

Path Clearer Newsletter

December 2010 – Issue #25

Influencing Nations with Truth

A voice of one calling in the desert: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." (Isaiah 40:3-6)

ANNOUNCEMENT:

“RECONCILIATION: 470 YEARS AFTER DE SOTO ENTERED ALABAMA”

On January 22-23rd we're hosting another Path Clearer weekend of significance on the theme of Native American history and reconciliation.

Hernando de Soto entered Central Alabama in the latter months of 1540. When the Spaniards arrived they not only advanced the causes of the Europeans to acquire commodities and to eventually settle the Americas, but they also brought battle-axes, which in turn produced great hardships for and ultimately displaced the First Nations occupants.

So what's the deal about 470 years? Miles Albright pointed out that the emergent Hebrew "nation" was in captivity 430 years in Egypt (Ex. 12:40-41), followed by another 40 years of wandering in the desert after the Exodus (Deut. 2:7). So, they spent a total of 470 years in difficult and disheartening conditions prior to entering the "Promised Land" of Canaan, a verdant land "flowing with milk and honey".

We believe that the completion of the 470 years since Hernando de Soto arrived in Alabama is significant for God's redemptive purposes over this region of the Southeastern USA. Very few of the descendents of the *Civilized Tribes* of the Southeast remain in Alabama. Thus, on January 22-23rd we are honored to be hosting Negiel Bigpond, the co-leader of the Two Rivers Native American Training Center [www.2-rivers.com]. He is Euchee (or Yuchi), who were Native American occupants east of the Tennessee River (i.e., a large portion of AL) prior to the forced removals westward during the 1830's during the Jackson administration. The Euchee are part of the Muskogee Creek Nation (OK). Thus, Negiel is a descendent of some of the Aboriginal peoples from Alabama. He has a special ministry emphasis devoted to reconciliation, and he has been asked to help lead our weekend. Also joining us in ministry will be Pat Walker (Muskogee Creek) and her husband Gary Walker (Cherokee). They lead Firestarters Ministries [www.firestarters-ministries.org].

On Saturday evening January 22nd we'll be worshipping Yahweh at the *De Soto Caverns* in Childersburg (hosted by Al Mathis). This cave is the historic mythic "womb" of the Creek Nation. We'll be joining forces with friends from the Birmingham Prayer Furnace (led by Paul Hughes). Childersburg is also very significant in that it is the longest continuously occupied settlement in the USA since the Spaniards' arrival.

On Sunday evening January 23rd we'll be near Huntsville in Cloud's Cove on the Tennessee River and at the Cowboy Church (hosted by Miles Albright).

Plan to participate and invite your family and friends to be part of this memorable weekend in AL, as we deal with reconciliation regarding historic injustices in the Southeastern USA since the days of the Spanish Conquistadors.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Insights on the Current Season: It is for FREEDOM that we have been set free!

While meditating on the roots of slavery in the Southeast, and in particular that which entered through the port of Mobile, Alabama, I was stirred in my spirit by a passage in Jeremiah. I don't normally attach an entire Bible passage, but will make an exception this time, so we can read it in its entirety:

⁸ The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim freedom for the slaves. ⁹ Everyone was to free their Hebrew slaves, both male and female; no one was to hold a fellow Hebrew in bondage. ¹⁰ So all the officials and people who entered into this covenant agreed that they would free their male and female slaves and no longer hold them in bondage. They agreed, and set them free. ¹¹ But afterward they changed their minds and took back the slaves they had freed and enslaved them again.

¹² Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ¹³ “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I made a covenant with your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I said, ¹⁴ ‘Every seventh year each of you must free any fellow Hebrews who have sold themselves to you. After they have served you six years, you must let them go free.’ Your ancestors, however, did not listen to me or pay attention to me. ¹⁵ Recently you repented and did what is right in my sight: Each of you proclaimed freedom to your own people. You even made a covenant before me in the house that bears my Name. ¹⁶ But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you has taken back the male and female slaves you had set free to go where they wished. You have forced them to become your slaves again.

¹⁷ “Therefore this is what the LORD says: You have not obeyed me; you have not proclaimed freedom to your own people. So I now proclaim ‘freedom’ for you, declares the LORD — ‘freedom’ to fall by the sword, plague and famine. I will make you abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth. ¹⁸ Those who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces. ¹⁹ The leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests and all the people of the land who walked between the pieces of the calf, ²⁰ I will deliver into the hands of their enemies who want to kill them. Their dead bodies will become food for the birds and the wild animals.

²¹ “I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials into the hands of their enemies who want to kill them, to the army of the king of Babylon, which has withdrawn from you. ²² I am going to give the order, declares the LORD, and I will bring them back to this city. They will fight against it, take it and burn it down. And I will lay waste the towns of Judah so no one can live there.” [Jeremiah 34:8-22]

So, where am I going with this passage? A major observation is that there were three cycles of enslavement of the Hebrews: (1) They were originally slaves to foreigners (Egyptians), but Yahweh set them free at the Exodus under Moses; (2) Next, they became enslaved to themselves, but eventually repented correcting this wrong and setting free their own captive

brethren; Then, (3) Like a dog who returns to his own vomit, the Hebrews re-enslaved themselves again.

It was because of the third episode (i.e. the re-enslavement of themselves by themselves) that Yahweh judged His own people. In other words, their own failure to obey His counsel resulted in self-imposed adverse consequences that could not be avoided. God would not contravene their own foolish decisions' consequences. The result – captivity as slaves to another foreign nation, albeit this time to the Babylonians (and eventually the Medo-Persians). Here we go again!

I don't have space here to write an entire thesis, but I do recognize some parallels today between this Jeremiah passage and historic vs. current manifestations of "slavery" in the USA, and especially so among the sons and daughters of African descent. As African slaves arrived in the Caribbean and the mainland of the Americas, they were enslaved by North European "foreigners". That resembles the first enslavement mentioned in Jeremiah. *[Although not my main point, it should be noted that slavery was already happening inside of Africa prior to the conquests of the Europeans, who merely capitalized upon local willingness to enslave fellow Africans.]*

Back on point, looking beyond the imputed freedom from White oppressors, which many would say happened between the 1860's to 1960's, there are evidences persisting to the present day that *Black-on-Black* oppression has become the new norm. Thus, slavery to White "foreigners" has been replaced by slavery to one's own kin. The insidious manifestations include self-destructive societal beliefs and structures, such as rampant promiscuity producing fatherlessness, violence, poverty, reliance on the government for handouts, and celebrating thug celebrities. This new self-oppression has been meted out not by the hands of Whites, rather by the hands of *pimps, politicians, and pastors* within their own communities! Since the "completion" of the first phase of slavery, the vacuum for oppressor-leaders has been filled. This time it is *Black-on-Black*.

Oh God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, may virtuous men of character and competence arise to challenge the oppressor-leaders and to set the captives free. In this battle mental strongholds must be defeated. If we do not address this new form of *Black-on-Black* slavery, then we should logically anticipate Jeremiah's warning that judgment will follow.

Alabama:

- August 27-29th – I delivered a message on "*Native American Protocol: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*" on Friday evening inside of De Soto Caverns, and in cooperation with the Birmingham Prayer Furnace. Then, on Saturday Dr. Suuqiina (Alaskan Inuit) spoke from a Native American perspective during an honoring and sacred time of worship inside the cave. Finally, on Sunday morning he spoke on Genesis 1:1 from a Hebraic perspective at Brookside Church of God. [www.firstnationsmonday.com/imi.htm]
- I was the guest on *Moody Radio South* interviewed by June Felix on August 13th. I spoke about the spiritual benefits of "fasting".
- Dale Cathey has led an initiative to visit all of the *Ten Freedom Outposts* of Alabama that were prophesied by Chuck Pierce. From November 2009 through November 2010 he and Steve Roth (Ontario) have made prayer pilgrimages to Montgomery, Dothan, Opelika, Mobile, Jackson, Selma, Oxford, Birmingham, Huntsville, and Florence. The two men have also visited Chattanooga, TN and several cities in North Carolina.

- In October John Manwell and Les Nutall from Liverpool returned to AL for another batch of ministry activities in Birmingham, Mobile, and Atlanta. They were joined by Dale Cathey and Steve Roth for most of those journeys.

Washington:

- August 24th – I delivered a message on “*Be an Intercessor with Your Life – Zechariah 3*” in *The Barn* in Ferndale, WA.
- September 17-18th – I was honored to be an invited speaker at the *Native Women of Destiny Conference* near Federal Way, WA. Thanks to Rita Bear Gray (Canadian Cree) for the invitation. This was a highlight of my year, especially since I’m not Native American and not a woman!



[In my Vestavia Hills office; With Cheryl Bear (Carrier Sekani - BC) & Randy Barnetson at the Native Women of Destiny Conference.]

Board Member Profiles:

Isaac Dooley (NY) – Isaac completed his PhD in Computer Science at the University of Illinois. He and wife Amanda have moved to New York City, where Isaac works in computational finance and high performance computing for a hedge fund firm. Congrats, Isaac!

EVENTS & NEWS:

Future Trips & Events in 2011:

- Romania & Moldova (January) -- Don Stewart and other friends
- Germany (Spring)
- India (October 24-30th) -- Lead the *Mission India Leadership International Conference*
- Boston, MA
- Albuquerque, NM

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME:

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