

STAND IN THE GAP

During the summer of 1996 & 1997 at all Promise Keepers Conferences men were asked if they would make a statement in Washington about the Clinton administration, by attending gathering in Washington, D.C. on Saturday the 4th of October of that same year.

God-fearing men were sick to see each week another attack on our Country's traditions by the evil men in Washington. I am using the word evil not the Promise Keepers Organization.

When my brother Don and I made the decision to attend we had no idea what the Lord would have us witness. This short two page account of that day leaves out eleven hours of unbelievable things like what happened when Marine one flew over our gathering twice. (inbound and outbound)

Having landed at Newark by brother Don gave me a wonderful tour of Maryland and a great dinner. My wonderful wife had gotten us a fantastic suite at the Hyatt in Arlington, Virginia. When we turned the TV the next morning all the stations had this PK event on already.

Our first feeling that something really special was happening was when the check out person that Saturday morning was crying. Don asked her if there was anything we could do for her or could we pray for her during her profound grief. She wiped away her tears and then related, allowed, to many men waiting to check out that: "I have been doing this job for seven years and today is the first morning that no one is complaining about their bill...I am crying for joy for all you men who are real Promise Keepers" It was the first time I had seen a black girl in person, crying and she was so beautiful in her joy.

The good folks at the Hyatt said we could keep Don's car in their garage and take the airport bus to the Metro station at the airport, to go then to the mall, which we did.

Upon entering Washington National Airport we inquired to a passing baggage handler, who was passing in front of us, how to get to the train on the other side of the highway just outside the window but across the highway. When he stooped and faced us he too was crying like you may have seen the black accordion player picture along President Roosevelt's funeral procession during W.W.II, which is featured in many history books of today. He was wearing a similar hat and could hardly speak he was crying so much. He took out his handkerchief before he proceeded to relate why he was crying. He then pointed up.

"You see those cars up there? They have been full of singing Christian

men since 4:30 this morning. I sure wish I could be with you guys today. God bless you good men.” He then showed us to the walkway passing over the highway to the metro station.

The Metro people had extra tables to issue tickets in a timely manner and everyone was praising the Lord for such a perfect day. However, the trains were full and did not stop. So we, to include hundreds of other men, all got on a train, which did stop going away from the city. We rode singing until we arrived at the Smithsonian Institution exit. Upon waking up the stairs into the sunlight we were each given a free new testament bible with “Stand in the Gap” printed as the cover with the date etc.. Special edition issued for that Saturday 4 Oct. 1996. Today I still purchase them by the case from the American Bible Society.

The joy of entering into a crowd of 3.2 million Christian men was so exhilarating (The Southern Baptists gave that number weeks later)

We were early and so we walked over to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Don had on his Vietnam Veterans Chapter hat on the same one he wore the year before in Bosnia. (Stay upwind of it) Many other men saluted Don and he returned salute, proudly to each and every one of them.

I normally do not have any berating problems but I was having some trouble breathing with so many men moving on the dry grass but it was tolerable.

When PK opened the conference at 10:45, which was 15 minutes ahead of schedule because they had so many speakers to give their messages to all of us. They open with the Jews for Jesus and they were wonderful telling us how the Lord mentioned over 5M years ago that this very gathering would take place in the end times between their two holy holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kipper that October.

The American Indians were next and spoke and played their drums for us (seven tetetrons over a mile of the mall) an elder chief told us: “I may be some four-hundred years late but men WELCOME TO MY COUNTRY” At that moment we all cheered and yelled for joy and then cried for them.

About 13:00 one of the speakers told us at the count of three to yell our domination. When we did we created a huge clap of thunder on a cloudless day. We listened to the thunder rolling away through the city and the echoes returning like real thunder storm as it faded form many seconds. This single even caught everyone by surprise and the silence that followed was just as impressive because you could her the birds singing as if you were alone in a park or woods. We all looked at each other so see every one holding the arms with the goose pimples on all of our arms. No one had a dry eye, at that moment, on that cloudless hot dusty tree-lined summer day. What we witnessed at that moment

makes us realize we had done the right thing by just being there. From his prepared remarks the speaker finally continued. By Saying: "Gentlemen that was chaos and now I want you to tell me on the count of three who your personnel Savior is."

When we yelled "Jesus Christ" we heard: "Christ" "Christ" "Christ" echoing and ever fading "Christ" through the city just as the thunder we had created a few moments earlier. From the silence we could hear something coming from across the Potomac River. It was wind, like a squall line, but there was so clouds or rain just a terrific wind which passes through us and hit the trees which bowed to us and shed their leaves over us like rain. These leaves were of autumn color and as the wind lessened it keep blowing mildly the rest of the day and kept us cool. This wind bathed us and allowed us to hear every world coming from the speakers placed all over the Washington Mall. Do you know the pictures taken that day by Promise Keepers earlier in the day were all green? But by 18:00 hours the trees along the Washington Mall were bare as a Winder's Day. We could all breath for the dust and heat were taken away for us. I thought I had seen every thing in Bosnia but He continues to do miracles every day.

This event made all who were there brothers and I could not wait to see how the media, with their satellite trucks from all over the world reported it. I should have known they are blinded by their evil ways.

On the train back to Arlington we saw so many men seeing each other for the first time in many years. For myself meeting several men from my former church Peace Community Church and witnessing so many men running into former friends that they had not seen in years from school, church, or military services.

While we were packed like sardines on the train back to Virginia I was holding on to the handle above me, inside the car when we had to move around to let even more men on the train. As was or had become the custom of the day. I said Frankfort, Ill. The man in my right armpit said Louisville, Kentucky. The man in my left armpit said Louisville, Kentucky. One man said: "Do you know Dr. Woo?" (Sp?) And the other man said: "I am his anesthesiologist!" And the first man said: "Your team saved my wife life" They then hugged each other and cried together.

A moment later the train stopped still in a tunnel at a station. A man stepped into the train into 17 men from his former church in Collinsville, Illinois. The man who was overjoyed to be again in his former congregation fellowship who had not seen these men for several years having moved to Washington State many years ago.

Being it is my Web site: We might have sinned that day. Having yelled AMMO! AMMO! as Marine One passed overhead.

The Lord does miracles everyday pay attention! Life is not a joke we all have to account for our actions.

Promise Keepers still has conferences each spring and summer:
Www.PromiseKeepers.org for schedules of their weekend conferences