# Lu herankenewal

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### When we pray

## "your kingdom come,"

## we are praying Heaven down to earth.

By Drs. Mahesh and Bonnie Chavda

The first thing we recognize about God's Kingdom is His absolute supremacy and power as Lord over all. When we pray, "Your Kingdom come," we are making ourselves His subjects. That means we acquiesce to become the servants of His will and plan.

When we pray, "Your Kingdom come," we are moving from passive to aggressive. We become the violent ones who advance the Kingdom by force of His power. "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matt. 11:12).

Those who watch in prayer are going back to the origin of humankind and, as the offspring of the Last Adam, they are resuming the high call of being created in God's image. Watchers accept and take up again the charge to tend and watch the garden of God while uprooting the garden of Satan, which is in chaos and darkness. It was God's original intention that the garden He planted be tended by the man made in His image. But failing the command to watch as well as tend, Adam and his wife fell to temptation. This failure is echoed in Jesus' words to His disciples in Gethsemane, where He told them to watch and pray lest they also fall into temptation to desert and betray Him. Had the first watchman (Adam) been vigilant, he would have grabbed the devil by the scruff of his slimy neck during that fatal controversy with Eve, and tossed him out of the garden on his ear!

**Lutheran Renewal** 

Telephone: 651-490-1517 • Fax: 651-486-2865 2701 Rice Street • St. Paul MN 55113-2200 www.LutheranRenewal.org • ilrc@aol.com (Independent of North Heights Lutheran Church) Nebuchadnezzar was the ruler of the world when God gave him a revelation of the true King as he lay in his bed one night. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he saw that there are spiritual realities conducting spiritual activities that are invisible to the naked eye. He saw watchers, majestic messengers of Heaven bringing decrees from the throne of God that

concerned the kingdoms of this earth:

"I saw in visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven. He cried aloud and said thus..." This decision is by decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men." (Dan. 4:13,14,17)



The watcher told the king that his sovereignty would be removed until he recognized God rules over the realm of mankind and sets up rulers as He wishes. When Nebuchadnezzar heard the decree he realized he was not in charge. He also learned that holy messengers participate in administering the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

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The Church enters into that work as, one by one, our hearts are awakened to fulfill our priestly ministry together as intercessors. In these later days, the Church has become the chosen vessel to carry the Kingdom to the earth.

The main activity immediately coupled with Jesus' first mention of the Church is authority to bring



the kingdom of Heaven to earth through the activity of prayer!

Jesus said, "On this rock I will build My church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." The word that Jesus used in this first mention of the church is the Greek word, ekklesia. It literally means, "the called out ones." In that day and

age, this was the term used to denote the governing authority, those called out to judge and govern the people. This is where we get the idea that the Church is not just an assembly of people, but also a ruling body of believers, founded on the revelation that the Rock, Jesus Christ, to whom and through whom all authority in Heaven and earth has been given, reigns and rules on the earth.

The main activity immediately coupled with Jesus' first mention of the Church is authority to bring the kingdom of Heaven to earth through the activity of prayer—"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 16:19). The Church is the vehicle through which God advances His Kingdom. Prayer and the proclamation of the Gospel are the means by which we will prevail. "Now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church

to the principalities and powers in heavenly places" (Eph. 3:10).

What we see on Pentecost is the glory and presence of God through the Holy Spirit, and the context in which He appears is in the corporate gathering of the church, watching and praying in one accord. The Church born under the heel of a pagan society, opposed by the might of the Roman Empire, and powerless in its own right, this small band of 120, began to vibrate with the power and glory of the Kingdom and turned the kingdoms of the world upside down in a matter of generations. They accomplished this through corporate watching together in prayer.

In the early Church the power of the corporate body watching and praying in one accord was the key to the release of what we define as the apostolic ministry: preaching the gospel with signs, wonders and miracles.

We find that many people want to be part of an apostolic church. They say, "We are apostolic." And yet, they don't give much attention to the Scriptures such as the ones in which Paul the apostle (who is a type of an apostolic church) wrote: "I proved myself with fastings often, in watchings often" (see 2 Corinthians 11:26–28). People don't want to know the part of the apostolic package that involves fasting and watching. Of course, when Paul talks about watchings, it is in the context of watching and praying.

Part of the apostolic release of the end-time Church, we believe, will be a grace for watching in prayer. Signs and wonders and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are there for us, but they come in the context of the preached word and standing in intercession for our families, our churches, our cities. We must learn to be watchmen. God calls the people of the Church to become watchmen on the walls and the more corporate we become, the better it is. There is more power in corporate watching and praying.

We find an extraordinary example of this in the story of Peter's miraculous release from prison in Acts 12: "Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the Church" (Acts 12:5). Peter's plight was dire, but notice that he was not praying—he was sleeping. It was the Spirit-filled church that had the mission, through

prayer and prayer alone, to rescue him from this perilous situation. They understood that they had access to a Kingdom authority that was greater than any held by the earthly and spiritual rulers of that age. The Church engaged in constant, watching prayer. They were a picture of apostolic prayer: fervent, continuous, unswayed by circumstances or disappointments, prevailing until the victory is won.

## Apostolic prayer will move Heaven and earth, releasing angels to hearken to His Word.

They did not pray a few hours one day, but a long time. It says they offered "constant prayer." By the time of Peter's rescue, they may have been engaged for several if not many days of prayer already. Even in the middle of the night, there were some who were gathered together in watching prayer for Peter's life. After days and nights of constant prayer, suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to Peter and the prison cell was filled with a bright light. Apostolic prayer will move Heaven and earth, releasing angels to hearken to His Word.

The angel, who had just come from the very presence of God, carried the Shekinah glory of that presence when he came. This glory-light is equation-changing. We've seen it and experienced it. It's alive. It comes from the Presence, from Heaven. And it changes the



equations on earth when it arrives. When we pray, "Your Kingdom come," we are inviting Heaven's light to shine into the darkness.

Deliverance comes in the glory light. The angel struck Peter to wake him up, and his chains fell off. In the same way, our corporate, fervent prayers will loose chains of iniquity, injustice, darkness, and oppression and release captives to freedom. The account also gives us a picture of the power of prayer to loose the Church to her destiny, a Church bound by religion, humanism, and principalities of this age; chained between soldiers, imprisoned by iron gates, but set

free by prayer.

Peter was led by the angel through the gates and past the guard posts. The city gate opened of its own accord. Jesus, you will remember, said that he was

going to build His Church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (see Matthew 16:17). No matter what the enemy



has thrown at you, no matter what gates of iron may seem to block your path, this is the promise to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Corporate watching prayer is God's awesome secret weapon. Personal devotion, personal praise, and prayer are powerful, but the corporate body harmonizing in prayer and apostolic intercession releases authority to see cities taken overnight. I believe the end-time believing church is on a rescue operation for millions of souls. We are on a rescue operation for our nation to come into revival. We are on a rescue operation for all the members of our family to be saved. We are on a rescue operation to see signs and wonders and the greater works restored to His Church, to confirm the gospel message.

#### "What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" Mark 13:37

Jesus went, "as was his custom," into the mountain to pray during the night watches (Luke 22:39). Apparently, He usually would take with Him two or three of His watchmen friends, most often James, John, and Peter. Watching was commanded by God in keeping with the observance of Passover. That is where the spiritual concept originates. Jesus kept this observance as a regular way of prayer. It was this kind of prayer, prayer to effect salvation for the world, which caught the imagination of Jesus' closest friends. As they watched His style they said, "Teach us." We are learning from the Master, who told us to keep vigil with Him. We are taking back the night. We are reclaiming the territory formerly possessed by the early Church, prevailing in corporate prayer. While the world sleeps, the watchmen are awake,



routing the enemy, delivering the captives, and taking away the spoils of his kingdom. "Your Kingdom come," the prayer of the apostolic Church, is a corporate expression. Individually and corporately we stretch ourselves out in prayer in a posture

of expectation until Christ comes. We will fulfill what Jesus asked when He said in the Gospels, "What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" (Mark 13:37).

The final amen to all Christians praying from the days of those first apostles onward is the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. All Christian prayer prevails

in the expectation of His appearing. We are praying "WHAT I SAY TO YOU, toward the consummation I say to all: Watch!" of His will, which is His Kingdom established and a new Heaven, a new

Mark 13:37

earth, filled with His new creation.

This article is an excerpt from *The* Hidden Power of Watching and Praying by Drs. Mahesh & Bonnie Chavda. Destiny Image Publishers, Inc, © 2009.



Mahesh will be speaking at the Febuary 5-6, 2010, Equipping Conference.

### Introducing...

#### Denise Siemens, Director of Women's Ministry

You may be thinking, "I already know who Denise is. She's the Administrator at Lutheran Renewal." That's true, and she will continue in that capacity, but she will be taking on this new role.

In 2009 Lutheran Renewal held its first women's conference. As we reserved the venue and made motel arrangements, we hoped that up to 300 would attend. We ended up with over 650 women! Since that time, we've also hosted two one-night

events with about 140 coming each time. In addition to a 2010 women's conference in the Mpls/St. Paul area, we will be hosting conferences in Huntington Beach, CA and Kenora, Ontario. We sense the momentum of the Spirit, and we wanted you to know of this new focus.

Denise writes: "About 10 years ago I was resting in the Spirit after a renewal meeting. From time to time, the speaker would mention a specific prayer focus. While that was going on, I had a vision where I was holding a gigantic, beautifullywrapped present. I was walking towards a house that was literally bouncing with light and music—a party was going on! As I got nearer, I realized that there was no door to let me in. At that precise moment in the vision, the speaker said, 'Release gifts!' I burst into tears because I realized that the gifts and talents that I had weren't allowed in at the party. God healed me a lot that evening, and He has called me to partner with Him to 'release the gifts' that are in every person, but specifically in women."

Please pray for us as we expand Lutheran Renewal's ministry to women in the Body of Christ.

If you would like Denise, or one of her team, to come and minister at your church, retreat, or conference, please contact her. Phone: 651-490-1517, ext. 12 • E-mail: ilrc@aol.com



Location: North Heights Lutheran Church 1700 West Highway 96, Arden Hills, MN 55112

Mahesh Chavda is globally renowned for his dedication to proclaiming the miraculous, healing message of

Jesus Christ. Together with his wife, Bonnie, hundreds of thousands have come to salvation and thousands have received healing from critical diseases like AIDS and cancer through their ministry.

Leif Hetland, known as "The Apostle of Love," has followed the Holy Spirit to 75 nations



on five continents with the message of the Father Heart of God. Last year 9,600 indigenous leaders attended GMA Leadership Conferences, with 50,355 names being added to the Lamb's Book of Life.

Registration required. Pre-registration closes on January 26. On-site registration welcome.

For a brochure, please call: 651-490-1517, ext. 13 Brochure and online registration: www.LutheranRenewal.org

#### Thrivent GivingPlus Program has Ended

We would like to thank all of you who participated in the GivingPlus program in the past. It was such a blessing to us. Thrivent has closed down this program, but they will be implementing something else in the future. We'll keep you informed!

## Leif Hetland in Pakistan

"Can a nation be won in a day?" That's the question the Spirit asked us on October 8, 2009, the day we boarded the plane for Pakistan. We returned home with the answer: YES!!! We arrived in Pakistan one day before Leif to prepare ourselves for Leif's upcoming assignment.

We left the US as a team and returned as a family. Whether we were in the conference for church leaders, or with Muslim clerics or government officials, the message was the same. In Leif's words, "He had come to teach a new language, a language of love by which blind eyes may see and deaf ears may hear". The message of the Father's love was shared the first 3 nights to church leaders under a big tent with over 1,000 in attendance each night. Leif preached the first night as the hungry church leaders listened intently to the message of "Knowing your identity as sons and daughters of Papa-God." Tim and Leanne preached the second night, and on the third night (the Women's Conference though there were almost as many men as women) Leanne preached on "Being a Bride, not a Wife". It was such a joy to see the faces of these beloved ones as they received the freedom of a greater revelation of their identity as the Bride of Christ. On



Leif will be speaking at the Febuary 5-6, 2010, Equipping Conference.

the last night we had a fire tunnel (which we called a "love tunnel") and the entire congregation passed through to receive an impartation of Papa's love. This was probably the first "ministry tunnel" ever in Pakistan.



During the daytime we were welcomed into the home of a Muslim Mulana. This man is the leader of the King's Mosque, the largest Mosque in Pakistan and Leif has built a strong relationship with him over the past 13 years. On our fourth day in Pakistan, we kicked off the first night of the Healing Crusade where nearly 20,000 people were in attendance. What an experience to witness and hear Leif lead thousands of Muslims in a prayer for salvation. Even some of the elite force police assigned to protect us raised their hands to

many healings and demonic deliverances.

The next morning we were due to leave for the Annual Peace and Harmony Conference when three locations in Lahore where we were staying (including a police station only 1.5 miles from our hotel) were attacked by terrorists. It was soon decided that we should not go to the conference and that

ask Jesus to be their savior. There were also

ists. It was soon decided that we should not go to the conference and that we must cancel the remaining three nights of the crusade. Though we were disappointed to postpone these events, we were amazed to see how the Lord would fill the next several days by building relational bridges with key leaders.

The day after these attacks, Leif received a phone call and was told that the Mulana had led over 10,000 in a prayer for his safety. Though there was unrest and war all around us, we felt as though we were in the eye of a hurricane. What moved us time and again was the hunger we saw among these Muslim leaders for the love of God. We realized that if the heart of a king is won and shifted towards the Love of God, it will affect an entire nation. We all witnessed Leif's assignment in Pakistan as a Joseph, Daniel and/or Esther.

It's a privilege to be alive at a time where the gospel of the kingdom is having such global impact. Leif Hetland and the GMA ministry is one of the world's most important ministries, as he powerfully impacts some of the darkest spiritual strongholds on earth. Truly, the name of Jesus is held in highest honor through this man. It's an honor to partner with him. It's an honor to call him friend.

**Bill Johnson**Bethel Church in Redding, CA

Leif strongly recognizes that Pakistan is the key to unlock the other Muslim nations. We were so overwhelmed and amazed by the favor Leif carries with God and man in the nation of Pakistan. We realize that "For such a time as this Leif was created".

Leanne Goff, Personal Assistant to Leif Hetland

## A Friend of God

by Paul Anderson

The word "friend" comes from a word which means "to love." Friends care for one another. Who is your closest friend, the one you could trust with the most personal information? Would you dare to call God your friend in this sense? Does God have friends?

Abraham was identified as God's friend two times in the Bible. Isaiah wrote: "But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend" (41:8). How did Isaiah know to call Abraham God's friend? God must have told him, because he is referenced this way only one time in the Old Testament. When the brother of Jesus was writing about faith, he said, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend" (James 2:23). Evidently, God liked talking with Abraham. And Abraham felt comfortable enough to negotiate with God on occasion.

God enjoyed someone else in this personal way. "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend" (Exodus 33:11). God communicated with the children of Israel through Moses, His prophet, but He spoke directly to Moses, not through an intercessor: "As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses" (v. 9). What an inestimable privilege to stand in the personal presence of God, then serve as His mouthpiece to others.

But even before Moses and Abraham, the Bible says that "Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away" (Genesis 5:24). The writer of Hebrews adds to this mysterious story: "By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5). Apparently, God appreciated him so much that He kept him from the one experience common to us all—death.

Most of God's people didn't give Him this kind of pleasure, including some of the prophets. He judged those who spoke without listening: "I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people..." (Jeremiah 23:21,22). In contrast

to the prophets of Baal, Elijah waited in the presence of God before speaking. When he commanded a



drought on Israel, he said to Ahab, "As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word" (I Kings 17:1, RSV). He identified this proclamation as his word, but he had received it by standing in the presence of the living God. Power belongs to those prepared to wait for His counsel.

God favors those who favor Him, those He can converse with. He promises to honor those who honor Him. God once told Jeremiah that the condition of His people grieved Him so terribly that He would not be convinced to change, even if two people who especially had His ear—Moses and Samuel—spoke on their behalf: "Then the Lord said to me: 'Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people" (Jeremiah 15:1). Samuel learned to listen to God to such an amazing degree that God "let none of his words fall to the ground" (I Samuel 3:19). He was given authority on earth because he turned his ear toward heaven.

This reality described Daniel as well. "Even if these three men—Noah, Daniel and Job—were in it [a country about to be destroyed] they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign Lord" (Ezekiel 14:14). At times, God doesn't even listen to His most trusted confidants, which says in reverse that people on earth can develop an incredible influence in heaven. Later Ezekiel speaks on behalf of God to the ruler of Tyre, "Are you wiser than Daniel? Is no secret hidden from you?" (Ezekiel 28:3). This passage suggests that God revealed matters to Daniel that He kept from other people. The psalmist wrote that "the Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them" (Psalm 25:14). And Amos said that "the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). God looks for someone to talk to about what is on His mind. True prophets,

like Samuel and Daniel, knew how to wait upon the Lord for His word: "He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back" (Isaiah 50:4,5). Most people didn't take the time to listen, so they could speak only out of their own experience or knowledge. Samuel and Daniel spoke from heaven—and heaven backed up their words!

Jesus, like His Father, enjoys friends. He told the disciples, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends ["philos"—"brotherly love"]. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:13-15). Jesus identified friends as people who talk together about important matters, and the most important things Jesus could pass on to His friends was what the Father had shared



with Him. The two most common pictures Jesus uses for God's people in the gospels are "child" and "servant." We are identified as children of the Father and servants of the Lord. Paul greets his readers with the apostolic salutation, "Grace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." We don't call Jesus our Fa-

ther; He is our Lord. And to a Lord we are servants. But Jesus was not satisfied simply to have servants who obeyed Him. Like the Father who invites trusted followers into His confidence, Jesus wants friends that He can share His heart with. So on the eve of His crucifixion, He upgraded His relationship with the men who had walked with Him from servant [those who obey but who do not know the business of the master] to friend [those taken into His personal counsel].

Would Jesus ever do that with you? Does He call you His friend? When Jesus spoke about friendship, He also told the disciples about the Holy Spirit. He said, "When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will quide you

into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come [that is, secrets most people know nothing about].. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you" (John 16:13-14). The Spirit does for us just what Jesus was doing with the disciples, taking truth directly from the Father and passing it on to them. We are given the privilege of friendship with Jesus through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The more we allow the Spirit to guide our lives, the more we are drawn into friendship with God.

Paul wrote, "As it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him'—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us...'For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ" (I Corinthians 2:9-12,16). The Spirit enables us to know what cannot be known—the very thoughts that God is thinking, the purposes that He is planning, the thoughts He is thinking about you, your children, or even your neighbor. Peter writes that "if anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God" (I Peter 4:11). The only way we could know the "very words of God" is to listen for them. Then when we speak, we are declaring more than our thoughts or opinions; we are actually relating what is on the mind of God.

Through the blood of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, you can come boldly into the personal presence of God and enjoy the kind of relationship that He would describe as friendship. Such relationships on earth and with God are not created; they are developed. When this happens, you are not simply serving His purposes. Like Enoch, you are walking with Him. Like Moses you are speaking face to face. Like Abraham, you are discussing together issues that con-

cern both of you. Like Samuel, you are being used as His mouthpiece. Heaven would then describe you as a friend of God!



Paul Anderson Director, Lutheran Renewal

## RESOURCES

#### **Light Your Church on Fire Without Burning It Down!**

David Housholder explains the world of Pentecostal Christianity in an engaging, delightful, and intellectually satisfying way. This book is iintended for curious Christians and spiritual seekers, addressing topics such as: who, or what, is the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, healing, deliverance, charismatic worship, and much more. (\$10)

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This book, written by Elsie Fuhrman, teaches believers how to receive empowerment of the Spirit and how to minister it to others. (\$7)

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