

September 27, 2004

Dear Fellow Believer

I greet you and ask the blessings of the Lord upon you in the name of Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. It has been quite some time since we have sent out a general prayer letter. However, because of a variety of things (newsletters, sermons, calls from intercessors, and personal prayer over the last month or two) I have come to believe that the Lord is working to bring about at least three specific things in Corpus Christi in the immediate future. I also believe He wants them shared generally with the church. Those three things are:

1. **God desires for us to spend more time seeking & listening to Him individually and especially corporately.**
2. **The Spirit of the Lord is saying that we need to endure hardships, in a way that will honor Him.**
3. **The Lord desires a unified base of prayer concerning some specific negative spiritual influences in our area.**

I realize that for many people Item #1 is a given. The second is or could be a bit scary. The third item is on target to some people, a bit odd to others, and really out there for many. This being the case, how could we possibly agree in prayer with such diversity of understanding?

Although there is no way that I could answer every question, which might because of varied understanding, divide us concerning these three things, I think the information contained in this letter will serve to bring us together. **Please do me the courtesy of a little bit of your time. I believe we will indeed find a common ground of prayer for Corpus Christi and be able to move forward in the things God is doing in our city and the surrounding area.**

The desire of God for us to listen is expressed plainly in Scripture. Sixteen times Jesus is recorded as saying, "he that has an ear let him hear." Eight of those sixteen times are among the very last recorded words of Jesus and are found in the book of Revelation. When we individually perceive the Spirit of God working in or speaking to (through) any church, (Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal or any other) we need to pay attention because there will be something of profit to all. Additionally, I am convinced that the Lord desires a corporate ear turned toward Him. (Isa. 2:3) God looks at us as a corporate body. He sees us as one. It is a shame that we find ways to discount one of the plainest teachings of the Word. One of the greatest examples of a general gathering to seek the Lord is Joel Chapter Two. Joel carries a great promise of the ministry of the Spirit of God, which would come when this joining to cry out to God takes place. In fact, in every instance of scripture where the people of God gathered corporately before Him to pray to seek His face and direction, **GOD ANSWERED POWERFULLY**. Since God sees us as a body it follows that He also speaks to us as a body. Therefore the cry of Christ for those with ears to hear. How do we hear corporately?

I believe we can do so by spending a portion of our prayer time in asking the Lord specifically, "**Lord what do you desire to say to US?**" Then let us wait silently before Him for just a minute or two. As we do this I believe we will see an increase of discernment and knowledge of the will and strategy of God for the church in our area. This will come in the leadership, but also throughout the church as a whole. Asking what the Lord desires to speak to US makes it a corporate question for the body. Some may be the ones who receive direction from the Lord others will not, but WE corporately will be hearing. For this to be effective there must be a place to share what is being heard. That is part of the purpose of Shammah Prayer Ministries International. **Please share with us or if needed ask us for help.** As the Lord speaks to some and confirms things through others, we will be more able to share with church leaders what we are corporately hearing from the Spirit of God. We will also have specific direction for prayer. A benefit from corporate input is that we will begin to understand more completely how the Lord is moving. With this understanding we will be better able to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace as Paul admonished us to do.

The second item, enduring hardships, really simply deals with being ready to glorify God in all things. This is not a prophecy of doom and destruction; rather it is a word of encouragement for us to be established in the Lord and to be settled within ourselves that the Lord God our Father is ultimately in control of all things. When that is truly the condition of our hearts and minds we will not fear anything. You may feel like you are already enduring all you possibly can. The

full understanding of God's faithfulness is Grace for any and all circumstances as we respond to each situation in Christ-like fashion. As we trust God through difficult times, He will use us to draw others to Jesus. We must allow Him to do so. We need to walk in trusting, childlike faith.

Now we come to the most difficult part of this letter. I am referring to the third item, which concerns what some might call strongmen or principalities. The truth is that we are in a battle with principalities and powers (Eph 6:10). This is a plain teaching of scripture and generally accepted throughout the church. However, just what that means or how it is carried out is often up for discussion. What I believe the Lord wants us to do is focus on Christ and His ministry, upon the ministry of spirits, which are of God (1st John 4:1). We need to be positive and proactive in our approach to things, but we are not to be ignorant. In fact the Word says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6) We are to know the spirits (and the ministry of people) by their fruit (Matt 7:16).

Each month for the next twelve months I will be asking for targeted prayer to deal with the effects of specific negative spiritual influences in our area. Each will be an evil spirit, which is named in the Word. Each month I will give examples of the fruit of these spirits. Another way of expressing that is to say examples of the results of their influence. Also provided each month will be information on what many would refer to as the opposite spirit. Again this would also be a spirit specifically mentioned in the Word of God, which would be a spirit, which is of God. I am in no way suggesting there is something lacking in the work and ministry of Christ, but rather that this is a part of that work and ministry.

The point of all of this will be to:

1. Aid us as a unified body in greater discernment of the influences of the enemy that are working in our area.
2. Give us a more complete insight in how to pray in regards to a specific situation.
3. Bring into place a wider range of prayer which is more sustained (month long) to deal with these influences.

Included with this letter is the prayer focus for October 2004. Please study it and be settled in your spirit as to how you should join in this prayer for the city and the area.

Thank you for your heart of prayer for Corpus Christi and thank your for following the leading of the Lord toward this ministry as we walk by faith God answers by His Spirit.

Sincerely,
William W. Lumry, II

Prayer Focus October 2004

“God has not given us a Spirit of Fear, but of Power, Love and a Sound Mind.” (2 Tim. 1:7)

Our prayer focus for the month of October is the church's conflict with a Spirit of Fear. The influence of this spirit ultimately results in Fear of Death by which the enemy seeks to keep us in bondage. It is because of the great effect of fear of death that Christ became flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14&15). The control of fear is exerted in various ways. Ways such as through terror, which is apprehension or fear of evil happenings, through anxiety, which is fear of things to come, through fear of man and other fears. One of the symptoms of fear is anger. Often when people are afraid they attempt to cover it with outbursts of anger. Fear has a paralyzing effect on people and societies and it is often very subtle in its work. In fact many of the ways that fear works in us are not evident without the revelation of the Spirit of God.

The Word of God specifically says, **“God has not given us a Spirit of Fear, but of Power, Love and a Sound Mind.” (2 Tim. 1:7)** Therefore we need to deal with this negative spiritual influence in our area. The way we begin to do so is to come before the Lord and ask Him to reveal the places within our own hearts that a Spirit of Fear may have influence. This is necessary because we are completely the Lord's and we cannot serve two masters. We want to be free of the enemy's influence in any and all areas of our lives. As we allow God to deal with us in areas where we are lacking in trust of Him it will also have an effect on our area.

When I am more fully committed to God, it has an effect on my family. That has an effect on my church and that has an effect on my community. It should be easy to see how letting God work in our hearts works to destroy the effects of a particular negative spiritual influence or if you will, stronghold or strongman. That is why the Lord says in **2 Chron 7:14, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”** Therefore, let us pray in the following manner:

- That God deal first with us individually to reveal the places within us where a Spirit of Fear might have influence so that we may walk without fear, knowing that HE will not give us more than we can bear.
- That God pour out upon us, upon our leaders, and upon our city as a whole a Spirit of Power, Love, & a Sound Mind to believe and walk in the things of God. Thanking Him that we need not fear evil, or have fear of what we will need of the necessities of life such as food, or clothes. Let us rejoice in the power and provision of our God and seek His face asking for the presence of the Lord to be mighty within our city.

If you need help in understanding how to pray, please call us and we will joyfully help you come to understanding. If you simply cannot agree about a Spirit of Fear, then surely you can pray that God indeed manifest in the Church in Corpus Christi the Spirit of Power, Love and a Sound mind which He has already given. If even at that level you have a problem agreeing with us in prayer, then please agree with us for God's perfect will to be accomplished in Corpus Christi as it is in Heaven. That is after all what we all desire. Let us also always remember the great importance of praise to our God.

We will be praying weekly on Prayer Time Corpus Christi, which currently airs at 9am on Mondays and at 7pm on Thursdays on both Time Warner and Grande cable on channel 18. Please tune in and pray with us if you can. Even so please pray concerning this focus for October. Also please pray with us as we seek God's provision for a weekly radio program on KCTA AM 1030.