

The Standard

November 2003

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From the Editor

Dear Banner etc Worshippers,

While browsing in the Word recently I came across a reference to 'the book of the wars of the Lord' (Numbers 21:14). I think most banner worshippers would get their names in this book as the enemy hates banners and launches regular attacks on those who use them. However, they are God's banners and the end result is usually God victorious, devil defeated and a banner worshipper who, in spite of the odd bruise or scratch, has grown in knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

Experience has taught me that dealing with attacks is like Joshua taking the land. He had to go to God each time to get the appropriate plan for each situation. My most recent attack led to a study in the Word on those who want something stopped which they see as a threat to their leader, their own position or the proper order of things.

It is amazing how many of these situations there are in the Bible and how many facets there are to them. You may like to look at a couple - Numbers 11:25, Mark 9:38.

Nicola, whose story is on page 3, came across someone with a different point of view and felt to write to David Stanfield for direction. Perhaps their letters will help others. God bless you all.

Nicola's Question

Nicola writes: A visitor to our church today condemned our banners. She apparently makes them down south. She said things like, "Banners must never touch the ground", "Banners must be consecrated before you use them" and "God doesn't receive our worship unless a certain banner is at the front of the church".

We have a banner which is purple with a rainbow band on the end. It represents the promises which apply when we walk with God's leadership and royalty. When she saw our banner, this lady said, "You're not allowed to put anything else on a purple banner except for silver or gold".

I just wanted to know where this woman was getting her information. I need to go back to our pastors to say that Yes, I've made a mistake, or I've checked with you as an authority on these things. I've used my timbrel colours sheets to assist in putting colours together and also another book that someone gave me on making wall banners. None of these say anything about what she said.

Your wisdom and prayers would be greatly appreciated. Sometimes I just think I've got it all wrong when I've really tried to get it all right! The way I figure it, if I've tried my best to do what the Lord wanted, but I've got it wrong in my humanness, it doesn't matter because God uses good and bad for His purpose. He knows my heart but I did just want to check so I can get back to the pastors so they can see I've checked it out.

David Stanfield's reply:

Dear Nicola,

I am so sorry you have had the experience you described. I have also met and spoken with the lady you mention. Please be totally

released from any sense of bondage or condemnation. I believe the Lord loves us to wave anything in worship and warfare for Him. If you only have a dirty dishrag, but your heart is in the right place, **WORSHIP HIM WITH IT!!!**

I believe banners are about freedom and release, not about rules and regulations. If the Lord has spoken those things to this lady, then she needs to abide by them. I believe He has said the opposite to me. I believe He told me, 'Don't make it complicated' and 'Set people free!!!'

Be blessed and encouraged. Throw off any attempt to squash what you are doing and, in cooperation with your leadership team, keep on releasing others to move in worship and freedom. I'd like to pray a prayer of release over you (if I may).

Father, I ask that You would wash right into this situation with Your cleansing river of LIFE! Lord, please wash everything that is not from You off Nicola and every other person who has experienced this. Lord, I ask that You would not only remove the condemnation, fear and confusion that this has caused, but that you would take this lady, her support team and her congregation to a new level of freedom and boldness with banners.

Lord, use them to do things in Brisbane (and wherever else You have an assignment for them) which are so far above what we can even think or imagine. Father, I bless them in Your name, I bless the work of their hearts, minds, spirits and hands. Blow them all away with Your greatness and creativity, Lord! In JESUS Name!!!



People's words can have a crushing effect on us. We need to discern what is from God and what is soulish. Banners and banner worshippers need to bring a sense of release and freedom wherever they are 'used'.

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 Wind doesn't blow only banners, it also blows banner worshippers. Two very good friends, prayer partners and fellow banner worshippers, Helen Ashcroft and Margaret Beeney, are being blown out of Brisbane to other vineyards. Thank you, Helen and Margaret, for some of the best of times. Here is a couple of stories about their banners.

Margaret's Banner

Margaret is a very talented and versatile artist who views the world with artist's eyes. To walk with her through parks or gardens is to see shapes and colours you never knew existed. Her work has won prizes in shows and competitions but more importantly, it has won hearts and minds to Jesus Christ with its anointed scriptural focus and prophetic insight.



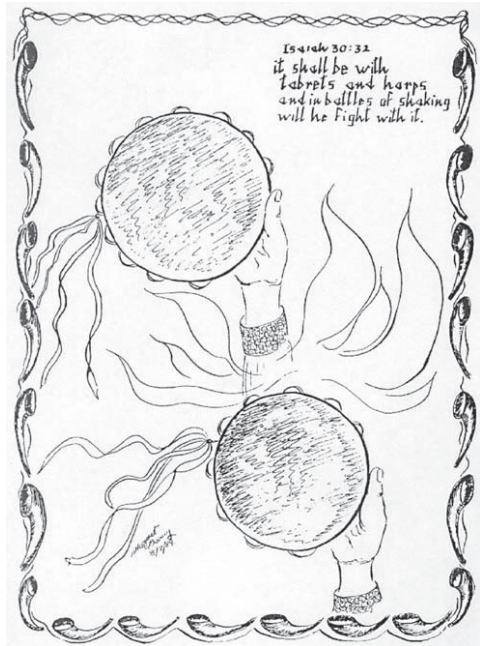
A large banner designed by Margaret for the Gospel Lighthouse Fellowship Youth Group.

That's why the youth group of the Gospel Lighthouse Fellowship at Kingston approached her to design a logo for their shirts and banner. Pastor Della, the youth group leader, had seen the design in a dream. The original sketch was done from life with Margaret's husband providing the hand.

The logo looks very effective on the red and white shirts. The banner is large and quite heavy so special provision has to be made to hang it. Margaret is anticipating that the move to the country will give her more time for her art.

The Story of a Prophetic Drawing

Some years ago Margaret was involved in Christian Dance Workshops with Libby Morris and others. These occasions usually had a God-given theme. After prayer on one occasion, Libby asked Margaret to produce a picture for the next workshop. Unfortunately, Margaret was unable to attend. However, she prayed at home and felt to draw a tambourine. A few days later she drew another tambourine with the hands holding them. She also felt that flames came between the tambourines. The next week, she showed the work to Libby who told her that one of the main scriptures studied was Isaiah 30:32 *...it shall be with tambourines and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.*



Another of Margaret's banners for a CDFA workshop. *"...it shall be with tambourines and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it". Isaiah 30:32.*

When I was at the Open Heaven Conference in Launceston (5-7 Sept), I believe this was one of the verses from Isaiah 30 and 31 that God highlighted.

Helen's Banner

This banner attracted some attention at the recent Open Heaven Conference in Tasmania.

I first saw this banner when it was pinned on the board and the design just an outline. It was the size of the bounty that the Holy Spirit was bringing that caught my attention. Later, when I saw the brown bird on the almost completed banner, a prophecy about the role of the Aboriginal people in bringing revival to the land came to mind. After the Open Heaven conference, Helen's banner went to three different prayer meetings/worship services and each time there was mention of Outback ministry or missions to the Aboriginal people before there was any mention or, in some cases, even sight of the banner. Helen writes about her banner:

Isaiah 40:17-20 - The Beginning

Do you know it takes about 5 hours to read the whole Book of Isaiah aloud on a beach? It was during this adventure that I received the idea for this banner. I saw Australia, parched and cracked, surrounded by deep blue sea. Overhead a dove flew, pulling along God's blessing in its beak. Rainbow colours poured from its mouth, going out to multitudes of flowers, abundant greenery, the wind of the Holy Spirit, just a cacophony of colour and vibrance. As the dove signified the waters drying up after "The Flood" by bringing back a twig, so the dove signifies the end of barren times. It carried a rainbow in its beak, also relevant to The Flood.

The brown dove was just as big a surprise to me, but made sense as the ravens feeding Elijah sprang to mind. This renewal of the land will come from an unexpected source just as the ravens were an unexpected source of blessing for the prophet.

A rose sits among autumn browns. I pondered the reason for its uninspiring background. Then I felt that it would not be noticed among the beauty. I realised that when God blesses us in hard times, we really notice it and are truly thankful. In times of plenty, it is easy to miss the blessings we live in.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

The scriptures on the banner are:

Isaiah 51:3 ...*He will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord.*

Isaiah 58:11 ...*He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.*

Nicola's Story

Nicola wrote to David Stanfield about banner use in her fellowship:

I attended a workshop that you ran last year in Brisbane. I bought a beautiful eagle banner. Wow, what is God doing in my life and that of my church!! The circumstances of the last two years have been horrific for me. My pastors told me God would give me grace to walk through it all. He has. Abundantly!! Through it all I've been aware of God's hands over us. Just like we are wrapped in a banner - like His banner IS over us.

God has taken us to new places and we have been so blessed by the eagle banner we bought. On the way to church the day after the workshop I bought a dowel for it. As I came into the church the music team started to play this awesome song about rising up on wings like an eagle. I had this incredible courage to run down the aisle with the eagle soaring high above and I just floated and worshipped with that banner. It was so God! Everyone thought it was planned but it was the Holy Spirit.

Last Christmas, our senior pastor was under a lot of attack. This attack was filtering down through all aspects of the church. We were working on a children's musical and I was really stuck for one particular song and I could just see all these bright colours. Being careful not to copy your designs, I made seven banners - a red one with a silver cross, a royal blue one with a silver dove, a yellow with glittery gold and red flames, a yellow with a rainbow flap and long gold trailing pieces, purple with a rainbow edge, purple with a gold crown, red with black hatches and smudges and covered with silver rain drops. The first time we used them everyone was so excited. The kids told me what they thought they symbolized. It was incredible!

Back at our rehearsal the kids were so unsettled I couldn't do anything with them. One pastor said, 'Just pray and God will give you a key'. He did. I got the children to pick up a banner each and walk around the perimeter of the church praying and waving the banners. We walked around seven times. It was like the walls came tumbling down! 'Jericho' fell and there was a new peace and order. The remainder of the practice went so well that we got more done in that last hour than in the last couple of weeks! Praise the Lord.

We have since added to our collection of banners and my skill is improving all the time in making them. I've used red with a silver cross as redemption, a piece of blue shimmering organza with blue glittered waves with silver crests. My favourite banner is a pink tie dye with a silver cross and a white glittery dove. It is a healing banner. We have an olive green shot chiffon as our anointing banner. One day one of the singers was waving it and there appeared to be gold light radiating from it.

As this banner was being waved by someone in a prayer meeting we could feel the anointing as it floated near us.

The kids have small banners, ribbons and flags that they are allowed to use. These are all kept in baskets down at the front of the stage area. Our other banners are held by two stands like a cross on the floor. There are lots of holes drilled and they are free-standing.

Since using banners, the worship and level of anointing has increased within the church. We have men, women and children who wave them. The kids and I often just dance up the back and sometimes we just go up the front and worship the Lord together. I know I'm a role model for these youngsters and I'm blessed by the way God uses me in something that seems so simple.

I'm organizing to do some teaching with timbrels and banners and hope to be able to do an insert which can go into the church newsletter which contains information about dancing for the Lord, banners and timbrels. I don't know exactly where I'm headed but I know that I've grown more than I ever thought I would. The church people just seem to know which banner to pick up, where and how. It is God's blessing in the church from you!

Thank you, David, for teaching me how to bring God's release and freedom in worship to my family church. We are all so blessed by raising our banners.

Send Cheese - An Important Message

The main banner I used on the Saturday night of the Open Heaven Conference in Launceston was the Camel Banner. This is a 'money' banner. When the Holy Spirit indicates that this banner be raised, someone is usually going to speak, pray about, ask for, collect money. So it was no surprise, on Sunday morning, when David Swan spoke on the David and Goliath story (1 Samuel 17:17-18) from the point of Jesse, as the Father, sending provisions to his sons, parched corn and ten loaves of bread. However, he also provided for their captain by sending him ten cheeses. Jesse knew that it was important to provide for his sons' leader as this freed him and encouraged him thus making him more effective. David Swan spoke of the importance of 'sending cheeses' to leaders. He said that if you want to be blessed, send your captain ten cheeses.

Each newsletter costs about \$500 (that's a lot of cheese) a quarter to post out. Captain David Stanfield's cheese cupboard is bare as he is trying to get enough cheese together to publish his book. Unfor-



Helen's banner with God's bounty coming from an unexpected source.



We have been so blessed by the eagle banner!

tunately, that is more cheese than Captain David Stanfield can afford at the moment, so we have decided that this is the last "The Standard" we can afford to post for free.

If you wish to continue to receive "The Standard" (Ed. I hope you do!), we need you to either send us your email address (to: enquiry@worshipbanners.org) or send cheese! You may even want to send cheese anyway!

You can send cheese in the post by sending a cheque to "Out of Our Minds Banners". Send what you can! We will continue to post out "The Standard" to anyone who makes a donation toward covering the printing and postage costs.

Thanks! And may your cheese cupboard continually be filled!

Book Review

When David Stanfield was going to America, I asked him if he would keep an eye out for some banner books for me. He returned with a couple of little gems.

His Banner Over Me is Love by Jean Mabry

Contact: 1263 Phelps Road Lenoir City, TN 37772

Phone 865-986-6125 E-mail: ajmabry@juno.com

Website: garments-of-praise.com

Cost \$5

Jean is the director of Benote Tzion, which is a circle dance group using mainly Israeli folk dance. Her little seven page booklet (four of the pages are photos) tells the story of getting started with 'Silks' after seeing them used at a Feast in 1991 in Jerusalem. Their first 'Silks' were 15 foot (about 5 metres) long pieces of silk which had been batiked with the furniture of the Tabernacle. The group started doing simple billowing movements and the Holy Spirit revealed new movements to them as part of intercession and healing.

To quote Jean: *"You will find these banners are bridges into churches and lives that are fearful of the movement ministries. They are so gentle and acceptable. Many people who feel that they could never dance, will readily take the edge of a banner and begin to gently waft them. What a joy to see their faces light up with excitement as they rejoice in a wider worship experience."*

The photos are spectacular. They illustrate the various movements. There's one called 'Rapture' with its description - 'Let banners rise to the highest point of billow, then release!'

A comment from the author about her class of three and four year olds who use nine foot (three metre) lengths - *"My 'Little Praisers' class can use them and my how they love them! They get so excited they just squeal! Some adults squeal too!"*

This is a wonderful little booklet which widens our understanding of the variety that exists in using banners.

City Colours

What are your town's/city's colours? I didn't even know Brisbane had colours - the sporting teams, yes, but not the city itself. However, one day as I visited the rest rooms in the City Hall, I paused to examine the city's coat of arms in its display case and was informed that Brisbane's colours are blue and gold. I can feel a 'Brisbane - City of God' banner coming on.

Laura's Story

In May, Marilyn Humphries and a team of helpers hosted a Creative Arts weekend. David Stanfield attended and reported - "It was soooooo exciting to see sculpture, paintings, sewing and woodwork - all the visual arts displayed for all to see." As part of the weekend, David conducted a workshop on banners in worship and warfare - "It was the biggest workshop I have ever run. Fortunately we had many of our new designs available for the first time and others brought their banners with them, so we had enough banners to go around. God showed up. I stopped teaching after lunch because His presence was so thick, all we could do was follow His instructions."

Laura was a participant at that workshop and this is how she describes it -

Oh joy - what joy!! What an awesome experience it was! I was part of 70 people worshipping God in Spirit and truth! I have never before experienced such a thing as feeling so intimate and one-on-one with God, almost alone with Him, in the midst of many people, while at the same time feeling linked to them in unity. Awesome! I can only imagine that is what Heaven will be like, only more so.

As the men stood in the middle praying, I felt privileged to see these men standing there with banner in hand, like a soldier with his spear, and draped about their shoulders these pieces of silk - which in our culture, you would consider feminine. Yet as I watched with eyes from God, these "garments of praise" became mantles of strength, and the banners, weapons of warfare. Strength was being poured onto these men.

Then as the men moved out to pray over us women with the banners, God began to touch, heal and redeem my feminine soul. Firstly, the colours of the banners flying in front of me were beautiful, then the feel of silk on my face and hands as some would stop and dip



Laura's story: "As the men moved out to pray over us women with banners, God began to touch, heal and redeem my feminine soul..."

their banners over us in the rhythm of the dance would feel like the covering of God's wings. Then the realization of God's passionate love and deep respect for women was pouring into my heart like warm flowing balm. He was pouring upon us women an extravagant display of how His love honours women. As those men danced around us, I felt truly and deeply feminine and honoured as woman. And I saw those men as strong; strong in the Lord! I was so thankful to be under Man's care and authority. I felt dignified in the purest way I have ever experienced.