



BETTER TOGETHER



FROM
LOUIS &
EDNA'S
HEART
TO
YOURS

God is calling us to work together with Him and with one another, for the advancing of His Kingdom

Dear Friends

Here we find ourselves at the end of 2019 and what a year it has been!

God spoke a clear word to us that it would be a year of continued *Acceleration* which we can all attest to and that as we align with His Word and move TOGETHER in the same direction, we would BE THE DEMONSTRATION that would cause the harvest to come in.

It has also been prophesied that it would be a time for women to arise and take their rightful place in the Kingdom. Recently at *The Rising Ladies Conference*, Edna shared a word that gripped our hearts. She called it BETTER TOGETHER.

At the time, this coincided with an uprising against violence and women in South Africa, which resulted in the *#Enough is Enough* campaign.

As God's people we need to rise against the enemy in the power of His Spirit; however, when we succumb to an uprising (the word 'uprising' is defined as a revolution, rebellion, rooted in revolt, anger and entitlement, that results in a victim mentality) we play into the enemy's hand and give him room to manoeuvre *but when we rise up in boldness, yet in humility, according to the plans and purposes of God, it looks different.*

When we look back over history, we find the same scenario we face today repeating itself - a nation does evil; becomes oppressed; cries out to God; God has mercy on them and sends a deliverer; a season of peaceful prosperity follows, until they do evil again.

In *Judges 4:1*, we read: *Israel, again did evil in the sight of the Lord...* This resulted in great oppression where their women were taken and violated, their food and crops were stolen and they didn't live in their God-given purpose and

destiny. It sounds a bit like headlines in our daily newspaper, doesn't it?

Presently, many of us live in walled estates and our freedom is inhibited by the spirit of lawlessness that rules our cities and villages. Today, as in the time of Judges, we read: *Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel - Judges 5:7 NKJV.* It was at a time like this that God raised up a woman called Deborah to bring deliverance to the nation (read Judges 4:4-10). She received the Word of the Lord and summoned Barak (the leader of Israel's army) to go up against Sisera ('Sisera' means: battle array/strategies) who was the commander of Jabin's ('Jabin' means: intelligence) army, as God was about to give them into his hand. Barak refused to go unless Deborah went with him. Deborah agreed to go but prophesied that the honour would not be Barak's and that God would deliver Sisera over to them through the hands of a woman.

Barak's refusal to go without Deborah has been widely interpreted as negative. He has been depicted as a weak and fearful man that hid behind the skirts of a woman.

However, the truth is that Deborah represented God's Word made flesh to Barak. He esteemed the Word of the Lord (prophetic insight) and found safety and security in keeping it as close as possible in times of battle. Having the Word close will always guarantee a successful outcome.

Barak had to humble himself and risk the chance of being misunderstood and so he followed Deborah's instructions and did it God's way. It's interesting to know that it is BARAK and NOT DEBORAH who is listed in the "Faith Hall of Fame" found in Hebrews 11.

Barak destroyed the Canaanite army but Sisera (battle strategy), the commander, fled on foot to the outskirts of the village where he came to the tent of a woman named Jael. Jael invited him in under the guise of hospitality in order to set him up and drove a tent peg through his head.

Jael defeated Jabin (intelligence) and Sisera (battle strategies), with the simple use of a hammer and tent peg. This must be one of the most unconventional but effective examples of warfare recorded. God will use a combination of people working together (better together) to ultimately defeat the enemy. He will use a combination of prophets, commanders, home/tent makers with the hammer of His Word (Jeremiah 23:29) to put a nail through the head of the enemy.

Colossians 2:14-15 (NASBS) Jesus...having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to

the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

God is calling us to work together with Him and with one another, for the advancing of His Kingdom but in order for that to happen, we need to:

1. KNOW OUR TRUE IDENTITY

Wholeness as a person is key - where we war from freedom and not for freedom or your version of it. In order for this to happen, you need to firstly establish your freedom in Christ and keep in mind that hurting people, hurt people and broken people, break people. You can't export what you have not grown at home. Be the man or woman who God has called you to be (not the one you think you should be).

2. KNOW HIS DESIGN

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "*Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*" *Genesis 1:27-28 NASBS*

God made man and woman, to complete and not compete with one another, to have dominion and not to dominate, to rule over and not to overrule. Our mandate is to be fruitful and multiply, subdue the earth and rule over all living things. We are created equal in His image and likeness, however, the enemy loves to cause separation and bring division in order to discriminate, divide, conquer, polarise and bring disunity.

Instead of us being united in Christ with common Kingdom purposes and different expressions thereof, we find ourselves fighting on our own and the result of this is a power struggle.

The truth mentioned above has a wider application to church leaders, business leaders and different Kingdom movements.

3. KNOW GOD'S PATTERN

God is a Father with a family who has assigned us as individuals with our own unique and different roles. Fathers build and mothers nurture so that children can receive a full picture of God. We are called to father, mother and mentor physical and spiritual children and when we know His pattern, plans and purposes, we will be able to build strong households of faith with secure sons and daughters.

4. KNOW AND PRACTICE LOVE, ACCEPTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

We receive freedom through forgiveness, mercy and grace. God's extended grace and righteousness enable us to live in freedom that isn't based on our own self-effort and self-righteousness. When we live from the freedom that Christ paid for us, this enables us to draw the best out of others and sets us up for a great harvest.

5. DO WHAT HE TELLS YOU TO DO, NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS

In the story of Deborah and Barak, each one did their part which resulted in total victory, instead of one person trying to be the hero. In your local church, in the Kingdom context or company that you find yourself in, you or your movement alone, will not be the sole answer to the prevailing problem – we are better together.... You are able to make a difference where He has positioned you in your career or profession, by obeying His voice to advance the Kingdom of God and collaborating with others.

6. KNOW THE POWER OF PRAYER

Change comes through passionate, determined prayer. We pray to God to change our families, our communities and areas of our influence, by His grace and through His Spirit.

So in conclusion, when we understand the power of BETTER TOGETHER, it doesn't just apply to men and women, husbands and wives but also to leadership teams, churches, Apostolic streams, Kingdom mountains and anywhere else where a greater outcome is desired.

Ephesians 4:4-6 in the Message Bible captures it so beautifully; You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so STAY TOGETHER, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.

May you find your Kingdom partners and align for a greater outcome in 2020!

Remember we are BETTER TOGETHER!

Louis & Edna



IMPACT THOUGHTS FROM OUR 50 YEAR JOURNEY

“A fresh lesson in Father’s Love:”

Two themes that have anchored my life are “The Father Heart of God” and the ever advancing Kingdom of Heaven.

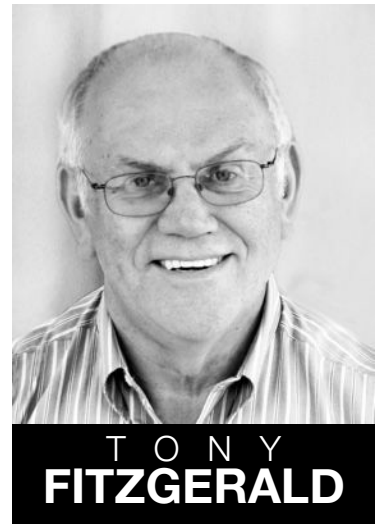
The first of these even deepened in me when a few weeks ago I had a stent inserted to increase the blood flow to my heart. As I was laying there while the procedure was happening, much of which I could follow on the screen, I sensed a great peace and even excitement. These three words were in my mind; Faith, Fatherhood, Fear and later a fourth, Foolishness.

I knew the peace was coming from Faith in his Fatherhood and that all was fine. This led to an absence of Fear; Perfect Love casts out all Fear! The Father’s love is perfect! I was thankful that I wasn’t Foolish and went to the emergency room at the insistence of my beloved wife and daughters.

I’ve learnt over the years, that in the big things we see God’s greatness. In the small we experience His Fatherhood.

72 and still learning!

Tony



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