



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

1 Monarch Trace Ct. #106, Chesterfield, MO 63017-4618 - Ph: 636-778-9361 - rcmin2@charter.net

*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

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## Letters of Faith

July 2014

**So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord.  
His going forth is as certain as the dawn;  
And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.**

Hosea 6:3

Dearly Beloved,

If you've read the book of Hosea, you'll have to admit he had a really bizarre ministry! Hosea knew how to receive the strength and courage from God that was required to do the thing God called him to do, that is to demonstrate His call to: **"...press on to know the Lord."** I have just reread *The Heavenly Man* that chronicles the trials of our brothers and sisters in China. They have grown in the Holy Spirit and grace of God to be able to handle deprivation and punishment that makes my flesh crawl! In the process, the presence of Jesus is formed in them so strongly and clearly that they find evangelizing the lost very easy. One such purified-by-fire saint says, "When they see Jesus in me, they want to get to know Him." Sounds easy! But the Jesus he reveals is the Jesus that he was transformed into through the fire.

That's not so easy.

We know that learning to have faith to boldly witness with our behavior (especially on the job we depend on to support our family), or to dare to pray for the sick and demonized (especially in public outside the walls of our church's sanctuary), is a far cry from maintaining a testimony of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior through horrific physical torture. But God wants to establish our faith in Him and obedience to Him wherever our walk with Him takes us, and whatever that walk with Him costs us, so that our testimony will not be shaken by even the most unimaginable circumstances.

The Apostle Paul declared that he counted **"...all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him..."** (Phil. 3:8-9)

We are learning how hard it is to approach a stranger with a healing Word of Knowledge when the Holy Spirit softly speaks into our ear. We know it is harder for some than for others, but it is "walking on water" for all of us—even for those of you who are especially anointed for that very ministry. Why? Because we are all just learning to heed and obey the voice of God without fear of the consequences. That is a main facet of our pressing on to know the Lord and believing that He will be there for us as surely as the dawn will come, and as refreshingly as the spring rain will water the earth and make another crop year possible.

When Gretel and I pastored a church in the seventies, we were led by the Holy Spirit and the anointed ministry of a firebrand evangelist to teach how to take Jesus out to the streets of St. Louis. As pastor, I knew that I could not ask our people to go where I had never gone, so I went with my beloved brother to downtown St. Louis to watch him "harvest" so I could honestly encourage some of our more timid members with a genuine, "It's not that hard!"

But it was for me.

When we got to the busiest intersection of the St. Louis business center at high noon, I was ready to watch and learn. But the Lord sandbagged me with a moment of distraction, while my zealous brother took off without me down the street leading a young man to his savior, Jesus.

I was left alone, with a fist full of his tracts, and a very faint, though determined, heart.

“It’s easy!” I said to myself, repeating the simple instructions of my young “mentor.” “Just let the Holy Spirit lead you to someone and open your mouth and He will fill it.”

My eyes rested on a middle-aged black man coming right at me down the sidewalk. “He’s the one!” I thought to myself as the love of Jesus for him rose up within me and warmed my heart—and then I froze like a rabbit in the headlights. He turned the corner and started walking away from me, and my heart sank. And I repented! At that moment, this man turned around and came right back towards me! “I’m forgiven! I’ve been given another chance!” I thought—but I froze in fear again as he walked by me!

Then I *really* repented! I cried out to God to forgive me for letting the fear of man prevent me from bringing the love of Jesus to this stranger. And at that moment of agonizing repentance, the gentleman turned around and once again walked back toward me. I thought: “If I don’t go up to him now, I’m toast!” I could visualize the next day’s Post-Dispatch headline: “Lightning Strikes Pastor in Downtown St. Louis.”

So I did, finally, let the Holy Spirit move me to approach him and open my mouth and ask him if he knew Jesus. (Isn’t that an imaginative opening?!)

He stopped, and he looked at me, and tears began to form in his eyes. He said, “Yes, I do know Jesus, but I can hardly believe He loves me so much that he sent you to comfort me!” He was in deep spiritual turmoil, and Jesus blessed him and healed him, and removed the heavy yoke he had been under. We had a real God-time right there on “main street” St. Louis, and he left renewed and revived.

And I was sooo grateful!

Amazing as it sounds, I could not find a heathen in downtown St. Louis in the middle of the busiest intersection during that noon rush hour. Every one of the dozen or so people I approached (with increasing confidence in the Holy Spirit to use me) turned out to be a believer who desperately needed deep healing prayers.

What a Holy Spirit confirmation! First, that *He will* guide us to whom He desires us to speak, and *He will* give us the words/prayers that He knows will be most profitable for that individual and for God’s Kingdom here on earth. And second, my primary ministry call really is to evangelize the hearts of believers.

That kind of living trust in our Lord Jesus comes only from spending time in fellowship with Him, and in faith, obeying what He communicates to us even if it seems a bit off the chart sometimes.

It doesn’t matter that we aren’t being imprisoned for believing in Jesus (yet), and it doesn’t matter that we aren’t being slaughtered for our faith in the living Son of the one true living and Almighty God (yet). What matters is that we are pressing on to know Him intimately, not just to know intellectually about Him, and to know the fullness of His call on our lives. As long as we are doing that, we will be prepared by Him to stand in the midst of whatever perplexities come our way in the future.

This is not a time to relax or to settle down spiritually no matter what our age or capabilities! This is a time for all of God’s saints to press on and to reach forward to what lies ahead! There is great change coming to the Church and we all have to press in to God if we are going to be a part of it and to face and deal with it victoriously.

So we all must set our hearts to join the Apostle Paul’s cry: “**...I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** (Phil. 3:12-14)

To seal these thoughts for me was a phone call I received the morning I was working on finalizing this *Letters of Faith* from a very prophetic couple that excitedly proclaimed they had just heard a Word of the Lord for me and for them. They said the Holy Spirit had just vigorously encouraged them to: “*Keep going! Keep going! Keep going!*”

I am energized and excited, and just a little scared, but determined to press on and to press in to the throne room so that I will be part of what God’s victorious army bride is proceeding to overcome. I pray that you will join me, and hear the Holy Spirit saying to all of us: Keep going! Keep going! Keep going!—with Jesus.

Love, and expectant hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand connecting the two names.