



Perspectives from The Peninsula ~ 3

September 9, 2005

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(September 10th)*

I visited Clovelly yesterday, a village than falls precariously four hundred and fifty feet down a steep sided slope. The road, known as 'Down-along,' is made of pebbles that have been hauled up from the beach. All supplies, whether furniture or groceries, have to be delivered on sledges: no cars can navigate the road. Just three families have owned the village in its entirety since the Norman Conquest.

As I walked down the steep cobbled street, a mother called out her child's name. I felt instantly prompted to pray for someone else of that name who I know. It turned out later when I checked back a few hours later that there was indeed a pressing reason for the Lord putting her on my heart.

The Lord has many ways of turning sight into insight and alerting us to pray. As I saw a small shopping mall at the top of the village, He impressed this thought on me:

*'This is a generation that has all but forgotten Me.
It has everything it wants, but it does not know or honour Me, and My Spirit is not in them.
These are the Temples they have made – and they will take the consequences'*

In so many areas, the way we are being governed reflects these wrong priorities. With so little awareness of holiness and no understanding of the spiritual laws of 'sowing and reaping' it is less surprising that the government

is doing so much to encourage 24 hour drinking on the social side, and to push through the Incitement to Racial and Religious Hatred act in the face of concern from so many quarters. (Tim Finch is currently constructing a web site to publicise this opposition. [www. www.ReligiousHatredLaw.info](http://www.ReligiousHatredLaw.info)) May the enemy not be permitted to use this bill to stifle and mute the distinctive Christian voice – and may the Lord find ways to harness the momentum that has been gained at the protest meetings to register an authentic spiritual impact.

Sight into Insight: Cyberwarfare

We warned a long time ago that technological cyber warfare is right on the cutting edge now – and that it is appropriate to take up this challenge in prayer.

As I was driving up the 'Atlantic highway' on the west coast of Devon I glimpsed large radar dishes. I was immediately reminded of a desperately serious article I read in a current edition of Time magazine. (Sep. 5th, 2005). A skilful computer analyst had been working intensively to track down and to source the thousands of top secret military, economic and nuclear files that have been surreptitiously downloaded from US computer systems. His extensive investigations revealed that they had been sent on to mainland China.

The FBI gratefully accepted tip offs from this volunteer, who had sidestepped stringent protocols and gone in cyberspace where officialdom dare not tread. His value to the FBI did not save him from being dropped like a hot potato, however, when his extracurricular activities landed him in trouble with his own company.

The article makes disturbing reading. China is taking advantage of painstaking years of research to play leapfrog and catch up – but the longer term concern is that they may acquire the ability not just to hack into vital US computer systems but even to deactivate or control them.

Identification in prayer

The example of the radar dishes leading to prayer for cyber war issues is a reminder that the Spirit often stirs in us to pray, but we are often too much 'in our groove' to respond. What will it take to jolt us out of our comfort loving complacency zone into the heart of the prayer forum? It may take something special to 'sober' us up ~ some form of token suffering, perhaps, that refocuses our gaze onto things that really matter.

The Lord can use even the most minor inconveniences to point us to major issues. The fact that we were without hot water for eight days after arriving in Devon was just the tiniest of nudges towards identification with the unimaginable loss thousands are facing in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

I am aware of the prophecies David Wilkerson has given of disasters affecting the United States (especially in his books 'The Vision' and 'Racing towards Judgement', in which he warns how quickly anarchy would set in on the streets when disasters hit).

The political fallout of Katrina is plain for all to see. Praise God for all prayerful Christian initiatives that are being launched to reach out to those who have lost so much. A friend of Anna's from America wrote, "God has laid bare the foundations, and is now testing the hearts. May He be glorified, and may we be found faithful." Barry was profoundly dismayed when his pastor expressed the hope that the evacuees would move on quickly from their city. He urged instead that we pray

- * That both believers and cynics will be moved to faith and the fear of God;
- * That God will spread His protections and defense around those most brutally wounded by this calamity.
- * That the Lord will would raise up many mighty and true shepherds - from pulpit or pew – to shelter, encourage, and lead forth as many as will turn to Him.
- * That God would speed relief to those most in need.
- * That God's Spirit work powerfully on both the evacuees and their host communities. May the evacuees do nothing to destroy the budding and flourishing works of true compassion in the communities they have come into (There is often racial discongruity here) – and may prejudices and pretences be swept aside in the host communities and in the hearts of the relief workers.

Prophetic prayer and insight for America in the aftermath of Katrina

Hilary Ashton woke up the other night with a sense that the Lord wanted to speak to her. The Lord had already come upon her in great power some years ago, showing her a boiling pot tilting over from the north (usually a sign of judgement in Scripture) and then a long line of combine harvesters threshing in Russia (a sure sign that the fields are white unto harvest in that vast country, but perhaps speaking about the significance of the east in prayer.) He then spoke a most serious word about America's condition to a friend of hers from Ezekiel 14:12-23. This is what Hilary believes the Lord went on to show her:

"I am about to turn the nations around. Where once the seat of power belonged to the West, it will now belong to the East, where once nations were feared and respected, I will raise up others in their place. A boiling pot from the North is coming to help bring this about. Do not trust in riches, trust in Me, only I can deliver and bring freedom. I will be the desired of all nations. I will prove myself Holy in the midst of all." She felt that certain nations would be raised up to bring judgement on others, like Babylon on Jerusalem.

I asked Hilary to research one or two of the current prophetic words coming out of America. She referred me to three prophetic words you can find on <http://www.bible.com/answers/aprophec.html#top> 'The only hope in the coming storm' (David Wilkerson); 'Heading for a safe harbour' (a prophetic vision given to Betty Miller) and 'The Storm' (by Kurt Thurston). They are well worth exploring and praying through.

She then sent me an article in the latest Time magazine, (Sept 12, p.22): "Listen to What Katrina is Saying" by Joe Klein. One extract says:

"The Chinese believe that natural disasters signal the fall of empires, a shift in "The Mandate of Heaven". The 1976 Tanshan earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people, for example, was said to portend the end of Mao's reign."

Hilary added, 'I realise this isn't biblically based or even from a Christian source (unless the writer is a Christian?) but it is certainly interesting!'

Extravagant acts of love

I struck out last week to the northwest Devon coast at Bideford to spend a few hours praying with an older couple whose details someone had passed on to me. They had returned to the UK after working as missionaries in the most remote part of Bhutan, two days from the nearest telephone. Bhutan is a remote country of two million people in the East Himalayas that has long been disputed between China and India, (and previously the British) Because the couple had sold their home in the South East before leaving for the mission field, they lost out substantially on the property increases they would enjoyed had they either stayed put or held on to their house.

I was reminded of Mary's extravagant act: pouring out the precious nard upon the Lord Jesus, immediately prior to His crucifixion. We are told in John 12 that the perfume was worth a year's wage: a staggering sum. However did Mary possess something so valuable? Mike Bickle suggests ('Passion for Jesus') that she may have been bequeathed it from her parents, and that it therefore represented her 'lifesavings' or 'pension'. Perhaps Mary found herself struggling to make ends meet in later life because she had not hung on to it.

Worldly wisdom (represented here by the scathing comment of Judas Iscariot!) considered such an act entirely inappropriate. But everywhere the gospel story is told, people know about the act that Mary performed. Judas's business acumen stands in sharp contrast to Mary's devotion and gratitude to the Lord Jesus, who had restored her brother Lazarus to the family circle. If they had listened only to the voice of worldly wisdom, the couple I mentioned before would never have taken the step of going overseas.

May we be extravagant in our love for the Lord. I am certainly in the process of rediscovering the joy of spending much time with Him again after so many months of working at bowstring tension busyness!

Lifting up the shield of faith

At the end of my visit to Clovelly I knew I was going to be pushed to get back in time to pick up Dom from school – but I had a sense the Lord was saying that He had counted the seconds and that I would get back in time. Several major traffic jams did little to give credence to this word, but when the Lord speaks something clearly, He wants us to believe Him – and to lift up the shield of faith by which is to quench all flaming arrows of unbelief. Sure enough, I got there with seconds to spare.

May the Lord give us all grace to lift up this all important shield of faith against plaguing thoughts that would plunge us into mental preoccupations that lead to downward spirals!

The Peninsular Pilgrimage September 9th

We are feeling well set now on our new pilgrimage. Ros is grieving for Shetland, but glad to be able to give herself to one lady at a time without being responsible for a dozen other things at the same time. Dom is going into school happily, and coming out confidently. An encouraging first week!



We have made contact with a fellowship of nearly two hundred prophetic people who meet at a farm about thirty miles from us. They are having a visit from an exceptionally anointed violinist who ministers in Toronto, who was the original inspiration for Francis Cummings to play in the Spirit. Chris Larkin has also spoken there recently and there are clearly many who have a heart for the southwest region. It was lovely to bump into an old friend of ours, who leads a Lydia group in Shropshire, who happened to be visiting the church. The

fellowship is too far to attend regularly, but it will be good to have connections with them.

Because Ros's work currently starts very early most mornings, we are getting to bed a great deal earlier than we are used to doing. We would really appreciate it if you could avoid phoning us after 9 pm, unless it is urgent. (This is totally inverted advice: we may well still be up and doing long after that, in which case you are quite likely to get a call from us!)

*We enclose below a send out from the World Prayer Centre:
A Call to Pray for Birmingham on September 10th
Birmingham Christian Centre, The Parade, Birmingham City Centre*

Saturday, 10 September is the date chosen by the Pagan Society to hold it's first gathering outside of London. The City will host witches from across Europe, wizards, heathens and polytheists - people who worship more than one god; together with members of one of the first known witches covens in England. Organisers say all interested in alternative religions, New Age beliefs, fortune telling or spiritualism and the environment are welcome.

At the same time, World Prayer Centre prayer day will be taking place in Birmingham Christian Centre, The Parade, Birmingham City Centre at which Christians will declare the Lordship of Christ, worship and praise the one true God and pray for Birmingham, the Nation and the Nations.

When we planned our prayer days at the beginning of the year, we did not know of the Pagan Society's gathering. But God did. So we shall, by God's grace, stand proclaiming the Kingdom of God over our city, cities, nation and nations. Come and stand with us.

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