German.



WHAT IS GOD WAITING FOR?

“Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!” (Exodus 14:15)

Most people wait for God. Every day Christians and non-Christians alike are looking to heaven and crying out in frustration: “Lord, why are you not doing something about this? Why is this happening to me? Why isn’t anything happening? Why aren’t you helping me with this problem?” Many followers of Christ around the world are “waiting”. Some are simply passively sitting and waiting for something, *anything* to happen. They are waiting for something, but most don’t really know for what – or whom - they are waiting for. Others are stuck in a place they know they don’t belong, and they are treading water, running in circles, spinning a hamster wheel, flying waiting loops, looking, searching, knocking, actively seeking for a way forward, waiting to get out, to move forward, if they only knew which way is forward.

Preaching in a church in India one day, I could not help but notice the sticker posted to the wall: “Acts 2 - God, do it again!” The message of the sticker was clear: Pentecost happened because God acted. Today, God is silent; we are stuck. Therefore we need to ask God “to wake up and do something”, because he is obviously sleeping ... And unless God does something, all we can do is wait some more ...

Many Christians have even come up with the term and practice of regular or irregular “tarrying meetings”, molded after something that Jesus said to the first disciples: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait (tarry) for the gift the father has promised” (Acts 1:4). But now, after the gift of the Holy Spirit has been given to the church, and after the power of the Holy Spirit has been discovered by hundreds of millions of Christians around the world in this last century, could it be that our time of waiting is over?

Could it be that God actually *is waiting for us*?

One of my friends is **Neil Gamble**, a prayerful and prophetic man who lives with his wife in a caravan in the United States. Earlier this year Neil had some special visitors during a ministry trip to Djakarta, Indonesia. He reports:

“I woke up this morning in a hotel room, and the first thing I saw was a hand on the chair next to my bed. This hand was awesome, big, confident, powerful, and filled with purpose. It was a warrior’s hand! Because I was in a strange country and have been doing unusual things, the first thought that goes through my head is that someone has broken into my room! Then I see the size of the being sitting in the chair and I know: Angel. As my eyes take in the room I realize that my room is filled with them. They were wearing an array of different colored clothes, some with wide belts, most with flowing robes but all warriors. It seemed to me that a couple of them had some kind of pants on but all wore a flowing tunic type of top wear, longer than a shirt. The room is not crowded, but there must be a dozen or more. I was not sure what to make of it but it seems that they wanted to talk to me. My first question erupts from my boggled mind. ‘Why are you here?’

The angel sitting in the chair next to my bed answers: ‘We are waiting.’

I reply, ‘Waiting for what?’

Then there was about 30 seconds or so of silence before another angel answers: ‘We are waiting for you!’

Me again: ‘Why?’

Angel: ‘You are in sin.’

Another Angel: ‘We are waiting for the Church.’

After a couple of minutes they were gone but I am sure that they are still here. I can’t see them any more, I just feel them, it is simply a knowing. The angels were tall, at least 7 foot or more, stoic, not impatient, filled with purpose, calm yet ready. Their faces were like finely etched granite but, not hard like stone but somehow there was a kindness in their eyes and features.

The day it happened I was to share with a church (pastors and elders); I could not share on what I had intended because of the angel visitation. As I shared my experience that day, these leaders instantly fell down and started

repenting for not having a heart for God's desire. They did not need to have someone tell them what the sin was, they knew it: complacency toward the Lost and God's purpose and desire. They knew that they had not imparted intimacy with the Father to the Church at large, nor God's desires."

In an interpretation of this experience **Jim Rutz** (author of books like *Megashift; The Open Church*) suggested this: "I see a clear and major paradigm shift in what the angels said to Neil Gamble: 'We are waiting for the church.' For 1900 years, the church has been right where John left us: 'Even so, Come, Lord Jesus . . . ' which the church has followed with endless prayers: 'Thy Kingdom come . . . ' and 'Lord, bring revival . . . ' and 'Lord, please bring revival' . . . and 'Lord, why on earth don't you get busy and bring revival?' Neil says he strongly sensed that the 12+ angels were some kind of team, used to working together. Well, now this team of angels is saying that the ball is in our court. Whatever we might need for closure, knowledge, motivation, finances: we already have it. We might as well stop praying for revival. Just get our act together, roll up our sleeves, and finish the job!" So far Jim Rutz.

Jerry Ford, Pastor of a Baptist church in Herrin, Illinois, writes: "When Moses and the Israelites stood on the edge of the Red Sea watching the Egyptian army close in on them, they cried out to God in fear. Why did you lead us out of Egypt? We are about to be overcome by Pharaoh's army and be killed. They began praying that God would somehow rescue them. They agonized over their dilemma and pleaded with the Lord to intervene. God answered their question of why with His own question of why. Look what God said when he answered them. 'Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!' Exodus 14:15. To paraphrase, God told them, 'I'm just waiting on you.' And what is it that God is waiting for? Often He is waiting for us to lay aside our own agenda and trust him. He is waiting for us to deal with the hidden sins in our heart, to be obedient to His Word, to love more, to fear less, to believe without doubt, to soften our heart, to draw nearer, to seek His will. Whenever God waits, He waits for a purpose."

We should not overlook the fact that God, in this event, spoke to Moses, not to all the people. Moses was a prophet (Dt 18:18) and was supposed to become active, raise his rod and take the initiative. In biblical history one of the tribes of Israel, the "Sons of Issachar" were described in a unique way: "They knew what Israel ought to do" (1 Chr. 12:32). In New Testament words, this phenomenally important directional spiritual task of the tribe of Issachar is, in the realm of the Kingdom of God, given to "apostles and prophets", those that God "placed first in the church" (1. Cor 12:28), onto whom Jesus is building his church (Mt 16:18), the "household of God" (Eph 2:20). The Christian world is more than full with conferences, seminars, symposiums and worship services of all kinds. But one thing hardly ever happens: that apostles and prophets are allowed to function

according to their brief and tell the church what to do. After centuries of sinfully suppressing apostolic and prophetic ministries, often in the name of retaining the Status Quo of the church, we are witnessing today a global resurgence of individuals who are – let us ignore the flashy, self-proclaimed and self-appointed types - healthy, humble and servant-minded people with a true prophetic and apostolic brief from God. If "the church is in sin", as "Neil's angel," told him, then she is not "in Jesus", inside the borders of the Kingdom. This means that the church functions illegally, clean outside of the legal parameters of the Kingdom of God. And Jesus told us clearly: "If you are not in me, you can do nothing".



SQUARE ONE

If there is therefore one single outstanding and pressing issue, something that the church *must do if it wants to stop sinning*, it is this: go back to **Square One** and make sure it's own apostolic and prophetic foundation is correct or is being corrected. This spiritual avant-garde needs to come together and begin to function again. The need of the hour is therefore not so much for more cosmetic changes of the cosmetic changes of the past, but for a return of the church to her own forgotten and abandoned roots. This starts by prophetic and apostolic people joining hands Galatians 2-style, taking significant time-outs to seek God together like never before, stopping any individualistic stand-alone ministry and starting to go to work *together*. This is a frequency, a calling of the Holy Spirit that permeates the entire globe. If prophets and apostles are unable or unwilling to blow the trumpet together, "no one will get ready for battle" (1 Cor 14:8). But if we hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches, then the next step is absolutely clear: the call is out for a permanent getting together of apostolic and prophetic people of God in their cities, regions, nations, continents and even worldwide. Now!

In the (figurative!) words of **Marco Gmür**, Swiss missiologist and churchplanter: "Prophets and apostles have to come together. They should fall in love, be engaged, marry and have children!"