

## **Prophetic Words for May 25, 2008**

Yes, we do shine, but we have to consciously make the decision to do that. I was driving home the other night at about twilight. I was along the river and the light, the sun was going down, and it was shining on the parkway. And sections of the bridge that goes across the river there were in the light, and there were sections in the shadows. And I thought, boy, that's so beautiful. I remembered when I was in college and was taking photography. I was always looking for those kinds of moments to take pictures of, and I thought, you know, the light's always there. It's always there. Yes, there are shadows, but God's always there in the light, and yes, there are times in our lives where we need to be in the shadows. Sometimes they protect us, keep us cool. Sometimes we're just not strong enough to be in the heat of the light. But I think part of Him making us with free will is so that it is our decision to step out and shine with His light and to be in the light. We can choose just to stay in the shadows and hide, but the Light's always there. We just have to step out in it and shine.

Father Chris and I were praying at the clinic this morning. Just as we were about to leave I heard a word. It was a word in and of itself. The Lord was saying, "You better have a big backyard. You better have a big backyard." And as we look at this song – Graham Kendrick wrote this song back in the early '80s as part of the March for Jesus. It was one of the first songs that was written specifically for the March for Jesus. But by the late '90s the decision was made to no longer do March for Jesus, so it was up to the church to carry on the ministry that had been "birthed", if you will, through the March for Jesus. Chuck Colson put together Prison Fellowship in the early '80s, and by the late '90s he said no, it's up to the church to do the work of Prison Fellowship. There are many of these parachurch ministries that were begun and are no longer out there. Promise Keepers was started in the '80s. In the '90s it was decided that it was time for the church to pick up the ball and run with it.

This is a prayer. What I want us to do is pray this prayer together first. Then we'll sing the first verse again. But let's say this together:

Restore, Oh Lord, the honor of Your Name,  
In works of sovereign power  
Come shake the earth again,  
That men may see and come with reverent fear  
To the living God whose kingdom  
Shall outlast the years.

Restore, Oh Lord, in all the earth Your fame,  
And in our time revive the church  
That bears Your Name.  
And in your anger Lord, remember mercy,  
Oh living God whose mercy  
Shall outlast the years.

Bend us, Oh Lord, where we are hard and cold,  
In Your refiner's fire  
Come purify the gold.  
Tho' suffering comes and evil crouches near,  
Still our living God is reigning,  
He is reigning here