The future belongs to the Intercessor

I am sure you are all concerned about the condition of our world and particularly Australia.

With the same sex marriage debate going on as well as so many other evil things happening, we intercessors have a very important role to play. Praying about this the Lord took me to this passage in Ezekiel 22:30

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and would stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, THAT I SHOULD NOT DESTROY IT; BUT I FOUND NO ONE.

When I read the whole of chapter 22 ‘Sins of Jerusalem’, I realized that they were much the same as the ones we see in the world today, but I was very encouraged by the comment on this verse by Lisa Otis in the ‘Women of Destiny Bible’, so I have written it here to challenge and encourage you also.

“This familiar passage presents us with undeniable proof that the great works of God – AND EVEN HIS JUDGEMENTS – ARE INFLUENCED BY THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE. It is a vivid reminder that unless His people press in to know His thoughts, they risk praying amiss. These two principles, fully embraced, will revolutionize any prayer life.

Why have we been given such authority to influence the destiny of peoples and lands?

When God first created Adam and Eve, he charged them with the responsibility of governing the earth. Even when they sinned and opened the door to demonic activity and authority (creating a gap between man and his maker), God remained faithful to His original plan. TODAY AN OMNIPOTENTY GOD WAITS FOR US TO CALL DOWN HIS MERCY AND POWER UPON THE EARTH. COULD IT BE THAT HE PLACES LIMITATIONS ON HIMSELF THAT WE MIGHT YET BE TRAINED TO RULE AND REIGN IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM??

Grave and sorrowful consequences result from our failure to grasp God’s need of us at crucial moments in history. In this situation (Ezekiel 22) God’s justice called for the destruction of a people given over to injustice, oppression, corruption and idolatry. STILL GOD DECIDED TO SHOW MERCY. He searched for a solitary intercessor willing to seek out the deep longings of His heart. AND HE SEARCHES STILL - not for eloquent intercessors, but for attentive ones.

GOD GIVES THE ANSWER TO PRAYER – BUT HE ALSO GIVES THE PRAYER ITSELF.

Our natural eyes see lands and people deserving of judgement. But this human response to a world often lacks divine perspective. Our limited perspective yields presumptuous prayers, we pray that which is obvious to us, missing the nuances of the situation or the deep feelings of God. Though we may secretly congratulate ourselves for devoting large quantities of time to these prayers, they bear little fruit.

THANKFULLY, GOD PROMISES TO REVEAL THAT WHICH IS BEYOND HUMAN REASONING – HIS VERY HEART. It is this revelation that lifts our intercession above the vain repetitious praying that characterizes so many of the world’s religions. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE SERVE A GOD WHO LONGS TO BE KNOWN AND HEARD.

As we sharpen our listening skills, we must not neglect OBEDIENCE. To know HIS HEART and not to be moved to ACTION belies indifference. We must HEAR but we must also HEARKEN.

IT IS A MATTER OF HARNESING OUR GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY TO HIS SUPERCHARGED PASSION FOR PEOPLE. THESE ARE THE PRAYERS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD. (See Jer.1:9-10)

According to Andrew Murray in ‘With Christ in the school of prayer’, the father’s heart is revealed “to the man who withdraws himself from all that is of the world and waits for God alone”. We live fast-paced lives overflowing with daily demands. Too often prayer becomes a ‘task we must tend to’ – yet another job to do. Today as you pray, settle YOURSELF AND LOOK HEAVENWARD TO A GOD WHO SEARCHES THE EARTH FOR THOSE COURAGEOUS AND SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO STAND IN THE GAP.

Lisa Otis.