

**20/20 Newsletter**

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2010

**Inside this issue:**

<i>Take No Thought</i>	1
<i>Keep Listening</i>	1
<i>Writing the Vision</i>	2
<i>The Importance of Community</i>	2
<i>Withworkers</i>	2
<i>Mentoring Others</i>	3
<i>About Us</i>	4

**This Month's Quotes**

"Somewhere we know that without silence words lose their meaning, that without listening speaking no longer heals, that without distance closeness cannot cure"

"The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing...not healing, not curing...that is a friend who cares."

(by Henri Nouwen)



## Take No Thought

By Jaque Shank

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Matthew 6:34 (KJV)*

I've always craved a reckless faith, say, like Abraham's or Joseph's or Paul's, and I've wondered; what would a reckless faith look like in my life?

All we need is to look to Jesus for the answer. He who had reckless faith unparalleled by any others says we are not to worry. How? by never taking thought. If we would have reckless faith we need to see how Jesus abstained from worry.

We worry because we like to use our brains

to handle problems. We are actually obsessed with "thinking about" the future. We think we can handle things better if we think about what "might" happen in the future right now. And if we don't worry we feel like we're not doing anything about the fates awaiting us. We actually create many negative possibilities with our worry. What if a terrorist attack annihilates us? What if this economy eliminates my job and my family ends up frozen under a bridge?

The scenarios are endless; I'm sure you could add a litany all your own. How much time do we waste in worrying about tomorrow? If I could retrieve all the time wasted on worry I think I might live a few more decades.

Why do we think worry accomplishes anything? And why does Romans 12:2 tell us to make a living sacrifice of our faculties (or minds) to God in order to be completely transformed by the renewing of our minds?



## Keep Listening

By Sara McDaniel

I love knowing something as simple as "it is all okay!" Remembering this truth fills my day with peace. This is knowing His love father-

ing us, and it is truly amazing.

I heard someone say, "A smile is Christ across my face", and I

thought, "wow!" That, coupled with the thought that it takes less energy to let Christ shine than it takes to strive in my own

## Writing the Vision

If visionwriting were about eloquence of speech or impressive twists of the human language then certainly it would not be for everyone. But it is not about the enticing words of men's wisdom. It is about training the ear to hear and obey the voice of the Lord and value His fellowship. The focus is not to be on our ability but on God's ability.



Do we or don't we have the Holy Spirit residing within us? We do. And does He desire fellowship with us? He does. And has the

Lord ever instructed anyone to write down His words? He has, and He trains us in the way we ought to go.

He says, "Write, dear ones, write. Write until the Truth you hear is so plain that you can

run with it. Write My words and let Me build a fire in your belly. Write,

My little ones, from the least to the greatest, write, for I am all you need, and I am within you. So pick up your pen and listen to what I am saying within you... and write, write, write." See Habakkuk 2:1-3 and Hebrews 8:10-11 for inspiration!

How each person visionwrites differs, no doubt, but whether or not they benefit doesn't. One person may be a gifted writer, another not, but the truth imparted can be equally impacting.

## The Importance of Community



To abide in the Vine, receive His personal words on a daily basis, and to walk as a unique expression of Christ is both vulnerable and profoundly liberating. As part of the process, we glory in the need for a community of believers who share this yoke.

We need one another; God made us that way. So community is the place all things finally make sense—where God's promises are realized—

where the corporate ache is filled. As we operate in union with Him we lose ourselves and get nothing less than our true selves back. This is when we begin to deeply experience our self-giving nature and where "the whole is defined by the sum of its parts."

Whether doing a Visionwriter's course with a Certified Visionkeeper, in an informal group study, as an on-line course, or alone in your study, we have made every effort to provide you with a place to stay connected with others who are walking a similar path. Visit our Forums, share journals and insights, join in the conversation, and keep in touch with us. We love the common bond that Christ is forming as (one-by-one) He eliminates from the world the ache of a silent God.

## Withworkers



We are helping others experience the joy of entering honest dialogue with

God through a strategy for daily abiding. Your donations help!

Partner with us on a monthly basis by visiting our website and signing up as a "Withworker." A Withworker's monthly support furthers our mission to eliminate from the world the ache of a silent God.

[www.visionwriters.com](http://www.visionwriters.com)



## Take No Thought, cont

The more we think the more we sink. We become paralyzed by our brains and can't act as we'd like to. We've stuck ourselves in the muck and the mire over and over and still we keep trying to un-stick our selves by thinking! Are we insane? Are we deluded and deceived? Do we believe a lie? You bet we do. Hook, line and sinker we worry ourselves sick...I mean literally SICK by taking thought. Thoughts produce chemicals in our brains that can actually produce the conditions we fear. What if the terrorists don't annihilate us? We don't need them to; we will annihilate ourselves with worry.

Jesus isn't making a suggestion with "take no thought;" He's giving an imperative. Let's look at how He overcame the Lie with the Truth. Jesus wasn't born with a full knowledge of the truth. He was born one-hundred-percent human. He had the Old Testament as a plumb line to guide His thoughts. He learned the Old

Testament like any other Hebrew. He memorized it, heard it in the synagogue, and because of the work of the Holy Spirit in Him He understood what He read better than any rabbi. In the Old Covenant He read about Moses who asked God what His name was. "I AM WHO I AM." He was saying, "Moses, you bring me a problem, I AM. You have a need, I AM. You want peace, I AM. You need water, I AM. Imagine God saying I AM followed by a blank space you fill in. Jesus noticed how David picked up on this. When David felt lonely and abandoned he turned to his covenant God and said, "The I AM is my Shepherd." David filled in the blanks. When he felt helpless he said, "The I AM is my strength" and so on. The need is proof that the supply was here in "I AM" long before the need was known.

Reckless faith is "not taking thought," for when we are thinking our way through problems we do not believe. Believing is rest-

ing. "Labor to enter My rest." Hebrews 4:13. Our labor is to stop thinking and trust God! If we are trying to believe, murmuring Scriptures to ourselves, praying loudly, etc., we are trying too hard. Belief rests in complete trust, just like a child. Jesus was childlike, for in abandonment to I AM He had nothing but thanks left to give God.

Jesus didn't deny problems; He just didn't think of problems as being the final state of anything. He saw problems as a necessary part of getting somewhere. He didn't put His faith in the problem because He didn't believe the problem had the power to accomplish anything. Thus, He never worried. He recklessly put His faith in I AM, for I AM existed before the problem did. Jesus gave thanks in everything.

Jesus prayed "thank you" prayers instead of "help!" prayers. He saw how supply always precedes need. *↪ Jaque*



## Mentoring Others: The Heart of Visionkeeping

What's the best way to motivate saturated students?

Simply turn them into teachers! There are many benefits that accrue from learning by doing. Peo-

ple remember more when they generate and give than by just receiving. In fact, they reach a point where they cannot receive *until* they give. People develop a more objective view of problems with others in view. Understanding is directly coupled to one's actions, so

students learn more by doing. There are important motivational benefits. Students are more inclined to persevere and find satisfaction when they are engaged in doing. In contrast, passively observing somebody else do something impedes learning. Are you ready to become a Visionkeeper?

VISIONWRITERS INTERNATIONAL

PO Box 2020  
Yucca Valley, California 92284

Phone: 760-365-4101  
E-mail: info@visionwriters.com  
Web Address: www.visionwriters.com



## **About Us**

*Visionwriters is a mentoring program with a long-term vision or worldview; one that is committed to a long-term Gospel. Vision either determines victory, or its absence produces despair. God's word imparts vision. Writing the vision helps us sort things out, for thoughts are untangled at the point of a pen. But writing isn't enough if it falls short of application. We help people apply the truth, because truth without application is just information. When truth is applied it is powerful.*

*We facilitate people who ache to hear the voice of Truth and experience a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ ~ people who want to hear God's voice and open their communication with God ~ those who want answers to their most perplexing questions ~ people ready to admit there is a hole inside and who want to overcome this inner loneliness.*

*Journalizing, or Visionwriting, is taking dictation from the Holy Spirit. Because we want to understand God's personal instructions, we write to capture, assimilate and obey them. You will learn how to hear God's voice, have communication with God through a spiritual relation with Him. Through that spiritual relationship you will overcome loneliness.*

## **Keep Listening, cont.**

strength, is so powerful.

I rest in the fact that He has taken care of this flesh and it doesn't bother Him! Pure grace.

It all falls into place as long as we just keep at it, keep listening to Him, keep running to Him, keep abiding in Him. That has to be the one main goal of our lives, as he said, "Seek first the Kingdom and everything else is added."

That's why I love Visionwriters so much, because the structure keeps me there every day

and I am transformed degree by degree.



Trials test our commitment to Him, not our strength. That is a paradigm shift for most of us. Our love of Him is the only fuel we need to obey, the only fuel that leads to TRUE obedience. If you

just keep listening and going through life, you begin to learn to recognize the differences between your fleshly desires and His desire in you.

The awesome thing is that the longer you live abiding in Him, working out your salvation, working out what God works in, the more you know His desires becoming your desires and the more you "become God's will."

This is slow work and cannot be hurried. It is also urgent work and cannot be procrastinated.

✠ Sara