

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose/ By any other name would smell as sweet."

-William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* (II, ii, 1-2)

As the publication of JAIA neared reality, I found a *hold* being placed on my spirit as I tried to finalize the copy. On one hand, I felt as if I was a dam holding back a huge and forceful wall of water but on the other hand, I heard the Lord saying, "Wait! Don't run ahead!" I had a powerful sense that God was actively working on things that, at the time, I could not see and did not understand. However, I was certain I had heard, "WAIT," so I waited.

One morning, as the amazing women of my Bible study group and I were gathered to 'test drive' the lesson, *I AM . . . Your Deliverer and He Who Fights For You*, the Lord directed our initial conversation to reveal a battle I was struggling with: the dilemma of my own personal name and what name to use as the authorship of JAIA. I knew I had a legal name on my driver's license but it was not that simple.

When I was born into this world, my parents named me Karen Leigh Fuller, but my life choices and life traumas created several name changes. In the course of those changes, my identity was lost and the resulting name does not represent who I really am.

Changing my name legally would be an expense and a frustration. Then I felt God remind me of my college nickname as He said to me, "I will rename you without you having to do another thing, without you having to go through more angst. Your name is Fuller – it always has and always will be and it is the exact plan I have for your life: Your life, from now on, will be Fuller . . . *fuller* than you have ever known it to be."

The Lord seems to embrace renaming as a significant line of demarcation in some lives.

(Absolutely, *I AM . . . He Who Renames* will be in an upcoming volume. ☺)

And so, *the renaming* took place, and I stepped into my new life as "Fuller", which is, indeed, my legal middle name. My **lifeline came through embracing my name**, both in who I was created to be and in who I am in Christ Jesus. I have decided to honor my parents by publishing JAIA under the author name of K. Leigh Fuller, which embraces the original plan for my life, not the one that resulted from my broken life choices. I have another last name, legally, but I prefer to be called, simply, Fuller.

I close with this affirmation: **a lifeline comes through embracing God's names**. It is my prayer that you will use Just As . . . I AM to dive into knowing God with the same intensity as a new parent checking out every tiny finger, toe, heel, and ear of a precious newborn child. *Get to know Him, each and every facet of Him, intimately!* May every lesson, every Name, every moment you spend *just as you are* with the Great I AM drive you deeper into relationship with Him. May He ever and always be your **lifeline**.

Absorb this truth:

God rejoices in revealing Himself *more and more* to us
as we demonstrate *more and more* to Him
our desire to participate in a relationship with Him.

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare asks.

The answer: **EVERYTHING!**

To the glory of God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit . . . Forever and ever,

-Fuller