



What happened at Mallory Wesleyan Church on May 2nd, 2013?

Our God is a big God. The answer to that question is a big answer. This is our testimony to what God is doing in this place.

Eight years ago in March of 2005, God tugged at the hearts of *Mallory Wesleyan Church* to awaken the community surrounding the church by reconnecting with one another and renewing a sense of community. We set forth to give freely as God has given to us, to show His love through action. So we gifted "*Celebrate Mallory*", a party with a purpose. With prayer, Celebrate Mallory's Mission Statement was: "To glorify God, our Father - to gain exposure for church, community, local businesses, and service organizations - to build bridges within the community, to build community pride and revitalize Mallory - to get to know each other well". Setting aside a special day, we came together as a community, bringing the experience of God's love to our neighbors, and providing opportunity for folks that share a common heritage, to gather in a wholesome, Christian environment. This festival of parade, food, fanfare, history, and music, engaged the whole community; and the gospel message was shared throughout the day's events and activities. This first "*Celebrate Mallory*" was held on September 9th, 2006.

Over the next 6 years, we prepared each year by praying for the community and the ministry that God called us to. It was our desire to be obedient to Him, to willingly minister however He asked, and allow Him to grow us in our understanding. The time of preparation was as important as the day itself. New relationships were formed, old ones were healed, and we were able to tend to folks in need from all sorts of life's difficulties. Each year we had great successes and accomplishments. Each year we faltered and stumbled. Each year, God gave us His grace. He picked us up, dusted us off, set us back on our feet and lovingly showed us the way. Each year, He gave us deeper understanding for His plan for Mallory. Each year, we matured.

In 2007, we increased our visibility within the community. We reminded people the joy of giving and receiving freely and generously with one another with no monetary gain but to simply love and care for one another. In 2008, we were "Getting Ready for Company". We worked to increase not only our visibility, but our approachability and accessibility in the community. We sought to let the community know that we are obedient to care for all of God's children. In 2009, we learned how to "Practice Philoxenia"- a deeper, spiritual level of hospitality "*do not forget to entertain or to love strangers for by doing so some have even entertained angels without knowing it.*" - Hebrews 13:2. In 2010, God asked us for "More Obedient Prayer". We worked harder to build on the foundation that He constructed, to lean only on His direction and not on our own understanding. We honored the anniversary of the 9/11 victims and those effected by the tragic attack on our nation by remembering that we are 'One Nation under God'. In 2011, we sensed that 'Celebrate Mallory' as we knew it was coming to an end. God intended to redirect us in a new way. This was to be a time of thanksgiving for how God had blessed this community. Celebrate Mallory, One More Time....not the end but only the beginning. In 2012, we were obedient to God's call for a time of sabbatical. This was a year and a half of patiently and sometimes painfully waiting for direction.

(Leviticus 25:1-7) "Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. And the Sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land; all its produce shall be for food."

2013: This is the vision God has impressed upon our hearts. For sixty three years, every first Thursday of May, America has officially observed the National Day of Prayer. It is so apparent today that our nation is in great need of prayer. God said, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray.... then I will hear from

heaven". That is where we believe blessings begin. God has clearly shown us that the new beginning for *Celebrate Mallory* starts with the *National Day of Prayer*.

In preparation for the National Day of Prayer, we continued to study God's word, pray, fast, and join together in a special Sacred Assembly. This Sacred Assembly was occasion for God's people to repent of personal and corporate sins, to renew their covenant relationship with the Lord, and to return to the Lord in faithful love and obedience. Sacred assemblies are a place where revival begins. When there was sin, when there was trouble, when there was apostasy in the land, God called the leaders to call the people back to Him in sacred assembly and cry out to Him. That is the command in Joel. *"Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD."*-Joel 1:14

"Greater things have yet to come. Greater things are still to be done.....HERE!"

So, back to your question, "What happened at *Mallory Wesleyan Church* on Thursday, May 2nd?" We continued the journey. We took what we believe is the first step in preparation for what begins as a single inaugural evening but will become a multiple day area wide celebration; a kind of Celebrate Mallory/Celebrate America/ Celebrate God!

Pastor Greg Stein led the 2 ½ hour service which celebrated the National Day of Prayer with special guests and a robust worship team. A very special time of music and worship was led by guest music director, *Pastor Larry Johnson from the Gloversville Wesleyan Church*. The worship team was a cooperation of the *Mallory Wesleyan Church* worship team, lead guitarist, *George Seymour from United Wesleyan Church (Sandy Creek)*, Vocalist and Gospel Artist, *Markita Collins from New Life Temple of Praise (Syracuse)* and several members of the *Gloversville Wesleyan Church* worship team.

Seven special guests lead us in the seven areas of prayer identified by the National Day of Prayer Task Force. *For Government: Rev. Tom Stiles; New Yorkers For Constitutional Freedoms, for Military: Pastor Chris Anderson: recently retired chaplain of the 403rd Army Reserves Civil Affairs Battalion, for Business, Rev. John Skinner of Midler Ave Wesleyan and Sacred Melody, for Education, Dr. Michael Jordan, Dean of Chapel, Houghton College, for the Church, Rev. Wayne Wager, District Superintendent of CNY Wesleyan Churches, for Family, Jillian Pelkey, Executive Director of Pregnancy Care Center of Oswego, for Media, Danny Dunn, Mars Hill Network/WMHR Radio.*

There was a simultaneous reading of the New Testament in just 15 minutes. The congregation was filled with representatives of numerous are churches, government, and other facets of the community. At the end of the service, the salvation message was delivered and an invitation given to come to the alter to receive the saving grace of Jesus. Upon leaving the sanctuary, guests were able to take with them a special prayer guide on which was attached a custom made pocket coin. On the back was indicated one of the 7 centers of power in which the person was asked to pray for specifically for the next year, until we come together again to celebrate the National Day of Prayer. The Holy Spirit was evident in this place. The music touched hearts and souls. Testimonies following testified to the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul made prayer a priority, when he said, *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* This has nothing to do with politics, just a heart for obedience, and a desire to live peaceful and quiet lives."

Father, Help us prepare the ground with our prayers, so Your Word may take root in people's hearts, producing a great harvest. Amen!

We ask that you join Mallory and others with your town and community to exercise your right to pray for our nation. Like drops in a pool, the ripples of your prayers will flow over your town, villages, state, and nation.

Next in 2014? Harvest!!!!