

January 2006: God on the Move

by Aaron Greenway

These days God has answered one of my prayers, that He would move like never before, that He would change the hearts of people, and that Christians would rise up united and equipped to love and reach a world without Christ. I believe that He is doing just that. In the process of carrying on with our lives, it is very easy to forget the most important things, to neglect the Word of God for example, or to forget those who most need God's love. The devil loves to use our daily lives to distract us, so that we come to that crucial point only to ask, "Now, what was it that God wanted me to do?" and then we end up in a place spiritually we never thought we would be in. We forget that we walk by His grace; and then we try to do everything in our own strength. Finally, we come out exhausted because we just couldn't cut it spiritually.

Two days ago, we saw a documentary about Uganda, a country filled with idolatry. A military group, the LRA (The Lord's Resistance Army), had been ravaging the country and its people by kidnapping children, the boys to be soldiers and the girls to give sexual favors to the captain, Kony, a man possessed with many demons. This made it very difficult for the country's military to catch him, and each time they tried, he came back with a vengeance kidnapping more children. The parents were completely torn up, and finally, only when the country cried out to the Lord, threw away their idols, gave up their witchcraft, and started interceding for the victims, that is when the LRA and its demonic powers were put on the run. For a time, it seemed that only one man, Kony, was behind all of the confusion and that the power of the Enemy was intimidating this people, but now we see that the Lord heard the cries, and defeated the Enemy. Now the military is hunting down this evil man and his associates.

There is always comfort and reassurance for those who have thrown away much of their lives to alcoholism, witchcraft, pornography, and drugs. God will receive back those who truly turn away from those things, because no matter what our failures, God wants to forgive us; and not just to forgive us but also to mend, to heal and to restore. He has broken the deceptive power of the Enemy in our lives that has dominated and tamed us as if we were caged animals, like puppets on a string.

Israel was one of those nations that wandered from the Lord too. But there were always those around who would intercede on behalf of their people. For example, take a look at what David said in Psalm 130:

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

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The truth is that we always want the Lord to move in our hearts, that we would be holy before Him, that we would long for Him, that He would call to impact the world. I remember when the Lord began to do great things in my heart. Even as a young man, the Lord filled me over and over again until I just could not keep it in any longer. This is what happens when God takes over someone's heart; and from that source comes the desire to serve the Lord and reach the world for Him.

For us the question becomes, if we are willing. My wife and I have big plans for the mission field in Latin America, but at the same time, we sense an obligation as well as a lot of need right here in Garland, Texas. So, while we wait for the time when we leave for South America, we hope to serve right here in our local church. We want to send the Latin people out from their native country so they can be missionaries to other countries, so we have to learn how to mobilize them. We really don't want the Lord to put us on the shelf, to use someone else, when we ourselves want God to use us.

The time is here! God is now looking for those who will serve Him, those who will love Him. God is looking for soul winners. Why? Because God is on the move! God is planning! He is bent on rescuing the wandering soul, and sharpening the dull of heart. I don't want to one day stand before God and have to explain to Him why I did not take advantage of the time, why I wasted the opportunities He gave me. So whether it be in church, in your job, or in your school, we all have to ask the question, "How can I serve?" Many times, the answer is so obvious that God does not have to say a word. Sometimes, we only have to open our eyes and go where the needs are. That was one of the ways I decided to go to Peru, one of the poorest and most Roman Catholic countries in Latin America. If you still don't know what to do for the Lord, go and ask your pastor. With a willing and generous heart, the Lord will surely use you in His awesome plan.

Something to ponder...

Your brother,
Aaron Greenway