



CALVARY COURIER

May-Jun 2010

Letter from the Pastor

Jennifer Knapp has been one of my favorite Christian singer/songwriters for a number of years, although she has taken a long leave of absence from the Christian music scene. From her CD. Kansas:

I come into this place
Burning to receive Your peace
I come with my own chains
From wars I've fought for my own selfish gain
Your my God and my Father
I've accepted Your Son
But my soul feels so empty now
What have I become?

Lord come with Your fire
Burn my desires, refine me
Lord, my will has deceived me
Please come and free me, refine me

My heart can't see,
When I only look at me
My soul can't hear
When I only think of my own fears
They are gone in a moment
You're forever the same
Why did I look away from You?
How can I speak Your name?

Lord, come with Your fire
Burn my desires, refine me
Lord, my will has deceived me
Please come and free me
Come rescue this child
For I long to be reconciled to you

It's all I can do, to give my heart and soul to you
And pray, and pray, oh I will pray

Lord, come with Your fire
Burn my desires, refine me
Lord, my will has deceived me
Please come and free me
Come rescue this child
For I long to be reconciled to you
Refine me, refine me

(Refine Me, Jennifer Knapp, Copyright 1997 Gotee Music/West Hudson Music – BMI)

Sundays

9:30 a -- Sunday School
10:45 a – Worship Service

SUMMER SCHEDULE

MAY 30 - SEPTEMBER 5

10:00 a – Worship Service
(No Sunday School)

Tuesdays

10:00 a – Ladies Bible Study
*(No Tues meetings during the
June, July, Aug. summer break)*

Wednesdays

7:00 pm – Prayer Meeting

Saturdays in May

7:00 pm – Small Group
Daniel Study at Glenn &
Deanna's

Recently, Jennifer has decided to get back into the music scene, but has also let people know that she is a lesbian.

Knapp is very clear that she is not marketing herself as a Christian artist, a term with which she said she has never been comfortable. She's no longer on a Christian-based record label, and her new album of folksy rock songs is described as being about "inner-conflicts, spirituality and life lessons."

(<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/SHOWBIZ/Music/04/16/jennifer.knapp.gay/index.html>)

I end up here feeling very sad for Ms. Knapp, that she has fallen into a lifestyle which is contrary to God's Word. (That was PC for "sin".) I am disappointed that ability to reach folks musically within a Christian context is on an indefinite hold. I wonder if I will buy her new CD.

I anticipate that the "God hates fags!" force will attend some of her concerts now, just to heckle her in the name of the Jesus that they define. The press will run some segments on how evil the Christian community is toward those who have "come out."

I am not disappointed in Jennifer, though. She fully understands that her choice has consequences and she seems able to accept them without attacking those who feel that they must write her off. A appreciate her honesty in her confession, and that she withdrew from the scene when she was struggling with a lot of issues in her life.

I hope that all of us who have treasured the music from her former career will pray a lot for her, and her partner, that they will be brought, through the grace of Jesus Christ, into the kind of "lifestyle" that they were designed for. I hope that we, in full obedience to Galatians 6, seek to gather around her that she might be restored, rather than declared to be 'unclean.'

David fell deeply into sin in the matter of Bathsheba. He had her righteous husband, Uriah, one of the Mighty Men, killed off even though he had been with David in the early days, as they ran from Saul in the wilderness. David became a murderer, an adulterer and a deceiver, even bringing others into his sins. Even though David fell to such a despicable level, no one has tried to throw out the Psalms he wrote, even though his sins were "worse" than Ms. Knapps.

I wonder how many preachers have preached their best sermons while in the middle of "non-Biblical

lifestyle choices" of all sorts. If the books were opened about any of us, which of us would dare to boast of our worthiness to speak of Christ. We must be very careful to be as gentle with those whose sin is known as we desire to be dealt with ourselves for those sins which have not been brought to light. I fear that this is not the track record of the Church in general.

I think that the norm is that those who confess "big" sins are shunned for life, while Scripture speaks of restoring them, being careful that we ourselves are not caught up in the same temptation. We too often desire to see the sinner punished for their sin, while we understand theologically that the punishment for all sin was laid upon Christ. Maybe it makes us feel a little more righteous about ourselves to do this. Perhaps we are just relieved that the light of scrutiny is occupied with others for the time being.

If we are to be like Jesus, then we are required to hang out with all manner of "sinner" that they might see the evidence of Christ in us. Jesus did this as a lifestyle, not that he affirmed sin in the least. He just wasn't grossed out by the sins of the folks that he came to die for. The "sinners" were already fully aware that they did not meet the standard, and that they needed Jesus to have any hope of meeting it at all. He accepted them, without condoning their sin, but rather calling them from it to himself.

I saw Jennifer in concert some years ago and she was awesome, although she did not seem comfortable in front of the crowd. Her music was written out of the struggle that we are all in all of the time. I am glad that she shared her heart and will pray that she returns fully and completely to a Christian context. I would love to sit down with her and hear her story. Perhaps it will be on the new CD.

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Burning to receive Your peace
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-Pastor Steve

BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

(Romans 6:3-5 NIV)

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2010

Memorial Day at the Millers, May 30, after the morning gathering. Among other things, there will be great food and fellowship, and the annual softball game. That day, we are providing the opportunity for folks to be baptized.

If you are interested in baptism, meet with Steve at 9:45am on Sunday mornings in May!

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Thanks to Dan
ANOTHER ESKIMO BAPTISM GONE BAD

(I THINK WE'VE DECIDED AGAINST
FUTURE WINTER BAPTISMAL SERVICES.)

MISSIONS NEWS

o "Missionaries are like bridges, allowing people using various modes of transportation to cross over obstacles that otherwise would keep them from moving forward..." Rex Lee Carlaw, USA Director, Action International Ministries; ACTION Newsletter, February 2010

o From the James family: "Pray for us as the Lord directs us to share the gospel in leading Christian Asia musicians to travel and perform... Pray that God opens many doors for us... Pray for us as we continue to develop

our training farms, and business platforms, and other venues to share His love and truth with others. We wish to thank all who have helped us with computer, funds, prayer, encouragement and mostly love in 2009, and we look forward to 2010 as being a year of full restoration in every area of our lives, and of great Advance into sharing the gospel..."

o Tim and Susana "had a great time in Uruguay. We were able to openly share the gospel... In Cardona Susana was able to share about the ministry in Spain & Tim was able to preach in the Baptist church where Susana attended as a little girl." In the city of Florida

they were guest speakers at "a youth rally with the theme 'Royal Commitment.' Over 75 youth were present from five different cities... good to see how the church has grown & nice to participate in Sunday school & the church service. Tim preached to 50 people about serving the King. Thanks for keeping us in your prayers." Praise! They have found a place to live and are making new contacts to share the Gospel.

o Bowers write: "Praise the Lord... Dakar Academy outreach weekend went very well: over 2000 people heard the gospel; 300 prayed for salvation; 440 treated

medically; 65 dental patients had 92 teeth pulled; drama team ministered in 10 villages; VBS team ministered to over 500 children; roofed a church; dug and poured a foundation; painted a church mural; built 18 benches; made 490 bricks by hand. They praise God for His safety... traveling in 15 different vehicles with 95 students and over a dozen adults." They have purchased tickets to return to the States with Ben and have offers of places to stay. Please pray for Harry, Jay, and Chris (physical healing); travel mercies, Malinke ministry, and money needed to complete the well at Duduya; teachers needed at Dakar Academy.

o Dan and Nancy report on their Mission Trip to Guatemala: "For the last 15 years we have had our hearts captured again and again by MK's." In January they were with students at Christian Academy of Guatemala "enormously energized to work along side students, teachers and parents... The bottom line is to help CAG minister effectively to missionary families, enabling them to stay on the mission field." They plan to "journey to the Philippines again in May/June." Please pray: "For 2010-11 CAG needs to replace 50% of its faculty," and "we need the wisdom of God to know who, what, when and where of service to God."

o From Tom and Nancy: "Nancy's PET/CT Scan results look good and her oncologist is very pleased and amazed...The cancer has reduced greatly... Tom needs knee replacement surgery (April 12)." They continue to be

involved in MemberCare issues, attended three area church mission conferences, and a week of Candidate Orientation. Seven people were appointed to train and go to the mission field. Their house is still on the market - they will look closer to DC area. "We want to thank all of you who pray for and support us, send us notes and cards and continue to encourage us in so many ways. We thank our God for you!"

o Please keep Rick and Susan in prayer... they need additional support to return to their mission field. Susan writes: "We need you all to 'cover our backs' in the spiritual sense... The emotional factor that greets us every morning is the challenge that our three sons have to successfully 'launch' and live independently as adults in the United States. Would you join us in asking God to provide for these needs?" Praise! Son Kris has found a full-time job! Thankful for good medical help while here! Pray: for Michael's living situation and David's college application process -- pressing family issues before departure in July. "Thanks for rejoicing with us and praying too."

o From Sergio and Susan: "Please pray: for us as we teach each Friday evening through June, that the Holy Spirit would help us guide these future leaders to discover God's principles and purposes. For the students as they complete assigned readings and papers." Sixteen students (married and single) are attending the course Marriage and Family Living, at a local seminary in Trujillo.

o Daryl and Valerie write: "As we complete our two-year commitment to Vida Abundante church, we would like your prayers for wisdom in deciding our next ministry direction and commitment... we want to be where God would have us, and useful as His instruments." Please keep in prayer: a young woman college student, Rafael, Christian and his mother, and Orlando. "Praise God for He has recently granted us our religious visas for another year!"

o Craig Parro writes: Leadership Resources "have more invitations to begin TNT... than ever before... one mission agency head put it this way: 'Either we have to start training pastors or partner with someone who does.' As these partnerships develop, we're going to need... Wisdom. Staff. Money. Please, please pray. Thanks so much for standing with us in this way."

o From Lyndee: "We have just come out of a very busy, but rewarding season here at MBKI. Passover reminds us of God's great love for His people... The Passover Seder is a large meal with many symbolic foods that must be present on the table.. This year Dov was able to give grocery store gift certificates to Every Single Person who asked for help. It was exhilarating. It was a miracle." Also: "In total, we have fed over 100 students three hot meals per week, for seven months... We want to thank everyone who participated..."