



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Dear Prayer Supporter,

WHICH WAR DO YOU FIGHT?

After a recent prayer time together, Dorothy remarked: "There is a big difference between being persistent to accomplish the will of God and that of pushing to accomplish the will of man." Indeed there is!

At the time of writing, "Operation Iraqi Freedom" is in its fourth day. The message from General Tommy Franks is clear: "We will be flexible in our tactics but not in our objectives." Such a clear mandate in any war is designed to fortify the resolve of the fighting forces. But, there is another even more significant, more strategic, and more consequential war that is raging in our day. That is **spiritual** warfare.

This spiritual warfare—leading up to the end-time battles prophesied in the book of Revelation—calls for the fortification of our faith; of our commitment to supplicatory prayer; and, of our renewed thrust into Satan's kingdom for the souls of men.

Miraculously by God's amazing grace, every true believer has been delivered out of the kingdom of darkness and translated into the kingdom of His dear Son (COLOSSIANS 1:13). Notice, the antithesis of the kingdom of darkness is the kingdom of God's dear Son. Every believer has been baptized by the Holy Spirit into His body (1 CORINTHIANS 12:13). So, however dark the situation may appear, it is this kingdom of God's dear Son that inevitably triumphs over sin and Satan!

A few days ago, as I knelt and wept before God in intercession for President Bush and his cabinet; for the coalition forces in their unenviable call to duty; and, for the suppressed and precious peoples of Iraq who are presently caught in the crossfires of this world's tensions; my mind went to one of the special names by which God revealed Himself—**YAHWEH SABAOTH**. Let us note the significance of this couplet of names.

YAHWEH While the name Yahweh speaks of God's self existence—the God who ever was, who never was not, and who ever will be—that precious name also indicates that He is 'The Becoming One.' His becoming to us all that we need at the time we need it is revealed even more clearly in the New Testament. There we are assured that, if we need victory or strength or peace or love or life itself, it is all available to the believing heart in the person of our crucified, risen, ascended and soon-coming Lord and Savior, **Yeshua—JESUS!** Faith listens in awe to the God who says: "I AM" and responds:

"Yes, You are the becoming One for all I need both in time and in eternity."

However, in the first book of Samuel we read that the name of God is also: **YAHWEH SABAOTH**. This is translated: "**The Lord of Hosts.**"

SABAOTH The name **Sabaoth** has a special reference to warfare or service. So although the name **Yahweh** indicates that He is 'The Becoming One,' the name 'Sabaoth' indicates that He is also the Lord of warrior hosts.

Even as I write, the world's attention is focussed on Iraq and Afghanistan with all the horrors of war. But another and even more strategic war rages in the heavenlies. When, in his day, Nebuchadnezzar (a precursor of Saddam Hussein) was the focal point of conflict and cruelty in Babylon (now called Iraq) it was revealed to Daniel that a greater conflict was taking place in the heavenlies. This conflict was between demonic hosts and angelic messengers of God. Accordingly Daniel sought the intervention of God for 21 days with prayer and fasting. His prayer included:

... for we do not present our supplications before Thee for our righteousness, but for Thy great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for Thine own sake, O my God; for Thy city [Jerusalem] and Thy people are called by Thy name DANIEL 9:18B-19.

Ironically, just after "9/11" I read a prayer sticker on a car window: "*God, you know that we are worthy of your mercy.*" Certainly not! If we are worthy then we have no need of mercy. But, like Daniel, we also need to call upon the mercy of God in these perilous days. Though, as a people, we are unworthy of His mercy, because of our Savior's finished work at the Cross: *Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need HEBREWS 4:16.*

However, when I read, prayed and wept before God the other morning, I noticed that the appellation: **YAHWEH SABAOTH—The Lord of hosts** is not found in the Pentateuch. But, in the Psalms we read that king David, at a time of conflict, found great assurance that: "*The Lord of hosts*" is with us.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; and be lifted up, you everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your

heads, O you gates; even lift them up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? **The Lord of hosts**, [mighty in battle] *He is the King of glory* PSALM 24:7-11.

And today our great Creator Redeemer pitches His holy tent among His praying children to consummate His victory for dying souls, as we live in the run-up period to the final conflict both for the souls of men and also for the city of Jerusalem—where Jesus, **The Lord of hosts**, will return with His Church!

In this connection, it is interesting to note that, when the Old Testament prophets lived through years of military turmoil—together with their call for national repentance—they penned significant and awesome prophecies of end-time events. As they did, the appellation of God as **The Lord of hosts** dramatically increased. Jeremiah uses that name about 80 times; Haggai 14 times; Zechariah about 50 times; and, in Malachi, the name of **The Lord of hosts** is found about 14 times.

And now, living in that time period of which these Old Testament prophets spoke, and quickly approaching the end of this present order of things on planet earth, the name of **The Lord of hosts** should have supreme importance in our lives and prayers. So may we be more concerned with supplicatory prayer than we are with social events; may we answer God's call to spiritual warfare more than listening to the voices of political pundits; may we open the gates of every area of our hearts to enjoy His all-sufficient and enabling grace rather than speculate upon the dangers and benefits of our modern precision weapons of war.

We remember that Hosea warned the people of his day that though: *They return*, it was not to *the most High* . . . *Ephraim*, he warned, was *like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria*. Egypt, the great military power that boasted vast armies of horses ready for battle. Assyria was the great political power. It is therefore significant that Hosea led his people in a prayer to affirm their total dependence upon the Lord: . . . *return unto the Lord thy God he pled for thou has fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto Him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves [praise] of our lips. Assyria shall not save us: we will not ride upon horses* . . . HOSEA 7:11,16; 14:1-3.

With king David, let us also affirm our total dependence upon the living God:

For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us. In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever PSALM 44:6-8.

This being the case, we can now most assuredly affirm with David's son, king Solomon:

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. PROVERBS 18:10

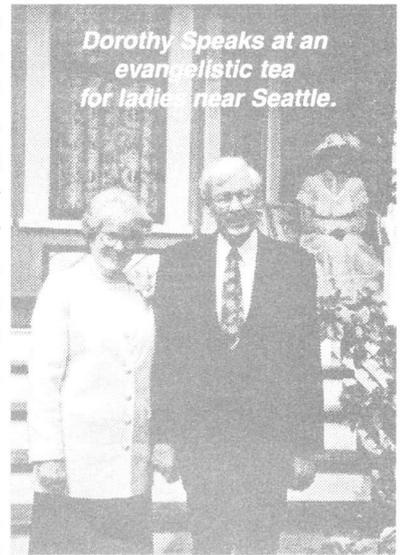
Some friends who receive this letter are presently serving in places of great danger. You too may have friends and relatives in similar situations. So let us together be encouraged to establish our priority ministry as we intercede for them and others. At the same time, please do remember to pray for the Arabic "*missionaries in paper covers*" which are still being circulated in some of the war-torn and turbulent countries of the Middle East!

We are most encouraged to learn that our suggested prayer list is being helpful as many join us in prayer for these multiple extension mission opportunities. Your prayers and gifts make all the difference. Thank you, dear prayer supporter!

In His triumph,



Dorothy Speaks at an evangelistic tea for ladies near Seattle.



**Please Join Us in Prayer
for the lives being reached through:**

- "Dorothy's Daily Devotional," a 6-minute daily satellite broadcast over Trans World Radio to Ladies in Africa.
- A daily TWR radio broadcast of "Quest" and "Food" into North Korea.
- Arabic CCIM books widely distributed throughout the Middle East.
- Updated Portuguese "Quest" for distribution in Brazil, South America.
- Further copies of "Quest" and "Food" in Punjabi, Nepali, Marathi, Oriya, for a wide ongoing distribution in 16 languages for India.
- Afrikaans latest edition of "Quest" for South African distribution.
- Xhosa edition of "Quest" in printing for the Transkei in South Africa.
- "Quest" and "Food" for printing in Bambara for West Africa.
- "Quest" in printing for the Sangho language in West Africa.
- "Food" for widespread Russian church planting in Siberia.
- "Quest" and "Food" for distribution in Macedonia.
- *Hope for the Hopeless* AIDS tract for English-speaking Africa.
- *Hope for the Hopeless* AIDS tract again in Portuguese for Africa.
- SiSwati copies of "Food" currently in the printers for distribution in Swaziland and South Africa. "Quest" in much use since our ministry visit last Fall.