

Hello CCM, God Bless You All~

Karen and I wish to convey our love and appreciation for all your prayers, support and assistance in the preparation of and the participation in Celebration 2015 - "On Earth As It Is In Heaven!"

When Scott asked us for input for this "Trumpet Blast" (Thank you Scott for your ministry to the body in preparing these), the words to an old but truly good hymn came to mind. I did not look to see if it ended up in the Community of Christ Sings, but I will be quoting it from the grey hymnal "The Hymnal"; (I have a pocket sized one, I have carried since 1974 that my mother gave me.) In that hymnal it was #41 "In God's Most Holy Presence",

**In God's Most Holy Presence, we meet with one accord,
To grasp the hand of Friendship and learn of Christ our Lord.
We leave the week behind us, with all it's toil and strain,
With grateful hearts to welcome, The Sabbath once again.**

**Our worship will be fruitless, and all our prayers be vain,
If holding this day sacred, we make the week profane.
In every daily duty, High purpose we must show,
And as we hope for heaven - Make Earth A Heaven below. ****

**If we but love thee truly, Our love is not confined
To thee but grows expansive, Embracing ALL mankind.
Help us in mutual service for all, abroad at home,
To share the conquering travail That Makes Thy Kingdom come.**

Now, let's talk about the Celebration in the context of the hymn above. Ernest Dodgshun writing in the 1800's does a wonderful job of stating our celebration purpose, with the exception the he expressed it as the Sabbath day, and we experienced a week together. I have put ** beside a key sentence in the hymn; This is what we were wanting to happen, and I pray for you it did. It is a marvel still to me, how individuals can be present in the midst of miraculous things and never see them. I'm reminded that on the road during Paul's conversion experience, those traveling with him, did not see the Savior appearing to him. We truly are capable in the midst of trials and strife in the world, to experience Heaven on Earth if we seek it.

In the first stanza, we did meet with one accord, much prayer and fasting went in to our individual and corporate preparation and as we met and grasped the hands of friendship and learned more of what Holy Spirit wanted to teach us, most of us did leave the stress and strain of our everyday lives behind us, and we welcomed our Heavenly Father and the presence of His Son and the Holy Spirit to work with us and to challenge us.

The second stanza, states quite emphatically that if we take that week and do nothing with what we learned and experienced, than truly the experience will diminish and what God wants to accomplish in the lives of those with whom we meet will not come to fruition. Rather it is for us in EVERY DAILY DUTY (work, play, worship, etc) to demonstrate HIGH PURPOSE and truly strive to bring Heaven to Earth on a daily basis in our own lives and in the lives of those with whom we come in contact.

The third stanza is the challenge of any missionary, and rather you consider yourself that or not, YOU ARE MISSIONARIES, AMBASSADORS, MESSENGERS of GOD's Love to the world. We don't confine our interactions and our outreach to those with whom we are comfortable, but rather let the Holy Spirit direct our OUTREACH (ALL PERSONS - FOR ALL ARE OF WORTH AND LOVED BY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER).

And as it states in this stanza, Help us in mutual service, for ALL aboard and at home, to share the conquering travail that Makes God's Kingdom Come.

We talked and shared with each other about continuing to uplift each other. To share testimony in phone calls, letters, texts, e-mails, trumpet blasts, Facebook, etc. To bear one another's burdens that they might be light, to mourn with those that mourn, to comfort those that stand in need of comfort and to STAND as WITNESSES AT ALL TIMES and in ALL THINGS, and in ALL PLACES (Mosiah 9:39).

The questions is: "Are we doing this?"

Karen and I want to thank each and every one of you, because you were all threads that wove together the fabric of Celebration whether you were able to make it in person, or whether you upheld the body that met together in Prayer and Fasting. We thank you for each of your contributions, and look forward to seeing you next year.

Karen and I find ourselves in Spain, watching the Holy Spirit doing wonderful things in this country. 4 Baptisms and Confirmations, the First Elder ordained, and missionary efforts beginning. We have shared with the Saints in Spain, that the Community of Christ through CCM is lifting them in Prayer. Please continue to do so, as this makes you missionaries in the effort to share the love of Jesus in places abroad.

God Bless You All,

Next Year in Jerusalem!

Your Sister and Brother in the bonds of Christ,

Karen and Mike Stacy