



MST
MorningStar Strategic Team

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Dear Friends,

I think every year I report to you that it has been our most fruitful year, and yet this is accurate. We are making steady progress, which is a basic goal we have. However, this year is shaping up to be even more of an advance than usual in almost every way. Every aspect of the ministry seems to not only be advancing, but making huge strides forward. As always, since you are a part of us, we pray for you to experience everything that we are, and this can be the greatest year of your life for growing in the Lord.

The Double Portion

One of the basic ways that we measure our growth or advancement is by the activity of the Holy Spirit in our midst. This is because our primary purpose is to build a house for Him, and to continually be more sensitive and obedient to Him, making us more useful. If you have come to many of our conferences, I am sure you have noticed how they keep getting better and going higher. We have come to expect this because we believe it is a grace the Lord gave us when He gave me the visions I wrote about in *The Final Quest*—to keep climbing that mountain until we stand in the very presence of the Lord. However, this year the conferences and our churches are going much higher, because this is the year of the double portion for us. For those of you who have just joined MST, I will briefly share a prophecy with you that we are witnessing being fulfilled this year.

Our prophetic friend, Bob Jones, prophesied the birth of our daughter, Amber, two years before she was born, telling us the day she would be born and even how much she would weigh. The prophecy was given to me in 1988—she was to be born two years later on August 8, which is 8/8, and she would weigh 8 pounds. Because 8 is a sign of “new beginnings,” she was to be a sign of a new beginning coming to the church. As prophesied, she was born on August 8, 1990, and she weighed 8 pounds just as was foretold.

Bob was also given a word by the Lord that he had “lost his marbles in the garden,” meaning that mankind had lost its sanity at the Fall. Bob was told that he would find twelve marbles in his garden—each would be a sign and a message, which did in fact happen. On the day my daughter Amber was born, Bob found his eighth marble in his garden, and it was amber in color. Amber speaks especially of the glory of God, and we are now in the time of the recovery of the glory of God in His church.



This year Amber will be 16, which is 8+8. She is a sign, and this is the year of the double portion coming to the church, especially in the return of His glory. I think we have been experiencing this in almost every aspect of our ministry, but especially in the conferences, which have all been going to a much higher level than we have experienced before. We always get a lot of positive feedback from our conferences, but I think this year we are getting many more testimonies of people having their lives radically changed.

Also, as this is obviously a very important year, we also felt to return to our double portion or back-to-back three-day conferences for our Harvest Fest this year. The Harvest Conference, which focuses on being equipped for the time, will be Thursday night, October 5 through Saturday, October 7. We will then have a Grand Opening for our Heritage property and a celebration concert Sunday night, October 8. The next morning we will begin a Worship & Warfare Conference on Monday, October 9 through Wednesday, October 11.

I sincerely think you will not want to miss these conferences, if at all possible. Even if you can just come to one of them, or just for a day or two, I believe it is going to be a historic gathering, and one you will never forget. This will be eight days of a powerful time of gathering the many different movements within the body of Christ (we have had up to sixty-five nations represented at a single conference). Some of the most spectacular signs and wonders have happened at The Harvest Conference, and we feel this will be a truly historic gathering and will release the double portion anointing. Up to one hundred other ministries, churches, publishers, artists, and food vendors will also have tents or pavilions. Campsites and primitive camping will be available, and we should have all of the rooms and suites at Heritage open and available, along with special rates for these conferences.

H.I.M.

For our new members, H.I.M. stands for Heritage International Ministries, which is what we renamed the Heritage USA (or PTL) property we acquired. As this is a major project of the ministry, and many of you have gone even beyond being a part of MST, to be a part of our Nehemiah Project as well to help restore Heritage, I will give you updates on this almost every month.

As I shared last month, we know that this property has an important prophetic significance, but there are indications that it is much more important than I had thought. Every time some part of this property is restored, like bringing one of the restaurants back on line, there seems to be a dynamic and tangible sense of the favor of the Lord. Whenever we bring a new block of rooms on line, I can feel the favor of the Lord. I expect that those of you who have joined with us in the Nehemiah Project have also experienced this in your lives.

It is this sense of the favor of the Lord, which has almost all of our people working for this ministry for much less than they could be earning with a secular organization. I myself take about one-third of what I understand the IRS guidelines to be for the head of a similar sized non-profit organization. Also, all of our staff only take one-half of the royalties that are paid to authors or songwriters who are not employed by the ministry.



Personally, I have other sources of income than MorningStar, and I am probably in much better shape to serve for less than others could on our staff. Because of the principle of the widow's mite, they are probably giving much more than I am before the Lord.

We are not doing this just to be above reproach, knowing that Heritage fell the first time because of financial and moral issues, but because the house of the Lord will only be built on a foundation of sacrifice. The place where the temple in Jerusalem was built is the same place where Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice, and also where King David bought the threshing floor of Araunah to offer a sacrifice to the Lord to stop the judgment that had come upon Israel for his transgression of numbering the people. Remember, Araunah told David that he would give this place to him and the sacrifices, but David refused saying, he would not offer to the Lord that which had cost him nothing (see II Samuel 24:18-24). Such is the place where the Lord will dwell, the place of sacrifice.

We love to call God: "Jehovah-jireh," (**The Lord Will Provide**) (see **Genesis 22:14**), but few people realize that this title is only used for the Lord one place in Scripture—the place where Abraham offered Isaac, or the place of the ultimate sacrifice. I believe that Heritage was built by many who made such sacrifices, giving out of their need, because the Lord spoke to me in 1988 that He was going to restore this place "because of the widows' mites" which had built it. In the rebuilding of it, we have seen many making similar sacrifices, some even moving here to work for no pay at all.

As this letter is where I share with our co-laborers in the gospel, my point is not only about what we are doing, but why, and there are a couple of things that I want to do in relation to this. First, as the rooms and other sources of income at H.I.M. start to produce more, I want to raise the salaries of our people. This is not for me, as I do not need more, but some of our people do deserve much more than they are making, and I think once their heart for sacrifice is demonstrated, I have an obligation to them and their families to do the best we can for them. They are more important to what we are doing than the buildings.

Second, we have removed the minimum required monthly donation for membership in MST, which was \$15 a month, because this could exclude the widows whose little bit may bless the Lord much more than larger donations. We realize this may cost us financially, but this is not just about money, it is about the favor of the Lord and building a place that He wants to inhabit. The sacrifice of those in need, who give out of their need, obviously touches Him more than those who give out of their abundance, though this touches Him, too. Our main goal is to please the Lord, and I don't think it pleases Him to exclude any who want to give any amount.

I believe that our MST members will be blessed with the blessing that comes upon us, and many will double their giving or more this year, but if \$15 is a stretch for you, please call our toll free number, 1-800-542-0278, to reduce it to whatever amount you want to contribute. Know that we appreciate it just as much, and you are just as much a part of our MST family.

Of course, MST membership does require regular giving because "where your heart is there will your treasure be also." We know those who contribute their treasure regularly to our ministry are those whose hearts are really with us. Even so, we don't just want your money—we want true friends and co-laborers in our mission.



Of course, MST is about much more than restoring Heritage, but we know the Lord cares that this place be restored and that it be done right. Hardly a week goes by when I don't meet a former PTL partner who stops and thanks me for what we're doing, often with tears in their eyes. Maybe that's why it seems to be so important to the Lord, because it is important to so many of His people. He cares about the things His kids care about. However, I also know that this place has a very important prophetic significance.

Now back to the progress being made at H.I.M. We are now expecting all of the rooms and suites in the Grand Hotel to be on line by August 31. There were 160 rooms over Main Street and 341 in the main hotel section. We are turning about half of the rooms over Main Street into suites, a few apartments, and some for dorms for our MSM students. I think all of them are going to be exceptionally nice, and this will be an awesome place to spend an extended period of time, or even live as some ministry friends are planning to do.

On August 31, our renovation of Main Street should be complete as well. It will contain what we hope to be one of the world's best children's centers, as well as one of the world's best youth centers. We want these to be places where kids want to come all of the time, where they can come any night of the week and have a safe, edifying place to hang out. We will also have a great bookstore, art gallery, sandwich shop, coffee shop, and ice cream store, as well as an MST/MFM hospitality center that will be open to our members all of the time.

We then expect to complete the cafeteria and conference center by January 31, and will begin hosting conferences for other ministries, some of which are already booking. Our goal is to have almost continual conferences by the summer of 2007, all of which are truly equipping the saints and providing meat in due season to the household of faith.

ZHOP (Zadok House of Prayer) is restoring the convenience store that we own to house their 24-hour prayer and worship. CAUSE has been restoring our lakeside cabins to use for housing. Then the castle and high-rise will be the only things left for us to restore on our part of the property.

It does appear that we can restore the castle and will probably turn it into a day care center as a part of our Comenius School. Our goal is to see our kids become worshipers, lovers of God, and lovers of the truth, at the youngest ages. This will not be a place for kids to be dropped off for someone to babysit them, but for them to be ministered to every day. Of course, we also want it to be fun and exciting, so that they can't wait to get there every day.

We hope to turn the high-rise into a retirement center that we are calling a Retirement Center. Progress continues in getting it re-engineered and re-certified so that we can complete it. As you might expect, this is no small task, but we believe it is a very important part of the ministry here. We want this to be the nicest place possible for our elders, but also a place where they can launch into the most fruitful years of their lives, engaging in ministry, missions, intercession, and ministering to the needy, especially those such as unwed mothers, for which we think these elders can have some of the most effective ministry.

In general, huge progress is continually being made at H.I.M. If you have not visited us in a while, you will be amazed at the place by the end of this summer. I really think we are going to have the best ministry/fellowship center on the planet.



Kudos for Our Team

A friend of ours for many years is a world-class professor of business who teaches at Harvard, M.I.T., and a number of universities in Europe. She stays on the cutting edge of business trends, especially in things like process development and efficiency for large factories. She is now based in Geneva, but recently stayed with us for a week before going to Boston to teach. She has very generously helped evaluate our systems a few times, and given us advice that has been a huge help to us. I was very interested in her evaluation of what we are doing now, especially since taking on the whole Heritage property.

Also, because we have brought another old friend on board to help us implement some aspects of the Six Sigma management process system, I wanted to get her insights into how to best apply this as well. Her basic conclusions were that *we have the best core leadership team she has seen together in an organization, and that some of the business principles we are developing could help revolutionize business.*

I was honestly very surprised by this, feeling that we still hardly know what we are doing in many areas (which is true). We hardly have anyone in a leadership position who studied or was trained in the area they are now overseeing and leading. For example, there is not a single one on our leadership ministry team who has been to seminary or even Bible school, except for those who came through MSM. We really hardly have a single person on our staff who is qualified for what they are doing if you look at the world's standards for qualifications, but they may be doing better than most who are "qualified."

This was done mostly on purpose after we resolved to try to choose leaders the way that the Lord did, seeing people's potential more than their present condition or present qualifications. He did not choose a single one for His core leadership team, His first twelve apostles, from among the religious community. Later, He did choose Paul, who at the time of his being chosen was an enemy of the faith! We need to consider this when thinking about leadership in the church, and maybe other things as well.

We have learned over the years that *almost* every time we brought someone on board who had been hired because of their credentials, degrees, or even experience in an area, we had major problems with them. Those who came with almost no credentials or experience, but with a heart to serve, willing to sacrifice to be a part, and humble enough to be teachable, inevitably became our best leaders and managers.

One example of this is David Hart, our General Manager for H.I.M. and P.O.D. (Publishing, Ordering, and Distribution). David owned a dive shop in Key West and has sailed around the world crewing aboard, sailing and racing yachts, but has never before run a place like the Heritage Grand Hotel and Conference Center. However, without saying a word to him, David quickly bought several books on hotel management. One of our MST members, a Hilton Hotel General Manager, was willing to teach David a lot. David is still learning, but I think he is already one of the best. I also think he has the potential to be the best of all because he has been training in an unorthodox way which promotes thinking outside of the box, while respecting the knowledge of those who have experience. Because of this, we don't have to keep reinventing the wheel when it is not necessary.



However, we also have one big advantage—the Holy Spirit! He moved upon the chaos in the beginning and brought forth this glorious creation, and He still knows how to deal with chaos! As I often tell our team, we are all in way over our heads! If the Holy Spirit ever left us, you would know it immediately, but we know He will never leave or forsake us. We also are daily in touch with how much we need Him!

When I brought my old friend, Bart Peacher (we grew up on the same block in Richmond, Virginia), on board to help us implement some of the principles of the Six Sigma system in our management, he was not even sure how to apply this to what we are doing. I just knew from the Lord there were some things in it we needed, and he was being led by the Lord to take early retirement from the power company he worked for. The timing was perfect. When Bart started telling me the tools he would need for his job, such as the computer programs, I just felt one of them was not relevant to us, and did not even know why. It wasn't that expensive, but I don't like to spend money on things we don't need, and I just felt it would be a waste. Then, when our professor friend showed up, almost the first words out of her mouth were that if we are going to try to implement Six Sigma, we don't need that program. Bart and I both said, "Thanks." The real expense would have been wasting the time on learning this part that we really did not need.

To give you a basic understanding of why I check out and try to learn from things like Six Sigma, think about this: We will have over four hundred rooms to clean. If we can establish the most efficient way to clean a room that saves ten minutes a room, we will be saving about \$1 per cleaning per room. If we have to clean each room an average of twice a week, that is \$800 a week in savings. In a year, that is \$41,600 in savings. In ten years that is \$416,000, and so on. These are your tithes and offerings, as well as ours, and we don't want to waste a penny of them if possible. I would much rather put them into increased wages for our people, or better service and hospitality in other ways for the people staying with us.

We will also be able to determine that it should take, for example, twenty-two minutes to clean a room on average. If someone is taking thirty minutes, we will be able to see this and help them out quickly. If someone else is only taking an average of eighteen minutes, we may want to check the quality of their work, but if it is good, this person may have found a way to save four more minutes per room just by doing something a little differently, so we will want to add this to everyone's process. In this way, just overseeing a process that measures efficiency can have huge consequences over time.

Now, as I have shared with you in the past, the Lord once told me to build that which would last a thousand years. If I apply a system for cleaning rooms that saves ten minutes a room, consider how much we would save over a thousand years. That may stretch you a little, but if we came up with the best system for cleaning rooms, and shared it with Marriott, Hilton, Hotel 6, and any others who would listen, how much could we save our hospitality industry in a year? It could be billions. Is this not also what it means to be a light to the world? If the Holy Spirit is the Helper, it is His basic nature to help, and we want to do this too. If our professor friend is right, and we are destined to help revolutionize business in some ways, to me this would be part of fulfilling our calling too.



When you get into the kind of numbers we now have to deal with, we have to constantly try to improve efficiency. I think the heart for efficiency is a basic part of our organization now, and our people get great delight out of finding ways to do things better, more efficiently, or ways to save money. We do think that if we are to be a representative of the kingdom, we should do things better than anyone else on the planet.

However, we want this to be done with joy, as worship to the Lord as we do everything as unto Him. We also try to tithe off everything we do, and because we want all of our people to also be intercessors, when we find the most efficient mean time for cleaning a room, I then want the room maid to take at least 10 percent of that time praying for those who stayed or will stay in that room. We also have teams of intercessors, who are volunteers, mostly members of our congregation here, who go through the facilities continually praying for them, us, you, and spiritually cleaning the place. This makes a huge difference in the spiritual atmosphere here. The house of the Lord will be a house of prayer!

I hope I didn't bore you with this stuff on management. I think it is important, and it is spiritual. The real trauma of the Hurricane Katrina disaster was incompetent management. This is a serious problem with our government and most large charities, which may really have a heart to help people, but are tragically bogged down by terrible management systems. I am convinced that if government was run on good management principles, with competent managers, we could easily balance the federal budget with our present economy and without raising taxes. The incompetence of government management is going to be an increasing problem, with increasingly devastating consequences, if major changes are not made very soon.

However, if the church is going to be the light of the world that it is called to be, then the kingdom of God cannot be inefficient or incompetent. Right now I think much of the church is in as much need of good management principles as our government. We have a responsibility to do much better than we are now. I will be addressing this in some future bulletins. This may not sound spiritual to some. However, it is not only spiritual, but crucial if we are going to be trusted with the "true riches" of the kingdom, as the Lord Jesus Himself made clear in the Parable of the Talents. We should also note that it was the one who managed what he had been entrusted with the best who was the most rewarded. It was the one who buried what he had been entrusted with who was called a "**wicked, lazy slave**" (see **Matthew 25:14-30**).

I do get provoked by waste and inefficiency, and I am convinced this is from the Lord. However, what provokes me even more than seeing the Lord's money or other resources being wasted, is seeing His people being wasted. Right now, overall there are fewer than 10 percent of Christians truly functioning in their spiritual gifts or ministries. How well would you do if only 10 percent of your body was working? This is the present state of the body of Christ in general, and it must change. We must obey the Ephesians 4 mandate to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry, or I think we (the shepherds of our time) will be the most in danger of being called those "wicked, lazy slaves" for having wasted what was entrusted to us for His sake. That, far more than just restoring buildings, is our mandate and mission as a ministry.



Again, I deeply thank you for being a part of us and contributing to this work. When you come here, we want you to feel at home because this is your home. If you ever go to Africa, we want you to see what has been done there and know you were a part of something significant that is really changing nations. We want you to feel a part of the books, music, and soon movies, because you are. You are a part of all that we're doing. Thank you.

Yours in Him,

Rick Joyner