

## WHAT AND WHY?

THIS IS RALLY SUNDAY, THAT “CALL” FOR US TO BEGIN PROGRAMS, STUDIES AND MORE. HOWEVER THE CHALLENGE IS MORE TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US! **TO “RALLY” IS TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REVIVE ONE’S STRENGTH, AND SPIRIT.** TO RALLY IS TO INSPIRE ANEW. WE RALLY TOGETHER FOR A COMMON ACTION.

**WHAT WILL EACH ONE OF US THIS “NEW” SEASON DO?** I CHALLENGE US ALL TO STRETCH BEYOND OUR COMFORT ZONE, TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT AND SERVE THE LORD! DON'T EXPECT SOMEONE ELSE WILL DO IT! GOD HAS GIFTED YOU AND THAT IS WHY YOU ARE IN THIS CHURCH FAMILY CALLED CENTENNIAL.

**THIS IS WHAT I WOULD CALL A “RALLY OF LIFE”.** WE COME TO BE INSPIRED BY THE MUSIC, THE WORD, THE MESSAGE AND BY WITNESS TO GOD WORKING IN OUR LIVES. I WILL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW LAYING ON MY BACK IN THAT HOSPITAL I HAVE NEVER SENSED A FAITH THAT I RALLIED TO. THERE WAS REALLY NO ONE ELSE TO RALLY AROUND!!!

WE RALLY AROUND TEAMS, HIGH SCHOOL, BASEBALL, FOOTBALL OR BASKETBALL. IT WAS JUST YESTERDAY THE STATE RALLIED AROUND ONE TEAM OR THE OTHER. **WHY DO WE RALLY AROUND ONE TEAM OR THE OTHER TEAM?** MAYBE BECAUSE WE WENT TO SCHOOL THERE, ONE OF OUR CHILDREN ATTENDED THE SCHOOL, WE IDENTIFY WITH THE TEAM OR SCHOOL. WE “RALLY” AROUND FAMILY WHEN ILLNESS, TRAGIC EVENTS OR DEATH VISITS US, AS SURELY THEY WILL.

THIS IS RALLY SUNDAY, THE BEGINNING OF THE FALL SEASON OF MINISTRIES, WELCOMING BACK THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ABSENT. HAVE YOU PAUSED TO THINK WHY WE DO ALL THE THINGS WE DO? WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT ARE WE SEEKING AFTER? WHY ARE WE “INVESTING” OUR TIME AND ENERGY IN THESE THINGS WE DO? DO WE STOP AND ASK THE QUESTION – ARE THESE THINGS STRETCHING US IN AREAS WE THINK VALUABLE? MEANINGFUL THINGS? I DON'T MEAN WE ONLY TEACH THESE MEANINGFUL THINGS, **BUT LIVE THEM!!!** IT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL WE HAVE, OURSELVES AS EXAMPLES. NUMEROUS SCHOOLS I KNOW HAVE SAYINGS, MANY PROMOTING EXCELLENCE.

**SHOULD WE, YOUNG OR OLD, GIVE GOD ANYTHING LESS THAN OUR BEST?** IS THIS THE RALLY SUNDAY THAT WE GIVE MORE OF OURSELVES TO GOD AND HIS WORK?

TIME GOES BY QUICKLY IF WE ARE ALWAYS TELLING GOD MAYBE NEXT MONTH, MAYBE NEXT YEAR AND FOR MOST OF US THAT TIME GOES RIGHT ON BY. **BUT WHAT ARE WE RALLYING TO, WHAT ARE WE RALLYING FOR?** I HAVE HAD PEOPLE IN THE PAST SAY TO ME, "HOW DO YOU ALL THAT?" MY ANSWER IS SOMETHING A FRIEND TOLD ME YEARS AGO. ***IF SOMETHING IS IMPORTANT OR A PRIORITY TO YOU, YOU WILL FIND THE TIME FOR IT.*** WHEN WE OBSERVE PEOPLE FOR AWHILE YOU WILL USUALLY SEE WHAT THEY DEEM IMPORTANT IN THEIR LIVES.

**NO ACTIVITY IS BAD UNTIL IT THROWS OUR LIFE OUT OF BALANCE.** WHEN THAT ACTIVITY BECOMES "THEE" RALLY POINT OF OUR LIFE WE ARE LOSING OUR SPIRITUAL EYES. RECALL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS HOW PAUL AND THE OTHERS CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO NOT LOSE THE LOVE OF JESUS AND THEIR COMMUNITY OF FAITH! THIS RALLY SUNDAY CAN BE THAT BEGINNING OF REVIVING , RENEWING AND INSPIRING OUR FAMILY HERE AT CENTENNIAL!!

**IT MEANS COMING ON SUNDAY MORNING EXPECTING TO MEET, YES, I SAID MEET JESUS HERE, IN THE SONGS, THE WORDS AND THE MESSAGE.** IT IS TO MEET HIM IN OTHERS, BUT WE FIRST HAVE TO BE OPEN TO SEEING JESUS IN SOME UNEXPECTED PLACE AND PEOPLE. THIS IS REALLY WHAT A RALLY SUNDAY IS ABOUT – RALLYING TO GOD, BEING RENEWED AND INSPIRED.

**WE ARE HERE TO RALLY FOR A COMMON ACTION, NOT FOR OURSELVES, BUT AS THE MISSION STATEMENT SAYS "TO MAKE CHRIST KNOW IN THE COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE WORLD" WHETHER IT BE A SUNDAY MORNING , WEDNESDAY NIGHT OR ANY OTHER TIME WE HAVE A FUNCTION WE MUST RALLY TO LET THOSE AMONG US, WHETHER VISITOR OR LONG TIME MEMBER , KNOW THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND MORE SO TO GOD!!!**

WHEN WE RALLY AROUND GOD'S WORD IT WILL BETTER EQUIP US TO REACH OUT, AND PRACTICE THOSE THINGS WE READ ABOUT IN THE BIBLE. I ASK YOU ALL TO READ ONE VERSE A DAY, AND IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT IT SEND IT TO ME. I WILL FIND AN ANSWER THEN READ IT OUT LOUD ON SUNDAY MORNING SO WE CAN ALL SHARE AND BE INSPIRED ON SUNDAY MORNING BY THE WAY NO NAMES USED?.

**SO FAR I HAVE MENTIONED THINGS TO RALLY AROUND, BUT WHAT ABOUT WHO TO RALLY AROUND?** I WANT TO SHARE SOMEONE YOU MAY CONSIDER RALLYING AROUND.

MIGHT YOU RALLY AROUND SOMEONE WHO MAKES YOU FEEL THAT YOU THEY WANT YOU AROUND THEM? THAT THEY REALLY APPRECIATE YOU. WE ARE TOLD TO REJOICE TOGETHER, AND TO WEEP TOGETHER. JUST BEING THERE CAN BE THAT INSPIRATION THAT PERSON NEEDS. TELL STORY OF RUSS!!!

**HOW ABOUT BEING AROUND SOMEONE WHO DESPITE YOUR FAULTS CARES FOR YOU AND TRIES TO LIFT YOU UP?** ONE WAY THAT IS DONE IS TO MATTER WHO COMES THROUGH OUR DOOR AND WE SHOW THEM RESPECT. RESPECT MEANING COURTESY, RECOGNITION, VALUE, GIVING CONSIDERATION. AS HUMAN BEING, WE ALL SHOULD GIVE AND RECEIVE RESPECT.

**HOW ABOUT BEING AROUND SOMEONE WHO SHOWS INTEREST IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?** INSPIRE PEOPLE TO BE INSPIRED. MANY OF US HERE CAN REMEMBER A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AN ENCOURAGER AND WE WANTED TO BE AROUND THAT TEACHER, RELATIVE OR WHOEVER. I STILL REMEMBER A TV WEATHERMAN THAT I MET AT MY FATHER'S LODGE AND YEARS LATER THANKED HIM FOR THAT INSPIRATION AND HIM LETTING ME SHADOW HIM. WHEN WE HAVE TROUBLES OR DIFFICULTIES, DON'T YOU WANT SOMEONE AROUND THAT WILL LISTEN?

**WE ALL WANT TO BE AROUND AN ENCOURAGER, DON'T WE?** NOTHING WORST THAN SOMEONE WHO YOU GIVE AN IDEA TO TO GET FEEDBACK AND IT'S ALL NEGATIVE. RIGHT ALONG WITH THAT IS **SMILE** – WHEN SOMEONE IS FROWNING, WHO WANTS TO APPROACH THAT PERSON?

WE DON'T WANT FALSE PRAISE, BUT IT IS GOOD TO BE APPRECIATED AND THANKED NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE DEED WAS. IF THANKED AND KNOW YOU ARE APPRECIATED YOU WANT TO DO MORE FOR THAT PERSON. SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE SUCH PEOPLE WHO YOU NEED TO SAY “THANKS FOR THE JOB YOU DO”.

**PROVERBS TALKS ABOUT CREATING A SPACE WITHIN A PERSON'S HEART FOR YOU. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, THAT PERSON WILL RALLY AROUND YOU BEING ACCEPTED WITHIN THEIR HEART.** WHEN SOMEONE GOES THE EXTRA MILE TO HELP THAT TOUCHES YOUR HEART AND NEXT TIME YOU WILL RALLY TO THEM. IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE FRIENDLY AND REACH OUT TO PEOPLE. NOW IF WE CAN'T DO THAT HERE IN CHURCH, WILL WE EVER TO IT OUT THERE?

**WHAT TRAITS I HAVE MENTIONED REALLY DESCRIBE JESUS AND HIS MINISTRY. AND IF WE ARE DISCIPLES THEN WE MUST GO AND DO. RECOMMIT OURSELVES THIS RALLY SUNDAY TO THOSE BELIEFS OF OUR FAITH AND PUT THEM ON DISPLAY FOR THOSE AROUND US.**

TODAY WE REMEMBER 9/11, FIFTEEN YEARS HAVE PASSED. WHAT I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IN THE MESSAGE WAS ON FULL DISPLAY THAT DAY. WE WERE INSPIRED, OUR NATIONAL STRENGTH AND SPIRIT WAS REVIVED. WE RALLIED FOR A COMMON ACTION. PEOPLE FLOCKED TO CHURCHES, GAVE MONEY FOR VARIOUS CAUSES AND SO MANY UNKNOWN DEEDS. IT WAS THE HUMAN SPIRIT AT ITS FINEST. I AM SURE GOD HAD A WARM SMILE AS HIS CHILDREN SACRIFICED, MANY THEIR VERY LIFE. THE RALLY TO WHAT AND WHY WERE CLEAR THAT DAY AND IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS.

I WANT TO READ POEM ON THIS PATRIOT DAY IN CLOSING...