

jan 20

what may i do for Your glory

“take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.” col 4:17

the other day i received a brief, but lovely note from a reader - one who i have never met. it simply said, "thank you for your ministry linda. amen"

it's so strange but for some reason i had never thought of my writings as being a ministry. the words kind of hit me like a brick. when i first helped my good friend, paula rayburn, set up her ministry with tax exemption, website and all, i had everyone write a brief bio of themselves. i can still remember mine. in short, it said something like, "i always considered myself just a passenger on the bus and not the bus driver. my friend just kept going and dragging me after her. i didn't even consent to be on the board for awhile even though i helped her in every way i could." that was my bio along with a few other things.

it was always like that. i was a follower and not a leader. and now, suddenly someone says "thank you for your ministry." even still, i credit her ministry at the end of each mailing, even though it is not practical to do so in other places i post on. if this is indeed a ministry, it was definitely one birthed in her aspirations and not mine.

it was fruit from her tree, and what a wonderful tree it was. she was such a special person and instrumental

in my walk with the Lord. She was not just my friend, but also my mentor. oh, the stories i could tell. oh, the memories i have. even now i am tearing up thinking about her.

she was a deliverance minister and was instrumental in freeing so many to walk with the Lord. while our friendship was birthed in the church we both attended, it went way beyond that. we were each others' confidant and confessor. i don't even know if she thought she was mentoring. she was just being a friend. when she was in need, i tried to be there. what does one do when an experienced deliverance ministering comes to you for deliverance? needless to say, it was not i but Christ in me.

after she had entered the hospital for the last time, i visited her and administered holy communion to her. then i asked if she was sure this was what she really wanted. (she had refused a procedure the doctors felt necessary.) i was prepared to go to the mat with her; to do battle in the spiritual realm. but she had done her battles, having won and lost many. she just wanted to be with her Lord now; be with the one she had given her life to. she was a unique and special lady. of course, we are all special to the Lord.

now i am left with doing battle no longer for her, but the fruit of her body she left behind. they have become my daily prayer. some know the Lord and His truth while others do not. some are confusing the love of God with the love of the world. we all know, "there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." prov 14:12

and so i pray. words and arguments cannot convince another, though we never cease from trying. it takes a work of the Holy Spirit. "flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." matt 16:17 i too have relatives and loved ones i desperately want to meet my Lord. age is quickly descending on them and time for refreshing is running out. they need to realize our righteousness is as filthy rags and they need Jesus. God knows those that are His. i can only pray and live the best witness i can.

so, i guess i really am in ministry. and if i am, that means we all are. not just to blood relatives and friends, but to every lost soul out there. our ministry may not be to a great multitude like a notable preacher or evangelist. our ministry may just be to that one; that one visitor to your church or that stranger you offer an encouraging word or a thoughtful gift to.

at one time i had printed up thee small folded notes. on the outside it simply said, "a gift for you." on the inside it told of Jesus and all He can bring if one lets Him. when my mentor and i were eating out we would leave our tip inside that note. fruitful or not, the word of life had been transmitted.

i have another friend who joys in giving out things to people; food, clothing, whatever. she also is living her witness to Christ. all our ministries are different, just as we are all different, but we all serve the same Lord. we all have the same hope set in

our lives. we all are doing what we can, by the grace our Lord supplies. "not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God." 2 cor 3:5

so yes, i confess this now as a ministry and by His marvelous grace, i will be faithful in it, so that i may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which i received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." acts 20:24 and to you all the Lord and i both exhort you: "take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." col 4:17