

International House of Prayer of Greater Fort Wayne

...a day and night , city-wide, multi-church prayer and worship ministry

Moments of Splendor

Ben and I had the privilege of spending a week at the beach near one of the largest coral reefs in Mexico. We would invest at least part of each day snorkeling and exploring the reef. One day, buoyed on top of the water, taking in the landscape below, I experienced something wonderful. The marbling caused by the sun rays dancing on the ocean floor was mesmerizing and I suddenly became acutely aware of the rhythm of my own breathing and the crackling of the water sounds around me. The 'silence' of the arena where I found myself presented an opportunity to tune out the chaos of the world for a moment as well as to shut off the internal traffic that my mind often moves in. As my eyes adjusted to the colors of the water I began to be able to pick out the brilliant creatures of this underwater treasure trove. There were fish of all kinds. Some with stunning colors like cobalt blue and neon green that seemed to twinkle like lights under water. Some were almost completely translucent. Some were long and skinny with pointy noses and others were almost square. There were fish that were as round as a serving platter and tiny ones that jutted in and out of the ocean fauna. There were beautiful stingrays gliding underneath me of varying size and color. Sea turtles lumbering along eating the sea grass, seemingly unaware of my presence. Sea urchins as big as a volleyball hid in the crevices of the coral. The coral was another story all together. All shapes, sizes, and colors. Some moved like a dancer with the waves of the water, some like fans, and still others stoic on the ocean floor looking like a brain that was the size of a VW bug. Altogether these beautiful creations comprised a stunning underwater forest full to the brim with life. As I lay there drinking in the beauty, I found myself full of gratitude and started having a chat with Father God. As I thanked Him for His creativity and for the incredible delight of experiencing my current adventure I became aware of His presence with me in a beautifully tender and loving way. I was overcome with a fresh love for His creativity and desire to design such wonderful things. All of nature is declaring His glory. All of nature is alluring the sons of man to see and know the beauty of God. All of nature is representing His very nature with such diversity, such intricacy, such complexity and simplicity, such artistry. I was overcome with emotion. A couple of hours went by quickly and it was time to head in. As Ben and I emerged from the water we were quickly downloading to one another descriptions of our 'finds'. Moments of sheer splendor and utter delight witnessing so many creations from our Father's mind that were new to us, and for me, a conversation with my Dad that left my heart, mind, and body full of indescribable peace and satisfaction.

Our world has been under siege by the pandemic, politics, unrest, systemic racism, natural disaster, unnatural disaster and more. It has, at times, been overwhelming. These moments of splendor reminded me that taking time to engage in what our Father has given us in nature is important. He put it there for a reason. Could it be to remind us that He enjoys, values, and delights in beauty. Could it be that He truly wants to catch our eye and remind us that His creative mercies are new every single morning! Could it be that He has set reminders all around us trumpeting the fact that He loves us and will never leave us or forsake us, even when we feel overwhelmed by the contradictions of life? He is a good, good Father. Tender and loving and always present and at work in our reality. He cares more about the circumstances of our lives and this world than we do. He invites us to participate in this journey called life with Him in divine union. Even in the midst of chaos and hardship going on around us, even in the midst of persecution and confusion, we are invited to recognize and acknowledge the wonder of Him, wonder that shines all around us. Take a moment today to stop and listen to His voice through nature, to let your day be 'interrupted' by a moment of splendor. Father is always talking and He often does it through nature. See, dear one, the old adage of stopping to smell the roses is actually one that is full of wisdom. The roses are a gift from your Father.

5907 W. Wallen Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46818
Phone: 260-403-4948 Email: ben@bouwersfam.com

And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips

The Jesus Prayer, as recorded by Mark (10:47) is a simple prayer to God based not in what He can do, but a simple appeal to Mercy—*“Jesus Son of David have mercy on me”*.

Blind Bartimaeus, whose circumstance had reduced him to life as a beggar - an outsider in both Jewish and Roman life - his only place was to sit outside of the city and beg. His condition of blindness had relegated his world to just survival. No doubt stumbling on paths and roads - literally stepping into all forms of filth and dung on the road. His very presence was un-welcomed in public and private gatherings. If he ever made it to Jerusalem his inability to become clean left him unable to ever enter the temple.

What is fascinating in Mark’s account is how he repeats this man’s description - *Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus*. The first name was the slang word that was given to him - like we might hear given to someone living on the street today -a homeless bum! Bartimaeus meant son of Teme (Hebrew for filth). He was a son of the unclean, a son of filth. But Mark adds the son of Timaeus in Mark 10:46, why? Why say it twice? Mark reveals the heartbeat of the Gospel in these 5 words -Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus. Bartimaeus is what they *called him*, but his real name was the son of Timaeus. Timaeus in Greek means **highly prized!**

The son of Timaeus cries out not for what Jesus can do but towards who He actually is - Mercy - and it changes everything. Jesus knew how life had defined him but still saw who he actually was! Beloved, the Good News of the Gospel is that God knows how life has attempted to define us and yet, He still sees us!

Beloved, Jesus is still passing by and He sees you and He hears every cry for Mercy and the Mercy of Jesus is enough - its enough to change the story of your life. Jesus, Son of David have mercy on me.

More on ‘The Jesus Prayer’ to come!

Awakening the Song of the Heart—Musings of a Jesus Lover by: Denise Bouwers

My purpose in writing this Journal is to invite you to connect to your story with Jesus—to your own unique song! As you read and ponder the quotes, musings, and Scriptures presented in these pages take the time to consider the following questions:

- What is Holy Spirit revealing to me?
- What is Jesus’ invitation to me?
- What is Father asking me to do or say?

You can order your own copy online at www.thebookpatch.com click the bookstore and search for Denise Bouwers.



New Location—1414 Archer Avenue
Join Us As we Pray for our City, Nation, World

- Thursday 6—7 am—phone call meeting. Contact Ben @ 260-403-4948 to join.
- Friday—7pm
- In person and on Zoom—833 669 278

Don’t Miss Out! Join us!

With gratitude and integrity we steward your gifts. Thank you for partnering with the mission the Lord has given us in this hour as we partner with Him for His kingdom to be established.

Please make your **tax deductible** contribution to:

IHOP Fort Wayne
5907 West Wallen Road,
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Ben and Denise, Please agree with us over these prayer needs for the next month...

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