

Thursday - March 31

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Revelation 3:22 (NIV)

I can't remember a time that I have not felt that God was with me. Sunday School, youth group, adult Bible studies and mission trips....all brought me into a closer relationship with God. I had read Bible stories and heard personal accounts of how God was with people AND actually spoke to them, but I had never experienced that. Oh yes, I had moving experiences of being so close to Him, that I felt embraced by his Love and Grace, but that wasn't the same as God SPEAKING to me. Until one Sunday evening at church.

In 2001 we were meeting for disciple classes at our Toledo UMC. We were eating while 3 people were giving a presentation. One of the presenters, a pastor from Romania, was explaining about many missions who helped young boys, but none that helped abused and neglected girls. They envisioned a group home of a dozen at risk girls living with a mother and dad who had the support of the local church. It was to be called The Deborah House after the strong, old testament female judge. They were trying to find churches who could send mission teams to help build the home and to help build relationships, showing God's love to these girls.

As the presentation ended, it hit me! It wasn't an actual voice, but I definitely heard God say "Go!" We had gone on local and out of state mission trips with the church and our friend Sally was on every trip. She was sitting across the fellowship hall. Sally and I looked at each other, locked eyes and it was like a confirmation of God telling me to investigate and eventually lead our church on 3 mission trips to Romania!

Tim

Prayer: (from hymn "*Hear I Am Lord*")

Hear I am, Lord it is I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart. Amen.

(In western Romania there are now 2 Deborah houses, ministries to a local juvenile prison and a local orphanage, a back to school program, a program to help graduates transition back into society and a mountain retreat/Christian training center.)