



TEACHING: The Times They Are A-Changin'

by Mike Flynn

For 25 years I have had the great privilege of leading over 500 conferences in 32 states and 12 countries (several places on multiple occasions). As I come into a new city/country I usually ask the Lord, "What are You doing in this place? What's going on here?" When He answers, I try to tailor the nature of the event to take those things into consideration. When I return to the same place the question is "What are You doing here now?"

I don't consider myself a very astute observer of the world scene, but even someone as average as I can notice some patterns and dynamics. As we prepare to enter a new year, I want to share some of this with you.

Dissatisfaction. People are tiring of business as usual. This goes beyond the current economic difficulties, international conflicts, and the like. We were created for an intense relationship with the God of the universe, but that has become normalized into a pattern that is proving to be inadequate. You can see this in the youth. Thousands of young people have given up on church but not on Christ. They are flocking to demanding lifestyles such as the International House of Prayer where they spend many hours a week in prayer. In addition there are millions of true believers who don't bother going to church anymore. One respondent to a questionnaire after a recent FreshWind event said: "Having had much exposure to the charismatic movement in the 70's, it was a delight for me to see the Spirit fall on so many people imparting the weight and wonder only the Spirit

can give. I heard so many people say things like 'why haven't I heard about this before?' or 'Why isn't this being preached in our church?'" I think this means that we need to get back to the Biblical basics and live them out with intentional vigor.

Shift of center of Christianity. It is clear that Christianity's vigor has shifted from the West to the Developing world. There we see astounding church growth, we see miracles and other evidences of the Spirit's power, we see persecution, and we see vitality that is wonderful to behold. By the way, these people are not simplistic: there are more bishops in the Anglican developing world with earned doctorates than in the US. These people are not inferior in intelligence. They have learned that the faith is real because they have lived it and seen its benefits, unlike many in the West.

Its been said many times that we need the mission field more than it needs us. When we go on missions we benefit from their amazing vigor. God's point in that, I think, is that we bring that vigor back home and share it here.

Hunger. More and more, people who want to be serious about the Gospel are getting hungry to experience the things the Gospel says are available to believers. Healing the sick, affecting the weather, enjoying divine provision, controlling the demonic—these are meant to be the norm.

Determination. I see it in some pastors; I see it in the youth; I see it in church members who know there is more to be experienced. Determination is rising up and it is producing those behaviors that will allow the Lord to respond to them. Pastors have given up competing with each other for new members and are gathering together to come into deep unity as they plead with the Lord for their communities.

Committed believers are realizing that the ministry belongs to them as much as to the clergy. "Train us and deploy us!" is being heard more often. By-passing infrastructure is becoming more common. We're realizing that we don't have to have buildings, budgets, committees, and congresses to do God's work. Committed believers can gather together, listen to the Lord, and step out in radical dependence on Him to effect real change.

In September I did a conference for an alive church on Sullivan's Island, SC. A little before the event I recommended that their worship team learn Misty Edwards' song "You won't Relent." They ended up doing it 3 times during the conference. It became the rallying cry. Look at the words:

You won't relent
Until You have it all
My heart is Yours

I'll set You as a seal upon my heart
As a seal upon my arm
For there is love that is as strong as death
Jealousy demanding as the grave
And many waters cannot quench this love

Come be the fire inside of me
Come be the flame upon my heart
Come be the fire inside of me
Until You and I are one

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FreshWind Scheduled Events

DATE	PLACE	EVENT	CONTACT
Sept. 23-26	Holy Cross Epis, Church Charleston SC	(undecided)	BdOwens@ holycross.com
Oct. 15-17	St. David's Anglican Ch, Venetia PA	(undecided)	ddavidwilson@ gmail.com
Oct. 22-23	Diocese of Toronto	Prayer Conference: God Yearning to Hear	tonyday@ sympatico.com
Nov. 5-7	Minneapolis MN	More Love More Power	betsylee@ prayventures.org

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Hearing the song as Misty does it is very powerful. My point: God's determination awaits ours.

Sacrifice. To get radical about God takes sacrifice. Sacrifice and vigor just go together. I would encourage you to count the cost, as Jesus recommended. But having counted the cost, I would encourage you to pay it. Every cost I have paid has ended up in benefits that have far outweighed the price. (By the way: are you on unemployment? Make sure you tithe on your unemployment check and any other money that comes in. That's the fastest way to let God get you a new job.)

Now don't make me convince you about faith being willful; I've done that in several books and countless talks. It's Nike time, folks: JUST DO IT! Don't wait until you feel it or think it's a good idea.

There's much more to be said about the current times. But I encourage you to dwell on the above matters and see if you come to a point of action.

A Challenging Prayer:

Dear Lord:
Help me to spread your fragrance wherever I go.
Flood my soul with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a

radiance of yours.

Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you, O Lord!

Stay with me, then I shall begin to shine as you do; so to shine as to be a light to others.

The light, O Lord, will be all from you; none of it will be mine; it will be your shining on others through me.

Let me thus praise you in the way you love best, by shining on those around me.

Let me preach you without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you.

Amen

--John Henry Newman (One of Mother Teresa's favorite prayers, said every day by her Missionaries of Charity)

Bits of 2010 Feedback

•Dear Betsy...I cannot say enough good things about the More Love More Power conference. I feel it was one of the best (if not the best) I have experienced in a long time. Having had much exposure to the charismatic movement in the 70's, it was a delight for me to see the Spirit fall on so many people imparting the weight and wonder only the Spirit can give. I heard so many people say

Christmas Flynn Book Promo

We encourage you to give Mike's books as Christmas gifts. They have a good record of changing readers' lives.

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things like "why haven't I heard about this before?" or "Why isn't this being preached in our church?". I was so impressed with how Mike "introduced" the Holy Spirit to the conference....so much gentleness mixed with a good dose of laughter, shaken together with the Power of the Spirit. WOW. The end result was many, many lives touched (including mine) and people walking away with the anointing and power to be a blessing to others. Excellent job all the way around. Personally for me, it was a privilege to be on the Prayer Team... it was the most exciting and anointed ministry time I have ever experienced. Thank You Betsy (and Mike) for this opportunity. --Blessings, Maureen S.

•Dear Rev. Flynn, I have written this letter to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued commitment to equip the ministers in Church of Uganda, particularly in the area of Healing and deliverance. When you came to us most recently in November 2009 you trained a total of 450 clergy and laity from all over the province. Thank you very much. I trust that what the Lord has started to do in empowering our church with His gifts, He will bring to perfection. Please

join me in my prayer for this ministry to reach all the grass root churches in the province. Also pray for next year's follow-up training in this very vital ministry.

Most Rev. Henry Luke Orombi,
Archbishop, Church of Uganda

•Fr. Flynn---thank-you so much for giving so liberally of your time, talent, gifts, and wisdom at our healing weekend here in los alamos. this was life changing for me. don't know yet how it will look, but this was a major life event for me. God be praised! --love in Christ, jean s.

•Your team once again did a mighty work throughout the weekend - we have heard many "well done" comments about your ministry.

Blessings in Christ! --Shirley
(New Wineskins for Global Mission)

•Mike, thank you for the wonderful weekend. The people were very animated and we had a wonderful time of prayer and ministry yesterday. I went to lunch at a friend of ours who received prayer and she said she was healed instantly when she received prayer. Wow. The church was very excited. Thanks be to God.

(Rev) Brandon C.

•Your conference at Holy Cross on Sullivan's Island 9-23 through 9-25 was life changing for me and I thank you and thank God for your ministry. God is God indeed! --Martha S.

•Hi Mike, Just wanted to let you know that I'm in Mbale Uganda with 5 others from Church of the Holy Apostles. We're putting on a women's conference for about 400 women from here, Kenya, etc. Thought you'd want to know that I prayed for inner healing for the ladies and gifts anointing. God was faithful. Thanks for teaching me. I taught all day long and loved it. Your modeling was crucial for me. Many women were greatly blessed. Peace in Jesus, Karen P.

•Mike, You are a blessing! I just wanted to mention, late though it is, that your brief outline on prayer (ask, seek, knock) from an email several weeks ago on prayer was the best short capsule on prayer that I have ever seen, and has been a source of Holy Spirit feeding over the past couple of weeks. You brought fresh insights and confirmed areas that God has fed me on in the past. Thanks for your faithfulness to our Savior, Friend and King.

Grace and peace, (Rev) Richard B.

Responses

FreshWind often donates its time and energy to foreign and domestic churches and organizations that cannot afford to pay normal honoraria and travel expenses. Many of these are missions-focused, as is FreshWind.

About 75% of FreshWind's budget comes from people like you who believe in and feel led to support what we're doing to extend the kingdom.

Here's the bottom line:

+ renewed, disciplined, and anointed people produce ministry and mission

+ FreshWind produces renewed, disciplined and anointed followers

We ask you to help us "produce" FreshWind.

We highly value all forms of aid: prayer, finances, and ministry team participation. Please look over this response form and see if the Lord would speak to you about your support of this ministry.

PRAYER:

If you would like to receive Mike's monthly Intercessor's letter and pray regularly for this ministry, please log onto www.freshwindministries.org and click on the "Contact" heading. In the box for questions or comments, please state you'd like to receive the letter.

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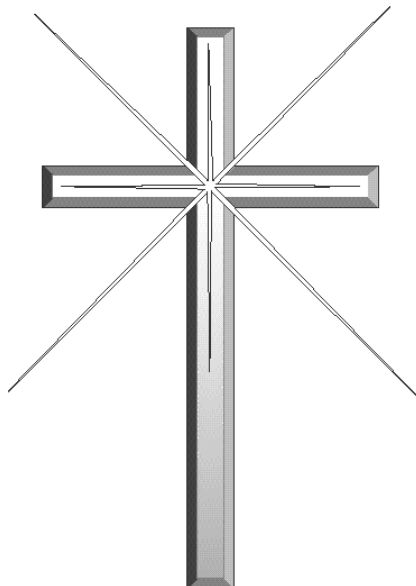
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Please make contribution checks to FreshWind Ministries. Thank you.





*Mike and Sue wish you the full glory
of Christ's birth in your lives.*