

# Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

A free monthly publication of Hearts of Love Ministries.

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**HEARTS OF LOVE  
CHINA OUTREACH  
October 5 - 21  
2017**



**For He Himself is our  
peace ... and broke  
down the barrier of  
the dividing wall**  
Eph 2:14

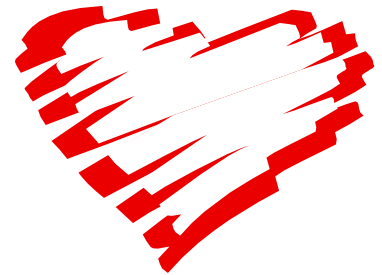
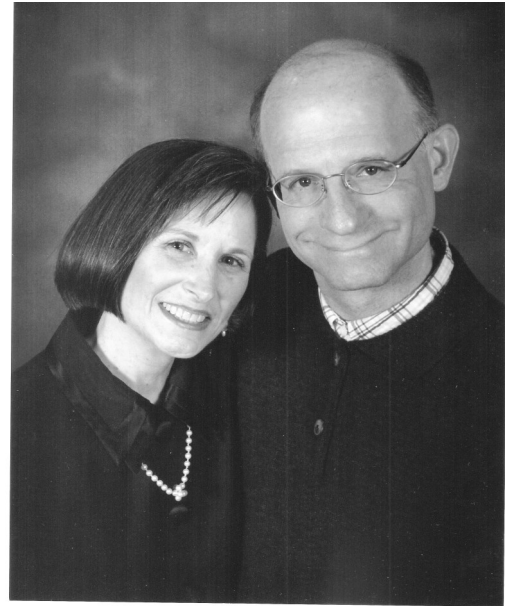
**Please pray for us as  
we prepare to travel to  
Hong Kong and China  
in October. Pray for  
our wisdom, protection  
and safety, and pray  
that everything we  
carry arrives safely.**

## Where Can I Go?

**A**s I begin this writing, it is Sunday evening, just before we head off to the radio. Tomorrow is the Big Eclipse when more than a million tourists are expected to flood Oregon... people searching for that big, fresh, exciting new experience.... Something they've never done or felt or seen... something new. Isn't that what life in this world is all about for countless people... looking for the next experience.

Every advertisement they pass on the way to that 70 mile wide strip of total eclipse trumpets the next new, wonderful experience... that which will finally bring true happiness. The billboard demands you imagine yourself in the driver's seat as the newest, completely redesigned Toyota cruises past the nightclub lineup while all the pretty faces slowly turn to watch you drive by.... Or the newest fragrance with the special sexy name calls out from the darkness, which will cause every movie-star-type pretty boy to become putty in your hands.

Many of the millions coming to Oregon could have gone to someplace closer to their home to watch the Eclipse, but they are coming to Oregon for the legal marijuana, the perfect addition to make this ultimate experience the really really most ultimate ever!... but the reality, they will find, is far less ultimatistic. Thousands will stay up all night partying, drinking, drugging and be passed out cold come 10:20 tomorrow morning... they will have missed their one chance at the most ultimate experience because they were preparing too vigorously. And for those who do make it until the morning, still half awake... two minutes of darkness is going to pass like a flash... inside they will think, "that's it!? That's what I spent thousands of dollars for? That's all there is!?" But outside they will all clap each other on the back and pretend to rejoice that they have all shared the ultimate experience together... now they will



*He has committed to  
us the word of  
Reconciliation.  
Therefore, we are  
Ambassadors for Christ.  
2 Corinthians 5:19,20*

be life-long bosom buddies, even though they will forget each other's names by noon.

*By the way... now it is 10:30 Monday AM. The Big Eclipse has come and gone... I was right! Boy... if I'd traveled thousands of miles and spent hundreds or thousands on reservations... right now I'd be thinking, 'That's it!? That's all there is!? What a rip off, what a gyp! Duh!!! The first thing Debbie said to me was, 'I'm sure glad we stayed home and only paid \$2 for these glasses at the library. And by the way, by the way... no Armageddon, no Rapture, no Tribulation, no nuclear war... just an eclipse... a big fat not much like the blood moons and the same will be true of the super Sept. 23 'sign in the heavens.'*

Perhaps I'm exaggerating... a little... but isn't that the reality of everything of this life here on Earth? Think about it... where can you go... what can you see that isn't going to be gone soon... what can you do that isn't going to eventually burn up to nothing? Nothing that we can feel, see, taste, hear or smell is going to last... it is all temporary... it will all pass away... even these bodies we live in will pass away or be drastically changed in an instant.

Isn't there somewhere we can go, anyplace we can be that is permanent, that will not fade away?

Yes, there is a place... but only one.

We are preparing to travel again, next month, to Hong Kong where we will spend 16 days carrying Bibles across the border into China. Each time we cross into China with a load of Bibles, we run the risk of being stopped, searched, detained and having our precious cargo confiscated.

We help support Jim, who has lived and ministered inside China for many years. He has planted Churches and Bible schools and adopted and raised two Chinese girls who would have died without the intercession of Jim and Peggy into their lives. Recently, he was arrested while preaching to a group of Chinese Christians; he was jailed and held for nearly 2 days. He was given the harshest penalty available, he was banned from entering China for 5 years. He has been told that the severe penalty was in retaliation of the current political tension between China and the US over trade and North Korea, that the Chinese authorities want to make it difficult for Americans at this time. That may be true, but the fact remains he was arrested while preaching to a Church... not while riding a bus or speaking to someone in a coffee shop. Reality is... persecution of Christians is

strong in China and growing every day. China was a little more open to the Gospel for a short time but that is no longer true. So... in contemplating our trip and the many times we will cross the border into China carrying Bibles, I am trying not to be concerned... afraid really... not for myself, but for Debbie although she is not afraid at all. I just imagine all the 'what ifs'... especially as they pertain to her.

Is there a place to be without fear, a place of confidence, protection and peace?

Yes, there is a place... but only one.

For me, the worst part of every China trip has always been the loooongggg 14 hour plane trip, cramped into coach seats that are far too small with far too little leg room for normal sized people, seats surrounded by rude people, loud people, smelly people, crying little people all around... people who step on you, bump your seat and knock into you as they travel the aisles... herded and corralled by thoughtless airline people, force-fed terrible food tasting suspiciously like the plastic and cardboard in which it's packaged.

Is there a place to go, trapped on an airplane at 30,000 feet, a place of peace and quiet, a place of safety and rest, even while shoehorned into one of those nasty little airline seats?

Yes, there is a place... but only one.

Riding on the Hong Kong and Chinese subways, trains and ferries or standing in the mile long lines at the borders... absolutely inundated by seas of people... literally millions all around us... the noise, like being parachuted into the middle of a 40 acre turkey farm... can there possibly be any peace, calm, quiet or rest in such myriad humanity?

Yes, there is a place... but only one.

David wrote of that place; he discovered that place when he killed the lion and the bear and when he fled from Saul who sought to kill him; he learned to know that place well and must have tried to live there always, which is one of the reasons God affectionately called

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David a man after His own heart, even though David failed miserably sometimes... his desire was to know God intimately and draw near to Him always.

Psalms 91 says, 'He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, *He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.* Because you have made the LORD *who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.'* God says, 'Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.'

Psalms 27 says, 'In the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.'

Psalms 31 says, 'You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.'

Psalms 32 says, 'You *are* my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.'

The secret place of the Most High... the hiding place... hidden in His pavilion... the only place of refuge and safety... but how can I get there? How can I find it?

There is no roadmap to that place. No signs point the way. It cannot be found through any of our five senses mentioned earlier. Just like God Himself, His secret place which He has reserved for His children can only be found and entered by faith. We must see it, believe it and know it by faith alone. 'Now faith is the *substance* of things hoped for, the *evidence* of things not seen.' Heb 11:1 Only by faith can we find, know or approach God. 'But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.' Heb 11:6 But faith can only be had from God's Word. 'So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' Rom 10:17

We can only know of that place, find that place and rest in that place if we seek God and know Him from His Word... if we study His Word and choose to believe what He says in His

Word... only then can we walk in the protection of His angels watching over us, hearing His Holy Spirit guiding and directing us... only then can we rest securely in the secret place of the Most High through the storms that assail us daily.

This is not something that we reason out with our minds or follow our own understanding, taking our own counsel... 'Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.' Prov 3:5,6 He wants us to imagine that place and then rest in it, to see it with the eyes of faith and then enter into His hiding place for us. 'Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.' Col 3:2

**When everything around us seems to be fading and passing away, we can rest in His secret place.**

**When going through dangerous places or even being arrested for our faith, we can rest in His hiding place.**

**When confined in a miserable place, even an airline seat, He says He will hide us in His pavilion.**

**When surrounded by chaos He will give His angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways.**

**When nothing makes sense, when everything is falling apart, He is there. He is always there, wherever we are, or are going, He is already there.**

***You can touch the World for Jesus Christ... Please partner with us in these last days.***  
***The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few.*** Matt 9:38

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