

From The Pastor

The Cross, the Blood and the Church

I want to address an editorial I read in USA Today recently. First excerpts from America's churches can change the world: *Black History Month set me to thinking about America's churches...In the '70s a phrase was coined to explain why so many white Southern Baptists got it wrong: Churches in Cultural Captivity...It was [Dr. Martin Luther] King and his network of Christian and Jewish clergy who laid their jobs and, in some cases, their lives on the line until my fellow Southerners were too ashamed and embarrassed to continue in their wickedness. That's the way it's suppose to work.*

Admittedly, terrorism, economic disparity and climate change are more complicated than racism. But they are not deeper-seated. And since when did complications cause God's people to cut and run? At a time when our political leaders seem paralyzed by nationalistic concerns and partisan pettiness, the world has never needed us more. So, here's my question. Is there a Moses in our midst?

If America's churches are to be world changers, it will take more than an emergence from their cultural captivity. It will take liberation from their spiritual captivity. **So, here's my question. Is there a Jesus in our midst?** Jesus is the only One who can liberate the church from its spiritual captivity. It's not the prophets, Moses, Gandhi and most certainly not Mohammed. None of these have the credentials to liberate humankind from its bondage.

It is no longer America's churches but the Church of Jesus Christ that can and is changing the world. There is a worldwide move (shaking) of God going on bringing Great Awakening and Revival that is penetrating through the cultural and spiritual captivity of many churches in America and 'round the

world. As the shackles loosen a mighty Army of Christian believers is being mobilize to bring a world changing spiritual revolution.

The power grid is as follows: the Cross of Christ with its salvation of the soul; the Blood of Jesus and liberation from the bondages of iniquity and sin; the Power of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling God's Commission to go and make disciples and the Glory of God encompassing the earth dispelling the darkness of a fallen world.

Even now the axe is being laid to the root of the cultural and spiritual captivity in the world and in America's churches that goes all the way back to Adam and Eve's relinquishment of dominion over the planet to the enemy of their souls. The result is going to be a tsunami of restoration and reconstruction not destruction, a ground swell of unconditional love and forgiveness circling the planet lifting it out of millennia of hurt and pain.

This Easter [First Fruits] let us celebrate Christ's Resurrection from the dead which has opened the gates on our Resurrection from the cultural and spiritual captivity that has sought to keep us from being God's world changers and the bringers of His Kingdom on earth as it already is in heaven.

Pastor Bud