

POWER *for* LIVING

A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

April - June 2010

Dear friends,

We live in a world that is increasingly alienated from the Creator. Consequently, confusion, strife, and emptiness are on the rise. Truly, **people need the Lord!**

God is calling us to lift up our voices and spread His life-changing gospel throughout this planet. That's why this issue's article is entitled "**I Lift Up My Voice**". We have been seeking God to identify steps we can take to enhance giving this message to all the world. **Here's what we're doing:**

1. We have lowered the prices on our **mp3** and **mp4** digital downloads by 50% to make them affordable to a wider range of people.
2. We have dropped the prices on our **DVDs** and **CDs** by as much as 25%. (We cannot do this with our published copyright material because the prices are set by the publisher.)
3. We are personally engaging in two large overseas outreaches this year. We just returned from a month of ministering in **Brazil**. In November, we will tour **South Africa**.
4. God is opening doors for Empowered Living Ministries programming to be aired on **satellite TV**. We are currently in the initial phases of developing further programming to be filmed on location in our wilderness setting.
5. We are **streamlining** all of our ministry expenses.

The **Empowered Living Ministries team** is more than Jim, Sally, Janell, and Jeanette. It **includes you**—and could not function without you. Together, we are one regiment in God's great army for finishing His work. **Let's pull together** to "lift up our voices" and hasten Christ's long awaited return. **Please see page 3** for ideas about how you can do that.



Our campmeeting theme this year is **Come, Walk With Me**. You won't want to miss this. Looking forward to seeing you at one of our campmeetings, seminars, or our annual Open House.

Lifting up our voices,

Jim & Sally

Upcoming Seminars

May 7 - 9

Capital City Mission SDA Church
Madison, Wisconsin
Call (920) 382-1993

November

South Africa

(Details to be announced)
Call (406) 387-4333

Annual Camp Meetings 2010

April 22 - 25 Leoni Meadows, CA
Call (406) 387-4333

June 10 - 13 Hood River, OR
Call (541) 399-3020

July 22 - 24 Polebridge, MT
Annual Open House
Call (406) 387-4333

September 3 - 5 Hickory, NC
Call (406) 387-4333

October 14 - 17 Roach, MO
Call (417) 661-6161

December 2 - 5 High Springs, FL
Call (406) 387-4333

EMPOWERED
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It's About Walking With God!



I Lift Up My Voice!

Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you and how He has had compassion on you.

Mark 5:19

Perhaps the most compelling evangelistic story in all of Scripture is the tale of the demoniac. Mark 5:1-20.

This poor man was out of control. In fact, demons controlled him. His friends and family had tried to tame him to no avail. Even chains couldn't hold him. He ran away from society and made the local graveyard his haunt. Shrieking insanely day and night, he cut himself with stones. I can only imagine the kind of life and choices that took him so low.

His community had written him off. He's a dangerous basket case—best to keep out of his way. Yet, Jesus saw within that deranged man a great missionary. He read his heart-longing to be free. He heard the cry for help through the blood-curdling shrieks and He responded with compassion. He commanded the legion of devils to come out from the man and they obeyed. This poor man found himself restored to his "right mind" with yet another chance to live life.

As Jesus was stepping into the boat to leave, this restored man begged to go with Him. He couldn't bear the thought of being apart from Him. However, Jesus had another plan for him. "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." Mark 5:19.

Jesus called him to "lift up his voice". Go to those you have an influence with and spread the good news of what God has done for you and is doing in and through you. This is His divinely appointed means of taking the gospel to every "nation, kindred, tongue, and people." Revelation 14:6.

God's Heart Longings

Jesus desperately longs to reach all those who are in need. He sees so many of His children toiling bitterly through their empty lives tormented by demons through false religions, cruel ideologies, and corrupt systems. Vast numbers of these children have never even heard His name—much less had the opportunity to walk with Him. Others have been so inundated with false propaganda about Him that they don't take Him seriously.

God wants them to know they are not alone. He wants them to know that He can give them the spirit of power and love and a sound mind right where they are and He needs you and me to lift up our voices and simply tell what God has done and is doing in our lives. Share how God's truths have enlightened you, Jesus' life is empowering you, and His Holy Spirit is guiding you. That's what the demoniac did—and no one discounted it.

No one can discount your personal testimony. They may argue with your doctrine, disregard your denomination, or refuse your lifestyle. But when you have been bound and now you are free, they cannot gainsay this. They can't help but acknowledge that something great has happened in your life.

Perhaps it's meeting Jesus for the first time. It might be your marriage or family that is healing. For others it's been the discovery of a practical message that is finally bringing results. Whatever it is for you, you are to use your influence to tell others. That's the gospel commission.

To attempt to enjoy the benefits of the gospel without letting it flow out of your life to touch others is impossible. Like the Dead Sea, you become stagnant and salty. You cannot be a fresh, sweet body of water without letting the blessings flow out beyond you. You must live it and give it. Accept it and share it. Apply it and communicate it.

Your Voice Is Crucial

When I was touched by the new-found truths of the Scriptures, I shared it with my parents, siblings, friends, and neighbors. That was 33 years ago and I'm still lifting up my voice. God has led me to write 8 books some of which have been translated into over 20 languages.

Your voice needs to go out also. God needs you desperately to witness of His great hand in changing your life. Seriously, is God speaking to your heart and mind this moment? Is He asking you to "proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus has done for you"? Mark 5:20.

Then heed His call and become a missionary. Share from a pulpit, give a Bible study, help the helpless, distribute books, mail out a DVD, invite someone to church or a seminar.

Invest yourself in others as Jesus has invested Himself in you. That is the gospel principle.

It goes beyond attending a church and identifying with a message. It calls you to share in the burden for souls. The same burden Jesus has for you, you are to demonstrate in your circle of influence.

What if my dentist had not shared with me? What if his only interest in me had been in drilling my teeth and not in opening my eyes? I'm glad he cared for my "dental needs". I'm even more grateful he cared for my spiritual emptiness.

He had to risk offending me. Praise God, he cared enough to take the risk that delivered my soul from its empty searchings. What if he hadn't done that? What a loss it would have been!

Now you must risk sharing your faith that the "Jim Hohnbergers" you have an influence with can be delivered to lift up their voices.

What is God saying to you? If you found something, are you passing it on? If there is a tornado coming, when is the time to sound the alarm? When it's at the front door? Or when there is still time to prepare? Are you warning those God has given you an influence with?

I am! If they know me, they know! That's how it was with Noah. For over a hundred years, he preached, shared, and warned. All that he had, he invested in the ark. We can each be a Noah in our wholehearted commitment to lifting up our voices.

Will You?

Lord, open our eyes. Let there be no disguise to the pain we see! Do you see the pain? I do. Marriages fractured. Families disconnected. People running on the treadmill of society. Whole communities and countries hurting and starving for a gospel with power for their daily lives.

Lord, open our hearts to the cries of this world in this dark hour. A whole planet is off course. Will we do what God is calling us to do to relieve their cry? Will we tell them,

heal them and demonstrate to them the saving Gospel?

Lord, open up the path to reach more people—Your people, my people, our people—by whatever means You devise.

God is going to open your path! It may be different than my path, but He will open it. Will you lift up your voice? Will you pour yourself out that others might experience deliverance from their tomb? Come on, let's help set the captives free! ◀

How You Can Lift Up Your Voice With Ours

Lift up your voice to God

- ◀ Pray for God's direction—then listen to His whispers to your conscience.
- ◀ Pray for the people who are touched by this ministry—especially while we are traveling abroad.
- ◀ Pray for God's hand to be shown in the new TV programming venture. This option has a potential audience in the millions.

Lift up your voice to the people in your life

- ◀ Be a sermon in shoes!
- ◀ Take advantage of our reduced prices to share books, booklets, CDs, and DVDs with all your friends, relatives, and acquaintances.
- ◀ Freely copy & share our DVDs and CDs. (Please write the speaker's name, message title, and our current contact information on the discs you share.)

Lift up your voice to the world

- ◀ Your financial help is needed as we travel abroad and develop TV programs.



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Let's lift up our
voices... together!

"Power for Living" is available free of charge and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know is not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us.

For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at:

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It's About Walking With God!

From Despair to Hope!

Shannon and Silvano were caught in an endless downward spiral of alcohol and arguing. Daily, they threatened each other with divorce. They felt locked in despair with no way out. But God had His eye on them and purposed to bring them hope.

Darren Kennedy was the attorney for the construction company they both worked for and he hired them for some of his own construction projects. Silvano noticed Darren's interaction with his wife and children while working on his house. He had never seen a man treat his family so well before.

One day, Shannon and Silvano hit rock bottom. Shannon needed an attorney, but avoided calling Darren out of embarrassment and the fear that he would quit working for their company. But all the other attorneys she called didn't work out. Finally, she called Darren. To her grateful surprise, he was sympathetic and gave her the assistance she needed without shaming her or axing their company.

As Darren and Shannon talked things over, she expressed her desire for a better life. That's when Darren told her about the *Missouri Empowered Living Camp Meeting*. At first they wanted to go, but realized they couldn't afford it. Then Darren offered to pay their expenses, and they realized they were a bit afraid. Would they like it? Would people accept them? Finally their longings out-weighed their fears and they decided to go.

As they listened to meeting after meeting, the Holy Spirit worked a miracle in their hearts—instilling hope in place of despair. They saw that God had a

better way for them, that He was willing to take their hands, and empower them to change.

On the way home, they wrote down the changes they planned to make: quit smoking, drinking, partying, and arguing and replace those with pure air, clean water, Bible study, and prayer. (By the way—no one said anything to them about those things. They were simply responding to the conviction of the Holy Spirit!) They also planned to attend the Florida camp meeting.

They followed through. God removed their cravings for alcohol and enabled them to express affection for each other rather than anger. As they studied their Bibles by themselves and with the Kennedy's they found more changes to make. They began to keep the seventh day Sabbath. Hope was growing more and more.

Then, one week before the Florida camp meeting, things started unraveling. The morning they were to leave for the camp they had the worst fight they had had in months. Shannon decided they wouldn't go. She didn't want to be a hypocrite. As the hours ticked by, Silvano kept asking her if she would change her mind. Both of them kept crying out to God for guidance. Finally, after 1 o'clock, she decided they should go—even though she felt incredibly unworthy. When they arrived, the Kennedy's were waiting for them and told them that they had been impressed to pray for them all through that day.

Silvano and Shannon learned that they weren't hypocrites. They were entering into the process of working out what God is working in and they remain committed to it. ◀

