

## *Access...*

In the light of recent events, few of us can escape thinking about the days in which we live and the vulnerability of life itself. Many have said, "the world changed on Sept. 11".

Those who have lived with war and violence in many parts of the world may not see this as the world changing. Terrorism is not a new thing in so many places. Perhaps it is we who have changed -- not the world -- we who have lived with the feeling of being protected from such things. Perhaps we have had to "join the world" in its turmoil.

God has *not* changed. His character, His Word and His will remain the same. His blood covenant remains secure, and that is our solid foundation! His plan is in progress, and that gives all His children great purpose for living!

Concerning His covenant, I was reminded of the feeling inside of me when the towers collapsed. I felt something falling and collapsing within me. Later, I realized that what was collapsing inside was any confidence I had put in natural things. That confidence has to be totally transferred to the Lord and to His Word.

We are in a blood covenant with God. This means all we have belongs to Him, and all He has belongs to us! All His promises are blood covenant promises. That covenant is the security of the believer. *Actually, it has always and only been that way. This has not changed.*

Concerning His plan, it is found in Matthew 24:14: *"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness to every nation, and then the end shall come."* This too has not changed. God's plan is in progress and in high gear! Only the Father knows when its goal has been achieved. Perhaps that time is very soon. We know, however, that many millions have not yet heard the message of Jesus and salvation.

Sometimes trouble in the world simply furthers God's plan, though Satan is trying to thwart the plan. What Satan does with evil intent God frequently turns for His own purpose. (Especially with the prayers of the church.) We need to look "behind the news" and find out what God is doing in the midst of trouble in the nations.

I recall the falling of the iron curtain, when Americans thought that now the Soviet Union will have democracy! I asked the Lord at that time what He was doing in the Soviet Union, and the world that came to me was *"access"*. God wanted *access* to the people. Good government may or may not come, but He would get *access* to the people and *access* for the preaching of the gospel.

Not enough missionaries were ready when that access came. Too many pornographers and drug dealers were ready.

Some years ago a volcano blew up in the Philippines. Many people had to be evacuated from the region, including an ethnic group that lived in very inaccessible areas of the mountains. They were an "unreached people group", never having heard the gospel.

Many thousands of this people group were placed in a refugee camp. Campus Crusade for Christ was ready. They recognized what God had done in the middle of a crisis. *Access* to this people had been made possible. Campus Crusade missionaries showed the Jesus film in the refugee camp and 10,000 people from that ethnic group accepted Christ in one night!

Now Islam is in the news, and war is in Afghanistan. Will any kind of new *access* come within Islam or to that broken nation? Is anyone watching for the signs of *access*? Is anyone ready to take the love of Christ to people and areas previously thought inaccessible?

At the end of World War II, General MacArthur called for 10,000 missionaries to come to Japan. Few responded. What would Japan be like today if 10,000 had responded to the *access* that had come through the war? Perhaps too many Americans were lost in hatred of the Japanese to respond to God and carry the love of Jesus to that nation.

*Will we get lost so lost in hatred or fear of those who are our political enemies that we cannot love them or bring them the gospel?*

Thank God for the example of the Christian aid workers who were detained in Afghanistan. After hearing a live interview with the two Americans on CNN while they were still in Pakistan, Jackie and I were greatly encouraged. Full of God, these young ladies were also full of love for the Afghan people and were thankful that their plight had

produced so much prayer for that nation. They were committed to keep serving the Afghans and to return as soon as possible!

*"Lord, help us who are your children to be ready and available to carry the love and light of Christ through the access to people that may be created in the midst of the turmoil in the world -- whether across the ocean or across my street. Here am I, Lord...send me."*