



# the clear word

a publication to encourage a clearer understanding of God's word.

AUGUST 2009

## The Hiding Place By Bryn Jones

How little is known of great revivalists before they were thrust into the limelight in God's move of the Spirit. How wise God is in shaping and preparing our lives to be instruments of peace and blessing to others. He hides His servants in the secret place away from the enquiring gaze of others. He deliberately closes the eyes of the people to those he has singled out as his instruments of blessing. He does this in order to disciple them before using them on the church in power.

God not only hides His servants in the time of preparation but will often draw them aside from the pressures of popularity or the increasing demands made upon them by the peoples' response to their word. Often too, He will hide and provide for them in readiness for greater usefulness.

How gracious He was in dealing with Elijah who, having demonstrated on Carmel God's supremacy over all other gods by calling down fire from heaven on the water soaked

altar and sacrifice, fled the scene in weakness. When God woke His servant from sleep He was first to give him a meal, let him sleep some more, then awaken him again; and gave him another meal before the prophet set out on a 40 day and 40 night journey to Horeb. Before God speaks He will determine how much to give; before He will ask us to bear a load He will first check that we are able to carry that load (see 1 Kings 19:1-8).

God's hiding of His servants enables them to listen, hear, meditate, feed and prepare for what lies ahead. It is in the hiding of God that the man of God develops increasingly his love for God and God's presence. This is greater by far than his love for God's people. When God welcomes you into his hiding place this is not escapism, it is wisdom, it is being obedient, it is necessary. It is essential we learn to commune with God before confronting men, to counsel with God before counselling men.

It was the years Jesus spent in silence, the years John the Baptist spent



in the wilderness, the years Saul of Tarsus spent in Arabia, of which we know so little, that were the hiding places of God where He schooled and shaped them before releasing them, that were so important. It is the voice that has spoken much with God in the secret place that is the voice carrying authority to speak with men in the market place of life. God's revelation is that His hiding place is a Man, and it is those who have learned to hide in the man Christ Jesus that have become the hiding place for men.

Such is the goodness of God, the many sided wisdom of his working,

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that He clothes us in the light of His nature only to hide us in the darkness of His dwelling place. His presence is both light and darkness, a mystery but a mystery suited to hiding as much as to revealing. Darkness holds no fear or terror to those who enter it, knowing it is the covering of His presence. God has hidden much in the secret place for you and your blessing. God's hiding places are many, in the multitude of circumstances and situations.



The hiding of the Lord is as vital and important to our growth as the revealing of Himself. Both serve differently but together serve the same goal.

Frequently when under pressure the tendency is to lose perspective. The difficulties become so enlarged they threaten to become impossibilities in our thinking, frustration only feeds this negative consequence. Here in the secret place of God's hiding you have the opportunity of quietening your soul and allowing things to recover perspective. Here in God's hiding place you are no longer intimidated by fear or people, but in

quietness and confidence you find your strength.

Jesus spoke of relationship with himself as being an experience of "abiding" in him. Paul's favourite expression for the believer was to be "in Christ." In Christ we are hidden from anything God knows would damage, hurt or threaten to overwhelm us. In the hiding place of his presence we find the peace of God that surpasses all understanding to rule our hearts and minds. As someone said, when Jesus called His disciples to "come apart and rest awhile," he was intimating you either do so or simply come apart.

In the hiding of His presence we find our security; the reassurance that all is well because it is in the hands of the Lord. When my children were very young I recall on one occasion when I had been away for a few days ministering, returning and sitting in my favourite chair in the lounge, and my youngest daughter coming in, jumping on my lap, snuggling in close. I felt good, I felt loved, and said to her, "what do you want darling?" Her reply was, "Nothing. I just want to be with you." In the hiding of His presence what is uppermost in our hearts and minds is not our needs and wants; we just want to be with Him.

In the hiding of His presence we see His power and his greatness, we

see beyond the visible, and marvel at the hidden resources of our God. As Lord of Hosts He can call upon hundreds of thousands of angelic beings to work His will and serve His saints. It is in seeing this we see the smallness and inadequacy of our own resources, the limitations on our own abilities. But equally, in the hiding of His presence we realise the fullness of an exchanged life, what Paul was meaning when he said, "it is not me who lives but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

In these times of revelation hidden away from the busyness and activities of daily life we discover there is more hidden in God than revealed. The working of his Spirit enables us to discover the abundant resource of God in every sphere of life.

Christ is our hiding place. We need no other. May we in Christ become a hiding place for another, "See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land." (Isaiah 32:1, 2, NIV).

*The late Bryn Jones (1940-2003) was recognized as an apostle whose vision and pioneering spirit helped raise up individuals and churches all over the world to live for the restoration of God's original and intended purpose for creation. This article is used by permission from the website TheRestorer.net*



## I've Seen the Promised Land!

By Hazel Nicholson

"Away far beyond Jordan, we'll meet in that land, oh won't it be grand!" The church I attended as a teenager often sang hymns, like this one, about the Jordan River. But in these hymns, crossing the Jordan always seemed to represent death, with the Promised Land being a picture of heaven to come. Some of you will remember singing these hymns yourself! But as we look in God's word, we discover the crossing of the River Jordan is of great significance, not as a symbol of the life to come, but rather as a picture of entry into the Spirit-led and Spirit-anointed life, moving in and demonstrating the power of God; the land where "the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the good news is preached to the poor" (Luke 7:22). This is our promised land!

Moses' leading God's people through the Red Sea is a glorious illustration of salvation and baptism, as all our enemies are washed up dead on the shore. But these same people were immediately taken into the wilderness! And because of their

rebellion and disobedience, they ended up taking forty years, instead of what should have been an eleven day journey. They were never meant to stay in the wilderness. When the Lord threatens to destroy them, Moses pleads with the Lord that the nations around them will say the Lord had the power to bring them *out* of slavery, but not *into* the Promised Land – what a sorry witness! So the Lord raises up Joshua to lead them across the Jordan to take up the inheritance promised to them by the Lord. As we respond to the call of the Spirit to come up higher and go deeper with Him, so our testimony is transformed. We are not just declaring what we have been brought out of, but are demonstrating what we have been brought into.

When God sends Elijah to anoint Elisha as his successor as prophet to the people of God (1 Kings 19), Elijah finds Elisha ploughing in the fields, and simply throws his cloak around him! What an amazing picture of the work of the Holy Spirit in our calling. What is Elisha's immediate response? He burns the plough and cooks the oxen! He puts away everything

*The Clear Word newsletter is a publication of New Life Church in Peterborough. The focus of this publication is to encourage a clearer understanding of God's Word and to challenge Christians to press on towards maturity in faith and practice. It also highlights the coming events of New Life during the month.*



from his past life and leaves it all behind to follow the man of God. But Elisha is not content to spend his life just watching someone else move in the power of God, and as Elijah's life draws to a close he asks for a double portion (the inheritance of the firstborn son) of his Spirit. As they miraculously cross the Jordan, Elijah is taken up into heaven and from the whirlwind drops his coat down to Elisha. In response, Elisha tears his own coat, again leaving behind everything that is old, picks up the coat of the Holy Spirit anointing, strikes the Jordan and walks across in the power of the Holy Spirit!

In the New Testament we find ourselves on the shores of the Jordan again, witnessing the baptism of Jesus. As the Lord comes up out of the water, John the Baptist sees the Holy Spirit come upon Him, just as he had been promised. Like Moses and the Israelites, Jesus is also led straight into the wilderness! But what is His response to that wilderness experience? Instead of forty years of grumbling and complaining, Jesus spends forty days in communion with His Father as He fasts, prays and resists every scheme of the enemy. The same Holy Spirit who led him *in*, also leads him *out* again into that powerful ministry of healing, deliverance, raising the dead, and preaching the good news of the kingdom of God.

After Jesus had risen from the dead He spoke to his disciples: "I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Like Elijah, Jesus was taken up into heaven as His disciples watched, and like Elijah Jesus has dropped the cloak down to us – the anointing of the Holy Spirit – to clothe us in His power. Do you feel as if you are standing right on the edge of the Jordan just dipping your toes into the water? Strip off everything that is old, stale and no longer useful. Pick up that coat, that Holy Spirit anointing; strike the water, cross over and take possession of our inheritance, our Promised Land!

## Events of New Life Church



Dates to remember in

### AUGUST 2009

July 31 to August 3rd - Bon Echo Camp with All Nations Church, Ottawa. Please feel free to come up for a day or an evening. You will need lawn chairs and sweaters if you plan to stay for a campfire at night.

August 2nd - We will hold our Sunday meeting at TASS with a special emphasis on the testimonies of what God is doing amongst us.

August 19th - Corn Roast at Murray and Joanne Fallaise's home near Omemee at 6:30 p.m.

August 26th - Mid-week Meeting at the Best Western Hotel at 7:00 p.m.

Every Thursday the Music Group meets for practice at Matthew and Silje's apartment at 7:00 p.m.

#### New Life Church

Currently meeting at  
Thomas A Stewart Secondary School  
on Armour Road every Sunday  
10:30 am in the cafeteria

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