

Personal Diary Entry 4 July 2005

Greetings, diary, in the Marvellously Meritorious & Magnificently Multifaceted Name of JESUS!

I had missed hearing Prophetess Dr. Juanita Bynum at our Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium in Barbados on Thursday 23 June, foolishly (with hindsight!) preferring to watch the last game of the NBA finals. Well, when my wife got home that night, on a high from the meeting, and kept me awake for ages (at 1 a.m. in the morning at that!) going on and on about what had happened, I knew I had made the wrong decision! Mind you, even before my wife got home, I was regretting my decision - the Detroit Pistons had somehow managed to lose to the San Antonio Spurs (after being 9 points up in the second half of the game at one stage!), but my wife sure rubbed salt in the wound! Then the next day a sister in Christ called me at work and rubbed the salt in even deeper as she in turn raved about the Thursday night meeting! So there was no question over where I would be Friday night 24 June 2005! And what a service!

First there was the marvellous worship. The place was packed and I was struck by a little child who was dancing near me, in a ballet style dance before the Lord. Then Provenance, a worship group from the States, again ministered in song. "My Soul doth Magnify You" was one beautiful song they sang.

Eventually Dr. Juanita Bynum came to the microphone. She did not preach immediately, but sang - the Holy Spirit gave her a new song on the spot which she sang several times; the words were:

I'm searching for your heart,
So I will know your will...
I'm searching for your mind,
So I will know your way...
I'm searching for you Lord
So I won't go astray...
I'll just be still.

There was a beautiful melody to the song and those of you who were there can probably still, like me, remember it.

Then Dr. Bynum began to preach, and with great fervour! She began by saying: "Don't miss the manifestation by being in 'religion' !" Her subject was faith, taken from Hebrews 11. She declared: "God only speaks and gives visions that can nobody work out but Him!" She shared an insight re Heb 4:12 (the well known verse about the Word of God being powerful and sharp, piercing to the dividing of soul and spirit...) and said that God speaks His Word to spirit, and it cuts doubt away. She went on: "Faith does not mean being rich; it means I have access to the spirit realm!", and she declared: "I would rather be broke in my pocket but rich in my spirit!" - she backed up these statements by noting that not everyone who had faith in the scriptures was rich, pointing out that Heb 11:38

says some heroes of the faith lived in dens and caves.

"Faith is not He did or didn't do it... faith is He can do it!", she declared, adding: "If God don't do it the way I asked Him, then God got a better way!" She pointed out that faith worketh patience (James 1:3) in that it will teach you how to wait on God. "I don't need no car; I don't need no house; but I need my faith!" , she cried! Going to Heb 5:8 (the verse that says Jesus learnt obedience by the things He suffered), she said that there are times that the Lord delays His release because He is saying "Do you still love me? If I don't give it to you, am I still Your Saviour?" "The real faith of God", she said, is believing in His Word even unto death. We must obey God - our faith is shown by our works in this regard (James 2:17-19).

It was the end of her message, however, that was really striking. She became more and more caught up in the Spirit, and began to declare and prophesy things by faith. She said that she would be coming back to Barbados; that her work here was not finished. She spoke of revival coming to Barbados. She spoke of there being an open place of worship; of tourists being drawn to the island to worship the Lord here; of an intercessory chain that would be established for the island; of a move of God, of fire coming to the Caribbean islands. She took the names and email addresses of those present (we were asked to write them down on pieces of paper and drop them at a collection point) and said that she would be taking them to her "threshing floor" (place of prayer) together with her prayer shawl, and that we should expect miracles to take place.

Before I continue, I wish to share some personal things. I was baptised in the Holy Spirit Feb 1974, in London, in my teens, through laying on of hands by an Anglican pastor, Roy Jeremiah, in his living room. The experience, which I had sought for a year, not only gave me the gift of speaking in tongues, but it radically changed my life - for the first time I knew that God loves me (as I wrote in my diary at the time, I felt after the laying on off hands like I was being bathed in a bathtub of love), I fell totally in love with Jesus, I could witness and tell others about Him instead of being too shy to do so, my prayer life took off, and the Word of God came dramatically alive.

As is my wont, I am digressing, and how I was led to Pastor Roy Jeremiah is a fairly unbelievable story but I will share it nonetheless. There were two Christians (a guy and a girl, Keron and Kathy) at my Secondary school (Hendon, North West London, which I attended after leaving Harrison College to travel with my parents to England) whom I greatly admired and who were filled with the Spirit. I overheard them one day speaking of a friend of theirs, Russell Taylor, and his amazing faith. I said to myself "I must see him, and he will show me how to get the baptism of the Holy Spirit". So I prayed one day, set off, found the church he was at (despite not knowing the way), and the service was ending. He sat down with me at the back of the church and told me his story - how he had received the Spirit through laying on of hands by a certain Pastor Roy Jeremiah. Afterwards I looked up his address up in the phone book (there were only two persons surnamed "Jeremiah" in London), then I phoned and made an appointment to see him. He was elderly with white hair, and a real man of God (I was to learn later of his powerful earlier healing ministry in Africa, and that the Lord had given him a special gift

of laying on in hands for receiving the Holy Ghost, so much so that he had a book that those who received would sign afterwards - but at the time I knew nothing of this). I sat down in a chair in his living room and he did not exactly put me at ease - he related how a witch had been sitting there a few days earlier and how she had tried to attack him and how he had cast an evil spirit out of her! Then he went through John and Acts re the Holy Spirit, lay hands on my head as I knelt, and a new language bubbled forth from my lips in one of the happiest moments of my life... and yes, I signed the book afterwards... and attended some wonderful Thursday night meetings in the basement of his home, where the Holy Spirit would come in times of the most wonderful and refreshing worship... a new world was opened to me.

When, years later, I was leaving England to return to Barbados, I prayed and asked God to guide me to Russell Taylor, although I did not have a clue where he was in London, or England for that matter. The Lord did. Russell was ill in bed at the time with the flu or something, and I knelt by his bed which the Lord had miraculously guided me to, and we prayed. I asked him to pray for me, and he did, and the Holy Spirit fell on him and he declared that one day I would see great things spiritually in Barbados... he got very excited...

From the time Pastor Roy Jeremiah lay hands on me to now, at special times in the Lord's presence, or when speaking His Word, I will receive a physical sign on my face - a kind of chilling around my lips, and I will know that the Spirit is present in a special way. It is not often this happens - it may not happen for weeks or months, and it is not something I control or can foretell when it will occur, and I am sure that most believers experience similar signs of the Lord's presence. However, on Friday night, when Dr. Juanita Bynum was sharing at the end of her message about revival coming to Barbados, to me it was significant that I felt the Holy Spirit come on my face in the sign I spoke of, and several things were brought back to my mind... the words of Russell Taylor, the words I had overheard earlier that day in the Gospel Q bookstore in town.. when two elderly ladies were sharing of the need for an intercession group for the island... and the mentioning of an open place of worship tallied with what two dear brothers in the Lord in Barbados had been sharing with me (separately) re what was on their hearts!

Also, while there are pockets of intercessory groups in the island praying for Barbados already, there is not (yet) a mass-coordinated effort. We need to pray because there are forces of the enemy lined up against us - e.g. the spirit of witchcraft, which I am told Dr. Bynum spoke about on Thursday night. We underestimate both the strongholds of the enemy, and moreso the power of God and what God can do if only we would pray; this is why we do not pray enough. We do not see clearly enough the need for prayer and we lack faith; nevertheless, God is up to something! We have only to believe and to pray.

As Dr. Juanita Bynum was closing, she echoed her earlier message and said "I want my faith more than I want my stuff!" and she also declared: "I want revival more than I want stuff!" May those two sentiments be ours also!

News reporter Sherie Holder shared in Sunday's Nation re Dr. Bynum's visit in a well

written article. On Friday night the reporter who had arranged that interview, Janice Griffith, sat next to my wife and I, and told us about her meeting Dr. Bynum, and how when she had shaken hands with her, she had felt the power of God literally physically go through her body! I thank God for sending Dr. Bynum to our shores, and I believe and hope and pray that we are seeing the start of something!

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-25

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