

The Standard

June 2003

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From the Editor

Dear Banner etc Worshippers,

Song of Solomon 2:4 ...*his banner over me was love.*

On the way to church one Sunday morning I had felt that two particular banners should be waved so when I went to the pre-service prayer meeting, I put one of them up. A man who'd never used banners before to my knowledge and who didn't attend that prayer meeting often came and asked about them and chose one to wave. A little while into the meeting, he came over to me and said he felt he had the wrong banner up and asked what other ones I had. I pulled a handful out of the bag. Without hesitation and without my help, he chose the other one that I had felt should be waved.

I just love it when the Holy Spirit does things like that. It reminds us that the whole idea of banners is His.

God bless you all.

Tasmania is about to Burst

David Stanfield reports on his tour of Tasmania.

Men's Retreat Launceston - I shared the time with Warwick Marsh, the founder of the Fatherhood Foundation. He is a great larrakin and worshipper so we had a blast. The worship with banners on the second night was beyond words. There was healing and strong, strong prophetic declaration and warfare over the state of Tassie and for men in Australia. Indescribable!

Other Tassie Workshops were held at Burnie, Georgetown and a couple in Launceston. I also connected with a little church south of Oatlands at Dysart, and had a great time with them. (Keep Oatlands before the Lord; I suspect something supernatural is going to occur there). We had the longest church service ever at The Vine church one Sunday morning and broke the record again that night including an excursion out to wave more than 50 banners over the city of Launceston from the hill position the Lord had given them!

The Vine is hosting the "Open Heaven" prophetic Worship Convention from 5-7 September 2003 with David Swan, from the Tabernacle of David, Malaysia. Check with the Lord and if He says go, do whatever you need to do to get there. Contact: (03) 6247 9700.

The Lord has been doing a special thing with banners in Tasmania. It has the highest banners per head of population of any state of Australia (and possibly the world).

The Christian Arts Summit

In May, David Stanfield attended the National Summit for Christians in the Arts held in Canberra. He reports:

What an awesome experience! Christians who lead in the Arts gathered together with no agenda but to worship and share their hearts! We had people from all over Australia, about thirty of us could make it from the fifty who had been identified. It was an opportunity to

catch up with some people I knew and make friends with many others I met for the first time. It was indescribable to just be accepted and not to feel you had to explain anything or translate anything.

Over the two days, we each had just ten minutes to share who we were and what we felt God was talking to us about. We were an amazing potpourri of events coordinators, dancers, film distributors, visual artists, musicians, agents, artist network leaders, educators, mentors and, of course, banners worshippers. We were able then to pray and encourage one another and participated in some outrageous acts of worship and celebration. There were some threads throughout most of the presentations. Issues of a hunger for unity across the body and unity across the arts, highlights of humility yet excellence. It was a great encouragement to be surrounded by others who spoke your language and who had often experienced similar pain.

Whilst some of us were old hands at banner use, many of the participants had had no contact with banners. One was actually quite afraid of the whole concept. Over the two days, the banners came out of hiding and were used in worship, dance ministry, prophet acts and as tools for sharing. I think it was a nice gentle introduction for the uninitiated. Overall it was too brief, but very heartening to catch up with other movers and shakers in the Christian Arts. I believe it will become an annual event with seriously positive repercussions for Christians who serve the Lord and reveal His character through the Creative Arts.

PS - The book *The Heart of an Artist* by Rory Nolan (Willow Creek, US\$14.99) was highly recommended for creative people opening a way for creative expression in their church.

Waving Banners in Narrabri

The use of banners in prayer and worship at Christian Outreach Centre (COC) Narrabri evolved. They did not come about by anyone's IDEA but over a period of several months the Holy Spirit inspired several people to establish banners as part of the prayer and worship life of the church.

First, the prophet set apart for COC Narrabri received several visions and directions over six weeks last June and July. During this time the Lord gave the directive to the church "PREPARE FOR ME A THRONE ROOM LIKE IT IS IN HEAVEN". Through Revelation 4 and other scriptures, He expanded on this by showing her coloured banners - PURPLE (Royal Priesthood), GREEN (Mercy), GOLD (Oil of gladness 1:9 and Glory), WHITE (transparent, clear as crystal - Purity, Holiness), RUBY RED (Cleansing by the Blood of Jesus) and RED/GOLD (seven lamps of fire which are the seven Spirits of God). So the first four banners were made and began to be used as led by the Spirit.

Secondly, a couple in the body involved with International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem (ICEJ) and Out of Our Minds Banners, (having been to a workshop run by David Stanfield) invited a group from ICEJ to Narrabri in August, exposing the church further to the use of banners.

A quarterly publication for those who serve God with banners, ensigns, standards, flags, ribbons, scarves, garments and similar instruments of prayer, praise, prophecy, worship and warfare.

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The Holy Spirit inspired several people at Christian Outreach Centre Narrabri to establish banners as part of the prayer and worship life of the church.

During this time, the Lord was raising up an intercessory team facilitator in COC Narrabri who shared the vision concerning banners and works closely with the prophet.

Soon the first banners (red, green, purple and white) were joined by gold (Glory) and red/gold (Holy Fire) from Out of Our Minds Banners. These were purchased by a male member of the intercessory team led by the Spirit of God. Then another man made a stand for them which began from a piece of scrap metal he saw at a tip! Now a lady has been raised up to maintain them all.

And finally, with the pastors' total support, the Holy Spirit is establishing the Truth of the scripture usage for banners. The meanings of the banners have been spoken from the pulpit, and a flyer is available at the hospitality desk for anyone who enquires.

It has been emphasised that the banners in themselves are just pieces of fabric but when anointed by the Lord, they are powerful weapons against the enemy. Set teams or choreography is not used. The intercessory team facilitator, in communication with the prophet, train

people in the intercession/prayer teams as they sense the Lord is leading people. The Holy Spirit does the rest.

For example, one man operates the Holy Fire flag with vigour yet when operating the Blood banner, his movements are smoother. Each operator stays in communication with the oversight and slowly the Lord is building an anointing into the people as revelation comes.



Close up of Narrabri COC banner stand.

One lady, who is anointed to operate the Holiness banner in special ministry, won't touch it unless she senses she is "right" with the Lord. Some have approached to use the banners and the Holy Spirit has not even allowed them to pick them up!

Banners (the same but smaller versions) have been introduced into the KIDS CHURCH and the Lord is raising up children with an anointing to operate them as well.

Some stories

A stranger to town saw the banners being used and commented, "Looks like you are going to do warfare". A young man while being covered by the Mercy triumphs over Judgment banner broke down and wept. A young woman while being ministered over by the Holiness flag was released from anxiety and Peace fell upon her. Others have been healed or overcome by the anointing. Another time an operator took the anointing oil flag off the stick and placed it over the offering baskets believing for multiplication and blessing in finances for the church.

So working in the Spirit closely with the pastors, worship team and prayer team members, the banners are now an integral part of their worship and prayer life. They are not considered a separate ministry but part of the whole functioning of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ at COC Narrabri. They pray that the Lord will continue to open eyes to the Truth of all the weapons available in the Word and that a Throne Room will not only be built in the sanctuary for the Lord to dwell but in the hearts of all who attend as well.

Marlene Morphew

The Tibet Prayer Shawl

Flushed with the success of making banners for Mozambique, Helen and I launched into making a prayer shawl for Tibet. Why it was to be a prayer shawl and not a banner, we don't know. This was our first venture into silk prayer shawl making. It looks like a banner without the pole pocket and, of course, it is wrapped around the shoulders rather than waved. It features the mountains, blue, sprinkled with rock salt, in the shadow of a large cross backed by a huge pair of wings. The River of Blood flows from the cross, dividing into three streams edged with fire as it comes down the mountains. Anointing oil comes down in droplets, some settling on the peaks like snow. There's two little clouds with silver linings in the blue either side of the cross upright and the shadow of a head on the cross. During the design stage, God showed us that the cross was to be much bigger than we originally thought - not a small cross on the mountain top but a huge one behind the mountain.

Helen painted it and I went out to buy the red cord that would go



Tibetan Prayer Shawl face down on a barren Tibetan hillside

across the top (as well as representing the Blood, the cord helps weight the shawl and keep it on) and the tassels. I couldn't find red tassels anywhere so eventually settled for green, although not the bright green I thought I wanted but a light shimmery green with a gold cord and top, reasoning that as the Life is in the Blood, green would be ok.

Helen arrived with the completed shawl the next morning and I showed her the tassels. She pointed out how well they matched the anointing oil droplets with their gold gutta outlines and the same light green interiors as the tassels. God had chosen the right ones - "anointing oil" tassels!

The shawl has now been presented to a rather bemused Keith (What do I do with this?) who will depart shortly for Tibet.

Keith continues the story:

As most of you would already know, Priority Tibet was blessed last October with the gift of a Prayer Shawl. The shawl is quite a work of art and we at Priority Tibet are very appreciative of the gift and trust that all involved in its creation be blessed by their labour. The intent was for us to take it with us into Tibet, which we did this last April. The purpose of this trip was to place 10 markers in the hills surrounding Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, as directed by the Lord. His instructions were that as we did this, He would assign a worshipping angel to proclaim His name over that city until the end of the age. This task was completed on Friday the 11/4/03. Essentially God has established for Himself a 24/7 praise and worship envelope over that city, right under the devil's nose.

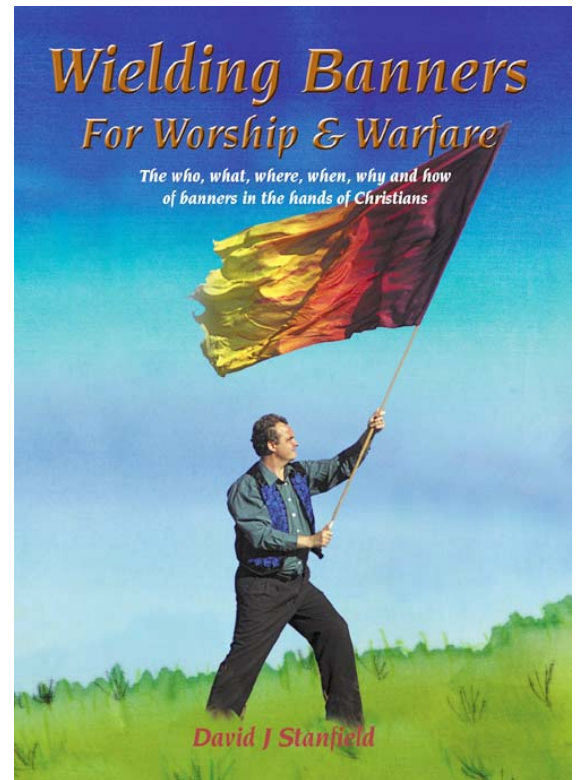
Since obtaining the Prayer Shawl we have been employing it in all of our prayer meetings and in Tibet. We would lay it out on the land at each designated location and place each marker on it during prayer. Following this time of worship, we would then position each marker in its place in such a way that nobody except our Lord would know of its position. From its inception through to the final successful completing of this mission, this wonderful tool has played an important role. The understanding we have is that this prayer shawl has many more missions to accompany us on. Praise God.

This has been quite a learning curve for myself, as my appreciation of such tools as banners etc was not necessarily a healthy one. However in the time that Desley Hubner has been involved in Priority Tibet we have all come to appreciate their worth and validity in assisting us express ourselves to our Heavenly Father. I encourage each of you involved in this form of expression to hold fast to that which the Lord has placed upon your lives and continue as He directs.

Keith Robinson.

Banner Book Revised

David's book, *Wielding Banners for Worship and Warfare: the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of Banners in the Hands of Christians*, has been revised. The new edition contains several new sections including warm-up exercises, corporate worship and ministry with banners, a word study on movement in worship, lots more movements and a whole new chapter on personal ministry with banners. With over 150 colour photographs, it promises to make it a whole lot easier to encourage the use of banners in the local church. Pre-publication orders are being taken now! It should be available in September 2003.



The full-colour cover of the revised edition of "Wielding Banners for Worship and Warfare: the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of Banners in the Hands of Christians"

Banners and a Matter of the Mouth

A friend is passionate about Missions. He gives many volunteer hours each week to the behind-the-scenes work in this field. In an off moment he was having a bit of a whinge about the lack of passion for Missions in our church. Later, as I pondered this, I realised that our fellowship could never be described as lacking passion for Missions while he was there, as he was the one with the passion. I felt convicted at this thought as I have on occasion, whinged about the lack of support for worshipping with banners in our fellowship.

I don't believe God expects people to be passionate about something for which He has not given them revelation. Before I had the experience and the revelation, I had no interest in worshipping with banners and scarves etc. We can't expect our leaders to have the revelation and passion for everything. If that were so, there would be no need for the rest of us!! Every part of the body contributes.

My confession has now changed. My fellowship is passionate about banners, ribbons, scarves, movement, dance, colour etc in worship because I am (I'm not the only one) and I am a contributing part of the body that is my local church. If you hear me say anything else, you may remind me of my changed stance with the end of a banner pole.

Book Review

Moving in Praise with Flags by Marie Bensley

Flags in Spiritual Warfare by Marie Bensley

Contact: Kingdom Dance Resources - Sunset Gate, St Audries, Taunton, Somerset TA4 4EA England.

e-mail: bensley@clara.net web: www.kingdomdance.co.uk

Marie Bensley is the Co-ordinator of the Flags and Banners Focus Network of the International Christian Dance Fellowship. She has written these two easy-to-read little booklets on banner worship. Each contains a number of beautiful colour photos, many of which are of a body of believers in action worshipping or ministering with the banners. The *Moving in Praise with Flags* (the third edition has only just come out) has an extensive section on movement with banners, illustrated with stick figure drawings. The teaching in both books is basic and simple, set out in point form under clear headings. Some headings in *Flags in Spiritual Warfare* include - What is a flag or banner, Know your enemy, Know your authority, Know the power of praise, Movements for group warfare, Working with your music leader, Making mistakes, Using flags prophetically.

Moses' original "banner" was a staff and this booklet contains some information and photos on using the staff in spiritual warfare. This has particular significance for Marie and her husband Andrew (their testimony is told briefly in Carol Hathorne's book *Christian Dance for those who can't ...but are willing to give it a try!*) as it was the anointing on Andy Au's staff dance at a Spring Harvest in 1992 that broke the yoke of bereavement on their lives, helped restore their marriage and gave them an interest in Christian dance.

These are both excellent little books.

Sowing Banners

Whilst it is very exciting to make a banner, to wave or dance with a banner, to use one in worship and prayer, it is also very exciting to give away a banner.

The first time I attended the prayer meetings for Tibet, under a "fit



"The Blood" OOMB banner design

of the anointing", I gave away my favourite banner, the Celebration Blood banner, to Brenda, our prayer team leader. This banner is made of 1.8 metres of red satin. It had a wonderful "floppy" weight to it and the richness of the colour and pleasure of the feel

and flow of it made it a delightful celebration of His precious Blood.

The next day, when I came to the full realisation of what I'd done, I raced out, bought more material and made another one. I continued in the prayer team, and I have seen some of the "harvest" that has come from sowing that banner.

Brenda tells her side of the story:

Hi everyone, my introduction to the Blood banner happened in a prayer meeting almost a year ago.

Some prayer warriors were getting together to meet the challenge of praying for Tibet. I had been asked to head up this group and felt totally out of my depth. After all, this is TIBET we are talking about!!

One night we had a visitor join us. She sat quietly for some time before she explained how she used the banners in prayer. It was very interesting watching her lay out all the different coloured banners, whilst she told us the meaning of each one.

After spending some time in prayer, someone suggested they pray for me as I headed up the group (I thought this was a VERY good idea). While everyone gathered around me, I felt this lovely soft fabric cover my head as Desley started to pray "the Blood". I have to admit to smiling under the banner thinking I must look strange but at the same time I felt peaceful and protected. Later that night Desley gave me the banner to take home. It revived an almost forgotten memory about "The Blood" and a song that is very special to me, "THE BLOOD WILL NEVER LOSE ITS POWER".

One night, years ago, my husband and I with our three children, were driving home from a church meeting on a lonely stretch of highway in Victoria. We had a tape playing this particular song. It had been recorded at a meeting we had attended and the singer repeated the song over and over. A car overtook us on the highway..it all happened so fast ...the car collided with another on the crest of the hill ...dazzling lights spun towards us. We managed to stop. The tape was still playing the same song as I ran barefoot through the broken glass to the car on the hill. The lady had been killed. The people in the other car were seriously injured.

The police came and measured the skid marks which they said went right through our car but we hadn't been touched. A policeman at the scene of the accident read our bumper sticker - I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES...I'M A CHRISTIAN. He said, "You had a miracle tonight."

We have all been greatly blessed using the banners in worship and warfare. They have added a new dimension to our meetings. My banner has pride of place in my bedroom and the song has become the team's theme song.

It reaches to the highest mountain,

It flows to the lowest valleys,

The Blood that gives me strength from day to day...

Andrae Crouch

The banner reminded me again of the overcoming power of the Blood of Jesus and its TOTAL VICTORY!!!

Brenda Maurici