

(Received Jan 16, 2010)

Gary and Marie,

I've been meaning to write to you for awhile. They've been working us pretty hard. In December we only had 3 "off" days. It makes the time go by a lot quicker. First of all, I just want to thank you for the packages. It's always nice to know people are thinking of me in America ☺. I'm saving the smoked salmon for a rainy day! I appreciate the thought, care, love, and most importantly prayer you bless us soldiers with!

As 2009 was coming to close I thought back on all the wonderful things God worked in my life. at the end of 2008 I was barely reading my Bible, my prayer life was almost non-existent, and I had little revelation on God's love. oh, God's grace is so beautiful! In my apathy, God came down and stirred my heart. I was hungry for God and living in compromise. God has used IHOP-KC/Northwest to bring me close to Him. I love messages that have to do with intimacy.

When I first came to IHOP-Northwest Gary was doing the series on Song Of Solomon. At first I didn't understand it, but God was slowly (or maybe I was the slow one!) revealing His passionate love for me as His Bride. To be honest, I was disappointed when Gary began to teach on Revelation. I wanted more intimacy messages. I now have a better understanding of both of them, and the importance of preaching the two together. I've had some drastic theological changes this year. Even now I'm having to work through the traditions of men versus the truth of God.

I've been listening to David Sliker's series on "Introduction to the End Times." It's messed me all up. The Book of Revelation is about the leadership of Jesus Christ and the purity/holiness He desires from all of us. I still have much to grow and learn but I'm excited about every revelation I have.

The other day I was reading through Ephesians. One of the biggest if not the biggest questions we face as believers is the knowledge of God. I've read Ephesians many times and we even pray that verse multiple times (Ephesians 1:17-19). But it hit me powerfully. The Spirit of God reveals God to me!

This is what I was missing growing up! The work of the precious Holy Spirit! I read and prayed growing up, but I did not understand the Spirit. Therefore both reading the Bible and prayer seemed powerless. But now the Word is alive and there is nothing better than the Spirit taking the Word of God and imparting it to me. I love the Holy Spirit.

I guess I wanted to share with you the spiritual journey I'm on. I hope and pray that when I get back I may get more involved with IHOP-NW. I have a burden for the youth. I want them to fall in love with God in their teen-age years and not have to wait until they are in college. I was listening to the Onething08 sermons in preparation for Onething09! When I was listening to the Sacred Charge there was a burning in my heart and so I've committed to following the Sacred Charge for 10 years. I'm realizing now that I can only carry through with it by the grace of God. I look forward to these next 10 years. Not only that, I look forward to the Second Coming of Jesus. I want to proclaim the message of the Kingdom of God!

Once again, thank you for everything! I pray that God will give you wisdom as you partner with Him in building IHOP-NW. Much love to you! I can't wait to be in Washington. I do enjoy all that God is doing in me here in the wilderness. My Secret Place with God has soared. My spirit is alive and burning for more of God's all-consuming fire. God bless!

Love, Josiah Allen