



Going forward with the presence of the Lord by Frank Naea

You may have considered, as I myself have done, that if we could only find the means to provide ourselves with enough finance, then we'd get over the obstacle we are facing. There may be many practical things that are helpful to us, but none of them must ever take the place of our focus on what is the presence of the Lord.

Joy Dawson reminded us of this at the Hui [YWAM gathering in September 2000 in New Zealand]. Moses' cry was, "Lord, if you don't go, I won't go without you." In other words, "I have no other plan. There is no other means that I will substitute for you going with me. That's primary. That's part of the deal or it's no deal." I think very often we can get caught up with having searched for, or in some cases even found, the means to be able to fulfill the word of the Lord but in the process have missed Him all together.

Sometimes I think we can have a casual approach to seeking God. One of the reasons I feel provoked in my spirit in worship or intercession to have a warring response, it's not because it's a cultural dance or an emotional reaction. It's because what we're warring against is passivity or complacency. You see, we can go to battle, but if we just take our arrows and half-heartedly stroke the ground, then God is not pleased and we are not advancing.

I think Joy has given us an important message. I think it would be an excellent idea for us to spend more time to study what is the presence of the Lord. When the Global Leadership Team met just a few days before the Hui, the Lord spoke to us that what the mission needs is a greater revelation of the character of God. That's what will sustain us in the future. This whole revelation of the presence of God is a new beginning to that process.

So let's look for Him again, afresh. If we are going to make God known, then are there some new aspects of the character of God we need to discover and meditate on?

At the Hui, we talked a lot about crossing over the Jordan. The Israelites carried with them the ark of the covenant, which represented the presence of the Lord. Let's not go forward without that presence of the Lord either. We need to fight for that approving presence of God. We need to pursue it. We need to not take for granted that God will always "be there" while we do our thing.