

Stephanie Pauline Ministries...*More than Music*

The third official newsletter!

Greetings to you and yours! I hope all is well with you. My life seems to be heading in the direction of change lately... while growth can't happen without change, still, we, as humans, generally balk at the notion. I am no different, and while I am excited about new developing possibilities, I am also anxious about the how, when, where and why of it all. I know I am to "cast all my cares upon God" but some days that is easier said than done. (Some specific "changes" are mentioned in the prayer list below.)

From my heart:

I would like to share with you how and why I began doing this ministry full time.

I have been writing and singing songs for as long as I can remember... with the exception of my five years of darkness, (see web site for bio information). After that period, for a long time I was working part time as a waitress or in a women's shelter, being a single mom to my son, while writing songs and slowly developing this ministry. At the same time, I was also serving on the board of directors of a youth ranch and leading worship at my home church, Cornerstone, in MN. As I look back now I don't know how I kept my sanity, and in fact, maybe I had already gone insane and that was precisely why I extended myself to that degree. It was a good season in my life and all of the things I was involved in proved very fulfilling to me, perhaps that's why it was so hard to pick and choose, but at the same time I was often stretched past my limit.

In Feb of 2000, I had an epiphany of sorts, while I was ministering in New Orleans, that is, that God set one twelfth of the population of Israel aside for nothing other than to worship Him and to serve in His temple: that is how important worship is to God. Israel was meant to be an example for the earth; an embodiment of God's will. The temple was designed to be a type or shadow of the very nature of God and His sanctuary in heaven... everything was symbolic... everything had a deeper purpose in its very existence. I had always known that the tribe of Levi was set aside to minister to God and to the people. However, it had never occurred to me that they were one twelfth of the population or that God, setting this many people aside, was an indication of the importance of the services they provided to both God and humankind. As God sunk this reality into my heart I wept for joy as I felt so validated in the passions that God had placed within me; to worship God, and to share God with others through the gift of music. I heard Him whisper to my heart that I was "worth my keep" and I cried harder still.

When I got home from that trip I went home with more confidence in what God had called me to do but I didn't know how this revelation applied itself to my life so I went back to life as usual. Throughout the next eight months I became aware of a growing sense of frustration in me. Songs and desires pounded in my heart... left unfulfilled, due to time restrictions. When they would surface I would again be confronted with a deeper revelation of God's heart towards me through the words of trustworthy people who had no way of knowing that God had been impressing me with the same things they were saying. From God's heart, too, I heard..."You are worth your keep..." I would cry and then the next day, go back to work.

Finally, I felt led to move to Colorado Springs and there I began a job search. For a month and a half straight I looked for work. I called every ministry in all of Colorado Springs. I even applied for waitressing positions but no one would hire me. It was always due to scheduling, or some such thing. A couple of very reputable ministries even lost my application and resume! I was so confused and frustrated, even more so because there were so many thoughts and song inspirations vying for my attention that I felt I had to push aside, so my time would be totally dedicated to doing the "responsible" thing.

Finally, a month and a half into the job search, I called to follow up on an application I had sent. The woman I spoke to was very kind but again it just didn't work due to scheduling difficulties... Praise God that she knew God well enough to handle what happened next. That was the straw that broke the camel's back, so to speak. I began venting my frustrations without any self-consciousness. I was so upset. "Well I just don't know what God's doing! I moved here because it seemed clear that God wanted me to but now where is He?! I've been looking for work non-stop for a month and a half and I've never had a hard time getting a job! I have bills to pay and songs to write that I haven't had time for because I need to find a job! My time looking has been completely unproductive! My priorities are right!!! I'm trying to be responsible!!! What am I supposed to do?!" Finally the woman said very calmly..."Well, maybe you're not supposed to have a job right now." "I'm a single mom--that's absolutely crazy! There's no way I can do that! How would I pay my bills!" I spewed. Fighting the truth with all my might. Again she calmly said..."Well, do you still have money? You said you've been here for a month and half already... well, how have you paid the bills so far? Do you have food?" To each question I begrudgingly replied, "Yes, I still have money! I've just had money sent from strange sources! Yes, we still have food! It was interesting that she asked just the right questions... I had been sent money from people without even telling them there was a need. Money just was showing up unexpectedly. She went on prompting me with a "well?" I said "so what I'm supposed to just trust God for money! People would think I'm crazy! How flaky could I get? If that's what He wants then that's just crazy!" Are you catching the theme? Crazy. She replied quietly, "You know chances are the people who are going to think you're crazy, already do. As to what you are to do didn't you say that you have songs and burdens in your heart from God-maybe that's what you are supposed to do." At this point I wanted to jump

Stephanie Pauline Ministries...*More than Music*

through the phone and either pummel this woman or fall into her arms and cry. I wasn't sure which...I was just thinking "who IS she anyway!" She suggested that I take some time to really seek God about these things.

I went back to my house and poured out my heart before God. I had been praying about getting a job, but this time I REALLY prayed and was open to God's voice...I had been so afraid to really hear God, so afraid to really trust God, so afraid to follow my heart. "You are worth your keep" I felt Him say. Finally, I understood that God means what He says and says what He means...all the way from the intent to the application. Quickly and clearly all the clutter that had been in my mind was swept clean as it always is when God speaks and He laid it out in the simplest terms. "You can either be responsible in the eyes of men or you can do what I have placed in your heart to do. It's up to you." Then the decision was easy...

Before it had always seemed too good to be true. God wouldn't really WANT me to do what I WANT to do...that would be selfish of me. "Don't fool yourself, Steph." I would say. But you see after you know God and He is alive in you, your desires and dreams change. Then selfishness is a good thing, because what you want more than anything is to serve God and humankind. "Delight yourself also in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." ~Psalm 37:4 He places the desire for these things in your heart and then fulfills them. God IS good, and He wants your deepest true God-given longings to be fulfilled; your gifts used. Don't be afraid to follow your heart if indeed your heart is the Lord's. God will meet you there and He will provide for you! I know this because He has provided for me! It's not always easy but it is so good!

Projects and updates:

I have been very busy as usual. "From Me to You," the full length CD, will be released, hopefully, by mid April. I am very excited about the fact that we are partnering with some schools and ministries so that when you purchase the CD, "From Me to You", through them they will receive half of the proceeds of the ten dollar cost. I have always wanted my music to be a source of financial blessing to worthy organizations and I am so happy to see that being fulfilled even if right now it's in a small way. The three song, self-titled, debut CD is still available, (please see order form). Also, I am hopefully going to begin production on another CD very soon but that is pending some contractual arrangements. I'll let you know!

Highlights:

- I went to a GMA (Gospel Music Association) seminar in Nashville, and received excellent reviews from industry professionals and made some key contacts.
- I shared and sang at the Cleo Wallace detention center here in C/S. That's always a blessing.
- I sang for the Pikes Peak IHS nursing home with my son, Trevor.
- I was given a quality, touch sensitive keyboard, have started taking piano lessons, and have written five songs with the piano.
- I sang for my home church, Cornerstone Community Center, in MN. That was a refreshing time for me.
- I recorded a song on a CD of songs written by a woman from Church of the Open Door in the Twin Cities. Different local Mpls. artists recorded the songs and I was asked to be one of them. It was a fun. Soon, I'll let you know how you can get it.
- I wrote 39 new songs.

Prayer Needs:

- That I would grow in my relationship with God and humbly seek His will for my life.
- That God would anoint me with songs and words straight from His heart.
- That I would find a place to live as I recently found out I have to move from my apartment soon.
- That God would give me wisdom in my decision pertaining to an offer I received from a record label in Nashville.
- That our financial needs would be provided: \$1,500 a month for living expenses, \$1,000 a month for business expenses, \$4,000 for initial equipment costs: (sound equipment, composition software, basic recording equipment, CD burner). If the financial needs were split between supporters as follows it would mean:
50 supporters @ \$50/month OR 70 supporters @ \$35/month OR
100 supporters @ \$25/month OR 200 supporters @ \$12.50/month
Additional revenue, Lord willing, will come through CD sales and concerts, however, my hope is that I'll receive enough support from private sources that the ministry will not be project, or concert driven. This will enable me to share the music freely and help fund other non-profits as well.

Involvement opportunities:

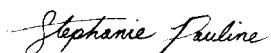
- We can use your help in many ways. The first way I can think of is prayer. Please see the order form below and check the box to be added to our prayer chain if you are willing to commit to lifting this ministry, me, and my son up in prayer.

Stephanie Pauline Ministries...*More than Music*

- If you would like to nominate a worthy ministry, or school to become a designated nonprofit partner and thereby enable them to become eligible to receive 50% of the proceeds from all CD sales made through that nonprofit or you would like more information about this process please call Stephanie at (651) 226-8268 or Genny at (651) 460-2520.
- Also, you can be a voice for me in your area. We have displays available for CD distribution and flyers, as well. If you are willing to post flyers in your locality and/or place displays, please check the box on the form and return.
- You can still order the mini CD, the rookie card with great potential, by specifying your CD order on the form, making a donation and sending them in, or by ordering the CD online now at www.StephaniePauline.org. This CD received great reviews from GMA industry professionals.
- Also, you can join the S.P.M. club by giving ten dollars or more a month toward the ministry. When you commit to doing so you will automatically receive any and all recordings and products that are produced through S.P.M.

Thank you for your time and attention.

With Love,



Stephanie Pauline

*Return the form below by e-mail (Stephanie@StephaniePauline.org) or fax to 651.460.2530,
or send to Stephanie Pauline Ministries, P.O. Box 31, Farmington, MN. 55024*