

COMMENTARY

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Rise And Build!

Greetings to you, my brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ!

What a time to be alive! There is something special in seeing an issue that you prayed about, asked God to intervene, and then, He does! That is what I see going on in our own country and all over the world. For years Christians have been praying that the evil that is done in the darkness of our nation would be exposed to sunlight. Today, look at any news source you choose and you will see the veils being torn away from dark places and sunlight streaming in!



As a believer, we are called to bring things out into the open, out into the Light. Even the world has an expression similar - Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant." Transparency and openness bring cleansing. Brandeis made the statement in a 1913 Harper's Weekly article titled, "What Publicity Can Do." He believed that exposure, that bringing out the facts, could purify actions, just as the sun disinfects. Brandeis' statement has become a principle of transparency that supports open democracy and good governance.

As followers of Jesus Christ we must be open and bare before the Lord, holding nothing back from His eyes or heart. The only person we fool

is the one in the mirror when we try to hide from God.

Adam and Eve in Genesis chapter three were guilty of separating from God and it showed immediately in their actions and words. In the cool of the day God looked to commune with them. The LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" Adam replied, "I heard You walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

"Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the Tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"
(Genesis 3:10-11 NLT)

Sin separates, yes, but that is not my heart for you today. What I believe God is highlighting is that sin tears down, but obedience builds up. Building the Kingdom - that has been the heart of my teaching since the beginning of this year. We must bring things contrary to the Bible out into the open so that they may be fully dealt with. Why? If we build on a bad foundation, what we build will be worthless! What is this church building? Well, to answer that, I have to look back to my Father and Mother's heart and why this ministry started: they started this ministry out of their need for more of God.

My mother, Linda, had a desire for God at a very young age. She had considered becoming a Nun in the Catholic church. She felt that God had called her to union with Him, and set her apart for His will and purpose.

As for my Dad, Bob, he also had a desire to serve (and make a little money while at it). At 12 years old he was

Any patch of sunlight in a wood
will show you
something about the sun
you could never get from reading
books on astronomy.

C.S. Lewis

Everyone then who hears these
words of Mine and does them
will be like a wise man
who built his house on the rock.
And the rain fell,
and the floods came,
and the winds blew
and beat on that house,
but it did not fall,
because it had been founded
on the rock.

Jesus Mat 7:24-25

Truth is like the sun.
You can shut it out for a time,
but it ain't going away.

Elvis Presley

For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus
to do good works,
which God prepared in advance
for us to do.

Paul, Eph 2:10

Whatever good things we build
end up building us.

Jim Rohn

The liberties of a people never
were, nor ever will be, secure,
when the transactions
of their rulers
may be concealed from them.

Patrick Henry

Rise and Build, Church!

working at the Taconic Golf Course in Williamstown, Massachusetts. This was not a job he had been hired to do; he just went and did it on his own. When the golfers were out on the course my dad would sneak into the locker rooms and shine the shoes in all the golfers' lockers and then wait outside for a tip. It was a large step of faith on my Dad's part, that he would be paid for his work - and it often worked out that way!

Whether it was Linda serving God at the church when she was 12 years old, or my dad hustling on the golf course, they had it in their hearts to be servants. They embedded these types of things in the hearts of their four children at home.

To answer the question, "What we are building?" - we are building people and their hearts!

I'm asking for prayer. Would you pray for this ministry, that we would hear God's voice and we would be in lockstep with Holy Spirit, that we would be obedient to His will?

While writing this commentary, Solomon came to mind. Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father David. Solomon knew He lacked the wisdom to lead and called out to God for His wisdom. My parents knew God and were used by God. Out of this, their home ministry started. Today there are many Harvest Christian "Ministries."

Like Solomon, I lack many of the things in the "natural" to be successful at this, but what I have learned in these last five years of ministry is that that's exactly the way God wants me to see it, that His power works best in my weakness! However, I need not do this on my own, that's where you come in!

There is such a great need here in Bennington for Jesus. Walking through our area, I see hearts that are searching for a relationship with their Creator, but many of them don't yet understand just what that is. Lacking revelation, they look to all of the empty things that this world offers. But what if one of us were there, just at the right time for them in their desperation, with the name of Jesus at the ready?

We need to be in the right places at the right times. We can come up with programs, ministries, outreaches on our own, but that wouldn't achieve much - the real question is, where does God want our hands and feet to be moving, and when?

Like Solomon who needed God to lead him in wisdom, I need to reach out to you and ask for prayer from you, our partners in ministry. Please pray for direction, that I would hear the voice of the Spirit of God clearly and then be obedient. The move of God is here now in Bennington, and the last thing I want to do is squander what He has placed before us!

"Rise and Build!" - that is the call that went out to Nehemiah in the Old Testament, and that same call comes to each of us,

"Rise and Build, Church!"

"Rise and Build, Harvest!"

"Rise and Build, Body of Christ!"

Jesus says to us, "I will lead you!"

Thank you for reading my heart today, I'll speak with you again soon,

Aaron

You are the light of the world.
A city that is set on a hill
cannot be hidden.

Jesus Matt 5:14

Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.

Helen Keller

We are witnessing a great awakening,
Millions of Texans,
millions of Americans are rising up
to reclaim our country,
to defend liberty
and to restore the Constitution.

Ted Cruz

There is a beautiful transparency
to honest disciples
who never wear a false face
and do not pretend to be
anything but who they are.

Brennan Manning

Don't expect to build up the weak
by pulling down the strong.

Calvin Coolidge

I recently went to a new doctor
and noticed he was located
in something called
the Professional Building.
I felt better right away.

George Carlin

I can feel a sunshine
stealing into my soul
and making it all summer,
and every thorn, a rose.

Emily Dickinson

If you have built castles in the air,
your work need not be lost;
that is where they should be.
Now put the foundations under them.

Henry David Thoreau

Honesty is the first chapter
in the book of wisdom.

Thomas Jefferson