



Update

June 2020

Vernon & Martha Hedge

God Starts With the Heart

While it looks like things are out of control, behind the scenes there is a God who has not surrendered His authority.

A. W. Tozer

This has been a difficult newsletter to write, not because there isn't anything we want to say. The opposite—there is much to say and much grief over the pain in our nation. With so many voices filling the air and so many emotions overflowing our hearts, what can one say?

Tozer's words are a good reminder that none of this has taken God by surprise, and He's working. We probably won't see it on national news, but if we look, we can see the results of some of His work. We say "results" because He starts with the heart. When the heart is right, good things happen.

"Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34b). Then actions happen. Here are a few stories, among many, demonstrating just that.

This was on June 4th in San Antonio, Texas (by Phil Vega with Antonio Lee and Erico Ramirez).

"Last night in downtown San Antonio, God moved in an unbelievable way. As we were setting up for a night of worship and prayer, we were notified by the San Antonio Police Department that a large group of protesters was

headed to our location. We had no idea what to expect as hundreds began to pour into our location.

"Quickly, two of the young men that were organizing came to speak with us. They were genuinely respectful and apologized for coming to the park as they were not aware we would be there. Not only did we get a few minutes to hear their hearts, they paused to pray with us over all who have suffered from injustice and hate. Many of the protesters stayed behind to worship and pray with us!

"We were overwhelmed as we saw protesters, uniformed police officers, pastors, and parishioners of all colors and backgrounds from around our city worshipping TOGETHER.

Praying TOGETHER. We have never been more proud of our city, and our hearts are filled with expectation of how God will use these moments to unify us as the body of Christ in the days ahead."

We live in McKinney, Texas, a rapidly growing small town north of Dallas. All the towns have grown together into one big metroplex. There were several large protests in our area that were peaceful and respectful. That's how protests get attention and make a difference. And there were large meetings for prayer, asking God for wisdom, healing, and new direction.

On June 5th, Mayor George Fuller of McKinney wrote about one of these prayer meetings:

"Today I witnessed an incredible sight. Thousands of students, of all races, marching together with our McKinney Police for justice and needed change. All of this was organized by Zion Mayberry, a



McKinney youth prayer meeting

(Continued from page 1)

recent high school graduate from McKinney. These kids are our greatest hope for a great America, and today they showed passion and determination to unite in a way that us older folks have not been so successful. We need to honor them and follow the example they have provided.”

Meetings like these are an essential beginning to a real change. They build relationships and open up dialogue. When God answers and gives wisdom and direction, we need to take the steps to solve legitimate problems. There are layers of logistics, but He always seems to start with the heart. What we believe. Where we need to change. What attitudes and paradigms we need to shift. Where we also need healing. That requires being still before Him and asking the Holy Spirit to speak.

David Wilkerson said it well, “When you are deeply hurt, no person on this earth can shut out the innermost fears and deepest agonies. The best of friends cannot really understand the battle you are going through, or the wounds inflicted on you.

“Only God can shut out the waves of depression and feelings of loneliness and failure that come over you. Faith in God’s love alone can salvage the hurt mind. The bruised and broken heart that suffers in silence can be healed only by a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, and nothing short of divine intervention really works.”

Of all the mighty miracles God does, perhaps the greatest ones are the healing of the heart. This is true of any area of our lives—marriage, family, friends, people who have betrayed or rejected us, those who have falsely accused us, Believers and unbelievers alike. Hurt is hurt.

We are writing to fellow Believers, God’s people. He is hearing and working and answering. The ball is in our court. “If my people [that’s us] who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chro. 7:14 NKJV).

Groups all across the nation are praying. You and we are praying. The journey to bring about that healing starts with “loving the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:28b ESV).

Some of our “neighbors” may not be like us or even be nice. We weren’t either when Jesus in His love reached out to us. Most of us do not have the platform or the calling to be world influencers. But we do have the calling to influence where we are; that’s our “world.” That influence may be a gentle word or doing the hard work of listening to understand. Love is kind and respectful, and may not always agree, but always, always listens. We must hear each other.

The answer is simple, but the working out is tough. It takes

courage, strength, and huge amounts of Faith that God knows what He’s doing. It takes patience in the long process, prayer and humility before God. The world doesn’t have any answers, but they desperately want peace, acceptance, and love. He said the healing of our land depends on His people. It’s a war that must be won. ✨

thank you!

On a Personal Note

Thank you for your encouraging notes and prayer support. We are well and not having much activity outside of our home. It’s been a year since Vernon’s stroke, and he had good reports from the last round of tests. He still has some challenges. He took a tumble recently and hurt his knee. Hopefully, nothing serious. He continues to be diligent working on speech recovery.

We agree with Tozer that God has not surrendered His authority, and we trust Him as we learn our “new normal” in the middle of what all of us are going through. ✨
