

# RAISE THE MARK

January 2006

## Personal Call to Humility & Praise

*I will praise the LORD at all times.  
I will constantly speak his praises.  
I will boast only in the LORD;  
let all who are discouraged take heart.  
Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness;  
let us exalt his name together.  
I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me,  
freeing me from all my fears.  
Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy;  
no shadow of shame will darken their faces.  
I cried out to the LORD in my suffering, and he heard me.  
He set me free from all my fears.  
For the angel of the LORD guards all who fear him,  
and he rescues them.  
Taste and see that the LORD is good.  
Oh, the joys of those who trust in him!  
Let the LORD's people show him reverence,  
for those who honor him will have all they need.  
Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry,  
but those who trust in the LORD will never lack any  
good thing. —PSALM 34:1-10*

- Praise God for who He is and what He means to you.  
**WHO HE IS.**
- Praise God for His grace and provision.  
**WHAT HE HAS DONE.**
- Praise God for His faithfulness and Forgiveness.  
**WHAT HE WILL DO.**

## Self Examination for the Race

*Remind everyone of these things, and command them in God's name to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them. Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. Avoid godless, foolish discussions that lead to more and more ungodliness. This kind of talk spreads like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are examples of this. They have left the path of truth, preaching the lie that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; and they have undermined the faith of some.*

*But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and "Those who claim they belong to the Lord must turn away from all wickedness."*

*In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.*

*Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.*

*Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. —2 TIMOTHY 2: 14-26*

- Pray for diligence and consistency in your walk.
- Pray for personal holiness and a genuine hatred of sin.
- Pray that your life would be a vessel of honor.
- Pray for the specific areas you need to flee.
- Pray to produce the qualities of a bond servant.

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## Personal Needs & Growth Opportunities

*The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.*

*God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you. Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ. All glory and power belong to him forever and ever. Amen. —1 PETER 4: 7-11*

- Share personal needs and praises and pray for one another.
- Focus on where God would have you take “new ground” in 2006.

## Church & Country

*Remind your people to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not speak evil of anyone, and they must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.*

*Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled by others and became slaves to many wicked desires and evil pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy. We hated others, and they hated us.*

*But then God our Savior showed us his kindness and love. He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did. He declared us not guilty because of his great kindness. And now we know that we will inherit eternal life. These things I have told you are all true. I want you to insist on them so that everyone who trusts in God will be careful to do good deeds all the time. These things are good and beneficial for everyone. —TITUS 3:1-8*

- Pray for our leaders to lead well and to raise up more leaders.
- Pray for vision and courage to live boldly and wisely in a fallen but needy world.
- Pray for the various ministries of Watermark.
- Pray for More Than Enough and everyone's involvement with what God would do regarding our facility.
- Pray for those who lead our country and those who defend it.