

THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM INTERCESSORS - AUGUST 2005

Greetings TRTJ Intercessors, Watchmen and Warriors,

We are in a time of intensified warfare! Most of the intercessors and leaders that I talk with are experiencing tremendous spiritual intensity and personal challenge. Remember that you are not alone. God is with us. He is our Victorious Warrior and He will fight for us! A key for a victorious mindset is to set our gaze on what the Lord is doing and what He wants to do in us. Often we can miss the Lord by over-emphasizing the enemy's schemes against us. Clearly the Word tells us to "not be ignorant of his schemes" but the primary foundational truth is found in James when he says, "Draw near to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you." By keeping first things first and drawing near to the Father, we will be one step closer to victory - the Lord Himself.

Our family has just returned from our son's graduation from Navigator Flight Training School at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

While on the base, I had an encounter with the Lord that I thought would be an encouragement for you all.

THE SET UP

Upon arrival at Randolph AFB, I went for a long run around the base. Being on a military air base is a stimulating experience because at every turn there is opportunity to see the parallels of warfare preparation/training in a natural sense and the spiritual war which we are called to wage in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Every jet that took off reminded me of our Heavenly mission as God's own children. It is magnified in Psalm 24:3 and 4, which says, "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation." During my run, I was enjoying the beauty of the sunny day and the awe of flight displayed on this Air Force Training Base. The various airplanes and their designs, the sounds produced when these magnificent birds took off was enough to fill my heart to the brim with gratitude as I pondered my son's accomplishment in becoming a professional navigator.

AN INVITATION

While jogging, I decided to go the long way around the area where the jets take off and land so I could take in the activity of the airfield. At one point near the end of the runway, I took a shortcut across a small piece of grass close to the aircraft landing area. I thought to myself, "This may not be a good idea since this may disturb the flight plans of the pilots! Surely I am on a surveillance camera."

After rounding the curve and thinking about this infraction, I was pondering how I might be reprimanded for my poor judgment. I became more concerned about moving my will into the "Yes, Lord" mode than I was about the consequences of my error. I kept hearing the Spirit say - "Holy Fire, Run to His correction". To my surprise I was telling the Lord to do whatever it takes to get me ready to bear His namesake and carry His glory. My inner dialogue sounded something like this, "What am I really saying to the Lord and what does this mean? I must be crazy. Holy Fire...this is serious. His ways and thoughts are perfect towards me. No fear! Perfect love casts out all fear. He is to be trusted. He is a good

Father. Have your way Lord Jesus!"

As these thoughts ran through my mind I began to notice a red suburban with flashing red lights coming down the runway in my direction. Now I'm thinking, "Wow that was fast! I'm about to take a test concerning my 'do whatever it takes to get me ready' comment to the Lord". My flesh begin to battle the idea - "Maybe if I run down the other side of the street, the Military Police won't say anything to me." My flesh wanted to resist and run in the opposite direction. But instead something rose up in me and I crossed over to the same side of the street in which the red suburban was parked. I began to run straight for the red car. Standing up to the idea of learning from this experience my thought was, "A good soldier will take what is coming his way regarding correction and this is my opportunity to present myself to the Lord in this way." I was motivated by the ways I had watched my son respond to military life with all of its training and challenges. He was an example of one who had encountered many opportunities to press into the Lord in the midst of difficulty and disappointment. I was thinking about how proud I was of the man that God was molding for His glory and I was challenged by Benjamin's example.

THE SURPRISE

Approaching the red car, I could not see who was in the vehicle until I came around to the driver to address them directly. As soon as I looked into the car, expecting to see a Military Police officer, to my surprise I found a lady in civilian clothes with a kind smile on her face. She was dressed in a casual white outfit with a lovely summer design on her blouse. I greeted her and she returned the hello. I said, "I saw your vehicle coming down the runway and your lights were flashing and I thought you were coming to correct me." To this she said, "Oh no, you are fine." We had a brief visit and then parted ways with an exchange of "Bless you and have a good day."

I left smiling and thinking, now isn't that just like the Lord?

If we run to His correction, what we will find are the loving arms of a nurturing parent who is assuring and gentle.

And so it was that day.

A test? I think so.

A laugh and a smile?

Yep!

That's our Father.

Hebrews 12:9 "...shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live?"

1 Thessalonians 1:7 "But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children."

Blessing and Grace to you all,

Meg Jones/TRTJ Prayer Coordinator