
Fire on the Prairie News

Independent Newsletter of Fire on the Prairie

Volume 1, Issue 3

Tuesday, July 30, 2002

God's Presence Continues At FOTP

FOTP meets **EVERY Friday** at the Municipal Building, 904 - 10th Avenue (Hwy. 67) in Clarkfield, Minnesota with worship beginning at 7:00 PM. **(Exception:** see schedule change regarding **Friday, September 6th** at the Viking Altar Rock in **Sauk Centre, MN** - we hope you join us!)

For those of you who travel hours to come to FOTP and stay in a motel, you may wish to confirm by phone the day before (320-669-4402), unless you have received a current FOTP schedule.

As long as God continues to bless us mightily with His presence and power, we will continue to obey Him and provide this opportunity each Friday for people to worship Him extravagantly, to cherish and treasure His awesome presence so abundant on Friday nights, to receive healing and deliverance, to learn more about Him, and to be equipped to do the work of the ministry.

If we must cancel a meeting, we will make every attempt to give adequate notice through e-mail, snail mail, and the media.

Schedule Change

International evangelist and founder of Hope of Glory Ministries and the Twin Cities Impact Center, **Tom Fox**, has had an unavoidable change of schedule and will minister at Fire on

the Prairie on **Friday, September 13th** instead of August 2nd.

To The Glory Of God!

"But let him who boasts, boast in the Lord"

2 Corinthians 10:17 (NIV)

From an out-of-state pastor at the May 17th (Shavuot) FOTP meeting the week after the trip to the "The Father Loves You" conference at the "Toronto Blessing" (Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship in Canada):

"I've been to Toronto several times. When you released your team to minister at the Fire on the Prairie meeting right after you got back from Toronto, it was just like Toronto!"

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From a pastor from still another state who took the time and effort to check things out several times first hand after receiving a negative report about FOTP and

Joshua Generation:

"I know this is God!"

* * * * *

*From international evangelist and pastor **Tom Fox**, founder of Hope of Glory Ministries and the Twin Cities Impact Center - after Joshua Generation led worship June 22-23 at the "From Africa, With Love" conference:*

"Thank you for participating in 'From Africa, With Love' - it was fabulous! The worship and praise led us into new realms of the Spirit. Many people went outside their personalities in a freedom that revolutionized their lives. I thank God for your gift."

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From Rev. J. Collins of Florida: E-mailed July 8, 2002:

"Praise God and God bless you and the Joshua Generation. I want to thank you for the years of

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emails and information.

I have found that overall there is a lack of zeal to share within the body of Christ, and this is a cause of a lack of knowledge and defeat, so I wanted to make sure that I thanked you, and I pray that God returns your efforts to you 100 fold. God bless you!"

Fire on the Prairie

Intercessory Prayer
Mondays at 7 PM

Wednesday Bible Study
Gathering & Fellowship at 7:00 PM
Training begins at 7:30 PM

Location for both meetings: 1043 - 10th Avenue (Hwy. 67) in Clarkfield, above the Post Office - use exterior stairway on side of building.

Translation Tales

(We hope to make "Translation Tales" a feature in future FOTP newsletters to assist us all in "rightly dividing" the Word of God.)

In the King James Version (normally a fairly accurate translation), Proverbs 7:18b reads "let us **solace** ourselves with loves". The English definition of solace is to "**console or comfort in a time of grief or pain**".

However, in Strong's Concordance (which is our first, but not only, line of defense in Biblical study), solace means to "**leap for joy**" (Strong's #5965 - Hebrew) which much more

accurately fits the context of the passage, which is that of adultery.

In other words, we are presented with one translation of a word, when in fact, the actual meaning is the **opposite** of the way it is translated in the KJV version.

Is the Word of God in error?

NO! A thousand times, NO!!!

But do we ourselves need to check translations for language and contextual accuracy? **YES!** And sometimes that requires digging into the original language and the cultural context and going beyond just using a concordance or a commentary which may be based on man's knowledge and interpretation. You may also want to invest in a **parallel Bible**, one that has several versions on the same page. You may find it very helpful in your studies.

On a Larger Scale. . .

Over 100 top Christian leaders have signed a public statement expressing great concern about Today's New International Version (TNIV), citing what they believe to be serious translation errors, such as words added to the text that are not in the original Greek and Hebrew as well as gender changes that are also not in the original languages.

We have not had an opportunity to personally check this out one way or the other, but if you are looking for a new Bible, it may be an excellent time to follow the Biblical admonition to "Study to show yourselves approved...." and do a little extra homework on the issue.

More Opposites

The subject of women in ministry, church leadership, and in the home has been a serious stumbling block in the Body of Christ. Translation errors and personal or traditional opinions

can be dangerous and costly to the Body of Christ if they **conflict with God's truth**.

Scripture tells us that the **TRUTH will make us free**.

This specific subject is another area where it is **critical to go beyond everyday study practices**. It seems that everyone has an opinion, and error has unwittingly been taught by very well meaning people who have been uninformed of the fact that the **the English translations are corrupted by ancient pagan Greek philosophy**.

At the end of this article is a list of several books **written and also endorsed by men** who have been stirred by the Lord to pursue scriptural truth on this issue (some of these men include **J. Lee Grady** - editor of Charisma magazine, **Loren Cunningham** - founder of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), **Judson Cornwall**, **John Dawson**, and the prophet **Jim Goll**).

As a result of these serious problems with translation, many young as well as older women have rejected the Bible and/or Jesus without ever knowing that Jesus Christ was the greatest liberator of women of all time, and that Paul the apostle was right behind Him. Because of the uninformed prejudice of the Church **many women have tragically chosen secular "Women's Lib" instead of God's true and amazing freedom in Christ Jesus**.

Please take a minute to meditate on this sobering quote from What Paul REALLY Said About Women (preface, page xi) by Dr. John Temple Bristow:

*"Now, Paul's letters are in Greek. Theoretically, if I took our English translation of his words and translated them back into Greek, **my***

words should be similar to Paul's original words. But when I tried doing this, such was not the case, **not at all!**

"In reality, the words that Paul chose to use **imply different ideas** from those conveyed by the English words we use to translate his writings. In fact, **our English words imply ideas that Paul deliberately avoided**. If Paul had wanted to say what we think he said, **then he would have chosen quite different words when he wrote....**

"However, time after time again I would doubt my discoveries, so deeply ingrained in my thinking was the traditional interpretation of what Paul (rightly or wrongly) intended us to believe.

"At last, I was forced to banish all doubts. In truth, **Paul carefully chose** his words, **deliberately avoiding** those Greek terms that, if he had used them, would have communicated to his readers **precisely what our English translations imply for us today....**

"I learned how the conflict was finally settled when Greek philosophy infused Christian theology, and **Paul's message was lost and his words used to promote what he opposed....**

"And still today, **this same Greek philosophy is often preached from Christian pulpits, innocently assumed to be biblical theology.**" (emphasis added)

Further Resource Books:

What Paul REALLY Said About Women - An Apostle's Liberating Views on Equality in Marriage, Leadership, and Love by Dr. John Temple Bristow; copyright 1988, Harper Collins Publishers, New York, New York.

10 Lies the Church Tells Women - How the Bible has been misused to keep women in spiritual bondage by J. Lee Grady (editor of "Charisma"); copyright 2000, Charisma House, Lake Mary, FL.

Who Said Women Can't Teach? by Charles Trombley (Foreword by Judson Cornwall); copyright 1985 Bridge Publishing Inc., South Plainfield, NJ.

Why Not Women? - A Biblical Study of Women in Missions, Ministry and Leadership by Loren Cunningham (founder of YWAM (Youth With a Mission) and David J. Hamilton (Foreword by John Dawson); copyright 2000, YWAM Publishing, Seattle, WA.

Father, Forgive Us! "The Gender Gap" chapter by Jim Goll (internationally known prophet); copyright 1999, Destiny Image Publishers, Shippensburg, PA.

Argentine "Gentle Deliverance"

Mark 16:17 says that those who BELIEVE in the name of Jesus Christ WILL cast out demons. The only condition listed in that commission from Jesus Christ is to believe, and the commission is for **all** believers in the Lord.

On Wednesday nights, we are

studying a new series on deliverance - gentle deliverance such as is practiced in Argentina's revival, not the kind we may be used to or have heard of, or may have even caused harm to us or someone else we know.

Several years ago, the pastor of Fire on the Prairie sat under the teaching of Argentina's top deliverance minister, Pablo Bottari, a member of the Assembly of God in Argentina). Pablo Bottari has worked with Carlos Annacondia and other leaders in the Argentine revival. Videotape clips of that conference will be part of this series.

The deliverance done in the Argentine revival is for those who are **already**

Christians (see quote). Normally, in the crusades **in the US**, less than 10% who profess salvation actually continue on in their walk with God and follow Christ while approximately **90%** or more **walk away** from their commitment to God. But **in Argentina, the figures are almost exactly reversed - approximately 90% continue to walk with God and only about 10% walk away.**

In a great part, the Argentine revival leaders attribute this to the fact that **Christians are able to truly be set free through deliverance.** During the conference, Pablo Bottari made this statement:

"In Argentina, for many people from every strain, from every denomination, first they desire that the demons leave, so that the person can accept Christ.

"If you do not accept Christ, the demons won't leave. . . . You need to take the step of submitting your life to Christ, otherwise the Holy Spirit can't do the work.

"He freed and He healed all of those that **came to Him**. He couldn't free the ones that didn't come, the

ones that didn't recognize His lordship - to permit Him to work in their life.

*"That question is asked, 'Is it possible for a Christian to have a demon?' The answer: **95-96% of those that came into the (deliverance) tent were Christians.**"*

In Matthew 12:28, Jesus declares: "If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, **surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**"

This Bible study is open to anyone who has a deep desire to obey the Lord's commission to all Christians to cast out demons and those who have sincere compassion toward all who want to be set free. as part of our **normal** Christian life. Our focus is on the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and HIS power, and we give no glory to the demonic realm.

Join us Wednesday evenings for this study. Gathering/fellowship time begins at 7 PM with training beginning at 7:30PM We ask that people please be on time. Come PRAYED UP!

PLEASE contact us (by phone or e-mail) to let us know if you are coming so that we have enough hand-outs for everyone. Donations for photocopying will be received, and offerings for Fire on the Prairie are always greatly appreciated.

The Toronto Blessing

Thirteen "extreme Godchasers" traveled to **Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship (TACF)** from FOTP in May for "**The Father Loves You**" conference. Several flew by plane, but most of the group made the 24 hour road trip (it's amazing how well you can get to know people).

After Jesse Lang's big surprise at Niagara Falls the first full day we were

there (see the next article), the group reveled in praising and worshiping the Lord with several thousand more "Godchasers" at TACF.

To worship with several thousand "Godchasers" who have come from many different nations in the world and from many Christian denominations is truly a mountaintop experience.

The conference itself was very intense; the Lord was addressing deep issues of the heart and dealing with them, bringing healing and deliverance to wounded and broken hearts.

Beginning with the next FOTP newsletter, several of those who attended will write short articles sharing and teaching what they learned and experienced while in Toronto. We pray it will be a blessing to you.

To the people on the FOTP mailing list who graciously donated funds to help several people in need go on the trip to Toronto: **Thank you** and may the Lord bless you bountifully for your help. Each one who received the financial blessing was tremendously grateful to be given the opportunity to go to the conference.

Goin' To The Chapel

The morning after our group arrived in Toronto, we made the 1-1/2 hour trip to **Niagara Falls** where Fire on the Prairie and Joshua Generation worship leader Jesse Lang surprised nearly everyone by getting down on one knee in front of the Falls to ask Joy Stiles for her hand in marriage.

After the initial shrieks of excitement from the group, many of whom have "adopted" Jesse like a son, Joy accepted his proposal (we've got the proof on videotape!)

Jesse's and Joy's parents were all

there, as well as most of their closest friends. It was truly a joyous time, even though the wind was so strong that everyone got wet from the powerful spray of the Falls.

Their wedding is planned for mid-September, on their "anniversary" date from when they were 14 years old, and although it looks like it's a short engagement, it's really not.

Eleven years ago, when Jesse was ten years old, he was praying, and the Lord specifically told him that Joy Stiles was going to be his wife. However, at the time, Joy wasn't too interested.

But Jesse waited patiently year after year as he trusted the Lord even at that young age to bring his future wife to him. He has never dated or seriously looked at another girl all this time.

When he and Joy were both 14, they along with another group of "Godchasers" were at the "Catch the Fire" conference in the Twin Cities with guest speaker Marc Dupont from the Toronto Blessing. While there, the Lord spoke to Joy that she was indeed to be his wife and also confirmed that fact once again to Jesse

They have courted for six years, mostly in the presence of their families and friends. We are grateful to the Lord that they have escaped the far too common heartache and rejection that comes with current dating practices, even among the Body of Christ.

Joy is a wonderful, godly young woman, and the Langs are blessed to have her as part of their family. (She's a really great "roadie" for Joshua Generation, too! She can haul sound equipment around with the best of them!).

Finally, people have asked if this new and joyful development will affect Fire on the Prairie. Jesse is unwavering in

his commitment to be obedient to the Lord and continuing to minister at FOTP.

Reflections On TGIF: Thank God It's Friday

*“Let another praise you,
and not your own mouth....”
Proverbs 27:2a*

What a wonderful thing God does at Fire on the Prairie! Every Friday, He does something different and exciting. Some Fridays He just puts us on the floor and sovereignly ministers to us, and other Fridays He lifts our spirits into ecstatic and enraptured praise and worship with lots of dancing and shouting.

We just never know what to expect. This I know for sure, when we come to meet Him and we “pull” on heaven, He sends His glory into our midst.

I look forward to coming every Friday as do many other people. I think I probably speak for those who come to FOTP on a regular basis that Fire on the Prairie is about healing the brokenhearted, learning forgiveness of others and ourselves, being discipled so that we can disciple the nations, and learning to grow deeper into God's Word.

Mostly, I think, FOTP fills a void that many people have in their own churches. For me, “church as usual” is not the kind of church that I think Jesus was trying to teach us about. I grew up thinking that it was an obligation to go to church and Bible studies.

I thought that everyone went to church to receive. What I have learned is that God really wants us to come and spend time with Him.

Tommy Tenney, author of *The God-Chasers*, wrote in an article that he really doesn't want to talk to us about God. He would rather talk directly to God in praise and worship.

The greatest commandment is to “Love the Lord with **all** your heart, and **all** your soul...”. During worship, I focus only on Him and find freedom to dance, prophesy, and shout to glorify Him. I don't worry about others who may be there.

Worship is about us loving Him. He inhabits the praises of His people, and when we give our all to Him, then He sends down His glory and healing power.

From this deep communion with God during worship, many revelations and answers to prayer may come. I know that at these times many people at FOTP have been healed both physically and emotionally. International evangelist **Tom Fox, who ministered at FOTP recently said after the time of intense worship, that the glory was so tremendous that he couldn't preach**; so he just prayed and let the Spirit of God minister.

The second great commandment is to “Love your neighbor as yourself”. I grew up thinking that meant the people who lived on the same block you did. But God means that is everyone you come in contact with, no matter what color or physical

problem or creed or denomination they may belong to. **Jesus healed every one who came to Him.** If we love Jesus, then we must follow His pattern.

For example, let's say that someone you work with doesn't seem to do things right. They are always causing problems or messing up. Do you think that Jesus would complain to other coworkers or people about how bad this person was? Of course, He wouldn't.

At FOTP, everyone is welcomed and can come to God the way they are. We don't worry about what you've done in the past or what color you may be or how many tattoos and piercings you wear. What is important to us is that you come to be with God and learn the truth about God's Word.

So if you are tired of “church as usual”, if you are looking for a deeper relationship with God, if you are looking for a place where you won't be judged, then come to Fire on the Prairie, and take what you learn there back to your church and flow in the Spirit of God.

by Jimmy Sopland

(Note: The opinions expressed in this article are my personal opinions and are not necessarily endorsed by the board of Fire on the Prairie. J. S.)

He Is Worthy To Be Praised

Broken bones, holes in the heart, hernias, eyes, ears, concussion, headaches, various diseases and illnesses and injuries, as well as emotional and mental healing and

deliverance - all the glory and praise goes to God for the healing and deliverance people experience at Fire on the Prairie.

If you have been healed, delivered, or have experienced a significant encounter with the Lord at an FOTP meeting in the past few years, **please take a few minutes now (even if you've written it down before) to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ with your testimony.** Please send us a short description of your testimony via snail mail or e-mail (including name, address, phone # and approximate date of your encounter with God).

E-mail to: fotp@fireontheprairie.org
or snail mail to: Fire on the Prairie, P. O. Box 277, Clarkfield, MN 56223.

It doesn't have to be long - **just long enough to give all the glory to God!**

Truth Or Consequences

On the subject of **gossip** and **slander** within the Church:

"I do not know of two more destructive realities when it comes to relationships, families, churches and people's reputations than these two...."

"And I am shocked at how many times in Scripture God just comes right up front to tell us how horrid these are and how offensive they are to Him." Joe Stoll in *"Proclaim"*

Recently, several slanderous, false rumors about a couple of ministries have resurfaced.

As Christians, we have become so **desensitized to the sins of gossip and slander** through constant exposure to the overwhelming

proliferation of gossip in the secular world on TV, radio, in newspapers and magazines, and even over the Internet that we have accepted it as normal. But it is not normal to God. To Him, it is a critical issue of the heart.

Proverbs 18:7-8 - "A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a talebearer (gossip or slanderer) are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body."(NKJV)

When Christians combine this desensitization with the fleshly desire to **"share"** the juicy tidbits we have heard or to **"help protect"** others with what **we think we know** about another Christian brother or sister or ministry, we may believe we are totally righteous in what we are doing and that we are the "defenders of the faith", especially if those people or ministries don't quite fit our own personal "doctrines" or religious traditions. But the truth is, **in the eyes of God, we may very well be committing the abomination of slander.**

Check it out for yourself - Scripture is filled with warnings from the Lord on this subject, and any good concordance will provide an almost inexhaustible supply of study material. **At the end of this article** is a list of things to help us determine whether we are speaking truth or we have fallen, either unwittingly or deliberately, into the enemy's trap of gossip and slander.

In Proverbs 6:16-19, out of seven things God declares to be **abominations** in His eyes, **four (4)** are definitely associated with gossip and slander - (1) a **proud look**, (2) a **lying tongue**, (3) a **false witness** who speaks **lies**, and (4) one who **sows discord among brethren**". Let us make no mistake about this, God **hates** tale-bearing and "whisperings".

Sadly, over the years, we have observed that gossip is normally passed along from Christian to Christian **without most Christians ever taking the time or making the effort to search out the truth.** Of course, in Christian circles, we don't call it gossip. We have come up with "nicer" and more "acceptable" ways to disguise our sin.

Sometimes the secular world actually comes out ahead on this issue. Even in our court system, the accused are presumed innocent until proved guilty. In the Church, however, **people are often presumed guilty until proved innocent.** Unfortunately, it seems to take too much time and effort for most Christians to search for truth that could possibly prove innocence. Passing along information that we have not searched out reveals immaturity and carelessness in our walk with God.

Sometimes, rumor is spoken as truth by those we look up to and have trusted (family members, close friends, and even church leaders), and we simply accept what they say because of their position or relationship in our lives and churches.

The bottom line is this: If we have heard damaging or confusing things spoken about a ministry or about another Christian brother or sister, and **we ourselves have not gone directly to them and personally checked out the facts** (not just what someone else **told** us were the facts), we may be in the precarious position of not only speaking things that are an abomination to God, but actually working against God and His plan.

We may even find ourselves attributing something to the demonic realm that is of God, **just like the Pharisees did with Jesus.** All too often, when the facts are revealed, they may prove to be the opposite of what we've been told.

It would be wise for each one of us to

remember that **we will be held accountable by God for EVERY careless and idle word** we speak. Jesus Himself declares in Matthew 12:36-37 (NKJV) - *"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

If you or the ministry God has entrusted to you have been slandered, take heart! According to Jesus, you are blessed!

Matthew 5:10-12 - *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

If we ask ourselves a few simple questions, we may be able to determine if we are speaking truth or slandering a brother or sister in Christ. When God considers something an abomination, it's worth taking the time to make certain that we are not grieving Him.

1) Am I **absolutely certain** that I know the actual documented facts in this situation? *Proverbs 18:15 - "The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."*

2) Have I simply **accepted what was told me (hearsay)** by someone I may respect or have I **researched this myself?** *Proverbs 19:9 - "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish."*

3) If the **offense** (real or imagined) is against me, have I **personally spoken** to that person or contacted that ministry to try to find out the truth

and straighten things out? Matthew 5:22a,23-24 - "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment,..." Matthew 18:

Have I gone back to the person who initially told me this information to ask them to show me what solid **documented** proof they have to back up what they told me? *Proverbs 18:17 - "The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him."*

Looking For LIFE In The Twin Cities?

If you live in or near the Twin Cities and are interested in a non-traditional fellowship that moves in the Spirit, equips people in the Word and flows in the miraculous, check out the new **Metro Christian Fellowship** pastored by Dr. Michael Pilla.

Meetings are now held at **10AM Sundays** at the **Drover's Inn Best Western** at 494 and Concord on the South St. Paul/Eagan border.

Call first to check on location as they are already almost filled to capacity on Sunday mornings and may soon be looking for a larger place. For info: Lyle McEmury at 651.455.0644 or Steve Smith at 952.929.1829.

Closing Thoughts

See you at Fire on the Prairie - we meet every Friday night at 7:30PM at the Clarkfield Municipal Building, 904 - 10th Avenue (Hwy. 67) in Clarkfield, MN. Worship intercession begins at 7PM for those who just can't worship the Lord enough!

May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His countenance to shine upon you each and every day.

Rev. Diane Lang
Fire on the Prairie

FOTP Contact Information:

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Join us every Friday night at the Municipal Building, 904 - 10th Avenue (Hwy. 67), Clarkfield, MN

FOTP Schedule

Friday, August 2
Fire~Power!

Friday, August 9
Fire~Power!

Friday, August 16
Dr. Michael Pilla