

RANSOMED HEART

LOVE GOD. LIVE FREE.

May 2010

Dearest Friends,

I was just praying before I wrote you, asking God, “What do my friends need this month, Jesus? What should I share with them?” (I earnestly want these letters to be helpful!) His response threw me.

Your heart.

“My heart?” Honestly, the next few moments are pretty funny and pretty revealing. “My heart? What kind of answer is that? What do they need my heart for?” It’s an embarrassing admission, but it is true and to the point so I thought I’d best reveal it. I checked in again, and again I heard, *Your heart*. Which got me to thinking, “Okay, my heart. How do I share my heart with my readers?” The answer really did not take long at all.

It begins with a sunrise.

I came out this morning to the most glorious sunrise I’ve seen in a long time. The kind that takes up the entire sky. The clouds were not a total canopy, so that there was sky and cloud across the horizon, but mostly cloud, and all of the clouds were salmon color except those closest to where the sun would rise; they were golden. The glory of the color was made more brilliant by the contrast of the grey tops of the clouds. The sun has not yet risen. There was a column of golden light, glorious, shooting straight up through the sunrise. I’ve only seen that once before. I knew God was giving me a picture.

The picture was portraying the true beauty of what had just taken place the prior four days.

We just finished a Captivating retreat in the mountains. More than 350 women came from all over the world to meet Jesus in a deep and intimate way. To have their hearts deeply healed. To be set free from the assaults of darkness. It was...glorious. Like the sunrise. The rescue of a human heart is the most beautiful thing on earth. There is simply nothing that even compares.

For a heart is the treasure of any person’s life – the heart is what enables us to love, to know God, to laugh, to play, to have friendships and romance, to feel passion, to fight injustice, to take in beauty, to *live*. So when the heart is wounded, bound, held captive and dying, everything else in life withers. Every relationship – especially our relationship with God. Every work we are called to do. All the glories of life fade away.

And so the ransom of a human heart ransoms everything – a life, and then many lives, and all the beauty of those lives. And thus the Kingdom of God advances.

By the time you read this our men’s team will be in Wales, conducting a Wild at Heart retreat for men from all over Europe. Now, you must understand – this work is immensely costly. The battle over the human heart is the fiercest of all, and while the beauty of this work is like the beauty of the sunrise, the price of this work is very high. I simply need to be honest about that. This is no walk in the park. We pay dearly to bring freedom and restoration to the hearts of others. But it is worth it.

And I want you to help us. That is my heart. We need you to help us. Come and join this revolution. Be a more intimate part of it. For what greater thing can you do with your life than to partner intimately with

Jesus in the rescue of human hearts, and all of the redemption that flows from that rescue?

I think folks get a wrong impression when they hear of our work, or read one of our books. I think the enemy whispers something like, *These guys are doing great*. The subtle lie is, *They don't really need your help*. Really now – test this. Do you feel like you play a crucial role in our success, partnering with us to ransom lives? You see what I mean then. The lie is effective.

Friends, this is a *movement*, a revolution. It is entirely grass roots. We have no vast resources, no television show, no major platform. This grows and flourishes only by word of mouth. We don't have any other way! So it happens by *you!*

So join us. Help us. How? Two ways. First, help us spread this beautiful, powerful message.

Give someone a book. That one act might save a life. A family. And who knows what else?!

Pass along this newsletter. Give a few copies of your favorite audio resource of ours away.

Introduce your family and friends to Ransomed Heart. You could turn them on to our Daily Readings, our podcasts, our blogs. Help us grow the audience!! Become a fan on our Facebook page. Tell others about us on your page!

Lead a small group. Teach a class. *Share this*. The experience of doing so will take your walk with God to a whole new level, trust me.

Secondly, watch our backs.

Pray for us. Even the most simple prayers as you move through your day really help. *Jesus, bless them. Strengthen them. Fill them with your love. Lead them*. Really – my goodness, if a few hundred folks pray like that, we will be strengthened! We *will* be blessed!

Support us. We try our best to earn the majority of our needed income through our ministry activities. We feel that is the responsible thing to do. But we also live by the generous support of our friends. You'll notice a return envelope with these letters each month; we hope you'll send them back with a gift and a note of encouragement! You can also give online at www.ransomedheart.com. Stasi and I LOVE to give to Ransomed Heart – it's one of our favorite things to do – because we know those gifts rescue lives. We know this movement is more beautiful than the sunrise this morning! We know Jesus *loves* this work!

Now, this also gives me the opportunity to say THANK YOU!!!! Thank you for all that you have already done – for sharing the message, for rescuing the hearts of others, for your prayers, your love and your support. Thank you!!!!

So what is my heart? My heart is for the ransom of many hearts, and many lives. My heart is for this little revolution to change the world. I want to spread the Kingdom like that sunrise filled the sky. I want the beauty of redemption, that's what I want. It happens one heart at a time. As you spread the word. As you cover our backs. Really. It happens no other way.

Shall we?


John