

FEBRUARY 2008

Dear Ones,

Ted will be 80 years old on February 16th. The night before, Friday night, we will celebrate in our living room surrounded by eight or nine new-to-grace young couples. Ted will be teaching them in I Corinthians (First Californians) and he will be in "hawg heaven"! Thank you, Lord, for sparing my Ted through many physical onslaughts.

Depending upon two grandsons' wrestling tournaments, the next night or maybe the next, we will celebrate Ted's birthday with our own local family of 10. Yep! After thirty-four years we are once again planning our schedules around sports events. All of us who live here, plus son Jeff from Sacramento, drove through the snow fields to Lancaster High last Saturday to watch 15-year-old Lucas squish guys' faces into the wrestling mat. I glanced at Ted sitting beside me on the bleachers, quietly calling encouragement to Luke. I'm thinking: Ted Stone, you are still pounding the evil one's face into the mat with the Word of God!

Then I let my eyes rest on my family. Not one adult has joined the audience on the sidelines. All are on the mat, in this deadly battle for the souls of men in a war that is "not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil..."

In Acts 21, Paul, half-dead from a beating at the hands of both Jews and Gentiles, is still on the mat.... **unpinned!** He asks the Commander-in-Chief of the Roman Army for permission to give his testimony. In telling the crowd of his conversion to Christ, Paul recounts: "My companions saw the **light**, but they did not understand the **voice** of Him who was speaking to me."

Jesus says in John 10:3-5: "...His sheep **follow** Him because they **know His voice**". Conclusion: Lost ones around us cannot hear His Voice, but they CAN see His Light in us and be drawn to Him.

We cannot turn on the TV without being bombarded by a litany of voices, all claiming to have the solution for our nation's crises...but read this: "'Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit', says the Lord Almighty". Zechariah 4:6b.

Are you in the game or have you joined the ranks of armchair quarterbacks?

— Jo