

March 2013

STAND STRONG AGAINST DISCOURAGEMENT

Dear Friends,

My letters from the past two months have been reprints of prophecies the Lord gave me concerning the elections held in November, 2012. Included in the prophecy from November 18, 2012 (printed in last month's letter) was the following:

You are in captivity because a vast number of My children have joined with the lost and repeatedly voted to open this nation to an invasion of a demonic army that is blinding the hearts and minds of both the lost and many in My church. You are living in the most dangerous time in the history of your nation. *(When the Lord said this, it was as though I could see a horde of demon soldiers - so many I could not begin to count them - all lined up just off the shores of our national coast lines. The moment the election was over, whatever was holding them back was removed and they began a massive invasion of our country.)*

The elections were held on November 6 and that wicked, demonic horde surged into our nation. Thirty-eight days later, the worst massacre of children in our lifetime took place as a lone gunman entered Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut and began mercilessly killing people, including an entire classroom of elementary age children.

Is there a connection between the invasion of that demonic army and the killings at Sandy Hook Elementary School? I believe so, and I also believe we are going to begin seeing an increase of crime, including murders and violence. In fact, the prophecy the Lord gave me on November 11, 2012 (reprinted in my January 2013 letter) included the following:

As it was in the days of Noah, violence and corruption are rapidly filling your land. The day is coming when your law enforcement agencies are going to feel so overwhelmed that they will not investigate every murder. Criminals and their crimes will increase and many people are going to suffer great loss.

I was running several errands on December 14, the day of the Sandy Hook Elementary School murders. While driving, I listened to the news coverage of the horror on the radio. Later at home, I watched more reports on television. Over and over reporters, politicians, crime experts, members of law enforcement, psychologists and many others constantly repeated the same thing: there is no way to explain such a tragedy and they don't know why such tragedies occur. Even many Christians were asking, "Why is all this happening? What's wrong with our society?"

When I heard these things, my heart sank. The brutal murder of all those children was bad enough. But then to listen as society - including numerous Christians - expressed

great confusion about why and how a person could do such a thing simply revealed a worse condition than that of the man who killed those children: Society, along with many Christians, have completely lost the perspective of the difference between a Holy, Righteous God and Satan, the epitome of evil, hatred and bloodshed.

I can understand the lost not grasping the concept of a sin nature and the depravity it can produce. But when Christians express confusion about why a lost person with a sin nature starts acting and living according to that nature, I shake my head in amazement. Such Christians have not walked away from God and backslidden; instead, they simply do not comprehend the true condition of people with a sin nature, or what being born again really means.

The reason Cain killed his brother Abel in Genesis chapter four is because he yielded to his sin nature. The reason we have seen people like Stalin, Hitler, Hussein, Lenin, and other dictators rise to power and annihilate people by the millions is because of their sin nature. The reason there have been serial killers like Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, John Wayne Gacy and "Jack the Ripper" is because of their sin nature. And the reason all those children were killed in Sandy Hook Elementary School is because of the sin nature.

The potential of the sin nature defies rational explanation. The further a person sinks into its depths, the more that person is capable of committing unspeakable acts of violence and debauchery. But in a most twisted paradox, the further a person sinks into the sin nature, rational behavior is redefined by the warped condition of that person's mind.

In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School murders, people repeatedly wondered what could be done to prevent another such event. One theme that constantly reverberated in the media was that of gun control. I am not taking a pro- or anti-gun control position in this letter. But statistics clearly prove that, since 1900, nations which have imposed gun control have seen worse results than before the gun control.

Also, consider the fact that not one gun was used to kill 168 people on April 19, 1995 when a bomb was detonated at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. The bomb consisted of fertilizer and diesel fuel that was stored in 55-gallon drums and driven to the Federal Building in a truck rented from Ryder. The truth is, it is much easier and cheaper to obtain fertilizer, diesel fuel, 55-gallon drums and rented trucks than it is to buy assault rifles and bullets.

Another interesting fact has to do with how serial killers murder their victims. In many cases guns - specifically, hand guns - are used. But in an overwhelming majority of the killings, the victims die from strangulation, bludgeoning or stabbing.

I am not trying to be morbid. The point I'm making is that banning guns or anything else that is used to kill people is nothing more than focusing on the results instead of the cause. For example, if a friend keeps falling down, we don't tell him to quit walking and crawl instead; rather, we tell him he might need to see a doctor to find out what is causing him to collapse all the time.

It is totally irrational to expect a lost and immoral society to enact and enforce the morality and standards revealed in God's word. Not one Christian should ever sit around

and wonder what is wrong and what is happening when horrific acts of violence are carried out on innocent people. The problem is the sin nature and the sin it produces. Politicians can ban all the guns, knives, fertilizer, diesel fuel, 55-gallon drums and rented trucks they want; but people sinking further into their sin nature will simply find other ways to kill, maim, destroy and devastate.

The only answer - the **ONLY** solution - is Jesus.

Consider the contrast between the life Jesus offers and the life produced by the sin nature:

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. (John 8:42-45)

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

I have yet to hear of bombings and shootings taking place at the hands of people who are born again and fully committed to living for Jesus. The truth is, Christians who are totally sold out to God could own all kinds of firearms and never be a threat to society. When a person accepts Jesus as Savior, there is a change inside. The life and nature passed down to him from fallen Adam is replaced by the life and nature of the risen Christ. A conscience that can be totally blackened by the sin nature is replaced by a conscience that is birthed out of the love and mercy of Almighty God.

What do you think would happen in our society if the Bible were read in school every day to students from kindergarten to grade 12? What if students who can read were required to read the Bible? What if every school day opened in prayer? What if true evangelists held chapel services at least once each week in our schools? What if every school had a spiritually mature, Holy Ghost filled student adviser available to meet and pray with students? If all these things were in place, do you think it is possible a generation would rise up that is more responsible, accountable and which has a lower crime rate?

The reason people commit horrible acts of violence and brutality is because they have not made Jesus the Lord of their life. Christians, more than anyone else, should know this. The cause is the sin nature; the solution is the life Jesus offers and being discipled to maturity in that life. But if the laws of society make it more and more difficult to preach the gospel to our citizens, then all that is left is to create laws which attempt to cope with the inevitable results that come from pushing God and His Word out of our society. God even said as much in scripture:

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn. (Proverbs 29:2)

When man makes laws that do not include God's scriptural standards of morality and righteousness, he is attempting to legislate against the sin nature by his own understanding instead of acknowledging the life-changing power of God's word.

We all need to face the facts: Our society - and the world in general - is getting worse and it is not going to reverse course, turning into some kind of Christian Utopia as some would have us believe. We are headed in the direction of seeing the events described in the Book of the Revelation come to pass. But again, our answer - our only hope - is Jesus. Look at what He has promised in His Word:

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
(John 14:27)*

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Yes, things are going to get pretty rough in this world. But we, as Christians, are children of the one, true God and He has promised to be with us in everything we face! I want to close this month's letter with the words to one of my all-time, favorite old songs, *Jesus is Coming Soon*,

[FIRST VERSE] *Troublesome times are here, filling men's hearts with fear
Freedom we all hold dear now is at stake
Humbling your hearts toward God saves from the chastening rod
Seek the way pilgrims trod, Christians awake*

[SECOND VERSE] *Troubles will soon be o'er, happy forevermore
When we meet on that shore, free from all care
Rising up in the sky, telling this world goodbye
Homeward we then shall fly, glory to share*

[CHORUS] *Jesus is coming soon, morning or night or noon
Many will meet their doom, trumpets will sound
All of the dead shall rise, righteous meet in the skies
Going where no one dies, heavenward bound*

May God's presence fill your life!
Jim

***** SPRING PRAYER AND POWER CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT *****

It's getting closer to our 2013 Spring Prayer and Power Conference, Sunday, April 21 through Friday, April 26. Pastor Dave Roberson, Gary Carpenter and Janet Inman will again be ministering. We have made special arrangements at the following two hotels:

COUNTRY INN AND SUITES

3971 Colonel Glenn Highway, Fairborn, OH, 45324

Direct line: (937) 429-2222 www.countryinns.com/fairbornoh

Special conference rate - \$89 per night; King Suites \$99 per night

10 minutes from church * all rooms are non-smoking * exercise room * indoor pool * free WiFi * hot breakfast every day * hot dinner Wednesday evening * microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker in each room * discounts available to area restaurants * very close to many restaurants, stores and a mall. Kings Suites have a small living room, a sofa that pulls out into a queen bed and a separate bedroom with a king bed and another TV.

RAMADA LIMITED

2540 University Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324

Direct line: (937) 490-2000

Special conference rate - \$79.99 per night * 10 minutes from church * mostly non-smoking (only 4 smoking rooms, located on 3rd floor) * exercise room * indoor pool * free WiFi * very close to many restaurants, stores and a mall * breakfast every day

A list of additional hotels is posted at our web site, www.jmmgrace.com. Please note that you must make your own hotel and flight reservations.

TO OUR INTERNATIONAL GUESTS Do you have your visa and passport for travel to the United States? Do not put this off as it can sometimes take months to obtain a visa. If you have any questions or need a letter of invitation please let us know by sending an email to jmmgmi@gmail.com.

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_____ Please send me a CD of the sermon, "What's the Real Problem?"

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My love gift for this month is: \$ _____
Make checks or money orders payable to "Jim Martin Ministries."

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