

## Thought for Wednesday – June 3, 2009

It's always hard to explain to people an experience you've had unless you can actually have that person(s) with you to experience it themselves. Know what I mean? I hope you do. Sunday night I returned from Louisville, Kentucky having attended the General Council meetings of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. I say that I am glad to be home, which I am; I extremely miss my family when I have to be away from them...

On top of that was the unfortunate episode going through security at the Albany airport with my pocket-knife in my briefcase – Word to the wise: “DO NOT DO THAT!” And then there was Sunday afternoon as I arrive at the gate in Louisville to board my Continental flight to Newark only to find out it's been delayed nearly an hour, which meant I would miss my connection and wouldn't be getting back to Albany at all on Sunday. About 30 minutes later they had me on a flight to LaGuardia on USAir and instead of landing around 8:50 p.m., Karen picked me up at 10:20 p.m.

Yes, I was extremely glad to be home – But, the experience of General Council was one that will stay with me for a very long time. God not only showed up at our meetings, but moved in such a way that all I can say is, “*You should have been there!*” I know some people don't like attending these kinds of meetings, but to me, I find them essential to stretching my soul, my mind and giving me a clearer, brighter, more focused vision/understanding of why we do what we do.

Our theme for this Council was *Jesus Only...*

- ◆ Our source of compassion
- ◆ Our source of power
- ◆ Our source of courage
- ◆ Our source of connection
- ◆ Our source of worth
- ◆ Our source of healing
- ◆ Our source of truth
- ◆ Our source of everything
- ◆ Our source of authority

And believe me, the speakers who spoke on such themes did not disappoint – God moved in mighty ways during the mornings and evenings at Council. Not to mention meeting some old friends from over the years who have influenced, helped and impacted my life...

Two years from now we'll meet again in Kansas City, MO and my prayer, my hope is that I'll be able to show some of you around and introduce you to a movement of like-minded people, who are as passionate about lost people being found as we are. So, in 2011, will you go with me? I'd love for you to be there!

Looking forward to my first Bonanza this Saturday – Hope to see you there and catch up...

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ **IS** All!

**Pastor Mark**