

LIFE TOGETHER AT BETHEL UMC

Our Mission: Love Christ, Grow Faith, and Share Hope

Isaiah 10:16-19

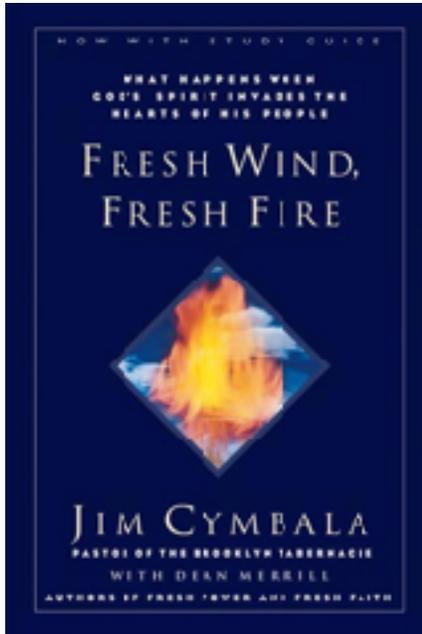
¹⁶ Therefore, the Lord, the Lord Almighty, will send a wasting disease upon his sturdy warriors; under his pomp a fire will be kindled like a blazing flame. ¹⁷ The Light of Israel will become a fire, their Holy One a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briars. ¹⁸ The splendor of his forests and fertile fields it will completely destroy, as when a sick person wastes away. ¹⁹ And the remaining trees of his forests will be so few that a child could write them down.

The View from South Korea

This morning when I awoke, I had one question on my mind in relation to North Korea, “What would the prayers of the South Koreans be in relation to North Korea?” I figured their prayers would give me a window into their hearts and what they really thought. Little did I know that I would find out at the Dawn Prayer Service that was at 5:00 am. Here is a photo from that service.



This morning the pastor spoke from the text, Isaiah 10:16-19, in the panel to the left. The core of his message was that North Koreans had strength and nuclear weapons that the South could not match. The hope of the South Koreans is in the Lord Almighty who can crush and



Soul Food

This is one of the best books that I have ever read about the power of prayer and how prayer is essential to being filled with the Holy Spirit. This book makes me excited about what God will do through people who pray and has inspired me to pray more. Jim Cymbala has a great witness to what prayer can do in a church and has given me hope for the future of our churches and how God might use us to change lives and impact Shannon and the world around us. This is one of the few books I have ever read more than once.

consume the briars and thorns (nuclear weapons) of the wicked enemy. The pastor challenged the people at the service to cry out to God to protect, deliver, and save them from the enemy's hands.

As to reinforce the word from the pastor, God brought to my mind Psalm 18 for my mediation. This scripture is full of promises for us to hang onto in these uncertain times! These promises become the anchors in life to sustain us. Among those promises is "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." God is really the only one who can take care of us.

It is easy for us to forget that truth when we are one of the strongest nations on earth. We can be lulled into a false sense of security by trusting in our own might rather than the might of God. But here in South Korea where they feel vulnerable, they have no one other than God who can really deliver them. God is our only real security also.

My hope is during these times we will turn toward God and call on him to provide the security and peace we so yearn for in this world. This morning it was beautiful to be a part of a faith community of 300-400 people lifting their voices to God crying out for God's protection and favor. Psalm 18: 6 reminds us that when we cry out to God in our distress for help that God will hear us and answer our prayers.

I am so thankful to you (my church) for this opportunity to learn more about prayer from the Korean church and to bring what I learn back home to you. I look forward to all of us moving closer to God in prayer as we call on God, our rock and salvation. May God bless each of you this wonderful day as we draw close to God.