

Dear Friends,

*The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2*

We continue to see how God has used this last year to hone, teach, and deepen us, and make us all more usable. Please continue to pray for the planning and development stages of God's new ministry, Discipleship Network of America. God seems to have DNA ahead of schedule of all my planning, by bringing us many speaking opportunities, causing us to close several months for any more acceptances. By the middle of May we hope to be over half way to our goal of \$67,500 for our incredible start-up matching grant made possible by one of you receiving this letter.

God planned an incredibly fruitful launch of DNA focused on both of our purposes of evangelism and discipleship. On the evangelism side, we have never seen more fruitful outreach meetings than the three in Hawaii and Omaha this month. Susy and I spoke in Hawaii and I spoke in Omaha to a total of over 2600 people, including mayors, lieutenant governors, top military officers, business leaders and a U. S. Congressman. About 750 marked their cards that they had prayed to receive Christ, including a number of high profile people. Of that number 186 were "rededications". Groups of faithful men and women in each city are in the process of follow-up.

Discipleship flowing out of this has been incredible. Those committed to discipleship and moved by God to get involved in His Great Commission to make disciples, say they were encouraged by what happened. Also, I had the privilege of speaking to a group of about 20 men and women in Omaha on Good Friday noon after the morning Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and also to a group of men on Saturday morning, on the subject of "Discipleship – No Option" and the need for brokenness and transparency in discipleship. It was an incredible privilege to be with one of the most fruitful and effective teams in CBMC, Ken Korkow and John Reimer.

After one of the meetings this month, I met a man as we both headed for the men's room and in the next 20 minutes he shared with me the deepest things of his life he said he had never shared with anyone. In his follow-up email he said the time had been a huge encouragement to him and commented, "Thank you for being a friend for that moment. Since meeting you I find that my relationship with God is stronger and I pray believing."

Another man I spent some time with after one of these meetings emailed me "I wanted to let you know how God used you in a special way in my marriage. Only when we get to heaven will we see the full impact of how God used your visit in my life and many others." Forgive me for giving a report that may sound like we did something. We realize we were just the instruments God used, while there are many who have worked on these events for months and years with prayer, organization, financial support, and who are now doing the challenging work of follow-up. No one is more aware than Susy and I that God brought the people, God prepared the hearts, God convicted of sin, judgment and righteousness, and any wisdom or encouragement I have to share has been imparted

to me by many of you. We are just the channels - the telephone poles holding the telephone lines up. I am a little embarrassed to write the details of this report, but you are the men and women who have stood with us during God's time of further breaking, correcting, deepening, and expanding. So everything I am relating that God has done through us in the last month will go to your account as fruit from your investment in the Kingdom. It has never been more obvious to Susy and me that we could never do this without faithful friends like you.

### A Jew Headed Home

Have you ever been tempted to shrink from the truth with your Jewish friends? Susy and I have, and as I sat next to a Jewish leader in the community at one of the leadership breakfasts, I found myself wincing every time Jesus' name was mentioned. As I analyzed my thoughts, I realized again, that I often put my Jewish friends in another category and don't want to hurt their feelings, but these thoughts are immediately dashed as I contemplate the lake of fire. So as I presented the gospel, I specifically slowed down and prayed for my friend in government as I said the words, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by Me." At the end of my testimony, as I stepped from the dais, my new Jewish friend jumped to his feet and gave me a bear hug. Frankly, I was surprised. Before I had spoken, he had said to the crowd, "For this Jewish boy from New York, this has been quite a morning." I hope the hug indicated that from that moment, he had started the journey from death to life.

Please pray for us as we continue the support raising opportunity along with doing the many aspects of what God has called us to do.

This last week I had a wonderful time in California. I first had meaningful meetings one-on-one with friends in Lake Arrowhead and Fresno. My time in Santa Rosa with Duane and Lindann McPheeters as well as Mark Parry was wonderfully encouraging and envisioning. Roy Johnston organized a closed-door, no holds bar, confidential meeting with lawyers dealing with the following issues:

*If Matthew 5:39 – 41 commands us to turn the other cheek, how can we justify advising our clients, especially those of faith, to sue someone?*

*If Matthew 5:9 and James 3:18 commands us to be peacemakers, how can we be litigators?*

*If 1 Corinthians 6:1 – 8 prohibits lawsuits among believers, is a lawsuit ever justified?*

*If it is possible to be a litigator, how should we conduct ourselves and our practice?*

Roy and I agreed that the meeting was deeply fruitful, well-received and something the participants wanted to continue.

The couples meeting at the McPheeters' home was an intimate time of discussion about what I have learned, what I would do differently, and many of the experiences of the last year for which I am thankful. But nothing that happened on the trip was more exciting than meeting with the Santa Rosa CBMC Committee on the subject "God Doesn't Waste Pain." A team of men have been meeting in Santa Rosa for almost 40 years and we discussed some of the subjects mentioned above as well as how God used my discipleship of a man who had been in great pain the year before, to prepare me for losing my job with CBMC. As always, I encouraged the men to continue to support the CBMC ministry, financially and otherwise.

At the men's retreat at Lake Tahoe over the weekend, we also discussed how God uses pain. It was exciting to be around several men who are brand new believers seeking to walk with God through their challenges in faith, family, and business.

Thank you for the encouragement you are to us. Susy and the children join me in sharing our deep appreciation for colaboring with us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Phil