

## ***Green Tree 2012-2013***

**‘Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. I the LORD, have created it (Is. 45:8)’.**

Greetings,

We faithfully went through the Watches on Halloween for **a world in darkness**, and also on the last Thursday of November initiated by President Lincoln for Thanksgiving to symbolize **a torn nation** on the path towards healing.

I hope you were all blessed to gather with your local spiritual community at the end of last year and again to usher in the new as I’ve found an open community comforting, especially around the holidays. I want to thank you for the hope and strength you’ve given me by taking the ‘Road less Travelled’ that has brought us to what is now Beth Ministries 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Although paved with opposition and difficulty, ‘I consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself (see Heb. 12:3).’ MLK weekend began for me Saturday in meeting Pastor Jim Hendrickson, his lovely family, their friend Janet and several others Sunday at church.

Someone on the Sunday morning circle asked how are we to differentiate between the Spirit imploring one to give and a sense of duty or obligation to give. Not one to challenge a response I instead began to reflect upon what Jesus taught “when you give..., when you fast... (see Matt. 6:3-5,17-20)”, He didn’t say if you choose to. If we experience His promises, why do we hesitate to be poured out along the river of life’s flowing stream where we’re also continually filled? “Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back (Luke 6:30)”.

‘Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, “***I have compassion*** on the multitude, because they **have now continued with Me three days** and have nothing to eat. ***And I am unwilling to send them away hungry***, lest they faint along the way. **‘If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday (Is. 58:10)’.**

I went to a morning program for MLK Monday, and made it back home in time to see the President with a few elected officials stand a moment before the bust of MLK with a news flash that indicated our President champions the homosexual agenda as a noble cause, and I pondered why the poor and helpless aren’t any governing body priority? Why no global outcry for the millions regardless of their sexual orientation that are tortured victims of slavery?

“He who has ears to hear,” will rescue those appointed to die. ‘One out of every four girls is sexually abused before the age of eighteen. For boys, the number is one out of six, and those are only the reported cases<sup>1</sup>. We stand alert alongside search and rescue missions worldwide in their efforts to stamp out the root cause of abuse, and continue to lift this burden throughout the year during our **corporate fasts**. We want to debut ‘A Solitary Place’ e-letter of seasonal devotions, poetry, etc., which will also include highlights from the forums that we hope will help awaken the consciousness of our society.

‘Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer. And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful... (see Acts. 3:1-7). The beggar expected something, waited daily until finally he encountered a ray of sunshine as he was lifted up and empowered. ‘So he, leaping up, stood and walked... (see Acts. 3:8). We plan to have a fellowship vigil during our 10th year celebration with **‘Lift Up to Empower’** (LUTE) as the theme at Memorial Presbyterian Church in West Palm Beach, Florida. I wish all of you who may be suffering the cold were here with me enjoying the Florida sun. Minister George has a wonderful blog, it’s ‘Prime Dominion’ named after the conference circle that he leads, I’m sure he’d welcome your comments whenever you’ll take the time to visit. More news later...

Grace to you,

Sister Fran

Beth Ministries

\*Mary Frances Bowley “The White Umbrella”(2012)