

What did I hear at Drakensville?

Step up to the plate and fly with me.

At the camp last year, the feeling was that the Lord said, “Step up to the plate”. This year it was as if we had taken up positions “at the plate” and he said, “Now run with me”; or rather, “fly with me” if we can use Cicely’s metaphor of the flying geese. Geese in flying formation can fly seventy one percent further than any other flock of birds because they use each other’s slip stream. The leader takes the brunt of the wind resistance and the others enjoy a progressive rest in the wake of the one ahead of him. The leader stays in front for only a couple of minutes and then goes right to the back to rest. They need such a system because they are going somewhere. They are on a journey.

They have a destination, and an ability to reach it that is programmed into them as part of their DNA. It is not a journey forced on them by some outward pressure – they fly because that is what they do best. Sparrows don’t need formation flying because they are not going anywhere. You don’t need to remain in another bird’s slipstream if the only flying you do is from food to roof and back to food. Not that there is something wrong with sparrows or that flying in formation is the thing all of us should do! There are times when we do fly from roof to food and back and there are times when something in us rises up and we feel we are ready for a journey. It is like the call of the wild.

The geese have in their bodies everything they need for this journey. The stirring is there, the muscles, the wings, the heart; the caring for each other is built into their cells. When one of them cannot continue, two other birds leave the formation with him and stay with him until he is rested enough to continue. They did not learn this from ‘Discipleship 101’ or by going to some church service or a camp. They did not have to read books on ‘compassion’ or ‘flying in formation’. They have it programmed into their very being and they just do what is natural. They just let the *goose in them* go into action and they fly.

Who are we really?

Just like the geese we are the containers of something that is bigger than us. When Jesus says, ‘Come fly with me’, then he knows that we are able to respond. When he calls us to a higher level of spiritual living then he knows that we have been given all things we need to join him. We are prepared and capable because Jesus is our ability, our knowledge, our compassion, our faith, our wisdom, our joy, our hope and our healing. His DNA had been built into the nuclei of our cells.

When our bodies are exposed to a virus, the DNA of the intruder takes over the replicating DNA of the cells of the host and from then on the host cells produce viruses. Those viruses enter other cells and the process is multiplied. The function of the cells is disturbed and they become

dangerous to the host. The bad cells have the potential to take over the function of organs and destroy them and through that destroy the body.

The process is positive if Jesus is the 'virus'. If the DNA of Jesus is built into our nuclei then our very cells begin to produce his life and if the process is allowed to continue for long enough, our physical existence is taken over. We find love, faith, wisdom and compassion in us that come from the DNA of Jesus, not from our 'normal' self. This is such a gradual process that we become geese without being aware of it. One day we find out that we can fly and that we have a desire to fly in formation and to stay on the tail feathers of the bird just ahead of us.

The desire to take leadership and also to let go, the desire to forgive, to love, to introduce people to the love of God, to prophesy, to pastor, to plant and to care for others is built in and as we fly we realize – I could never have done this before – definitely not voluntarily. I tried to do it because that was the thing I was told Jesus would have done but I failed. Now I can suddenly do it and I don't need laws, motivational speakers, programs and driving leaders to get me to do it anymore. I don't have to read the manual because the ability is built in and I am doing what I should do without stress or struggle. Something is flowing from me and I can only look on and marvel. I am free to fly!

An open door that has to be unlocked.

We heard from the Holy Spirit that there is an open door before us and the keys are on our shoulders. There is authority in us to open this door that Jesus has set before us. In the same way as we had the authority to step up to the plate during this past year, so we have the authority to take the keys and unlock this already open door. The key is the prayer of faith. It is in our mouths, on our lips. He has unlocked the potential of our tongues and has given us the power to create with him in prayer and intercession. We can prophesy to the door with his authority. The door leads into the flight. We are called to abandon ourselves and fly with Jesus and with each other in formation. The blockage of our human flesh is set before us to unlock. If we would just speak out in faith, we could join the flight.

Love, the air under our wings.

For the geese, air gives the lift under their wings and the ability to fly. No air, no flying. For us love is the air under our wings. Immersed in the love of Jesus, we find the faith to trust the voice that calls us to the journey. Without believing his love we are not able to open our wings and trust the power of thrust and lift that is produced by the air around us. The risk is just too great. Knowing his love destroys the boundaries of fear. We need to ask for a revelation of that love if we want to continue flying – we need to ask and keep on asking as if we are convinced that there is no other hope for us. This is the one prayer the enemy wants to silence because the progressive knowledge of the love of Jesus is like the air under our wings – it gives us the trust to take the first flap and the freedom to catch the thermals and soar.

Faith opens our eyes.

Like Abraham and Moses and Jesus we have been called on a mission. And as God did for them, so Jesus has empowered us with everything we need to fulfill the mission. They have all been called to leave the familiar and to travel towards an unknown destination. The decision is ours, the empowering is his. We are not sparrows going from rooftop experiences of spiritual highs to feeding frenzies - we are geese, flying in formation with one another and following Jesus because we can do nothing else. All we need to do is believe. Faith is the key. Not our faith, but the faith that has been built into our cells – the faith of Jesus. We just need to take his faith, unlock the blockage of our own ability and enter into the flight. Not only flying when we are in the ‘anointing’ or feeling blessed but all the time – through the valleys, over the hilltop experiences, into the mundane planes of everyday life. Jesus is everywhere, he is in us and he wants to be our life – always.

Faith does not create the unseen, faith makes it visible. It is through our faith that we become aware of what is already in existence – it is through faith that the unseen reality becomes ours. We see the love around us by faith and we flap our wings; we see our own potential to fly by the eye of faith and we step through the door. As Oswald Chambers said, “I am not saved by believing – I simply realize I am saved by believing.” We CAN fly, it is not by believing that we GET the ability, we have it and we believe and fly. Faith brings the realization that we are geese, not sparrows and that we are loved enough to lift our wings and feel the power of the love of Jesus lift us out of the things that are seen into the excitement and wonder of his purpose. For this faith we need to ask.

The door is already open ...