

Set Free Update



January/February 2008

"WHO MOVED" -- A MEDITATION

A number of years ago my girlfriend, who would one day become my wife, and I were out for a drive. On hot summer evenings it was great to roll down the windows and enjoy the cool breeze as we drove around, I with my left arm out of the window and steering with one hand, my right arm around my date and holding her close. Remember in 1953 there were no seatbelts, electric windows or air conditioning. I stopped for a red traffic signal and a police car pulled up on my right. The officer looked over at us and said "hey buddy, both hands on the wheel." I immediately obeyed.



Another incident I heard of some years ago went like this. A couple, who had been married several years, got into their car--he on the driver's side, she on the passenger's side. The wife commented to her husband, "We never sit close together anymore." The husband's answer was, "who moved?"

We enjoy the "good life." We have it all: freedom in every respect, homes with all the amenities, food in abundance, vehicles of every kind, a variety of recreational vehicles, entertainment to suit anyone's taste or interest, travel whenever and wherever we wish, and much more. We have been blessed, or have we? We become absorbed with all of the "things to do" to enjoy life. It is easy to drift asleep to the warfare going on around us and inside of us. We are in a spiritual war. The world around us is moving away from God at an ever accelerating pace and we seem to be going along with it. Observe crime, morals and the condition of our society if you need to be convinced.

Steve Gallagher in his book *Intoxicated with Babylon* addresses this issue and quotes the following scripture: "Stay alert, be in prayer, so you don't enter the danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naïve. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire." (Mark 14:38 *The Messenger*) When, or if, we awaken and ask the question - "Where is God in a time like this," my only reply is "Who Moved?"

Written by John Klingenberg

Do you remember a children's song that went something like this? *"And we shall know them by their love, by their love, and we'll know they are Christians by their love."* I didn't grow up in a Christian home, but when I heard the words of that song I held it in my heart. I longed to know a Christian, because I longed to be loved. It sounded like just being a Christian automatically meant you would love other people because God loved them. Was I a naïve young girl? Aren't we all at some point? But you know what? I still want this song to be true. I want the world to know that we are Christians by the way we love each other and the whole world.



At Set Free Ministries I get to display that love to others. I get the privilege of standing alongside someone who is cleaning their spiritual house out. It feels very much to me like washing feet. Remember the story from John 13? The part that always hit me was when Jesus said to Peter, "Unless I wash you, you have no part of me." And don't you just love Peter's response, "not just my feet, but my hands and head as well." That is how I see people who come into Set Free. They are reaching out like Peter saying I surrender all of me to you Lord Jesus. And what wonderful things God can do with a surrendered heart and life! And Jesus told us to do likewise. Some feet are broken and bloody, those feet need extra care and salve.

I know the truth of Romans 5:8, because God did indeed love me while I was still a sinner. Only God can make beauty from the ashes. God takes those wounds in my life the ones the enemy meant to cripple me and keep me a prisoner, and He turns them to testimony of His power and His love and truth that set me free. Only God could take those wounds, heal them to scars and then give me the courage to show the scars to other people who are wounded. There can be healing, you can be free.....see my scars, take my hand, let's go to the Heavenly Father together.

I know the horrible lies that the enemy speaks to us, and I know the deception of the world around us, and I know of the tendency we have to self-protection. And I know the power of the gospel to allow us to claim all that Christ gained for us. Sometimes people will ask about spiritual warfare. We are in it. Denying it really doesn't do anything positive. I experienced spiritual warfare before I came to understand and acknowledge Jesus as my Savior. Denying the existence of the enemy doesn't protect you any more than never leaving your home makes you safe. The enemy can still come harass you in your home. We need to understand the armor we have and how to use it. That is one of the things we get to do at Set Free and it is wonderful! Every time someone leaves understanding and spiritually free I think, there goes another warrior. May Jesus strengthen you for the journey you have.

Written by Kelly Tanis



A Monthly Publication of Set Free Ministries
700 - 36th St., SE, Ste. 108
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
616-726-5400 (phone)
616-726-5404 (fax)
www.setfreeministries.com

