



River life May 2010

FROM OBEDIENCE TO CONFIDENCE

In our walk before God into more abundant living we come to a choice about how we relate to God as Lord. In God's threefold relationship with us we know Him as friend first, then as Father, then as Lord.

In practice this happens at multiple layers because God desires an ongoing relationship with you and me that is on a one to one basis, not as boss to slave but a loving and developing multilayered relationship based on trust and confidence in both directions, family style.

We live with a choice; to be servants of god or servant-son-friend of God. Does that sound like the same thing? The difference is either to live with God as lord of your life in fear of His displeasure, or to live in knowing Him as wonderful friend, loving father and compassionate and caring lord and master.

John 15:14, 15. *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master does. But I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

The difference is that the son knows our Father and what He is doing, the servant doesn't. The difficult part is to break through the subconscious baggage, particularly fears in order to get the confidence to be loved.

Part of this is to ask Him for the courage to walk in His ways. For example, it takes courage to obey **Matthew 18:15-17.** *But if your brother shall trespass against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, take one or two more with you, so that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he neglects to hear the church, let him be to you as a heathen and a tax-collector.*

Our natural safety valve says, "There is strength in numbers," so we tell it to the church first. But that just brings about the destruction of any restoration that might have happened. We can look right through **Matthew 6** where God asks us to keep all those things between you and Him privately, but our natural way is to get as much mileage as we can in terms of feeling good about ourselves in

front of others. God promises, however, that if we will get the courage to keep those things just between Him and me or Him and you, He will reward us openly. **Verses 4, 6 and 18.**

It takes courage to break through the fear of losing something and into obedience that brings confidence. The confidence is in knowing that Jesus gave us His foundational commands (or precepts) out of love and out of knowing that all of His commands will bring our hearts into line with His heart.

See **Matthew 11:25-30.** In **v27** *“Everything has been handed over to me from my Father, and no one really knows the Son except the Father, nor does anyone understand the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him.”* These are the ones I believe actually live in their sonship to God. They know Him. They know His heart about people and other things.

Jesus gives us the way to know our Father in the verses that follow on. They contain promises and conditions. The conditions are to take His yoke of gentle, humble heartedness. This is firstly toward Him, then at all times. The condition exists because that is what our Lord and our Father is like. We cannot commune deeply with Him without the same attitude of heart as His. He simply will not open His heart to us.

Our Father’s supreme generosity is that He has given us the right to be His sons. The decision to be a son to Him in relationship reality is up to you. Being a true child of God is to know your Father’s heart. Meet the conditions and you will know His heart. You will have broken through the internal barriers and come into a confidence of knowing that His quickened word works. Jesus has said that He will show you. Accept His loving Lordship into your life now. And if you don’t really know Him right now, you can. If you ask Him to, He can help you lay down all the barriers, let go all of the hurts and other stuff that acts as a shell around your heart. Let Jesus begin to crack it off your heart and commune with you. You will find such peace and love you have not known before, and there is no end to Him, there’s always more.

River of Life Mission Praise report.

Julie and I are back from 4 days in Gore and Matura. It was times of seeing our Father do outstanding things. All praise and thanks to Him! We were given the theme for the whole weekend of “Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, God Himself will be with them and be their God.” Julie was given a word in advance for most meetings and preached well (I may be biased of course). We tag teamed with teaching and preaching in each session as we understood Holy Spirit’s leading. He told me before we went down to “do what I tell you and you will get to watch Me work”. He was always clear about what to do and even showed snap movies at times of what He wanted done and said. The teacher in me found that quite uncomfortable, but the prophet was excited.

It has also been a time of attack, which I mention only so that we are aware of the enemy’s ways in order to deal with them. I have had plenty of confrontations in the last 37 years with dark angels and demons which the Name and power of Jesus always wins hands down, but curse bombardment seems unusually strong in the Matura area. I became aware of the need for strong prophetic prayer backing in a way I have not seen before. I know what brother Bonnke says and does – but this is New Zealand not Africa - or so I thought.

We are grateful to our Father to have been able to go and see Him make significant differences and come away with only slight personal damage. I was aware of a small army of chariots of fire that travelled with us everywhere. It was encouraging to stop in Gore for a bite of lunch and look out into the street and see them all lined up along the street waiting for us. I can only imagine how difficult it would have been without their assistance. At the last meeting the angels had fun swooping on the meeting and when we spoke, it turned from a quiet thing into a pool of fire. We had fun releasing the love of God there and the people gathered there learned how as well, in the midst of the healing and release.

Eight meetings were arranged Friday afternoon through to Sunday night in different locations and we saw different people and groups in each one. It was wonderful obeying Holy Spirit and seeing Him bring about activation in Jesus' Family members there, particularly the Holy Spirit Hospital session after the teaching at Mataura Presbyterian on Sunday afternoon. Most there said afterward that they were released and touched by the lovefire of God in ways and depth they had not before, and they got to do the ministering with us, which is the passion we carry. One 70+ lady was released and immediately broke out in powerful tongues warfare! It was awesome! You couldn't shut her up – and we didn't want to. The under 25's there seemed particularly energised to be a ministering part of it and were hungry for more.

It was a privilege to meet Family of God members from several generations, from hungry young people through to wonderful older saints, some of whom had hung onto spirit-filled beliefs throughout many years and times of trial – it was wonderful to have an opportunity to encourage each other in recounting the many wonderful promises of God and the inspiring truths contained in His Word. Too many other things to recount except I do remember a farmer who has had back trouble for 13 years being released after I saw a demon behind him with its claws in his back. Medical intervention had not helped him and it was spreading into his abdominals. We commanded it out in the name of Jesus and he was released and without pain for the first time in 13 years. He got quite excited for a quiet southland farmer.

I was shown a lot of prophetic information about the 2 towns and our Father's intentions, describing what He wishes to do and what the Family of God can do there to help, calling for belief and action. We felt that we touched into some of the needs, and we were aware of the hunger of many to personally grow closer to God and that is a great thing in New Zealand at this time.

Some comments from those who were there

RE: Prophetic Weekend – 23rd to 25th April.

We recently had the privilege of having Mike and Julie Arndt down for a weekend of prophetic ministry and teaching. The meetings were very encouraging, especially as Mike encouraged us to minister alongside him. This gave us great confidence, especially Stan, in hearing Father speak through us. Stan went from strength to strength in his personal relationship with Father, was and still is, on fire!

Mike spent time teaching the basics of spiritual warfare and speaking in tongues with some young prophets. It was amazing the disturbance this caused in the satanic realm while they were praying. It has left us really encouraged to meet regularly for spiritual warfare.

Julie too had a great ministry weekend. Her teaching is amazingly gifted and really brought the spirit of Father. They left us with a lot to ponder about. Especially the quality of our relationship with Father.

Overall, the weekend went by far too quickly, and we cannot wait until they come down again. Hint hint. ☺

Stan and Rachel Smith

Hi there Mike & Julie,

Thank you both for a wonderful weekend. I didn't even get to say goodbye to you properly on Sunday, but thank you for all your effort, preparation, discernment and just plain old hard work that made the weekend the success that it was.

Just the fact that you taught and ministered at such a wide variety of venues - from a youth centre to a Full Gospel Businessmen's meeting to a church setting - and to an incredibly wide cross section of the Christian community, both in background and maturity with those attending ranging in age from mid teens to late eighty's is a testimony to God's power at work in you both.

The feedback I have had since the weekend has all been very positive, with all sorts of breakthroughs and growth in and commitment to ministry reported by those who attended.

Thank you again for your dedication to the One True God and to being obedient to Him in spreading the Good News and growing His kingdom. I pray that He will continue to bless you and grow you and keep you.

Yours in Christ,

Garry Coats

Chairman, Mataura Youth Centre Trust

Michael and Julie Arndt came to minister to us last month, doing several workshops for us.

They are a fun couple who appreciated our candid humour and loud praise.

They were able to spearhead healing and deeper learning for our people, where other ministry's of note; had not.

Their teachings are well grounded in scripture, which appealed to our teachers, and their prophetic ministry was of a supernatural standard.

A lot of healing took place over our long weekend with Mike and Julie - with many of our people being set free to be the people they always wanted to be.

Mike and Julie were very friendly and approachable and were accepting of the strong and loud student culture that we embrace at the DC.

The team at the DC would recommend Mike and Julie to any Church or ministry wanting to achieve spiritual breakthrough or growth within the family of God.

Our thanks and Love to you both

Shan and Leanne Drew

The Dark Cloud family
Mataura