

E arly this year I found myself unsettled in direction and outlook for Crossfire, the church we birthed in 2002. Until this year we had pretty clear prophetic direction and pastoral insight for the local church. But 2022 began in silence and a stirring in my spirit for direction and discernment of 'what now?' The Holy Spirit

reminded me that 'to everything there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven' Eccl. 3:1 AMPL.

To give a little background I will back up in time. The Holy Spirit revealed to me as we entered 2020 that we were in the **Davidic season of the 'lion and the bear'.** That was David's season of specific equipping,



our training and equipping must function and will bear the fruit of victory over powers of evil and the principalities of the air.

As Deborah and I returned from an extended ministry trip to Uganda and Tanzania in May, we began a discernment

process that took us into July. We revisited prophetic dreams and words that spoke to this unsettled stirring I was experiencing. These words spoke directly about the local church. The short story is that we were led to release Crossfire Church as a ministry in August, and we moved out of our leased space in September. We then began a shift into a broader apostolic

testing and maturing for ruling and reigning. David killed the lion and bear as a shepherd, but a more formidable foe lay before him in the form of Goliath of Gath, a giant by human and military standards. **David was shifting from a lone shepherd over sheep to a warrior over warriors.** That has corresponded for us to **the season of COVID governments**; a testing ground of church response to assaults on God's people, kingdom structure, and whom we shall obey. As we wind down in 2022 we have seen a dramatic shift over three years in global governing, rising tensions, dominant political ideology, and national power structures. We are now entering a new season in which

emphasis, a reset. While international ministry and some domestic traveling ministry has always a part of our call, we are now making it the primary emphasis of ministry. In November we began a strategic on-line ministry to fivefold ministers (prophets, apostles, pastors, teachers, and evangelists), other ministry leaders and intercessors. We have also been ministering to an on-line Vietnamese Spiritual Warfare conference monthly. We continue with an on-line class, *'What in the World is Happening'*, and with our strategic intercession. So what does this current season seem to entail for the church in general, and for the remnant-minded ones who serve as the point of the spear in the nations? I do believe we are approaching 'Goliath', a symbol of evil opposition to advancing the Kingdom of God. It is important to note David's perspective as he and Saul considered Goliath; David said, "*The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.*" And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" (1 Samuel 17:32-37 NIV)

David's perspective in killing the lion and bear was to save himself and the sheep. It was forged through confrontation with the lion and bear. *Then David said to the Philistine, "You are coming to me with a sword, a spear and a javelin, but I am coming to you in the Name of ADONAI-Tzva'ot, God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied (1 Samuel 17:45 TLV).* He invoked the name of the God of Israel. And he declared it was the enemy's defiance of God's army, i.e. God's people, which required a response. Defying God's people was also defying God.

We are in a time when we must see and act beyond ourselves. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God, a place of patriotic service to the King who reigns over the Kingdom. We must understand our role is greater than our personal well-being, personal families and personal wounds. David's coming confrontation with Goliath was for a greater kingdom purpose than his personal survival or the welfare of the sheep. David's final word upon confronting Goliath revealed the greater purpose in the confrontation and resulting victory. Then all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel, and so all this assembly will know that ADONAI delivers not with sword and spear—for the battle belongs to ADONAI—and He will give you into our hands." (1 Samuel 46b, 47 TLV) The whole Earth must know our God! David's perspective was formed by faith, trust and personal sacrifice toward the greater cause.

As the Ecclesia moves forward in this season we must consider our perspectives. Are they too small, too confined, too insular? Are they truly Kingdom minded? Jesus declared to the religious leaders of His day; 'You know how to discern (interpret, understand) the appearance of the sky, but you cannot <u>discern</u> the signs of the times! (Matt. 16:3 TLV) Does our perspective reflect a deeper discerning of the times and seasons personally, nationally and globally?

Since 2020 I have observed some ministry leaders shift focus. *They expand their reach by expanding their preach, so to speak*. They preach, teach, and minister from a more kingdom perspective with the fruit in mind. They cast the seed of the Word and expend their energy where it takes root to bear fruit. Some leaders in business now operate their business and utilize their profit toward a more kingdom perspective. For example, Deborah and I have been teaching, mentoring and equipping eight key ministry leaders in Uganda. We chose them because of the 'good and noble heart' within them that would bear fruit that remains. We know many other leaders in the nations, but those eight have a kingdom perspective that moves beyond the boundaries of the previous season.

This shift, or reset, requires wisdom and discipline to stay focused, not be distracted, and not be deceived. This is NOT a one-time thing. There is a mandate for continual discernment among those who <u>must</u> walk in discernment. The prophet Daniel, as he thanked God for giving him the interpretation of a dream, said; *He changes times and seasons. He removes kings and installs kings. <u>He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.</u> 9Daniel 2: 21 TLV*

As we end 2022 and stand on the cusp of 2023, I pray that you discern **your reset**, that you receive wisdom and knowledge for this season. For such a time as this---'so all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel'.

Crossfire International Alliance is an International Ministry focused on equipping ministry leaders to navigate the last days, discern the times, and advance the Kingdom of God.

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