

Mary Craig

From: Mary Craig
Subject: MCM May 2008 email



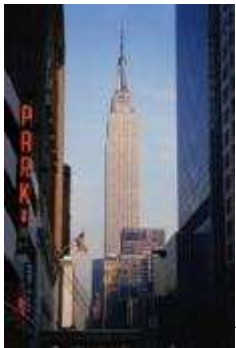
Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

May 2008

Hello, everyone,

We recently returned from our mission to the Rhineland. The prophetic word to Belgium is on our website, www.marycraig.org, in the prophetic section 2008. We were there to root out and destroy ancient strongholds and to build and to plant the kingdom of God, among other things.

Netherlands was another target nation. While Rev. Jim Craig and I were in Amsterdam, two of our Board Members, David & Betty Patten, were in New York City. There they prayed a prayer strategy concerning the roots of New York (which the Indians deeded to the Dutch and which went back and forth between being New Amsterdam and New York before ending up as New York). The Pattens prayed at sites in the original location of New Amsterdam, at the Empire State Building, Wall Street, Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Morningside Heights and Ground Zero. So while we were in the Netherlands, they were in New York.



We have since learned that other ministries are also being led to similar prayer strategies concerning New York and the USA, a confirmation that the Holy Spirit is up to something! As each person and ministry fulfills the assignments of the Lord of Hosts, we begin to see how His war plan fits together, for our good and for His glory.

5/11/2008



But why the picture of Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)? While in Amsterdam, Pastor Jim and I visited the Van Gogh Museum. I like Van Gogh, and we have a print of his painting “Boats at Saint-Maries” (1888) hanging in our great room. Of course, the original was so much more compelling.

Another painting stood out to me as we moved from room to room through the museum.



“Still Life with Bible” Van Gogh, 1885

Vincent Van Gogh was born in Holland in a religious and cultured atmosphere. He was highly emotional, lacked self-confidence, and experienced no real success during his lifetime, whether in relationships, as a bookstore clerk, as an art salesman, or as a preacher. This son of a preacher preached at a church but was dismissed for overzealousness. He decided to become an artist, but failed at that as well, at least he thought.

In this still life, completed after he left the ministry to be an artist, Van Gogh chose a Bible turned to Isaiah 53, a book entitled Joie de Vivre, and a candlestick whose light has gone out. Did he identify with Christ as suffering servant as he suffered in his own troubled and tortured soul?

“The Potato Eaters” ate the fruit of their labors, but Vincent sold only one painting in his lifetime. Was he propelled by a deeper force as he produced his finest works in less than three years? His life ended by suicide at age 37. He shot himself, “for the good of all.”

Standing in the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, I was asked by a museum guard what I thought about Van Gogh’s life. I told this man that I considered Van Gogh to be a gift to humanity. He was a vessel through which the unspoken feelings of a fallen humanity could find expression for the frustration of living only to die. But even in portraying futility, Vincent gave us a gift of finding beauty in hard labor, hope in times of despair, and joy in the simple things of nature and everyday life. He listened to the language of nature and took otherwise ordinary life and gave it the element of transcendence. He gave voice to the tension between the depravity of man and the goodness of God displayed in creation.

Even his self-portraits seem to cry out, “I am Vincent, tormented, fractured, preoccupied with death, struggling to discover identity, desperate to be whole.” He himself said, “The diseases that we civilized people labor under most are melancholy and pessimism.” And this, “We spend our whole lives in unconscious exercise of the art of expressing our thoughts with the help of words.”

There’s something in his art—symbolism, intense color, surface tension, movement, emotion—as Van Gogh struggles to find life and joy in the midst of suffering and despair. He sought to comprehend the spiritual essence of man and nature. I don’t think he sought greatness, only to be normal and fully human, to be loved; but greatness was his destiny. People identify with his portrayal of trials and with his paintings of God’s good creation in symbolic and intense color.

This still life has vibrancy within it, even though the candlelight has gone out, the words of the Bible are muddled, and all seems dark. The Bible points us to Isaiah 53. The little book points us to the Joy of Living. The Bible is highlighted, the words of the page surrounded by white. The candle, too, is out, but highlighted. In his moments of lucidity and madness, Vincent, I believe, knew that somehow, somewhere, the answer was in there, in that Bible, in the Word of God. We know that there is life only in Christ, who suffered and died that those who believe in Him might live.

Only in Christ do we find answers.

*Now the God of hope fill you with all
Joy and peace in believing,
That you may abound in hope,
Through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15.13*

Tuesday nights, Pastor Jim continues his Greek studies in scripture, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday nights, Dr. Mary continues the study, “Heaven: Looking Beyond the Horizon,” 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Friday nights, Bible study begins at 7:30 p.m. We continue the study of “The Tabernacle: How to Enter the Holy of Holies and Establish God’s Presence in Your Life.” Worship follows the study, with the ministry of the Holy Spirit in anointing, healing, deliverance, etc. God’s presence is filling Craighouse as we come into the revelation of Christ, His offices, His Word, His holiness, His Wisdom, His resurrection, His mercy, and His Law.

Sunday services begin at 4:30 p.m. with Rev. Jim Craig. Communion is served the first Sunday of the month. Celebrate grace with us!

We had a fabulous fellowship dinner last Saturday night.





Sunday, May 18th, following the 4:30 p.m. worship service, we will have dinner and a movie.



Join us for this compelling and powerful human drama of redemption and revolution. Jean Valjean, a heartless convict, finds his life transformed by a single act of mercy in this epic classic starring Liam Neeson.



Reminder: Our next Barnabas Project distribution will be in June. We are collecting now. We especially need children's clothing, school supplies, toys, baby items, and household items (but no electrics, TV's, computers, etc.). Please help us bless those less fortunate. Many families are now homeless or close to homeless what with mortgage foreclosures and job loss. Bring items to Craighouse or call 954-491-7270. You can obtain a receipt for tax purposes upon request.

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