

# SAPPHIRE LEADERSHIP GROUP

## *Noble Subjects of the Great King*

### March 2, 2011 Newsletter

#### Canadian Distributorship



We are known for our immense optimism, and for blazing fast turn around on new projects, but once in awhile reality does intrude. And the reality is that our Canadian center won't open

this week like we hoped. Keep the champagne on ice, though! It is coming.

Someone asked whether it would serve walk-in customers. The answer is no. The business license from the city of Calgary does not allow retail walk in traffic at this location, so will be an order fulfillment center only.

#### New Releases of Familiar Products

Blessing Your Spirit is now available in our Product Store in both Spanish and Afrikaans.

In the Download Store we have added:

- Releasing Singles
- Joy Unstoppable
- Walking in Sonship
- Sound of Light
- Relentless Generational Blessings



We have started recording new daily blessings. They have a very different focus and feel than before. The free video is on the home page, and is fresh five days a week. There is an audio version available in the download store under Clips.

These are the long awaited blessings from the book of Psalms. Enjoy! Then tell a friend.

#### Wholesale Accounts

Do you run a bookstore, either stand alone or part of a ministry? We offer wholesale accounts in both the US and Canada. The book Blessing Your Spirit is in its 11th printing already and has been translated into three languages.

#### Downloads

One of our objectives in offering downloads was to get away from the VAT, shipping and customs fees for foreign shipments. We are delighted that over 500 files have been downloaded outside the US already. It is working exceptionally well!

We are steadily converting all our albums to mp3, so watch the home page of our website to see what is added to the download store each week.

## Events

Arthur will not be traveling much this year, since he is working on a major new project at the office.

Since many people have asked about additional training relative to their spirit, we are highlighting events by other organizations that will enrich you.

These are not Plumblines events. The speakers are, however, people who I have known personally for a few years, who are lifetime learners, who know my King and serve Him.

Today we feature Rhonda Calhoun. When I first met Danny and Rhonda, I was impressed with the amount of "dirt under their fingernails." They know their God, they have a deep, private, personal relationship with the King, but they also were immersed in healing people and land with measurable, verifiable, sustained results.

God seems to like their style too, because He has enlarged their assignment significantly in recent years.

Check out their website for a taste of their vision and passion.

[www.HarvestHome.org](http://www.HarvestHome.org)

### Let's Run Together

Saginaw Bay Church of Christ  
Saginaw, MI  
Rhonda Calhoun  
April 1-3  
989-799-3890

### Women of Destiny Conference

Cold Lake Community Church  
Alberta, Canada  
Rhonda Calhoun and Katie Weidrick  
April 15-17  
780-594-5542

### Unchangeable: A Conference for Women

Living Hope Community Church  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
Rhonda Calhoun and others  
May 12-15  
717-394-1500

## Your Help

A big THANK YOU to all of you who did a search for Nurturing Your Spirit like we asked. It is now sitting solidly at the top of the search engine pages. We will do more of this in future issues for other products.

For this week, we have activated the Comments feature on our website. You can click on any of the product pictures, scroll down to the bottom of that page and write a review of the product.

Since about 150 of you purchased the "Cleansing Time and Land" download in the last two weeks, why don't you give us some feedback on that new teaching? What worked for you? What was new? What surprised you? [Click here](#) to share your perspective with others.

# Wishes

I heard this joke when I was a senior in high school. That would explain why I can't remember the lead in, but the crux of the matter is a high schooler who is being offered three wishes.

He gets all excited and asks for a cherry red Chevy convertible with all the features.

Pop. There it is at the curb.

Second request: a million dollars in big bills neatly packed in the trunk.

Pop. Done.

The guy stands there with a big grin on his face and can't think of anything else to ask for. With a hot Chevy and a million bucks, what more could a high schooler want?

The donor tells him that is fine. Any time he decides what he wants for the third wish, it will be granted.

So the kid jumps in his car, heads down the street to find his buddies. He cranks up the radio to his favorite station. A commercial comes on and he is just so full of life and joy, he can't help singing along at the top of his lungs. "Oh, I wish I were an Oscar Meyer wiener . . ."



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It is a well worn joke with a hundred permutations. The punch line is that we very rarely ask wisely when given an opportunity.

So let's practice. Suppose God were to come to you tonight and give you just one wish.

What would you ask for?

I was working on one of our projects yesterday, pondering the dynamic of receiving from God and giving back to the Kingdom. It is fascinating to explore each of the different people in Scripture who received and to watch the correlation between receiving and giving.

God certainly has a lot of different kinds of seed He sows in us.

It was a fascinating process as I tracked cause and effect: this seed/gift from God and that effectiveness in life. Each story another education in the ways of God.

Then I got ambushed. I was looking at the story of Gomer. Remember Gomer? Really? You aren't up on her story? Well, I guess you might have missed it in Sunday School. Admittedly it is for "mature audiences."

Gomer turned tricks for a living. She wasn't alone. There were a handful of hookers in the city. Her story would have been so ordinary no one even knew she existed if it weren't for the most bizarre twist.

One day, out of the blue, God told Hosea the Prophet to go marry a hooker. No details. No explanation. But it was a very clear command.

So put yourself in Hosea's shoes. Let's assume he was a good boy growing up -- not one of those gutter to glory stories. He is not really up on the dark side of life. How does a self-respecting prophet find out where the hookers hang out? And how does he check out the various options (from a holy distance, of course) and decide which one to marry? And even apart from the issue of available data, what are the metrics a wife-hunting Prophet would use in selecting the best prostitute in the city for his wife?

(Aggravating how much interesting reading God simply omits from the record. Sigh).

Anyway, somehow, somehow the Prophet and the prostitute got engaged. I assume their wedding must have made the cover of *National Enquirer*.



You have to wonder whether he lost three fourths of his Facebook friends because they were ashamed to be associated with such a debauched, renegade prophet, or whether overnight he had 10,000 people wanting to be friended so they could track this wild and wacky story.

Anyway, after the initial drama made its rounds several times, I am sure the national attention faded. Closer to home, there were still some rocky moments.

How many people did not invite him over any more because they didn't want her in their holy home? And how many others did invite them over since they had never met a real live "woman of the night," and they wanted to gawk at her, treating her like the two headed monkey at the circus?

Eventually the drama faded and it became all about dusting, dinner and diapers. The family grew, life became predictable, and the kids got on her nerves.

Hosea picked up on her restlessness. He was wealthy from his agribusiness, so he tried to bring some fulfillment into her life by bringing her into the business.

Soon she had her own vineyard and olive grove which were highly profitable, but since Hosea was generous, he still gave her a substantial allowance over and above her business income. She dressed well and lived in comfort -- on the outside.

But inside, her mind turned more and more frequently to the wild romps of yesteryear. Eventually she started cheating on him and then she left him and became a high class escort, which was not at all like the cheap tricks she used to turn back in the day.

Hosea was heart broken. In addition to his own grief, he had to deal with the social isolation as the *National Enquirer* picked up the story again. You couldn't go to the grocery store without seeing her picture on the cover of the tabloids with her latest big name lover.

You gotta feel for the guy. He gave her love, honor, his name, entre into the best circles in town, a personalized business mentoring program, land and financial opportunities, and he would have given her more if she had asked. How could she walk away from all that for a series of sordid two week flings with the various players in the region?

How?

He filed for legal separation. Demanded and got full custody of the kids. He began foreclosing on her commercial property since he had cosigned the loans and she was stripping the cash flow from her businesses to maintain her lifestyle as a high flyer.

And then he asked God to partner with him and to block her on every front, alienating her from all her playboys.

It took awhile, but eventually she was destitute and desperate.

I wonder how Hosea crafted their next meeting. He had to wonder how she felt about him.

Was she immersed in a pool of shame over what she had done to him? Or was she raging with white hot fury over his cutting her legs out from under her in every way possible?

I don't know, but either one constitutes a formidable fire wall. Shame and anger will generally block out any incoming expressions of love.

But Hosea was no ordinary man. He appears to be a remarkable lover. In her place of maximum pain, which on the surface appeared to be caused by him, he managed to woo her into following him. He had used force to crush her, but now he used tenderness to persuade her . . . and . . . somehow it worked.



She followed him timidly to a remote cabin which he had prepared. It was off the beaten track, there was no cell phone signal and no visitors. Just the two of them.

And there Hosea taught her how to receive love.

Just that.

Receiving love.

She had been surrounded by love before -- his love -- but could not receive it.

When she learned to receive his love, everything else cascaded into place. She regained more than she had lost.

But it all hinged on being able to receive love.

How hard is that?

As it turns out, it is the hardest thing in the whole world.

God's love is all around us and our firewall filter is oh, so effective.

Every single thing about us would be transformed in a second, if we could rip the firewall off and let His love penetrate to the core of our being.

Our perspective of ourselves, of Him and of each other would be utterly transformed in a moment of time, if we could receive His love.

I've been stuck right there in Gomer's story since yesterday morning. God gave so many different gifts throughout Scripture. As people received the different seeds which He sowed into their lives, they were changed in different ways and they sowed back different things into the Kingdom.

Each story was fascinating, compelling, instructional, heart warming.

But Gomer the prostitute got the best gift of all. She learned to receive love.

Amazing.

So God is only giving me one wish? Piece of cake. "Fix my pathetic heart, God. Vaporize the firewall and allow me to receive your love -- to feel what you feel toward me."

If I get that, two things will happen. I won't care anymore about anything else, and everything else which I no longer really care about will get fixed!

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**Receive His Love**