



Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. James 5:7KJV).

In the first century communities of Palestine, early rains typically came in October to provide water for the seeding of the crops. Judah and his people came to depend on this early rain as well as a latter rain that coincided with the crops maturation producing a plentiful harvest.

Flood-based versus Rain-fed Spiritual Life

created for the people. According to Deuteronomy, the land had to be irrigated by foot, much like a vegetable garden. The labor involved was intense and demanding.

Much like an agricultural system centered around flooding, the Flood-based spiritual life is difficult to endure. Living outside of the grace of Jesus

Christ makes you susceptible to the trials of the worldly. You become inundated with the problems of the world but have no reserves with which to draw strength. You are at the mercy of power that is not defined As a result, flood based spiritual life is laborious and causes you to become weary.

The Rain-fed Spiritual Life:

Like the rain-fed system of agriculture, “rain-fed spiritual life” flows in seasons. Much like farmers plant and harvest their crops, God ordains these seasons in your life. You will have the victory you need in the season of God. You will have the restoration of your family in the timing of God. These movements of the “rain-fed life” are ordained by God and no man can interfere or disrupt. Hab. 2:3 says:

“For the vision yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

When you live under the umbrella of the Holy Spirit, that house you want to sell will sell in God’s time. God will bring healing to the family with a rebellious child in God’s time. The plans you have in mind come into place and your dreams begin to happen just before your eyes.

I know that many of you are anxious about what needs to happen in your family, job and church. Do as the Prophet Zechariah: “Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men...” (Zac. 10:1).

There is still time in our life to live under the “rain from heaven” and prosper under the rain-fed seasons of God’s calendar. All you need to do is to surrender your life to Jesus Christ and the power of His Holy Spirit. Will you do it?

• Rick Bonfim

God confirms this provision of rain described in James as he speaks in Deuteronomy 11:10-11, saying:

“For the land, into which you are entering to possess it, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. “But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven.”

Of particular interest in this passage is the mention of “rain from heaven”. Aside from the literal translation, this scripture shows God’s plan of provision for his people as well as His plan for a more blessed and prosperous life. Clearly, the scripture from Deuteronomy points out a marked difference between the Egyptian and Canaanite agricultural systems. In Egypt, the people depended on the River Nile and its annual flood (Amos 8:8) followed by laborious irrigation. Canaan, however, prospered with a rain-fed crop in the early and latter rains. These two methods of agriculture also correlate to one’s spiritual life. Do you find yourself living in the “flood-based spiritual life” or in a “rain-fed spiritual life”? Here are some differences between the two:

The Flood-based Spiritual Life:

As described, the flood of the Nile came once a year and the people lived on the left over water. The water was not provided in season or in moderation. Instead, it came all at once with uneven distribution. In addition to providing water for the year, it also caused devastation throughout the land. According to Gen.7:4:

“For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.”

Clearly God’s plans for floods in His lands were clear. Another complication of the flood based agricultural system was the work it

October 2004

- 2-5 Springfield UMC in Springfield, GA
- 8-9 Galloway UMC in Franklin, PA
- 13-25 Brazil Mission Trip
- 14 Cindy's Birthday (Daughter – in – Law)
- 29-30 Board Retreat at Martha Bowman UMC in Macon, GA

November 2004

- 1-9 Mary Lucy's Ladies Trip to Brazil
- 5-7 Sewell UMC in Mansfield, GA
- 14-17 Jones Chapel UMC in Newnan, GA
- 19-21 Abundant Life Christian Center in Brunswick, GA
- 21 Mary Jayne's Birthday (Granddaughter)
- 30 Sammy's Birthday (Son)

December 2004

- 3 Christmas Banquet at Wesley Foundation in Athens, GA
- 10 Laura's Birthday (Daughter – in – Law)
- 17-25 Christmas in New York with Sandy & Tom (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

January 2005

- 1 Rick's Birthday
- 6-8 The National Meeting of United Methodist Evangelists
- 14-15 Holy Spirit Conference with Cecil Williamson's Ministry in Lake Tia' Khata, MS
- 21-23 Earl Tyson Conference in Colonial Williamsburg, VA
- 25-31 Brazil Mission Trip

February 2005

- 1-9 Brazil Mission Trip
- 7 Mr. Melson's Birthday
- 13 Michelle's Birthday (Secretary)
- 13-15 Heritage Church in Van Buren, AK
- 20-22 Christian Renewal Church in St. Simon's Island, GA
- 27 Assembleia de Deus in Sandy Springs, GA

March 2005

- 2 Mary Lucy's Birthday
- 2-13 Brazil Mission Trip (closed)
- 18-20 Pell City First UMC in Pell City, AL
- 19 Sandy's Birthday
- Mar 28-Apr 6 Brazil Mission Trip for Pastors & Leaders

For schedule changes please visit our website at www.LatteRain.com

Prayer is **POWERFUL**



God is very careful in His Word to tell us whose prayers He promises to answer. 1 John 3:22 says, "and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight." John 15:7 says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." The ones who can pray so that God can hear their prayers and give them whatever they ask are those who study the Word of God every day to find out what the Will of God is and then do it every time they find it.

Now if our prayers continue to be unanswered, we need to examine our lives for any hindrances. Some hindrances might include:

- **Self-seeking motives.** "When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (James 4:3).
- **Sin in the heart of life** (willful disobedience against God!). Isaiah 59:2 says, "Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins

have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear." John 9:31 tells us, "We know that God does not listen to sinners." (We do know that he hears a sinner's prayer of repentance (read 2 Chronicles 7:14-15)).

- **Wrong treatment of a wife.** "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers" (1 Peter 3:7).

- **Unbelief.** "Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?'" And He said, "Because of the littleness of your faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you. But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:19-21). Please also read Hebrews 3:7-19.

- **Unforgiven Spirit.** "And when ever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive your transgressions" (Mark 11:25).

- **Unstable minds.** "That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all that he does" (James 1:6-7).

- **Idols in the heart** (anything that is put before God). "These men have set up their idols in their hearts, and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity. Should I be consulted by them at all" (Ezekial 14:3)?

Some other verses to read: 1 Tim. 2:8, Ps. 66:18, Prov. 28:9, Micah 3:4, Matt. 5:23-24.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let's be really honest with ourselves and God, and sincerely search our hearts to be sure that we are meeting these conditions for praying prayers of power.

The great need of today is a real revival in our churches, homes, and society as a whole. This revival starts with us individually. What then shall we do? Pray, for we know there is "real" power in prayer. "The prayer of the righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). Who are the righteous and blameless? Psalm 15 will tell us.

We continue to ask for your prayers for this ministry, for good health for Rick and his family, and for the Brazil ministry. Please continue to send us your prayer requests.

• **Art Melson**

Please Note

Effective October 30, 2004
our email address will change to:
RBM@LatteRain.com

Our new website address is:
www.LatteRain.com

At
Wesley Foundation
1196 S. Lumpkin Street
Athens, Georgia 30605



Christmas Banquet

December 3, 2004 7:00 pm

Menu: Roast Tenderloin of Beef, Chicken Divan, Roasted Red Potatoes, Squash Medley, Cranberry Raspberry Congealed Salad, Assorted Rolls & Honey Butter, Sweet Tea & Water, Coffee & Decaf, Assorted Creamers and Sugar, Hot Apple Cider, Brownies, Lemon Squares & Cookies

Please complete and mail to: **Rick Bonfim Ministries**, PO Box 250, Bogart, GA 30622-0250

name _____ telephone number _____

address _____

_____ **Number of Reservations @ \$25 each** **TOTAL \$** _____

_____ I have not forgotten to enclose my check made payable to **Rick Bonfim Ministries**.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
November 19

Experience Brazil

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
(Proverbs 3:5,6)

October 13-25, 2004

November 1-9, 2004
Mary Lucy's Christmas Trip

January 25 -February 9, 2005

March 2-12, 2005 (closed)

March 28-April 6, 2005 (Pastors and Leaders)

May 30-June 13, 2005

May 30-June 30 (Internship)



Policy Change

Due to policy change at Delta Airlines, Rick Bonfim Ministries must now require a \$1,000 deposit with the application of any mission trip. This deposit will be used to purchase your airline ticket, which must be done within seven days of making the reservation.

In order to assist you with this change, Rick Bonfim Ministries now has the capability to accept VISA, Master Card, and American Express. If you chose to make your deposit using a credit card, a \$40.00 processing fee will be added to the total.