Dear Open Door Family

We were camped at the foot of a glacier around 17,000 ft. somewhere in the Bolivian Andes and I was experiencing strange symptoms related to the altitude. Woody and Kico were in one tent and I was in another. I was cold and miserable and as I started to hear things (which were really not there) I became increasingly fear-filled. Every sound I heard every shadow I saw convinced me that someone was there to do us harm. I prayed and cried but it was one of the longest nights of my life. The morning sun brought no warmth at all - but in the light of day it became clear that we had been completely alone on that glacier. The sunlight drove my desperate fear of the night far away. The only thing that had changed was LIGHT - which gave me a new perspective.

Isaiah was communicating the Truth of God to the people of Judah. They had been full of fear as they had seen the agressive nations around them. Isaiah's message was clear and simple. God is the only one you should fear.

Isaiah 8.13-14 (NLT) Make the Lord of Heaven's Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble. He will keep you safe..."

Isaiah 8.13-14 (NET) You must recognize the authority of the Lord who commands armies...

I was challenged with the whole idea of setting God apart as the One and Only. He is the LORD of HOSTS - the One who commands Heavens armies He deserves my absolute allegiance and my devotion. His promise is that as I focus on Him seeking to HONOR Him - the normal things that cause me to be anxious or fearful will fade as I remember the promise of His Presence.

PRAYER: Oh Lord God - Commander of Heavens Armies give me strength and encouragement to follow YOU fearlessly with ALL my hearts.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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