

Impacting the Nations

We have invited David Stanfield to share with us from his experience on how banners can make a contribution to bring restoration to the nations through prophesy, healing and warfare.

I believe that the Lord has released banners (or flags as they have also been called) for us to use again in this stage of the Kingdom. I am seeing banners used in dozens of countries in a new way- to bring the prophetic word of God where it has been silenced, to bring healing and courage to believers and through obedience, warfare and declaration to establish His Kingdom on earth.

So why release banners again? We need to look at why they were released in the first place – in fact why were banners commanded to be used? As the children of God came out of bondage in Egypt - God released a new tool and weapon for them to forge His people into a united whole for the first time in history. Might it be time for a reformation and restoration of forging of a united people in our day?

If you understand the basic building blocks of banners, you can build anything He tells you to out of them:

- Banners are symbolic; they are physical manifestations that represent spiritual truths important for kingdom living.
- They speak of identity, reminding us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves and that our God is even bigger than the limits of our mind.
- Banners add a visual dimension to worship: they add a dramatic, colourful and joyful aspect to worship.
- Banners can help intercessors and prayer warriors extend what they already do. They can also be used for gentle healing and deliverance ministry, with or without words.
- Banners have very strong precedence in Scripture, including a direct command from God for men to use them.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: "The Israelites are to camp around the Tent of Meeting... each man under his standard with the banners of his family." Numbers 2:1-34

- God the Father uses banners.

"He lifts up a banner for the distant nations." Isaiah 5:25;

- Jesus Christ is a banner.

"In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and His place of rest will be glorious." Isaiah 11:10

- Holy Spirit uses banners.

"When the enemy shall come in, like a flood the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him and put him to flight." Isaiah 59:19

- Banners release movement: they are visual and add impact to worship. Movement in worship and liturgy has largely been lost from the church. Jesus and his disciples moved when they worshipped and banners help to bring movement back.
- Banners provide a language that crosses cultural and denominational boundaries. They speak to the unchurched.
- Banners encourage people to understand their authority, to speak forth God's Word and to be more obedient in taking and using that authority to change the atmosphere around them.
- Banners provoke confidence in God, encouraging men, women and children to step into their authority, to intercede and to prophesy. Properly used, banners help godly men to rise up into their destiny.



Banners are powerful tools for Worship

They enlarge and extend our worship which is the foundation for prophetic release, for healing, and for warfare. They encourage a deeper and broader experience, drawing out from our innermost being a yearning to move in response to God.

Banners reduce the fear of man by allowing us to be extravagant and expressive and help us to keep our focus on God and not ourselves.

Banners are a catalyst for corporate worship. They express the manifold presence of God, and rally us to flow together more naturally and organically. They allow us to spontaneously interact with others in worship in a way that the total becomes greater than the sum of the parts.

Banners are powerful tools for Intercession

Banners allow us to pray with our whole body; they provide focus and unity and take our intercession to the next level. They remind us how big our God is. They enable us to stay on task either as individuals or as a group. They also make for an easy flow between worship, intercession, and warfare.

Banners are powerful tools for Healing and Deliverance

Banners can be used in prophetic acts which make the truths of God more real and physically present, bypassing the rational, verbal and auditory channels. People who have trouble receiving ministry are often deeply touched by banners.

Banners are powerful tools for Warfare

Banners enlarge our focus and give courage in warfare. Because they are physical, they help bring unity and put a face on our warfare. Using our whole body in intercession or warfare removes feelings of powerlessness. Using a banner gives us boldness and confidence to remember how big and powerful God is in every situation.

Knowing this one can move confidently into any situation in the world and expect God to turn up and tell you what is needed. With this simple understanding and some banners God is "let off the leash" to be Himself. To spontaneously direct us to use this tool to encourage and equip local Christians to stand in the Godly authority He has given them to change their own nations. Banners are an ancient tool that God is re-issuing for His Great End-time Army. I strongly encourage you to investigate and use them!

David Stanfield

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Out of Our Minds Banners

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