



DOES GOD HAVE DOORS ON HIS HEART?

August 2008

I have discovered through experience, that when you have an encounter with God, you can then face and accomplish unnatural or seemingly impossible things.

A few years ago I had an experience with God that radically changed the way I viewed His provision for this NMM vision. I had just hung up the phone from inviting a former missionary friend to join us at a beautiful waterfront inn for a training event we were hosting. It was astonishing to me that my offer touched him so very deeply. The Lord helped me identify the reason: **my friend didn't yet grasp at a heart level how precious he was to God.** Where God had intended there to be an assurance of value, instead dwelled an ache that my simple offer of generosity temporarily soothed like a painkiller. The issue God was highlighting here was how important it is that His children "get" how precious they are to Him!

Then it happened! The only way I can explain it is this: God opened the doors of His heart just a crack to let me feel His heart for His kid (my friend) and it undid me. I spent the next couple of hours lying on the bathroom floor, sobbing from my guts. It was what some call travailing - experiencing God's passionate concern for a situation. It wasn't a bad thing, but more felt like an undeserved privilege of intimacy.

When I was finally able to sit up, I received a strong impression that would sound like this – **"Neil, I will not withhold from you any resource you want, to be about the business of setting my kids free!"** (meaning, 'helping My children know the truth about how I feel about them!') Wow!

For years I have spouted from memory Philippians 4:19: "My God shall supply all your needs, according to His riches in glory...", but after what I experienced, that Bible verse moved from my head to my heart!

It has been encouraging for us to reread the book of Nehemiah and see this experience played out in another person's life. Nehemiah received word that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, its gates



Prayer Requests:

- ⊕ The scheduled August boat retreat will be rescheduled for Sept. if/when we acquire a potential purchased vessel
- ⊕ Acquisition of moorage/dock space – we can either rent space or purchase for \$400K
- ⊕ Ten more monthly financial supporters
- ⊕ More expanding wisdom, revelation and vision
- ⊕ Mentors in finance, tax and corporate structure



Our beautiful gardens bring refreshment to our guests

were burned and the survivors were in great distress and reproach. This news activated a God-given passion for the problem, which caused him to “sit down and weep and mourn for many days”. Subsequently, having God’s heart on the matter gave him boldness before the king (the *foreign* king who had taken them captive!), who asked Nehemiah the famous blank-check question, “What do you want [in order to do the vision]?” In answer to God-directed requests, Nehemiah was given authority, resources and protection, plus favor with the people he went to help. He faced many obstacles, such as onlookers saying, “*you are nuts!*” (a familiar one to us), plus there were deceivers wanting to do him harm. Through the challenges it was critical for Nehemiah to remember, “**What has God said?**”. Because he did, he was able to declare in 2:20, “The God of Heaven **will** prosper us!”

Back to Noble Maritime: Remembering what God said (“*I will not withhold from you any resource you want, to be about My business...* ”) should enable us to face the impossible with courage, right? Sometimes I’m courageous – (e.g. a few weeks ago I made a multi-million dollar offer on MV *No Boundaries*). **But isn’t it easy to forget what God has said** when the bank account and visible resources are declaring a different message? Thankfully, through experiences like this and my loving Lord opening His heart to me for a moment, my mind and heart are being renewed. I am learning to see God’s perspective on reality, so I can boldly face the impossible **because of what He said!!!**

And now you’re probably wondering, ‘what about the boat offer’?! At this point, our offer has not been accepted, but it was an important and faith-building exercise to actually make a written, official offer while God’s promised resources remain a mystery. Since then, I have made an offer on a different boat! Stay tuned as the saga continues! Thank you for your faithful prayers.

Capt. Neil and Crew~

We would be encouraged to hear from you:

At our mailing address (see below) or e-mail:

neil@noblemaritime.com

Home Ph: 360-682-6230

Cell Ph: 360-774-1180 (Neil)

360-301-3937 (Kathy)

Practical Needs:

- + 4 sets of towels for guests
- + A new All-in-one printer, fax, scanner
- + 2 good sprinklers for the gardens

Praise:

- ◆ Our Redeemer Lord is ministering deeply to a full calendar of house guests. (I hear some saying, “so why do you need a boat anyway?” Sea Captains are not trained and prepared to do their best work on the beach.)
- ◆ We have renewed our lease at this amazing home.
- ◆ The act of making an offer on a big boat was a breakthrough experience for Neil.
- ◆ Betsy got a scholarship to go sail training with SALTS. (Yes, that’s Betsy, our horse girl!)
- ◆ Julie just started a part time job as deck-hand on a taxi boat to the San Juan Islands.
- ◆ Kathy turned 50 this month and is more beautiful than ever.
- ◆ The landlady came for 2 days with a paid crew to weed and tidy up the gardens.



Betsy aboard the Pacific Grace



The island taxi on which Julie works carries freight and passengers to remote islands

Tax-deductible donations may be made to:

Noble Maritime Ministries

PO Box 1224

Anacortes, WA 98221

or online at www.noblemaritime.com
see “PayPal” at bottom of Home Page