Salem Family Ministries

January 18, 2008

Dear Friends,

Happy Blessed New Year! As you read this letter, stop and give thanks, because the love of your Heavenly Father is enormous and outrageous and His grace is sufficient for you - in 2008 and forever!

We love you,

Harry & Cheryl and Family

THE RADIANCE OF HIS LIGHT

For my 50th birthday last year, I asked my precious husband, Harry, for some rose bushes. My neighbor has the most beautiful roses, and even though we minister many days a year away from our home, I felt that I would enjoy coming home to beautiful rose bushes to either tend, or smell the beautiful fragrance when they are in bloom! With so much love and care, Harry honored my request and purchased my rose bushes, six all together. He carefully planted them and watered them for me for a while until one day he asked me to come outside as he had something to show me. My rose bushes were beginning to bud and a beautiful rose was about to burst forth!

As the weeks had progressed, I had become weary with the rose bushes, as we have many rabbits where we live, and every time my roses would begin to bloom, the rabbits would come very early in the morning and eat the blooms, trample the bushes, and crumble the leaves. I had become so frustrated with this occurrence, that I had forgotten how to appreciate the value of the rose bushes.

Now almost a year later I am awake early, sitting in my prayer chair, gazing at a beautiful single long stemmed rose, in a simple vase that was picked from my rose bushes just about a week ago. When I first

picked it, I gathered 6 or 7 roses, but this one had such a beautiful and perfect long stem on it, instead of putting this rose with the others, I carefully trimmed it and put it in that long clear cylindered vase, placing it carefully all by itself for everyone to admire.

We have spent some family time over the past few weeks while both Harry III and Roman have been off for Christmas break from school. We have played games and watched our favorite family movies together that we have watched every holiday since the boys were tiny. It has been so much fun just being together and laughing and playing. Because of this, we have spent much time in our family room, which is in the middle of the house, and it is quite dark. I wanted us to enjoy the rose so I put it in the family room, and I have ooh'ed and ahh'ed over it for days now.

Yesterday, I noticed that the bottom leaves on the beautiful, fully budded rose were turning dark as if they were dying. After staring at it and talking to it a little (yes, I talk to my roses! Haha!) I had a thought that maybe this room was just too dark for it and it needed light. So I moved it out into the room where I pray. My piano is also there, as sometimes a big part of my prayer time is 'playing the piano by the spirit.' This is when I just sit down with no particular song in mind, put my fingers on the keys and allow the Lord to pour through me by the Spirit of God, songs of adoration, preparation, supplication, and others as the Spirit of God gives me guidance.

Today, as I was sitting quietly, trying to learn to still my mind, and let the Lord speak to my spirit, I was gazing across the room and noticed the gorgeous rose sitting all alone on my piano. The warmth of the sun was pouring into the window ,across the piano and most importantly, into the rose. I felt the Lord rise up in my soul and say that this rose represents so many of God's children. It may take a long time for us to bud, but finally we do burst forth. Then, at times, we wind up sitting in the dark, instead of basking in the radiant and healing beauty of HIS LIGHT.

With sunshine and water, this rose is still beautiful many days later. Its beauty is overwhelming to me at times as it is a great reminder of how well we can do as children of the Light, when we simply stand in HIS LIGHT, and allow HIM to water us by HIS WORD.

Ephesians 5:8-14 NKJV

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore He says:

"Awake, you who sleep,

Arise from the dead,

And Christ will give you light."

Don't forget who you are this year. You are children *of* the Light and you can also be children *in* the Light! Let Him shine on you and in you in 2008!

We love you,

Cheryl & Harry

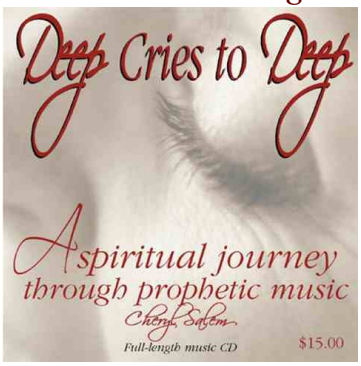
Here's what people are saying about:

"Deep Cries to Deep"

"I purchased your **Deep Cries to Deep** CD, which continues to bring me into God's presence. Thank you! Thank you!

That CD was just another confirmation of how much God loves me even with all my imperfections. So, as you can imagine, I soak up the beautiful songs on **Deep Cries to Deep**. The first song, **Daughter**, has a special place in my heart. I appreciate, as I am sure thousands of others do, all that you and your beautiful family have done to teach us about our Heavenly Father and His precious gift to us, JESUS!"

- A Friend in Michigan



For your gift of $15