

WESTERN CANADIAN
DISTRICT OFFICE

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Ministry Spouses Network Newsletter

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Have you ever heard God whisper? Often we make major life decisions based on these whispers, at other times, we don't dare trust the whispers because we can't see how God is working out the details. Bill Hybels' book [The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God. Having the Guts to Respond.](#) encourages us to pay attention to those quiet whispers. We need to use their power to lead us to places of service.

Ruth Stock from Rocky Mountain House Alliance has been thinking about this subject over the last few months. When she was eight, she heard God whisper. She was certain she heard Him ask her to care for people overseas. This whisper led her to become a registered nurse.

When she was about to graduate, she was given the opportunity to complete her practical training in northern Canada. There she met her husband Gordon. He too thought God was asking him to serve overseas. However, as they pursued this plan, their lives moved in a different direction. Ruth

became a nurse, and Gordon began ministry here. Though Ruth never forgot God's whisper, she wondered if the season spent in the north was the way that God chose to answer her childhood longing. She was content to pursue her nursing career, raise her family and serve God in the local church.



*"I told you my plans and you answered,
Now teach me your principles"
~Psalms 119:26*

Just recently, the Stock's reconnected with their friends from the north who they hadn't seen for years. They told Ruth about a medical mission trip they were planning to Haiti and was invited and encouraged to join them. As Ruth contemplated this opportunity, God reminded her of her childhood prayer.

The organization that reconnected Ruth to that prayer is called Haiti Arise. For six clinic days in March, Ruth and the medical team served 842 people. Each Haitian they saw paid thirty five cents to come to the clinic. Some walked six hours to receive medical attention. The needs were great, and the team put in long days. They treated a wide variety of ailments, provided medications and gave pregnant women and new mothers basic care. Lives were changed in those six days. Ruth was touched by what she experienced. she clearly saw God at work restoring hope to the Haitian people. Complete restoration will take years; the task is huge. However, Ruth saw encouraging signs in the area directly around the clinic. Many new water wells supply people with clean, drinkable water. They are clearing away rubble and beginning to repair the schools and buildings that were destroyed.

Christ is building his church in Haiti. Ruth noticed that the life of Jesus, who was born in poverty, is

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completely relevant to the lives of those who live in developing nations. She witnessed many thankful Haitians with grateful hearts. One of the team was so moved by the authentic witness of the leader of Haiti Arise and the faith of the Haitians who have trusted Jesus for salvation, that she became a follower of Christ.

Marc is the founder of Haiti Arise. His story has an Alberta connection! Like many children in Haiti, Marc was separated from his parents and siblings at a young age and became a child slave. Ironically, his master took him to church where at a young age he accepted the Lord as his Saviour. At twelve, his older brother found him and removed him from his master and placed him in an orphanage. The orphans in this home were sponsored by Christian families. Marc's financial support came from a family who lived Airdrie, Alberta.

Through this support, he received a safe bed to sleep in each night, food to sustain his growth and health, an education and

most importantly, Christian nurture. After graduating from High School, Marc was given the opportunity by his sponsors to attend Bible School in Calgary. Upon graduating the overwhelming needs of Haiti called him home. Seven years ago, he founded Haiti Arise. He is building a church, a technical school and other permanent facilities to help improve the future of this village.

In 2003, that church began to grow. Forty five people came to faith that year. Now, 500 people worship God each Sunday in this place. Marc believes that 2003 marked a new beginning in the nation of Haiti. The history of this country is full of systemic evil that affected all aspects of society over many generations. This evil consistently pushed the country deeper and deeper into poverty and corruption. In spite of the adversity of last year's earthquake, progress is being made. Though the journey is just beginning, the country is starting to rebuild its structures and institutions.

Both Marc and Ruth's stories serve as powerful reminders to all of us: God fulfills the plans He places in our hearts. Sometimes there is a long period of waiting between that initial whisper and the answer. He uses Christians across the world to bring hope and salvation to those who don't know Him. God wants us to listen to His whispers. Ruth reminds us that Isaiah 41:9-10 says: "I have called

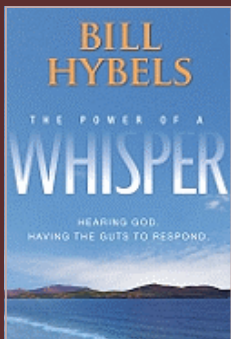
you back from the ends of the earth so you can serve me. For I have chosen you and will not throw you away. Don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." NLT

What if the family from Canada hadn't listened to the prompting of God? What if Ruth's friend hadn't persuaded her colleague to join this group of Christians on a medical mission trip? What if Ruth had given up on God because it appeared that He hadn't spoken to her at all?

Do you remember a time when you thought you heard "God" whisper? Don't dismiss it. Ask Him about it again. Talk this over with someone. Be bold and expect Him to answer. Maybe everything you've been doing up until now has been the place where He is teaching you His "principles." Why don't you ask Him to whisper to you once more? Maybe He is whispering to your children, or your grandchildren. Cultivate a home where everyone can "tell God their plans."

Thank you, Ruth for sharing your story with us. Let's expect God to whisper to us! Happy Easter to all of you!

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*Retreat Reminder:
Saturday April 30th in
Airdrie. See attached
invitation! (Great news, we
have Janel Heth with us for
the day as well as an
esthetics professional and
Barbara Howe, the author
of "Forgotten Voices" As
always there will be great
food and lots of
opportunities to visit.
Please mark your
calendars!*