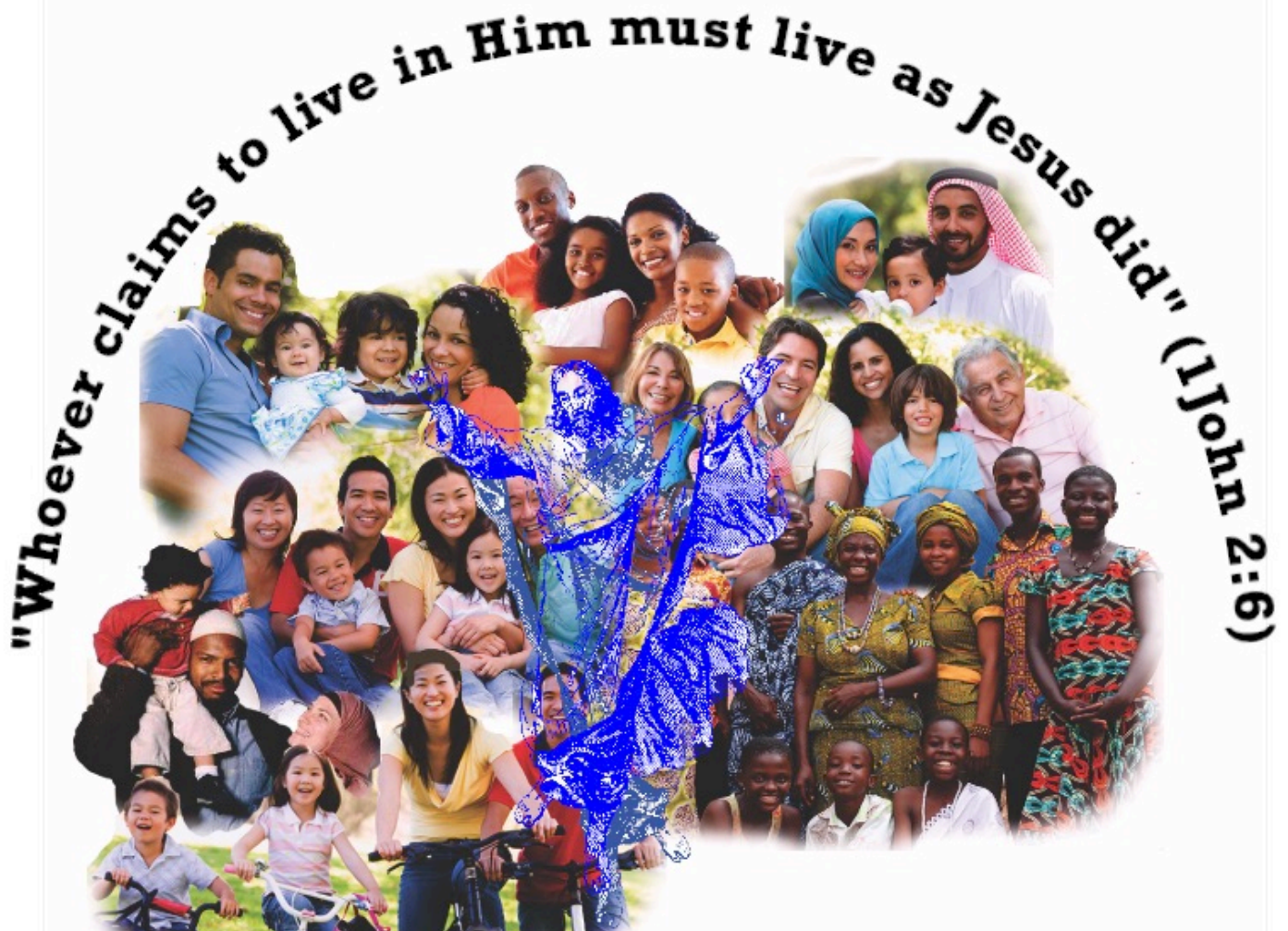


Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 20. My Life's Pilgrimage As My Husband's Suitable Helper



Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations

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I'm hoping that through some personal testimonies as an older woman in Jesus I can exhort you in your own life in Christ. I think it's always helpful to know some of the backdrop to someone who's sharing insights with you, like Paul did in his writings. I'm not a woman who has journeyed alone! My relationship with my Lord Jesus is best expressed in my marriage covenant. That's why you'll read a lot about Mike in this Reality. I belong to Mike as God's gift to him because he was incomplete without me! We learned during our research in Israel that **“the highest gift God ever gives a man is a wife.”** That was so eyeopening to us! Then Proverbs 18:22 made much more sense to us: *“He who finds a wife finds a great good and he has won the favor of the Lord.”* Through the humility it takes for a husband to sacrificially love his wife the way our Lord commands, his character becomes increasingly conformed to that of Jesus. It's been a process for us to learn that in marrying me, Mike has gone to his ego's death so he can become more like Jesus, first to me and then to those Father brings into our lives. As Mike has deepened in his Lordship commitment, this aim has intensified in him: **“If you want to know my love for Jesus, watch it in how I love Sue.”** To me it's Ephesians 5:25,26 being put into action!

As we researched the Gospel which the earliest followers of Jesus embraced, we discovered that **“a marriage covenant should be the physical representation of the spiritual Covenant you embrace with your Father through Jesus Christ.”** (For an understanding of how the covenant of marriage relates to the New Covenant with our Father, please read: [Our Heavenly Father's Two Paramount Covenants](#)). From God's perspective, both these covenants are sacred and set apart. The word “covenant” means that you live in union with someone. The *agape* love that binds our marriage covenant physically displays in certain ways the loving strength of our Covenant with our heavenly Father. This doesn't mean that Mike and I don't have our problems and misunderstandings. But through Christ, whatever we fall short of in our marriage covenant and in our Covenant with our Father can be overcome as we repent and forgive. Together we're so grateful that He continues to bring about the situations and encounters that are necessary to keep us on His Potter's wheel!

I'm sure that our own life journey as a couple has been very different than your own. But we can all learn some lessons from each other about our Father's varied work in and around us as He was preparing us for such a time as this. I hope that my account especially as a wife and older woman may help you as a wife, a widow, a woman to come alongside another woman, wife or mom to encourage her in our Lord's faithfulness. And please pass this along to other women you know—and even to men who need to be moved along in their relationships with women they care about! They can learn from Mike's journey of growing as a man of God.

Our Father gave me Mike to complete *and* to serve alongside in fulfilling His purposes.

Neither Mike nor I were following Jesus as our Lord when we married 53 years ago. And having been raised by a single mom, I knew nothing of keeping a marriage together nor what it takes to be a wife. We got married during a very difficult time in our nation's history. Mike was finishing Navy flight training, and not long afterward deployed three times to Vietnam in 3 years. This was long before the internet and instant communications, so we depended on sporadic letters to encourage each other. Death was always a possibility for him as a wartime helicopter pilot. But since I was safe in southern California, I couldn't really picture the daily danger he faced. And while I was a regular church attender, I had no living relationship with our Lord Jesus. So I had no confidence in His sustaining mercies if and when adversity struck.

During Mike's third deployment I received word from his squadron that his helicopter had exploded and he was presumed missing at sea. (I later found out that one of the two engines had blown out the side, but that he was able to save the aircraft and all those onboard by nursing it back just above the waves until he reached shore.) That he could have been killed affected me for some time, though, especially since I had virtually no trust in God's sovereignty and love. And I was unprepared for the aftermath when he came back.

Neither of us recognized how deeply Mike's undiagnosed PTSD would impact our marriage (and parenting) through sudden rage and inexplicable agitation. There was so much he wouldn't talk about, so I couldn't understand what was causing these outbursts. (Hidden secrets in any marriage are a problem, especially if things from your past cause you to emotionally withdraw in the present.) Many years passed and then our Lord sent Mike a fellow Vietnam vet with PTSD who recognized the symptoms and urged us to take part in classes being offered by the VA. After each class as we drove home Mike would open up about events I'd never heard before. By our Lord's grace and through many tears we found inner healing. And we found that our Father was going to use these painful experiences to prepare us for future assignments in emotionally undergirding others who love and serve Jesus in His Lordship.

Our spiritual journey. Even before I knew Jesus as my Lord and Savior, He was stretching me as a wife and mother while Mike was deployed or occupied with graduate school and job responsibilities. His and my initial encounters with Jesus being Lord of our lives were very dissimilar. For me, my frustration with myself in feeling like such an awful mother while Mike was absent finally brought me to my knees in humble repentance. And our Father, full of grace and forgiveness through Jesus, received me as His daughter! I immediately joined a group of other women in praying together and studying God's Word. Together we learned valuable lessons we could apply on dying to self and what yielding to the Holy Spirit looked like on a daily basis as a woman, a wife and a mom.


Mike's journey to our Lord took a far more dramatic road. In Vietnam he flew numerous hazardous rescue missions, and twice found himself piloting a rescue helo just moments from death in stormy weather. For the first time in his life he cried out, ***“Jesus, if You're real, don't let me be the instrument of these people dying!”*** And our Lord answered him immediately! In one incident a huge, sun-illuminated cross appeared right in front of the helicopter and guided him to safety. As he later related these testimonies to me, we recognized how hungry we both were to walk in spiritual truth. We realized that the Holy Spirit had brought about the different events which led to both of us committing our lives to our Lord Jesus in 1977.

With His presence in us, the Holy Spirit anointed us with gifts that have served our Lord's purposes for us as a couple. Mike was given the anointing of **prophet**. This is the Spirit-given ability to receive and communicate specific revelations from our Lord for His people at the appropriate time. As in ancient times, this gift is used most often to confront unrepentance and to encourage the humble. Through this particular gifting we've served individuals, families and faith communities around the world for the past 40 years, especially through our website.

When I was genuinely born again, the Holy Spirit gave me gifts of faith and exhortation. **Faith** is the Spirit-given ability to confidently confirm the will and purposes of God even if all the details aren't clearly understood. This gift especially staves off the temptation to sin by worry or fretting so that trust will shine. (Mike would often comment about my gift of faith, “The more impossible things get, the happier Sue is. She's happiest when only our Lord Jesus is the answer!) And because of the nature of the work Father has given Mike and me to do, the Spirit also

gifted me with **exhortation**. With this gift He works through me to encourage, teach, and confront others who follow Jesus to enable them to fulfill Father's purposes through their obedient trust and love. By means of this gifting I can urge followers of Jesus to actively live Lordship-committed in His love and compassion.

When we were commissioned to serve at a retreat center in 1983, the pastors in our region commissioned Mike to be "an **apostle** among them, serving all of them but belonging to none of them." We realized that this call to serve apostolically was the Spirit-given ability to fulfill a specific mission. In Mike's case this meant going forth among God's people to build them up and strengthen their resolve to love, trust and obey our Lord Jesus. And through the retreat center, in this gifting we were able to minister among many diverse faith communities.

It's upheld my dignity in the Spirit of our Lord that Mike has never considered my divine giftings to be secondary to his. He has consistently sought opportunities for me to use my gifts in the lives of other people. In fact you're reading this message because Mike heard from the Holy Spirit that Father wanted me to write these Realities, and he related this to me. I don't see myself as a teacher but rather as an exhorter in what the Spirit gives me to write. I'm an older woman and a wife whose gift of faith has given me divine confidence when everyone else is besieged by worry and doubt. So I'm writing to exhort you that with the grace and the help of the Holy Spirit, pray about this and put into practice what He has given me to share with you. If you don't feel that what I write applies to you, take it up with our Lord Jesus. But doing absolutely nothing about this is a snare of lazy self-comfort! 

Chewing and digesting and then applying God's commands to your life is biblically foundational to your life journey in Jesus. It's certainly been essential to us along the way! Very early on, three young enlisted men disciples Mike to put God's commands into practice, while some dear sisters urged me to put my trust into action. Shortly after our conversion Mike and I attended a seminar on living out God's commands. Applying His commands to our way of life is like our daily bread of obedient trust in the Lord we love. And searching His Word for guidance and clarification aligns our decisions according to how Jesus in His Lordship would have us walk. So I ask you again, do you know what the Bible requires of you as an older woman who loves Jesus as her Lord? And are you doing what He calls you to do?

We were introduced to the reality of spiritual warfare early in our walk in Jesus. During Mike's time aboard his last ship he encountered a large satanist contingent among the sailors. The spiritual warfare about which the Bible speaks was made very real for him as he used the Name of Jesus to deliver men from demons. Later, when we began our ministry together, Mike requested our Lord that demons would attack only him and not me. Because I was under his protective authority as my husband, maintaining my peace and joy was his responsibility. All these years Mike has protected me in the safekeeping power of Jesus in the face of a number of demonic attacks. And since I've chosen to live under that protection, a Navajo prophetic friend gave me a Navajo name which means "**a woman who intersects evil with joy.**"

Maybe you can identify with a particular personal characteristic. I'm most at peace when our lives are a constant, steady and calm for the most part. I never get bored! Our Father, though, loves flexibility, and having had to change "nests" 20 times in our marriage, *predictability* wouldn't describe our lives from most people's perspective. But our Lord's love and life lessons for our good are a wonderful constant, so learning to not be rooted in any one place has been key for me as Mike's suitable companion. If I groused or fretted each time Father uprooted us and replanted us, he'd have no peace—and I'd be disobeying my Lord by distrust. And He graciously uses Mike's research to investigate our next "assignment" or even

new purchases so that my *shalom and joy* in Christ are undergirded. Mike delights in doing this out of his love for me, and I'm so thankful! For years we've used this process as we make decisions to fulfill Father's plans: **Consider > Propose > Plan > Decide > Execute**. Try it!

“Welcome a prophet as a prophet and receive a prophet’s reward” (Matthew 10:41).

Having spent so many years alongside someone with a prophetic gifting, I have great regard for those whom the Spirit works through in that capacity because they are so often misunderstood in their obedience to speak forth. Two verses especially sum up Mike's experience: *“But if I say, ‘I will not mention His word or speak anymore in His Name,’ His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot”* (Jeremiah 20:9). And, *“I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute”* (Luke 11:49).

When Mike was in his forties his Mom told him that when he was born, the Lord told her to call him “Michael” because he'd be a messenger of God. Mike's prophetic anointing has had a major effect on our marriage—especially ***the loss of "Christian" friends who wanted to hold onto their sin***. But I have a special God-given role to play here! I'm my Father's gift to help my husband after relational betrayals so he can regroup his emotions and acquire grace to love again as Christ would love. You're familiar with the saying, *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick”* (Proverbs 13:12). When Father sends Mike with a prophecy to confront sin or for encouragement, ***if*** the person(s) would confirm it and take action, then His Spirit would restore fellowship and Father be praised. But when the recipient disregards the prophetic word or doesn't test it, then Mike's heart despairs. That's the price of loving our Lord and other people.

I can certainly see why our Lord gave me the spiritual gift of faith—He knew I'd need it especially as Mike was used by Him prophetically. It's been tested, for sure! Our Lord didn't let Mike tell me about sins He was sending Mike to confront in religious leaders. And Mike wanted to protect me from developing a bitter spirit against people who reacted by tearing down his character or reputation. But this placed great strain on our marriage. Only years later did I learn about some of the dark situations he'd had to face: confronting a seminary whose sins were so great they faced criminal charges; standing up to the administrative staff of a Christian college who were misappropriating endowment funds; facing down a popular pastor who used his teenage daughters to fornicate with the men during retreats so they'd support his embezzlement. (God sent Mike with a prophetic word to this man that he would die if he didn't repent. But rather than repenting, the man badmouthed Mike to numerous clergy in our region. Sadly, he died three months later of liver cancer. However, a few years later the man's son contacted Mike to ask forgiveness for what his father had done.)

A number of times along our journey we'd visit congregations to worship. Some (maybe even like yours) tolerated openly sinful behavior. I recall a service in which the Holy Spirit ordered Mike to get on his knees and then told him that our heavenly Father wasn't listening to their praise songs because of the tolerated sin. In another congregation meeting we were seated near the back when the Holy Spirit told him to bind the Jezebel spirit in two specific women who'd starting attending recently. They were spiritually intimidating the men to keep them from sharing any testimonies. Both these ladies got up and ran out the front door as Mike bound the spirit in Jesus Name! In both these situations we met with the leadership to let them know what had happened. I'm so glad that the leaders in both congregations were thankful that darkness had been exposed so they could make it known to the entire body.

Since 2015 our ministry has consisted mostly of the two of us in the apostolic/prophetic nature of our Father's call for us to share the Hebraic foundations. We've been blessed with

some neat acquaintances in our present neighborhood and by the lake where we take our daily prayer walk. But it's been by the grace of our Lord Jesus that He has continued to strengthen me to live and work alongside a much-loved man whose suffering from agent orange is agonizing. If you're older and married or widowed, then you probably recognize that at some point one of you needed the other more than ever. For us, Mike's love for Christ and for me is the thin line that keeps him pressing on another day.

Through prayer, though, we've realized that our Lord has allowed this debilitating situation because of the wonderful revelations the Holy Spirit gives us during our prayer walks (see 2Corinthians 12:7-10). It's through His grace to endure that we're used by Him to help people live a life which is pleasing to our heavenly Father and serves His purposes. Out of our little bedroom office Father has chosen to send forth messages that are currently received in 105 countries and are entering the realms of many demonic principalities. What started out four decades ago as Mike receiving prophecies for individuals then became prophecies for religious leaders and congregations. Now we have a prophetic mission to share the Hebraic foundations around the world. The **Hebraic foundations** are a prophetic revelation to Gentiles, coinciding with our Father restoring the Jews to Israel and specifically giving control of Jerusalem back to them. In our lifetime He is showing mercy to Jew and Gentile alike (Romans 11:30-32)!

During our last days in Israel we were standing on the ramparts of a Crusader fortress that had become a Christian retreat center. We'd gotten away there to confirm with our Father that we had all He wanted us to share. I stood next to Mike as the Spirit told him, ***"You share this message and I'll provide for you."*** Our Father has faithfully and amazingly provided, and I've never fretted about our finances or future. Divine assurance through the Spirit's *rhema* is the greatest protection from worry, both for me and for you. A reminder: **The Hebraic Restoration is a move of our Father, empowered by our Lord Jesus, and lived by those of the Spirit.**

It's as an older woman, wife, and mother who loves her Lord dearly that I'm exhorting YOU to live the true life of the *genuinely* born again. Most of these testimonies may seem to be about Mike, **but** they're really all about me who was given to him by my Father to complete my husband and serve alongside him. My life isn't secondary to his. But he has a role that I don't: to fulfill his God-given protective authority to maintain the peaceful well-being in our home as I wrote about in Reality 18. We both want our love to grow in the supportive atmosphere of peace. This cooperation is the cornerstone of everything else we value in our home. Your husband may not have lived as dedicated to our Lord Jesus as Mike has. But the same Spirit Who has given us *rhema* and grace can help YOU now be the older woman whom the Spirit of our Lord uses in your family and faith community. It doesn't matter about your past. It's from this day forward that you and the Holy Spirit can with His love fulfill all our Lord wants to use you for. Remember, there's a big difference between human love that's negotiated through having common values and activities, and Christ's love that's totally sacrificial and absolutely independent of how others treat you or respond to you (see Matthew 5:11,12,43-48; Luke 6:27-36; Romans 12:20).

The near future will find increasing stress which may tempt you to fear, worry and fret. As with many others who were true to Jesus during times of catastrophe, you'll have the chance to personally represent our Lord Jesus by revealing His peace, love, forgiveness and compassion. If you just hunker down caring for your own welfare, you'll miss the opportunity to have Him show Himself strong through you. It's when the going gets tough that the Spirit of Jesus is best manifested!

Sue (with loving support and input from Mikel!)