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Freedom in our Hearts for Encounter ....and our Worship as a Response

Dear Friends,

This is an unexpected newsletter during this Passover/Resurrection holiday, written by Cathy but encouraged and edited by Mark. Rather an appropriate time as Passover and Resurrection is all about coming into Freedom.....

Questions on a journey!

As most of you know we have been on this journey of establishing a Prayer House by the gates of Auschwitz-Birkenau for some time now. Actually, we are about to approach our 14th Anniversary of being in Poland.

When we left Germany to come to Poland in July 2008, having lived there for three years, we had a vision of a centre where there was a predominance of worship, prayer, teaching, healing, and body ministry. It wasn't a church, and it didn't have a pyramid structure of leadership. The worship included, not just the normal things like singing songs and playing musical instruments, but all sorts of creative arts, which was very novel back in 2008. But at the heart of it was a sense of it being a "Freedom Farm". At the same time my favourite song was Jason Upton's song, called, "Freedom".

With the vision we had, we would often say we had 7 pieces of a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle. And that was so true! For the first six months we thought this centre would be in Kraków, because that is where we were initially led by Father to live. But by the end of our first year, we realised it was to be in Brzezinka, the village of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Five years ago, in 2017, we finally moved out of Krakow into our current little house which is situated just 400m from those infamous gates. Around about the same time we received planning permission to start building the Prayer House for which we broke ground later that summer.

Since then, we have had a question on our hearts, "How is this Prayer House meant to function and what does God want to express here?".

Pieces of the puzzle

In these five years, Father has been giving us more and more pieces of the puzzle. Some pieces fitted neatly together, some seemed to be unconnected, and some seemed to be contrary to other pieces.

For a while we knew what it was not to be. It was not going to be a copy of any other Prayer House. We often felt uncomfortable when people came and worshipped in the same way as they did at home. Father kept telling us that He is doing something new here, something we had not seen or experienced before. He said the focus is no longer about "fixing the past", for that only takes us from -100 to zero. We're now in a new season when God is taking this place from zero to +100 and He wants the Prayer House to reflect that.

I kept seeing a "clean piece of paper". People needed to come with a clean piece of paper and hear from the Holy Spirit something new.

And then I heard, "Let people come with empty buckets!" So, come with empty buckets and fill them up with what Jesus is pouring out here and take it back home.

Once He told me that He wants to hear my sound, not *me singing* songs that someone else wrote. Those songs may resonate with my soul, but He wants me to worship Him in "spirit and truth" – the sound of my spirit with what is true from my heart.

Then, after a particularly difficult time with a group in the prayer room, I was asking the question again "What should we be doing here?". I felt the Father say, "**It is not about what you do, it's about encountering Me, and then let your worship be your response**". Heart to heart with Jesus, Father, Holy Spirit and then from our experience with Him, we respond in love and worship – whatever that is for us.

Those were some of the pieces of the puzzle we had been receiving.

Finally, this week, I felt I should be writing some of these things down. As I've been listing the parts of the puzzle in a new notebook, more and more pieces came together. And then yesterday morning something really hit me. It was staring me in the face..

This Prayer House is a House of Freedom

It stands opposite a House of Captivity, a House of Slavery, a House of Victims. But the Prayer House is a house in the opposite spirit. I have said many times it is a House for the Sons of God (in contrast to a House of Victims), and we often call it the Fountain of Joy. But it is also a House of Freedom!



It's about each one of us growing in personal godly freedom in all that we do – for that is our worship. Getting in touch with our own hearts, **releasing our love to Him in our own unique form that He has placed in each one of us**. As we move into this, our worship will be more aligned with our design and the result will be greater joy, peace and fulfilment. This is His desire for us.

The house is for people to come together in the Father's love and presence, living together in an atmosphere where godly freedom is honoured. We can experiment and find new ways in which we experience Him and His love for one another. Expressing freedom with God in the centre.

The key to this is finding our own hearts! And what better place to do that than in the Prayer Room. Be free in the Prayer Room. Don't sing the song that everyone else is singing if it is not expressing your heart. If you need to shout – shout! If you need to be quiet – be quiet! Dance, wave a flag, paint a picture, sew, CREATE! Whatever you do, use your heart to encounter HIM.

Of course, we will need to learn to discern our own spirit above our soul, and our own heart above the voice in our mind! So I expect there will be mistakes along the way, but how are we going to learn if we never make mistakes?

This is the journey that I have been on for at least five years. I have found that I have swallowed a lot of lies over the many years of being a believer in the church, and so Father has had to reprogram some of my mindsets. One deep one was the separation between what is considered spiritual/holy and what is secular/unholy. However, the truth that I have learnt is **He is in everything and so everything can be used as worship to HIM!**



Do whatever Holy Spirit is calling you to do. Let go of the religious mindsets that say you can only do this or that! **Be free in your heart! Jesus is in there somewhere! Encounter Him!**

As each one of us becomes freer, we will encounter Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit in a much deeper way, even in spirit and in truth. Then I believe we will see the true unity of the Spirit amongst us as a group.

This is living in the opposite spirit to Auschwitz-Birkenau! **It is also an intercession and a calling of this Prayer House!**

As we finish this Passover greeting, we leave you with the link with a special Passover song – Freedom by Jason Upton!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4R39hugUqI

Remember, **"*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*"** Gal 5:1

With our love and blessings
Cathy and Mark

And as a bonus, another song by Jason Upton that seems appropriate:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLK_0HyN7JE

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