



Releasing Supernatural Ministry Into the Marketplace

Is Christmas Really Over...or Can We Celebrate it Everyday

Tonya Hedrick

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Tonya Hedrick is passionate about bringing out the best in others. She is a creative Speaker, Teacher, and Workshop Facilitator. Her compassionate teaching presence compels hearts to hunger for growth and experience transformation. You can contact Tonya at kingdomcoaching@gmail.com or phone 304.344.3288.

Is Christmas really over simply because December 25th has passed or can we celebrate the gift of Christ everyday? I remember talking to a friend of mine on the phone several years ago about the difficulty that many of us have in simply *receiving* from others. You may find that it's difficult for you to receive from others too. How do you respond when someone genuinely offers to help you or desires to give you something? Do you give the automatic "Oh, no thank you" without even thinking? Or you may begin thinking of something you can do for them in order to "pay them back" because you cannot fathom receiving something without an even exchange. Or maybe you are so accustomed to doing things yourself; you don't feel like you need anyone to help you nor do you want them to. You are strong, independent and self-sufficient even though a part of you knows that help from another would reduce some of your stress and make your time more efficient. Or are you the kind of person who says with a slight tone of martyrdom, "No, you don't have to do that. I don't want to put you out or anything. It's really okay, I'll manage". There is a part of you

that really wants the help but you talk the other person out of it while all along hoping that they will ignore what you are saying and help anyway. There may be a part of you that doesn't feel worthy enough to receive something freely given. Many of us are so used to struggling and not having what we really want and need and as a result we may feel guilty and even uncomfortable for being supported and loved unconditionally. Okay, maybe you have identified yourself or maybe you haven't but I bet you at least know somebody who has a difficult time receiving from others unconditionally.

I've been on both ends of the spectrum with different people in different situations. Sometimes I find myself needing to appear strong and independent and other times I don't want to interfere with someone's schedule to accommodate me. Somehow in the matter of milliseconds we evaluate what we believe we need or don't need based upon how we view others and ourselves *never considering Christ*.

During the Christmas Season we celebrate the birth of Christ, a gift given from the heart of the Father to a fallen humanity.

Gifts are simply *received*, unlike a "wage" that is worked for, earned or deserved. A gift in order to be appreciated or valued must be *received*. We received the gift of Jesus Christ when we realized our need for a Savior. Was the *giving* of Jesus Christ meant for just a one-time event? Can we receive more from Him in addition to our prayer and quiet time? Where is Jesus now and how does He reach out to us? I believe one way that He reaches out to us is through others. Jesus, when He was here upon the earth modeled for us what it was like to serve both God the Father and humanity. In the book of John chapter 13:1-17 we see the example that Jesus modeled for us in washing the disciple's feet. He teaches us that regardless of any position or title that we may have we all are called to serve. The Bible also teaches us that He now lives in us and that we are to serve one another. Galatians 5:13-14 in the NIV admonishes us to "...serve one another in love. The entire law summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'".

There can be different motivations for serving others. One motivation can be fear. Some-

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Let's Cruise



KBN is planning a cruise for early 2008. Details will be coming soon, so start making plans.

Activity will never produce God's presence. God's presence will always produce focused, productive activity.

Rod Davis

KBN DIRECTORY

P.O. Box 7732
 Cross Lanes, WV 25313
 Phone: 304-389-6095

Rod Davis, Director:
 rdavis@kbnonline.net
 Sam Vance, Assoc. Director:
 svance@kbnonline.net
 Raetta Schenk, Missions Director:
 raedtta@kbnonline.net
 Jendonae Houdyschell, Exec.
 Coordinator: jen@kbnonline.net

times when we are afraid we serve out of our need for acceptance. We serve because we want others to like us, need us and not reject us. While it is true that God can flow through us to others while serving on this level I do not believe it is the highest form of service that we can give to one another. Once a person experiences in his heart the love of God, the kind of love that brings security where there is insecurity, wholeness where there is woundedness, only then can one serve from an unlimited supply of unconditional love reflecting the nature and likeness of Christ himself. In this kind of service to others there are “no strings attached”, no expectations of a return and no hidden motivations. The reward for the one serving is the deep sense of joy that they feel knowing that God’s love is flowing through them to another. Now, going back to my original thought. When we say “no” to others, who desire to serve us, for whatever reason, who are we really saying “no” to? Are we saying no to the person or are we saying no to the Christ in them who desires to serve?

In Matthew 25: 31-40 Jesus shares with His listeners that *when they serve others they are actually serving Him*. “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and

clothed you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” With your permission I would like to bring that scripture into our everyday lives. Lord, when did we see you overwhelmed with three children at home and simply in need of a cup of tea and an adult conversation? When did we see you overwhelmed with a cluttered office or home and in need of just having someone present to share the load and make the task easier? When did we see you trying to move the furniture and rearrange the room and offer a hand? When did we see you in need of a good home cooked meal because you had been traveling on the road for weeks with your job? Verse 40 says, “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’”

God the Father desires to give the gift of Christ to us everyday as we serve one another. Christ is also willing to receive that gift as He lives His life through you. *Christ in the giving and Christ in the receiving*. If this is true then where is there room for all of our excuses, inadequacies, martyrdom, unhealthy independence (*not all independence is unhealthy*), guilt, etc...? God’s life and His love is more powerful when we allow it to flow to us and through us. It’s only when we “get out of the way” that this can truly happen. If you

are unsure of your motivations on either end, in the giving or receiving, ask the Lord for Truth, He will reveal to you your heart. The key is *balance* and also the *pursuit of a pure heart*. This exchange of giving and receiving in its highest form is not about selfishness or personal gain. It’s about allowing God’s love flow from you in order to bring joy, support, peace and life to another.

So, can we celebrate Christmas everyday? I believe that we can. Jesus is The Eternal Gift that is given to you and me everyday. If in your journey of accepting your true worth and value you still find it difficult to receive from others just remember that Jesus said they are *servng Him* as they serve you. My prayer is that you share the gift of Christ to others, receive His love from others and in doing so we can celebrate and rejoice in Christmas everyday.

When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

Maya Angelou



A Simple Witness

by Rod Davis, KBN Director

God has been making me keenly aware of our responsibility in the earth to proclaim the gospel in the sphere of influence in which we operate on a daily basis. Daily I ask how I can share Christ with folks that I deal with, and more importantly, how can I not be a poor witness in my workplace.

This past winter, my wife Julie and I purchased a small lakeside cabin in southeastern West Virginia, in the mountains as a “hiding place” and an investment. While spending a week at the cabin this August, for some serious “Mom / Dad” time, we got to spend some face to face time with the local Mennonite community.

While not an expert on Mennonites culture or

theology, they can trace their roots to the early days of the Protestant Reformation and the Anabaptist Movement started in 1535. The Mennonites embrace a simple, plain lifestyle, much like the Amish who split off the Mennonite Church in 1693. The Mennonites mostly, will embrace modern tools and conveniences such as cars, electricity, etc. that are shunned by the Amish.

As a religious body, they seem to be quite evangelical and even in Belize they have quite a missionary presence.

In the several months that we have been in this area, I am seeing a Holy Spirit inspired form of marketplace ministry that is frankly, quite impressive. The Mennonites in this area are wonderful business people who are an integral part of this small farming community near Gap Mills, West Vir-

ginia. They have, among other things and farming, a cheese shop, a deli, a furniture outlet (handmade), a bakery, and a small engine repair and equipment dealership that specializes in mowers and chain saws, etc. They also are strongly agricultural, growing corn and livestock.

When you pull into the business's these folks own, you see a sign that says, “Where will you spend eternity?” at every location. While shopping with these folks, you become quickly aware of the spotless cleanliness and fastidious ways of these people. Some will not agree, but this is a powerful witness. When the spirit of excellence that you operate in, translates into cleanliness and good habits in our work that people can see set you apart, this shows that you work: as unto the Lord”.

I must admit that I met with

these people initially, thinking how sorry I was for them, that their religion prompted them to dress in simple ways, with their women in long dresses and the little bonnets, and the men with homespun clothes. I know that our Lord has come to set us free from such trappings and bondages and to give us the free gift of grace, through faith. We believe that dressing a certain way as a legalistic thing does not have the value of unmerited grace.

Part of the Mennonite tradition is to live and dress simply and to separate themselves from worldly influences. While we may live and dress more “progressively”, there is much to be said for this type of mindset. When I think of the daily barrage of secular culture I have to fight, I appreciate the way they simply give it no place in their midst.

However, the more I have interacted with them, the more my

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Pastor Tim Osborn to Speak at October 9 KBN Dinner

Pastor Tim Osborn along with his wife Denise Osborn are the Senior Pastors/ Founders of Shout Assembly/ Shout To The World Ministries, Inc. The ministry began in March of 2000 holding its first service in the local bingo in the city of Warsaw, KY hall with a karaoke box, a borrowed keyboard, and a lot of VISION. With a vision to see God's healing power sent to the nations, the ministry has since grown to over 20 ministry departments and is home of the Shout Assembly School of Biblical Studies an Oral Roberts University Bible Institute



participant.

In March of 2004, the ministry purchased 36 acres of prime real estate near the Markland Dam Bridge and the new Interstate 71 connector road as a potential site for the ministry's international headquarters and university. In the Spring of 2006, the leadership of the ministry decided to relocate the international headquarters to Northern Kentucky near the Greater Cincinnati Airport. The purpose of this move was to better facilitate the ministry's conference goals and further expansion goals. The ministry desires to acquire an additional 90 – 150 acres in the Northern Ken-

tucky region for the location of the permanent location of Shout Assembly/ Shout To The World Ministries, Inc. International Headquarters and a Christian University.

Pastor Tim Osborn is a current student of Oral Roberts University and is the primary instructor in the Shout Assembly School of Biblical Studies. Pastor Tim preaches the Word of God with the emphasis on practical application for success in everyday life. Pastor Tim is a man of faith who believes he is called to inspire the Body of Christ to Services, LLC.

KBN DINNER

Tues. Oct. 9, 2007

6:30 pm

NEW LOCATION!

Wellington's

Scarlet Oaks Country Club
1 Dairy Road in Poca, WV

Cost, **in advance** is \$23.00 per person for an outstanding meal by Wellington's chefs and an anointed time of praise, music and ministry.

If you work in the realm of business and wish to use your job as an effective way to proclaim the gospel, and to become all that God has called you to be, this meeting is a must for you! Please call Rod Davis at 304-389-6095 to reserve as seat!

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spirit has stirred when I am around them. While shopping through their stores, and shops, you become aware of a low key background music that is always evident. When you focus on what is being played, you hear a capella music from an unseen cd player, singing beautiful harmony on classic hymns of the faith as well as modern praise music. When I first heard the Mennonites singing, "Our God is an Awesome God, He reigns", I was moved and stirred in my spirit!

Julie and I spent some time in the Spring Valley Furniture store where the Mennonites sell their hand built wooden furniture at incredibly reasonable prices, as well as gifts and home accents, many with a plain spoken Christian message. Many of the hand painted signs they sold to hang in your home and the beautiful hand crafted cherry and native oak furniture contained scripture verses and spiritual slogans. The cash registers offered gospel tracts and free cd's of praise and worship music. The incredible quality and beauty of their work spoke volumes about their work ethic. The people were warm and very friendly.

I found I had some difficulty not weeping as I browsed through the store. Each new

thing I saw touched my heart and stirred me. My eyes filled with tears. The other patrons in the store were not crying. They were enjoying the shopping experience I am sure. Why was I weeping? Why was the Spirit stirring my soul? Eventually I had to make an exit to recompose myself.

Whenever I was in that store, the presence of God became so real to me. I felt like I was on holy ground in some way I could not explain.

My Father was walking with me in that store, politely pointing over my shoulder at this piece or that, showing me what He saw. The sweet presence of the Holy Spirit was in those stores.

Later I was in the Lawnmower shop that I took my weed eater to for repair. The workshop was fastidiously clean and the same sense of order prevailed. I watched the Mennonite mechanic, Rodney, as he spoke in his precise German flavored English to two other customers who came in. It was obvious that these customers, both older gentlemen held young Rodney in high regard, by the way they spoke to each other as neighbors. He quickly repaired my weed eater and solved the others problems in short order with the ease that comes from being an expert. Rodney was neat and clean in a profession that does not demand that. He was very glad you were his cus-

tommer. He charged me a modest fee and thanked me for thinking of him and his business. Right by his door and in the driveway, were small signs, asking "Where will you spend eternity?"

On Rte 3, in beautiful Monroe County, West Virginia, in the midst of acres and acres of tall, green corn, on these hot summer evenings, a large tent is erected and a neat sign by the road announces an old fashioned TENT REVIVAL, sponsored by the Mennonite Church. I have to admit, I have not attended as the temperature has hovered in the mid 90s these past few evenings, but I am sure the Holy Spirit has been there.

Before the KBN members start saying that Rod Davis is joining the Mennonites and Julie will be wearing a little bonnet from now on, let me quell that rumor. However God has shown me that these simple, loving people have a grasp on true MARKET-PLACE MINISTRY in ways that we have not. Father has quickened my heart to see what He sees.

- These precious people have positioned themselves to become an integral part of the local community, performing tasks and providing goods and services that make them indispensable to their neighbors.

They have developed a reputation for integrity and honesty amongst the entire community. Their reputation for excellence and quality is without question and above reproach.

They have used their business platforms to unashamedly proclaim that Jesus Is Lord!

I ask you, have we done the same? Have we met that high of a standard? When people leave our business's or have dealings with us, do they KNOW we are followers of Jesus?

I have been educated this week in Monroe County on my mini-vacation. I have seen what we must be about as marketplace Christians. I have been challenged by these simple folks to meet their high standards of testimony. I thought that MARKET-PLACE MINISTRY was a new thing, something God very recently revealed to His church. Now I see He is simply asking us to "catch up" to the Mennonites!

If asked where to find children of God in Monroe County, I will point you towards Gap Mills. I am sure there are many more there, but these folks make His name known like no other.

FEDERATION OF MINISTERS AND CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL

Reforming the Church - Reclaiming The Nation — "Battling For The Destiny of America"

November 12-15, 2007

Conference early Registration ends Oct. 12, 2007:

\$120.00 Married Couple

\$80.00 Individual

No Child care provided.

Registration After Oct. 12

\$135 / \$90

Conference registration includes Lunch on Tuesday & Wednesday.

To be held at the Radisson - Austin North - www.radisson.com/austintx_north

To register or for more information go to <http://www.fnici.org/pages.asp?pageid=12540>