



POINTS OF HOPE

GOING BEYOND BY JOHN PADGETT

In the middle of November 2008 the Lord was leading me to pray something like this over my children, *“Lord, I want my children to go **beyond** what Annette and I have done, accomplished, and achieved. I want their lives to have greater impact and influence than what we have had and that they experience the fullness of your greatness.”* I have never prayed that kind of prayer over our children (ages 17, 15, and 13), but it was something that was constantly on my mind on a daily basis. At first I was just praying that prayer because it was there on my mind. After a couple of weeks I realized that the Lord was trying to get me to see something of His heart for all of His children.

It was at this point that He brought to mind the words of Jesus in John 14:12, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.”* What a truth! What a promise! Most of us have heard this verse sometime in our life, but we find it hard to wrap our brains and hearts around the reality of those words. Just as I was praying that my kids would do and experience greater works than Annette and I, the Lord continued to minister to my own heart that this is God’s heart, that we all accomplish greater works than His son Jesus.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:20, *“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly **beyond** all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.”* The summer of 1999 Annette and I were on a mission trip to Poland with Jack Frost and Shiloh Place Ministries when I experienced one of those “exceeding abundantly **beyond**” moments.



Annette and I were asked to go speak at the church in a city called Zielona Gori, a city which was 40 km from the German border. We spoke to a church that meets together in an old theater which had been used in WWII by the Nazi’s. God did wonderful things that day and He reminded me that it was just a year earlier in the spring of 1998 I had no direction for the ministry and how He turned things around for me so quickly.

It was in Zeilona Gori, a place that I had never heard of or even knew existed, that God showed me that if we seek after Him, believe in Him and pursue Him, He will show us great things and have us do great works that are **beyond** what we can think or ask. God confirmed the prayer that I was praying for my kids about a month after I started praying with a word from Catherine Brown that I got off the “Elijah List.” She was writing about the miracle of feeding the 5000 when she wrote this, *“Christ’s compassion takes us **beyond** our human limitations into the limitless flow of God’s Glory.”* When I read those words I could not believe how true God’s words are and how much He wants all of us to experience things that are greater than even Jesus experienced or accomplished.

This is our heart at Living Hope Ministries -- that you would begin to experience God in a more powerful way and experience Him **beyond** what your personal experience has been so far, that you would begin to believe that God has a tremendous plan for your life, and that you would experience all the goodness of the Kingdom of God.

MINISTRY UPDATES:

- We are having great meetings with our **Overcomers Group** that meets every Thursday evening from 7-9 at First Baptist Church Boone. People are learning to share their lives with others, learning to take risk with their hearts, and learning the overcoming power of the Cross.
- We recently spoke at **Stephen's Ministry** (a lay counseling ministry) of Alliance Bible Fellowship in Boone. We had a great response to our teaching on the Biblical Basis for Counseling.
- We are still working with **Hebron Colony**, a local ministry for addictions, and looking at other opportunities of how we can partner together in ministry.
- **Sermon on the Mount** is coming back to the High Country this coming August! The dates are Friday-Sunday, August 14-16, at the Blowing Rock Equestrian Center.



There will be more information coming forth about this event, so please be looking for updates coming soon.

FOLLOWING GOD:

Would **you** like to be part of this ministry as we follow God's "exceeding abundantly **beyond**" plans for us? You can do just that by regularly lifting us up in prayer, as well as by making a one-time donation or by becoming a monthly financial partner (which allows us to better plan for expansion). The vision God has given is great and it delights Him to see His people get involved in what He wants to accomplish!

FINAL NOTE:

We are looking at starting workshops in the fall of 2009. We are in the planning stages and we would like any feedback of topics you would be interested in us covering. Please look on the website at workshops that we are able to provide and let us know if there are other areas you would be interested in us presenting.

Living Hope Ministries

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