

heartcore

makeusholy newsletter

winter 2006-07

volume **thirteen** number **three**

The Deflaking of Worship & Intercession

by
Tim Bartsch

This Fall I had an opportunity to teach about worship and intercession; terms that conjure all kinds of images and ideas. After all, worship encompasses the whole of our lives. It goes far beyond music and art forms. It is childlike in its simplicity yet defies anyone to be its master. And intercession takes us from praying for others to saving nations through great prophetic acts. So when we combine worship and intercession we are bound to have all kinds of ideas as to what it may look like.

While preparing to teach on this topic, I reviewed many scripture passages. For example, Abraham's "haggling" with God (Genesis 18:17-33): God tells Abraham that he will destroy Sodom and Gomorrah but Abraham convinces God to save the cities if he can find fifty righteous people. He proceeds to whittle God down from fifty all the way to ten. As the story goes, ten righteous people cannot be found and the cities are destroyed. But it is a great example of intercession being acted out. Abraham stands in the gap for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, calling out to God to have mercy and spare them.

Other scriptures came from the New Testament, like Hebrews 7:25 – (speaking of Jesus) "Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save everyone who comes to God through him. He lives forever to plead with God on their behalf." Jesus intercedes for us. He stands before the Father, pleading our case before him. His death and resurrection were the ultimate act



Tim teaching Outtatown Site 3 Discipleship School students, Rocky Mountain House, AB

of intercession. Romans 8:26 shows how the Holy Spirit prays THROUGH us: "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words."

So what about worship and intercession? Can they coexist? Should they coexist? I would suggest that not only should they coexist, but that they are inextricably joined (much like faith and works – see James 2:14-18). If we have intercession without worship, it is an empty righteous act. And if we have worship without intercession, it is incomplete. When you worship in spirit and in truth, your life becomes intercession. More about this later.

If I were to ask for a general description of worship and intercession, a common response would be "singing and praying." We do this at church. We sing songs together. We also pray together. Both are meaningful components of most meetings in the church. But how are they combined? Have we separated them, much like the "worship" time has been relegated to the singing time – treated as a "warm-up" for the

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sermon? We have prayer times, but they are often limited to the pastoral prayer or the opening and closing of any of many elements in a church program.

I know there is no single reason why the North American church doesn't seem to pray that much. I heard an illustration not too long ago that shook me up. I hope it shakes me to action. Think about this: After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples met to pray. Leading up to the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples had been praying for days on end. They prayed for ten days, preached for three minutes, and three thousand people became followers of Jesus Christ. Today we pray for ten minutes, we preach for three hours, and NOBODY becomes a follower of Jesus Christ!

This is NOT a commentary on sermon length or evangelism style. But it is a wakeup call! Every time I think about this illustration I am grieved because I know it's true in my own life. What am I doing with my time? Have I truly given my life to the Lord's purposes? And if I have, should I not be praying more? Have I become too busy doing things for God that I have forgotten about God altogether?

What if we could find meaning in these expressions? What if we could worship and intercede and the words stopped sounding holier-than-thou? Can we be worship-intercessors without feeling like we need to carry a badge or go to "spiritual graduate school" to figure out what in the world we are talking about?

Of course we can.

While I was a student at Columbia Bible College we had a school-wide day of prayer every semester. Those days were amazing. I wrote songs, had naps, went on long walks, wrote in my journal, read books, all the while being with God in ways I never had before. It sounds like I hit the ground running. Far from it. There were HOURS during many of those days when I was bored and frustrated. And then I felt guilty because I was bored and frustrated. And then I got frustrated because I felt guilty! Who thought up this prayer day anyway? How could I maintain a conversation with God for a whole day? What would we even talk about?

Usually these prayer days took place in beautiful places like the monastery in Mission, BC, on hiking trails or near rivers and waterfalls. I would pray, but then I would get distracted and go for a walk. I'd take a few pictures and maybe sit down and just listen to the water or look at the scenery. I might nod off to sleep or maybe go for a jog. I'd realize I wasn't praying so I'd start praying again. The hikes, naps, journaling, picture-taking and other stuff were filler so I would not have to pray so much. At least I wouldn't have to pray all day – I had other things to enjoy.

But I didn't get it! The breakthrough happened when I finally realized what I was doing when I hiked on a trail or took pictures or found rest in the shade – I was BEING with God. I was enjoying him and what he had made. From time to time I would speak, but the truth is that he was speaking

all the time. I just did not realize it. When I realized what was actually happening, prayer days became the highlight of the semester.

When God showed me that prayer was far more than just talking to him, it opened up new paths in our relationship. One of the paths led to intercession.

Intercession takes prayer to a different dimension. If "intercession" conjures up images of people delivering prophecies and shouting at demons and generally looking quite silly, you are not alone. That was my initial experience in an "intercession" meeting. To tell you the truth, it was quite remarkable. I experienced the power of God in a way I never had before. I saw people reminding God of his promises to his people. I watched people get healed from sicknesses and freed from demons. I saw God do amazing things in and through ordinary people.

To the first-time observer, meetings like these would look odd. That's ok. A hockey game would be an odd sight for the first-time spectator as well. You might never be a star in the NHL, but over time you can learn how to play.

It is the same with intercession. You must take time to learn how to do it. Give it some practice and before long you begin to understand how to pray. You may not be a champion of all-night prayer meetings or be called to a life of intercessory prayer (some people are gifted in this way) but you are learning how to pray. And the best part is, now that your heart has been prepared, God can show you to all kinds of things you might never have seen had you not submitted to the time it takes to learn to pray.

Not all intercession is weird or flaky – even if some of it appears to be. In any given prayer time God could certainly prompt a person to do something that may look silly – talk to Isaiah about that (Isaiah 30:2-3). God told him to walk around naked without shoes for three years. Of course I doubt God will be promoting any Christian nudist camps any time soon, but he may ask us to do something that may look silly to others.

Maybe our definition of "silly" should change. After all, how could obedience ever be silly? To the obedient one, it is LIFE.

When my wife (Robin) and I were called to Thailand last year, some people thought we were crazy. Why would we sacrifice a year's income, live off of others' donations and take two young children (1 and 4 years old) to a foreign country? Our simple answer was that we didn't know, EXCEPT that God was guiding us. As we obeyed it became clear that God brought us there for very important reasons. Along the way he showed us that he is our provider and that he must be trusted. We had opportunities to test those promises and God always moved beyond what we could have hoped.

(... to be continued in the next HeartCore...)

Ministry with Discipleship Schools

For the past 7 years the autumn season has been full of teaching at a variety of Discipleship Schools in the USA and Canada. This year was no different except that Tim was able to join me as teacher and worship leader on two trips.

Late September found us making the 8 hour drive down to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to spend a few days teaching on Worship with the Youth Evangelism Service's Discipleship Training School (YES-DTS) there.

Tim and I ministered over two days with students preparing themselves to head out to a variety of locations around the world.

Thursday evening was a wonderful time of worship and ministry. One of the leaders wrote a note to encourage with what God did in them and in their team.

"The highlight of the week has definitely been Thursday night, which was ministry night. This week has been a week of healing for me. In the last 3 years Val and I have lost 2 children. As a result of sharing my Spiritual Pilgrimage and the ministry night on Thursday evening, God brought my true feelings toward Him into the light. I realized that I have struggled trusting God one hundred percent with my life. He showed me all of the pain, anger and resentment that I still felt toward Him. I feel that all of that has now been taken away, and my relationship with Him has been totally restored. I can now say, "You give and take away, You give and take away, my heart will choose to say, LORD BLESSED BE YOUR NAME!" (Matt & Beth Redman Song). I am so thankful for the freedom that comes from being able to freely trust the Lord and being free from all of those feelings that I thought I had dealt with, but they were still in my heart. I cried for about 10-15 minutes straight, but I now thank God for the healing that He has given to me.

Also on that Thursday night, Brent totally gave his life to Jesus. He was in tears for a while as well. He said that it was only the second time that he had ever cried. He said that he could feel God's love and it overwhelmed him. He

had never been really wanted or loved before and he now felt loved and wanted.

Thanks so much for allowing God to use you!"

Eric & Val Roth

MEGHAN PIERCE

-Meghan Pierce-

Meghan's self-titled debut CD is a pleasure to the ears and a stirring for the heart.

I first met Meghan when she participated on a Youth Mission International trip to Mexico and then later as a student on the Outtatown School of Discipleship in 2001/2002.

Meghan is a vibrant young woman who writes songs that speak from her heart with a depth of wisdom and insight that belies her youthfulness. You will enjoy her well crafted songs and contagious melodies as she invites you to love the Lord she worships.

Receive this CD as a thanks for your support of **makeusholy** and help out an emerging worship leader.



TRAINING GROUND muh's Internship Program

makeusholy is ready to launch **TRAINING GROUND** – a Worship Leader Internship Program for young worship leaders. It is a nine month program designed to build mature, pastorally-minded, servanthood-driven qualities in young worship leaders.

We were eager to begin in September, 2007.

Do you know of gifted young people – 18 or older – who have a passion for Jesus and the church and a sense of "calling" to worship ministry?

If this program is something that you feel might benefit them (or you!) would you please let us know as soon as possible? Please use the contact information below.

Thanks!

Now You Have More Ways to donate to **makeusholy**

1. You can send a cheque or money order directly to **muh**
2. You can use your MasterCard to donate directly to **muh**
3. You can arrange for auto-withdrawal from your bank account (please contact the office for more info)
4. You can donate through CanadaHelps.Org at www.canadahelps.org using most Credit Cards
5. You can donate by email through PayPal at www.paypal.com using most Credit Cards

If you have questions please contact the office.

GARETH'S ITINERARY

- Dec 3 Gareth preaching at The Harbour church, Port Dover, ON
- Dec 3 Tim leading worship at Mountain View Community Church, Niagara Falls, ON
- Dec 11 **muh** Christmas Open House (if you are in the area please come over 7-10 pm)
- Jan-May Ministry openings. Book now!**
- Jan 23 Gareth & Tim leading worship & speaking for Summit College, Huntsville, ON
- Jan 28 Gareth speaking at Tyndale University Chapel, Toronto, ON
- Jan 31 Gareth & Tim worship teaching and training evening with the worship team members of Waterloo Pentecostal Assemblies, Waterloo, ON
- Feb 8 Tim & Gareth leading worship and training in Spanish songs for Take Flight missions outreach program, Buffalo, NY
- Feb 19-
-Mar 19 Ministering along with Students of CMU's Outatown Discipleship School in Guatemala

PRAISE and PRAYER

- Praise the Lord! Distribution on Gareth's book has now exceeded 1200 copies! Continue to pray that the word of this book spreads.
- Pray for a potential Christian publishing house to be willing to publish the book so that it might have a broader distribution and many opportunities to expand the borders of exposure for **makeusholy**.
- Pray for plans to translate and publish the book in Spanish and for a suitable translator and publisher to pick up the project.
- Continue to pray for **muh**'s worship internship/discipleship program beginning September/07.

- Praise the Lord for Tim Bartsch and his family as he charts a course for the future of the **makeusholy** as Director of Worship Resources.
- Pray for open doors for ministry for both Tim and Gareth in 2007 and beyond. God has given us useful gifts to share with the body of Christ. Pray that he would stir in the hearts of the church across North, Central and South America to look for ways to utilize the collected gifts of **muh** staff.
- Pray for the Lord to release the needed resources to fund this new position. We still need more people to join together in contributing to the needs of **muh** so that this ministry can grow.
- Pray for the MBMSI intercession / worship CD resource (to be released in early 2007). Pray for an increased passion for intercession and missionary endeavour as a result
- Praise the Lord for two encouraging evenings to celebrate missions through worship and intercession with **muh** and MBMSI.
- Pray for Tim as he begins another intercession project - (parents interceding for their children). Pray for the needed finances to purchase equipment and supplies for this next project.
- Pray for our finances. Praise the Lord that the financial obligations this summer have been met. This fall has been steady but below our budgetary needs. As a faith mission we are fully dependant on God to be the one who moves upon people's hearts to give. Would you join us in continuing to pray for more people to respond to his prompting in becoming monthly supporters of this ministry? Would you prayerfully consider being one of those people?

*USA donors. If you desire to give to **makeusholy** and are not concerned about a USA honored charitable income tax receipt please send your check directly to **muh**. If you desire to give by VISA or MasterCard please visit our website or www.CanadaHelps.org.*

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makeusholy

inviting renewal through worship, prayer and discipleship

Nov 30th, 2006

Dear Friend of **makeusholy**;

How big is God?

I ask myself that time and time again -- **makeusholy** has been the biggest faith venture of my life. And as I write you, I have to face that question once more.... How big is my God?

July 24th Tim and Robin Bartsch exited the Toronto International Airport, Terminal One, to begin a new adventure in ministry and life. As we drove to Kitchener to begin the move of their belongings into their townhouse, I reflected back at the beginnings of this ministry. Sure, I didn't have to move away to another province, but there was a similar "feel" to it. Starting something new, launching out on an adventure where the map was not complete, the gas tank was only half full but the view was wide open and spectacular.



Whenever you start a new venture there is always the inner angst of whether or not this will work out. But as Tim and I have had a number of times to travel and minister together over the past 4 months I have realized again and again how much God has blessed **makeusholy** with an amazing asset and colleague in Tim Bartsch.

As Tim and I continue our journey with **makeusholy**, we need to make adjustments along the way.

First of all, we need to build our relationship so that we both work in harmony and in the gifting of the Holy Spirit. I know that the enemy will do everything he can to mess up the synergy God has put together. Keep praying for God to lead us in that area. We need your prayers of wisdom and courage as we continue journeying together.



Here is my monthly pledge of: ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ other: _____ I would like to use my MasterCard

Here is my one time gift of: ___ \$500 ___ \$300 ___ \$200 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ other: _____ Expiry Date: _____

I want to purchase Worship Walk. Here is \$25 CAD (includes S&H): _____ Card # : _____

Here's my gift to help with Tim's computer & office needs: _____ signature: _____

*Please send me Román Guzmán's CD for free _____ *Please send me Meghan Pierce's CD for free _____

*(only 1 shipped per request)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail: _____

NOTES: Canadian donors have the option of making pre-authorized payments from your chequing account. Or you can make automatic monthly payments from your chequing account or by Credit Card through www.CanadaHelps.org. Charitable receipts will be issued at year's end. Gifts over and above designations will be used as seen fit by **muh**.

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Secondly, raising the needed funds to support both Tim and his family and me and mine weighs heavily on my shoulders. There is so much that can be done – developing resources for prayer and intercession, encouragement and training for worship leaders, evaluation and consultation of church worship services, teaching and training young worship leaders in the mentoring program – the list goes on and on. The need is there. God’s people are there. The funds are there.

How big is God? I’m pretty good at trusting him for some stuff.... but the financial issues are difficult for me. I am not a fund raiser. Asking you for a gift towards the ministry of **makeusholy** is very difficult for me.

How big is God? He’s big enough to work through us (and I think that might take more imagination that we might think!) Each time you lift up prayers of intercession for us and this ministry, each time you share a word of encouragement through phone call, email or letter, each time you contribute financially, the impossible becomes possible.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you might partner with us as we work to expand this ministry. We walk by faith, and **makeusholy** depends on the prayers, encouragement and financial gifts from men and women who believe that God is still doing the impossible today – and raising up for himself a new generations of worshippers.


Pray that God would release the necessary funds. Interestingly, he always does that through his people. Your monthly gift of \$50 or \$100 helps a lot. If you can give more, we are looking for 7 people who can give an additional donation of \$5,000 or more this year. You can give a monthly gift or a one time gift by filling out the form below using a cheque or MasterCard or directly on CanadaHelps.org: <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s48789>.

You can also become a regular prayer partner by emailing: prayer.support@makeusholy.org. These letters, along with the newsletters are much more than a financial request – I am honoured that you take the time to read them and share in our work through your prayers.

Thanks!



PS. If you could help us with a donation this year-end, it will help immensely. Thanks!

Here is my monthly pledge of: ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ other: _____		I would like to use my MasterCard
Here is my one time gift of: ___ \$500 ___ \$300 ___ \$200 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ other: _____	Expiry Date: _____	
I want to purchase <u>Worship Walk</u> . Here is \$25 CAD (includes S&H): _____	Card # : _____	
Here's my gift to help with Tim's computer costs & office needs: _____	signature: _____	
*Please send me Román Guzmán's CD for free _____	*Please send me Meghan Pierce's CD for free _____	
* (only 1 shipped per request)		
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Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____	e-mail: _____	
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