

December 26, 2011

Waken Up To The War Around You!

“Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether [we] come and see you or only hear about you in [our] absence, [we] will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27).

Since we first began to minister full-time in 1983, a great deal of our effort has been expended trying to shake people out of spiritual lethargy. In a sense, we function like the catfish that fishermen put in a tank of mackerel. The catfish prod the mackerel to keep swimming because if they stop, they'll die. We can assure you that it isn't easy being "catfish"!

While we were administrating and teaching at a retreat center in eastern Connecticut (1983-93), the television news reported that two thousand satanists were moving into Connecticut to **“take the state for Satan.”** As small as it is, Connecticut for years had been #1 in per capita income in the nation. For those who recognized and understood spiritual warfare, the satanic underpinning was readily apparent. And, the efforts of a few believers to voice their concerns and to mount an effectual offensive proved fruitless.

Initially, satanism entered companies and businesses through the guise of personal growth seminars that incorporated eastern mysticism and meditation. The satanic control over these companies grew, and formerly pleasant work places became oppressive. Several financially sound companies ultimately filed for bankruptcy. The *Wall Street Journal* questioned the bankruptcy of one particular Connecticut company, especially the disappearance of \$11 million of company assets at the hands of two “mysterious strangers”. Since Mike counseled church leaders and many congregations used our retreat center, we encouraged them to join with other believers in the affected companies to intercede against the demonic takeover. Creedal differences and clergy opposition, however, separated these individuals and rendered any efforts ineffective.

In one of the largest Baptist congregations in the state, a woman satanist became superintendent of the Sunday school. She'd been sent to “water down” the curriculum. If it hadn't been for the spirit of discernment in one person, this satanist would have gotten away with her insidious assignment. How many other faith communities have been weakened and overcome by the devil because Christians are *so lethargic and passive*? And how many “Christians” have been duped into embracing satanically-inspired teachings that water down God's Word?

Often we two feel like the Jewish people in Nazi “labor camps” during World War II who struggled futilely to awaken others inside and outside the camp to its real function as a prison of death. During our struggle to rally Christians against the satanist incursion, a

close friend was given this allegory from the Spirit concerning our efforts:

A Parable of War
(by Paul Knight, ca. 1986)

“We were sitting outside the village frustrated. We had been enlisted to defend and win the allegiance of the members of the village for the Crown. But there seemed to be so little response to the consistent goodness of the throne. We, the soldiers of the King, were growing tired, and apathy was around us like a dense fog.

It was then that we heard the blast of the horns warning us that they were advancing. The Enemy, whom we had grown to hate and despise, was advancing his troops close to the village.

We knew full well that the enemy and his workers were ruthless. They breathed the fire of hatred. As the others around us began to speak, we knew that the village we were caring for and seeking to win would be devastated. One of the female soldiers with us began to cry out in alarm for the innocent children who would be devoured in the jaws of wickedness and deprivation. Her voice cracked with fear and urgency, for she had been one of their prisoners. Her scars, emotional and physical, were still fresh.

Those around the woman, knowing that the King had prepared us with a power far beyond that of our enemy’s, stood in resolve to fight. We shouted to our fellow soldiers to stand and bear arms for the King, to defend the village and to fight against the advance of the army.

We sent messengers into the village, sounding warnings again and again that the enemy would take prisoners. We testified to the tactics of the enemy and to the promised care for those who follow the King. Some followed and took up arms with us. We resolved to defend to the end those left and to continue begging their enlistment under the King’s banner.

When we returned to our camp outside the village, we again tried to rally our fellow soldiers to stand and to prepare for battle. The enemy had landed and was advancing with greater strength. We could hear the hellish cries of those who were being taken and those who so joyously performed the enemy’s deeds of war. From the infants to the aged, we knew that they would be trampled and put in bondage. Untold horrors would be their fate. We again cried out to our fellow soldiers to stand and to fight.

A few of us ran to our fellow soldiers and with tear-filled eyes begged them to stand and to bear arms. But the fog had grown so thick, it seemed not only to block their vision but to silence our cries in their ears. They continued to rest and to talk.

One of our comrades was again explaining how to fight, how to use weapons. He was explaining the need to defend ourselves and the people of the village. With sweat on his brow and with great passion he began to lift our fellow soldiers up, urging them to stand. In panic he was running from person to person, propping them up, but they did not want to stand. In exhaustion, our comrade fell among them. We wept.

With greater determination we began to fight, still urging our fellow soldiers to stand. All around us the devastation, even of the King’s army, began to overwhelm us. Still we cried out to stand and to bear arms for the One Who cared for us. We shouted out the

names of the villagers. With fading breath we called out, "Help us, please fight with us. The enemy is here!"

The "Parable of War" remains an accurate description of our ministry to this day. So few in Christendom are willing to question the manmade, biblically untrue teachings of their denominations or clergy systems. So many have been deceived into being more dedicated to their **religious institution** than to the **Lordship of Jesus Christ**. How great is the need for the organized clergy hierarchy to be eliminated, and biblical elders to be restored! And we'd love to still be alive to see the restoration of the biblical apostle, prophet, evangelist, and shepherd/teacher—the followers of Jesus He has appointed to equip and bring unity, and *"to present every person complete in Jesus"* (Ephesians 4:11-16).

For years we've been encouraging you to take your stand for the Jesus you love and serve among those you encounter. We've encouraged you to question your faith practices, and discern if any do not align with God's Word. We've encouraged you to look inside yourself to the Spirit of Jesus, the ONLY One Who can guide and empower you so that you can do Father's will. Yet so many are halfhearted, looking to drink deeply of the world's pleasures while trusting in their religious veneer to make them acceptable to Father. Please, don't let 2012 arrive with you personifying this category.

If you are purposing to live each day as our Lord's much-loved slave and friend, we rejoice in your obedient trust. It's not easy in this greedy, ME-based culture, and we know firsthand how lonely it can be. From all over the world we continue to hear from those who love our Lord with all their heart and soul but find themselves wondering if anyone else around them is dedicated to living in the Lordship of Jesus. You find yourself identifying with the souls under the altar who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. During their seemingly unending wait, they called out in a loud voice, *"How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until You judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"* (Revelation 6:10). But how long-suffering He is in wanting none to be lost but all to repent! We must wait a little longer until the last responsive one runs to His fold...

Mike & Sue