

# Great Moments Caught Produce Great Movements!

By Rev. Jeannette Flynn



It is so fascinating to read the account of the earthly ministry of Jesus compared to most of how we perceive successful ministry today. He was absolutely bold; some might even qualify it as reckless! He really didn't try to garner the support of "influencers;" you cannot even point to a time that he was consciously trying to 'gather' and create a tipping point; I don't think he was particularly savvy about generational differences or cultural worship preferences.

Now don't get me wrong – I'm not saying that we should ignore these elements or fly in the face of current theories. I'm simply saying, the ministry style of the Messiah was nothing less than earth and heaven rattling!

The writer of Hebrews writes to the Jewish people – those steeped most deeply in the knowledge of Yahweh and His word, work and promises – and he speaks not only about Jesus earthly ministry of bringing the Kingdom of God into existence, but his continuing ministry of extending the Kingdom. Hear this writer's description.

## ***Hebrews 12:26 - 29***

**At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.**

**Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."**

You see there are some events - some moments in time and history that earth and heaven are rattled. Earthly future and heavenly eternity is irrevocably changed! The calling and obedience of Abraham – heaven and earth shook; the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ –now the dividing point of all time; Martin Luther King's resolve and courage to risk his very life and freedom to champion equal rights and justice for all – who can say yet the full results of the earth and heaven shaking set off by 26 year-old Mohammed Bouazizi's death.

The truth of the matter is that while indeed earth and heaven are being altered – many will overlook or miss the significance of the moment or even the event. The moment

heaven touched earth through the life of Abraham was very silent. Many thought the death and even the resurrection of Jesus was strange – perhaps even bizarre - but earth shaking? I doubt it. You see often we are too busy with schedules, too jaded by so many false launches or just blinded by our own paradigms to recognize or respond to great shakings!

I have just finished about 40 hours of gathering with almost 100 leaders from across 18 states who stopped their worlds and schedules to specifically be challenged in their own souls, minds and ministry about what it means to be Kingdom called men and women. The launch of Healthy Growing Churches Leadership Network took place here in Orlando these last few days. Now that event may not register on the Richter scale at the same level as King's "I have a dream speech," or Bouazizi's death, but I do believe that it is earth and heaven altering.

There is a Kingdom wave moving across our nation that is unhindered by state lines, bridging denominational boundaries and reinstating local church accountability. I know all of those are 'fighting' words – but there are a growing number of people of all ages, races, and backgrounds who are beginning to rise up, united by one cause – **expanding the Kingdom of God!** It is the stuff from which every great revolution and reformation has been birthed!

- A great challenge that threatens us - - - a growing number of dying congregations; an increasing number of people who are not touched by 'church' as we know it, yet hungry to find the real God.
- A great cause that exceeds all other loyalties - - - the Good News of Jesus Christ proclaimed as the hope for every man, woman and child. The knowledge that the world is at our doorstep and the responsibility for the mission is in our hands, and the hour is urgent!
- A great coalition of growing numbers of all ages who are sensing the call of the Spirit to lay down personal agendas, personal kingdoms, and reach out to share, lift, help, give, receive, so that lives and communities are transformed for Christ.

What shall our response be to this Kingdom movement? I'm not just talking about Healthy Growing Churches – that is one small tool God is using to strengthen this shaking. I'm talking about the clear evidence that we are living in a moment in history when earth and heaven are being shaken by the Spirit of God calling everyone of us to action. We are probably at all different places on the spectrum of being aware of this God movement. But here are some ways to ensure that you don't miss the power of what God is doing among us. Give yourself to these 5 disciplines for 40 days and see what might happen in and through you.

1. Set aside 15 minutes to pray every day earnestly and intentionally that God will open your eyes to opportunities to share Christ in your neighborhood, family, community or even congregation.
2. Prepare yourself for those opportunities by writing out what testimony or witness you might share as God opens them up. \*\* (The testimony has to be on ONE

page – double-spaced!!) If you really want to test it, have an unchurched friend read it and critique it! (It'll be okay – you'll survive the experience.)

3. Identify 1 person who does not know Christ as their Savior in your sphere of influence (neighborhood or community) that you intentionally build an authentic friendship – relationship with. Get to know them, their story, their values and then just love them for Christ! If you don't know anyone who doesn't know Christ – then cross the street and get acquainted!
4. Don't miss ANY opportunities to react to those whose paths you cross, as you know Christ would respond to them! So if it is a child – don't ignore them or pat them on the head – invest in them. If it is a new neighbor, bake a cake and go welcome them, if a neighbor is sick, cook soup and deliver it. If it is the guy who cuts you off in traffic, slow down and let him in (with a smile!) If it is your neighbor who complains every time you start your car, do something kind and amazing for them. Well, you get it!
5. Finally, each week ask 3 of your Christian friends to tell you what God is doing in their life right now. What is He teaching them? What is He challenging them with? LISTEN to them, pray with them and encourage them. You see the scripture tells us that we are not only to be passionate and hot for Christ, but we are to spur each other on as well.

None of these are huge – but I wonder – could they be the stuff that might just shake earth and heaven! Don't miss the moment! God is at work among us in exciting ways!