



## HOW ARE YOUR EYES?

We read the following about a servant of Elisha:

*And when the servant of the man of God arose early*

*and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

II Kings 6:15-17

How often does the Lord provide deliverance and help for us and, like Elisha's servant, we fail to see it. We need to have our eyes open to the things the Lord does for us. Last week I had an experience that reminded me of this.

Last Tuesday (December 21) we drove up to our son's home in Reno. It was a rather unusual trip. As we headed up 101 north of Paso Robles, it seemed as if no one else was on the highway. At one point I asked Gail if we had driven around a "Road Closed" sign or something. Just past Salinas, we cut over to I5 where I expected the traffic to be heavy, as usual. Again, there were stretches where it seemed as if we were the only vehicle on the road. I have never seen such light traffic - especially during the Christmas Season.

That evening I was musing over why the traffic might have been so unusually light and realized what had happened. The day before as Gail and I prepared to go, we were really tired and I was concerned about the long drive. As I prayed that evening, I prayed for safety on the road, as I usually do. Then, because we were so tired, I added a special request - I asked the Lord to keep us out of heavy traffic the next day.

It was then I realized that the reason the traffic was so light was because God had kept a lot of traffic off the highways where we were as an answer to this prayer.

Some will say, "Oh, that was just a coincidence" or "Oh you just thought the traffic was lighter than usual." Others may think that but I do not. I have experienced too many occurrences like this to dismiss it as a coincidence. What if I had forgotten about that prayer? We would never have seen what the Lord did for us. We would have been like Elisha's servant and failed to see what God had done.

Unfortunately, I do miss many of the things the Lord does for me because of eyes that don't see them. I suspect that you also fail to see many of the things the Lord does for you.

You may ask, "Do you really think the Lord would reduce the traffic just for two people who prayed for it?" You may think that this is too much to expect. If so, remember what Jesus told us: *For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.* Mark 11:23

Most commentators will say that this statement contains "hyperbole" (grossly exaggerated speech meant to stress a point). I don't think the statement is an exaggeration at all. I believe that we can move mountains (figuratively if not literally) if we have the faith to do so.

As we embark upon this new millenium (which technically doesn't start until next year), let us strive to have our eyes opened to the things the Lord does for us. Let us pray for faith that can move mountains and, especially, that we will have eyes to see the answers to these prayers.

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Note: There is no Bugle today due to lack of news to put in it. One item that you should be aware of is that the Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 23 (fourth Sunday) this year. Please mark this date on your new millennium calenders.

Wayne

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