

F E A T U R E S

**The Purpose Of Soaking In His Love** ..... 6  
*Carol Arnott*

**Finding My Place Of Rest** ..... 11  
*Dawn Critchley*

**Soaking In His Presence, Ministering To The Poor** ..... 16  
*Heidi Baker*

**The Pathway To More Of Him** ..... 20  
*Jim Goll*



SOAKING IN GOD'S LOVE  
 (see page 6)

I N T H I S I S S U E

In The River      [Learning To Soak In His Love](#) ..... 2

Letters To The Editor ..... 3

Revival Resources ..... 25



RESTING FROM WORKS  
 (see page 11)

T H E S P R E A D I N G F I R E

Removing Shame ..... 5

The Father Loves Me ..... 14

Australian Evangelist Sees Creative Miracle ..... 15

"Fresh Fire" ..... 26



MORE OF HIS PRESENCE  
 (see page 20)

I N F O R M A T I O N D E S K

Schedules, events, travel information & more ..... 28



Melinda Fish  
Editorial

# LEARNING TO SOAK IN HIS LOVE



It was during my first visit to the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship that I was introduced to “soaking”.

The testimony of a woman I do not even know to this day called out to me from the platform. “A year ago,” she said with her head shaking violently in a way that annoyed me, “my husband and I were chronic TV watchers. We didn’t even want to go to church.” I could identify. I was a pastor and a pastor’s wife and I didn’t want to go either.

“But in January, someone called and said, ‘Get down to the church! God’s moving!’ So we came down to the church and we’ve been back every night since then.” By now tears were tracking down her cheeks as she went on, “And tonight, I’m more in love with Jesus than I ever have been in all of my life.”

I remember my husband and I standing for ministry afterward wanting what she had and gradually becoming more obvious as person after person dropped to the floor. The power of an unseen force seemed to be sucking despair from them and many of them were writhing in the throes of what seemed to be periods of pain interspersed with ecstatic joy. As the waves of power subsided, looks of serenity crept across their faces. Why aren’t they getting back up? I wondered.

For years I had seen many people fall in meetings and had never put much value on it. Those who fell usually popped back up as though the people felt obligated to fall in the presence of a well-

known evangelist. It had an almost perfunctory quality to it. But this was different.

Then it was our turn. When Ron Dick, a normal guy on the prayer team, reached out two fingers and gently touched my forehead, he prayed, “Come, Holy Spirit.” And He came. Suddenly I felt myself acted upon by the same unseen force. As I fell, Jesus seemed to be bending over me laughing about the fact that finally He had me where He wanted me.

The humor of the moment faded into a sense of the love of God that washed over me. It was the first of thousands of washings of His love in the past seven years. I was being fully “known.” Eternity was touching me, and I didn’t want the moment to end. Now I knew why people weren’t getting up quickly.

We began to make time for “soaking” in every service back home. If someone were to ask me today, “How do you sustain revival?” I’d answer, “Keep soaking in the love of Jesus.” Soaking in His presence is an invitation for the Holy Spirit to keep coming, and it keeps our attention off ourselves and on Jesus, the true center of revival. It is the fuel for service. If you soak, you will tell.

We’ve devoted this issue to the theme, “Soaking in the presence of God.” You will read articles from people like Carol Arnott who explains the value of soaking in God’s presence. We introduce Jim Goll’s new book, *Wasted on Jesus*, with an adaptation about recovering the lost glory of what we now call “soaking.”

Dawn Critchely describes how she and Rob started growing dry in the renewal and recovered their passion for Jesus through soaking in God’s love. And Mark Virkler has a piece on “Soaking for Left-Brainers.” Put on a CD, lie down on the floor and invite the Holy Spirit to come upon you, then get ready to encounter Him. You will if you keep praying,

Keep coming, Holy Spirit,

*Melinda <>{*

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear *Spread the Fire Magazine*,

I was raised in France in an indifferent household. It took a lot for me to step out and trust God when the renewal came to our church. Your last issue (January 2001) brought back a lot of good memories.

Thank you,

*Yves W. — Aberdeen, WA, USA*

Thanks for the subscription. I have just received the *STF* issue 1 - 2001 yesterday. I didn't wait to get into reading the contents of this wonderful magazine. I must tell you that I was so blessed last

night as I've been fed with something new in my spiritual life, and at the same time learning something new which doesn't usually happen here in Fiji. Just reading the magazine causes me to have a new fresh breath and renews my heart. I only hope that the Toronto and Pensacola fire and the "carpet time" will eventually come here. May God continue to spread renewal and blessing to your magazine and ministry.

Your brother in Christ,

*Aaron V. — Suva, Fiji Islands*

God bless you abundantly! I want to really thank you because you sent me *STF* this entire year. Each issue is always interesting since it is a source to know how the Lord is moving in this renewal. Please go on sending me your magazine next year. Let me know your needs so I can pray for them. Keep fixing your eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from the beginning to the end. (Hebrews 12:2)

I love you in Christ,

*Andres L. Z. — Las Tunas, Cuba*

Greetings from Pantukan, Mindanao, Philippines! Praise the Lord for your monthly magazine that you send to us. As a pastor's wife it is not easy for me in the ministry! I'm a mother of five children between the ages of ten and three. Since the beginning of our ministry, each one of us is handling a church. We have been serving for almost sixteen years in tribal ministry. I have been suffering big trials in my life that have been affecting my ministry, and it has been very painful. I almost quit the ministry, but my husband encouraged me to persevere in the trials. As I read the article in *Spread the Fire*

entitled, "The Healing," I was totally healed. Your magazine has been a real blessing to me. Your magazine is one of our sources of teaching materials for the tribal people, and they are blessed. May God send more power and blessing on your ministry.

In Christ's love,

*Lenen P. — Mindanao, Philippines*

Thank you for sending us *STF Magazine*. Thank God for it. You don't even imagine how much the articles are helping my family and me. Every page of this magazine brings glory to the Lord Jesus. It doesn't contain men's complaints or items that conceal accusations of any sort. It is all so refreshing, so new, and so nourishing. I read the magazine over and over wishing for more. My daughter and I have already shared with some people what we have learned from these articles. We don't live in a country where the government would create problems concerning our faith, but people still question this great move of the Holy Spirit. That is where your magazine brings help, ideas and everything excellent. I thank the Lord because we are receiving from His River! This magazine is anointed. I pray for the Spirit of God to enable you to go on being this blessing to us all as well as to His Kingdom. Praise the Lord! God bless you all.

Thanks again and again,

*Lilian K. P. — Toronto, ON, Canada*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite you to write us here at

*Spread the Fire* for our

"Letters to the Editor" section.

You can contact us by:

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Letters should include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number and may be edited for publication.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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We were so encouraged to read Jim Goll's first comments in his article, "Paradigm Shifts for the 21st Century." His comments about a coming fresh emphasis on relational rather than hierarchical structures emphasizing networking made my wife and I start praising God...!

*Ed B. — UK*

My name is Johnny and I have never visited your church in Toronto. I watch the meetings on the Internet and I have heard that I can have the magazine for free. If it is OK, can you send it to me?

*Johnny K. — Belgium*

*Editor's note: Yes, Johnny, it is our pleasure to send you the magazine free of charge. Would you e-mail your address to [stf@tacf.org](mailto:stf@tacf.org) please? Thanks, M.<>{*

Thanks for the magazine! I live for it; it's like a breath of fresh air. It's so encouraging to read what the Lord is doing. I have also just looked at the comments in the place where you can leave them on the website. It's so great to read that encouraging stuff. I thank the



Lord for TACF that you were not afraid to just let go and let God do His thing. Keep coming, Holy Spirit, and don't let us get complacent. He's just so wonderful, and there's more to come for us all. God bless you all at TACF.

*Virginia W. — Torquay, UK*

We want to thank you for sending *STF* to us. We were only able to visit the revival for a couple of days, but we were so blessed by all of you and the presence of the Spirit of the Lord! Thanks for keeping us informed, and may the Lord continue to work through you to spread the fire of His Glory to cover the earth.

In His love,

*Mike & Sissie P.—Columbia, TN, USA*

Thank you very much for *STF* that arrives here so regularly. We enjoy it very much and once we have read it, we pass it on to my brother who lives in Swaziland. Please, will you continue sending it to us?

Lots of love to you all,

*Ian & Barb W. — Benoni, South Africa*

I was moved to write to you because of your moving editorial piece in the January issue of *STF* concerning your visit to the prison in Virginia. We have been in the music ministry for almost 25 years and have recorded twelve albums in Nashville and have been ministering at churches on a nice little ministry circuit.

Then...renewal hit us! God began touching, healing, loving and changing our lives. He has changed our whole focus- and us, too! We don't even care if we ever sang anymore. We just want to bring people into intimate worship so that they can experience His "Daddy" love! We no

longer care if we "make it" in the music world or sell albums. We just want all God has for us!

We have experienced some rejection from people who say they like the old "Herb and Edi," and they have not invited us back. But we recently had a prophetic word saying, "God will open closed doors, even locked doors." Two weeks ago, we did a prison service near Haverhill, MA with the prison chaplain there who is also in the River! It was so powerful there that we thought the roof was going to lift off! They were in prison physically, but not bound spiritually! We are still awed by God's awesome presence there!

We thank God for you all and for your faithfulness!

Warmth and Blessings,

*Herb & Edi H. — Windsor, VT, USA*

Thank you so very much for sending us the *Spread the Fire Magazine*. It has been a long while since Gary and I have been able to visit TACF. However, God is

ever so faithful. He does bring times of refreshing to our souls even here in Kelowna. I have "the carpet" memorized, and even now and then my heart returns to some of its best memories, and I know that what God began to do in my life through the ministry of TACF, He will continue to perfect and perform. So until we are able to return, we'll be missing you. May the Lord continue to do what He is doing in your midst.

All our love,

*Gary and Esther M.*

*Kelowna, BC, Canada*





# Removing Shame

Becomes Theme of Father Loves You Conference

Over three thousand two hundred participants from more than seventeen nations converged on Toronto March 6-10 for the annual Father Loves You Conference. On the first afternoon, the Holy Spirit sounded the trumpet calling everyone who has become part of this move of the Holy Spirit out of shame and into a new level of openness. On Wednesday afternoon Carol Arnott prophesied that a new season is coming. "There will come a father's and a mother's blessing, and it will bring a new season of life."

Leading a line-up of speakers including Jack Winter, Jack Frost, Ed Piorek and Peter and Heather Jackson, John Arnott laid the foundation for the conference in a powerful keynote message calling the body to move from law to love. "For centuries," he pointed out, "the Church has had one foot in the Old Covenant and one foot in the New." He pointed to Jesus who in fulfilling the law seemed to the Pharisees like He was a lawbreaker. John Arnott issued a call to prioritize soaking in the presence of Jesus as Mary did who stepped off the treadmill of works to sit at his feet. He reiterated that the primary call of God in this move of the Spirit is to love God, which cleanses from sin and causes the believer to want to pour out his life's resources on Him.

On Wednesday evening after a dental technician from Germany testified about having received four gold teeth supernaturally in Toronto, John Arnott called for anyone who needed a healing of any kind in the mouth to stand. One man was healed of an injury to his jaw. Another woman was healed of TMJ.

Jack Frost of Shiloh Place Ministries based in Conway, SC shared a message about how God brought him out from a place of shame and fear. As a young man he felt he was not able to perform well enough to please his earthly father. He sank into a performance-based lifestyle of trying to excel as a commercial fisherman even achieving notoriety in his profession. Even after he became a Christian he felt he couldn't please God. Through a revelation of the Father's love, God brought Jack to a place of reconciliation with his dad and a revelation of his Heavenly Father's love.

In two morning sessions Peter and Heather Jackson shared about how the Lord revealed the Father's love to them. Heather

Jackson testified about adopting their daughter and how the Father's love released Heather from the shame and pain of sexual abuse so that she was able to finally have compassion to minister to prisoners incarcerated for sex crimes. On Thursday morning Peter shared about how the Father's love restored him from the shame of an addiction to pornography that had led him to dishonor women finding comfort in counterfeit intimacy. Heather spoke about learning to bestow honor as a means of blessing those even in her family who felt dishonored.

Throughout the week many testified openly of receiving a revelation of the Father's love. On Friday evening a woman testified to receiving a healing from the shame of having an illicit affair even after renewal had come to her church. The Lord wooed her back to him after she lost everything as a result of her sin. At the conference the Lord revealed the root of her temptation to sexual sin and healed her from childhood wounds which she had suffered when she was abandoned by her mother and the sexual abuse which she subsequently experienced. ✈

— Report by Melinda <> { and Paul Ababio





THE  
PURPOSE  
OF SOAKING  
IN HIS LOVE





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## C A R O L   A R N O T T

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**O**ne night during ministry time I was tired so I lay down on the carpet and began to worship the Lord. After about five minutes I thought, There are still so many more people to pray for; I need to get up and pray for them, but this time I remembered to ask the Lord if I should get up. I felt Him say, “No.” A few minutes later, I asked Him again and felt the answer was still “no” although nothing seemed to be happening up to this point.

Then I felt a tingling in the tips of the fingers on my right hand. God, is this you? I wondered. If it is, then would you increase Your presence in me? The sensation traveled up to my knuckles. Oh Lord, it is You, please continue. For the next three hours, I felt I was being empowered increment by increment until my whole body was tingling under the power of the Holy Spirit. I asked the Lord why He did this so slowly over a period of three hours when I knew He could have empowered me instantly. He answered, “Yes, Carol, you are right, I could have done it in an instant but that was not My purpose. I did it slowly because I wanted you to stay on the floor. I wanted to spend time with you.”

# The Purpose Of Soaking In His Love

## LEARNING TO SPEND TIME WITH JESUS

There must be time for Him, just to love Him and have Him love us, no other agendas, no shopping lists of prayer requests. Those may come later, but we need to put loving Him first, because only as we are filled with His love, do we have love to give away. So many Christians cannot rest in His presence but must constantly “be on



duty” because they have not seen the value of soaking. One of my pet peeves over the past 7 years is seeing the way some people react when God’s presence comes strongly in a meeting. It is as though they can’t seem to stay and rest in that presence. They receive prayer and within five to ten minutes, they are on their way. God wants so much more than a five-minute fling. So what’s the problem?

We have been taught from our early childhood to accomplish, to finish the task, to do, do, do. We are taught that we will be rewarded on the basis of our successful performances and some of us, especially leaders, have trouble with

intimacy because we’ve tried to transfer this worldly mindset into our spiritual lives.

When that happens to you, the “good” becomes the enemy of the best in your relationship with the Lord. Jesus rebuked people like this. One outstanding example was Martha, sister of Mary, who wanted Mary to help her cook for Jesus rather than sit at His feet. Jesus said that Mary had chosen the

better part and that it would not be taken away from her. She valued His presence. Whenever Jesus was around, Mary was with Him, loving Him, just being with Him. Mary put the Great Commandment “to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind,” (Matt. 22:37), before the Great Commission.

Our highest calling is to intimacy with the living God. I do not want to hear the words, “Depart from me; I never knew (Greek: gnosko) you.” I want the love affair to begin now.

The Bible begins with the marriage between Adam and Eve and ends with a wedding in Revelation when Jesus

comes for His Bride. In between is the call for the Bride to make herself ready. Would you rather marry someone with whom you have an intimate relationship or a business contract? I would choose passionate love, knowing and being known, connecting heart to heart with the One with whom I will spend eternity.

## SOAKING AT HOME AND AT CHURCH

Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, hanging on every word. It was easier for her because His physical presence was in the room. We must get in touch with His spiritual presence through the Holy Spirit. This can be done at home. Put on a CD and get comfortable in a chair, or on the floor. Enter into the worship and just “be” with Jesus.

We need to develop a habit of spending quality time just loving Jesus at church, too. During ministry time, receive prayer and then plan to spend a

“ We need to develop a habit of spending quality time just loving Jesus at church, too. During ministry time, receive prayer and then plan to spend a long time lingering in His presence just basking in His love. Don’t just go down under the power and then pop up again after only a minute.”

long time lingering in His presence just basking in His love. Don’t just go down under the power and then pop up again after only a minute. You’ve missed the point which is experiencing His love for you.

Soaking is far different from asking for things in prayer. There is a time to make your petitions known to God, but



this comes first.

Suppose John came home, and I wanted to spend time with Him just loving him and he brushed me off asking where his supper was. I would be really hurt. Jesus, our Bridegroom, is like that, too. As with any relationship, spending time together is one of the most valuable things you can do.

Why is this so important? Soaking in His presence opens up the heart and soul to Divine romance and intimacy. It allows the Lord to love you and you to love Him, much like a couple in love find that their love and intimacy deepen as they spend more and more time together. This is one missing piece of the Christian experience that God has



come to restore in this move of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes He will fill you with His love and you will respond with a heart of a lover, other times He will go back and heal a deep wound, then other times He will empower you for the ministry He has for you. Your whole life will change when you realize that the Lord loves you absolutely. Once you realize how much

the Lord desires to woo you and is enamored with you, and that He really likes you, loving Him will just flow naturally. Is He not wonderful?

## HINDRANCES TO INTIMACY

Sometimes there are blocks to intimacy with God. Let's look at some of them. Many people and especially leaders find it hard to quiet their minds to focus on loving Him, to just "be" with Him rather than "do" for Him. Their minds are so used to analyzing rather than receiving and giving love. What would it be like if a wife greeted her husband at the door with a big kiss, and he said to her, "Why would you put your

mouth on my mouth? Don't you know there are thousands of germs in your mouth?" A statement like that would surely kill the moment. So it is with the Lord. He wants to come close and draw us into a love affair. We can analyze it later, but let's just enjoy the kiss.

The fear of intimacy is another stumbling block. Have you been so wounded either by childhood or adult

relationships, that you have made an inner vow not to let anyone hurt you like that again? If so, you have inadvertently closed the door to receiving love, and even God's love.

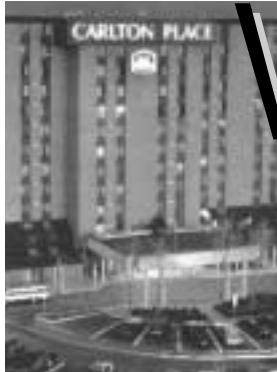
The fear of losing control is a big hindrance, too. One in four people has been sexually abused in our country, and because of this abuse, they find it very difficult to trust, much less be vulnerable lying on the floor. Their wounds need to be healed and their trust restored so that they can freely receive His love.

Pride also is a significant issue, too. There are those who simply must stay in control. They have no confidence in the way someone else would run the meeting or pray for people. Their need to be in charge will not allow them to let others minister to them while they receive. To them lying on the floor and soaking looks foolish to everyone and seems like a waste of time. Pride is controlling their behavior, and they need to repent of it and let the Holy Spirit cleanse them. We need to allow God to come to us in whatever way He chooses, and do to us whatever He chooses.

Why don't you get before the Lord right now, even if you are at home alone. Turn your heart towards spending time in His presence. Find a church that's not in a hurry either, but allows quality time for soaking in God's presence at their meetings. Spend as much time as you can just loving him and worshipping Him. Let Him fill you with His love, joy and peace. He is looking for your love because He wants a bride that loves Him. He has many servants but few lovers. Which will you be? ✈



*Carol Arnott and her husband, John, are the senior pastors at TACF. They are used by God to encourage renewal around the world through their ministry and by hosting evening renewal meetings at TACF.*

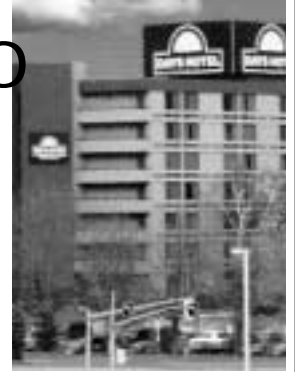


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# FINDING MY PLACE OF REST

DAWN CRITCHLEY

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**E**ven while serving God in a place that serves the body of Christ in renewal it is still possible to become dry. We certainly hadn't planned for our hearts to grow cold, but last year Rob and I noticed it happening gradually over a number of months when life had become busy and we had become so caught up in 'the doing' that we had forgotten to just 'be' in His presence. Hebrews 3:11-19 says that a hardened heart cannot enter into God's rest, so we knew that in order to find the rest we were looking for, we would need our hearts to be softened first. The question was how?

It was on New Year's Eve, that universal time of reflection, when Rob and I took a very thorough look at where we were and decided that we needed to make some life-changing resolutions. "What is wrong Lord? What is it that is missing in our lives?" we asked. He answered by calling us to learn to abide in His presence.

We took hold of Jesus' promise that if we would come to Him weary and heavy laden, He would give us rest. We also asked God to stir a new hunger in our hearts to spend time getting to know Him again. The response we got was almost instant, as if He had been waiting, sitting on the edge of His throne, saying, "I thought you would never ask."



# FINDING MY PLACE OF REST

## A GOD SPACE

The following day was a wonderful beginning for us. One of the first things that we felt we needed to do was to dedicate a place in our home to spending time with the Lord. We have called it our "God space." We employed some creativity in making it a calm, relaxing spot, the kind of place where you would sit and visit with a welcome friend. We could tell immediately that God was pleased, and He started meeting us there. We've also taught our children to love our "God space," and we have had some very precious "family God times" there.

We initially felt that we needed to just soak in God's presence in order to soften our hearts again rather than striving after Him with an agenda or even a prayer list. Instead of trying to flex our "mighty

man of God" prayer muscles, we decided to wait in His presence. Our mornings began with listening to worship music. We allowed the Holy Spirit to wash over us letting the words and music refresh us.

We also discovered the value of putting our love for one another into action by soaking each other in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to come and fill the other with more of Him. As our hearts began to soften more each day, the atmosphere in our home began to change, and it transformed our relationship with our children.

The prayer in that song, "Draw Me After You," was being answered, and we found ourselves longing for our mornings with Him. Our "God times" would set the tempo for our days. Consequently, we have been able to handle the pressures and stresses of life

much more easily because we have been learning to fall back into the Father's arms and rest in Him.

Our desire is to remain there. Hebrews 4:10 says that if we want to enter into God's rest it means resting from works. Rob and I took a thorough look at our lives to determine what works we needed to give up. God-given responsibilities and good works can

"He loves intimacy and has designed us to be intimate with Him. We must seize the time to let Him strengthen us with His reassuring love. When the tyranny of the urgent and unbearable weighs in on us, we must remind ourselves that our right response is to fall back into Him and allow our hearts to trust and confide in Him."



become an area where we strive to find God's approval and fall out of rest. We need to see what our Father is doing, to hear what He is asking of us and focus obediently on doing only those things. This has meant that we have had to learn to say "no" even to seemingly good activities so that we don't miss God's



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best for us. It is much easier to hear Him from a place of rest than a place of striving. He promises that if we abide in the Vine who is Jesus and do what we see the Father doing, then we will be fruitful (John 15). Why strive when it only brings weariness and stress with little or no fruit? What a relief it has been for us to learn that we can rest and yet be fruitful. I'm learning that "One handful of rest is better than two fists full of labour and striving." (Ecclesiastes 4:6)

## HOW TO ENTER GOD'S REST

How then, do we remain in a place of rest when life seems to press down on us from all sides? If we make our choices based on God's values, we are off to a good start. He loves intimacy and has designed us to be intimate with Him. We must seize the time to let Him strengthen us with His reassuring love. When the tyranny of the urgent and unbearable weighs in on us, we must remind ourselves that our right response is to fall back into Him and allow our hearts to trust and confide in Him. Like King David, even in the face of adversity we must value waiting on the Lord and inquiring after His counsel. Rob and I are learning to give up control and trust Him with circumstances daily and are enjoying greater fruitfulness and rest as a result. Our work is more focused and inspired.

In a day when the number of burned-out and stressed-out servants of God is on the rise, the Father is calling us to a better way. He is still saying, "Cease striving and know that I am God," Isn't it time for all of His beloved children to find rest in Him. ➔



*Dawn Critchley, with her husband Rob, helps pastor the staff worship team at TACF.*

# SOAKING FOR LEFT-BRAINERS

*By Mark Virkler*

I admit it: I am a left-brained male so when I wanted to better understand the contemporary phenomenon of "soaking" I devised a survey. I was curious to see which spiritual senses people generally open as they meet with the Lord. Jesus opened at least three spiritual senses: the eyes of His heart, the ears of His spirit and His emotions to understand the will of the Father.

There was a time in my life that I didn't know how to open any of these senses to the Holy Spirit. I had not even recognized that I had such spiritual senses, much less how to present them to God for Him to fill. I have since discovered that we can all learn how to easily do this so that "soaking prayer" becomes increasingly full and rich with divine encounter.

After prayerful study God revealed to me that feelings right brainers so often describe are experienced as flow: "Out of your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water; this He spoke of the Spirit" (John 7:37-39, emphasis added). Therefore, when I want to tune to the Holy Spirit within me, according to this verse, I should tune to flow, whether it be to the spontaneous flow of pictures, thoughts or feelings. The minds of right-brained individuals tend to live naturally in a flow of pictures and emotions, because right-brained intuitive functions include the visual and the emotional. About 75% of those polled in the soaking prayer questionnaire classified themselves as right-brained. Renewal has undoubtedly drawn these people because the way

God is revealing Himself is compatible with how He created them.

Left-brained people, on the other hand, must learn how to switch hemispheres if they want to experience some of these wonderful things their more intuitive counterparts are experiencing. Happily, doing any right-brained function moves you to your right hemisphere and poises you properly in the flow of God's river. Elijah, for example, asked for a musician to play (music being a right-brained function) when he wanted to tune to the voice of God within him (II Kings 3:15).

Since I am more left-brained when I want to experience the Lord, I invite the Holy Spirit's presence and involve myself in right-brained activities such as speaking in tongues and worship. I may take a leisurely stroll outdoors, communing with Jesus who is walking at my side. Or I may simply sit and journal — writing out my prayers and God's answers. I tune to flowing pictures, flowing thoughts and flowing emotions, and I find I can readily enjoy an intimate love experience with my Lord.

I find it best to simply do what the Bible commands me to do, fix my eyes upon Jesus (Hebrews 12:1,2). Once I do that, I tune to flow and invite the Holy Spirit to take over the scene and bring Jesus alive, letting Him minister to me in all the ways He desires. ➔



# The Father Loves Me

Pastor Amazed At A Love So Deep

I am a pastor from a church about two hours west of Toronto that has just begun to flow in the River. During the recent Father Loves You Conference in Toronto I joined the prayer line to receive from God. I didn't know it, but He had major surgery planned for me. A man and woman came to pray for me and asked me to describe my father in three words. I felt pain and explained that my father had been an alcoholic and distant, that he had quit drinking, and I believed he had given his heart to Christ before he died, and during that time had tried to show me his love.

When they specifically asked me again if I'd had a distant relationship with my Father, I replied, "Yes." They began to pray for me, and I immediately fell under the power and began to cry as though I were crying out all the pain. Then the man praying for me began to speak prophetic words as though God was speaking to me calling me His little child, His little boy and expressing His love. I was still crying but still "somewhat" in control. Then the man said prophetically, "You are my clever boy." When I was young and had done something cute and smart, my father would pat me on the head and say, "clever boy." Jesus was revealing that He was there when I felt alone and rejected as a child.

At that point I burst out in overwhelming wails. As I cried the Spirit of God cleansed me and restored me of 45 years of bottled up pain. After a period of time, the wailing stopped; and I was filled with peace and quiet joy. As I continued to lie on the floor, I began to make noises that sounded to my wife like

those of a little child playing happily by Himself. When I was a child of 3, my father yelled at my friend and me as we were playing. Since that moment I had been unable to play happily.

After a few more refreshing minutes,

precipitated the laughter, as in a funny thought or anything. I felt as though I would laugh right out of my face! It seems God wanted to fill me with His joy, not wanting to leave me empty after having done spiritual surgery on my



my wife and I got up and left the prayer room. The thought came to me, "The Father loves me." Before my experience I would have automatically believed that my own thinking had produced that thought, but now I believed it was the Holy Spirit speaking. I fell to my knees. As my wife prayed for me, I fell to my knees. I then fell flat on the ground and within seconds began to laugh hysterically, rolling on the floor with laughter. The joy was "unspeakable and full of glory." There was nothing that

soul, and having removed all kinds of garbage.

I felt a mighty cleansing by the Holy Spirit as a result. I know God has done an inner healing in me. I am amazed that He loves me so deeply and would reach out to reveal Himself to me. All I want to do is live for Him as never before!

God bless you,  
*Pastor Peter B.*  
*Aylmer, ON, Canada*



# Australian Evangelist Sees Creative Miracles

A fifteen-year-old youth in Auckland, New Zealand was on his way to kill someone when he was apprehended by a supernatural phenomenon. Al Furey saw a divine light enveloping a man who was worshipping the Lord in a church. He wandered into the church meeting awestruck, heard the gospel message and committed his life to Christ that evening. Amazingly his mother came to the same church service and was also changed by hearing the gospel. A week later, Al's brother was healed of an incurable medical condition. These were formative experiences in Al's life that introduced him to the supernatural power of God



and prepared him for the work of the ministry to which he has been called.

Today Al travels extensively across the world preaching the gospel and encouraging local churches. Recently Al spent five weeks in Toronto bringing fresh enthusiasm and a spirit of faith to our nightly renewal meetings.

Throughout the years, Al has seen the Lord heal many people of cancer and other diseases. He has seen blind eyes opened and hearing restored to the deaf. He has also seen the lame walk and the Lord perform remarkable creative miracles. On a recent trip to Cuba, a man

was healed suddenly of Alzheimer's disease, and on another occasion Al witnessed the Lord completely recreate a person's lung.

Al has also witnessed two extraordinary resurrections, one in Tijuana, Mexico and the other in San Diego, California. In San Diego a woman had actually died in the meeting and was being resuscitated by paramedics. During the ordeal the heart monitor recorded a "flat line," no heartbeat, and the doctors pronounced her dead. After several people prayed intensely for the woman, she came back to life and recovered.

The renewal has had a profound influence on Al's life bringing him more deeply into the presence of Father God. When asked about the renewal movement, Al commented, "I prefer to call it 'God's Spirit being poured out.' It's not just a group of people or a movement. The River of God flows from the throne of God regardless of philosophy or religious boundaries. I don't think it's going to stop. The Holy Spirit is still moving on others and on me. God is bringing me into an ever-increasing experiential understanding of the Father's love. God's love is so freely flowing in my life that it has taken all the fight out of praying and having to perform." Al likens soaking in the presence of God to being marinated. "It's important that we learn how to wait in the presence of God as the disciples were instructed to do by Jesus before His ascension." (Luke 24:49)

The Holy Spirit continues to abide in him and his wife, Kathy, and their three adult children who have also been affected by the wonderful presence of Jesus as well. "We minister all over North

America and from South America to Sri Lanka, and we have seen God's Spirit touch all groups of people."

Al believes in helping take a church from where they are to where they need to go. He stresses that he doesn't come to churches with a certain agenda to enact, but he believes that his role is to facilitate the building of the local church. "I'm not interested in being independent from the local body of believers I have been sent to. My role is to support and encourage them and help them fulfill their calling as a church."

Al Furey will return to TACF in October to teach at the School of Ministry and conduct another week of renewal meetings.✈

— Report by Paul Ababio


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**SOAKING  
IN HIS  
PRESENCE,  
MINISTERING  
TO THE POOR**



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HEIDI BAKER

**M**

any people have asked us, how do you survive and sustain revival? How do you grow in intimacy with the Lord and stay focused on Jesus when the needs of the poor press in on you each day? Before 1997 I would have answered that question differently. I began preaching when I was sixteen years old and have always known that I was called to the poor. When I met Rolland in 1978, our first conversation was about missions. His parents and grandparents had been missionaries. Since our marriage in 1980 we have served in Indonesia, the streets of London and in Hong Kong for four years with Jackie Pullinger. Through a lot of hard work, we helped plant three churches and the first Bible school in China.

While we were still in Hong Kong, we read about the war in Mozambique in an





article in *Time Magazine*. When I heard about the poor there, I said to Rolland, "Let's go there." When we finally arrived in January of '95 it was to an orphanage where children had been left to themselves. They were behaving like animals, defecating on the floors. We had never seen such filth. After a few months of working with them, the children became Christians, but we were growing very tired of our missionary life after eighteen years of hard work. We were then overseeing two churches and 300 children, but we felt like quitting because the pressures of ministry were so great.

## IMMOBILIZED IN TORONTO

So in 1996 Rolland and I, desperately hungry for God, went to Toronto. The church that had furnished the largest portion of our support threatened to remove it if we went there, but we felt the Lord saying that we had to go. In Toronto, the Lord broke us, healed us and filled us. For the first time in my Christian life, I felt loved and accepted by Father God for who I was and not for

what I did.

I had been preaching since I was born again as a teenager, and being a type A, driven person, the concept of resting and soaking in God was not at all appealing to me. I thought committed, Spirit-filled Christians always worked hard for the King and His Kingdom. I spent ten years in formal theological training, earning a Ph.D. in systematic theology at King's College, University of London. I thought the more committed I was to Jesus, the faster I would go and that only less committed Christians rested and took days off.

During one week at TACF everything changed. John Arnott was preaching about the weight of the glory and the anointing. Suddenly I felt heavy and ended up stuck to the floor in the morning service, unable to move. It was as if I was being cradled in the loving arms of the Father. He soothed away all the years of exhaustion as I rested close to His heart. I could hear His voice clearly, and felt affirmed in His intense love and acceptance of me. After midnight Betty, the security guard, announced that it was time for everyone to go home. I was

worried at this point because I could not even lift my little finger.

The Lord began teaching me life changing lessons that night. He told me I could do nothing in my own strength and nothing without the Body of Christ. He told me that He would send an anointed servant to help me, and that she was just as anointed as any person who stood behind the pulpit. Betty Richards, who was a security guard for the conference, came by and sweetly asked me how I was doing. I told her I could not move, and she lovingly had me carried out of the building. We have been wonderful friends ever since.

Rolland helped me back into the church the next morning. Again I was stuck to the floor all morning and evening. This went on for seven days! I learned more about the Lord, His nature and His priorities in those seven days than in ten years of academic theology. Ephesians 6 came alive to me. I did not have any desire to eat that week. I needed help to even get a drink of water or go to the hotel. I used to try to control things. Now I realized it was all about dying to self and being filled with the Holy Spirit. This could only happen as I soaked in His presence, and that takes time.

You can't work your way into a revival. You can't strive or plan your way into church growth. There is no way to force God's hand. It is as we lay down our life that we find it. I believe that God allowed me to be helpless so I could learn sheer dependence on Him. When we strive to do things in our wisdom and strength, we may accomplish something, but we always fall short of God's plans.

In Richard Foster's book on prayer he describes the prayer of relinquishment. Although he does not use the term soaking, I believe he means the same thing. He explains that at first our will is in a struggle with God's will; we

demand, we pout, we beg. We want instant solutions and we pray manipulative prayers. As we learn to soak in God's presence, we enter into a grace-filled place where we release our own will and flow into the will of the Father. I believe that it is in soaking prayer that we move from striving and manipulating to releasing our lives and ministries into the arms of the Father.

Soaking is embracing the easy yoke. Jesus says in Matthew 11:29-30, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." As I lie down, I find that His burden is light

"You can't work your way into a revival. You can't strive or plan your way into church growth. There is no way to force God's hand. It is as we lay down our life that we find it. I believe that God allowed me to be helpless so I could learn sheer dependence on Him."

and find my soul's rest even in the intensity of a revival. There is an almost universal belief, as Dallas Willard puts it, in "the immense difficulty of being a real Christian." G.K. Chesterson expresses it this way: "Christianity has not so much been tried and found wanting, as it has been found difficult and left untried." It is, however, a different thing to find rest in Christ Jesus. In soaking prayer we meet grace and are fully conformed to the Father's will.

## THE REAL FRUIT OF SOAKING

As our ministry began to grow, I found the need for soaking prayer increasing daily. Our house and office



are connected. The demands of the children, community, churches, staff and pastors are never ending. After twenty years of full-time missionary service, I am learning to say "no" to the crowds and "yes" to the voice of my Father beckoning me to come away with Him and rest in the presence of Jesus. Daily I retreat to my room at different times throughout my busy schedule to soak in His presence. I worship, wait and listen for His voice. As He speaks to my heart and gives rest to my soul, I find the wisdom I need to continue in the ministry before me. I often wait in silence and simply am myself before God. Soaking in His presence gives me His rich fullness. It is the place where I rest in the loving arms of God and find His acceptance and my peace in Him.

Rolland and I teach the children in our orphanage to soak in God's presence, too. We ask them to lie down and wait for Jesus. There have been several meetings where the divine presence of the Lord has come and no one could stand. The children began to see visions. One little girl saw a big, white cross in the prayer hut. Another little boy saw a lake of fire, and then he

saw Jesus take him by the hand, and they leapt over the fire and stood on the other side. Children who were once severely abused often see God lifting them up to sit on His lap.

Since the Lord touched us in Toronto and we learned to soak in His presence, Iris Ministries went from four churches in 1997 to 620 churches in Mozambique, over 100 churches in Malawi, and 63 churches in South Africa by January of 2001. We are caring for over 1,000 abandoned and orphaned children. There are approximately 1,200 full-time pastors in our ministry. We now run medical clinics, schools, a Bible College, eight farms, countrywide food distribution, and host 2,000-plus visitors per year. This renewal has helped us learn that abiding in Jesus is the secret of real fruitfulness. ➔



*Heidi and Rolland Baker are founders of Iris Ministries, a ministry to the poor in Mozambique, Africa. You may contact the Bakers through their web site at [www.irismin.org](http://www.irismin.org) or by mail in North America, Iris Ministries, 1900 Via Sage, San Clemente, CA 92673 USA.*



# THE PATHWAY TO MORE OF HIM

(Adapted by permission from Chapter 3 of *WASTED ON JESUS*)





J I M G O L L

**C**ontemplative prayer is about intimacy with God. Although in practice it goes far beyond methodologies, at heart it is really quite basic. Contemplative prayer, or what we call soaking in the River of God's presence, is about our setting apart regular time exclusively for intimate encounter with the Lord.

Unfortunately many Christians today, although desperately hungry for intimacy with God, get nervous at the mention of words like contemplation, meditation, and quietness, not to mention the ugly word discipline because of their modern association with New Age and occult practice. So it is important that we clearly distinguish between biblical contemplative prayer and its pagan counterfeits.

So how do we discern that? To start with, Christian contemplative prayer is nothing like any New Age technique so don't allow the term, "contemplative prayer," to throw you. Christian contemplative prayer is a biblical concept which implies "being still and

# THE PATHWAY TO MORE OF HIM

knowing that He is God,” (Psalm 46:10), meditating or reflecting on the Lord so that praying doesn’t become self-centered or man-centered but focused on Jesus.

It is a journey down a road less traveled strewn with the bodies of martyrs and other saints who were excommunicated or subjected to other forms of church “discipline” simply because they sought deep personal communion with God. It is a path filled with people whose hearts have been captured by the Lord Jesus Christ who have given themselves to becoming very heavenly minded in order that they might become of great earthly good.

## WHAT IS CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

So then what is contemplative prayer? It’s very hard to adequately describe it in words because it is experiential. Any of you who have ever had a deeply moving emotional or spiritual experience know how difficult it is to explain it to someone else. One of the reasons the experiences of contemplatives have been misunderstood is that they are indescribable. It is one thing to experience the grace of God’s intimate nearness; it is another to be able to communicate it. Sometimes someone who truly has a contemplative experience with God expresses it in a way that upsets the more conservative culture of the church and society. Such a person is often labeled a heretic when in reality he or she is simply expressing himself clumsily.

The language of the Christian contemplatives is not doctrinal or theological language. It is the language of the bedchamber, of intimacy, of love; hence, hyperbole and exaggeration abound. As our contemplative inner experience with God deepens, it may become increasingly difficult to speak

about. It may be so precious and so sublime that it becomes as holy to us as it is to God. It is the language of the heart, too deep for words. In the end, we are reduced to the simple confession of Walter Hilton: Contemplation is “love on fire with devotion.”

Contemplative prayer immerses us into the silence of God and helps us let

“Contemplative prayer immerses us into the silence of God and helps us let go of control of our own life that leans on the props of this world for fulfillment. It is communion with God that increases our awareness of His presence.”

go of control of our own life that leans on the props of this world for fulfillment. It is communion with God that increases our awareness of His presence. As we become more aware of His presence we are more willing to submit to the Holy Spirit’s cleansing work of purification bringing us to a place of surrender.

Contemplative prayer is an exercise of resting in God, which fosters the realization that God lives in you. It is not a suspension of all activity, but saying yes to God’s presence. It produces in you all the fruit of the Holy Spirit. As He immerses you in His healing love, it helps you to love God for His own sake and then carry the love you experience in prayer into every area of your life.

The spiritual consolation you will receive from direct contact with the Holy Spirit during times of contemplative or soaking prayer can be so satisfying that it can lead to spiritual gluttony where you seek only the pleasure of the experience rather than God Himself. Understand that the Lord

will lead you into a balance between the inner life and the outward, active life of servanthood. Contemplative prayer creates intimacy with God that will automatically fuel your service to others leading them to long to know Him, too.

## THE ROAD TO CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

While there are no hard and fast rules, generally speaking there are three progressive steps or phases that you will pass through on your way to the region of contemplative prayer. Many of the contemplative writers in Church history have identified these progressive steps as recollection, the prayer of quiet and spiritual ecstasy.

The first phase, recollection, means



allowing the Holy Spirit to bring cleansing and healing into your soul. It means learning to let go of all competing distractions and focus neither on the past including your guilt or woundedness nor on the future including guidance, words and unfulfilled promises, but on God in the “here and now.” Recollection means learning to follow Simon Peter’s injunction to cast all our anxiety on Him

because He cares for us. (I Peter 5:7)

As you begin to rest in the Lord, ask the Holy Spirit to make Jesus real to you. Close everything off; and because He really is present, it is OK to picture Him there with you. God created the human imagination, and utilizing it in contemplation is not only appropriate, but also the best use we can make of it. This is not the same as New Age imaging but simply practicing the presence of God.

If frustration and distractions attempt to press in, we should not follow them. Instead, we should lift them up to the Father, let Him care for them, and allow His "Peace, be still" to silence our noisy hearts. This does not come easily or quickly, but simply recognizing this fact is a step in the right direction. Another

"As we grow accustomed to the unifying grace of recollection, we are ushered into a second step in Contemplative Prayer, what Teresa of Avila calls, "The prayer of quiet." We have through recollection put away all obstacles of the heart, all distractions of the mind, all vacillations of the will. Divine graces of love and adoration wash over us like ocean waves. ...At the center of our being we are hushed. ...There is stillness to be sure, but it is a listening stillness. Something deep inside us has been awakened and brought to attention. Our spirit is on tiptoe-alert and listening. There is an inward steady gaze of the heart sometimes called beholding the Lord. We bask in the warmth of His presence...

As we wait before the Lord, He

revelations God wants you to receive. It is not an activity that you undertake, but a work that God does upon you. Ecstasy is contemplative prayer taken to the "nth" degree. This step is quite rare. Even the recognized authorities in the contemplative life found it to be a fleeting experience rather than a staple diet.

So what is spiritual ecstasy like? Richard Foster quoted Theodore Brackel, a Dutch Pietist in the 17th century who recorded as best he could his own experience. "I was...transported into such a state of joy and my thoughts were so drawn upward that, seeing God with the eyes of my soul, I felt...God's being and at the same time I was so filled with joy, peace and sweetness, that I cannot express it. With my spirit I was entirely in heaven for two or three days."

In contemplative prayer, the goal should never be to "achieve" spiritual ecstasy, or even to seek any particular kind of experience or spiritual "manifestation." The sole purpose is simply to be with God in that central place of quiet in your spirit, where He remains your all in all. It is the place where you live to worship and adore Him, waiting patiently and humbly for His voice, and basking in the warm glow of His eternal love.

Take Jesus' arm and let Him be your escort as He walks you down this ancient, less-traveled pathway. Your journey began when you started soaking in the River. Press in for more. ➔



positive stride forward occurs when we recognize our inability to conquer these distractions in our own strength. That creates in us a necessary sense of dependence on God.

Step two is called the prayer of quiet. Richard Foster, in his book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, Harper San Francisco 1992, gives a beautiful description of phase two, the prayer of quiet.

graciously gives us a teachable spirit."

## THE FINAL STAGE

The final step in contemplative prayer is spiritual ecstasy. The word "ecstasy" is derived from the Greek word ekstasis, which is often translated in the New Testament as "trance." Spiritual ecstasy is an activity initiated by the Holy Spirit where one is "caught up" into a realm of the Spirit so as to receive visions and



*Jim Goll is founder of Ministry To The Nations. He is an author and travels extensively, teaching and imparting the power of intercession, prophetic ministry and life in the Spirit.*



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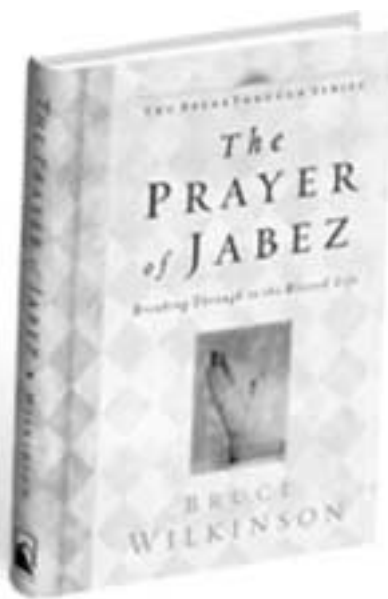
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## THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

*Bruce Wilkinson*

For 30 years Bruce Wilkinson has been praying one prayer every day, the prayer of an Israelite man in the Old Testament named Jabez. "Oh that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain." (I Chronicles 4:10) The Bible tells us that God granted Jabez what he requested. Jabez who received his name because his birth caused his mother great pain



overcame his "bad start" to experience a blessing that more than reversed the curse in his life. Bruce Wilkinson's own experience is that this little prayer has transformed his own life and ministry. His teaching in this little book draws on those experiences to release God's blessing in the life of the reader. You will be grateful to Bruce for his honesty and willingness to give away what God has given him.

## CATCH THE FIRE 7

*TACF*



The eagerly awaited latest release in the Catch the Fire series is here and will not disappoint! The second CD from the recording partnership between Kingsway Music and our own Harvest Song is among the best quality live recordings I have heard this year. The production carries the intimacy and passion of the worship experience at TACF. The creative teamwork between the TACF worship teams has mixed a powerful blend of old and new material in a way which gives everything fresh life. Toronto's hallmark is the drawing together of powerful worship songs from around the world and adding songs written here to help facilitate the listener's receiving a unique encounter with God. "Catch the Fire 7" is an album that is a demonstration of God's love and power and a catalyst in your worship experience.

## HOSTING THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Ché Ahn*

Maybe you have longed to spend an hour with leaders of revivals from around the world, hearing their wisdom and receiving an impartation of the

principles and anointing they have received from experiencing revival. While that is not possible for many of us now, here is a book that brings together what twelve revival leaders have to say in one volume.

Each chapter contains priceless insights imparting understanding about how to make the Holy Spirit feel at home. You will not find methods because hospitality is not about techniques but about sharing the treasures of your heart. That is what these authors, led and edited by Ché Ahn, have been doing. Now their revival hospitality is available for you to share. Each reader will find a chapter where the wisdom is familiar and comfortable, but he will also be challenged to hear what the Holy Spirit wants to teach us through other revival settings too. None of us has a full picture of what the Holy Spirit finds welcoming, but this book gives us much wisdom as we are praying for more of Him!





## # Fresh h

**I**n May of 1998, my 20 month-old son, Isaac, tragically died because of an accident in our home. My husband and our three surviving children had truly gone through the worst devastation a family could endure. In September of the same year, I received an invitation from a friend to attend a workshop for the Ministry Team at TACF. I was somewhat surprised by the prompting of the Holy Spirit to attend, but I went along and found myself submitting my application to be a part of the team. I wondered, "Lord, shouldn't I be on the receiving end of ministry, rather than the vessel you would choose to work through?"

When I interviewed with Valerie Gillam, the ministry team co-ordinator, she allowed me to serve on the condition that I would let her know if I were reaching a crisis point and needed to step back for awhile. I agreed.

I began serving on the ministry team at the Healing Conference in 1998; and whether it was one evening a week or at any of the conferences that I had the privilege to attend, I never left TACF without receiving more than I felt I gave. He taught me so much more through those times just soaking and praying with the team before a service. His love and presence were so evident to me that I could feel His very breath touch my cheek as He would whisper words of healing to my soul. I cherished the times I would meet with the Father at TACF and was so overwhelmed with the revelation of His love for me. I remember times during worship soaking in His presence where He would speak to me in a vision or a word. I would be transported right into the Father's lap, never wanting to leave that place of safety and refuge.

You can't imagine how special these times were to me, and then after He was done ministering to me, He would ask me to go and give away all that He had just released in me. The Lord would just continue to blow me away week after week. His faithfulness never wavered. The teaching of those He brought to TACF during those times each carried a specific gift for me

and served as pillars in my healing process.

I am forever changed as a result of the loss of Isaac, but because of the never-ending love and devotion of our Heavenly Father, my journey of healing has been dramatically touched by the lives He has used through the outpouring at TACF.

I recently asked the Lord why He chose me to be a part of the ministry team at TACF during such an explosive time in my life. This is what I felt He said, "Michele, it was there that I knew you would commit to meet with me so that I could pour in my healing. Being a part of the ministry team was secondary; it was more important to have your undivided attention and complete dependency upon me during those times. "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted." What a faithful God have I.

Sincerely in Christ,  
*Michele Edwards*  
 Orangeville, ON, Canada

**I** visited TACF two years ago after Christmas in 1999. I had no idea what the Lord wanted to do in my heart, but I desperately wanted Him. I didn't yet know I could relax and enjoy the Father's love, and during the first service He began to break me of my expectations. I was so set on getting blessed that it inhibited me from receiving.

While I was receiving prayer, the gentleman on the prayer team who laid his hands on me stopped and looked at me and told me to "relax and receive." That blew me away! I didn't know how to receive! I had never asked the Lord to teach me how to receive from Him. He began teaching me how to receive from Him by showing me the importance of receiving from Him.

The next night after the service, I went up to the front of the



## F i r e



building and lay down on the carpet. The Lord began to show me all the past hurts I had projected onto Him and something in me broke. I wept. Things I had no idea were issues were coming up and being purged. Then the Father showed me His love. He spoke to me of His love for me. As I was lying there on the floor crying, several people came by and prayed over me and spoke the exact words the Lord spoke to me.

The revelation of the Father's love is precious and necessary for the body of Christ today. Thanks for setting your religious agendas aside to allow the sheep access to the Good Shepherd.

*Ed L.*

*Marquette, Michigan, USA*

**I** was born again and filled with the Spirit in 1981. In 1990, my family and I experienced a time of disappointment and some hurt associated with a church split here in the UK. I was unaware that this hurt was still a problem, but I began to lose my first love for the Lord. I was still "charismatic," still went to church, still studied the Bible, but the fire had gone. I wouldn't admit it and reasoned my way around it by saying that I was going "deeper" with God. Isn't the human heart deceptive?

My wife, Linda, attended a conference in Brighton in 1996 where John Arnott ministered on the "Father's Blessing." She came back different - closer to God and with his "strange" phenomenon of her hands shaking in times of worship and prayer. I was suspicious of this and read a lot of stuff that criticized these and other manifestations associated with the "Toronto Blessing." I thought, "This may be of God, but do we need all this?"

In June 2000, our church in Reading had a joint meeting with another church in Slough at which Randy Clark was speaking. I felt my barriers go up, but I went anyway. I ended up

going to three of Randy's meetings. I began to sense God's love and presence in a new way as people around me were healed and touched by the Spirit. Then my hands started shaking!

Over the next days and weeks, my life changed dramatically. The Sunday after the Randy Clark meetings, I went forward for prayer at our church and found myself flat on the floor. I had a picture of Jesus standing over me, bending down and touching me and healing me from all the hurt from 1990. I forgave those involved and gave it all to Him. On another occasion I was so overwhelmed by God's love that I was weeping while driving to work!

On many occasions God has spoken to me, and I sense His presence in my life far more than in the "early days" in 1981. God is so gracious. He has not only restored me but also given me a double portion. Linda and I both have received a call to intercessory prayer and worship and seeking His presence. At last I have discovered who I am. I want to go forward, receiving more of the Holy Spirit and giving away the love He pours into me.

*Greg Stevens*

*Reading, UK*

We invite readers to send in testimonies of 600 words or less about how you have been touched by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Toronto.

Please furnish your name, address, e-mail address and telephone number. Testimonies will be edited.

E-mail your testimonies to: [mfish@tacf.org](mailto:mfish@tacf.org)

OR write to:

TACF, *Spread the Fire Magazine*  
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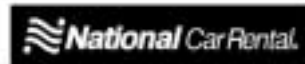
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# Conference Registration Form

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (work): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (fax): \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Code/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sorry, no child care available. Children under 13 will not be admitted. Nursing mothers excepted.*

**Freedom Conference, June 13-16, 2001**  
*Early Registration: \$125.00 CDN per person, \$175.00 CDN per couple (\$90/\$130 US)  
 After May 1st: \$145.00 CDN per person, \$200.00 CDN per couple (\$105/\$150 US)*

**The Party Is Here, July 18-21, 2001**  
*Free registration. Meal package available.*

**Releasers of Life Conference, Aug 12-17, 2001**  
*Early FULL Registration (includes lunches): \$150.00 CDN per person (\$110 US)  
 After July 1st: \$180.00 CDN per person (\$130 US)  
 Early PARTIAL Registration (no lunches): \$75.00 CDN per person (\$55 US)  
 After July 1st: \$90.00 CDN per person (\$65 US)*

**Catch The Fire, October 3-6, 2001**  
*Early Registration: \$125.00 CDN per person, \$175.00 CDN per couple (\$90/\$130 US)  
 After September 1st: \$145.00 CDN per person, \$200.00 CDN per couple (\$105/\$150 US)*

- I am a full-time pastor/elder/evangelist/missionary  
 I am a youth leader  
 I am a senior pastor      I am a worship leader

I require special arrangements for:

- wheelchair seating  
 visually impaired seating  
 I would like to have translation in \_\_\_\_\_

There is a \$25CDN per person rental charge (\$18US) for use of the headsets for each conference

Groups of 10 or more have special pricing. Please contact the office for information regarding group discounts & translation requirements.

Refunds will be made up to 30 days after the conference. Please request in writing. A cancellation fee of \$25 will be retained.

Please note that the meal plan must be ordered when you register and cannot be ordered after that point. There are no meal refunds. Meals are Wednesday to Saturday, lunch and dinner.

**PAYMENT:** Make cheques payable to:

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**NOTE:** International and post-dated cheques not accepted. International guests, please use credit card. Credit card companies charge a surtax on Canadian exchanges and exchange rates do fluctuate.

## TOTAL REGISTRATION COSTS

Freedom Conference Registration(s)		
The Party Is Here Registration(s)		<b>FREE</b>
Releasers of Life Registration(s)		<b>CALL FOR BROCHURE</b>
Catch The Fire Registration(s)		
Freedom Conference Meal Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> at \$70 <sup>CDN</sup> (52 <sup>US</sup> )	
The Party Is Here Meal Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> at \$70 <sup>CDN</sup> (52 <sup>US</sup> )	
Catch The Fire Meal Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> at \$70 <sup>CDN</sup> (52 <sup>US</sup> )	
<b>TOTAL</b>		

Card #

Expiry Date   /

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**METHODS OF REGISTRATION**

**Mail: Attention Conference Registrar**  
**Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship,**  
**272 Attwell Dr., Toronto, ON,**  
**Canada M9W 6M3**  
**Phone: (416) 674-8463**  
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**E-mail: [registration@tafc.org](mailto:registration@tafc.org)**  
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## NORTH AMERICA

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
May 16	Steve Witt	Pittsburgh, PA	Joey Garlington, Ph: 412 731 6221
May 21	Steve Witt	Akron, OH	Rick Bowser, Ph: 330 665 2227
June 3-5	Bill & Melinda Fish	Richmond, KY	Dave Bohannon, Ph: 859 624 8620
June 10	John & Carol Arnott	Stratford, ON	Phillip & Annette Tuttle, Ph: 519 273 4441, jubilee@cyg.net
June 13-16	John & Carol Arnott	Toronto, ON	TACF, Ph: 416 674 8463, Fax: 416 674 8465, mail@tacf.org
June 19-22	John & Carol Arnott	Redding, CA	Bill Johnson, Ph: 530 246 6000, Fax: 530 246 6020, G3373@aol.com
June 19-23	Peter & Heather Jackson	Toronto, ON	TACF, Ph: 416 674 8463, Fax: 416 674 8465, mail@tacf.org
June 21-24	Guy Chevreau	Washington Crossing, PA	Scott McDermott, Ph: 215 493 5080, smcd@voicenet.com
June 28-July 1	Peter & Heather Jackson	Mt. Ephraim, NJ	Bill Brendell, Ph: 856 933 2029, gladtidings@net-gate.com
July 3-7	Curtis Hinds	Toronto, ON	TACF, Ph: 416 674 8463, Fax: 416 674 8465, mail@tacf.org
July 6-8	Peter & Heather Jackson,	Frederick, MD	Paul & Cheryl Black, Ph: 301 631 0969, morelord5@aol.com
July 13-14	Ray Young	Winston-Salem, NC	Sid Brown, Ph: 336 377 2750, Sid-rroa@msn.com
July 13-15	Peter & Heather Jackson	Woodbridge, VA	Priscilla King, Ph: 703 670 0093, pkking@erols.com
July 15	Ray Young	Kernersville, NC	Ray Warren, Ph: 336 996 1160, rkw4kntc@Juno.com
July 17-21	John & Carol Arnott	Toronto, ON	TACF, Ph: 416 674 8463, Fax: 416 674 8465, mail@tacf.org
July 18-21	Peter & Heather Jackson	Toronto, ON	TACF, Ph: 416 674 8463, Fax: 416 674 8465, mail@tacf.org
July 20-22	Curtis Hinds	Ottawa, ON	Bob Poole, Ph: 613 725 0511, Bpoole@magma.ca
July 29-August 1	Peter & Heather Jackson	Salinas, CA	Bill Bolin, Ph: 831 449 0345, revbolin@aol.com
August 3-5	Peter & Heather Jackson	San Luis Obispo, CA	Rich Wilson, riverrockchurch@aol.com
August 10	Peter & Heather Jackson	Oceanside, CA	Mike Hubbard, Ph: 760 732 0262, michael411@juno.com
August 11	Peter & Heather Jackson	San Diego, CA	Peter Doakley, Ph: 858 483 8854, sdihop@netzero.com
August 12	Peter & Heather Jackson	San Diego, CA	Gary Goodell, Ph: 858 483 0101, goodvine@aol.com
August 23-26	Mary Audrey Raycroft	Missoula, MT	Carly Jo Finch, Ph: 406 542 7556, WES1CJ1@aol.com
September 14-16	Peter & Heather Jackson	Windsor, ON	Ph: 519 251 4609, homefront@on.aibn.com
September 14-16	Ian & Janice Ross	Alpena, MI	Gary & Michelle Smith, Ph: 517 354 0095, nlc@alpena.cc.mi.us
September 21-23	Peter & Heather Jackson	Detroit, MI	Peter Dresser, Ph: 248 356 5532, Fax: 248 356 6814, PDDresser@aol.com
September 22-23	Ian & Janice Ross	Detroit, MI	Peter & Lisa Dresser, Ph: 248 356 5532, PDDresser@aol.com
October 3-6	John & Carol Arnott	Toronto, ON	TACF, Ph: 416 674 8463, Fax: 416 674 8465, mail@tacf.org
October 17-21	Curtis Hinds	Beaver Falls, NY	Jack Bushey, Ph: 315 346 6888
October 20-21	Gord Grieve	Findlay, OH	Pat Romanoski, Ph: 416 424 2051, Cpromano@bright.com
October 26-28	Peter and Heather Jackson	Trafford, PA	Bill Fish, Ph: 412 372 7960, 75540. 3222@compuserve.com
November 2-3	Ray Young	Winston-Salem, NC	Sid Brown, Ph: 336 377 2750, Sid-rroa@msn.com
November 14-17	John & Carol Arnott	Toronto, ON	TACF, Ph: 416 674 8463, Fax: 416 674 8465, mail@tacf.org
November 25-28	Peter & Heather Jackson	Hartwell, GA	Gary McCurley, Ph/Fax: 706 376 1835, gmccurley@hartcom.net
December 8	John & Carol Arnott,	Washington Crossing, PA	Ph: 215 493 5080, Fax: 215 493 7981, info@crossingumc.org

# ONAL ITINERARY

## EUROPE

Date	Speaker	Location	Contact
May 5-6	Bill & Melinda Fish	Derbyshire, ENGLAND	Chris Cooper, Ph: 01 773 873 210, Chrcooper@btinternet.com
June 1-3	Mary Audrey Raycroft	London, ENGLAND	Rick Oldland, Ph: 020 8288 8866
June 3-4	Ian Ross	Glasgow, SCOTLAND	Kevin Peat, Ph: 44 1355 241 578, KMPeat@aol.com
June 5, 8-10	Ian Ross	Belper, Derbyshire, ENGLAND	Rob Charles, Ph: 177 382 7414
June 8-9	Curtis Hinds	Glasgow, SCOTLAND	Kevin Peat, Ph: 44 1355 241 578, KMPeat@aol.co
June 7-10	Mary Audrey Raycroft	Llanelli, SOUTH WALES	Eunice Risbridger, Ph: 01 325 780 735, RayRis@aol.com
June 10	Curtis Hinds	Fraserburgh, SCOTLAND	Mick Reynolds, Ph: 013 4651 4673, Mick.Reynolds@quista.net
June 13-15	Curtis Hinds	Dundee, SCOTLAND	Graham Adams, Ph: 01382 22 9996, Ga2@ntlworld.com
June 13-17	Mary Audrey Raycroft	Llandudno, NORTH WALES	Eunice Risbridger, Ph: 01 325 780 735, RayRis@aol.com
June 16-18	Curtis Hinds	Edinburgh, SCOTLAND	Paul Nicklejohn, Ph: 013155 81786, Paulnj21@talk21.com
June 19-21	Curtis Hinds	Paisley, SCOTLAND	Tom Paton, tom.jen.paton@lineone.net
June 28-July 2	John & Carol Arnott	Oxfordshire, ENGLAND	Steve Thomas, Ph: 01 865 793 239, office@occ.org.uk
July 5-8	John & Carol Arnott	Den Haag, HOLLAND	Erald van der Ridder, Ph 31 70 427 9872, berea.denhaag@wxs.nl
October 1-8	Guy Chevreau	Deggendorf, Bavaria, GERMANY	Helmut Klaes, Ph: 0991 285833, HKlaes@t-online.de
October 12-14	Curtis Hinds	Orpington, UK	Trevor Payne, Ph: 44 208 462 5963
October 12-14	Peter & Heather Jackson	Blandford, ENGLAND	B. Kilpatrick, Ph 44 258 450 689, kilpatrick@gatheringplace.freeserve.co.uk
October 20-21	Peter & Heather Jackson	Tonbridge, ENGLAND	Rupert Foxwell, Ph: 44 1732 358 535, Info@churchontheway.org.uk
October 22-28	Guy Chevreau	Ludensheid, GERMANY	Walter Heidenreich, Ph: 02 351 358 039

## AFRICA & PACIFIC RIM

Date	Speaker	Location	Contact
May 10-22	Ian Ross	Maputo, MOZAMBIQUE	Rolland & Heidi Baker, Ph: 258 82 303 067
May 17-20	Harvest Team	Sydney, AUSTRALIA	Lindsay Johnstone, Ph: 61 2 9315 7412, lindsayj@webtime.com.au
May 18-June 3	Guy Chevreau	Maputo, MOZAMBIQUE	Rolland & Heidi Baker, Ph: 25 81 330 0293, hbaker6999@aol.com
May 25-27	Harvest Team	Sydney, AUSTRALIA	John Davies, johndav@netspace.net.au
June 6-10	Peter & Heather Jackson	Canberra, AUSTRALIA	Roz Lazar, Ph: 61 2 6254 5644, lazar@cyberone.com.au
April 21-22	Harvest Team	Auckland, NEW ZEALAND	Robin Horn, Ph: 09 2777 986, r.horn@watchdog.net.nz
April 27-29	Harvest Team	Tauranga, NEW ZEALAND	Graeme Johansen, Ph: 0757 940 000, johansenrevival@clear.net.nz
May 24-27	Peter & Heather Jackson	Palmerston North, NZ	Jono Yurner, Ph: 646 357 4377, Pncf@xtra.co.nz
June 1-3	Peter & Heather Jackson	Tauranga, NEW ZEALAND	Graeme Johansen, Ph: 07 579 4000, johansenrevival@clear.net.nz
July 8-15	Melinda Fish	Jinja, UGANDA	Chris & Grace Kaliisa, Ph: 256 41 448 127
September 10-15	John & Carol Arnott	Curitiba, PR. BRAZIL	Michael Piper, Ph: 011 55 41 367 8711, ccc@bbs2.sul.com.br
September 16-24	John & Carol Arnott	Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA	Carlos Mraida, Ph: 011 54 11 4302 3346, iglesiadelcentro@sion.com

# Upcoming Events at TACF 2001

Freedom Conference  
June 13-16th

John & Carol Arnott, Claudio Freidzon, Sergio Scataglini

Leaders' School of Ministry  
July 2-27th

Jack & Trisha Frost, The Harvest Team, Mark Virkler,  
Ivan & Isabel Allum, Bob Edwards,  
John & Carol Arnott

The Party is Here  
July 18-21st

Trevor & Sharon Baker, Georgian & Winnie Banov, Peter  
& Heather Jackson, Peter Dresser

Releasers of Life Equipping School  
August 12-17th

Mary Audrey Raycroft, Dotty Schmitt,  
Steve Witt, Pat Cocking, Mark Virkler & others

Rodney Howard-Browne  
September 10-14th

Partners in Harvest  
October 1-2nd

Catch the Fire  
October 3-6th

John & Carol Arnott, Heidi Baker, David Campbell,  
Melinda Fish & others

Healing Conference  
November 14-17th

Pastors' Conference  
January 16-19th, 2002

# How To Get To TACF

When You're Here –

**Accommodations:** Please refer to the advertisements in this issue of *Spread The Fire* for our recommended hotels and Bed & Breakfast homes.

**Transportation:**

**National Car Rental** provides a discount for guests of TACF. You can contact them at 1-800-CAR-RENT or on the web at [www.nationalcar.com](http://www.nationalcar.com). Be sure to quote them our Contract ID #3710399.

**Roots Car Rental** also offers discounted rates to our visitors. Their contact numbers are:

Tel. 416-675-2221, Fax 416-675-9354. Please ask to speak with Winston Watson.

**Translation:** Translation headsets are available with prior arrangements made through the TACF sound department.

For airline discounts and up-to-date travel information – Please either visit our web site at [www.tacf.org](http://www.tacf.org) (Travel & Schedules), or contact our receptionist at 416-674-8463.

Meeting Times –

**Revival Services:**

7:30 pm Tuesday thru Friday

7:00 pm Saturday

10:30am Sunday Family Service

7:00pm Healing Service

**Morning Meetings:**

10:30 am Wednesday thru Friday

