



2 Corinthians 10:4-5

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

October Ministry Update...

The wisdom of our loving Heavenly Father sure is different than mine. No wonder He doesn't ask me for ideas to solve important problems. Take for instance King David. As a young man, Samuel the prophet anoints David with oil and declares that he will be the king over Israel one day. David is probably thinking, "Cool! As a king, I won't have to just sling stones with a home-made sling. I can learn to shoot a professionally made bow and arrows. Instead of walking everywhere, I can take chariot rides! Won't that be cool!!" He would daydream about spacial palace rooms, indoor plumbing, and servants. But what was the reality that faced him? He became a hunted man and running for his life for 10 years. At times, King Saul was just yards away from him, and the danger could not be higher.

We have a small church that started meeting several years ago on the Reserve in Chase. During the past years we had challenges to sound doctrine as various people brought heresies to our church. We dealt with the heresies by a clear proclamation of truth from God's Word. One by one the false teachings moved on when they could not find a root in the church. But, as many of you may have discovered, if the enemy of our souls can't break us with the seduction of the world and false doctrine, then he makes an enfilade attack. Enfilade is a military word describing an attack from the side. If the frontal attack fails, go for a flanking maneuver. What that means is the enemy of our souls goes after our children. They don't have the ability to see what is happening, and as they fall for the lies of the enemy, the hearts of the parents are broken. Jannie and I have seen this tactic at work in our own family, and I am sure that many parents reading this will nod your heads in recognition of this attack in their homes.

In this last month we have seen a rise of suicide attempts by young people on the reserves around us. It has been heartbreaking for hear of 3 attempts within one week in one community alone. A family in our church is going through this right now with their

daughter *Priscilla. God in His mercy protected her life, but she sustained multiple injuries that required hospitalization, surgery and a long recovery process. The parents came to faith in Christ long after the children came along, but their almost adult children have not embraced faith in Christ (yet). How might God use this very difficult trial in the life of this family? We have been encouraged to see both parents clinging to God and praying for his mercy and grace to bring salvation to their household.

In our human wisdom we wouldn't have recommended such a difficult road for this family. But we also know that what the enemy intends for evil, God can use for His good. How is God accomplishing this in this intense trial in this family's circumstances? We knew from the beginning that this was a spiritual battle.

In the beginning *Priscilla did not want to hear about God and Jesus from the parents. They couldn't even pray with her. But in this past week she has allowed them to read from the Bible and even to pray for her. The parents realized that this was the beginning of victory over dark spirits that have been battling for the mind of their daughter.

We are reminded from Scripture that in the midst of the spiritual attacks, we have mighty weapons to destroy strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; *"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (5) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."*

The parents are learning to lean on Jesus like never before. They know that they are in a spiritual battle and they are arming themselves with the armor of God as described in Ephesians 6. (the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the belt of truth, the sword of the Spirit and the feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace). *"Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."* (Eph. 6:13). We don't retreat, but we are called to STAND! And so we ask that you would stand with us and these parents in prayer. Pray with and for them for physical healing in *Priscilla's life, but most of all for spiritual healing and freedom that only comes through faith in Christ.

Thank you for your commitment to prayer!

Howard and Jannie Johnson

johnson@naim.ca

1702 White Lake Road

Tappen, BC V0E 2X3

CANADA

**not her real name, in order to respect her privacy.*

NAIM staff and the ministries they represent are fully funded through and solely accountable to North America Indigenous Ministries.