



POWER *for* LIVING

A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

October - December 2003

Dear Friends,

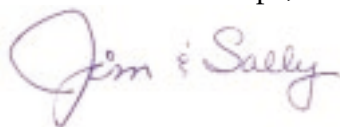
Would the Great "I AM" permit our beautiful setting and home to be consumed by the Fire that had harassed us for over 20 days? Would we loose absolutely everything we had? Was it time to re-evaluate or re-build? Had God deserted us? Would this fiery ordeal strengthen or weaken us? This quarters article, "Trial by Fire" is an account of patience in trial, Divine intervention, and living faith. For colored pictures and a day-by-day account see our web site.

The Open House that was scheduled for July 28th to August 2nd of this year had to be cancelled due to the forest fire that threatened our property for three weeks. We are re-scheduling the Open House for July 26th-31st 2004. Come and see the miracle of the Lord.

Two new booklets are available for sharing. "Revitalize Your Marriage" and "Reconnecting the Family." These 48 page pocket size pamphlets are adaptations from the sections on marriage and the family taken from Jim's book, "Empowered Living." These are a perfect tool for sharing, meeting real needs practically. Consider buying one copy for \$1.00 three for \$2.64 , five for \$4.00, ten for \$7.30 or even 40 for \$26.80 in order to share these much needed, life changing tracts with anyone. To view these booklets please visit our website.

We are excited to now offer "The Making of a Man" on CD. This 6 CD Album can be a great addition to your listening library. The cost of this CD series is \$28.00. We are very interested in your input as we consider offering all our series on CD in the future. Please let us know what best meets the needs of your family, as we strive to better serve you.

In the Blessed Hope,



SPEAKING SCHEDULE

October 10-12, 2003

Collegedale, Tennessee

Call (706) 965-5262 Or

e-mail fcobos@catt.com for details

November 12-16, 2003

Annual Family Camp Meeting

Soquel, California

Call (209) 295-2161 Or e-mail

CaFamilyCamp@vcmail.com for details

December 3-7, 2003

Annual Family Camp Meeting

High Springs, Florida

Call (706) 965-5262 Or

e-mail fcobos@catt.com for details

January 3-10, 2004

Honokaa, Hawaii

Call (406) 755-8300 Or e-mail

office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org

Keep Updated with our latest
appointments online.

www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org

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Call us at (406) 755-8300 to find out
what is happening in your area.



EMPOWERED
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Power to become the sons of God. —John 1:12

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another." John 13:35



Trial by Fire!

“Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee.” —Joshua 1:9—

Friday had been a hot summer day with a fantastically blue sky. But when I stepped out my back door that afternoon, I knew something was dreadfully wrong.

To the north and to the south the sky was the same beautiful blue, but directly overhead smoke obscured the sky, not just over my house, but trailing far off over Glacier National Park. Sally and I stood outside watching as ash, some of it still containing live embers, drifted down on us like snow. I got in the car and drove up Wedge Canyon, and about nine miles from our home I found the fire! It was demonstrating what the professionals call “extreme behavior,” and flames rose hundreds of feet in the air. Already about 50 acres were burning in just the first four hours, and it was expanding rapidly. Clearly this fire was going places,

and like a loaded gun, it was aimed directly at our home.

Over the next two days the fire doubled in size and doubled again, marching directly toward us. At this rate, it would reach us by Monday evening. Already one could face the fire from our back steps and feel the unmistakable hint of heat from the flames. Our property was prepared as best as possible, but we knew that against this monster only Divine power could spare our wilderness retreat. The sheriff and other officials tried to get us to evacuate. However, in keeping with our rights under the law, we signed a waiver and stayed. It was not that we would sacrifice our lives for our home; it was that the Lord had not made it clear that we should leave. A sign was placed at the end of our driveway in keeping with the regulations. It said in large letters, “STILL HERE.”

The uniqueness of the sign brought the local TV station in to talk with us. They liked our story, and filmed why we were here when almost everyone else was gone. We gave glory to God for the peace and lack of fear that we had experienced through this so far. We truly were not concerned over the loss of our property or our home. Though it was not our desire to see them burned, we knew that if it occurred our Heavenly Father had

allowed this for our own good and benefit. We realized that our battle was staying content within the Lord’s watch care and remaining at peace amid the storm of troubles surrounding us.

God answered our prayers, and the fire stalled just west of us and then turned northeast. Rumors, however, flew thick and fast. “You’ve got to evacuate! The fire is going to cross the North Fork Road at Whale Creek just to the south of you and the fire is also pushing across the road to the north. If you don’t leave right now, you’ll be trapped with no way out!”

These rumors turned out to be half-truths, and we suspected as much from the beginning. You see, I had been standing on a ridge watching the fire, and knew where it was and what it was doing. God was so good to have arranged circumstances so we would not be led astray by these false reports. This is why each of us must have our own connection to God — never relying on any other person to tell us what is truth and what is error. We must learn to lean and put our full trust in God and His Word. Our response was that we were not going to panic over another person’s panic; instead we checked out these rumors by firsthand investigation. We understood the danger of our situation, but were not going to make it worse by ill-considered actions.

Six days after the fire was reported, it crossed the North Fork Road just 4/10ths of a mile north of us. The wind-driven fire swept in with 200-foot high flames, and tree after tree would singe slightly, begin to smoke, and then with a roar and a pop explode into a pillar of flame, only to repeat the process moments later on a nearby tree. It was an awe-inspiring sight as it easily jumped the river and began burning its way into Glacier National Park.

At last, leaving nature's destructive display, we went to bed about 10:30 pm. Not surprisingly, after what we had just witnessed, we couldn't sleep. The fire had us cornered with one flank just 300 yards to our west, and the other less than a half-mile to our north, and humanly there seemed no escape. Rising, we found the wind had shifted, and a red fireball threatened us from the north. We drove the trailer filled with our irreplaceable items to a friend's house and went back to see if our place had survived, only to find that once again our prayers had been answered. The winds had died down and we were safe—for the moment that is.

Four days later, ironically, the very day we had planned to start the open house, the fire swept in from the southwest in a 100 foot wall that washed over our driveway, creating an arch of flame through which we evacuated as fire fighters prepared for the final defense of our home. They told us later that not a hose had to be raised to defend our house. As the division commander said, "I've been in this business 30 years, and this is almost enough to convert me. This was definitely Divine intervention. Your God works for you in mysterious ways, Jim Hohnberger."

The fire had now burned a horseshoe shaped area around us, but the main body still lurked to the west and would continue several times to launch smaller

scale attacks on us and the fire fighters who worked to defend us. By this time the "Still Here" sign had become an icon, almost a battle cry for those defending our place. Everyone sensed that there was something special—something supernatural happening at our home. Amid the blackened ruins about us, we remained a green oasis—a brilliant, unmistakable indication of God's special protection.

By God's grace, the only time I had wavered in my inner peace was when we had to evacuate for three hours after the 100 foot wall of flame came in. What bothered me then was not the loss of the home, but simply not knowing if we had indeed lost it.

Now, when the danger seemed to be lessening, we got a new fire crew. One windy afternoon the fire again made a run at us, and to my astonishment, the fire fighters just stood there. I couldn't believe it. I pleaded, demanded, and entreated for them to help me move the heavy fire hoses to the new threat, but it seemed impossible to get more than a handful to help, and that grudgingly.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Sally and our friend Janell knelt in front of everyone and prayed that God would help. God loves the prayer of faith, and rewards the prayer that grasps heaven's promises. Jesus delights to answer such an entreaty. The wind shifted, a fire truck rolled in to help, but still the new crew mostly just watched me struggle. Oh, I can't tell you how upsetting this was. We eventually got the hose where it was needed, and put the fire out; but because of the fire crew's negligence, I had become extremely frustrated and was tempted to let go of my trust in God.

Mike, the Division Commander, heard about what happened, and was very upset and apologetic. He sent in his whole division the next day: that's 200

men and 23 fire trucks and water tenders with orders to spend the whole day soaking everything around our property under his personal supervision. The situation had been a terrible trial. Yet, God used it to bring even more help to our little property than some entire fires receive.

God had the situation in His hand. He knew what He was doing. The question is: can He trust me to cooperate and remain in Him when things don't look like He is in control? We were sustained and had peace with whatever outcome God would choose during nearly a month of uncertainty, and this is the issue in our personal lives, my friends. Have you tasted of such peace amid the fires and storms of your life? You can! Whether you are threatened by a marriage problem, an employment situation, poor health, or financial matters, God has a solution, no matter how hopeless it seems. To human eyesight, our property was hopelessly lost to the fire. Yet God spared not only our home, but also our views of beautiful green trees and majestic mountains.

He is willing to save you in or from the fires of life as well. The outcome of life's crises are not always positive, but God will sustain you no matter what you are called to bear. He calls to you and me today, "Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name: thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flames kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD, thy GOD." Isaiah 43:1-3 KJV

The full story of Hohnbergers' fire experience can be found in Jim's new book, "*Come to the Quiet*" available early next year.

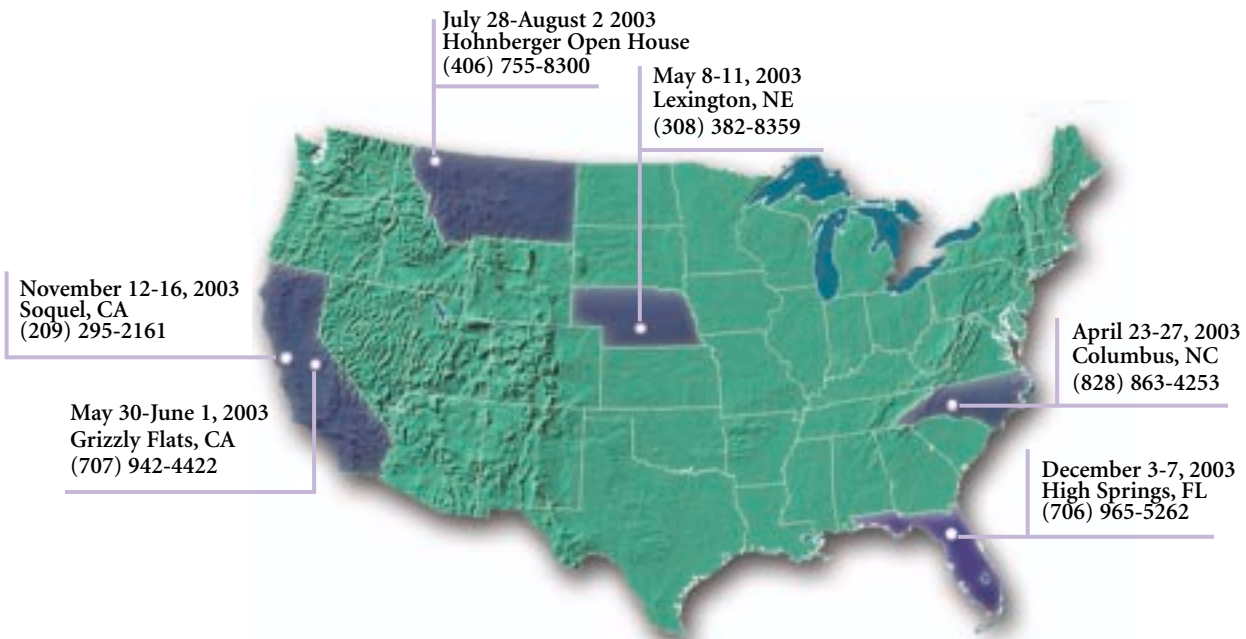


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“Power for Living” is available free of charge, and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know are not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us.

For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at:

Empowered Living Ministries: 157 Turtle Mountain Rd. Kalispell MT 59901.

Office: (406)755-8300 Fax: (406)755-8301 Order Toll Free:1-877-755-8300 www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org