



A KINGDOM SOUND



FROM
KEN'S
HEART
TO
YOURS

I write this article from South Africa. At present we are a nation in serious disarray. We face massive “State Capture” where corruption drains billions of Rands from Government and State Enterprises. Where crime is rampant, but crime investigation arms of government protect rather than prosecute the perpetrators. Our economy is in recession, and the Ratings agencies have downgraded us to “junk status”. Poverty persists and racial tensions are fueled by politicians for their own advantage.

With this situation as a backdrop, I met with some local church leaders a few months ago and asked the question:- “Where do you see the Kingdom of GOD advancing in our nation at this time?” To my surprise I observed the group struggling to find any positive response. As we discussed further I realized that the weight of personal experience and continuous negative media reporting had become their point of reference, hence their lack of a positive reply to the question.

As I thought through this meeting my mind went back to the experience of my wife and I sitting on the Singapore underground.

The carriage was full of students and as I looked around I heard no conversation, instead each one was busy with a smart phone or tablet. Then my attention was arrested by one student who was hanging on to a pole, had earphones in his ears and was moving his body in some sort of a jive. He really stood out from the rest. It was only as we walked away from the train that I realized that what made him different from the rest of the students was that he was hearing a different sound. I heard the Spirit say to me, “That’s what Kingdom life is like!” The ability to hear a different sound to the cacophony that comes from media and our own negative

experiences. It is this sound that enables us to “seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness.” To be able to “see” what GOD is doing and to join in.

For those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, the Kingdom is advancing in South Africa. Just two examples. Over the past 15 years there has been a growing prayer movement that takes many forms. One form is the establishment of many 24/7 houses of prayer. Another form was the gathering of over one million people on a rural farm near Bloemfontein to repent on behalf of the nation and to pray for her future.

Here is but one example of the outworking of this prayer. Over the past two years there has been, on an ever increasing scale, dramatic disclosures of crime and corruption committed by people in high places. These works of darkness are being brought into the light. The latest disclosure being the release of 200,000 E Mails dealing with these issues.

Ever since the Kingdom was inaugurated by Jesus’ coming to earth, GOD has chosen those who will surrender their “own kingdom” to seek first His kingdom, to be co-labourers with Him. This works on a national basis, as I have tried to illustrate above, just as it works in our daily walk, wherever that may be.

There is something powerful in this surrender of our individuality, our independence, our right to choose, in that it opens the way for us to become again what GOD originally intended us to be. Some have called this the “ultimate reality”. A reality where GOD’s government is released to enable us to do the works of the Kingdom. At COTN we believe in a “Glorious Eschatology”, this means that what we offer through our surrender will be recorded in GOD’s eternal history and perfected at His coming.

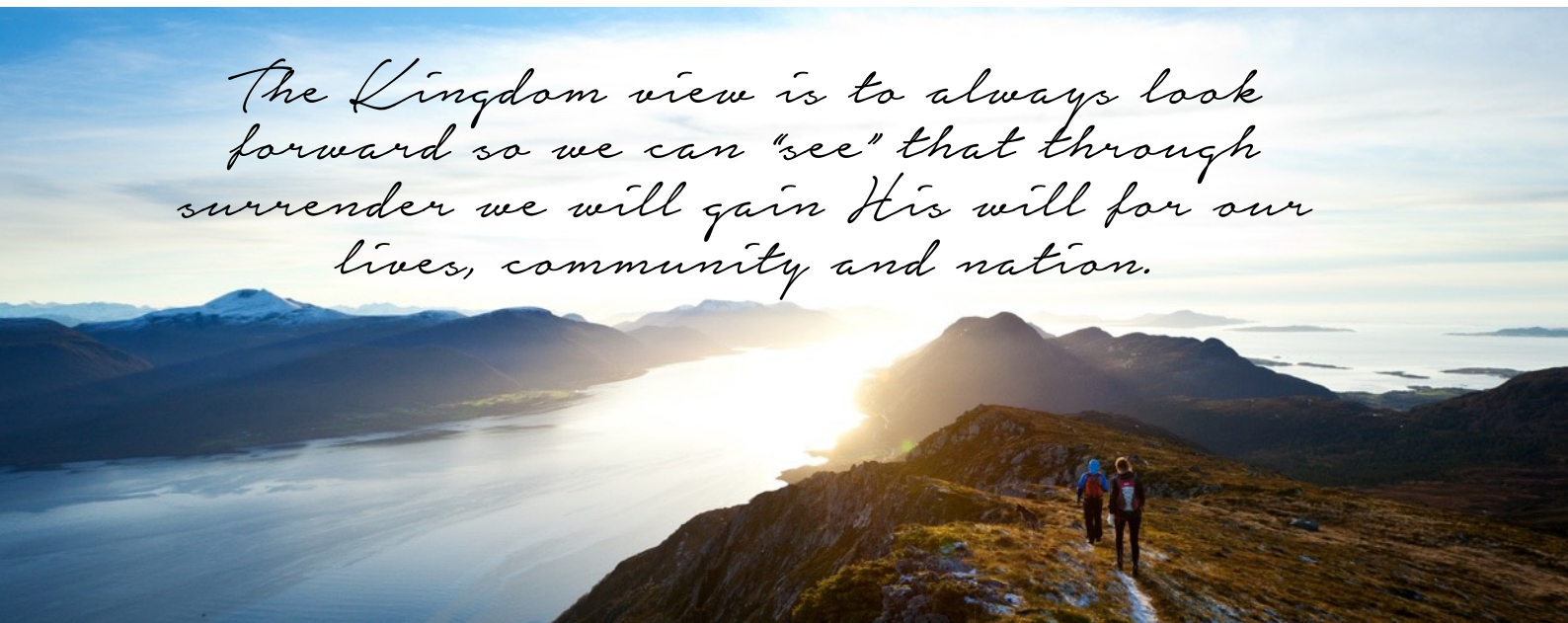
To some the word “surrender” is synonymous with “sacrifice”. What will I have to give up if I surrender? The Kingdom view is to always look forward so we can “see” that through surrender we will gain His will for our lives, community and nation.

Ken



KEN & ANNE TURNER

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MOURNING:

Blessed and enviably happy [with a happiness produced by the experience of God’s favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His matchless grace] are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!
Matthew 5:4 (Amplified Bible)

Walking through three deaths in the last few weeks of people we were very close to, two that were far too young and the third being Marilyn’s elderly mother (95), we have been emotionally stretched and saddened like few seasons before. Yet through this time have experienced grace, peace and yes even joy in fresh ways. As the above beatitude indicates, only God is big enough to release conflicting emotions at one time and make them complimentary.

We know many of you have had or are having similar recent journeys so we speak over you today Grace, Grace.

Tony & Marilyn Fitzgerald



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