

NOBLE MARITIME *Ministries*

February 2010



Preparing for Greatness

One of the ways of God is to develop people's inner greatness before promoting them into a bigger role. Here is a pearl of wisdom that we are applying from Steve Backlund's devotional book 'Victorious Mindsets' (p. 10).

I Do Small Things in a Great Way

Helen Keller told the Tennessee Legislature that when she was young, she longed to do things and could not; so she decided to do small things in a great way. The rest is history. God's training ground for greater things is everything that is before us right now. These things may seem small compared to the promises we have been given and are believing for but our willingness to do them in a "great way" is the key to opening the door to these promises.

Here is a truth: If we won't do it now, we most likely won't do it then. If we think we are going to kick it in gear when we have a big assignment from God, we are most likely deluded and destined to remain at the level we are at. We must determine to leave mediocrity and do our God-given assignments in a great way.

MEDIOCRE WAY

Waiting until tomorrow
Selectively respectful
Motivated by crisis/pain
Complaining
Easily discouraged
Doing what is expected
Rarely enthusiastic
Pleasing people
Plans to be on time
Messy
Non-adaptable
Being a thermometer
Problems = obstacles

GREAT WAY

Today is full of potential
High levels of respect
Motivated by vision
Believing in past prayers
Discouragement is enemy
Exceeding expectations
Regularly enthusiastic
Pleasing God
Plans to be early
Takes time to organize
Very adaptable
Being a thermostat
Problems = opportunities

One of the opportunities before us, preparing us for greatness, is regarding the gift of Betsy's acreage...
(cont. on pg 2)

NEWS

Last month Kathy & I traveled to Plain, WA to visit & encourage an enthusiastic study group, learning & practicing the principles of *Theophostic Prayer Ministry*. Not only were we blessed by the idyllic setting of a cabin in the mountains in the middle of a gorgeous snowfall but we were greatly encouraged to see the group eagerly reaching out for more of God's truth in their own lives. This is the first and most essential key to success in facilitating God's healing in others - that you are relentlessly pursuing your own journey of healing and freedom.



We were blessed by the gorgeous and gracious hospitality of Mountain Springs Resort. Check it out: www.mtsprings.com!

BOAT NEWS

No News is Bad News! Please keep praying for our land-locked Captain Neil who watches, prays, enquires and dreams about boats for the ministry. He wants God's timing and His way.

continued from pg 1

The 8 acre “farm”, which she leases for \$1/yr, is a small blessing we want to manage in a great way as preparation for being entrusted with the big boat component of Noble Maritime’s healing retreats on the water. I (Neil) would naturally resist what feels like moving backwards (away from the sea), but character is often proven on the backside of the mountain or wilderness, right?! So we are taking pains to clear the blackberries (goats for rent?), repair broken down fences, fix up the barn, burn the brush pile and greatly improve the property; thus, being a blessing to the owner. We are also making preparations to bring a couple of beef cattle onto the property.

Another opportunity for doing small things in a great way is tending the extensive gardens here at the home/retreat center. Reportedly we are hosting God’s life-giving and healing presence, and our desire would be to heighten the effectiveness of the physical environment to bless our retreat guests. So, weeding, pruning, and digging are small ways we can bless our landlord and be a positive representative of our Lord.

The Lord has been challenging me, as I wait, watch and prepare for His leading in BIG things, to faithfully tend to the small things in a GREAT way that will truthfully and effectively represent Jesus here on earth. *Neil and crew*



The slash and burn pile at the barn waiting for some eager young men who like to play with big fires!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ♥ Anybody out there want to come for a 1-2 day work bee in March to prep the gardens to bless our guests?
- ♥ What about fixing fences, barns or burn piles?!
- ♥ How about helping the galley crew put up meals for the freezer?
- ♥ How about this one: contributing supplies and/or expertise to convert a storage room into an extra bathroom for the guest room? Estimates are \$8-10K. Our desire is to gift it to our landlord as a manifestation of God’s generous heart. Besides that, it would bless our guests having their own private bath.
- ♥ Pray, pray, pray! Bless the Lord with us for His goodness, faithfulness and ultimate wisdom – and giving us grace to keep our focus on what He HAS done rather than what He HASN’T yet done!

Praise God with us for the provision of:

- ♥ Another gorgeous set of king size sheets and luxury towels for the guest room!
- ♥ Complete scholarship funds to pay for an intensive weekend retreat for a couple!

Tax-deductible donations may be made to:

Noble Maritime Ministries
 PO Box 1224
 Anacortes, WA 98221
 or online at www.noblemaritime.com

