

SPIRITUAL MAPPING FOR EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

By Diane Buker

1. What is Spiritual Mapping and How Does It Make for Effective Spiritual Warfare?

Spiritual mapping is the process of collating and putting spiritual information concerning a region or people on a map. The accumulated data is used in spiritual warfare to seize that region or people group from the enemy. Spiritual mapping is like having a bright light focused on an otherwise dimly lit area. It allows us to see how the enemy is strategizing and exposes Satan's hidden agenda for that particular region or people group.

"For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was anything kept secret, but that it should come abroad" Mark 4:22

As a mother, I have spent much time in the waiting rooms of paediatricians and dentists. One of my favourite things to do while waiting rooms was to work on the "hidden picture" in the children's magazine, Highlights. Spiritual mapping is similar to this activity. In spiritual mapping we are looking for things that are right in front of us, yet hidden. Spiritual mapping may only be accomplished by the Spirit of the Lord, and not by power or might. Unless we are called by God to do this work for the honour of His Name as well as the profit and the increase of His Kingdom, it will not prosper. We must always be quick to recognize our need for the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and be dependent on Him to accomplish the work.

We need to understand that spiritual mapping is NOT spiritual warfare. It is a precursory tactic to warfare. We can gather data, ascertain information, and pin it on a map all we want. However, that in and of itself, will not disperse the darkness. As we submit ourselves unto the Lord, allowing Him to wield us as His weapon, we wage war against the enemy. The only way to be in the perfect timing of the Lord is to wait upon Him - He is our Commander and Chief.

"The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His Name." Exodus 15:3

"Thou art my battle ax and weapons of war; for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms." Jeremiah 51:20

A study of the history of the land and its peoples is crucial in spiritual mapping. We must be able to understand the mind set, habits, and customs of the "original" people. When studying the history of our county, the team recognized that its earliest people were a particular tribe of Indians. Later, a certain ethnic group predominated the area. So we concentrated our study on finding out the unrighteous practices and beliefs of these people. Generally, you will be dealing with whatever strongholds the original residents opened the door to through their sin.

Another mapping team discovered in their area that the original Indians of their community were fascinated with tattooing their whole bodies, and considered it to be their clothing. Today public nudity is a real problem in that community. Also, there are unusually large numbers of tattoo parlours there. These facts better equip them to target their warfare.

We especially sought to know what were God's redemptive purposes and gifts for the county. The goal of spiritual mapping and spiritual warfare is always the saving of souls. Jesus, in giving the Great Commission, did not say go into all the world and spiritually map. This mapping is but a tool to help us accomplish His desire.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.' Amen." Matthew 28:18-20

A nation goes to war to protect: itself, valuable principles or commodities. In part, our participation in Desert Storm was to protect a very valuable commodity - oil. As a nation, we don't produce sufficient oil for our needs and therefore are dependent on having access to purchase that of other nations. Our access to the supply of something we as a nation could not function without was at grave risk. We entered into war.

In W.W.II the most precious of principles in free nations were at stake: freedom and liberty. We entered into war.

I am not entering into debate or justifying our nation's presence in these wars. However, as a holy nation, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must be alert and ready for spiritual war. We must be willing to fight for the most valuable of principles and commodities: the Gospel and the souls for whom Christ died. Had the Lord not intended for us to know spiritual war, He would not have made such statements as, "Fight the good fight of faith..." (1 Timothy 6:12), "...the weapons of our warfare are..." (2 Corinthians 10:4), "Thou are my battle axe and weapons of war..." (Jeremiah 51:20) and the list could go on.

US Spiritual Warfare Network Regional Coordinator

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