

# The Calling

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## A New Beginning...

- Independent Missionary,  
Motivational Speaker,  
Training Consultant,  
Author, Marilyn R. Beverley



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There are many kinds of "new beginnings" in life. A new job, new school, new marriage, newborn baby and "new year". This month we celebrated the beginning of a "new year". The year of 2008—a year of "new beginnings". I must admit that if it were not for new beginnings I would have given up long ago. In order to begin again we have to take a look at our lives and truly see how far we have come. Too many times we settle for status quo. As children of God we need to move forward, leave the past behind and press on for the prize set before us. "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14. Too much of my life has been spent looking backwards and not moving forward. This year I did not make a "new years" resolution. This year instead of making a resolution I have decided to act, dream, plan, and believe. Through meditating in the Word of God and being obedient to His word and empowerment of the

Holy Spirit, God has led me to recommitment my heart and my life to Him and His work in this world. Thus, making a new commitment in the new year. With that new commitment comes a dream. I believe that God plants a dream, a passion within and hearts and as we are obedient to His call on our lives, He reveals that dream to us as we step out in faith, one step at a time. The dream comes with the step we take. The dream that God has planted within my heart is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world. To follow the commandment in Matthew 28:19-20. We know it as the "Great Commission". "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." In our fast paced world I believe the church has lost site of this commandment from

God our Father. We live in a world of "drive-thrus". We can drive thru the bank with 24/7 ATM machines, drive thru McDonalds with food available 24/7, drive thru the drug store to get our prescriptions, hospitals have emergency rooms available 24/7, there are even drive-in churches. All too often parents drop off the children at church and rely upon the church to "teach my child faith" and as parents we fail to demonstrate that faith 24/7 in our lives and in our homes.

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***"ACT, DREAM, PLAN and BELIEVE and YOU WILL ACHIEVE!"***

***~Marilyn R. Beverley***

God is present in our lives in our world 24/7. He never closes. In Deuteronomy chapters 4, 6 and 8, we as parents are commanded to pass our faith down to our children, and they will pass our faith to the next generation. So that our faith is passed down for generations to come. In our busy world we the body of Christ are failing to truly develop that intimate relationship with God. We go to church on Sunday and sit in the pew and in our hearts say, "Pastor, fill me up for another week". Then, we leave the church filled up for the week and begin the rat race set before us. Monday morning comes and we get up late, have to get the children to school, no time to meditate in the word, little time to pray, so we shoot up the one line prayer, "God be with me today, I will meet you later." We race through the day most times with little thought of God, not realizing the divine appointments in our days, rush home to prepare supper, homework, baths, bed and lay our head on the pillow try to pray and fall asleep. Awake on Tuesday and repeat the same process. I believe God is saying to us in this year, 2008, the year of New Beginnings, Stop! Act, dream, plan and believe! I believe He is giving us a chance to get it right this time. In Matthew 6:33 the living word of God says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Do we really believe this truth? If we do, then why is it that we get it backwards in this great country of America and seek these things and give God Almighty what is leftover? God is asking us to search our hearts, to begin again this year and to put Him first. Not to depend upon the Pastor to develop our relationship with God but to make the time in our lives to truly put God first. Praise God for this year of new beginnings.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. So **act**, set aside that time alone with God. **Dream**, pursue the dream the passion that He has planted within your heart. He has a purpose and a plan for your life that no one else can accomplish, it is yours alone designed by God. **Plan**, meditate in His word. Pray, you know communicate with God so that He can speak to your heart and direct your steps to accomplish that purpose and plan. Empowered by the Holy Spirit believing that all things are possible to Him who believes. We must embrace change in order to have the success we desire in our lives. Change is life. If you live your life the same way in 2008 as you did in 2007 you will have the same results. Don't you believe that it is time for change? Be willing to try a new way in this year of new beginnings. If you do things the same way as you always have you will get the same results you have always gotten and you will not achieve the goal, dreams and plans that you desire to achieve for the glory of God.

The Living Word of God says, "Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22 Wow, you mean I am suppose to love my neighbor as myself? You know the one that never cleans his yard, never says hello? You mean I am suppose to give God thanks in all circumstances? Yep, you got it right! All too often we hear the Word but we do not obey the Word. This year as you begin again, choose to obey His Word through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This means that JOY is appropriate at all times in our lives. You say, "woe, wait a minute, you mean I am to have "joy" when I loose my

job?" YES, we are to have joy at all times. We have Jesus Christ! He is our hope and our salvation. If we have nothing else we have all that we need in Him. We are to pray persistently and regularly. God listens 24/7 and all of heaven is silent when we lift our voice to Him in prayer. And get this one, thanklessness is a trait of unbelievers or those who are in darkness. This year as you have a new beginning believe the living Word of God when God says in Romans 8:28 "And we know that ALL things work together for good to those who love god, to those who are called according to His purpose." We know that God causes all things to be. In His Providence, God orchestrates every event in life—to accomplish both our temporal and eternal benefit. We cannot understand His hand, because His ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts yet we can ALWAYS trust His heart. So, if we can always trust His heart and He always works things for our good, then we can give thanks to Him in all things because this is HIS will concerning our lives. In our giving thanks HE will be glorified and that glory will shine to the world. The world will see HIS good works in our lives. We will be the light of the world that Jesus Christ instructed us to be. Trust Him this year. Obey Him this year. You will be amazed at what He will do in your life and through your life. Make the time to develop that intimate relationship with Him. A new beginning, how refreshing to know He waits for us with His arms open wide...don't be like the brother of the prodigal son, living in the house of the Father but lacking a relationship with the Father. Don't be so busy doing the good that you neglect the best...knowing Him. **Believe!** This year **act, dream, plan and believe and you will achieve !**

*New Beginnings continued...*

As I began this article I stated this year is the year of new beginnings. As I ponder I know that the greatest new beginning is with the dawning of each new day...knowing that, "GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS". With each new dawn He gives us a new beginning. Hallelujah! Praise to God Almighty!

Lamentations 3:22,23

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are NEW every morning; GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS."

**ACT, DREAM, PLAN and BELIEVE AND YOU WILL ACHIEVE!**

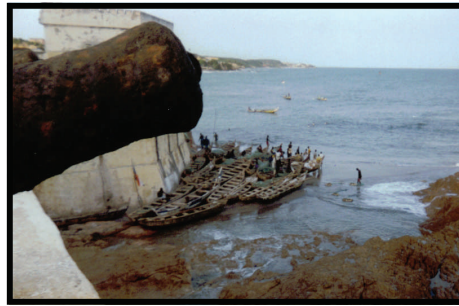
## Will You Be An Armor Bearer?...

"Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:37,38

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you." John 15:13-15

An armor bearer is one who lifts up and bears up the leader until the job is completed or finished. The word armor bearer appears 18 times in the New King James Version of the Bible.

Today, there a few armor bearers and much of the work of God goes



Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa...

Jesus said, "Come follow me, and I will make you a fisher of men. They immediately left their nets and followed Him."

Matthew 4:18

unfinished because many preachers, missionaries, warriors for God are weary from battle and there is no armor bearer. Many a warrior has come running home to rest because they are weary from battle. "And when they had called the roll, surprisingly, Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there." 1 Samuel 14:17 The Pastors in our churches today and missionaries on the field are in need of armor bearers. As an armor bearer we serve our leader/pastor. We keep our eyes upon him and the enemy not the battle. We say to our leader as Jonathon's armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart." 1 Samuel 14:7 Our job as an armor bearer is not to question our leader, it is simply to serve our leader. To keep our leader alive. To follow our leader as he follows God. In the kingdom of God being a leader is indeed being a servant. Jesus Christ set the example for us. You can only lead as well as you can follow. If you are not a good follower you



**Wanted:** Armor Bearers for God's leaders. An armor bearer provides strength and support for Spiritual Leaders. There is a shortage today of armor bearers. Armor Bearers are unsung heroes, keepers of the flame. Many ministries, churches and warrior laymen are slowly dying because of a lack of Armor Bearers. To learn more about Armor Bearers add "Where Are The Armor Bearers?" by Bryan Cutshall to your leadership library and use it in your ministry leadership training. You can order the book at: [www.pathwaypress.org](http://www.pathwaypress.org)

will not make a good leader. The route to leadership is followship. It is not about position, it is about obedience. As we serve our pastors and leaders we are servants for the Lord Jesus Christ. God will reward our servitude. The problem in our world today too many want to be the leader without serving. Many seek a title instead of a task. But remember, that God is choosing tomorrow's leaders from today's labor force. As an armor bearer we are behind the scenes protecting the back of our leader from the enemy. Our leader stays on the offense and we stay on the defense behind the scenes. As we are obedient we will hear the words from our Master and Lord, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." Matthew 25:21

Adapted from "Where Are The Armorbearers" by Bryan Cutshall

**All it take is ONE...**

“One song Can spark a moment,  
One flower Can wake the dream,  
One tree Can start a forest, One bird Can  
herald Spring.  
One vote Can Change a nation,  
One sunbeam lights a room.  
One candle wipes our darkness,  
One laugh can conquer gloom.

One step must start eaCh journey,  
One word must start a prayer.  
One hope will raise our spirits,  
One touch Can show you care.  
One voice can speak with wisdom,  
One heart Can know what's true.  
One life can make a difference.  
That differenCe starts with you.”

~ unknown

**Be that one...empowered by the Holy Spirit**

**Prayer List:** . Praise God, my Dad's house is almost finished?. Give thanks for Isabella and Madeline Dunn new born identical twins are cancer free.. Pray for my friend Ruth in Kentucky whose health is not good. Give thanks Mary Alice Kalmbach is cancer free!. Pray for David, Linda, and Nancy in Wisconsin needing healing. Pray for Rita Ronchi a remarkable young woman recovering from a horrible auto crash. Pray for Bonnie in Missouri for God's peace and healing for Jim. Pray for City Community Chapel planting a church in Lincoln Park, Illinois. Pray for Pastor Martin Appah and positive Christian Church in Korle Gonno, Acra, Ghana, West Africa. Pray for Pastor Frank Archer in Virginia and Covenant Baptist Church of Virginia. Cast a vision for your city, pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit over your city, over America. Pray for the war in Iraq—Pray for the people of Iraq who are homeless, pray for the children of Iraq. Pray for the homeless in America. Pray for the lost—Pray that they will respond to God's draw; pray that the lost will seek to know God; pray that the lost will believe the Living Word of God; Pray that Satan will be bound from blinding them to the truth; pray that the lost will respond to the Holy Spirit's convicting of sin; Pray for opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost; pray that the lost will believe in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior; pray the lost will recognize sin as sin and repent and turn from it confessing Jesus as Lord and yield all to follow Him; pray that the Living Word of God will take root in their hearts and they will grow in Christ. Pastor Elvis Baffour and his wife have started a National Prayer Line if you would like to pray morning and night please join us please contact me via email and I will send you the conference call number we pray Every week morning 6-7am and M-F evening 10-11 pm Sat and Sun evening 9-10. Join us. Pray for a weekend for renewal, revival, and restoration at CCC In Lincoln Park, IL Jan 18-20. Pray for Anne in Alabama.

## AN IRISH BLESSING...MY PRAYER FOR YOU

My mother's family came from England, Ireland and Scotland. A dear friend, Anne sent this blessing to me. Anne has lost her soul mate, John, he went home to be with Jesus. Yet, even in her pain and sorrow there is such a reflection of Jesus Christ and His light in her life it is a testimony to me of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. So, I would like to share with you in closing this month this special blessing and ask you to pray for my dear friend, Anne and others who are alone and like her have lost one so dear.

“I pray you not a path devoid of clouds, nor a life on a bed of roses. Not that you might never need regret, nor that you should never feel pain. No, that is not my prayer for you. My

prayer for you is this: That you might be brave in times of trial and when others lay crosses upon your shoulders, when mountains must be climbed and chasms are to be crossed, when hope is scarce to shine through. I pray that every gift that God gave you may grow along with you and let you give joy to all who care for you. That you may always have a friend that is worthy of that name, whom you can trust and whom helps you in your times of sadness. A friend, who will defy the storms of daily life at your side. One more prayer I have for you, that in every hour of joy and pain you will feel God close by. This is my prayer and my hope for you both now and forever. This is my prayer for you and for all who care for you. Amen

~ unknown translated by C. Mitchell

