

Alleluia

Dove

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ALLELUIA COMMUNITY
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Going Deeper Still

By Mark Wilby and Dan Almeter



Dan Almeter and Mark Wilby

Below are excerpts from a book entitled *Birthing the Miraculous: The Power of Personal Encounters with God to Change Your Life and the World* written by Heidi Baker, PhD. Heidi Baker is a Christian Missionary from a Pentecostal background, an itinerant speaker and the CEO of Iris Global, a Christian humanitarian organization working primarily in Mo-

zambique, but also in other parts of the world. Heidi, and others working with her serving the very poor, have seen astounding miracles, where the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk and the dead are raised to life. Heidi's book is in part a reflection on Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel and her response to the words that were spoken to her.

We have recently read this book, and it has made a significant impact on us spiritually. For one thing, it stirs up a zeal and desire for intimacy with God that we all need if we are going to grow in holiness and fruitfulness. The book itself is about how to bear abundant fruit. For both of us, the book has renewed a fresh hope that even in "our older age" we can do more, and bear more fruit, and experience the Holy Spirit much, much more. And for both of us, it has renewed our vision for Alleluia—that we can become even greater for the Lord and the building of His Kingdom. If any of us are affected by acedia or a casual spirit, or "same old, same old" attitude, a prayerful reading of this book

will dispel it. Anyone who reads this book and is left unaffected—well, check your pulse; your heart may have stopped.

Heidi Baker is 100% Pentecostal. But for those familiar with the writings of Catholic saints, she reads more like a combination of Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila and Mother Teresa. Here are just a few excerpts to give a taste of her spirituality:

"And Mary said, 'behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.'" (Luke 1:38)

"The Lord can use anyone who will respond to Him as Mary did And I believe that through intimacy with God, we can find a place of yielded love in which all fear disappears, a place in which we become willing to do anything and go anywhere for love's sake.

"That yielded place is the only reason I go where I go. I go for the sake of love. I am completely in love with God. I am undone by His love. I am simply someone who has asked



Heidi Baker, missionary, speaker and CEO

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Going Deeper into the Holy Spirit

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the Lord to let it be unto me according to His word.

"Every morning when I wake up, the first thing I ask is for the Holy Spirit to possess me. I pray for that all the time. I want to be fully possessed. I just say, "Possess me, Holy Spirit! Let me love like Jesus today. Let me be His fragrance. Let me be His life. Let me carry what you have placed within me this day."

"Are you willing to bear the possible reproach and carry to full term what God has put inside of you?"

"God has predestined every single one of us for fruitfulness (John 15). We need to be familiar with a place of divine intimacy in which we are so consumed by the Holy Spirit that we will nurture and protect the seed He places in us. We need to fearlessly step out and activate His promises. It is intimacy that gives us the grace and strength we need to push through suffering, pain and inconvenience.

"When the Lord's presence hovers over you, there will be increasing fruitfulness in your life. It is inevitable. Fruit always follow intimacy and God is calling us to exponential fruitfulness. He is calling us to be a people who are absolutely enthralled by the beauty of Jesus—married to Him, in love with Him, desperate for Him, wooed by Him, set apart for Him, given wholly to Him, and laid down for Him in every area of our lives.

"People often ask me what the secret to sustainability is? The secret place is the secret. We have to live there. As we abide in the presence of the Lord, our hunger increases, and we find ourselves birthing glorious new life.

"If you think you know how to live in the secret place, but there is no fruit in your life, you have not been there. To the degree that we are unit-

ed with God's heart and in love with Jesus, we will be fruitful. . . . "All fruitfulness flows from intimacy".

"If we are to accomplish all He wants for us in this life, we must always desire more of Him. There is always room for more intimacy, more of His presence, and more of His glory.

Our passion will continue to live and burn as long as we cultivate a holy hunger, positioning ourselves to be overshadowed again and again, looking deep into the eyes of Jesus and eating of Him each day.

"God is calling us to go low. He is entreating us to let Him have complete control. He is inviting us to dive deeper into the river of His presence so we can experience true life. Just as natural rivers always flow into low places, so the river of God always flows into the lowly places... When we are bent down, kneeling down, bowed down, and laid down—then we will find Him. If we are low enough in the spirit, we will recognize even a trickle of God's presence in a room. Our overwhelming desire will be full immersion in the river.

"I have learned we can choose to go as deep as we want to go. God's power and presence are much more powerful than our ability to stand in our own strength. He has deeper places waiting for us than we will ever fully grasp. Now, I always press to go in deeper. Continually, I ask God to take me deep and drown me in his river. God offers an invitation to all who are thirsty to be fully immersed in the glory of his love.

"He wants to take you to a place where you are so far over your head in the river of God that miracles happen all around you. He wants to fill you entirely with His Holy Spirit. Diving all the way into the river means we have no more ability to stand on our



Heidi Baker with a mission child

own. There is nowhere to set our feet. It takes complete surrender. Even in that place, when I am totally hidden and the Holy Spirit fills each breath, I long to go deeper still.

"God is looking for a people he can so immerse in His love that for the rest of their lives they will have to survive inside His heart. Nothing else will matter to them. In this secret place, you can hear the heartbeat of God for yourself. He will call you to go and do whatever He wants, and you will not refuse Him.

"Let God take you into that place. Do not allow it to remain a matter of mere words. Ask Him to transform you in His love. Worship Him and wait upon Him until you are so overwhelmed to the point of no return. If you drink daily from the river of God and stay immersed in Him, then with increasing measure you will begin to pour out a love that is irresistible.

"I pray that God will continue to immerse you in his love until the only thing you understand anymore is His heart. I challenge you to make a life-long commitment to go deeper still each and every day."

Dan Almeter is an Elder of the Alleluia Community, responsible for teaching and formation programs, and a licensed marriage and family counselor. He has been a Full Covenant member of Alleluia since 1978. He and his wife Marie have six children and six grandchildren and live in Augusta, Georgia, where they attend St. Joseph Catholic Church. **Mark Wilby** is a practicing lawyer and serves on the Healing/Miracles Team. Mark has been a Full Covenant member of Alleluia since 1975. He and his wife, Sarah, have seven children and one grandchild and attend Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Augusta.

Wake Up America!

By Barbara Harshman

Our 65th National Day of Prayer was observed Thursday, May 5, at the Augusta Museum of History when many gathered to pray for protection and guidance for our country and its local and national police, firemen, military, medical professionals, pastors and clergy of all denominations and faiths, educators, all involved in our Justice system, our governing bodies and the upcoming elections.

Posting of the colors was performed by JROTC from Butler High School, followed by Rev. Steve Patten of Hillcrest Baptist Church leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Joey Hilliard singing the National Anthem. Master of ceremonies for the evening was Kurt Eyrich.

Rev. Edna Beaudoin introduced the theme of this year's Day of Prayer, Wake Up America!, with a thoughtful presentation reminding us of what the Lord has called us to do and to be.

Rev. Angel Maestre of Centro-Christiano Oasis de Bendicion Church read the Governor's Proclamation and presented it to Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr., who then read the Mayor's Proclamation and presented it to Rev. Mark Van Alstine on behalf of the South Augusta Pastors Alliance.

All present were invited to sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" led by members of the Alleluia Music Ministry. Former Mayor Deke Copenhaver spoke on his experience with communities and prayer and how important it was for communities to pray together.

Rachel Visintainer and Ania Hatfield, seniors from Alleluia Community School, sang two Irish melodies acapello: "Be Thou My Vision" and "You Raise Me Up". Then Dr. David Wilke from Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center, gave a moving testimony about experiencing

the death of his son from cancer several years ago and how the Lord had changed him through the experience.

Rev. Lou Lindsey led a litany of petitions asking the Lord for wisdom, healing and guidance for our great country and all it stands for, with the people responding, "Hear our prayer."

The evening closed with acknowledgements and thanks from Bob Garrett to all who helped to make the evening a success. The Prayer Service was followed by singing "This Land is Your Land."



Rev. Edna Beaudoin



Mayor Hardie Davis presenting Mayor's proclamation to Rev. Mark Van Alstine



Dr. David Wilke from Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center



Rachel Visintainer and Ania Hatfield singing acapella



Former Mayor Deke Copenhaver

Angels Go Back-to-Back

Alleluia claims hard fought 2nd State Championship!

By Assistant Coach, Bill Phillips

On Saturday, May 7, the ACS Boys soccer team headed to Hampton, Ga. To "defend" their 2015 GICAA Soccer Championship against the Community Christian Knights. This was a team they lost to on March 8 (2-0) and then beat two weeks later (2-1). The Angels were the #2 seed in the North Region and had to defeat the #3 seed in the South, Calvary Christian on April 20. They then made the MARATHON trip to play the #1 seed in the South, Sherwood Academy, who they defeated after three rain/lightening delays 5-3, finally returning home at 3:00 a.m.!

A special thanks to Aunts Judy Hartney, Lisa Harmon and Colleen Hall for making the trip to Sherwood to support the Angels. TROOPERS!

The Angels went into the Championship without Carson Hall, one of their stalwarts at midfield who was injured. The match was played at 12 Oaks Stadium on a beautiful day and an IMMACULATE AstroTurf field (read "fast")! As expected, the game was fast and the field was HOT. What ensued was a defensive battle with the Angels defense constantly back on their heels against a FAST Knights team with Paul Harmon, Jon Phillips, Ben Dresser, Ben Freed and Goalie Drew Rae doing a tremendous job defending our goal. The offense continued to make deep

runs with Mac McBride, Stephen Milligan, Elliot Balducci, Sam Freed and Chris Hall coming up short a number of times. The Angels missed a number of opportunities on corner kicks with Jon and Hayden Hebert just missing headers off of Mac's kicks! At the half, the score was 0-0 with neither team really having an advantage and both teams hot and in need of hydration!

The second half was much the same with both teams continuing to move the ball up and down the field; again, with neither team gaining an advantage. About midway through the 2nd half, the Knights were attempting one of their runs when Ben Dresser deflected a pass to Chris who got the ball up field to Mac and Stephen breaking down the right side; the ball was crossed, deflected to Johnny Hartney who touched it to JP Masak, who punched it past the goalie!

With the score 1-0, the Knights mounted attack after attack with the defense led by Paul, Jon, Ben, Ben, and Drew standing strong, repelling every attempt from the Knights. With about 8 minutes left in the game, Coach McBride went into a slightly more defensive mode, moving Chris back and keeping the guys fresh by subbing in Hayden, JP, and Marshall Baxter continuously. One of the most INTENSE

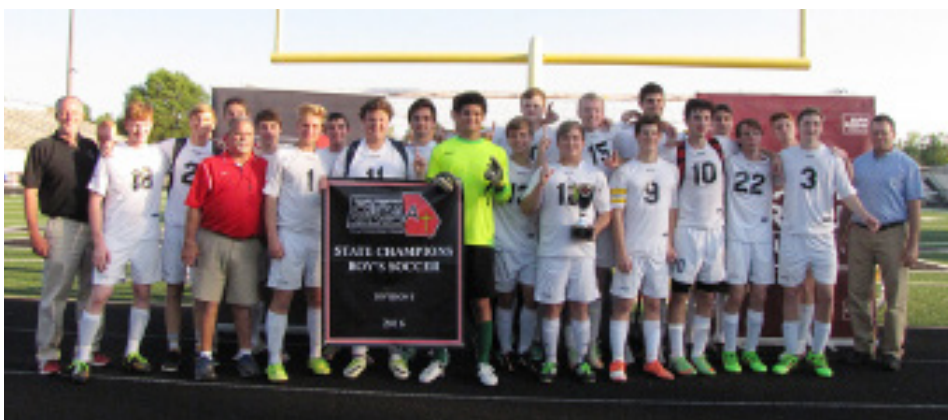


The winning kick!

moments of the match came with about 4 minutes to play when one of our players was called for a dangerous play in the box. An indirect kick was awarded at about the 12 yard mark. The Knights failed to convert the goal with the defense readily clearing the ball out of their end and continuing the staunch defense they had displayed throughout the entire match.

The last 3 minutes were very intense, with the Knights moving everyone except their Goalie across midfield to intensify the attack, trying to punch in the tying goal to force overtime! The defense stood strong, assisted by the offensive front and continually stopped and cleared out shot after shot attempted by the Knights. When the final horn sounded, the ANGELS were indeed STATE CHAMPS again... BACK-TO-BACK!

Drew Rae did an EXCEPTIONAL job in the goal, stopping at least 14 shots and sending kick after kick into the Knights end of the field! Special thanks and congratulations to the six Senior players: Paul Harmon, Mac McBride, Jon Phillips, Stephen Milligan, Chris Hall and Hayden Hebert for their leadership both on and off the field these past 4 years! Great job Angels... We ARE PROUD OF YOU!



2016 GICAA State Boys Soccer Champions

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