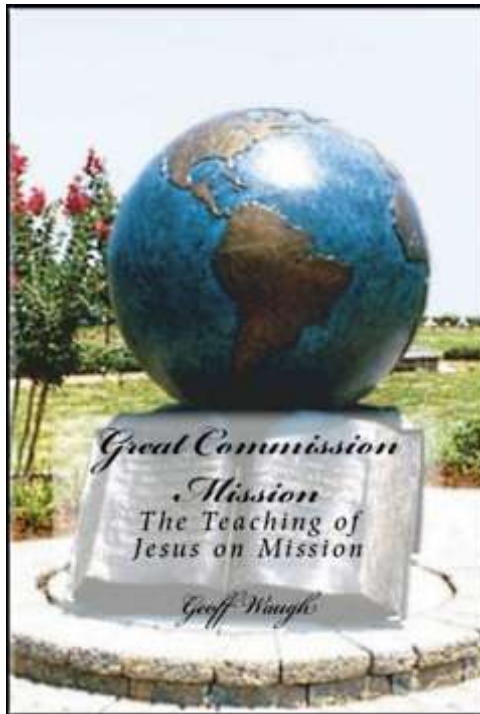


Great Commission Mission

*Teaching Them to Obey in Love &
Jesus the Model for Supernatural Mission*



Geoff Waugh

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Compiled from the two books

Teaching Them to Obey in Love (printed in colour)

Jesus the Model for Short Term Supernatural Mission

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*Some of this book is adapted with permission and gratitude from Bob Densley's book **Teaching Them to Obey All that I have Commanded** (2015).*

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Australia



Logo: lamp & scroll,
basin & towel,
in the light of the cross

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The Great Commission series is:

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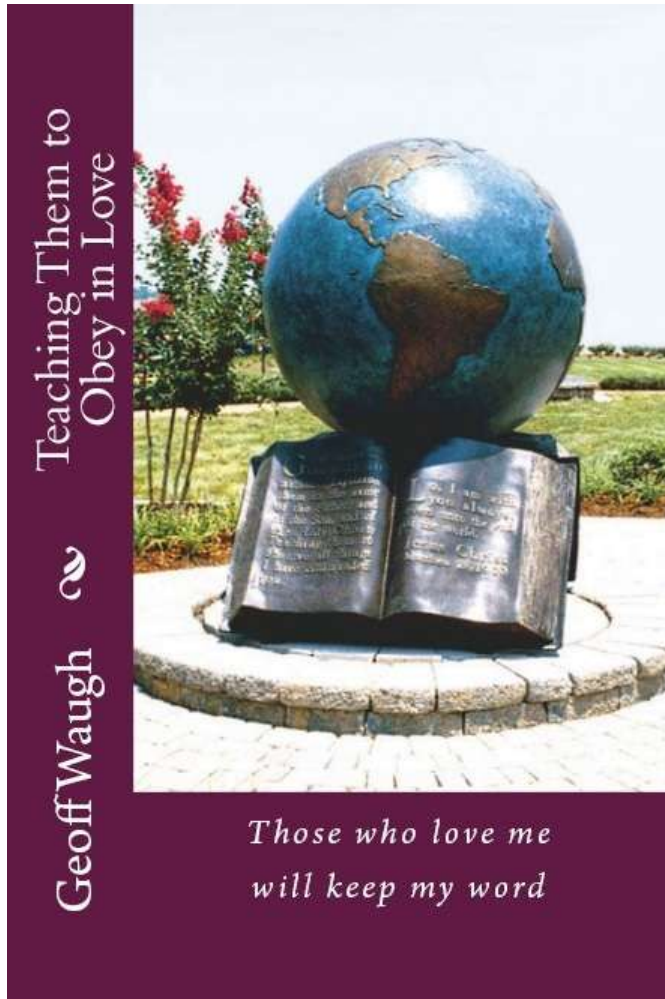
The more
I seek Him
the more I
find Him.
The more
I find Him
the more I
love Him

***The more I seek Him the more I find Him.
The more I find Him the more I love Him***

Part 1

Teaching them to Obey in Love

Reproduced from the book



(Paperback printed in colour)

Introduction to Part 1

The Great Commission is a call to obey everything Jesus commanded. That's not easy! But Jesus reminded us that he now has all authority in heaven and on earth and he is with us to the end of the age:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28:18-20)

This book is about learning to obey Jesus as we love God who loves us totally. Jesus said, *"If you love me you will keep my commandments"* (John 14:15, 23). The greatest commandments of all are to love God and love others.

I was teaching on revival and praying for and with people in the South Pacific islands when one of the leaders said to me, "You have written many books on revival. You should write one on the Great Commission: 'teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.'"

Here it is! When I returned to Brisbane I discovered my friend Bob Densley had written a book *Teaching Them to Obey All that I have Commanded*. So I adapted some of his work in this book.

Bob and I visited many countries, teaching on revival and praying with people. We encourage Christians, especially leaders, to obey what Jesus told us to do. All Christians love to speak and sing about Jesus but we may not follow his instructions. So I wrote a mission book about how Jesus trained his followers: *Jesus the Model for Short Term Supernatural Mission*. It's the first in my Great Commission Series and this is the second book in that series – see Appendix.

Jesus taught his followers to do what he did. He commanded them to love one another as he loved us. He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, to heal the sick and to cast out spirits. I hope this book will help you do what Jesus told us to do.

Jesus said that all the commandments could be summed up in two: loving God and loving others.

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it:



*Live as if Christ died yesterday
rose this morning
and is coming back tomorrow
~ Martin Luther*

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:37-40).

Jesus described our neighbour as anyone, especially those in need. He said that we would keep his commandments because we loved him.

Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. (John 14:23)

God our loving Father expects us to believe in Jesus, his Son, to trust him and to obey his teaching and instructions.

And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment (1 John 3:23).

What is obedience?

Jesus told a parable about two sons whose father told them to work in his vineyard (Matthew 21:28-32). One son said he would go but he did not. The other son said he would not go but changed his mind and went. The one who said 'No' but then went was more obedient than the one who said 'Yes' but didn't go. The story shows how we can repent, change our mind and obey.

Jesus' parable of the two sons encourages us to repent, turn around, and obey even if previously we did not. Often we may feel guilty that we are not obeying Jesus fully and wholeheartedly. When we pray we may remember how we disobeyed or were half-hearted or reluctant to obey. We can repent, and obey.

Some of Jesus commands seem hard for us to obey: *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you; whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me; carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; sell your possessions, and give alms; those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples (Luke 6:27-28; 9:23; 10:4; 12:33; 14:33).* And that's just a few of his instructions!

We're not all called to be Saint Francis or Mother Teresa. But we are called to follow Jesus – and that's a challenge. Jesus' instructions can shape our attitudes and actions. We may live it out in different ways in different

places, but his commands will always guide us as we are led by his Spirit. Jesus was wholly obedient in different ways at different times as a child, a student, a carpenter, a teaching rabbi, a healer, a sacrifice. We can obey in our different situations.

Our obedience springs from love and flows strong in God's love. *We love Him because he first loved us* (1 John 4:19).



Love is the reason we obey

Jesus says that we will obey his commandments because of our love for him. We obey from love, not just from duty. Our duty becomes our delight.

We understand obeying in love with people we really love such as our parents or husband or wife. We love to obey or please them because we love them. It's our delight, not just a duty. We love to please them, and we are so happy when our response to them pleases them.

Jesus' obedience was a natural part of his loving relationship with his Father, and he calls us into loving obedience also.

If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love (John 15:10).

Jesus lived in full fellowship and intimate loving relationship with his Father. Consequently his obedience flowed naturally and supernaturally from that.

So this book explores how we can obey Jesus in love by loving God and loving others. Loving God and loving others are inter-related. John, the Apostle of love, reminds us:

Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also (1 John 4:20-21).

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith (1 John 5:1-4).

Believing in God and in his Son Jesus changes us. It enables us to love God and to love one another. When we believe in God and trust him he gives

us his life and we discover that his life in us gives us love for him and for others.

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***Though our feelings come and go;
God's love for us does not.
~ C S Lewis***

1 Love God

Jesus reminds us that the greatest of all the commandments is to love God. *One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these'* (Mark 12:28-31).

God's love for us brings us into a loving relationship with him and with others. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life* (John 3:16).

C S Lewis wrote, "On the whole, God's love for us is a much safer subject to think about than our love for Him. Nobody can always have devout feelings: and even if we could, feelings are not what God principally cares about. Christian Love, either towards God or towards man, is an affair of the will. If we are trying to do His will we are obeying the commandment, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God.' He will give us feelings of love if He pleases. We cannot create them for ourselves, and we must not demand them as a right. But the great thing to remember is that, **though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not**" (*Mere Christianity*, Book 3, Chapter 9, emphasis added).

Jesus pointed out that our God who loves us is One Being. Jesus and the Father are one in eternal union with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *I and the Father are one. ... Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ... But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ... You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you"* (John

10:30; 14:23, 26, 28). We have one God revealed in three divine persons who love us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So this section on loving God looks at these three dimensions of loving God:

Faith in God our Father

Following Jesus our Lord

Filled with the Spirit our Guide



OR

*Faith is jumping out into the unknown
and landing on Someone*

Faith in God

Loving God includes having faith in God. *And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him* (Hebrews 11:6).

The Message translates that verse like this: *It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.*

That verse mentions two aspects of faith in God:

1. We believe that God exists (Some people don't believe that).
2. We know he responds to us (Some people don't seek him).

Jesus expected people to have faith, especially his disciples. He said, *Have faith in God. ... Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them* (Mark 11:22, 24).

Many people don't believe that. Some people think that Jesus was exaggerating.

But, when we believe and ask according to God's will we do receive from him.

The disciples' small faith often amazed Jesus. For example, after stilling the storm he said to them, *Where is your faith? or You of little faith, why are you so afraid?* (Luke 8:24; Matthew 8:26)

Like us, the disciples sometimes failed through lack of faith. When Jesus came back from talking with Moses and Elijah about how he would leave the earth (Luke 9:29-31) he found that his disciples had failed to drive out a spirit from an epileptic boy. Jesus said, *O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me* (Matthew 17:17).

Jesus then rebuked the spirit and it came out. The boy was cured. When his disciples asked Jesus why they could not do that he answered, *"Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and*

it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting” (Matthew 17:20-21).

Loving God involves having faith in God. Believing him. Trusting him. We will explore faith this way:

- 1 Saving faith
- 2 The gift of faith



***Faith is allowing your soul
to go beyond what your eyes can see
For we walk by faith, not by sight
~ 2 Corinthians 5:7***

Saving Faith

Jesus often reminded people that their faith in him saved them and brought God's blessing. He expected people to have faith in him and often said things like these:

'Your faith has saved you; go in peace' (Luke 7:50).

'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace' (Luke 8:48).

Faith can be tricky. Some people seem to have faith in their beliefs or doctrines. Others seems to have faith in their own 'faith'! For example, some people believe that you can quote any verse from the Bible and it will happen.

Jesus calls us to have faith in him which also means having faith in God for they are One. That is different from having faith in your beliefs or doctrines. It is more personal. It means trusting God himself, not just believing things about him.

Paul explained it this way: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

The Message describes it this way: *Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We trust God. We trust Jesus. We don't trust in our own abilities or efforts. We don't even trust in our particular doctrines. Many Christians believe different doctrines. I suspect that when we are in heaven, in God's glorious presence, we will see that we've all been wrong about many things including some doctrines.

So we trust in Jesus himself, not just our doctrines about him. We have faith in God himself, not in our theories about him. That's why you can find people from all doctrines and denominations who really love God personally and follow Jesus in faith. People who differ from you may even love God more than you do!

Jesus reminded religious people that many sinners, prostitutes and hated traitors who collected taxes for Rome, would be saved but many religious people who trusted in their own goodness or 'works' would not.

Saving faith is just trusting Jesus himself, not trusting in your doctrines about him. You can trust him right now as you read this. You can trust Jesus. You can have faith in God himself. Why not pause now and thank him for his love and grace and mercy for you?



*Faith is the bridge between where I am
and the place God is taking me*

Gift of Faith

Faith is a gift. We can't earn it, not even by being good and obedient. God gives us faith. When we pray, "God, forgive me" or "God save me" we are using faith – the faith that God gives to us. Some people ignore that gift and turn away from God.

We are not only **saved** by God's grace through faith, but we also **serve** by God's grace through faith. Since I was a small boy I heard that we are **saved to serve**.

A funny thing happens for some Christians. They seem to know that salvation is God's gift to us which we receive by faith, like a child. But then they seem to think we must earn God's favour or earn Jesus' love by obedience. But even our service is by grace, in faith, and not by our works. Our service does not earn God's grace! It is our way of saying, "Thanks". Our service is our act of love – love for God and love for others.

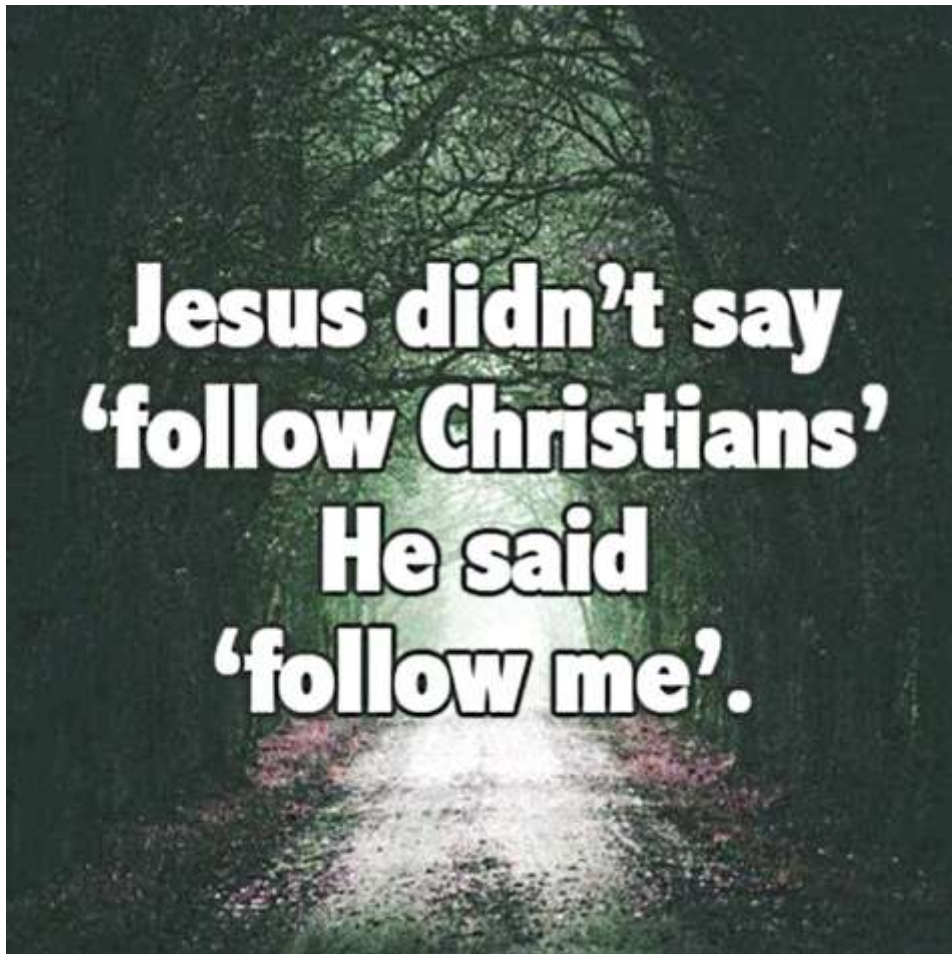
Then, as we express our love in obedience we *grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ* (2 Peter 3:18). Our obedience does not earn God's love for us. We already have that, for ever. Our obedience just expresses our love for him. We show our love for him by doing what he says to do.

There is also a gift of faith that is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Some people like to call this gift of faith 'mountain moving faith'. That refers to Jesus' word: *Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea", and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you.* (Mark 11:22-23).

We have no story of Jesus moving mountains around, although he did turn water into wine, still a storm on Galilee, walk on water, and curse a fig tree that withered in a day (all done only once). So mountain-moving faith is not there for us to go around changing the landscape! But it is there for us to do the will of our Father, just as Jesus did.

We can all believe in God and have faith in his mighty power. Then as we obey what he puts into our heart we can move in faith, serve in faith, speak in faith, obey in faith. The gift of faith then flows in and through us.

God does his mighty work in and through us. All glory goes to him, not us, because he does it in and through us as we obey. That is why some very young Christians can pray for the sick and see them healed in many different ways, because they believe and obey. Others may see God do miraculous things because they also believe and obey. We all can believe and obey.



*Jesus didn't say 'follow Christians'
He said 'follow me'*

Follow Me

If we love Jesus we will obey him more and more. He said:

‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me (John 14:23).

Then he added: *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (John 15:14)*

Sometimes we think that obedience is tough, and certainly Jesus did say: *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me (Luke 9:23).* That can be tough. But it can also be wonderfully freeing for us. He frees us from our selfishness and self-centredness. He fills us with love for God and for others.

Jesus told his followers to come to him and he would give them rest. Obeying his commands is not a heavy burden but a delight. Jesus also said, *My yoke is easy and My burden is light (Matthew 11:30).*

Have you ever fallen in love? I mean head-over-heels in love! You wanted to be with the one you loved. You wanted to please him or her. You thought of ways to make him or her happy. Their wish was your command! If they liked chocolate you found many ways to surprise them with chocolate. If they asked you to do something you jumped to it as quickly as you could. You loved them. You wanted to please them. You wanted to bless them.

That’s a small but powerful example of how we can love God and respond to his great love for us. We follow Jesus, like the disciples did, because we love him. We do what he wants because we love him.

Yes, our love can be weak, fickle, and muddled by our sin or selfishness. But the more we know him in all his grace, beauty, love and goodness, the more we really love him in gratitude and gladness. And the more we love him the more we delight to obey him.

No one, except Jesus, loves and obey God fully and perfectly. We all fail at times, maybe often. But we all can grow in our love and obedience. Just trying to obey him is a sign of our love for Jesus and our response to God's love for us.



*"Not by might, nor by power,
but by My Spirit"
says the Lord
~ Zechariah 4:6*

Filled with the Spirit

God's Spirit lives in all believers *and the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us* (Romans 5:5).

God is Spirit, not just a spirit. There are many spirits but God himself is Spirit. He is the Creator Spirit who made us in his image, like him.

Jesus pointed out that *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (John 4:24). We are made in God's likeness to love God with our whole being and worship him in spirit and truth. Our worship is not just an intellectual activity although we can love God with all our mind. We worship him in spirit with our whole being for we are like him as spirit beings.

God has given us his Spirit, who is also the Spirit of Jesus. Paul explains our relationship with God our Father and Jesus his Son through his Spirit, a beautiful description of the Trinity: *God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'* So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

A loving relationship with the Holy Spirit

Jesus said we need to be born again by being born of the Spirit. He explained it to Nicodemus, a Jewish leader, this way:

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit' (John 3:5-8).

Jesus taught his disciples about the Holy Spirit on the night before he was crucified. He said that those who followed him would receive a Helper, a Counsellor, who would live in them and guide them into all truth. Part of this truth is the understanding and capacity to love.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot

receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you (John 14:16-18).



*The Spirit-filled life is not a special,
deluxe edition of Christianity.
It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people
~ A W Tozer*

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you (John 14:26).

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you (John 16:7-14).

The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, is our guide. Jesus himself was filled with and led by the Holy Spirit. He said that his followers would also be empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is why he said that we would do even greater works than he did because he was going to the Father (John 14:12) and that he would not leave us as orphans. (John 14:18).

Whoever believes in Jesus, whoever trusts him, has the Holy Spirit living in them. This is one of the most amazing aspects of our Christian faith and probably one of the least understood.

God's love poured into us by his Spirit

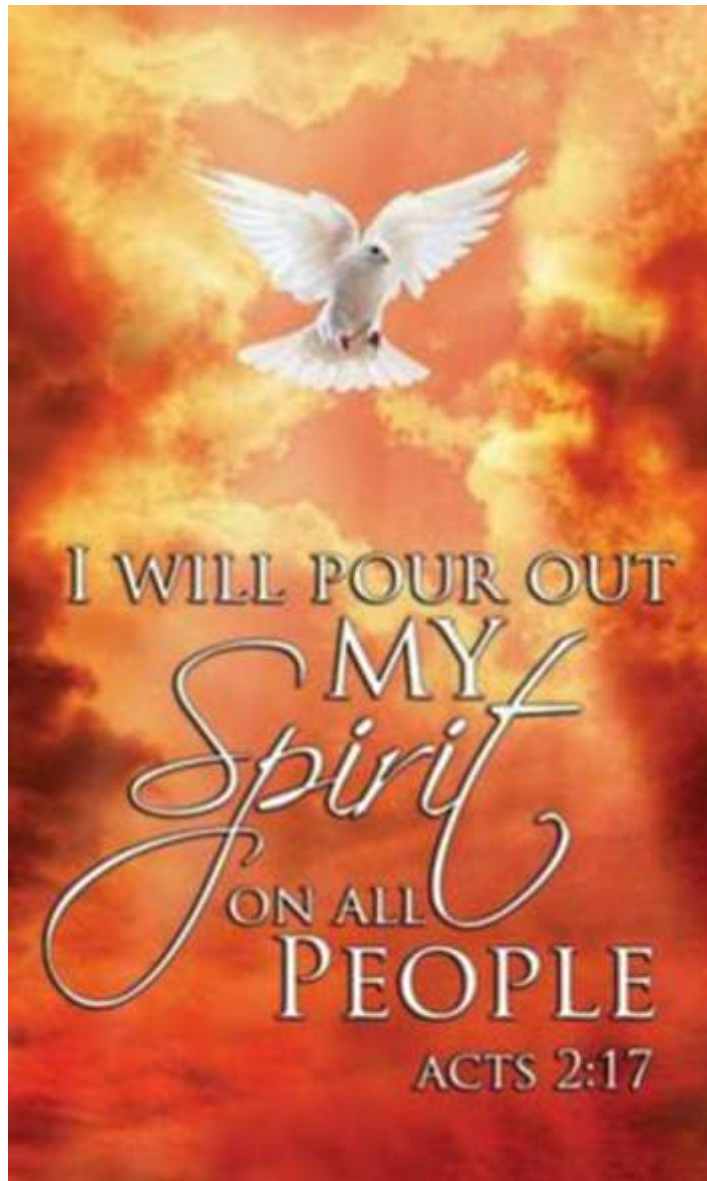
One of the miracles of receiving and being filled with the Holy Spirit is that we are filled with God's love by the Spirit of God himself. God is love, so his Spirit imparts his love to us.

We not only receive God's love for us by his Spirit within us, but we also receive God's love for others as well. That's miraculous. Spirit-filled people should reflect the Spirit of Jesus. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).*

We can grieve the Holy Spirit by not seeking his guidance and by not listening to his advice. Paul told his readers not to do that: *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).*

When we make decisions without responding to God's Spirit within us it can lead to less righteousness and holiness, less anointing, and less

blessings in our lives. God gives us his righteousness and anointing as we respond to him and increasingly obey him. That's not a reward for our obedience but it is a result of our obedience.



*I will pour out my Spirit
on all people
~ Acts 2:17*

Baptized in the Spirit

Some readers will check out this section to see if my doctrine agrees with their doctrine. Perhaps you did! But God's Spirit rises far above our little doctrines and limited understanding. He is God.

We need to be filled with the Spirit and empowered by the Spirit. Jesus promised this. It was his last promise before he left the earth. He promised that his disciples will have power and authority from the Holy Spirit to undertake the work of the kingdom.

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49).

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:4-5).

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The more we are filled with the Spirit the more we can love God and love others in the anointing and power of God's Spirit. This is an amazing relationship with God.

Countless millions of Christians now tell how God's Spirit came upon them and transformed them with a new discovery of God's love and power and also a new, deep love for God.

The Holy Spirit, who inspired God's Word, speaks powerfully through that Word to the followers of Jesus who truly seek him. As we read the Word of God, seeking the Lord for His guidance, the Holy Spirit brings the Word to life and shows us what God's word means for us and how to apply it in our daily life.

Jesus lived that way, constantly obedient to the Spirit of God in him. We can learn to do that more and more. Sometimes we may feel too sinful or

too weak to love and obey our Lord, but *the Spirit helps us in our weakness* (Romans 8:26). We serve God in his mighty power, not in our own power.

Remember that! You have a Helper, an Advocate – the Holy Spirit who loves you, guides you, and empowers you.



Led by the Spirit

Jesus is, of course, our best example of being filled with and led by the Spirit.

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age (Luke 1:21-23).

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness ... Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

*"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:1, 14-21).

The power of the Lord was with him to heal them. ... And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. (Luke 5:17; 6:19)

Jesus was constantly led by the Spirit and ministered in the power of the Spirit. He sent his 12 apostles and then 70 followers to do the same in the authority and power of the Spirit (Luke 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 10:1).

He sends up to do the same (Acts 1:8). We too can be led and empowered by God's Spirit: *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.* (Romans 8:1).

Those who are led by the Holy Spirit learn to love and serve as Jesus did.

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2 Love Others

An anthropologist proposed a game to African tribal children. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he told them to run they all took each other's hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they had run like that because one of the children could have had all the fruits, they said:

UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?
UBUNTU in the Xhosa culture means: "I am because we are".

God's kingdom is like that, only more so. We belong to God and to one another. We are caught up for ever in God's great love for everyone.

God's love for us all is unique, total, and eternal. He demonstrated that love in his Son Jesus. *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8).

We did nothing to deserve or earn his love for us. God is love. So John 3:16 has become the most famous verse in the Bible: *For God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

The Message puts it this way: *This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.*

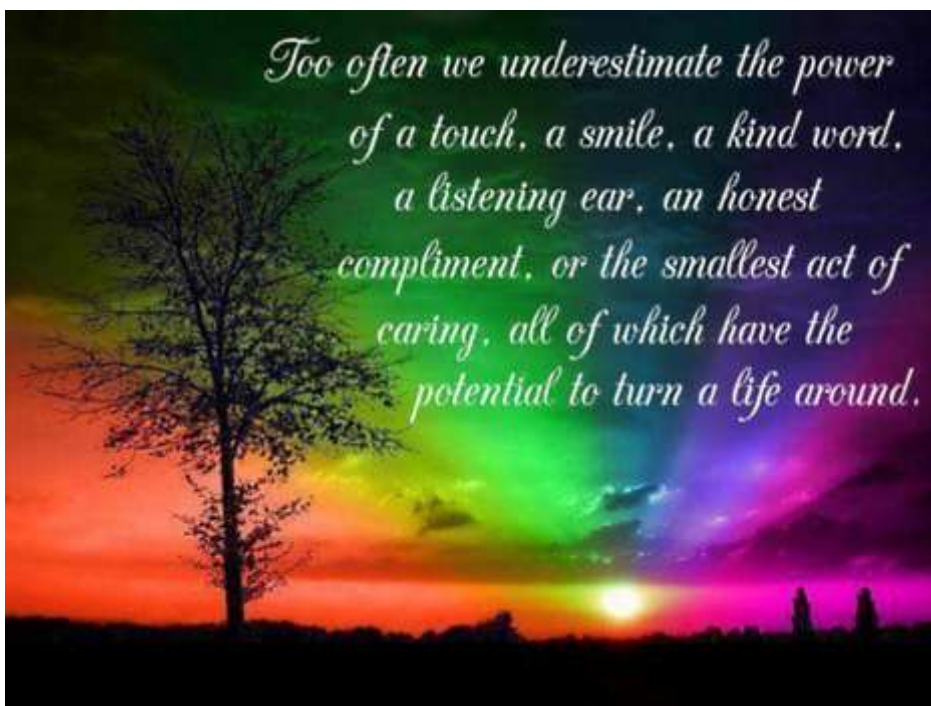
When we surrender our lives to him God lives in us and we live in him – Spirit with spirit, or Spirit in spirit. We have new life. We are born anew.

So God's love is then poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). That is not only God's love for us personally, it is also God's love for everyone. We have a new kind of love within us – God's love.

That love, God's love, is poured into us by God's Spirit.
What does that mean in practice?

Well, it certainly means that we

love one another,
serve one another and
encourage one another.



*Too often we underestimate the power
of a touch, a smile, a kind word,
a listening ear, an honest
compliment, or the smallest act of
caring, all of which have the
potential to turn a life around.*

***Too often we underestimate to power
of a touch, a smile, a kind word,
a listening ear, an honest compliment,
or the smallest act of caring,
all of which have the potential to turn a life around.***

Love one another

Jesus gave his disciples a **new** commandment.

Jesus shared his heart with his disciples on his last evening with them before his crucifixion. He emphasized that we must love one another as he loves us: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another* (John 13:34-35).

What's new about that commandment? We are to love others **as Jesus loved us**. That's new. Jesus emphasized it: *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.* (John 15:12)

Jesus' love is also God's radical love. On the cross he prayed forgiveness for those who were torturing and killing him. He taught that kind of pure love which often seems strange to us: *You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you* (Matthew 5:34-44).

Our natural, human love is not like that. But God's love in us by his Spirit is just like that. We are new creations in Christ Jesus with a new kind of love.

Paul gives us an inspired description of that kind of godly love in his famous love chapter: *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love* (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13).

How do we love like that? We love Jesus (not just like him or learn about him) and he fills us with his love because *the love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit* (Romans 5:5).

We find a new kind of love within us – a deeper love for God and his deep love for others flowing through us because his Spirit in us fills us with his love for all people. Then we find ways to show that love as we serve and encourage one another.



Bronze sculpture by Max Greiner

Serve one another

Jesus gives lasting joy, an everlasting joy found in loving and serving. Jesus' friends, his disciples, argued about greatness on the night before Jesus was crucified: *A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, ... 'I am among you as one who serves'* (Luke 22:24, 27).

After washing his friends' feet that night Jesus said: *I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them* (John 13:15-17).

Peter objected! It was not appropriate for Jesus, his Lord and Master, to do such a thing! The Lord and Master acting and dressed as the lowly servant? Peter still had much to learn about the kingdom of God. We find great joy and fulfilment in loving and serving one another.

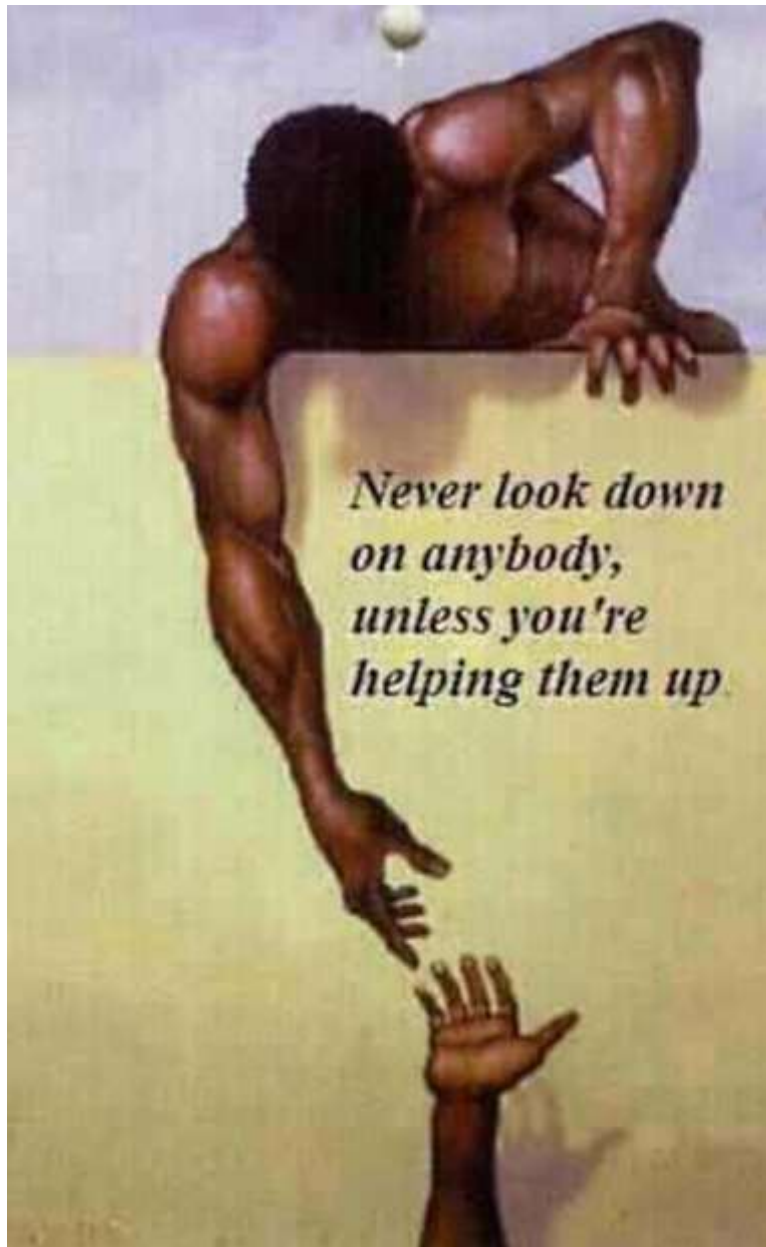
Later on Peter wrote about the 'joy unspeakable' or the inexpressible joy we have through believing, loving and serving Jesus: *Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls* (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Our lasting joy is found in Jesus, in following him and being made like him. Trusting in him we too have life everlasting and we live out that eternal life here and now as we love and serve others just as Jesus did. That is something to celebrate, to enjoy and to share with others. It's good news indeed.

Our love for God, our commitment to Jesus, and our life in the Spirit, plunge us into serving others. Loving and serving others can also lead us into confrontation, just as Jesus' love for all people led to conflict. We may confront injustice and hatred as we truly seek to live for God or follow Jesus, led and empowered by his Spirit. Martin Luther King Jnr died

doing that, opposing injustice in Jesus' name. Millions around the world do that as they also love and serve Jesus in the power of his Spirit.

Obedying Jesus' commands means that we will love and serve one another as Jesus did. The more we love him the more we will love and serve like him.



***Never look down on anybody,
unless you're helping them up***

Encourage one another

We are called into service, fellowship and community as the Body of Christ. We need one another and we need to encourage one another.

Our physical bodies have many different members, and so does the Body of Christ as Paul explained: *If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased (1 Corinthians 12:15-18).*

Your gifts and abilities are different from mine, although they do overlap. We all worship, sing praise, and serve others. But the way we do it and the abilities we have vary a lot. We need to enjoy and celebrate our differences.

As we love and serve the Lord together we can encourage one another. The word encourage means to put courage in someone (en-courage). That's a great way to show love for one another. We all need it, and we all can give it.

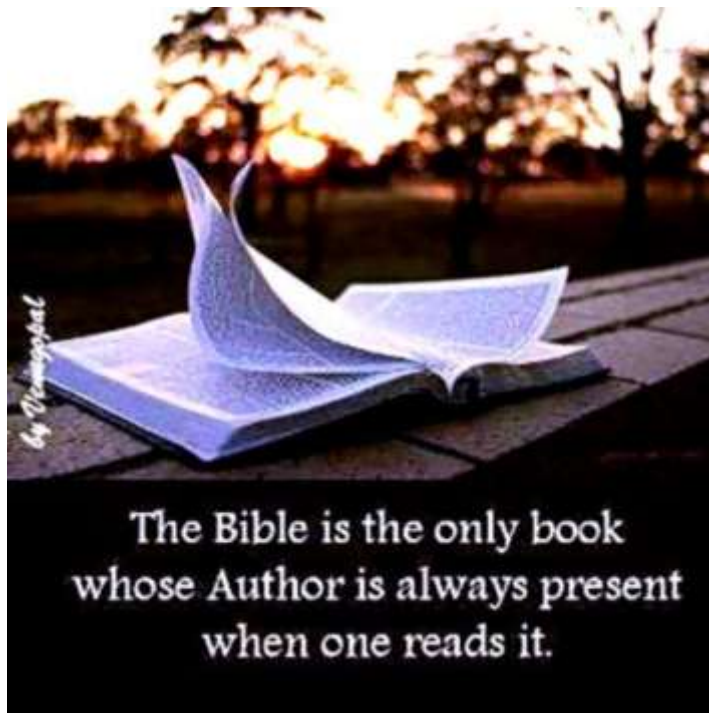
Serving God together is a great way to support and encourage one another. Jesus sent his apostles and followers out together in pairs, not alone. As we do things together we bring our different gifts and abilities to the task.

For example, if you are praying for someone you can do it alone, and we often do. We can also do it together, and then we bring added faith and gifts to the prayer. Someone may get a Scripture, or a picture parable, or a 'word of knowledge' or use a gift of faith for that person. Many healings and miracles happen that way as we pray and obey.

I have been blessed hundreds of times when people have prayed for me or thanked me or encouraged me. We have prayed for and encouraged hundreds of people in our ministry and mission. You can too.

As we *encourage one another and build each other up* (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and *encourage one another daily* (Hebrews 3:13), we all grow stronger in our faith and Christian living. We can do this in many ways – face to face, facing challenges, and even on Facebook! We can stir one another up to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24), to love God and to love others.

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***The Bible is the only book
whose Author is always present
when one reads it.***

Conclusion to Part 1

Teaching Them to Obey in Love

This small book gives guidelines and suggestions to help us all to love God and to love others.

Best of all we can know, love and live for Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

I love the way John, possibly the youngest disciple and the one Jesus loved in a unique way, concludes his good news about Jesus. His conclusion applies to this book also: *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

Have faith in God.

Believe in Jesus.

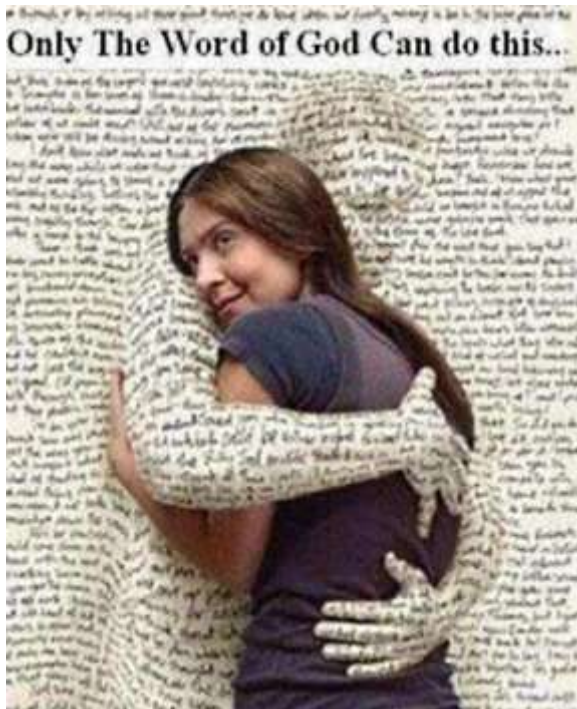
Trust the Holy Spirit.

We live out that wonderful relationship with our Lord as we love, serve, and encourage one another. That way we can obey everything Jesus has commanded us with grateful hearts and glad love.

Jesus himself told us to make disciples, teaching them to obey everything he commanded his disciples – right through to the end of the age.

Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore^[c] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

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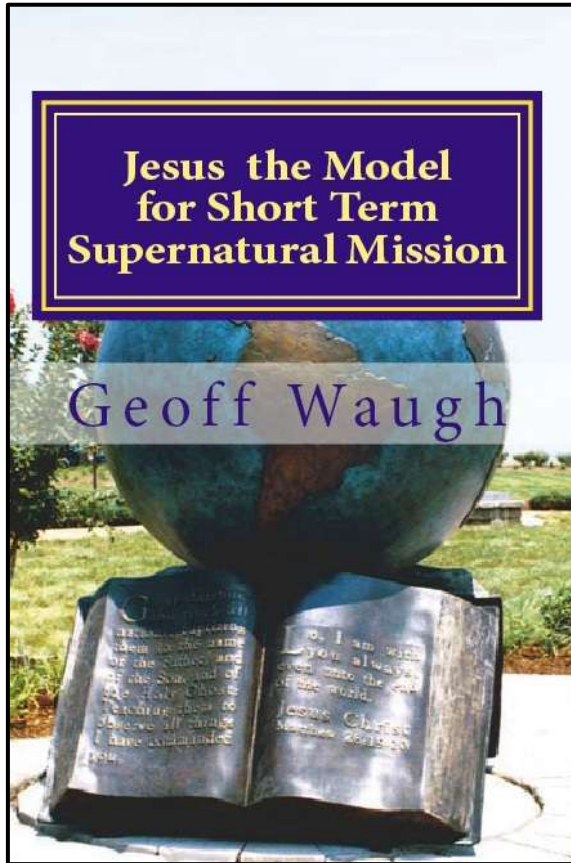


Only the Word of God can do this

Part 2

Jesus the Model for Supernatural Mission

[Reproduced from the book](#)



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<http://www.bible-history.com/maps/palestine-nt-times.html>

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Introduction to Part 2

Jesus is the best model for supernatural mission.

When Jesus, aged about 30, returned to his home town of Nazareth in the hills of Galilee, he explained his mission and ministry by quoting from Isaiah.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ...

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*¹⁸'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,*

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' ... (Luke 4:14-15, 16-21; see Isaiah 61:1-2)

Jesus fulfilled that prophecy in his life and ministry, and taught his followers to minister that way. We can too.

The name Joshua/Jesus means God saves, or God is salvation. That is why the angel announcing his birth said, "... you are to name him Joshua/Jesus (Yeshua), for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). It is the same name as Moses' general, Joshua, who led the Israelites into their promised land.

The earliest English translations of the Bible used the name Jesus for Yeshua of Nazareth, and the name Joshua for others with that same name. So in English the name Jesus became unique and sacred for Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.

Iesous (Greek name for Jesus) is translated Joshua in the New Testament three times:

Luke 3:29 – the son of Joshua (Jose in KJV)

Acts 7:45 – After receiving the tabernacle, our ancestors under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them.

Hebrews 4:8 – For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

When applied to Jesus/Joshua in English it is translated Jesus. It's interesting to know that everyone knew him as Joshua (Yeshua) of Nazareth.

This book explores the mission and ministry of Jesus/Joshua the Christ/Messiah, the Son of God, and how he fulfilled his brief ministry (Section 1). Jesus took others to minister with him and sent them out to minister in the authority and power of his name (Section 2).

Peter and Paul travelled with teams in their mission and ministry, also anointed with the Spirit of God (Section 3).

I give some brief contemporary examples of short term mission and ministry (Section 4) and Bart Doornweed (Section 5) and Randy Clark (Section 6) describe their experience of short term supernatural mission.

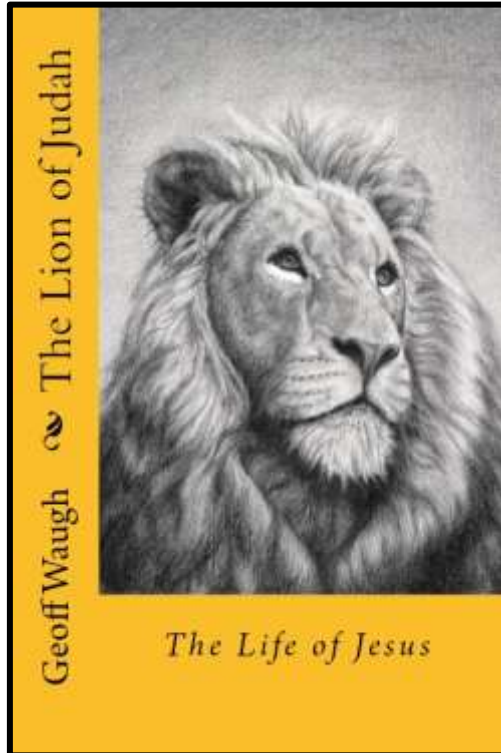
Listen to God's Spirit as you read and apply this good news.

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1 Jesus' Ministry and Mission, and
2 The Disciples' Mission and Ministry

Are adapted from my book

The Lion of Judah:
The Life of Jesus



1

Jesus' Mission and Ministry

Jesus' brief ministry of about three years involved constant travel, walking through the towns and villages of Israel. He taught about the kingdom of God and demonstrated it in what he did. Today that kind of mission is often called itinerant evangelism and discipleship.

Jesus' ministry began after his baptism in the Jordan River when the Spirit of God came upon him, anointing him for his mission and ministry.

He then returned to Galilee at the beginning of his public ministry and was based in Capernaum on the north west shore of Lake Galilee.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.'

(Matthew 4:13-16; see Isaiah 9:1-2)

The following brief overview highlights some of the main developments of Jesus' ministry and mission. He set us a wonderful example of how to do short term supernatural mission in the power of the Spirit.

Jesus' **Early Judean ministry** began with his baptism, his fasting and temptations, and inviting enquirers to be with him,

His public ministry began when he was about 30 (Luke 3:23) after his baptism in the Jordan River in Judea, and 40 days fasting in the Judean desert where he rejected temptation. The Jordan flows from the freshwater Lake of Galilee, 700 feet below sea level, for 70 miles (100 kilometres) through the 6 mile wide (10 kilometre) Jordan valley to the Dead Sea, 1400 feet below sea level. This lowest place on earth is about 30 miles east from the mountain city of Jerusalem at 2,500 feet.

Jesus' ministry possibly covers three Passovers, as John's Gospel suggests: the first in John 2, the second in John 6:4 and the third (the Last Supper) in John 11:55; 12:1; 13:1; 18:28, 39; and 19:14. The other three Gospels all describe that final Passover.

Jesus began his **Early Galilean ministry** around his base at Capernaum on the north west of the Lake of Galilee. He called his first disciples who then travelled with him.

The **Major Galilean ministry** included commissioning the 12 apostles and covers most of the ministry of Jesus in Galilee.

The **Final Galilean ministry** began after John the Baptist's death and culminates in the Transfiguration in the mountains near Caesarea Philippi as Jesus prepared for his final journey to Jerusalem.

In the **Later Judean ministry** Jesus continued his final journey to Jerusalem down the Jordan valley, through Jericho on the southern Jordan up into the hills of Bethany and Jerusalem.

The **Final ministry in Jerusalem**, known as **The Passion Week** or **Holy Week** begins with Jesus' triumphal entry on what is now called Palm Sunday. The gospels devote about one third of their text to that last week.

Peter summarized Jesus' ministry this way:

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. (Acts 10:37-42)

The following overview gives more details. Here are passages describing what Jesus did on mission, which he also taught his followers to do.

Early Galilean ministry

The Early Galilean ministry began when Jesus returned to Galilee after John the Baptist was imprisoned.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake (Matthew 4:12-13).

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' (Mark 1:14-15)

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. (Luke 4:14)

Jesus called his first disciples who began to travel with him, including his return to Nazareth where his explanation of his mission offended the townspeople. (Matthew 4:18-25; Luke 4:16-30).

John records Jesus' first miracle, turning water to wine at the marriage in Cana in Galilee (John 2:1-12). After that wedding Jesus returned to Capernaum accompanied by his family and disciples.

In Capernaum he taught in their synagogue, cast out an unclean spirit and healed Peter's mother-in-law. People were 'astonished at his teaching; for his word was with authority' and reports of him soon spread widely (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37).

Luke describes the first miraculous catch of fish and how Peter, with the brothers James and John, left their fishing business to follow Jesus (Luke 5:1-11).

Matthew records Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5-7), the first of five discourses in Matthew. Luke records similar teaching in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49).

Major Galilean ministry

The Major Galilean ministry, follows the Sermon on the Mount (from Matthew 8) to the death of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:1-12).

This period includes healing the Centurion's servant with a word (Matthew 8:5-13) and calming the storm on the lake (Matthew 8:23-27).

Matthew left his tax collecting business at Jesus' call (Matthew 9:9-13), and conflicts with religious leaders increased because Jesus associated with sinners and healed on the Sabbath.

After praying all night, Jesus chose 12 of his followers and commissioned them to preach, heal the sick and cast out unclean spirits, just as he did (Matthew 10:1-15; Luke 9:1-6).

Two disciples of John the Baptist asked Jesus if he were the Messiah, to which Jesus summarized what he did in healing and teaching (Matthew 11:2-6). Matthew recounts many parables from Jesus' teaching in this period.

Final Galilean ministry

The Final Galilean ministry began after John the Baptist was beheaded. When Jesus heard of John's death he sailed privately to a solitary place near Bethsaida on the north of the lake, but crowds followed him on foot. He had compassion for them, healed the sick, taught them and fed them miraculously, the first of two times he fed crowds miraculously.

He sent the disciples off in their boat and went to the hills to pray alone. That night he returned to them, walking on the water, as did Peter when he looked at Jesus. Jesus held him when he sank and as they went into the boat together the wind ceased and they were all immediately at the shore (Matthew 14:22-32; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21). The disciples worshipped him declaring, "Truly you are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33).

Jesus' conflict with and criticism of religious leaders increased. Jesus journeyed north to Tyre and Sidon on the Mediterranean where he healed the Canaanite's daughter even though that was outside his mission to Israel. Jesus then travelled back to Lake Galilee and healed, taught and fed 4,000 men plus women and children. He moved on to the Decapolis, 10 towns south east of Galilee, still healing and teaching.

Jesus' Galilean ministry culminated in taking the disciples away from the crowds into the hills north of Lake Galilee. At Caesarea Philippi, near Mt Hermon, Peter declared that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Son of God, and Jesus foretold his death and resurrection.

Peter, James and John witnessed the Transfiguration where Moses and Elijah talked with Jesus about his coming departure and God spoke from the cloud of glory: This is my Son, my Beloved/Chosen, whom I love; listen to him

(Matthew 17:1-8; see Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36; 2 Peter 1:16-18).

The Transfiguration, this pivotal event, told around the middle of the Synoptic Gospels, marks the beginning of Jesus' final journey – to Jerusalem and death.

Later Judean ministry

Jesus told his disciples three times about his approaching death and resurrection, but they did not comprehend. Confused and distressed they were afraid to ask him about it:

First, at Caesarea Philippi

(Matthew 16:21-28; Mark 8:31-38; Luke 9:21-27).

Second, in Galilee

(Matthew 7:22-23; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:43-45).

Third, going to Jerusalem

(Matthew 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34).

'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death;¹⁹ then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.' (Matthew 20:18-19)

Early in this final journey south Jesus commissioned 70 (or 72) of his followers to go in pairs ahead of him to tell about God's kingdom, heal the sick and cast out unclean spirits (Luke 10:1-24). They experienced God's power in their ministry.

Jesus journeyed south through the Jordan valley.

He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there.

⁴¹ *Many came to him, and they were saying, 'John performed*

no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.’⁴² And many believed in him there. (John 10:41-42)

Jesus journeyed on to Jericho by the southern Jordan River where he ate with the despised tax collector Zacchaeus, healed many including blind Bartimaeus, and the crowds grew as he continued up the ranges toward Jerusalem.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. (Luke 19:1-4 NIV)

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ (Mark 10:46-47)

When they reached Bethany on the southern slopes of the Mount of Olives just east of Jerusalem, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and stayed with him and his sisters Martha and Mary (John 11). The curious, adoring crowds continued to grow. From there he walked the mile into Jerusalem during his final week, often returning to Bethany at night.

Holy Week

The week culminating in the resurrection, known as Holy Week, occupies a third of each of the gospels. It includes Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, cleansing the temple, debates and conflict with Jewish leaders, anointing at Bethany, the Last Supper, agonizing prayer in Gethsemane, his trials by religious and political leaders, his flogging, crucifixion, burial and then his triumphant resurrection.

*I include more details of Jesus' life and ministry in **The Lion of Judah** series (see www.renewaljournal.com)*

- 1. The Titles of Jesus***
- 2. The Reign of Jesus***
- 3. The Life of Jesus***
- 4. The Death of Jesus***
- 5. The Resurrection of Jesus***
- 6. The Spirit of Jesus***
- 7. The Lion of Judah***

This Section on Jesus' mission and ministry reproduces some of the information in the third book of that series, ***The Lion of Judah: 3. The Life of Jesus.***

Characteristics of Jesus' Ministry

John's Gospel concludes:

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. (John 21:24-25)

Many thousands, indeed millions, of books have been written about Jesus. This is one more!

The Bible, especially the New Testament, has been translated into more languages than any other book on earth. Currently this includes over 500 translations of the full Bible and around 3,000 additional translations of portions of the Bible, especially from the New Testament.

Then we have many more Bible commentaries, handbooks, encyclopaedias, study guides and devotional books such as this one.

Here I simply summarize some key verses or passages describing Jesus' short ministry. These passages highlight important characteristics of his life and ministry.

They include:

Prayer

Crowds and Healing

Teaching

Parables

Opposition

Prayer

Jesus prayed, constantly.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke 3: 21-22)

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1: 35)

But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. ¹⁶ But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray. (Luke 5:15-16)

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles (Luke 6:12-13).

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. (John 6:11)

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. (Matthew 14:22-23)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. (Luke 9:28-29)

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'² He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

(Luke 11:1-4)

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

⁸"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

*¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.*

(Matthew 6:7-13 NKJV, from a later manuscript)

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'

(John 11:41-42)

Jesus prayed at the last supper, and three times in Gethsemane, and on the cross.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people¹ to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

(John 17:1-5; full prayer John 17: 1-26)

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and

stay awake with me.’³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.’⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?’⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; ^[a] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.’⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. (Matthew 26:36-45)

He prayed as he was dying on the cross.

*Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.
(Luke 23:34)*

*And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’
At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’
(Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34; Psalm 22:1)*

*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.
(Luke 23:46 NIV)*

The resurrected Jesus blessed his people.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

(Luke 24:30-31)

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

(Luke 24:50-51)

Crowds and Healing

Jesus constantly healed people and great crowds flocked to him.

[Paralytic healed] And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ... When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings. (Mark 2:4; Matthew 9:8; see Luke 5:19)

Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. (Mark 2:13)

At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. (Luke 4:42)

But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. (Luke 5:15)

A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. (John 6:2)

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he

sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. (Luke 5:1-3; see Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20)

[The Beatitudes] When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak and taught them ... (Matthew 5:1-2)

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him (Matthew 8:1).

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax-collectors and others sitting at the table with them. (Luke 5:29)

[Jesus teaches and heals] He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. (Luke 6:17-19)

[A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed] When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' ²⁴ So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ... [A woman touched his robe.] ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹ And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd

pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"
(Mark 5:21-31; see Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56)

And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, 'Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.' (Matthew 9:33)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
(Matthew 9:36)

Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them
(Matthew 12:15)

He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; ¹⁰for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. (Mark 3:9-10)

Then he went home; ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. (Mark 3:19-20)

[The Parable of the Sower] *Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land.* (Mark 4:1; see Matthew 13:2)

[Feeding 5,000] *Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a*

deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.'¹⁷ They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.'¹⁸ And he said, 'Bring them here to me.'¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ... Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone (Matthew 14:13-19, 22-23; see Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14)

[Feeding 4,000] *Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them,* ³¹ *so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.* ³² *Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.'* ³³ *The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?'* ³⁴ *Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.'* ³⁵ *Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground,* ³⁶ *he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.* ³⁷ *And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.* ³⁸ *Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children.* ³⁹ *After sending*

away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan. (Matthew 15:30-39; see Mark 8:1-10)

[Deaf man cured] He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. (Mark 7:33; see Matthew 15:29-31)

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰ There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' ³¹ The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!' ... Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

(Matthew 20:29-30, 34; see Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43)

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. (John 12:9)

So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸ It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.

(John 12:17-18)

References to healing all diseases and all people:

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. (Matthew 4:23)

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (Matthew 9:35 NKJV)

When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. (Luke 4:40 NKJV)

One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. (Luke 5:17)

And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. (Luke 6:19)

And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed. (Mark 6:56)

Teaching

Matthew gathers discourses of Jesus as teaching segments throughout his narrative. Matthew arranged some of Jesus major teaching in five discourses. Each of these discourses has a shorter parallel in Mark or Luke.

1. Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5-7; see Luke 6 and 12)
2. Missionary Discourse, (Matthew 10; see Mark 6; Luke 9)
3. Parables Discourse, (Matthew 13; see Mark 4; Luke 8)
4. Community Discourse (Matthew 18; see Mark 9:33-48; Luke 9:46-48)
5. End Times Discourse (Matthew 24; see Mark 13; Luke 21)

Here are some of the best known teachings of Jesus.

Selections from the Sermon on the Mount

The Beatitudes

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³ *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,*

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn,*

For they shall be comforted.

⁵ *Blessed are the meek,*

For they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,*

For they shall be filled.

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful,*

For they shall obtain mercy.

⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart,*

For they shall see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Matthew 5:1-12 NKJV)

Salt and Light

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

(Matthew 5:13-16)

Love Your Enemies

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

(Matthew 5:43-48)

Do Not Worry

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?’²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?’²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.³⁴ ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

(Matthew 6:25-34)

Do Not Judge

‘Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.² For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.³ Why do you see the speck in your neighbour’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?’⁴ Or how can you say to your neighbour, “Let me take the speck out of your eye”, while the log is in your own eye?’⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour’s eye.

(Matthew 7:1-5)

Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

(Matthew 7:7-11)

The Golden Rule

¹²In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

(Matthew 7:12 NRSV)

The Narrow Way

'Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

(Matthew 7:13-14)

Build on the Rock

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!'

²⁸Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

(Matthew 7:24-29)

Selection from the Mission Discourse

These are vital passages for understanding how to do short term supernatural mission.

The Mission of the Twelve

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

(Matthew 10:1-15 NKJV)

Coming Persecutions

'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰ for it is not

*you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking
through you. ...'*
(Matthew 10:16-20 NKJV)

Selections from the Parable Discourse

The Parable of the Sower

Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³² which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:3-9, 31-32, 45-46 NKJV)

Selections from the Community Discourse

True Greatness

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' ² He called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said, 'Truly I tell you,

unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18:1-5)

Two or Three

¹⁹“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

(Matthew 18:19-20 NKJV)

Selections from the End Times Discourse

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ²Then he asked them, ‘You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.’

Signs of the End of the Age

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?’ ⁴Jesus answered them, ‘Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁵For many will come in my name, saying, “I am the Messiah!” and they will lead many astray. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: ⁸all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Persecutions Foretold

⁹ Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰ Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But anyone who endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 24:1-13)

Selections from other teachings of Jesus

The Great Commandment

Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?”²⁹ Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.³⁰ And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment.³¹ And the second, like *it*, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31 NKJV)

The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20 NKJV)

Jesus’ Last Promise

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to

Israel?" ⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:4-8 NKJV)

Parables

Jesus constantly taught with parables and stories. We can too. Many of us do mission in oral cultures which communicate powerfully with stories, especially parables.

This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet:

'I will open my mouth to speak in parables;

I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.'

(Matthew 13:35; see Psalm 78:2)

The most famous parables may be two recorded by Luke, known as the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

Here are useful summaries of the parables of Jesus.

Parables from Nature

- The Sower (Mark 4:3-9; Matthew 13:3-9; Luke 8:5-8)
- Grain of Wheat (John 12:24)
- Weeds in the Wheat (Matthew 13:24-30)
- The Net (Matthew 13:47-50)
- Seed Growing Secretly (Mark 4:26-29)
- Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-34; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19)
- The Leaven (Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21)
- Budding Fig Tree (Matthew 24:32-35; Mark 13:28-31; Luke 21:19-31)
- Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)
- Birds of the Air (Matthew 6:26; Luke 12:24)
- Flowers of the Field (Matthew 6:28-30; Luke 12:27f.)

- Vultures and Carcass (Matthew 24:28; Luke 17:37)
- Tree and its Fruit (Matthew 7:16; Luke 6:43-49)
- Weather Signs (Luke 12:54-56; Mark 8:11-13)

Work and Wages

- Master and Servant (Luke 17:7-10)
- Faithful and Unfaithful Servants (Matthew 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-46)
- Watchful Servants (Luke 12:35-38; Mark 13:33-37)
- Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)
- The Talents (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27)
- Lamp on Lampstand (Matthew 5:14-16; Mark 4:21; Luke 8:16, 11:31)
- City Set on a Hill (Matthew 5:14)
- Eye, the Body's Lamp (Matthew 6:22-23; Luke 11:34-36)
- Salt's Savour (Matthew 5:13; Mark 9:50; Luke 14:34-35)
- Patch on Garment (Matthew 9:16; Mark 2:21; Luke 5:36)
- Wineskins (Matthew 9:17; Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37-39)
- Householder's Treasure (Matthew 13:52)
- Dishonest Steward (Luke 16:1-12)
- The Defendant (Matthew 5:25-26; Luke 12:58-59)
- Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:23-35)
- Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)
- Wicked Vinedresser (Matthew 21:33-41; Mark 12:1-9; Luke 20:9-16)
- Two Builders (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49)
- Two Debtors (Luke 7:41-43)
- Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
- Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45-46)

Open and Closed Doors

- Closed Door (Luke 13:24-30)
- The Doorkeeper (Mark 13:33-37; cf. Matthew 24:42)

- Faithful Servants (Matthew 24:42-51; Luke 12:32-48)
- Strong Man Bound (Matthew 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21-22)
- Kingdom Divided (Mark 3:24-26; Luke 11:17-20)
- The Unoccupied House (Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26)
- Importunate Neighbour (Luke 11:5-8)
- Son's Requests (Matthew 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13)
- Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8)
- Pharisee and Publican (Luke 18:9-14)

Weddings and Feasts

- Children in the Marketplace (Matthew 11:16-19; Luke 7:31-35)
- Arrogant Guest (Luke 14:7-11)
- Bridegroom's Attendants (Matthew 9:15; Mark 2:18-20; Luke 5:34)
- Ten Virgins (Matt25:1-13)
- Tower Builder and Warring King (Luke 14:28-32)
- Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24)
- Wedding Garment (Matthew 22:11-14)
- Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

Lost and Found

- Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- The Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32)
- Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)
- Lost Sheep (Matthew 28:12-14; Luke 15:4-7)
- Shepherd, Thief, Doorkeeper (John 10:1-18)
- Doctor and the Sick (Matthew 9:12; Mark 2:17; Luke 5: 31-32)
- Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

Adapted from Daily Scripture, with Don Schwager, at
Servants of the Word:

<http://www.rc.net/wcc/readings/parables.htm>.

Opposition

Jesus became famous but also aroused opposition. He avoided many assassination attempts. Two kings wanted to kill him (Matthew 2:13; Luke 13:31). His townspeople attempted to push him over a cliff (Luke 4:29). People in Jerusalem tried to stone him more than once (John 8:59, 10:31). Leaders plotted to kill him many times (Matthew 12:14, 26:4; Mark 11:18; Luke 19:47). Eventually they did kill him, but Jesus himself chose the time, the day, the place and the method. He is the Lamb of God, killed on the Preparation Day of the Passover in the afternoon when the Passover lambs were killed (Mark 15:42; John 19:14).

'The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.'
(John 10:17-18)

Herod the Great and his son Herod Antipas both wanted to kill Jesus.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'
(Matthew 2:13)

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'
(Luke 13:31)

People in Nazareth and Jerusalem tried to kill Jesus.

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. (Luke 4:28-30)

Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.' ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. (John 8:58-59)

*Jesus answered, '... The Father and I are one.'
³¹ The Jews took up stones again to stone him.
(John 10:25-31)*

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. (Matthew 12:14)

*And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.
(Mark 11:18)*

Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; (Luke 19:47)

*Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴ and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.
(Matthew 26:3-4)*

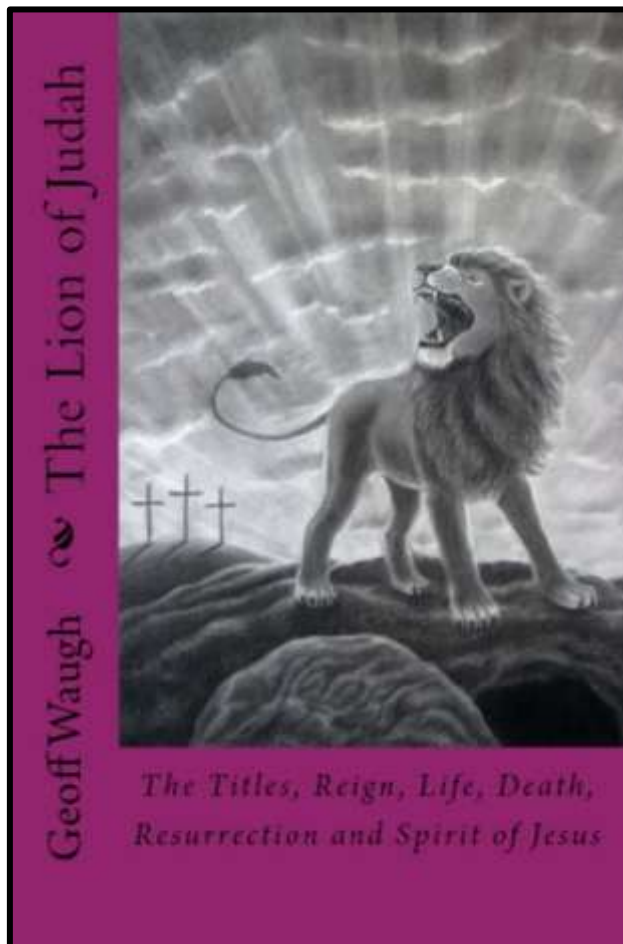
The Jewish day ended at sunset, so Jesus ate the Passover, the Last Supper, on the same Jewish day that he died.

Although the religious leaders did not want to kill Jesus during the feast (Matthew 26:5) and Pilate did not want to

kill Jesus at all, Jesus chose to die during the feast on the Preparation Day when the sacrificial Pascal Lambs were slain, the day before the Sabbath (Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 18:28; 19:14, 31, 42 and Matthew 27:62).

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1 Jesus' Ministry and Mission, and
2 The Disciples' Mission and Ministry
Are also adapted from my book
The Lion of Judah



2

The Disciples' Mission and Ministry

Crowds followed Jesus constantly so that at times he and his followers could not even eat (Mark 3:20). A large group of devoted followers accompanied him, including many women who supported them. Jesus chose 12 to be with him constantly from among those followers and he chose 3 to witness unique events such as the transfiguration, raising Jairus' daughter from death and his agonizing prayer in Gethsemane.

Jesus' followers included many women who cared for him and his disciples.

After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. (Luke 8:1-3 NIV)

Jesus sent 70 [or 72] of his followers on mission in pairs.

After this the Lord appointed seventy [some manuscripts have 72] others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ...

¹⁷ The seventy [or 72] returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!'

(Luke 10:1-2, 17)

Jesus appeared to over 500 of his followers at one time after his resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:6) and 120 of his followers chose a successor to Judas from among those who had been with them from the time of John the Baptist, including Joseph and Matthias.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ...

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

(Acts 1:15-16, 21-26)

Jesus chose the 12 from among his followers to be his disciples (learners) whom he also called apostles (sent ones). They became leaders in the early church. The following passages describe how Jesus began inviting people to follow him first from the Jordan River where John was baptising and then in Galilee. Later from among these followers Jesus chose the 12.

This is important for short term supernatural mission. None of us can do it alone. Even Jesus multiplied his ministry with and through his disciples and followers.

He shared his life most deeply with the core group of the 12 who in turn became leaders in his church, working with and equipping others.

Called to Follow Jesus

Here are examples of how Jesus called some to be with him all the time and then involved them in supernatural mission.

Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, Nathaniel

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹ He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' (John 1:35-472)

Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

(Mark 1:16-20; see Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11)

Matthew (also called Levi)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ *And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.*

¹¹ *When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’*

¹² *But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’*

(Matthew 9:9-13; see Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32)

The 12 Apostles

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵ and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

(Luke 6:12-16; see Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19)

Jesus sent his disciples and other followers to preach and heal.

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. (Matthew 10:1; see Luke 9:1)

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. ⁶ They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere. (Luke 9:1-2, 6; see Matthew 10:1)

So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. (Mark 6:12-13)

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. ² Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. ... ⁹ And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' (Luke 10:1-3, 9)

Note how the followers of Jesus, especially the 12 and the 70 (or 72), did what Jesus did. They taught about the kingdom of God, healed the sick and cast out unclean

spirits. Others also did that in Jesus' name, which he approved.

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.'³⁹ But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me.⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us.⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

(Mark 9:38-41)

The Disciples often failed

Jesus challenged his disciples, expecting them to have faith. They failed at times, as we do, but Jesus persisted with them. Here are examples.

Jesus calms the storm

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.

²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!'

²⁶ He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, 'What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!'

(Matthew 8:23-27; see Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25)

Walking on water

When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

²⁸ 'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.'

²⁹ 'Come,' he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

(Matthew 14:26-33 NIV; see Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21)

Bread and yeast

The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵ 'Be careful,' Jesus warned them. 'Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.'

¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, 'It is because we have no bread.'

¹⁷ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: 'Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?'

'Twelve,' they replied.

²⁰ 'And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?'

They answered, 'Seven.'

²¹ He said to them, 'Do you still not understand?'

(Mark 8:17-21 NIV; see Matthew 16:5-12)

¹² Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

(Matthew 16:12 NIV)

Who is the greatest?

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?'

³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.'

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and

whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'

(Mark 9:33-37 NIV; see Matthew 18:1-5; Luke 9:46-48)

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' ²⁸ And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' ²⁹ He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

(Mark 8:27-33; see Matthew 16:13-28; Luke 9:18-27)

A boy possessed

A man in the crowd answered, 'Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.'

¹⁹ 'You unbelieving generation,' Jesus replied, 'how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.'

²⁸After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why couldn't we drive it out?'

²⁹He replied, 'This kind can come out only by prayer [some manuscripts: prayer and fasting].'

(Mark 9:17-19, 28-29; see Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-43)

Arguments and opposition

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. ⁴⁷Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and made him stand beside him. ⁴⁸Then he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.'

⁴⁹'Master,' said John, 'we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.'

⁵⁰'Do not stop him,' Jesus said, 'for whoever is not against you is for you.'

⁵¹As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, 'Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?' ⁵⁵But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then he and his disciples went to another village.

(Luke 9:46-56 NIV; see Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-41)

Jesus blesses children

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When

Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16 NIV; see Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17)

Dispute at the Last Supper

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ Jesus said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22:24-27 NIV; see John 13:1-20)

Jesus prays in Gethsemane

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. 'Simon,' he said to Peter, 'are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?' ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

³⁹ Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

⁴⁰ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹ Returning the third time, he said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ...

⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

(Mark 14:36-41, 50 NIV; see Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46)

Peter denies Jesus

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.' ⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.' ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know this man you are talking about.' ⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept. (Mark 14:66-72)

Jesus commissioned and equipped his followers

Jesus sent the 12 and the 70 (or 72) on mission with his authority and promised they would be empowered.

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases,² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal those who were ill.³ He told them: 'Take nothing for the journey – no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.⁵ If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.'⁶ So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere. (Luke 9:1-6 NIV; see Matthew 10:5-15)

After this the Lord appointed seventy [some manuscripts, 72] others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.² He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!"⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you;⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." ...¹⁷ The seventy [or 72] returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!'¹⁸ He said to them, 'I

watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

(Luke 10:1-9, 17-19)

Jesus' final promise

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

(Acts 1:6-9)

Jesus' final promise is the key to effective short term supernatural mission. We can only do it in the power of the Spirit, as Jesus did and as his followers did.

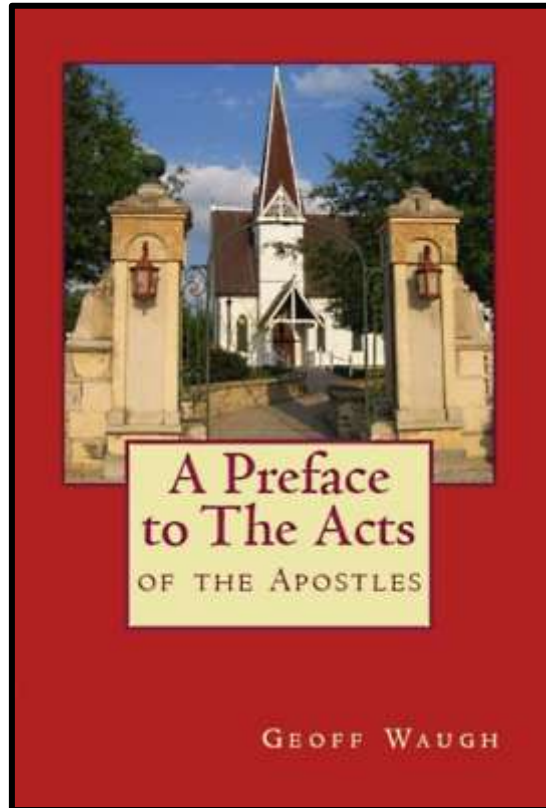
We too must pray constantly, be led by the Spirit as Jesus was, and be obedient to his call.

Even the disciples failed, often. They knew Jesus well. They constantly witnessed his power and authority. Yet still their faith wavered sometimes.

Many times we may feel weak and inadequate especially when we are faced with great needs. But we do not depend on our own strength or our own abilities. We depend on Jesus. He is faithful to his word and his promises.

We may also face opposition, as Jesus and the disciples did, especially when we step out in faith and see God's power healing and setting people free. Our eyes are fixed on Jesus, not on the storm around us. He has conquered and will continue to conquer. He alone is Lord.

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[A Preface to The Acts](#)

3

Peter and Paul on Mission

Peter and Paul served God powerfully in short term supernatural mission as leaders in the early church.

Both of them were called by God to be apostles, sent to lead God's people and to proclaim God's kingdom in word and deed.

They both had supernatural visions of Jesus shining brightly, Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration and Paul as Saul on the Damascus Road.

They not only proclaimed God's Word and God's kingdom with great power and authority but they demonstrated its power as they prayed for people and God confirmed his Word with the signs that followed (Mark 16:20).

Peter lead the church with the team of the Apostles all involved in mission and ministry, first to Jewish Christians then reaching out to Gentiles also. Paul developed teams of supporters and leaders as he planted churches among both Jews and Gentiles in his missionary journeys, usually beginning in the synagogues and then in public buildings with meetings for interested Jews and Gentiles.

They both left us letters which reflect their theology and practice.

We too can be involved in mission and ministry as they were, even pioneering and supporting others in our ministries and short term supernatural mission.

Peter

Jesus, the risen Lord, appeared personally to Peter on the Sunday of his resurrection as well as to the group of disciples that evening and the following Sunday. He also talked with Peter on the shore of the lake near Capernaum, reminding Peter once again to follow him and to care for his 'sheep'.

(Luke 24:34-53, John 21:1-25; 1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

Peter, a natural leader, was called by Jesus to lead and care for his people. Peter led the group in choosing a replacement for Judas among the 12.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

(Acts 1:15-17)

Then on the Day of Pentecost Peter preached with great boldness and authority.

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.*

*¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.*

*¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.*

*²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.*

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ...

⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

(Acts 2:14-21, 41-42)

Peter continued to lead the church as part of the apostolic team based in Jerusalem but spreading out in short term missions across Palestine and beyond. Here are just a few examples of that ministry and mission.

Acts 3 and 4 tell how Peter and John went to worship in the temple and Peter commanded healing in Jesus' name for a man over 40 crippled from birth.

*But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.'⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.
(Acts 3:6-7)*

PNG Example

That still happens, worldwide. Here is an example from Papua New Guinea, reported in 1990 by Dutch missionary Johan van Bruggen, then principal of the Lutheran Bible

School at Kambaidam near Goroka in the highlands on PNG.

This is what happened about two months ago. A new church building was going to be officially opened in a village in the Kainantu area. Two of our last year's graduates took part in the celebrations by acting the story in Acts 3: Peter and John going to the temple and healing the cripple.

Their cripple was a real one - a young man, Mark, who had his leg smashed in a car accident. The doctors had wanted to amputate it, but he did not want to lose his useless leg. He used two crutches to move around the village. He could not stand at all on that one leg. He was lying at the door of the new church when our Peter and John (real names: Steven and Pao) wanted to enter. The Bible story was exactly followed: "I have got no money, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

Well, they acted this out before hundreds of people, among them the president of the Goroka Church District and many pastors and elders. Peter (Steven) grabbed the cripple (Mark) by the hand and pulled him up. And he walked! He threw his crutches away and loudly praised the Lord! Isn't that something? What a faith!

Their testimony was given at a meeting of elders when Kambaidam was discussed. Mark was a most happy fellow who stood and walked firmly on his two legs. He also had been involved in criminal activities, but in this meeting he unashamedly confessed his faith in the Lord Jesus.

Later I talked with them. Steven (Peter) told me that the Lord had put this on his heart during a week-long period of praying. “I had no doubt that the Lord was going to heal Mark, and I was so excited when we finally got to play-act!”

And Mark? He told me that when Steven told him to get up he just felt the power of God descend upon him and at the same time he had a tingling sensation in his crippled leg: “I just felt the blood rushing through my leg, bringing new life!”

Mark is now involved in evangelistic outreach and his testimony has a great impact.

(Reproduced from my book *Flashpoints of Revival*,
Renewal Journal Publications, 2009, pages 98-99)

Peter's Expanding Mission

Although threatened and told to stop preaching about Jesus, Peter and John defied the council of Jewish leaders:

So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; ²⁰ for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.' ²¹ After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old. (Acts 4:18-22)

Peter and John reported to their house church prayer group and together they all prayed for boldness:

'... And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.' ³¹ When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)

Amid increasing persecution, floggings and imprisonment the church grew and spread.

Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶ A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and

those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.
(Acts 5:14-16)

The rapid growth of the church soon overwhelmed the apostles so they chose seven others to supervise caring for the people. These included Stephen the first martyr and Philip the evangelist.

These are vital principles for short term supernatural mission. Signs and wonders continued among them as they stayed true to God's calling and anointing. Peter's travels took him to many places. In Joppa he raised Dorcas from death, and in Caesarea the centurion Cornelius and his household believed and were filled with the Spirit while Peter was preaching.

Peter visited Antioch in Syria, the church base for Paul's ministry. Paul confronted Peter there because Peter withdrew from eating in Gentile homes when legalistic Christian Jews came from Jerusalem (Galatians 2:11-14). Historical tradition traces Peter's journeys to Rome where he was crucified upside down saying he was unworthy to die as Jesus did.

Paul

Paul led short term supernatural mission teams from his home church base in Antioch across Asia Minor, through Greece and on to Rome in Italy. He had a strong calling to evangelize Gentiles, as the church leaders affirmed:

... when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised⁸ (for he who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles),⁹ and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.¹⁰ They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do. (Galatians 2:7-10)

Paul, then Saul of Tarsus, severely persecuted Christians including watching Stephen stoned to death. Then blinded by the vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus in Syria he changed. Ananias prayed for him and he was healed and filled with the Spirit.

Then, as Paul reports in Galatians 1:11-2:10, he went to Arabia, back to Damascus, then two weeks (15 days) with Peter in Jerusalem, then into Syria and Cilicia (a province on the south coast of Asia Minor near Tarsus). After 14 years Paul visited Jerusalem again, taking Barnabas and Titus (a Greek) with him.

Paul had become one of the leaders of the church in Antioch and went from there on his three missionary journeys and eventually his journey to Rome where he under house arrest and according to tradition beheaded.

Paul's journeys fill chapters 13-28 of Luke's account in The Acts of the Apostles, beginning with the church at Antioch sending Paul (then called Saul) and Barnabas on mission:

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. ²While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:1-3)

The Holy Spirit led them as they fasted and prayed. That's how short term supernatural mission happens. God initiates it. God empowers it. In this case the Spirit led them to send out two of their five leaders from among their the prophets and teachers.

That's another key to effective short term supernatural mission. We sometimes send out young, inexperienced pioneers. The early church, led by the Spirit, did what Jesus had done. The leaders went on mission, taking teams with them, working with them and equipping them to be leaders, pastors and missionaries also.

You can, of course, read about those exciting journeys in the book of The Acts. Paul and his teams kept moving on to new areas after establishing churches in the town they visited, often facing very hostile opposition from religious and political leaders.

Everywhere Paul and his teams witnessed about Jesus, the Messiah of the Jews and the Saviour of the whole world. After a church had been established and elders commissioned the team would move on as led by the Spirit.

Those short term supernatural missions included these journeys, often shown on maps in the back of some Bibles.

The first journey began when Paul, Barnabus, and Mark left Antioch, and sailed to Cyprus, a large island off the Syrian coast (Acts 13:4-6). Then they sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, now southern Turkey. From here, Mark returned to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabus went on to Antioch in Pisidia (in Asia Minor, now Turkey), and to Iconium (Acts 14:3), then Lystra where Paul was stoned but lived (Acts 14:19), and Derbe. Then they retraced their steps back through Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 14:21) and eventually back to their home base in Antioch in Syria (Acts 14:24-28).

Paul and Barnabus went to the council in Jerusalem (Galatians 2:1-9 and Acts 15:2) and received a letter exempting the Gentiles from following Jewish laws including circumcision. Judas and Silas returned to Antioch with Barnabus and Paul (Acts 15:35-36).

The second journey began when, after a dispute with Barnabus, Paul took Silas through Syria and Cilicia to Derbe and Lystra, where they found Timothy who went with Paul and Silas through Phrygia and Galatia. The Spirit stopped their plans to go north into Asia or south to Bithynia, so they continued west through Mysia to Troas. There a night vision led Paul to Macedonia (now northern Greece) where Luke joined them. There at Philippi, God opened the hearts of Lydia and the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:14-34). Then they went on to Thessalonica, Berea, Athens and Corinth. Paul sailed with Aquila and Priscilla to Cenchrea and then to Ephesus (Acts 18:19 and 26). Paul sailed on to Caesarea and then went back to Antioch (Acts 18:23).

The third journey began visiting Galatia (central region of Turkey) and Phrygia (Acts 18:23). Then Paul went to Ephesus for 3 years (Acts 20:31). Paul sent Timothy and Erastus ahead into Macedonia, but Paul stayed in Asia Minor for a while (Acts 19:22). Paul rejoined Timothy in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 2:12-13 and 7:5), and was joined by Titus (2 Corinthians 7:6 & 13; Acts 20:1). After going through Macedonia (northern Greece), Paul came to Achaia (southern Greece) returning to Corinth. They returned through Macedonia (Acts 20:1) where Luke joined them again and sailed from Philippi back to Troas, where a young man fell out of a window and Paul raised him from the dead (Acts 20:7-12). Then Paul went south, met the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:16-38) and sailed past Cyprus to Tyre (now in Lebanon), then went south to Ptolemais and Caesarea (Acts 21:10) and on to Jerusalem where the third journey ended.

Paul's journey to Rome began when he was beaten by Jews in Jerusalem, preached to them (Acts 22:1-21), and was brought to the Sanhedrin. Jesus told Paul in a vision that he would go to Rome. Many Jews vowed to kill Paul (Acts 23:12), so he was taken to the governor Felix at Caesarea, and imprisoned there for two years. Paul appealed to the next governor, Festus, to go to Caesar for trial (Acts 25:11) and Herod Agrippa II heard Paul's defence. Paul, a prisoner, sailed with Luke and Aristarchus (Acts 27:1-2) on the way to Italy. They sailed to Myra (now southern Turkey) and on to Lasea, on the large island of Crete, then through storms till shipwrecked on Melita, a small island south of Sicily. Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake but lived and he healed the father of Publius and others. Paul, still a prisoner spent the winter there (Acts 28:11) and in the Spring sailed on to Italy and was a prisoner for two years in his own hired house (Acts 28:30) in Rome where he continued preaching and writing many

letters to the churches and leaders he had disciplined. Tradition and some biblical references indicate that Paul was released and continued to travel until his martyrdom back in Rome.

Luke, the beloved physician (Colossians 4:14), wrote the “we” sections of the book of Acts from his own diary or journal. They are:

Chapter 16 – events in Philippi on the 2nd missionary journey.

Chapters 20-21 – from Macedonia to Jerusalem on the 3rd.

Chapters 27-28 – the journey from Caesarea to Rome.

Paul’s letters (many written from prison) cover important theology and its application to living and serving God. He also gives occasional glimpses into the opposition and trials he faced, as when he defends his ministry in this passage:

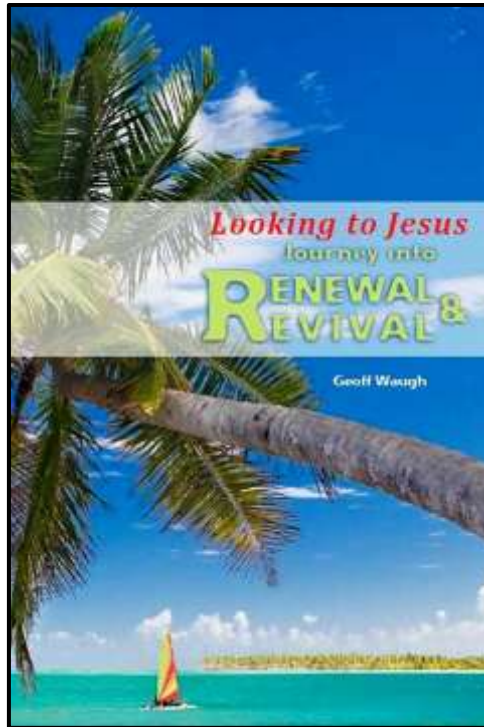
Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman—I am a better one: with far greater labours, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. ²⁴ Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. ²⁸ And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be he for ever!) knows that I do not lie. ³²In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas set a guard on the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

These adventures and challenges were typical of short term supernatural mission in Bible times, and are still the same today in many lands.

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4 My Mission Adventures
is adapted from Chapter 8: Revival
in my autobiography
Looking to Jesus:
Journey into Renewal and Revival



My Mission Adventures

My mission research and ministry has involved revivals in many countries. I have been encouraged and often astounded to see glimpses of what God is doing across the world now. Jesus continues to build his church, smashing down 'the gates of hell' to set the captives free.

Secular media often portray evil at work in the world, but there is also good news. As in the early church, amid persecution and opposition the church of Jesus, the Body of Christ, grows exponentially. We sometimes call it revival. I have adapted these comments on revival from the last chapter of my book, ***Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal and Revival***.

Revival is God pouring out his Spirit, abundantly. It may start small, with 1, 2 or 3 converts, but escalates to 100, 200 or 300 and more. It may explode with 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 as on the Day of Pentecost, or with millions as in national revivals. Revival impacts vast numbers of people, changes communities, and stirs up opposition, such as Jesus faced.

Significantly, Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit coming upon him powerfully equipped him for his mission. He then faced tough opposition, after he fasted and prayed. The devil tried to stop him. Jesus totally resisted that opposition. Personal appetites, vainglory, short cuts or presumption did not divert him.

“He is out of his mind,” his family said. They tried to stop him. Pharisees and Herodians, the religious and state leaders, plotted to kill him. The Gospels describe these strong reactions to Jesus as early as Mark 3:6, 21-22, 32.

Eventually they did kill him. But Jesus chose the time, the place and the method (John 10:17-18). I knew that the message of the cross is the power of God for everyone being saved (1 Corinthians 1:18). I just didn’t realise how powerful it is for life here, as well as for life hereafter.

The cross is the heart of revival. In revival God pours out his Spirit powerfully with salvation, healing, deliverance and community transformation. As I travelled I saw many examples of local revivals. Invitations came to teach leaders about revival, although I felt more like a learner than a teacher. Pastors and leaders appreciated receiving resources such as the Transformation videos and DVDs and my book *Flashpoints of Revival* (1998, second edition 2009).

I had read about revivals all my life. I found it in the missionary biographies I absorbed as a boy. Reports from missionaries sometimes included revival stories. It was certainly normal in the book of Acts and the New Testament.

So I lived with a puzzle or paradox. We believed in revival but rarely experienced it. It happened somewhere else such as in Africa or China, or in some other age as in the early church or the eighteenth century. Why not now?

Gradually my study unearthed surprising revelations. I discovered that in the last 50 years we have lived through the greatest revivals in human history, far greater in

numbers and impact than local revivals in the history books.

I began to write about that. Revival included church growth in Africa from 10% of the population in 1900 to over 50% now, in spite of and perhaps because of persecution and genocide. Underground revival in China in the last 50 years grew from one million committed Christians to over 100 million Christians estimated now.

Another conundrum! Traditional churches in the West declined while independent, charismatic and Pentecostal churches exploded all over the globe. What are we missing? Revival.

After I retired at 65, and continued teaching part time, I began exploring revivals more consistently. Previously I had seen strong moves of God during short-term missions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Now I had time to see more, and I received invitations to teach pastors and leaders about revival.

It surprised me. Revival seemed unexpected and problematical. In most places it began among youth or even with the children. I saw that happening in Africa, Nepal, China and in the Pacific. Revival leaders were young! Youth and children had visions of Jesus, angels, heaven, hell and the spiritual state of their families. They prayed for the sick and saw many healed. They cast out spirits. They evangelised in their villages and schools with joyful zeal. Sometimes in their new enthusiasm for righteousness, like Gideon they destroyed their parents' idols, artefacts or magic items and stirred up hornets' nests. Whole communities changed. Revival transformation has become a major development in the 21st Century.

I had the great privilege of travelling with various teams, especially from the **Renewal Fellowship** that I led, to visit many countries to encourage pastors and leaders. Many of those people overseas face difficulties and persecution we do not. Travelling in mission teams with some of them, as in Africa, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and China, gave us small glimpses of the challenges they face and their simple, strong faith. It reminded me of Luke and others travelling with Paul, as Luke describes in the 'we' passages of Acts 16, 20-21, and 27-28.

We Westerners believe in Jesus and live for him, but I found overseas Christians and leaders generally more responsive to the Lord and his Spirit, more aware of the spirit realm, and more convinced that Jesus' ministry and New Testament life still happen now just as it did then. They are more likely to pray as the early church did, "In the name of Jesus, be healed." They bind and cast out spirits more than we do!

They expect signs and wonders more than we do, and pray for God's supernatural intervention amid opposition like the early church Christians: *"Now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus"* (Acts 4:29-30).

Christians in other cultures also seem far less distracted than we are by media such as TV and DVDs. That applied to Australian Aborigines also, although now the media increasingly bombards them as well. We may know far more about our own culture's gods, such as Hollywood and singing idols, than we do about Peter, Paul and Mary!

However, there's hope for us too, if we, like them, will humble ourselves and pray, and seek God's face and turn from our wicked way. God promises to hear from heaven his dwelling place, forgive our sin, and heal the land.

Australian Aborigines

We invited a team of Aborigines from Elcho Island near Darwin to come to Brisbane for Pentecost weekend in 1993. The Uniting Church on Elcho Island experienced strong revival from March 1979, led by their pastor Rev Djiniyini Gondarra. It sparked revival in aboriginal communities and churches across the north and west of Australia, so I wanted them to share with us. Two dozen came and we housed them at Trinity Theological College in the students' dormitories. They found the beds too soft but enjoyed sleeping on the carpeted floor!

We held the meetings at Christian Outreach Centre, in their large auditorium offered freely to us. Although we began in the seats, we soon found ourselves sitting on the floor on and around the large platform and its steps, talking and praying together aboriginal style. They sang, gave testimonies and spoke, in simple, clear ways. They surprised me when they told me that it was the first time they had been invited to lead meetings in a white congregation!

"We don't know how to pray for white people," they said. "We haven't done that before." I had asked them to pray for people at the end of each meeting.

"Just pray for us the same way you do for your own people," I suggested. They did. We sat with them on the floor, talked together and then prayed for one another.

They invited us to join them on Elcho Island the following March, 1994, for their anniversary celebrations of the beginning of the revival. A small team of us flew there as guests, attending and enjoying the meetings and friendship. Although the initial intensity of the revival had died down, the meetings and community still carried the warmth, vitality and improved social conditions brought by the revival. You can read about that revival on www.renewaljournal.com in the first issue of the ***Renewal Journal***.

Aboriginal pastors and leaders spoke at the meetings, celebrating what God had done among them. I had the honour to speak one night, gladly thanking them for their God given national leadership in revival, so needed by the rest of us in Australia.

Some of us visited a small community, driving 50 kilometres on 4WD dirt tracks to the north end of the long narrow island. That community had one trade store, a single room school and a church. The whole community of about 30 people prayed together every morning and night, especially for revival in Australia. They had seen their prayers being answered among their own people, but continued to pray together daily for the whole nation. I found it a holy, humbling time to pray with them.

That aboriginal revival impacted communities for good right across the north of Australia.

China

One of my most humbling and stirring experiences of revival happened in China where Christians have been severely persecuted for over half a century, and it is still illegal to hold unregistered meetings, free of government control and restrictions. A student of mine who had grown up there took me to meet his family. I do not mention names or places because persecution is still strong for them.

I loved it there among such humble, hungry, receptive, grateful, gentle and faith filled believers. I was often in tears just being there, appreciating their heartfelt zeal in everything. I have rarely been so impressed anywhere. No concerts. No acting. No hype. Just bare essentials. What a big and wonderful family we belong to, and our Father is so proud of his family there, I'm sure.

I had the great honour of speaking at a house church. People arrived in ones or twos over an hour or so, and stayed for many hours. Then they left quietly in ones or twos again, just personal visitors to that host family. Food on the small kitchen table welcomed everyone, some of it brought by the visitors.

About 30 of us crowded into a simple room with very few chairs. Most sat on the thin mat coverings. They sang their own heartfelt worship songs in their own language and style, pouring out love to the Lord, sometimes with tears. The leader played a very basic guitar in a very basic way.

Everyone listened intently to the message, and gladly asked questions, all of it interpreted. There was no need for an altar call or invitation to receive prayer. Everyone wanted personal prayer. Our prayer team of three or four

people prayed over each person for specific needs such as healing and with personal prophecies. That flowed strongly. I knew none of that group, but received 'pictures' or words of encouragement for each one, as did the others.

While prayer continued, some began slipping quietly away. Others had supper. Others stayed to worship quietly. It was a quiet night because they did not want to disturb neighbours or attract attention.

Most people in that group were new believers with no Christian background at all. They identified easily with the house churches of the New Testament, the persecution, and the miracles, because they experienced all that as well. Many unbelievers become Christians because someone prayed for their healing and the Lord healed them.

Afterwards, some of us drove to a local park just to pray with an elderly gentleman, unable to go to the meetings. He thanked us so eloquently for coming to his country to support and encourage his people. I was deeply moved. So much personal support, encouragement and evangelism happen that way, so simply.

It neither looked nor sounded like a Western revival! It wasn't. Yet it was part of one of the greatest revivals of the last half century, bringing over 100 million into the Kingdom of God.

Philippines

Dr Charles Ringma invited me to teach graduate subjects at the Asian Theological Seminary in Manila in the Philippines where he taught. Charles and his wife Rita also worked with Servants Mission, managing their guest house and headquarters. I had known them in Brisbane

when they were the inaugural directors of Teen Challenge in Australia.

So I stayed with Servants Mission and found my way to the seminary on hot, crowded Jeepneys, adapted from the popular army jeeps with passengers sitting side-saddle, or standing and crouching. Most Jeepneys sported brightly coloured religious texts and slogans – *Jesus is Lord, God is love, Hallelujah, Blessed Virgin*, and hundreds more.

I taught M.Th. subjects during the June vacations in 1994 on Revival History and in 1995 on Signs and Wonders, and visited huge churches in Manila. My assistant lecturer invited me to a church he had established. People there responded quickly, loved praying for one another, and expected healing and miracles.

A student in our class invited me to her home to pray for her sick daughter. The little girl slept on her mattress on the floor, so I just rested my hand on her and prayed. She slept on. Next day her mum brought her to enjoy our air conditioned classroom, happy and healthy.

During the class seminars, my students reported on various signs and wonders that they had experienced in their churches. Many of them expected God to do the same things now as he did in the New Testament, but not all!

“We don’t seem to have miracles in our church,” said one student, a part-time Baptist pastor and police inspector.

“You could interview a pastor from a church that does,” I suggested.

So he interviewed a Pentecostal pastor about miraculous answers to prayer in their church. That student reported to the class how the Pentecostal church sent a team of

young people to the local mental hospital for monthly meetings where they sang and witnessed and prayed for people. Over 40 patients attended their first meeting there, and they prayed for 26 personally, laying hands on them. A month later, when they returned for their next meeting, all those 26 patients had been discharged and sent home.

In Manila I joined the team of Servants Mission in their guesthouse base. They worked with the poor in the slums and most lived in the slums with the people they served. They lived simply, identifying with the people, trusting God for his supernatural intervention in personal and social needs. I found it moving and challenging to visit the slum homes where Dorothy Mathieson and Judy Marsh from Gateway Baptist lived and worked. Conditions there in the slums made the rest of Manila look luxurious, even with the city's regular electrical brown-outs, jammed telephones, cracked and gritty streets, and badly broken road drainage awash with sewerage in heavy rains.

Following my return from Manila in 1995, my wife Meg and I travelled on round-the-world tickets to Ghana, England and Canada. That was the cheapest way to visit Ghana on mission.

Ghana

We drove, for over an hour in torrential rain to our first evening open-air crusade meeting in Ghana, West Africa. Our hosts from a small independent church, co-operated with other local churches for these meetings. As the guest speaker, on my first visit to Africa, I wondered why the meetings had not been switched from the market area to a church building with a roof. They explained that they always held crusade meetings outside in the market area where the people gathered. *But what about the rain?* I wondered.

We arrived at the mountain town of Suhum in the dark. Torrential rain had cut off the electricity supply. The rain eased off a bit, so we gathered in the market area and prayed

“Lord God, you are mighty,” we prayed. “You take over and do what you alone can do.”

Soon the rain ceased. The town’s electricity came on. The host team began excitedly shouting that it was a miracle.

“We will talk about this for years,” they exclaimed with gleaming eyes. And we had not even started the first meeting yet! We had clear skies all that week.

I asked them again why they planned outdoor meetings in the monsoon season. They told me that if I could only come at that time, then they trusted God to work it all out. Soon the musicians from one of the local churches had plugged in their instruments to the sound system. The loudspeakers did not face the faithful Christians gathered in the fluorescent-lit open area, but pointed at the surrounding houses, the stores, and the hotel.

My interpreter that night didn't know English really well. I think he preached his own sermon based on some phrases of mine he understood or guessed, and apparently he did well. When we invited people to respond and give their lives to Christ, they came from the surrounding darkness into the light. Some wandered over from the pub, smelling of beer. They kept the ministry team busy praying and arranging follow-up with their churches. I moved about laying hands on people's heads and praying for them, as did many others. People reported various touches of God in their lives. Some were healed. Later that week an older man excitedly told how he had come to the meeting that night almost blind but now he could see clearly.

Each day we held morning worship and teaching sessions for Christians in a church, hot under an iron roof on those clear, tropical sunny days. During the third morning I vividly 'saw' golden light fill the church and swallow up or remove blackness. At that point the African Christians became very noisy, vigorously celebrating and shouting praises to God. A fresh anointing seemed to fall on them just then.

Although it didn't rain the whole time we were holding meetings there, the day after our meetings finished, the torrential rains began again. The following week we saw floods in Ghana reported on international television. Later on we received letters telling us how the church where we held our morning meetings had grown, expanded their building, and had sent out teams of committed young people in evangelism. Through that experience, God showed us a glimpse of what he is doing in a big way in the earth right now.

America

Since the mid-nineties Toronto and Pensacola became famous in revival literature. The Lord poured out his Spirit in amazing ways in both these cities, modern echoes of the radical Azusa Street revival in 1906, ninety years earlier. Hundreds of thousands have visited both places, discovering fresh touches from God.

Toronto

After our week on mission in Ghana, Meg and I explored England and Wales for a week, visiting revival locations, then flew on to Toronto in Canada. We spent a memorable week at Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship (TACF).

The senior pastors at TACF, John and Carol Arnott, had prayed earnestly for over a year, dedicating every morning to seeking God together and personally. Randy Clark, a fellow Vineyard pastor, joined them for revival meetings from January 20, 1994, at their small church building at the end of the international airport runway. The Spirit moved on them all in unusual and controversial ways.

People fell to the floor, most overwhelmed for hours, laughing, trembling, weeping, celebrating. TACF saw more people transformed by God, including conversions, than they had ever seen before. Over 100,000 a year flocked there from all over the world for well over a decade.

The wide diversity of people from different denominations and countries there impressed me. Love and respect for others filled the atmosphere and testimonies. Traditionally, those who most strongly assert their own theological purity (as I once tended to

do) may tragically disobey the most important commandments of all - to really love God and love others. Theological purists, of all traditions, tend to judge others in direct contraction to Jesus' command (Matthew 7:1 - judge not).

Pastors in these revival meetings confess their sins of control, pride, theological rigidity, jealousy and fear of people's opinions. Many are reconciled and work publicly together for God's glory, not for the glory of their own denomination or theology. Churches which once competed, blamed others for sheep stealing and criticised each other, have confessed their sins of division and hatred, found reconciliation and an astonishing love for one another. Many of them now co-operate to minister this blessing together

We joined the crowds of over 1500 each morning and night, enjoyed the low-key sensitive worship (knowing very few of their songs), appreciated the balanced teaching, and received personal prayer.

Both of us appreciated the gracious, caring way people prayed for us, and others. No rush. No hype. No pressure. Whether we stood, or sat in a chair, or rested on the carpeted floor, those praying for us did so quietly with prayers prompted by the Holy Spirit. Those praying laid a hand on us gently, as led, and trusted the Lord to touch us. He did. Warmth and love permeated us. We returned to our hotel after the meetings aware of increased peace and deeper assurance of the Lord's love and grace.

Our visit included a day's bus trip to Niagara Falls. It seemed like a parable of God pouring out his Spirit in abundance. We stood in the tunnel lookout under the roaring wall of water, and sailed through the spray below

the falls in the Maid of the Mist ferry. Niagara Falls reminded us of our awesome creator and provided a time of refreshing in another way.

After returning to Brisbane I noticed that people I prayed for received strong touches from the Lord, most resting in the Spirit on the floor. We needed people to be ready to catch those who fell, to avoid them getting hurt (then needing extra healing prayer!). Some of them had visions of the Lord blessing them and others.

Pensacola

My next round-the-world ticket, also in the June-July vacation, took me to England, visiting relatives, and then on to Pensacola in Florida in the south east of the United States in 2002. Security was exceptionally tight after the 9/11 attacks in America the previous September. We had to remove shoes, belts, and empty our pockets as we progressed slowly through two or three x-ray checks in each boarding queue.

I flew to New Orleans from Miami, drove a rental Ford Escort over 200 miles to Brownsville in Pensacola on the southern coast, found the church and a nearby motel.

Lightning hit the main church auditorium building on July 4 (their national holiday!) the previous week, knocking out their electrical system. So we met in their new octagonal Family Worship Centre seating 2000, built for revival overflow crowds. I attended their Wednesday to Friday night meetings. They sounded much the same as any Assemblies of God service at home, but with a wonderful presence of God, hard to describe, but easy to soak in.

I liked the spontaneous bits best. Before Friday night's revival service some people in the singing group of over 50 people on stage began singing free harmonies without music while they waited for the sound system to work, and we all joined in. It sounded like angels harmonising in continual worship. Wonderful. No need for words!

Later, during the service Lindel Cooley, their worship leader, led spontaneously from the keyboard without other instruments, singing the chorus of an old hymn from his youth (and mine) – 'Love lifted me'. All the oldies joined in, and then it went on to a verse sung from memory. It moved me deeply, from my own boyhood memories, especially as I had just then been asking the Lord for a personal touch from him.

A visitor preached, calling for faith and action. Their prayer team prayed for many hundreds at the 'altar call' – short and sharp, but relevant and challenging.

The Pensacola style of revival felt more strongly Pentecostal than the Vineyard renewal style at Toronto, but both were saturated in the powerful presence of the Lord. That wonderful presence touched me most.

Kenya

I met Francis Nyameche, a youth evangelist from Kenya, when he studied for his Bachelor of Ministry degree in Brisbane, graduating in 2000. Since then I've visited him in Kenya a few times.

His father, Samson Nyameche, founded the Believers Fellowship Church in Kisumu, Kenya, with 2000 attending, and established over 30 churches. He runs an orphanage for 50 children on his family farm.

Frank had a vision of Jesus when he was five, and was powerfully filled with the Spirit as a teenager. He became the youth pastor in his father's church and spoke at local markets where thousands were saved and filled with the Spirit. Frank evangelised in many places in Africa.

Supported by his wife Linda, Frank began Nairobi Believers Mission church in the slums of Kibera where a million people live, jammed together in small mud brick homes with rusty iron roofs. I've had the privilege of teaching leaders and speaking at meetings there. In spite of poverty and political unrest, their churches continue to grow steadily.

Before the Kibera slum church moved into their corrugated iron shed they met in a community hall. I taught leaders there, and spoke at their Sunday service with about 30 people. We gave them real bread for communion, not just symbolic cubes. The Spirit led me to give them all the bread we had, just three loaves (not five barley buns as the boy had in Scripture).

“Can I take some home to my family?” asked one young man. That’s a hard question to answer in front of 30 hungry people.

“You can take some of your own communion bread home if you want to,” I answered.

Then everyone took a large handful of communion bread, and most put some in their pockets to take home later. We shared real glasses of grape juice in plastic glasses, thanking the Lord for his body and blood given for us.

After my return to Australia I heard that the bread apparently multiplied, as those who took some home had enough for their families to eat.

My glimpses of revival in Kenya with Francis in the slums, with his parents in the orphanage and teaching pastors and leaders from over 30 of their churches, reminded me that God uses the weak things of this world to confound the mighty. People with limited or no resources still see the Kingdom of God come powerfully among them.

Nepal

Our friends Bob and Jill Densley from the Renewal Fellowship worked with the United Nations in Nepal for a few years. They encouraged many pastors there, most with small house churches, facing hostile opposition. Holding church meetings in Nepal was illegal until the 1990's. Most pastors have been imprisoned, many of them severely beaten.

During several visits to Nepal from 1996, usually with a team from the Renewal Fellowship visiting and working with Bob and Jill, we had meetings in Kathmandu the capital, in East Nepal with Bhutan refugees and churches, and in Maoist dominated West Nepal.

During some meetings in West Nepal, we walked the 20 minutes from our accommodation cabins to the church, past unfriendly or suspicious villagers. The two pastors sent to collect us in a jeep took another route and missed us. They panicked, thinking we had been abducted. After that they insisted that we wait to be collected each time!

In Kathmandu, on that same visit, we stayed in a Buddhist retreat house, because that was a safer location than hotels we had used previously. Some hotels had been bombed. Even there, in that Buddhist 'safe house' we had a night watchman on duty all night. He walked around tapping his stick loudly so that nearby soldiers would not mistake him for a terrorist!

Pastor Raju Sundras organized most of our visits. We first met him as a young evangelist who had already been imprisoned and beaten severely many times. Raju, with his wife Samita, began Hosanna Church in Kathmandu which grew to over 800 by 2009, one of the large churches in the nation. Each time we visited them we found they

had expanded their premises. They planted other churches in Nepal, Tibet, India, and refugee communities from Bhutan and networked with 240 churches by 2009. Ten years ago it took a decade to add 100 people to a church. That now happens in six months or less.

Their church prays. A lot. They have a 24 hour prayer room where many of their people go to fast and pray. They believe in miracles, and see many. Their outreaches include feeding hundreds of street children in their 'Jesus Kitchen'.

We saw many leaders filled with the Spirit, many people healed, and many gifts of the Spirit poured out, including revelations and visions. I heard a young man in East Nepal, and an older man in Kathmandu, both pray eloquently in English, although neither of them spoke English. That was a beautiful gift of tongues, which blessed me profoundly.

Here is Raju's report of our team visit at Easter 2000:

Greetings in the name of our Almighty God Jesus Christ from the land of Himalayas! The Lord continues to do great things in this land, we have not much to do but to praise Him and thank Him for every good gift raining on us from Him and only Him.

It was a great blessing from the Lord to send us a team from Australia mid-April. The fellowship, the Word from God, the mighty touch of the Holy Spirit, the love of Christ flourishing from our Australian brothers and sisters, the awesome presence of the Lord throughout the rushing schedule of conferences, trips, and visits, overwhelmingly expressed the great love of our Lord Jesus Christ towards this nation. During the short stay of about two weeks with the team of eight people we

had the privilege to see the ministry of the Holy Spirit through them in several occasions.

Some of the group along with me had a short trip to the Tibetan border. We started early morning and arrived there about noon time. The towns of Liping on the Nepali side and Khawsa on the Tibetan side are connected through a bridge on Bhotekoshi River and right in the midst of the bridge is the border white line showing the boundary of each country. At the end of the bridge on the Tibetan side is the entry gate which is controlled by Chinese guards and immigration officials.

After praying on the bridge we approached the Chinese officials to get a permission to enter Tibet. The first official refused but the second one nodded approvingly, taking the four Australian passports from my hand as security, and let us go free of charge! This could happen only by the supernatural intervention of our Almighty God, Hallelujah! We had good prayer inside Tibet especially on those individual shopkeepers whom I would grab and pray on without any resistance from them!

On 21 April all the eight of Australians and I had a trip to Gochadda in west Nepal and held a three days conference over there at Easter. While driving toward the destination I shared the Word with the driver of the private bus and during the inauguration of the conference he approached the altar and accepted Christ as his personal Saviour. On the same day a Christian brother whose hand was partially crippled for six years was touched by the Holy Spirit and healed absolutely. He was shaking in his whole body and raising his hands, even the crippled one already healed, praising the Lord with all his strength, he glorified the Lord for his greatness, Hallelujah!

Out of about 200 participants in the conference by the grace of God 100 of them were baptized in the Holy Spirit praising the Lord, singing, falling, crying, and many other actions as the Holy Spirit would prompt them to act. About ten of them testified that they had never experienced such a presence of the power and love of God. Some others testified being lifted to heavenly realms by the power of the Holy Spirit, being surrounded by the angels of the Lord in a great peace, joy, and love toward each other and being melted in the power of his presence. Many re-committed their lives to the Lord for ministry by any means through his revelation.

On the second day of the conference the trend continued as the people seemingly would fall down, repent, minister to each other in the love of Christ, enjoy the mighty touch of the Holy Spirit, singing, prophesying, weeping, laughing, hugging, and all the beauty of the Holy Spirit was manifested throughout the congregation by his grace and love. One woman of age 65 testified that she never had danced in her life in any occasion even in secret, but the Lord had told her that she should now dance to him and she was dancing praising him with all her strength. For hours this outpouring continued and the pastors of the churches were one by one testifying that they had never experienced such a presence and power of God in their whole Christian life and ministry.

Some 60 evangelists from Gorkha, Dhading, Chitwan, Butwal declared that they were renewed in their spirits by the refreshing of the Holy Spirit and they are now going to serve the Lord in the field wherever the Holy Spirit will lead them to be full-fledged in His service. In the last day of the conference while praying together with the congregation and committing them in his

hands, many prophesied that the Lord was assuring them of great changes in their ministry, life and the area. While the power of God was at work in our midst three children of 6-7 years old fell down weeping, screaming and testifying about a huge hand coming on them and touching their stomachs and healing them instantly. After the prayer all the participants got into the joy of the Holy Spirit and started dancing to the Lord, singing and praising Him for His goodness.

Before leaving Gochadda while we were having snacks in the pastor's house a woman of high Brahmin caste came by the direction of the Lord to the place, claiming that she was prompted by a voice in her ear to go to the Christians and ask for prayer for healing of her chronic stomach pain and problems, and that is why she was there. We prayed for her and she was instantly healed and we shared the Gospel, but she stopped us saying, "I need to accept Christ as my Saviour so don't waste time!"

She accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour being lifted in spirit, and even the body as she said she didn't feel anymore burden in her body, and spirit, Hallelujah!

On 25 April we held another conference in Nazarene Church pastored by Rinzi Lama in Kathmandu. Ten churches unitedly participated in the two days gathering where about 100 people participated. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit continued in this conference refreshing many in their spirits and bringing much re-commitment. Some cases of healing were testified. In one case the brother testified that he had received healing from the Lord and his swollen feet and the high Uric Acid had disappeared from his body, confirmed by the Holy Spirit.

We showed the Transformation video brought from Australia. All committed themselves for constant

prayer to bring transformation to their cities too by God's power.

On 27 April we held a one day conference in Hosanna Church in Kathmandu where the touch of the Holy Spirit was tremendous and people blessed by the Holy Spirit and his might were manifesting his power and presence in the place. While people were worshipping and praising the Lord, a prophecy came and the Lord said, "What happened to the vision given to you six years ago? You have forgotten to pray about it but I have not forgotten what I have promised to you through the vision!"

I was reminded by the Holy Spirit that I had seen a vision where I was taken over the highest mountains in this country with a few of my foreign friends and some of our evangelists and as we put our step on the top of the mountain it started shaking and melting and my friends and the evangelists started disappearing, then I cried out, "Lord where are my friends?" And He said open your eyes and see, and I saw all my friends and the evangelists were scattered all over the mountains and they were coming towards me with multitudes of people behind them. I started weeping and with a feeling which words cannot explain I was thanking the Lord for His goodness, I was laughing in the Spirit for the repetition of the vision which I could see again. Hallelujah!

I have to thank the Lord for His great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and I have to thank the Lord also for my Australian brothers and sisters who took up the burden to come over to this place and minister to our people.

Raju also reported on further developments the next year:

During the past two months in 2001 we have experienced a new wave of outpouring of the Spirit on the congregation. Many instant healings of people suffering from fever, flu, unconsciousness, blood discharge, boils and tumours, stomach problems, chronic headaches. The fame of the healings in the Church has reached many unbelievers through the congregation and numbers of unbelievers are coming to seek the healing, most of them ending up saved!

The Church is growing rapidly in the Spirit, many standing in faith are experiencing prosperity, good health, spiritual satisfaction, close intimacy with the Lord and moreover a hunger and thirst along with zeal of God to know Jesus intimately and to do his will whatever it may cost. This new wave of revival in the Church is another assurance from the Lord that in the days ahead he has got great and marvellous plans to be revealed and carried out by the people he has called to fulfil his purposes.

This revival is quite a new movement of God in the Church and the leadership of the Church is waiting on the Lord to receive revelation if there is anything to be done or just let it grow to maturity as it is growing by the Holy Spirit. Since the start of the year 2001 the leadership of the Church is busy to pray on almost every individual of the Church for receiving the gifts of the Spirit as well as counselling them in the Word and praying with them at the time of need.

In December 2007 the Prime Minister invited Raju to speak at a nationally televised Christmas Day service in their International Stadium. Hosanna Church musicians led the 2,500 people there in singing their Nepalese

version of Carols by Candlelight, as they held their candles:
*Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You, Happy
Birthday to Jesus, Happy Birthday to You.*

The following year in 2008, for the first time in Nepal's history, the government proclaimed December 25-26 a national public holiday.

We have visited them many times and now they have planted over 30 churches, they hold two short term Bible School each year and have established vibrant Christian schools and vocational training courses as well as constantly supporting their evangelists and pastors.

India

Following visits to Nepal, Meg and I, with a team from the Renewal Fellowship, visited majestic Darjeeling in the Himalayas and crowded New Delhi in the dry plains of India (with a day's tourist visit to the Taj Mahal). Then we flew on to Sri Lanka's luscious green mountains. In every place we saw people touched by God in many ways, especially being filled with the Spirit and healed. They had strong, simple faith.

Darjeeling

Dr David Mangratee hosted our visits to Darjeeling. A gracious, pioneering Apostle in the Himalaya mountains, David said our visits opened new doors for him to work among all the churches. People from many churches joined together for our meetings on renewal and revival. His own congregation at Mt Hermon had experienced revival, rapid growth, and launched missions to remote regions. David translated my book *Flashpoints of Revival* into Nepalese, adding his reports of his involvement in revival, as part of his doctoral studies. Here is part of his reports about previous revivals:

Revival broke out in Darjeeling in 1960. The person God used in this great revival was Rev. David Mangratee. Born into a Hindu family, I had a wonderful birth. I asked the Lord, when I had a vision of the Lord, whether my father had died before he was born and had lived again, for I was told by my parents that my father died in the year 1933. He was to be taken for burial. People had made everything ready. He was kept inside the coffin ready for taking him the burial place. But before they could take him he woke up and lived again.

After this my father lived for another 20 years and died again in 1953 never to rise again. During my vision I asked the Lord whether this was true. The Lord answered, "Yes, because I wanted a man with a miracle birth."

It was God's great grace that He raised me for this great work which one can see at present among the Nepalese. I accepted the Lord as my personal saviour on 3rd June, 1953, just 63 days after the death of my father. I underwent a Bible Training Programme at Southern Asia Bible Institute (now College) and returned to Darjeeling. We started a church in Darjeeling with 35 newly converted people.

On Pentecost Sunday in the month of May, 1960, one of our church members got filled with the Spirit of God. She spoke in tongues and prophesied. Then in the month of June that same year the Holy Spirit came upon the believers mightily. They were filled with the Spirit of God and God blessed them with gifts of the Spirit, especially the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge. By this, lost money was found, lost souls traced, sick healed and sin uncovered.

Many miracles took place in the ministry, even raising the dead. The work faced a lot of opposition in the beginning but the changed lives of the first Christians made their mouths shut. Many national missionaries are working now in Nepal or Bhutan and different parts of India like Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. The Nepalese, among whom our major work was concentrated, and also tribes like Bodos, Santhals, Nagas, Rajbansis, and many other tribal people, got saved.

“I will send even greater revival than before,” the Lord said. The revival continues. We are praying to him who in a covenant keeping God.

New Delhi

Our team from the Renewal Fellowship visited Grace Bible College and orphanage near New Delhi, India’s capital. Dr Paul Pilai and his family pioneered India Inland Mission, sending out thousands of evangelists and pastors across India. Their Bible College, the largest in India, has 600 students studying under-graduate and post-graduate courses, with 200 evangelists sent out each year.

I had the humbling honour to speak to their students, and also pray with the staff. Most of their graduates face hostile communities as they plant churches in Hindu villages and towns. We heard about two of their graduates shot dead in Nepal when we held our meetings in West Nepal in 1998.

I first met Paul Pilai when he stayed in our community home while he spoke at churches in Brisbane. Paul had been a young Hindu lawyer, converted when healed through prayer in Jesus’ name. He told us how he and his evangelism team had once been severely beaten by radical Hindus who broke his arm and tried to kill them all. God intervened. By the firelight of their burning tent, the team saw themselves surrounded by handsome men who moved them to a safe place, miraculously. Those angels said, “God will send you back here again.”

He did. Later on a man from that area invited them back to hold meetings in his home. That became the beginning of a church there.

Paul gave this report of challenges facing their graduates:

Manoharpur, where Australian missionary Robert Stains and his two sons were killed by burning them alive in their vehicle, is seeing a mighty revival. Thousands of tribal people are coming to Christ. Several of our teams are using the 'Jesus' movie all over that area where Bajrang Dal killers are brought in from outside that area to attack Christians. Killing of Christians may continue in that area, but the prayer of saints all over the world is making a change. Many Bajrang Dal killers also are coming to know Christ in miraculous ways.

Our churches in Kashmir are suffering much as the war is raging there between India and Bin Laden's high tech Islamic 'Mujahideen' (holy warriors) with Pakistan as their base. With Chinese technology, and enormous amounts of Arab money, Pakistan and Afghan terrorists believe that there should be a nuclear war in South Asia for the conquest by Islamic terrorists as an 'historic Jihad' as a final holy war to wipe out Christianity. This big blow to Christian work in Kashmir will affect us for a long time to come.

Two of our Grace Bible College graduates working in Rukum district in Nepal were shot dead by the Hindu police for baptising Hindus in Nepal. Secret attacks are still going on while thousands are coming to Christ all over Nepal. More than 42 leading evangelistic organisations organised and directed by Grace Bible College graduates are working all over Nepal today.

Today there are more than 2,000 believers worshipping in different house churches in Bhutan secretly. Having an open border with India, Indian Christians are the only missionaries there. No church buildings are allowed in Bhutan. Many students graduated from our

Bible College are working in Bhutan. This Himalayan foothill kingdom needs the Gospel desperately, and we need your continuous prayer and support for this strategic ministry.

Sri Lanka

I taught Philip and Dhamika George, at Trinity Theological College. They came from Sri Lanka where Philip's brothers and sister are pastors, prayerfully supported by their godly parents. Philip and Dhamika, based in Brisbane, have raised many thousands of dollars for mission, especially in Sri Lanka. They invest in God's Kingdom, and see miracles continually.

I conducted their miracle wedding in Brisbane. It cost them nothing. Not only did they have no minister's fees, but also the church, the flowers, the bridal party's clothes, the banquet, and the wedding video all came free, without them asking for any of it! Philip earned money while a student by cleaning St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, a beautiful, gothic church in the heart of Brisbane city. So they offered him the church for the wedding. The people arranging flowers for the Sunday service the next day made it special for the wedding also. A student friend's mother owned a clothing boutique, and donated all the bridal party's outfits, normally rented or bought. Philip boarded at the Salvation Army hostel near the college, so they gladly provided the smorgasbord wedding breakfast for 100 people. Another friend offered to video their wedding. Imagine the family's surprise when they saw that video in Sri Lanka.

They also provided their 'miracle' rental house freely to a mission team from the South Pacific for a month. They bought that house with no money, just a generous loan from a lady they befriended, and sold it two years later for a large profit, used to wipe out all their debts and contribute more to missions.

Teams from the Renewal Fellowship visited Sri Lanka with Philip and Dhamika, staying with their family and relatives, speaking in their relatives' churches and local Bible Schools, and praying with their people.

We had the privilege of dedicating a spring water bottling factory built on their land there, supplied by a fresh mountain spring on their property. That provided income for their relatives' ministries in their churches and Bible Schools.

In spite of ethnic war with the Tamils and many Buddhist threats against churches and pastors, God moves strongly in the nation. Some of Philip's relatives have been taken to court, imprisoned, and had bomb threats, but they continue to trust God and serve him.

Vanuatu

I flew to Port Vila in Vanuatu in the South Pacific for a holiday in September 2002. There I met leaders of the Christian Fellowship (CF) at the Law School. The CF presented a long, lively concert the Saturday night of my visit, so I went. Then I discovered that they planned to take a mission team to Australia. I offered to host them in Brisbane.

The University of the South Pacific, based in Suva Fiji, has its School of Law in Vanuatu (because of the unique combination of French, English and local laws in Vanuatu, previously called New Hebrides). Students come from most nations of the South Pacific Islands to study law there. Many of them are born leaders, sons and daughters of chiefs and government leaders.

The very active CF at the School of Law regularly organised outreaches in the town and at the university. About one third of the 120 students in the four year law course attended the weekly CF meeting on Friday nights, and a core group prayed together regularly and organised outreach and evangelism events.

The Lord moved in a surprising way at the CF during 2002. The weekend following Easter, the CF held an outreach meeting on Saturday evening, April 6, on the lawn and steps of the university square. The grassy square faces the main lecture buildings, school administration and library. God moved on them in a strong way that night.

Romulo Nayacalevu, then President of the Christian Fellowship reported:

The speaker was the Upper Room Church pastor, Jotham Napat who is also the director of Meteorology

here in Vanuatu. The night was filled with the awesome power of the Lord and we had the back up service of the Upper Room church ministry who provided music with their instruments. With our typical Pacific Island setting of bush and nature all around us, we had dances, drama, and testified in an open environment, letting the wind carry the message of salvation to the bushes and the darkened areas. That worked because most of those that came to the altar call were people hiding or listening in these areas. The Lord was on the road of destiny with many people that night.

Unusual lightning hovered around in the sky, and as soon as the prayer teams had finished praying with those who rushed forward at the altar call, then the tropical rain pelted down on that open field area. God poured out his Spirit on many lives that night, including Jerry Waqainabete and Simon Kofe, both dramatically changed.

Many of these people are now leaders in their various Pacific Islands nations, both in civic and church affairs. Some of them experienced powerful conversions that night. Many were filled with the Spirit and began to experience spiritual gifts in their lives in new ways. Some students who had been heavily involved in drinking and night clubs found new freedom and zeal for God and have become effective evangelists through their changed lives. Many of the law students attended the lively, Spirit-led Upper Room church in Port Vila, where pastors Joseph and Jotham and others encouraged and nurtured them.

Eleven of those students came to Brisbane, led by Romulo their President, and led by the Holy Spirit, far more importantly! They sang and spoke at dozens of meetings in dozens of churches and homes, and prayed for people constantly. They were familiar with pastors laying hands

on people and praying for them, but now they were doing that also, and seeing God touch people in many ways.

The law students from the Christian Fellowship (CF) grew strong in faith. Jerry, one of the students from Fiji, returned home after the visit to Australia, and prayed for over 70 sick people in his village, seeing many miraculous healings. His transformed life challenged the village because he had been converted at CF at the law school after a very wild time as a youth in the village. The following year, 2003, Jerry led revival in his village. He prayed early every morning in the Methodist Church. Eventually some children and then some of the youth joined him early each morning. By 2004 he had 50 young people involved, evangelising, praying for the sick, casting out spirits, and encouraging revival.

Simon, returned to his island of Tuvalu, also transformed at university through CF. He witnessed daily to his relatives and friends all through the vacation in December-January, bringing many of them to the Lord. He led a team of youth involved in Youth Alive meetings, and prayed with the leaders each morning from 4 a.m. Simon became President of the Christian Fellowship at the Law School from October 2003 for a year.

Pentecost Island

In May 2003 I took a team from the CF to Pentecost Island in Vanuatu for a weekend of outreach meetings on South Pentecost. The national Vanuatu Churches of Christ Bible College, at Banmatmat, stands near the site of the first Christian martyrdom there.

Tomas Tumtum had been an indentured worker on cane farms in Queensland, Australia. Converted there, he

returned around 1901 to his village on South Pentecost with a new young disciple from a neighbouring island. They arrived when the village was tabu (taboo) because a baby had died a few days earlier, so no one was allowed into the village. Ancient tradition dictated that anyone breaking tabu must be killed, so they were going to kill Tomas, but his friend Lulkon asked Tomas to tell them to kill him instead so that Tomas could evangelise his own people. Just before he was clubbed to death at a sacred mele palm tree, he read John 3:16, then closed his eyes and prayed for them. Tomas became a pioneer of the church in South Pentecost, establishing Churches of Christ there.

Hosted by Chief Willie Bebe, the CF team of six led meetings in Salap village each night Friday-Sunday and Sunday morning - in Bislama, the local Pidgin and in basic English. It was a kind of miracle. That village church sang revival choruses, but the surrounding villages still used hymns from mission days! The weekend brought new unity among the competing village churches. The Sunday night service went from 6-11 p.m., although we 'closed' it three times after 10 p.m., with a closing prayer, then later on a closing song, and then later on a closing announcement. People just kept singing and coming for prayer.

God opened a wide door on Pentecost Island (1 Cor 16:8-9). Another team of four students from the law school CF returned to South Pentecost in June 2003 for 12 days of meetings in villages. Again, the Spirit of God moved strongly. Leaders repented publicly of divisions and criticisms. Then youth began repenting of backsliding or unbelief. A great-grand-daughter of the pioneer Tomas Tumtum gave her life to God in the village near his grave at the Bible College.

We held rallies in four villages of South Pentecost each evening from 6 pm. for 12 days, with teaching sessions on the Holy Spirit held in the main village church of Salap each morning for a week. The team experienced a strong leading of the Spirit in the worship, drama, action songs with Pacific dance movements, and preaching and praying for people.

Mathias, a young man who repented deeply with over 15 minutes of tearful sobbing, became the main worship leader in revival meetings. *When he was leading and speaking at a revival meeting at the national Bible College, a huge supernatural fire blazed in the hills directly opposite the Bible College chapel in 2005, but no bush was burned.*

Pentecost Bible College

By 2004, the Churches of Christ national Bible College at Banmatmat on Pentecost Island increasingly became a centre for revival. Pastor Lewis Wari and his wife Marilyn hosted these gatherings at the Bible College, and later on Lewis spoke at many island churches as the President of the Churches of Christ. Lewis had been a leader in strong revival movements on South Pentecost as a young pastor from 1988.

Our leaders' seminars and youth conventions at the Bible College focused on revival. The college hosted regular courses and seminars on revival for a month at a time, each day beginning with prayer together from 6 a.m., and even earlier from 4.30 a.m. in the youth convention in December, 2004, as God's Spirit moved on the youth leaders in that area.

Morning sessions continued from 8 a.m. to noon, with teaching and ministry. As the Spirit moved on the group, they continued to repent and seek God for further

anointing and impartation of the Spirit in their lives. Afternoon sessions featured sharing and testimonies of what God is doing. Each evening became a revival meeting at the Bible College with worship, sharing, preaching, and powerful times of ministry to everyone seeking prayer.

Teams from the Bible College led revival meetings in village churches each weekend. Many of these went late as the Spirit moved on the people with deep repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness, and prayer for healing and empowering.

A law student team from Port Vila, led by Seini Puamau, Vice President of the CF, had a strong impact at the High School on South Pentecost Island with responses at all meetings. Most of the whole residential school of 300 responded for prayer at the final service on Sunday night 17 October, 2004, after a powerful testimony from Joanna Kenilorea. The High School principal, Silas Buli, has prayed for years from 4 a.m. each morning for the school and the nation, alone or with some of his staff.

The church arranged for more revival teaching at their national Bible College for two weeks to over two dozen church leaders. On the weekend in the middle of that course, teams from the college held mission meetings simultaneously in seven different villages. Every village saw strong responses, including a team that held their meeting in the chief's meeting house of their village, and the first to respond was a fellow from the 'custom' traditional heathen village called Bunlap.

Through 2004-2005 we held many revival leadership meetings at the Bible College, usually in my vacations from college in Brisbane. Don and Helen Hill from the Renewal Fellowship in Brisbane joined me there for some visits.

They provided needed portable generators and lawn mowers, and Don repaired the electrical wiring and installations at the Bible College. Helen recorded my teaching sessions, now available on DVD. Friends around the world, such as in Kenya, Nepal and the Pacific, have used those DVDs for their leadership training.

Those Bible College sessions seemed like preparation for revival. Every session led into ministry. Repentance went deep. Prayer began early in the mornings, and went late into the nights.

Chief Willie asked for a team to come to pray over his home and tourist bungalows. Infestation by magic concerned him. So a prophetic and deliverance team of leaders at the Bible College of about six people prayed there. Mathias reported that they located witchcraft items in the ground, removed them and claimed the power of Jesus' blood to cleanse and heal the land.

Village evangelism teams from South Pentecost continue to witness in the villages, and visit other islands. Six people from these teams came to Brisbane and were then part of 15 from Pentecost Island on mission in the Solomon Islands in 2006.

Pentecost on Pentecost

Grant Shaw joined me on Pentecost Island in Vanuatu in September-October 2006. Grant grew up with missionary parents, saw many persecutions and miracles, and had his dad recounting miraculous answers to prayer as a daily routine. They often needed to pray for miracles, and miracles happened. From 14 years old Grant participated in mission teams travelling internationally in Asia. Then he attended a youth camp at Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship which had revival from 1994. He then worked

there as an associate youth pastor for 18 months before studying at Bible College in Brisbane. So he is used to revival - all his life! In Vanuatu he received clear words of knowledge, and saw people healed daily in Port Vila and on Pentecost Island both in meetings and in the villages. That inspired and challenged everyone.

We attended the afternoon service at Upper Room church in Port Vila. That night the senior pastors were in Tanna Island on mission and the remaining leaders were so glad God had sent us to preach that night! Great warning! It was fantastic. Worship was strong.

Raised from the dead

At sharing time in the Upper Room service Leah, a nurse, told how she had been on duty that week when parents brought in their young daughter who had been badly hit in a car accident, and showed no signs of life - the monitor registered zero - no pulse. Leah felt unusual boldness, so commanded the girl to live, and prayed for her for an hour, mostly in tongues. After an hour the monitor started beeping and the girl recovered. What a great testimony!

Grant gave words of knowledge about healings needed and prayed for those people, then told some of his testimony. When he was eight years old he saw Jesus in a vision, so bright that Grant could not see his face. In the vision Grant saw the glorious gates of heaven, but did not enter, although he wanted to.

We prayed for all the children, many of them 'resting' in the Spirit. Then Grant told more of his testimony, about his time in Toronto. The message that night covered Luke 8, 9, 10 - where Jesus, the 12 and the 70 all did the same things, with no money, preached the same message on the Kingdom of God, and had the same ministry of healing.

Most people came out for prayer, most of them resting in the Spirit.

On Tuesday, the day we flew to Pentecost Island I woke again at 3 a.m., as often happened in the previous few weeks, but this was different. I had just seen a quick and powerful vision (while asleep). After seeing a 'wall' full of accusations ripped apart with a golden tear, I saw a marvellous long cascade waterfall full of bright living colours. The vision then merged into a brilliant hillside scene where Jesus the Good Shepherd, with shawl and staff, gathered his flock to himself. At first I thought they were sheep but the forms became children and people. I didn't see Jesus' face but felt his huge love for everyone - wanting them all to come to him and gathering them to himself. I woke up crying with joy. Significant timing as we started on Pentecost Island that night.

Our mission continued on South Pentecost once more. Based in the village of Panlimsi where Mathias was then the young pastor, we slept in a house with bamboo walls and floor and thatch roof, and ate with their team there in the village.

The Spirit moved strongly in all the meetings. Repentance. Reconciliations. Many healings, daily. Confessions. Anointing. Healings included Pastor Rolanson's young son able to hear clearly after being born partially deaf. Rolanson leads evangelism teams, and helped lead this mission.

South Pentecost attracts tourists with its land diving – men jumping from high towers with vines attached to their ankles. Grant prayed for a jumper who had hurt his neck, and the neck cracked back into place. After prayer, an elderly man no longer needed a walking stick to come up

the hill to the meetings. The Lord healed a son of the paramount chief of South Pentecost from Bunlap, a 'custom' village, when Grant prayed for him and pain left his sore leg. He invited the team to come to his village to pray for the sick. No white people had ever been invited there to minister previously.

A team of about 20 of us trekked for a week into mountain villages. I literally obeyed Luke 10 – going with no extra shirt, no sandals, and no money. The trek began with a five hour walk across the island to Ranwas on the eastern side. Mathias led worship, with strong moves of the Spirit touching everyone. At one point I spat on the dirt floor, making mud to show what Jesus did once. No one had ever done such a thing there! Marilyn Wari, wife of the President of the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu, then jumped up asking for prayer for her eyes. Later she testified that the Lord told her to do that, and then she found she could read without glasses.

Glory in a remote village

We trekked through Bunlap, the 'custom' village where the paramount chief lived, and prayed for more sick people. Some had pain leave immediately, and people there became more open to the gospel. Then the team trekked for seven hours to Ponra, a remote village further north on the east coast. Revival meetings erupted there! The Spirit just took over. Visions. Revelations. Reconciliations. Healings. People drunk in the Spirit. Many resting on the floor getting blessed in various ways. When they heard about healing through 'mud on the eye' at Ranwas some came straight out asking for mud packs also!

One of the girls in the team had a vision of the village children there paddling in a pure sea, crystal clear. They

were like that - so pure. Not polluted at all by TV, videos, movies, magazines, or worldliness. Their lives were so clean. Just pure love for the Lord, especially among the young.

Angels singing filled the air about 3 a.m. It sounded as though the village church was packed. The harmonies in high descant ***declared "For You are great and You do wondrous things. You are God alone"*** and then harmonies, without words until words again for ***"I will praise You O Lord my God with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name for evermore"*** with long, long harmonies on "forever more." Just worship. They did not need to sing the middle bit: *"Teach me Your ways O Lord. I will walk in Your paths, unite my heart to fear Your name."*

I awoke hearing with that heavenly chorus so went outside to see why the village church would be full of people in the middle of the night, but no one was there, only the glorious sound of angels singing. How I wished I had woken everyone else!

The team stayed two extra days there. Everyone received prayer, and many people surrendered to the Lord both morning and night. Everyone was repenting, as the Spirit moved on us all.

Grant's legs, cut and sore from the long trek, saved the team from the long trek back. The villagers arranged a boat ride back around the island from the east to the west for the team's return. Revival meetings continued back at the host village, Panlimsi, led mainly in worship by Mathias, with Pastor Rolanson organising things. Also at two other villages the Spirit moved powerfully as the team ministered, with much reconciliation and dancing in worship.

The pastor of our host village heard angels singing there also when he was on his way back from the food gardens. At first he thought it was the church full of people, but then realised that the harmonies were more wonderful than we can sing.

Grant and I returned full of joy on the one hour flight to Port Vila after a strong final worship service at the host village on the last Sunday morning, and reported to the Upper Room Church in Port Vila on Sunday evening. Again the Spirit moved so strongly the pastor didn't need to use his message. More words of knowledge. More healings. More anointing and many resting in the Spirit, soaking in grace.

That church continues to minister in the Spirit and has seen powerful moves of God in the islands, especially Tanna Island. They planted churches there in 'custom' villages, invited by the chiefs because the chiefs have seen their people healed and transformed.

During their missions there in 2006, many young boys asked to be 'ordained' as evangelists in the power of the Spirit. They returned to their villages and many of those young boys established churches in their villages as they spoke, told Bible stories, and sang original songs given to them by the Spirit.

Our subsequent visits to Vanuatu have included Grant's brother Joel and his wife Candice, their cousin Andrew and others. We have seen everyone prayed for reporting that all pain left immediately. We have seen a whole football team respond to acknowledge they belong to Jesus. We have seen so many village revival meetings equipping people to pray for others.

Solomon Islands

The Lord poured out his Spirit in fresh and surprising ways in New Georgia in the Western District of the Solomon Islands in 2003, and has touched many churches in the capital Honiara with strong moves of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit moved powerfully especially on youth and children. This included many conversions, many filled with the Spirit, many having visions and revelations.

In spite of, and perhaps because of, the ethnic tension (civil war) for two years with rebels armed with guns causing widespread problems and the economy failing with wages of many police, teachers and administrators unpaid, the Holy Spirit moved strongly in the Solomon Islands.

An anointed pastor from Papua New Guinea spoke at an Easter Camp in 2003 attended by many youth leaders from the Western Solomons. Those leaders returned on fire. The weekend following Easter, from the end of April, youth and children in the huge, scenic Marovo Lagoon area were filled with the Spirit, with many lives transformed. Revival began with the Spirit moving on youth and children in village churches. They had extended worship in revival songs, many visions and revelations and lives being changed with strong love for the Lord. Children and youth began meeting daily from 5 p.m. for hours of praise, worship and testimonies. A police officer observed that the number of reported crimes fell and that former rebels attended daily worship and prayer meetings.

Western Solomon Islands

A team of students from the University of the South Pacific Law School in Port Vila, Vanuatu, joined me on mission to Honiara, the capital, and the Western Solomon Islands in

2003. Sir Peter Kenilorea, inaugural Prime Minister and then the Speaker in the Parliament, with his wife Lady Margaret, hosted the team in Honiara. Dr Ronald Ziriu, then administrator of the United Church Hospital in Munda in the Western District hosted the team there, which included his son Calvin.

Our team first experienced the revival on an island near Munda. We took the outboard motor canoe with Rev Fred Alizeru from Munda. Two weeks previously, early in July, revival started there with the Spirit poured out on children and youth, so they just wanted to worship and pray for hours. They meet daily from around 5.30 p.m., and wanted to go late every night. Then children did not want to go to school the next day! We encouraged the children to see school as a mission field, to pray with their friends there, and learn well so they can serve God better. So they needed to get to bed early enough to do that!

At Seghe and in the Marovo Lagoon the revival had been spreading since Easter. Some adults became involved, also repenting and seeking more of the Holy Spirit. Many outpourings and gifts of the Spirit emerged, including the following:

Transformed lives – Young men that the police used to check on because of alcohol and drug abuse became sober and on fire for God attending daily worship and prayer meetings; a man who previously rarely went to church was leading the youth singing group at Seghe; adults publicly reconciled, repenting from ancient quarrels.

Long worship - This often included prophetic words or actions and visions. I visited Sunday services in a village of the lagoon. About 200 youth and children led worship at both services with 1,000 attending. They sang revival songs and choruses accompanied by their youth band. I

prayed individually for over 200 people from 9.30 to 11.30 p.m. They just kept coming, mostly adults. On the Monday night at Seghe the congregation there worshipped from before 6 p.m. to after 9 p.m., then after that I taught, and prayed with each of the family groups there.

Visions - Children saw visions of Jesus (smiling at worship, weeping at hard hearts), angels, hell (with relatives sitting close to a lake of fire, so the children warned them); some kids saw Jesus with a foot in heaven and a foot on earth, like Mt 28:18 - "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." One boy preached (prophesied) for 1½ hours, Spirit-led.

Revelations - especially words of knowledge about hidden things, including magic artefacts and good luck charms. Jesus wants no rivals! Kids told parents where they hid these things! If other adults did that there would be anger and feuds, but they had to accept it from their children. One boy told police that a man accused of stealing a chain saw (and sacked) was innocent as he claimed, and gave them the name of the culprit, by word of knowledge.

Spiritual Gifts - including controversial ones, kept multiplying. Adults asked many questions at teaching sessions. We discussed traditional and revival worship, deliverance, discernment of spirits, gifts of the Spirit, understanding and interpreting visions, tongues, healing, Spirit-led worship and preaching, and revival leadership. Young people in their twenties became revival leaders moving strongly in many spiritual gifts.

These revival effects continued to spread throughout the Solomon Islands.

Solomons Mission

I led a team of 22 in the Solomon Islands for a month, in November-December 2006, 15 of them from Pentecost Island in Vanuatu, on their first international mission. The rest came from Brisbane, an international group of Bible College students (from Holland, England, Korea, and Grant Shaw who grew up in Asia) plus Jesse Padayachee, an Indian healing evangelist originally from South Africa, now in Brisbane, who joined the team for the last week. Jerry Waqainabete and his wife Pam (nee Kenilorea), joined us in Honiara. Rev Gideon Tuke, a United Church minister, organized our visit.

Six of the Vanuatu team travelled via Brisbane experiencing the wonders of electricity, hot and cold tap water, fast travel on good roads in a van, and a huge city. They led worship powerfully at the Kenmore Baptist Church 6 a.m. daily prayer group, and spoke at some meetings, as well as visiting Australia Zoo and the coast.

Then in the Solomon Islands the revival team from Vanuatu and Brisbane held meetings in Honiara and visited villages in the Guadalcanal Mountains. They trekked for seven hours, walking up the mountain tracks to where revival was spreading, especially among youth. High School youth have teams going to the villages to sing, testify, and pray for people. Many gifts of the Spirit are new to them. Our team prayed for the sick and for anointing and filling with the Spirit. They prayed both in the meetings and in the villages.

One Sunday night Grant and Mathias (the team worship leader) spoke about how they learned to move in the power of the Spirit, and then they went out from the meeting (as Jesus sent people out in pairs) and prayed for a lady in the village with back and leg pains and she was

healed. They returned to the same meeting rejoicing and reporting on this miracle.

Mathias involved the youth in singing groups, with keyboards, guitars, and spontaneous items. Our team of over 20, mostly islanders, prayed for the villagers, with personal prayer and prophecies. We ran out of room for bodies to rest on the floor!

Choiseul Island

Gideon and Grant joined me that December 2006 at the National Christian Youth Convention (NCYC) in the north-west at Choiseul Island, two hours flight from Honiara. Around 1200 youth gathered from across the nation, many arriving by outboard motor canoes.

A group coming from Simbo Island in two canoes ran into trouble when their outboard motors failed. Two of their young men swam for nine hours from noon in rough seas to get help. By 9 p.m. they staggered onto an island near Gizo, and contacted a RAMSI team (Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, an Australian army and police project). A RAMSI patrol boat towed the two stranded canoes back to Gizo. The next day that group from Simbo arrived in one packed canoe, minus their food which they had to throw overboard when stranded in the rough seas. The Friday night meeting saw a huge response as Grant challenged them to be fully committed to God. Most of the youth came out immediately so there were hundreds to pray for. The anointed worship team led the crowd in 'He touched me' for nearly half an hour as prayer continued for them, including many wanting healing.

Grant described that youth crusade night:

The nation-wide youth convention was held at Choiseul Island. We were there for five days. It was an awesome time and God moved so powerfully. So much happened, so I'll just tell you about one of the nights. It really impacted my life!

We were invited to speak for their huge night rally. Geoff spoke first and as he started to speak God began to move on the young people in a special way. Then he handed it over to me at about half way and I gave some words of knowledge for healing. They came forward and we prayed for them. Most of them fell under the power and all of them testified that the pain had left their body. After that I continued to speak for a bit and then gave an altar call for any youth that wanted to choose to give their lives fully to Jesus, no turning back!

Most of a thousand youth came forward. Some ran to the altar, some crying! There was an amazing outpouring of the Spirit and because there were so many people Geoff and I split up and started laying hands on as many people as we could. People were falling under the power everywhere (some testified later to having visions). There were bodies all over the field (some people landing on top of each other). Then I did a general healing prayer and asked them to put their hand on the place where they had pain. After we prayed people began to come forward sharing testimonies of how the pain had left their bodies and they were completely healed! The meeting stretched on late into the night with more healing and many more people getting deep touches.

It was one of the most amazing nights. I was deeply touched and feel like I have left a part of myself in Choiseul. God did an amazing thing that night with the

young people and I really believe that he is raising some of them up to be mighty leaders in Revival.

One young man, healed from pain that night, went back to his nearby village and prayed for his sick mother and brother. Both were healed. He had never done that before. He testified about it at the conference the next morning.

The delegation from Kariki, in the Shortland Islands further west, returned home the following Monday. The next night they led a meeting where the Spirit of God moved in revival. Many were filled with the Spirit, had visions, were healed, and discovered many spiritual gifts including tongues and discerning spirits. That revival moved through their islands.

Revival Movements

Revival movements continue to spread in the Solomon Islands. Visiting teams have participated and encouraged leaders.

Honiara, the capital has seen many touches of revival. A week of evening revival meetings in Wesley United Church in the capital Honiara spontaneously erupted in September 2007. That was the first time they held such a week of revival meetings, including joining with youth from other churches. Calvin Ziru, their youth leader had been worship leader in the law student team in Brisbane in 2002. He was then legal advisor to the parliament in the Solomons, ideally placed to lead combined churches youth revival meetings and also the parliamentary Christian fellowship.

Seghe lies at the south east point of New Georgia in stunning scenery. I taught at the Theological Seminary at

Seghe in the fantastic Marovo Lagoon, 70 kilometres with hundreds of tropical bush laden islands north and west of New Georgia Island. Morning teaching sessions, personal prayers in the afternoons (and some rest) and night revival meetings, with worship led by the student team, filled an eventful week in September 2007. That was the first time they hosted such a week at the seminary. Meetings included two village revival services in the lagoon, including at Patutiva village, where revival started in Easter 2003. That meeting went from 7 p.m. to 1.30 a.m. with about 1,000 people! Hundreds received prayer after the meeting 'closed' at 11 pm.

Simbo. A tsunami ravaged Gizo and Simbo islands in April 2007. It smashed all the Simbo canoes, except Gideon's and his brother's which were then on the ocean on the two hour trip from Simbo to Gizo. Tapurae village had hosted many revival meetings. It was wiped out by the tsunami, so the villagers relocated to higher ground. Strong moves of the Spirit continue on Simbo. The village that relocated from Tapurae has a revival prayer team of 30, and no one from that village needed medical help from the clinic in three years since they started praying constantly for the sick, laying on hands and casting out spirits.

Gizo, the provincial capital of the Western Region is the Solomons Island's second largest town. Its airstrip is an island near the town, with its pressed coral runway covering the whole length of the island. Visitors take a canoe or launch across to town. The central United Church hosted revival meetings in October 2007. The Premier of the region asked penetrating questions and joined those who came out for prayer. He testified that he was immediately healed from stress related head pain and tension.

Taro, the regional centre for Choiseul province in the west Solomons hosted an amazing week of unity among all the churches, the United Church, SDAs, Catholics and Anglicans. The meetings included 30 leaders from Karika in the Shortland Islands region, further west. Revival started in Karika the day after leaders returned from the National Christian Youth Convention in Choiseul Island the previous December.

Pastor Mathias from Pentecost Island in Vanuatu participated at Taro. He literally dropped out of the sky at Gizo on an early flight from Honiara. He boarded the plane with no ticket and no money! Dr Ron Ziru took him to the plane in Honiara, an extra one with spare seats, so he walked on leaving his international ticket at the office till we paid the fare! Gideon and I saw him wondering along the main street as we ate breakfast at the Gizo hotel. So he joined us there, and then we flew to Taro that afternoon. The United Church hosted that full week of meetings and constant prayers for people.

The premier and regional officials attended a meeting at the regional parliament house, which included praying with people afterwards. So did the director for medical services and his staff at a meeting at the hospital. Others gathered at the Catholic Church for a meeting and personal prayer there. Each night combined churches revival meetings were held on the soccer field, with huge responses for prayer nightly.

The Lord opened the way for strong ministry with revival and national leaders in all these places. Revival, reconciliation and transformation increase. God is doing far more than most people are asking or even thinking about in these islands (Eph 3:20-21). In all these places people made strong commitments to the Lord, and healings kept happening.

Both in Vanuatu and in the Solomon Islands the people said that they could all understand my English, even those who did not speak English, so they did not need an interpreter.

Fiji

I enjoyed being part of the combined Kenmore Baptist Church (KBC) and Christian Outreach Centre (COC) teams in Fiji in 2006-7. The teams, led by senior pastor Ric and Anne Benson and pastor Jesse and Cookie Padayachee, worked with the COC churches in Lautoka in the west and Navua on the Coral Coast in the east. We saw many saved and healed in morning visits to villages, as well as at the night meetings.

A 'magic man' in one village came for prayer after seeing healings in his village. Three women and a man who had done fire walking from another village made commitments to Christ, renounced their spirit involvement and were healed from constantly itchy skin irritations on their legs. Jesse prayed for 11 people in the Suva hospital who were then sent home soon afterwards.

I led a group each day as we visited homes, and spoke in many village gatherings, and then prayed for the sick. I was especially touched watching Dr Andrew Cotterill from KBC, a paediatrician, pray for the sick, often with tears. Many reported immediate improvement. Team leader Ric Benson taught pastors and leaders in morning sessions, and I taught about revival now stirring in the South Pacific.

One morning in Navua our group had a meeting in the home of Indo-Fijian pastor Nevian, and his wife Esther. He had just finished Bible College in Suva. Everyone we prayed for there was touched strongly. The first lady prayed for was delivered from some Hindu god spirit. Nevian then became our interpreter as we visited other Hindu homes nearby, and we led one old Hindu man to faith in Jesus. Nevian and his family then attended all the

rest of the night meetings, received healings and saw his Hindu sister saved as well.

The team shared together in night crusades in the Garden of Joy COC church. Jesse preached and gave his testimony, and prayed for everyone who came forward, assisted by the team. We prayed first for salvation and repentance, and the team gave follow-up materials to first time believers. Jesse moved strongly in words of knowledge and authority. Many meetings went late! In both Lautoka and Navua crowds grew as the meetings progressed. Reports of healings and deliverance spread.

One Sunday I spoke at the Assembly of the Lord Jesus Christ church in Suva, an independent Spirit-filled congregation of around 100, half of them youth. Romulo (leader of the 2002 law student team in Brisbane) joined me with Jimmy a medical university student from Vanuatu. The Spirit moved strongly. Romulo called youth out for prayer during the worship, and I involved him in the preaching as well and he called people out again for ministry at the end. That went for some time. After the service we shared food together including a lovo, food cooked in the earth oven.

Then that night I spoke at Sigatoka COC, an hour's drive back from Suva, with 100 attending, sitting on the ground. They had a temporary iron roof cover for instruments and 'platform' area on the ground. We prayed personally for most of them, and saw beautiful healings and some delivered and saved. A couple of young children with hearing problems told their mothers that after the man prayed for them they could hear well. We thanked Jesus together.

Lawyer friends

After the team returned to Australia, I stayed on to visit the young lawyers I had hosted for a month in Brisbane in November 2002 when they were students. In 2002, I drove them around and took them to meetings, and now they drove me around and took me to meetings!

I visited an early morning prayer group of the Graduates Christian Fellowship, another group of young leaders in the nation, and prayed personally for each of the 20 there. That afternoon on Saturday 7-7-07, I shared in the memorial service for the Nigerian founding pastor of the Redeemer Christian Church in Fiji. Jerry (another of the lawyer team) and his wife Pam are now pastors there as well as lawyers, a common arrangement in the Pacific for smaller churches with honorary pastors. Romulo is another leader in that church, and continues to impact many churches and youth groups through his networks of young leaders in Fiji and other nations.

Then on the Sunday Jerry led the service and I preached, and we had two ministry spontaneous times during that service, including a commissioning for Jerry and Pam led by the Nigerian regional co-ordinator for the Redeemer Church, visiting from his church in Melbourne. On my last Sunday in Fiji I preached again at Redeemer Church, supporting Jerry. We had three ministry times, as the Spirit moved in the worship and the message. As that church grows in faith it will certainly be a spark for revival in the nation, and will impact leaders, youth groups, and churches all over Fiji.

On a recent visit to the church I washed the feet of the first prime minister of the Republic of Fiji prayed for him. He

graciously washed the feet of the Australians, drying our feet with his rugby jacket.

I spoke at the combined inter-tertiary Christian Fellowships prayer rally weekend in October 2008. The Fiji School of Medicine Christian Fellowship organised and led it. Over 500 tertiary students met for two nights of worship and prayer.

The Fiji School of Medicine Christian Fellowship has about 200 doctors in training with some trainee dentists. They impressed me. Their leaders seek God, and respond strongly to him. Their worship team led the combined campuses rally on the Friday and Saturday nights. Buses brought in groups from the various universities and colleges. Different Christian Fellowship (CF) groups presented powerful Pacific dances to strong Christian songs. The prayer team prayed personally for over an hour at the end of each meeting for the hundreds of tertiary students who responded, while the School of Medicine CF continued to lead appropriate and anointed worship.

Romulo reported:

Inter-tertiary went very well at Suva Grammar School that was hosted by Fiji School of Medicine CF. It was an awesome two nights of fellowship with God and with one another. The Pacific Students for Christ combined worship was a huge blessings for those that attended the two nights of worship. ... Geoff Waugh spoke on Obedience to the Holy Spirit - this being a spark to revival and power.

Students came in droves for prayers and the worship lit up the Grammar School skies with tears, repentance, anointing and empowerment. The worship by Fiji

School of Medicine students brought us closer to intimate worship with the King. It was a Pacific gathering and each and every person there was truly blessed as young people sought a closer intimate relationship with the King. We were blessed beyond words. Thank you all for the prayers, the thoughts and the giving.

Roneil, a Fijian Indian, added, “It was all so amazing, so amazing that words can’t describe it. For me, it was obvious that the glory of God just descended upon the people during the Inter-tertiary CF. I’ve never seen an altar call that lasted for way more than an hour. I myself just couldn’t get enough of it. It was and still is so amazing. God’s anointing is just so powerful. It was a profound privilege and a great pleasure to be taught by you but more so to see the Spirit of God move in such an amazing way. Hallelujah to Him Who Was, Who Is and Who is to Come.”

Brazil

In June 2008, I saw something of God's mighty work in Brazil. George and Lisa Otis and the Sentinel Group hosted a conference in Belo Horizonte and a group of us visited communities that have been transformed in Brazil.

We worshipped on Sunday in the huge Baptist Church of Lagoinha in the city of Belo Horizonte. This church of about 35,000 holds four services every Sunday. The sanctuary is round with two high galleries. Before the worship service began they baptised about a dozen people in the baptistery high above the platform. Their worship leader, Ana Paula Valadao, is well known in Brazil. She led worship at the conference and has led national worship gatherings with over one million attending.

The worship service ended, as always, with an invitation for people to give their lives to God. As people streamed forward, counsellors joined to pray with them. People in the sanctuary let down banners saying, "Welcome to the family of God".

We visited the city of Teresopolis, just north of Rio, where a whole community that once existed on the city's garbage dump, now lives in a beautiful new valley nearby. We met youths from former gangs, now transformed into prayer and evangelism warriors, and we prayed with them on the prayer mountain there.

Then we flew north to see the transformation of Algodao de Jandaira, a rural town which suffered from 24 years of drought, until God answered prayer. My story draws on information from the Sentinel Group report.

The Valentina Baptist church in Joao Pessoa hosted us. Many of them had cried out for a fresh move of God. A quiet choir member began to have vivid dreams about a town called Algodao de Jandaira. Later they discovered such a place existed in a desert area with no proper roads.

A prayer team drove there, as we did. When the team arrived at the outskirts of the community, they were shocked by the poverty of its 2,200 inhabitants. The community well stayed dry. The team approached one home and discovered it was the only evangelical home in the community!

The church sent a team once a month with needed supplies. These follow-up trips continued through 2003. At the end of each visit, after they had delivered their meager supplies of food, salt and clothing, the team would walk up to a rock outcropping above the village to pray. We prayed there also.

That year the congregation decided to help the people of Algodao de Jandaira at Christmas. They took their supplies and continued to pray earnestly for God to intervene.

On January 24, 2004, the team returned to Algodao de Jandaira. About five miles from the community they approached a riverbed they had crossed dozens of times before. This time raging waters coursed down the channel. Parking their vehicle, the ecstatic believers hoisted supply sacks onto their shoulders and waded across the river.

As they walked the final stretch to town, a spirit of worship overcame them. Reaching the edge of the village, the team stood in astonishment. From the rock outcropping that served as their prayer station, a waterfall was pouring

forth life-giving water upon the community below. Children ran in the river, splashing and laughing all around. Men watered their horses, while goats drank their fill.

Shortly after their previous visit the heavens over Algodao de Jandaira had unleashed a deluge. Water exploded out of previously dry wells with such force that huge boulders were tossed into the air like pebbles. After the “Flood of Blessings” – the 24 year old mayor’s term for the recent miracle – they drilled 45 wells to tap what hydrologists now say is a substantial water table under Algodao de Jandaira. We met the young mayor and prayed with him.

The land now produces fava beans, papaya, guava, and other crops. Bees generate high quality honey, goats yield record amounts of milk, and the river is filled with fish and shrimp. For the first time ever they can sell their overflow produce to public schools and outside distributors.

Algodao de Jandaira’s population rose to 3,000. The Valentina congregation has planted a church and social center in the community, and holds joint services there with a local Assembly of God congregation. Today, a substantial majority of Algodao de Jandaira’s citizens follow Christ as their Lord and Savior. When glory is to be given, it is given to God rather than their former patron saint, Padre Cicero.

The mayor’s leadership has landed multiple federal grants worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Recently, when he presented his case for a further grant, Algodao de Jandaira was the only community in the state of Paraiba to win a grant.

We worshipped in the Valentina Baptist Church, now powerfully Spirit-filled, and also in the Christian pioneers' home in Algodao de Jandaira, and out on the street in front of that home. That family hosted us. We worshipped and praised God on the rocky outcrop near the town, where their prayer teams had prayed each month. And I swam in the cool fresh water, now flowing through the low dam beside the town.

God answers prayer! Not always as soon as we want, and not always the way we want, but he does. I left Brazil filled with awe once again. Revival has made Brazil the country with the third largest number of Christians, after America and China.

Myanmar

In January 2009, I visited Myanmar (Burma) for the first time, also on mission. This time I enjoyed being part of three generations of our family on mission together, with my son Jonathan and my eldest grand-daughter Jemimah, as well as my sister Hazel all involved. Jonathan's friend Andrew Rogers organised team visits there for a few years. Andrew lived with us for a couple of years when he studied at university.

It's tough for Christians in that Buddhist country with a military dictatorship. They are not officially allowed to start churches, but they can run orphanages, so each orphanage becomes a church as well. We worked with leaders in the Apostolic Church there. They have two orphanages in Yangon, a Bible College out in the country, and they brought their pastors together for a conference there with us.

The Bible College is small, but students are very committed and extremely grateful. So were the pastors, some of them coming from very hard, remote areas. They were all so appreciative, and of course want return visits.

Jonathan and Jemi did a lot with the children and youth in the two orphanages, and Jonathan helped with practical work. My sister Hazel visited the orphanages and attended some of the pastors' conference. She provided help for the Bethel Baptists and their orphanage as well. We both spoke at their church, and prayed for people there. She and her husband Kerry have returned there, and people in their home church at Orange support that ministry in prayer and practical ways.

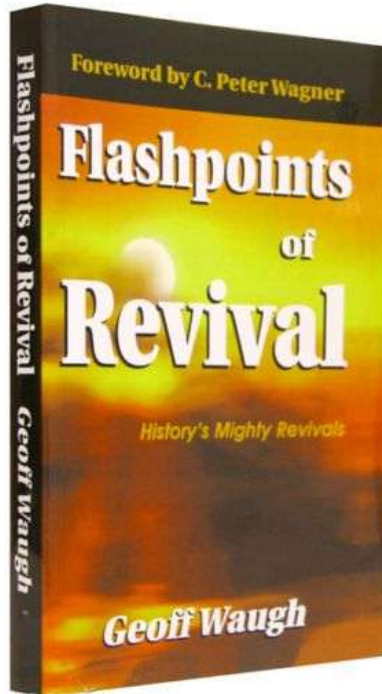
Some of us travelled daily to the Bible College for the conference, 1½ hours away by side-saddle covered truck. Jonathan helped with building their pig sty - so their pigs will be an income producing project. I helped teach the pastors about revival and taught the students at the Bible College. We prayed together in faith for God's mighty purposes in their land.

As in all the countries I have been privileged to visit on mission, not only do we see God blessing the people abundantly, but we too are abundantly blessed.

Jonathan reported, "On our last day a number of local people came to me and expressed their deep gratitude that we came over. There is a level of joy and encouragement that they receive from our simple presence, from white people coming to a tough environment to try and help practically and spiritually. It is so humbling to be told over and over that they are praying for us. May it go back to them a hundred fold."

All of Jonathan's family and many from his church have been involved in regular visits to Myanmar to serve and encourage them there.

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Flashpoints of Revival

History's Mighty Revivals

5

How to Minister like Jesus

Bart Doornweed



Bart Doornweed wrote as a Dutch missionary with Youth With A Mission, working in Holland.

openness to the promptings of the Spirit

led to some powerful times of ministry

In the summer of 1985 I was leading a four week Youth With A Mission (YWAM) training school for some fifty students in Holland. I had quit my job as a civil engineer and joined YWAM in 1977. A friend, and former YWAMer, Paul Piller from the Philippines, contacted me and offered to speak for a few days when he visited Holland.

I consented, although I wasn't thrilled about his subject: healing. I knew one had to watch out for people who only wanted to talk about healing, faith, miracles, and demons. I trusted Paul, but you never know what can happen to someone who has spent five years in the U.S. Paul had brought some others along: young fellows in T-shirts, blue jeans, and sneakers. I wondered why they had come. Were they going to sing or perform a drama?

As Paul began speaking, I relaxed. No screaming, no emotionalism. After the lecture, he and the young fellows moved around the group praying without saying much. One word stood out: 'more'.

'More of you Lord!' They seemed unperturbed as certain things I was unfamiliar with started happening. Someone started weeping, others collapsed on their chairs, someone else stood shaking. After three days the place was turned upside down. People were filled with joy, received healing, delivered from demons, released from grief. I had hundreds of questions! I had tasted the new wine and I wanted more.

Paul suggested I go to a conference in Sheffield, England, led by a man named John Wimber. Off we went, with a number of YWAMers. I was ready for anything. My 'holy frustration' had reached a point where I was willing to let God do whatever he wanted. I had been warned to get ready for change. God had spoken to me through the story in the second chapter of John's Gospel – the wedding in Cana – where Jesus performed his first miracle of changing water into wine. Interestingly, the servants at the wedding were allowed to participate, because they filled the jars and took the newly transformed wine to the leader of the feast. Somewhere between the jar and the lips of that man, the water changed into wine.

The application for me of that story is that God is looking for people who want to co-operate with him in bringing this about. I had run out of wine, and now I wanted to see the Lord bring out his best vintage. I wanted God to restore my joy, and fill me with the Holy Spirit. The conference was life-changing, even though I didn't have any spine-tingling personal experiences or visions of ecstasy. Nevertheless God gave me a deep inner peace and an affirmation that the teaching I heard, and the ministry I was observing was from his hand.

Giving the Holy Spirit room

My wife and I and others returned home with a clear sense of purpose. Like the servants at the wedding in Cana, our part was to obediently draw out the water and faithfully carry it to others. God would change it into wine.

During the following months, I discovered how exciting life becomes when we give more room to the Holy Spirit! I tried to cultivate a greater sensitivity to God's voice. My goal was to listen better to what he was saying, and act upon that in faith. As John Wimber likes to point out, another way to spell faith is R-I-S-K. This new openness to the promptings of the Spirit led to some powerful times of ministry. My emphasis during individual counselling changed to less talk and more prayer. We also learned that demons are for real, but we have been given authority to drive them out (Matthew 10:8).

Though this new realm of ministry was exhilarating, we needed people from outside to help, advise, and direct us further. We invited people like Barry Kissel from the Anglican church in Chorleywood, England. He imparted to us much in the way of ministry skills.

At a certain stage in this new development I sensed the Lord said: 'It's time for you to begin modelling the ministry, like I did.' After much hesitation, I announced we were going to start a training class with worship, teaching, and practical application. For the first lecture I had John Wimber on video. I led the practicum. The Holy Spirit ministered in a lovely way to a great many of the sixty who showed up. Some received comfort; others were healed. We decided to have a whole Saturday every month with those ingredients: worship, teaching, and ministry.

By word of mouth alone the group grew to about 350 after eight months. The team working with me had grown to about 30

persons. After each training day we evaluated, prayed, and discussed. I had learned the importance of multiplication. Your team can't be big enough!

Passage to India

For the first two years of our marriage, my wife Marianne and I had worked with YWAM in Nepal, a country located between China and India, astride the Himalaya Mountains. For some time we had felt God was leading us back to that part of the world. In early 1989 we left for India with our three children. We ended up living in Bombay for almost four years. From the start I knew I was to invest myself in people. I constantly asked myself, 'How can I give away what God has given me?'

I itinerated as a teacher in the discipleship training schools (DTS) which YWAM runs in different parts of the country. The theme that developed in my teaching was: 'How to minister like Jesus.' The teaching was simple, with lots of examples of how we should pray. After the lecture phase of the DTS, the students would go out for three months of outreach, usually involving evangelism and church planting. They came back with some amazing stories. For example:

The students were sent ... to five different villages. At the end of two months they had established three fellowships in three different villages. Half the village where they stayed is ready to follow Jesus as Lord. Within the next three weeks 68 believers will be baptised. Despite all religious strongholds, barriers, Hindu militants and oppositions, God showed his mighty power through healings, and signs and wonders. Some people saw visions of Jesus hanging on the cross and showing them how much he loves them.

In that area the crops suffered from a disease. The farmers came and asked the team to pray to Jesus. The very next morning the people went to the field and discovered the disease had been totally

wiped out. They came with great joy to confess their belief in Jesus since he had heard their prayers.

Once, while I was leading a small seminar, a local pastor named Garry walked in while I was praying for someone in front of the class. He left thinking, 'I can do that.'

The first person he prayed for when he got home was his Hindu brother-in-law. For many years severe back pain had cost him many sleepless nights. The next day the brother-in-law returned, declaring the Lord Jesus had healed his back. He had slept through the night without waking up once.

Garry, who later became a good friend, had been having discussions with a strong Muslim about the Bible and the Koran. The argument always stopped where one would say 'The Bible is the word of God' and the other 'The Koran is the word of God'. This time Garry took a different approach.

'Can I pray for you?' he asked, when he met the man again. Because Indians are among the most religious people on earth, this man, like almost everyone in India, was glad to receive prayer. As Garry put his hand on the man's head and started praying the Muslim fell down and stayed on the floor for quite a while. Garry was puzzled! What next?

When the man got back on his feet, he shared what happened. While he was lying on the floor, he clearly heard a voice saying, 'The Bible is the word of God!' He went home with a Bible in his pocket.

Garry was on a roll. Wherever he went he prayed for people: in church, in the home groups, and especially in the streets while evangelising. In the time we worked together, several churches took root in the slums. People came mainly because they saw Jesus was more powerful than their own gods. Now Garry is going around equipping others to 'minister like Jesus'.

‘Will this work?’

More and more I began to see the power of multiplication: invest yourself in a few people next to you and then let them go and do the same thing to others. You may never know the result until heaven, but it could be more powerful than the biggest healing crusade!

After a three week course, 25 YWAMers went back to their bases in different parts of the country. God had met with us in special ways during those weeks, as we met together or as we went out to visit people and pray for them.

As two brothers went back to Varanasi, the holy city of the Hindus, they wondered, ‘Will this work back home?’ The first time they went into a Hindu village after their return, they started to worship Jesus. They intended to start a church there. Immediately the Holy Spirit started to come on people; demons manifested and were driven out. People *saw* the power of God and wanted to know more, providing an excellent opening to preach the Word of God.

While walking along the bank of the Ganges River, one of the brothers began talking to a Hindu priest. After a while, the Brahman complained about his headaches. Again, being highly religious, he was willing to receive prayer, even if it was offered in the name of Jesus. Under the power of God he fell down and after he got back up, his headache was completely gone. He sure wanted to know more about this powerful God!

Respect for God

India is more a continent than a country, with almost 900 million people who speak 1,600 different languages. Patrick Johnstone, in *Operation World*, estimates evangelical Christians comprise one per cent of the population, but the number is growing. Two thousand

people groups have not been reached with the gospel yet. India must be reached by the spiritually equipped Indian church, but for a while non-Indian partners can help train and support Indian workers.

In YWAM, we have mixed teams of Indians and foreigners who plant churches, evangelise, and minister to the poor in various ways. Hindus and Muslims have great respect for God. The Hindus have millions of gods. Most Indians, especially the poor, are open to spiritual reality, and exercise great faith, upon hearing about a loving God who sent his Son to this world. In evangelism, miracles happen quickly and open many doors to preach the gospel.

I first experienced this in Bhopal, a city where some eight years ago a gas leak at the chemical plant killed at least 2,000 people. Today many still suffer the effects: eye problems, mouth sores and breathing difficulties. With a small team we visited the site where the calamity took place.

As some people gathered, one of us shared briefly who we were and our purpose for coming. One person was prayed for and got healed. More people came who wanted prayer. Some invited us to enter their huts to see those too sick to come out. We were busy for the next *two hours* to bless, comfort, and encourage. Many people received physical healing, saw visions of Jesus, were blessed with peace. We left many friends in this mainly Muslim community.

Of course, the nature of kingdom warfare is 'attack – counter-attack'. The gospel does meet with opposition. Militant Hinduism is experiencing a revival. The north of India is hostile toward the gospel and to Western influence. To make one convert there is like making a hundred in the south.

An Indian friend of mine desired to work in Bihar, a state in the north, also known as 'the graveyard of missionaries'. He had worked with me for some time and learned more about how to

minister in power evangelism. In Bihar, near the border of Nepal, he rented a home where he invited people. He shared with them, prayed for them and taught them how to pray for others. Many were blessed, healed, delivered, and came to salvation. A small church was established.

Across the border in Nepal, the spiritual atmosphere was different. Tremendous openings existed. Within a year almost a hundred people attended the newly started church! Approximately 50 churches have been planted in India by YWAM-trained workers through power evangelism.

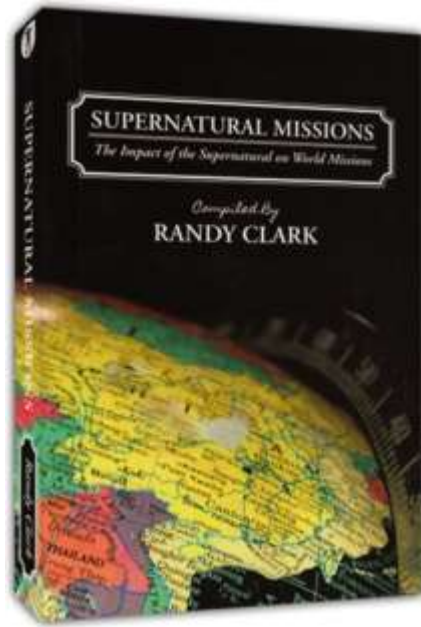
More than eight years have passed since the visit of Paul Piller and since the conference with John Wimber in Sheffield. I have seen thousands of people who ran out of wine partake of 'the best wine' as I willingly brought them what I have: just plain water.

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Also in *Renewal Journal 5: Signs and Wonders*.

See www.renewaljournal.com

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Supernatural Missions

The Impact of the Supernatural in World Missions

Compiled by Randy Clark

See www.globalawakening.com

6

Power Evangelism in Short Term Missions

Randy Clark



Randy Clark, founding director of Global Awakening (globalawakening.com), leads short term missions in the power of the Spirit worldwide. His personal stories are in his books ***Lighting Fires*** and ***There Is More***. This article is edited from Chapter 10 of his book ***Supernatural Missions***. The examples here are primarily stories of what happened through the ministry members on their teams and others blessed by their ministry.

What is the place of short-term missions in the big picture of world evangelization? It is not meant to replace long-term mission efforts, but to be in cooperation with them. Those who go on short term mission trips and minister in the power of the Spirit often return home with a new passion for what God is doing in the earth. Such trips can also benefit the ongoing work in the field, by impacting large groups of people through evangelistic meetings, bringing impartation and refreshment to the host pastors and churches. By seeing what God does through short-term missions, we may engage in his overall plan in a strategic way.

Outline:

The Effects of Short-Term Mission trips on team members

- 1) The “Vicious Downward Spiral” is reversed**
- 2) Full-time missions service**
- 3) Connections are created between local churches and the host country leaders or churches**
- 4) Vision is created for International Ministry**

The Effects of Short Term Mission trips on the Receiving/Hosting Groups:

Apostolic Impartation for Pastors

A. Brazil

B. Mozambique

C. Russia

D. India

E. Cambodia

F. Norway

G. Mexico

H. Argentina

Summary

Conclusion

Power Evangelism in Short-term Missions

The Effects of Short-Term Mission trips on team members

- 1) The “Vicious Downward Spiral” is reversed**

Several years ago I ministered at a large Vineyard Church in Champaign, Illinois. I had known the pastor for many years and was shocked at the change of atmosphere in his church from the last time I had ministered there some years before. The church had continued to grow numerically, but there was a noticeable difference in the people’s expectation for God to move in their midst. I felt such a spirit of grief that I found it hard to speak.

Later, when I met with the Pastor Happy Leman and his staff, the executive pastor asked me a very important question. This question would change the way I looked at inviting people to come with me to minister in other countries. Prior to that time, I felt somewhat awkward inviting people to go with me, as if what I was doing was self-serving. But, after this question I have never felt that inviting someone to go with me to the nations was self-serving. The question was, "What do you do to keep your expectation for healing high?" The executive pastor continued, "Our doctrinal belief hasn't changed since you first met us years ago. Then, what we believed doctrinally we expected to happen in our midst. However, since then, though our beliefs have not changed, our experience has not matched our beliefs. As a result our expectation has dropped. With the dropping of our expectation, our experience dropped, and we see less than before. Now, we are caught in a vicious cycle. Each year it seems like our experience is less, and our expectation drops even more." He then asked the question, "What do you do to not get caught in this vicious cycle?"

I responded, "I have to go somewhere where there is an open heaven- where there are apostolic leaders who are getting a break through, and minister in that context for a couple of weeks twice a year. During that time I will see more healings than most pastors will see in a lifetime. This builds up my experience and causes my expectation for healing to remain high." This is what I have been doing for 17 years, and it not only works for me. I see it affect the people who come with me as well. They have their faith raised for healing due to their experience of seeing so many people get healed and seeing God use them to bring healing to people.

I have had several pastors from various denominations come with me to the nations who were so discouraged that they were looking at the want ads in the paper. They felt like they couldn't continue in ministry unless God refreshed them and touched them. They were "burned out", discouraged and depressed. I watched these men be touched by the Holy Spirit and saw them

experience a whole new zeal and energy for ministry. Depression was broken off. Hopelessness was replaced with faith that God would use them. One of these pastors was 60 years old when this happened to him. The years since then have been the most productive, most exciting and most fruitful of his entire 40+ years of ministry.

Why are short-term mission trips important? The kind I am talking about, the team is the ministry team. They give words of knowledge and pray for the sick to be healed for hours every day. This is important for the creation of faith that God will use the team members. "This experience changed my life" is one of the most common responses we get on our evaluation forms.

2) Full-time missions service

Two pastors who have taken more people with me to the nations are Tom Jones and Tom Hauser. When they first started going with me on short-term ministry trips to the nations, Tom Jones was pastoring one of the largest Church of God Cleveland, Tennessee churches in Florida. Tom Hauser was on staff as the Executive Pastor of one of the larger Vineyard Churches on the East Coast in North Carolina. Their churches developed not only a strong openness to the Holy Spirit but also a strong commitment to missions. Both of their churches would have several people leave their secular jobs and become missionaries after going with us on short-term ministry trips. Tom Jones had a total of 6 people become missionaries in 10 years. Tom Hauser had a total of 8 people become missionaries in 6 years. He has seen around 160 go on short-term mission trips. Also, his church helped establish two orphanages and plant 73 churches in Nepal, India, Costa Rica and the US. It is true that there could be other factors contributing to this outcome, such as the fact that both churches were deeply committed to renewal and the outpouring of the Spirit in Toronto. But, when you compare the percentage who went on trips to the percentage who didn't go on trips in relationship to going into missions or other mercy

type ministries, I believe the variable is sufficiently removed to give us a better indication of the effects of the trips.

This is not just true for my ministry trips. I have a spiritual father, Cleddie Keith, who was for many years in the Assemblies of God denomination, and who took people from his church on ministry trips with him. These trips were very similar to mine in that the people were expected to be the ministry team and pray for the people. He has taken several hundred on short-term mission trips. During the last 17 years since the beginning of the renewal, which he was very committed to, over 30 people have gone into missions or full-time ministry from his church.

3) Connections are created between local churches and the host country leaders or churches

People we took on our first few trips to Mozambique to work with Heidi and Rolland Baker of Iris Ministries, became a great blessing to their ministry. Many of these pastors and businessmen continued to provide support to their ministry. Terry Inman's Assembly of God church in California has been supportive with finances and with people going to serve. Alan Hawkins, pastor of a Charismatic church in New Mexico, has made several trips to minister with Iris Ministries. Tom Hauser has made many trips and has sent several couples and individuals to work with Iris since his first trip to Mozambique. On our first trip, we had people from Australia and the United States with us. Two of the people came back as full time missionaries within one year of that first trip.

What I hadn't expected though I should not have been surprised, was how my own interns and students from our school would be sent to help Heidi and Rolland. Will Hart and his wife Musy, were recently married when they led a trip for me to Mozambique. I received an email from Heidi. "Randy, will you give Will and Musy to me? I am in need of them!" I told her of course I would and that if they wanted to go, I would

bless them. They went and spent three years serving Rolland and Heidi after Will had already spent three years serving me. In Mozambique, they would have their first two children, born at home without a doctor or midwife. They only had a book to read. Then Jean Nicole, another one of my interns, went and became a missionary with Heidi. He married another Iris missionary named Teisa. Today, they are working with Iris South Africa. On my last trip to Mozambique, I took Timothy, a young intern of mine. He is very bright and graduated first in his high school class. He loved our time in Mozambique and wants to move back there with his new wife. The two plan to help Heidi and Rolland as Timothy continues his theological studies.

One of the most exciting short-term ministry trips we do is to Brazil in July each year. It is called the Youth Power Invasion. Each year 125-200 youths from America, ages 13-29, join with several hundred youths from Brazil. We spend a week teaching the youth in the day about how to preach, heal the sick, receive words of knowledge, and lead ministry teams. At night the youth divide into 4 groups and go with me and other key leaders to conduct services for healing and impartation in the local churches. The second week our key speakers come home and the youth lead the teams. They often see up to 8,000 healings during those two weeks! Many of the young people are so impacted that they quit their careers or schooling to take two years to be trained at our Global School of Supernatural Ministry in Mechanicsburg, PA.

From my trips to Brazil, I know of many families that have continued to go to minister on their own in the country. From Tom Hauser's church and Tom Jones' church, several couples and individuals have gone as longer-term missionaries. From our Global School of Supernatural Ministry we have people who first went to Brazil with us that are now going back long term (five students from our current class and two from a former class including a 74 year old student.) The five students are going to southern Brazil to start a Global School of

Supernatural Ministry and hope to have 5-10 other classmates join them next year. The older woman went to be a missionary with an Indian tribe that is in revival as a result of our team going to minister near the reservation where the Baileys work. This tribe continues to reach out to the other tribes of the same dialect in the region.

Our ministry works with apostolic leaders around the world. When we first started the Global School of Supernatural Ministry, we sent out a letter to ask the apostolic leaders what they needed most. Their response was a school similar to ours that could be conducted in their country. Presently, many of our students between their 20's to 70's desiring to go and start ministry schools in Brazil, South Africa, Thailand, England, and India.

Others who went with us to Brazil have gone back to begin orphanages and to work in the favelas (slums) with the poor. Several others who first travelled with us are now taking their own teams into Brazil and other Latin American countries.

On one trip we took with us veterinarian Frank Pak and his wife Robbie to Ukraine. When I wasn't able to continue coming into the country on a regular basis, the Pak's picked up where I left off. They have made multiple trips to serve the church including medical trips, trips to work with drug addicts and trips to strengthen the pastors and churches. They now lead their own teams from the church they attend.

In 1996 I led my first team to Russia and continued for about three years to take large teams there. Russ Purcello, pastor of a large independent church in Tennessee, went with me. He had been involved in taking many mission trips to Honduras but had never felt a burden for Russia. However, when I shared about the trip, he felt he should go. Since his first trip, he has continued replicas of my meetings in almost every political region in Russia. God touched him so profoundly that for more than a decade, he and his church have been going into Russia to strengthen the young pastors and leaders. He has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into his efforts to strengthen

the churches in Russia. After my initial three-year commitment to Russia, the door was opened wide for me to work more in Brazil. It was such a relief to see Pastor Purcello continue the much needed training and impartation to the leaders and pastors of Russia that I could no longer reach.

These stories are just some of the fruit from the connections between the local churches and the host church or leaders. Some of these missionaries have received substantial help including hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars, that came through their continued connection with the pastors and wealthy businessmen that went with us. When they saw what was being done, for example by Iris Ministries in Mozambique, their hearts and wallets were opened to the Bakers and the work in Mozambique.

4) Vision is created for International Ministry

Almost all of the people I have mentioned in the above paragraphs had no vision for international ministry or mission work when they first went with us to the nations. But, for the majority their first trip touched them so profoundly that they made several trips as finances could be raised, and some ended up either starting ministries that reached out to the world or to a local country. Most began these in the country they visited first or the one they visited most on short-term trips with us.

The Effects of Short Term Mission Trips on the Receiving/Hosting Groups

Apostolic Impartation for Pastors

Most of our International Ministry Trips are focused on encouraging, equipping and imparting to pastors and leaders who are related to national indigenous apostolic leaders. The exception is Mozambique where Rolland and Heidi Baker are not indigenous, although they are apostolic. (The reason I now use “ministry trips” rather than “mission trips” is because the implications of mission traditionally seem more paternal, when in reality, some of the places we work are far ahead of much of the Western Church.) I will be sharing what some of these leaders have told us regarding the value of our ministry trips to their leadership.

A. Brazil

Brazil is where we have conducted most of our International Ministry Trips. We have averaged about 5 trips per year with about 70 days a year in Brazil by either myself or one of my colleagues in ministry. No other nation has received so much time and resources invested into it from our ministry.

Why have we made so many trips to Brazil? First, when I first went to Brazil, I had already made several trips to Argentina where I worked with Dr. Pablo Deiros and Dr. Carlos Mrarida of the Baptist denomination. Also, I had been working with Omar Cabrera Sr. in his denomination, Vision de Futuro. When I made my first trip to Brazil I told a friend, “I feel like the revival in Argentina has peaked and is diminishing in power. I feel like we are catching the beginning of the wave of revival in Brazil, and I want to ride it to its end.”

Second, I believe Brazil will be the number one missionary sending country in the world in this century. A few years ago, I heard C. Peter Wagner remark that Brazil is the country most in revival. I believe that wherever revival is the strongest is where you will see the most missionaries sent out. I wanted to

have a part in this revival by equipping and focusing the revival upon the nations with an emphasis of sending forth missionaries.

Third, around 1999 I was in Toronto just after traveling to Sydney, Australia. While there I had worked with Pastor Frank Huston who was a great apostolic leader, especially for the Pacific area, and was also very prophetic. I was in a season of trying to determine from God what was next. I wanted to know if there was anything God wanted me to know. I had asked God to give Frank a prophecy for me in Sydney, but he did not have one. But, when I was in Toronto, Frank called me out and gave me this prophecy: "As God has used you in Toronto, in the near future God is going to use you to birth revival in six nations. Four of those nations your feet have 'not touched yet.'" A few hours later, I met with delegations from Korea and Brazil inviting me to come to their countries. I definitely believe Brazil is one of those six nations.

Fourth, as I mentioned earlier, Brazil seems to be the land of my anointing. It is definitely the land of my greatest favor. I went there not knowing how to speak a word of Portuguese, not being part of a denominational heritage connected with the country, and not knowing a soul in Brazil. Today, 11 years later, I have spoken in more churches in Brazil than in the United States, including some of the largest in the nation: Pentecostal – Assemblies of God, Quadrangular Four Square), new denominations that are Pentecostal/Charismatic in nature, Methodist, Baptist, and Nazarene. Most of these churches are over 1,000 in average attendance and some have 8,000, 12,000, 30,000 and 60,000 in just one local church. What have the key leaders of these denominations and churches said to me about our trips? In what way were they beneficial to their churches?

1. Belem – Quadrangular

In Belem, located near the mouth of the Amazon in Northeast Brazil, we worked primarily with the Quadrangular denomination. I was invited by Pastor Josue Bengtson, who is

over the Quadrangular Church in that region. They have a total of over 30,000 members among many churches in the city of Belem. His son, Paulo told me, "You are the first American that my father has invited back." When I asked why, he told me that most Americans his father had invited were proud and boastful. But, our teams were humble. Paulo also told me that he believed their churches had grown rapidly recently due to two main reasons: their commitment to cells and the impact of our trips upon their leaders. He told us that our teams really encouraged their pastors and leadership with not only the teachings on equipping, but also the experiences of impartation that their leaders received through the Holy Spirit in our ministry.

2. Maua – Baptist

Pastor Silvio Galli is the pastor of the Living Waters Baptist Church in Maua, Brazil. When we first came to his church, it had about 300 members and was a small church down a dirt road. It was a traditional Baptist Church, but Pastor Galli was open and desperate for the power of the Holy Spirit. When we first ministered in his church, the Holy Spirit fell powerfully. There were many healings including some of the members of the staff. The church building was too small for the crowd. People were outside listening through the windows, in the hallways and were packed in to 140% capacity. Pastor Galli was very excited about what God was doing in his church.

Three years later we revisited this church. I was surprised when we pulled up to the church. It was not down the dirt road. It wasn't the same little building that would barely seat 300. Instead, it was right on a main street in the city. The building seated about 1,500. They had multiple services to accommodate the 3,000 weekly attendance. He told me that the rapid growth had come because of two main reasons: one, the implementation of the cell system, and two, the impact of the Holy Spirit upon the congregation. This congregation had experienced a significant corporate impartation during our meetings. There were many healings and more continued after

we left. They truly received an impartation to move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Six years later we returned to the church. The church building had once again relocated to a building that would seat over 2,000 people. The church had grown to over 14,000 in 6 locations with 9,000 at the main congregation. Again, the power of God came mightily. Pastor Galli again told me that our last two visits to his church were significant in the rapid growth of the church. This time only $\frac{1}{4}$ of his church could come on each of the 4 nights due to the limitation of the building. On the third night, we had a noticeable increase in the miraculous. On this night blind eyes saw, deaf ears opened and tumors disappeared. One paralyzed person walked and talked after a stroke had taken both abilities away. A cast was cut off the arm of a woman who had been in excruciating pain. All the pain had left her after she heard a word of knowledge about her condition. Knees with no cartilage were healed, and pain from childhood polio left. Movement was restored to an ankle and many other things happened. The following night, a man who was paralyzed from the neck down from MS and couldn't even move a finger, got out of the wheel chair and walked. There were so many healings. The pastor again told us that the three visits to his church were a major part of the reason for the phenomenal growth of the church.

3. Joinville – Quadrangular

We visited Joinville in the south of Brazil, where we ministered to the Quadrangular denominational leaders. The main overseer was so discouraged that if the Holy Spirit didn't come powerfully upon the other pastors during our meeting, he was going to resign his position. He didn't resign because we had a wonderful visitation of the Holy Spirit. On one of the nights, a man came with such horrible neuropathy that he couldn't lift his feet from the floor but could only shuffle his feet with the aid of a walker. While he was being healed that night and began to walk, his doctor told me, "I am his doctor. He can't do that. He hasn't been able to walk without a walker or pick up his feet

in years!” Another man was healed of a substantial heart problem. Deaf ears were opened and blind eyes were healed.

Just as importantly, the pastors and leaders experienced a powerful impartation and left the meetings encouraged by this fresh visitation of the Holy Spirit. Some received gifts of healing and greater faith for operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

4. Manaus

Manaus is a city in northern Brazil located 1,000 miles into the Rain Forest. We first ministered there in September 2001 with Pastor Rene Terre Nova. He was one of Cesar Castellanos’ original 12 in the G-12 movement. Outside of our ministry and the ministry of Heidi Baker, he does not allow anyone to speak that is not in the G-12 movement. We have made 3 or 4 visits to his church over the last 11 years. As I mentioned earlier, his church was dis-fellowshipped by the Baptist denomination after the Holy Spirit visited it with healing and manifestations. When the church left the Baptist denomination, it had an average attendance of 700. As of our first visit, it had grown to 25,000 in only 7 years.

I will never forget that first visit about a decade ago. At the time I had only seen a few deaf people healed in my whole lifetime. However, in one night we experienced an amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit connected with a manifestation of nature. The building did not have walls yet. We began to see rain falling and wind blowing inside the building even though this was not happening outside! Within a few minutes, we had 8 deaf people hearing. On our second visit we had over 40 deaf people healed. The church had grown to 40,000 in one congregation. This time the walls were built, but the main doors had not been installed. Once again the rain and the wind only occurring inside the building were supernatural signs of the visitation of God. Wind blew chairs down in the building when there was no wind outside the building. On our last trip, we had a lot of angelic activity. We saw about 9,000 people healed the last night. The church had now grown to 60,000.

The associate pastor, Aaron, told us that the people of the church had nicknamed our teams, “The Wonderworkers.” They could not believe the people who traveled with me were not professional healers who travelled with me everywhere we went. This was even after I had specifically told them that only about 1/10 of the ministry team were ministers. The other 9/10 were people just like them who had paid to come and pray for the sick and minister in Jesus’ name.

5. Sao Paulo

I want to end this section on Brazil with the first place we went in Brazil. It was a pastors meeting for about 1,200 pastors and pastoras (female pastors) in the state of Sao Paulo. I taught for three days. The meetings were very powerful. Our team of 11 was small in comparison to what they would later become (30-200 with an average of around 70). No one on my team was a pastor. On the second day, I lost control of the meetings. So many people were being healed during the sermon on healing that the noise from the excitement of the crowd was drowning out my voice. Even with proper sound amplification, people were unable to hear me.

The last day, I emphasized that we were passing the baton to the Brazilians to do the ministry during ministry time and that they would be the ones to give words of knowledge. My team would only be coaching tonight. After a time of impartation, they were released to minister themselves the things our team had been doing.

During that trip Pastor Dirceu had been overseeing setting up special meetings for the Quadrangular denomination. The next time I visited, he told me that the few days with our team were the most impacting on the Quadrangular denomination that he had seen in his life. He told me, “Your ministry has impacted our pastors more than anyone else’s we have brought to Brazil.” I asked him, “Why? How were we different?” He responded, “It isn’t that you are more anointed than others. We have brought some of the most famous ministers in the world to minister to our pastors. They are powerful men of God who

preach powerfully. But, when they left, we were the same. When you came, you told us how you moved in the gifts of the Spirit. You explained to us how to receive words of knowledge. You told us we would be able to do so. You told us God would impart these gifts to us, and when you prayed for us, He did.” Pastor Dirceu also told me that he had heard of many testimonies of pastors who had gone back to their respective churches and had seen many healings, whereas before they had seen few if any when they prayed. He said, “When you and your team left, we were different.”

B. Mozambique – Pastors’ Conferences

Next to Brazil, there probably isn’t another country that I have been so committed to serving as Mozambique. For many years we sent two teams a year to Mozambique. I knew that my job description, given to me by God in Toronto, was to be a “Fire Lighter, Vision Caster, and a Bridge Builder.” When I was leaving Mozambique after my first visit and was about to make my first visit to Brazil, Heidi said to me. “Randy, when you get to Brazil, don’t forget us. Tell the Brazilians about us. They already speak the language, and it is easier for them to adjust to the culture than for westerners. Tell them this is not the Macedonian Call- this is the Mozambican call.” I was faithful and during my first years of visits to Brazil, I would often use illustrations about Rolland and Heidi. God used this to open the door for Rolland and Heidi to visit some of the greatest churches in Brazil.

Short-term ministry trips are one way of cross-pollinating between different streams in the revival. Casting a vision for Mozambique and building a bridge between Mozambique and Brazil has been one of my primary goals on these ministry trips. It isn’t enough for me to be used by God to “light the fire” of revival in countries. I am to also cast vision for God’s purposes and build a bridge between networks, denominations, countries, and mission sending and mission receiving countries. I am to communicate the truth that missions follows

revival, and that missions is one of the greatest evidences of true revival.

1. Beira – Heidi and key leaders - “thousands of churches and millions of people.”

During my first visit to Mozambique, I preached at three pastors meetings arranged by Rolland and Heidi Baker in Maputo, Beira and Chimoio. I do not like ministering in Mozambique. The primary reason is that I don't feel needed there and feel intimidated by my translators who often have raised the dead. Rolland and Heidi have encouraged me to continue coming because of the importance of the connection between our ministries. When Heidi visited Toronto for her second time, I was ministering there. As I was preaching, she ran to the front and knelt to pray in response to the message. I knew her name and said to her, “Heidi, God wants to know- do you want the nation of Mozambique?” To which she responded, “Yes!!!” I then said to her, “God is going to give you the nation of Mozambique. You will see the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the dead be raised.”

The Spirit of God hit her very powerfully immediately following my prophecy to her. Then she heard God speak to her, “Hundreds of churches and thousands of people.” She replied, “How, God? How can this be? My husband Rolland and I have started four churches in seventeen years and it has almost killed us.” God spoke to Heidi a few other things during those seven days and nights as the experience continued. He told her to gather 12 men together and prophesy over them everything that I had prophesied to her, which she did. In just a couple of years, they started over 200 hundred churches. When I visited her for the first time at their Beira base, the Spirit once again fell upon her as well as Rolland and the main leaders who were present. I could tell by the look on the people's faces that this was not normal for Heidi in Mozambique, though it was normal for her when she visited the Church in the Western world. This time, she went into a vision and saw ships coming with food

and supplies and heard the Lord say, “Thousands of churches and millions of people.” She told me that this was easier to believe than the first word of hundreds of churches and thousands of people. Because God had fulfilled the first word, Heidi now had faith for Him to fulfill the second word. These types of experiences are of great value to apostolic leaders in other countries. It helps establish them in the purposes of God and gives them faith to attempt what was given to them in a prophecy or vision.

2. Chimoio – Mountain Vision

We left Beira and went to Chimoio. When we arrived, Heidi preached the first message. Her message was powerful. Everyone was lying on the ground, prostrated in prayer. I could find no room to lie down, since the floor was covered with the bodies of the saints in prayer. I leaned up against a wall and began to pray. I was very much aware of the fact that I was going to be translated from English into Portuguese and from Portuguese to the local dialect. I began to pray, “Oh Lord, I have not come half way around the world to give a teaching. God I must hear from you. What do you want to say to these people? Oh God, I want to see; I want to see; I want to see into the spiritual realm; I want to see!” Suddenly, I thought I might have seen something. I said, “God, what was that? Did I just see something?” I had had a brief mental picture in my mind’s eye, like a daydream picture. I thought I had seen a man standing on a mountain looking over a great amount of land. He was asking the Lord, “Lord, do you want me to go into this land?” I had an impression that the answer was “yes.”

I have never been a seer, and mental pictures were not something I had much experience with. After the meeting I asked Supresa, one of the key leaders of Iris Ministries, to translate as I interviewed Johnny, who had raised the dead. Supresa would soon begin to raise the dead, and has since raised several of them. On the way I asked Supresa if he had open visions, where he wouldn’t see anything except what God

was showing him. He told me he did. This intimidated me more.

That night while I was preaching, I gave an invitation for men who had been on a mountain asking God if they were to go into this land to come forward for prayer. About seven men came forward. A few of them were key leaders in the movement, and another two had actually been on a mountain a few days earlier fasting and praying. During this time these two men had seen a vision of a ball of fire moving through the sky and hovering over Chimoio. They heard God tell them to go to this building (the one we were meeting in) and there they would find their overseers. These men eventually became powerful leaders in Iris' ministry.

In addition, Heidi told me later that she had been praying for months asking God who was to go into the Muslim northern provinces of Mozambique. God gave her the answer that night. Sometime later, I found out that this story was on the webpage of the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship. It was called, "The Mountain Vision." How funny! What started out as a very weak "I thought I might have seen something," was now called the "Mountain Vision."

3. Pemba – Mrs. Tanuecki

During another trip to minister in Mozambique with Heidi, she invited me to a pastors conference. After preaching and ministering I was once again very much troubled by what seemed to me my own inadequacy. I went to Heidi and told her that I didn't want to come back to Mozambique. I said, "You don't need me here. These people are more powerful than I am. They pray better, and they can communicate the gospel better than I can to their fellow Mozambicans. They are raising the dead; what can I do for them?"

Heidi stopped me and pointed to a woman in the crowd named Mrs. Tanuecki. She told me, "That woman over there has been involved in raising several people from the dead, but when you touched her and prayed for her, God took her into a trance. She

is still in the trance. We do need you to come with your teams to Mozambique. You carry a special grace, a special anointing.”

Later that day, Heidi had four people pray for me, all of whom had raised the dead, and a few of them had raised three or four from the dead. It was a humbling experience, but one for which I was very grateful. I want to receive an impartation for raising the dead.

4. Maputo

As with the section on Brazil, I want to end this one on Mozambique with my very first night in Mozambique and the fruit of that meeting. I was exhausted by the time I arrived. Heidi said, “You might want to rest for half an hour to an hour. Tonight, I want to take you to the dump where we minister to people and then into the city. I also want you to lead devotions with my staff before we leave.”

I was exhausted and didn’t feel like leading devotions for the staff. When we met I asked them, “Why are you here? Tell me your story.” I was shocked to hear that every one of them had been touched either in Toronto, or by someone from Toronto who was carrying the anointing. They were from Israel, England, Canada, United States, and Australia. I began to realize how impacting the Toronto Blessing was upon missions, at least in Mozambique.

While in Maputo I interviewed many people. I remember interviewing the only nurse on the base. At that time there weren’t any doctors on the base and this nurse was working long hours. She was a pretty blond from England, but she was exhausted. She was planning to go back to England in the near future after having fulfilled her commitment. A few days later, I preached a message called “Spend and Be Spent” from 2 Corinthians 12:11. At the conclusion I saw this nurse come forward weeping, touched by the Holy Spirit. She committed that day to stay longer in Mozambique.

Also, I learned quite some time later that on that same day, there was a person on our team from Nebraska named Betty.

She too had heard God speak to her about coming back and helping Heidi. She would later return and serve as Heidi's personal assistant and in other positions for some time. She had no special training or cross-cultural education. She did, however, have a heart that had been touched by the Holy Spirit. Our short-term ministry team had not only impacted the missionaries working in Maputo; the missionaries, in turn, had impacted our team. Those who came to "refresh others" had themselves "been refreshed."

On my next trip to Mozambique, I was surprised to see several of the people who I met on my first trip who also had been visiting for their first time. They had returned to become part of the crucial leadership team. One man, Steve Lazar, was an educator from Australia. He would begin a school for Iris that would become the #1 rated primary school in Mozambique. Also, from that first trip, several couples from my team would go back as full time missionaries to work with Rolland and Heidi.

I would like to conclude with a strategy God gave me to help Rolland and Heidi. I believed that I was to take the pastors of the largest churches I had relationship with to Mozambique with me. And, I knew that I was to not only invite pastors, but also very successful businessmen. I wouldn't have to say anything about helping Rolland and Heidi, and I knew that Rolland and Heidi wouldn't either. I knew that when these pastors and businessmen saw what God was doing through Rolland and Heidi and saw their hearts, they would begin to help them. I had heard God correctly. These people would become some of the strongest financial supporters of their ministry.

C. Russia – Moscow – Pastor's Conferences

Years ago, I was attending a conference in Kansas City when I heard Terry Law share about his experiences in Russia. At this

meeting an offering would be taken up for Bibles for China. In this one offering, \$1,000,000 was raised. I had an impression that one day I would lead my worship team to Russia and they would sing in Russian. My church was just getting started and had less than 100 people in it at the time. A few years later, I had an impression from the Lord, "Ask me for \$100,000." I knew it wasn't for me personally, but I did not know what it was for. I didn't need to know to obey. I began asking the Lord for \$100,000 dollars. This was around 1994.

On Sunday January 1, 1995, I was preaching and told my church, "We are to go to Russia." I told them that we were to take the anointing that had fallen in our church in 1993 and in Toronto in 1994 to Russia. I said, "I need the worship team to go with me. I now know what the \$100,000 is for. We are going to do a Catch the Fire conference in Russia. Begin raising the money, and if you can't raise enough, I will help you. Oh, another thing- you can't sing in English. You have to learn Russian and I don't have a clue how this will happen!"

About a week later I was conducting meetings in Melbourne, Florida where another revival had broken out when I went to preach. This one lasted six nights a week for about eight months. While there, a young man in his early 20's named Keith Major asked me to pray for him. I asked him, "For what?" He said, "About going back to Russia. My wife and I were among the leaders of one of the first churches started after the wall came down. That is where we met and got married. I want to go back, but don't know what to do." I said, "I will pray for you, but could you and your wife eat with me after the meeting?" He said they could.

During our 3:00 a.m. meal, I asked his wife Iwona, "What did you do in Russia?" She replied, "I taught English speaking people how to speak Russian." Long story short, I asked them to move into the parsonage of my church and to spend time training my team how to sing phonetically in Russian. I also asked her to translate our songs into Russian. This took about

a year, but eventually the team and I made it to Moscow, ready to do the first Catch The Fire – Moscow.

1. Models for new forms of worship

The Berlin Wall hadn't been down for long when we first went in the fall of 1995 for our "spying out the land" meetings. Then, we returned in the spring of 1996 with a full team of musicians. I hadn't any idea how far behind the Russian Protestant churches were at this time. It was like stepping back into what I imagined the American church worship experience looked like in the 1920's and 1930's. Many of the songs were American songs that had been translated into Russian. The worship was led by someone who was more of a "song leader" than a worship leader. And, the instruments consisted of a piano and nothing else.

On our "spy out the land" trip, a Russian leader told me, "We Russians are not like you Americans. We will not fall down, we will not laugh, nor will we become drunk in the Spirit."

The time had come for our meeting and the musicians were on stage. The Izmaillovo Hotel Civic Center was filled to capacity-1,000 pastors, church planters and worship leaders had come. The \$100,000 required now had grown to \$130,000 for this event due to inflation. My worship leaders Bob and Kathleen Balassi, my associate worship leader Gary Shelton, the whole worship team and some special musicians from Nashville had all come to help us. In addition to the keyboards, two acoustic guitars, an electric guitar, a bass guitar, a saxophone, a flute, a harmonica and drums were the wonderful vocals of people who once sang in bars with their own bands. We also had a voice major who was so good that she had received a college scholarship and even sang in the Sistine Chapel in Rome for the Pope.

During the first song, the Russians sat there as the team sang the song once through in English. The Russians had no expression and showed no joy. But, when the second time

through the English words were pulled off the overhead, the Russian words were put up and the team switched into Russian, the place exploded. At once the Russians rose to their feet, learning the new contemporary worship songs. People shouted, twirled, waved, fell down, got drunk, shook and did many other things. They were not like us Americans. They were more abandoned to this new instrument-filled experience of worship! You could see people taking their video cameras, looking up at the words, and then down to the guitar necks to get the chord progressions.

A year later we went back to do a larger event. We had worked on getting the music onto a CD recording to give to them. But, it was already too late. We were told that those songs had gone all over the country. Another fruit of this event relating to worship was what happened to one famous Russian Rock and Roll singer who was newly saved. He had laid his guitar down, not seeing a way it could be used in church. When he saw our team worship, God called him to become a worship leader. He immediately was catapulted into being one of the most famous worship leaders in the former Soviet Union. He would later work with a church in Ukraine.

2. Models for small groups

We also taught about small groups at this meeting. We encouraged them to consider small groups as a way of discipling the new converts. This was an important part of the fruitfulness of our ministry there.

3. Models for Philosophy of Ministry

While there, we emphasized a new kind of leadership- servant leadership, which exemplified humility rather than an authoritarian model. I was very much aware of the typical image many people had of American evangelists who were loud, braggadocios and proud. I have tried to offer a different model wherever we have gone in the world.

4. Impartation – Boris and Oleg and the South African Church Planter

The most important thing that happened at the Catch the Fire – Moscow was the experience of impartation that so many of the pastors experienced. Later, I would learn of two close friends from Ukraine that had come to this meeting: Boris, who was the Rabbi for the largest messianic Jewish congregation in the world in Kiev, Ukraine, and Oleg, who had become the bishop of the protestant churches in Nikolaev, Ukraine. Both men had become overwhelmed by the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit and had returned in the “power of the Spirit” to their cities. I later would meet them and hear their stories, visit their congregation and minister with them many times.

Also, a year after Catch the Fire – Moscow, I met many young pastors who had received gifts of healing at our meeting. They told me many testimonies of healings, miracles, blind eyes that saw and deaf ears that heard. They were very excited and very grateful.

Almost 14 years later, I was ministering for a South African apostle, Nevel Norton. While in his church ministering to his network of pastors, I met a South African pastor, Hugo V. Niekerk, who was touched at the Catch the Fire – Moscow 1996 while he was a missionary. He had since planted over 200 churches in Russia. He told me how powerfully he had been touched in that meeting and how it had impacted his ministry and his faith. Only heaven really knows the fruit of such meetings.

This was also the meeting during which Russ Purcello was touched. Through him, we have been able to continue to impact churches across Russia. As I shared earlier, he continued to go back every year offering other cities what he had seen us do in Moscow. This American pastor has been used to powerfully affect the Protestant Church in Russia.

D. India – Pastor’s Conferences

Krishnagiri –story of pastor who prayed for woman in a coma, and pastor who promised healing.

In January-February of 2010, I led a team to Bangalore and Krishnagiri, India. Bangalore was predominantly Hindu, but Krishnagiri had a strong Muslim presence. A young apostolic leader named Ravi invited us to come. The focus of the first meeting was equipping about 2,000 pastors. The second meeting had about 600 pastors, but also had a small crusade with 5,000-9,000 people. We decided to expend most of our money on the pastors' meetings rather than on a larger crusade. There were many spectacular healings, miracles and salvations. No one had ever conducted a healing crusade in this city. A Hindu school with 700 students and teachers were curious and sent a delegate to the meeting asking if we would send someone from our team to tell them about Christianity. A small team was sent, and they prayed for many who were healed. All the students, teachers, and administrators prayed the sinner's prayer to receive Jesus and some were filled with the Holy Spirit. Afterwards they were concerned about how they would be persecuted by family for accepting Jesus.

The same day, three Muslim women came to the pastors' meeting, which was held in a public hall. They sat outside the hall, but because the doors were open for ventilation, they could hear everything. At the lunch break, the mother and her sister came and asked to be set free from demonic problems. The daughter, who looked to be in her 20's and wearing a Berka allowing only her eyes to be seen, had leg problems. The mother was set free from the demonic attack and the daughter's legs were healed. That night the husband/father came with them to the healing meeting. He was one of the first healed through a word of knowledge. When the invitation for salvation was given, this Muslim family was among the very first to come forward to confess their sins and commit their lives to Jesus Christ. I have since heard that they are on fire for God and telling others about the great healing power in God's Son, Jesus Christ. And, God is using them to heal many, including key leaders in the Muslim community.

One pastor at our meetings went straight from the impartation service to a woman in another city who had been in a coma for about a year. When he laid hands on her and prayed, she came out of the coma. Another pastor that week had promised a Hindu teenager who was crippled in his legs that if he would go to the meeting, he would be healed. The boy went with the pastor, but was not healed at the crusade. The pastor was beside himself, since he had promised healing and did not want to be a poor testimony to the Gospel. He didn't know how to explain the lack of healing to the family. However, when the boy woke up the next day, he could walk. During those 4 days in Krishnagiri, the blind saw, the deaf heard, the lame walked, the terminally ill were healed. The pastors were greatly encouraged.

A few months after these meetings, the apostolic leader from Bangalore and Krishnagiri came to our headquarters and told us about the fruit that continued to happen. The pastors were not seeing many healings before the event, but they were now occurring regularly. Two people had been raised from the dead and over 90 Muslims, including several leaders, had been saved after being healed. Greater prosperity had come to the city in the form of job opportunities offered by the government. Even the land was impacted, as mangos began to grow once again after many years of little to no growth.

Ongole – James Rebbavarapu

James Rebbavarapu is the apostolic leader we work with in the Ongole area in southeast India. He received his Masters of Divinity from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was sent out by a small Vineyard Church of about 80 members with enough money to live on for one year. He stretched this into three years. When I met him, he already had about 200 pastors that he was overseeing and had a powerful ministry to the social and spiritual needs of the community. During the

next 5 years, the 200 pastors grew into over 2,000 pastors. We worked with him in about 5 other cities and saw cores of thousands of Indians coming to Christ, and even more being healed. Mass worship events and healing crusades have been very instrumental to the growth of James' churches.

We had a healing crusade in Ongole, where about 85,000 people were healed in 3 days. About 45,000 accepted Jesus. The healings drew the masses to the meetings and convinced many of them of the truth of the gospel. About half of the people were healed and a little less than a third were saved. The largest crowd for one night was about 100,000.

While there, I was taken to the highest place in the city to the exact place where Baptist missionary Lyman Jewett had been praying in 1853 for the salvation of that region. He had labored long and hard with little fruit and very few salvations. The mission board began advising people to move to Burma because so few had been reached with the gospel in India, but in Burma, many more were responding. However, several years later the Lord began to answer his prayer for the region by directing another missionary couple, John and Harriet Clough, to turn their attention to the poor. God did this by independently highlighting to the husband and wife 1 Corinthians 1:26: "Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth." When the Cloughs began ministering to the poor, a great revival broke out with thousands led to the Lord. The key was hearing God and obeying His commands.

After our first trip to India, the infamous tsunami of 2004 hit the coast where much of James' work was done. Because of the bond James and I formed on our mission trip, he called me to see if we could help with relief. We ended up sending containers worth millions of dollars in medical supplies and other necessities.

We have continued to take teams to work with Apostle James, and there has continued to be the same percentage of healings

and salvations among the crowds. The pastors continue to be encouraged, and they report a significant increase in the people being healed through their own ministries.

E. Cambodia

We have made two short-term mission trips to Phenom Penh, Cambodia. Both were to pray for the pastors and leaders that the apostolic leader, Sophal Ung, had gathered together from all over Cambodia. The second trip also included pastors from Vietnam. There were many who were healed and who received impartations that equipped them to see more healings and more success in their own ministries. Sophal and his wife Debra are very excited about the fruit of those meetings. They continue to invite us back, hoping our schedule will allow another visit with them.

F. Norway

In 1995 I prayed and prophesied over a Baptist pastor in Norway named Leif Hetland. During the prayer, I told him, "I see you in a dark place. All around you is darkness, but behind you is light. And, I see a multitude of people following you out of the darkness into the light." The power of the Holy Spirit knocked him to the floor where he shook for 2 ½ to 3 hours. He got up and by the next week was operating in many gifts he never had before. Every person he prayed for was healed. However, he didn't yet understand the prophecy I gave him. The next year he had his neck and back broken. While recuperating from the injury in traction, he was meditating on the prophecy and realized he was not to remain a Baptist pastor but was to go to unreached people groups. Since then he has led 850,000 people to the Lord in Islamic countries as of March, 2010. This has been done by conducting healing meetings as many Muslims believe in Jesus because of the healings they see. Also, Leif has started over 2,000 Lighthouses of Love in these countries, which focus on healing, deliverance and restoration of lives. God is using him throughout the

Western Hemisphere, Africa, Asia, Middle East and Europe. Great healing miracles take place in his ministry even as he endures serious pain from his own injuries. The anointing that led him to the nations has resulted in him being away from his wife and four children for up to 200+ days a year. He even has had threats against his life including several by the Taliban. However, nothing has prevented him from continuing to preach the Gospel and heal the sick.

G. Mexico

Juan Aguilar is an apostolic leader in Mexico City. I took two short-term missions teams with me to minister to his leaders. On each trip the power of God came upon the pastors and leaders. During the first trip, several key leaders in the Baptist denomination were powerfully touched and began to see much more of the power of God in their ministries. Also, many other pastors from diverse denominations and apostolic streams were empowered.

In 2009, I took a very small team to Queretaro, Mexico to minister in another apostolic network of pastors. We taught them how to receive words of knowledge and how to pray for the sick out of a place of dependence on the Holy Spirit. We had a special time of impartation for over 1,000 pastors and leaders. Then, we had a service where we prayed specifically for the terminally ill, blind, deaf and/or crippled. The day after I left, they did it again and saw many healings, some miracles and 11 blind people healed. The pastors were so excited because there had previously been very little healing in their ministries. They exclaimed, "We did receive an impartation!"

One of the miracles that occurred at this event was the healing of a woman who had cancer resulting in a urostomy bag for her urine. She was accompanied by her daughter, who had cancer in her breast. Both women were healed of their cancer and the woman no longer needed a urostomy. Somehow, her organ was reconstructed and was working normally. She was able to

go to the bathroom normally before she left the building instead of the urine flowing into the bag.

During this meeting a Baptist pastor came up to me at the end of the meeting and asked to be prayed for by the laying on of hands. I prayed for him and his wife. They fell down, but there did not initially appear to be a strong anointing. They were resting quietly on the floor without much trembling or shaking. However, the longer he was on the floor the stronger the anointing became. About an hour later, I saw him being helped from the building by two men since he was unable to walk. He shook the whole next day, and it was quite noticeable to all who were there. The following day, now two days after the impartation, he ministered in his 10,000 member Baptist Church. He was helped to the pulpit by two deacons. As they tried to help him, the Holy Spirit knocked all three of them to the floor. He was going to pray for the church to receive an anointing, but before he could say, "anointing," the Spirit came upon him and his church. When this happened over three-fourths of the 8,000 people in attendance fell to the floor or shook under the power of God. And many other manifestations of the Holy Spirit occurred that day in his church. The early service didn't end until about 4:30 p.m.

H. Argentina - Story of Baptist Church Planter out of Del Centro Baptist Church, Marcello Diaz

About 15 years ago, I went to Buenos Aires, Argentina. While there I ministered at a large pastors' meeting in a Baptist Church- La Iglesia Evangélica Bautista del Centro. This church was the first Baptist Church in Argentina. At this conference one young pastor, Marcelo Diaz, had been prayed for several times. Near midnight he came to me and asked for one more prayer. When I prayed for him, the power of God knocked him to the floor. I sensed an urgency to tell him to pray for everyone in his new church that he was starting in the area. When he did this the next day, everyone he prayed for was healed, including a woman dying of cancer. The community named this new

church plant the “Healing Church”. Today, it is one of the largest churches in that area of the city.

Summary

The most important aspect of the short-term mission trips that our ministry has is the impartation pastors receive, the encouragement that God can and will use them for healing, and the activation of the gifts of the Spirit in their lives and ministries.

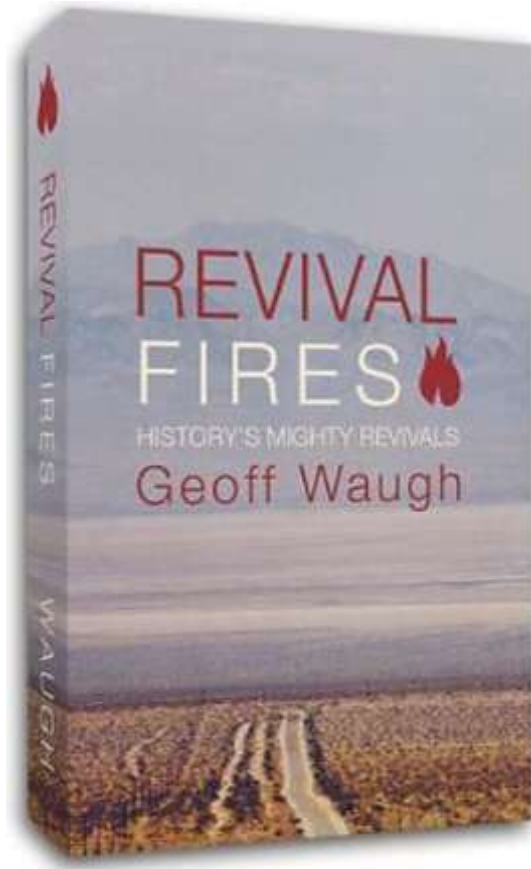
Conclusion

I am grateful to know that I am not only leading short-term ministry trips into many countries, but also are so many other pastors who first travelled with me and are now taking teams themselves into many countries. Our network, the Apostolic Network of Global Awakening is only 4 years old, yet already, we are in 1/3 of the countries of the world. Not only are pastors who traveled with me taking teams into the world, but so are itinerate ministers. There has been a real multiplication of effect and a multiplication of countries we are reaching every year. We, or someone in our apostolic network, are taking short-term ministry trips to almost 50 countries a year where people are healed, delivered and empowered to more effectively reach their communities in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This article is also in *Renewal Journal 10: Evangelism*

See www.renewaljournal.com

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Revival Fires

History's Mighty Revivals

By Geoff Waugh

Published by Randy Clark

7

**China Miracle:
*The Spirit told us what to do***

*Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18).
This contemporary example of powerful New Testament
style church growth is a wonderful account reported by
Carl Lawrence. **The Coming Influence of China**, Vision
House, pp. 186-192, also reproduced in my book,
[Body Ministry](#)*

*Two young women set off to plant churches without
plans or training because Jesus said to "go".*

***After we prayed, the Holy Spirit would tell us
exactly what to do.***

***We would keep praying and he would tell us what
to do,***

and we would do it.

***Then we prayed and then he would tell us what to
do.***

We would do it and keep praying.

Conclusion

Several high-ranking church leaders from Europe visited a pastor in Hong Kong. The pastor took them to visit some of the Three-Self churches. They found them inspiring, and uniquely Chinese, but they wondered aloud if perhaps they weren't seeing the real church. ...

On the final day of their visit, the pastor hoped to show them what they kept wanting to see. He knew they would not really be satisfied unless they met a real church planter. As it turned out, they saw something incredibly beyond what they ever expected to find in China.

At their last stop, the pastor discovered that two young women had just returned from their mission station for a short visit, so he asked them to come to the hotel late, to meet the visiting church leaders.

These young ladies had both become Christians as teenagers while listening to radio broadcasts, and they each had immediately felt the call to be a missionary. The pastor had met with them and attempted to teach them how to witness right where they were.

“No,” they insisted, “the Bible you gave us says Jesus said to go to all the world. We want to ‘go.’”

“But,” the pastor argued, “you have only been Christians for six months, and you are so young.”

They replied, “Pastor, we have read everything Jesus said and nowhere does he ask people how old they are. We want to go.”

Smiling, the pastor asked them, “But can you give me an exegesis of the five classical appearances of the Great Commission in the New Testament?” Their disappointed faces made him feel ashamed. “Very well. We need some workers on Hainan Island.”

“Hainan Island, we have never heard of it.”

The pastor said, “It is an island off the mainland. The people there are fishermen. It is very rough. There are no Christians there. For young ladies it might be very dangerous.”

Excitedly they responded, “How soon can we go?”

“Well, I have to go back to Hong Kong and make arrangements. There will be . . .”

They interrupted him, “Oh no, no, we must not wait. Our Lord said ‘go,’ not sit around and plan. We will go to this place - what did you call it?”

“Hainan. Hainan Island.”

Conclusion

They looked at each other, "Hainan, yes Hainan. That is where the Lord wants us to go."

They had been there for two years and were now back for a short period of time to try to get Bibles and other literature for their new churches. The pastor had not seen them since the day they insisted that they 'go now'!

After the arrangements were made, he went to the lobby at the appointed time and waited for the ladies to arrive. He watched the bellboys in their crisp, tailored uniforms, and the tourists who attempted to be casual in their designer clothes. Then he spotted the two young women. *Oh no*, he thought as they walked in.

Their black pyjamas and broad-brimmed fishermen hats stood in stark contrast to the appearance of the sophisticated hotel receptionist making her way towards them.

The pastor moved quickly to intercede. "It's all right, they are here to see me." Several people stood staring as he greeted them as politely as possible without drawing too much attention. "Come, we will go to my room to meet some people from Europe."

Once in the room, the two European church officials graciously greeted them. He proceeded to ask the

young ladies questions, interpreting for his guests as he went along.

“Pastor, ask them how many churches they have established on Hainan.”

The women put their heads down and answered, “Oh Pastor, we have only been there two years . . . yes, two years. Not many. Not very many.” Their voices were apologetic.

“How many?”

“Oh, not many, not many. We have only been there a short time. The people were not very friendly. . . Sometimes they became very vicious. Yes, sometimes they told us they were going to drown us in the ocean . . . several men threatened us . . . Oh my, and because we were so young, even some of the other ladies did not like us. Yes some even called us terrible names . . . so not many churches . . . no, not many. . .”

The pastor interrupted and slowly repeated the words, “How many? How many?”

There was a moment of silence, then one of the women looked up with embarrassment and anguish, as though confessing to a crime,

“Only . . . thirteen.”

Conclusion

The pastor looked astonished and interpreted for the guests, "Thirteen."

One of the guests repeated the number, "Only thirteen, only - my goodness. I haven't planted that many churches in my lifetime."

One of the pastor's assistants interrupted, "No, Pastor, she did not say thirteen. She said thirty."

The pastor looked at the two young women and asked, "Thirty?"

"Oh, yes, not many, we have done very poorly. Only thirty . . ."

The two guests could only mutter, "Thirty churches in two years . . . my word. . ."

Again the women began to apologize when the pastor interrupted to ask another question, "How many people are in the churches?"

"How many? . . . Oh, not many. . . ." Again both heads went down, apologizing for their failure. "Not many."

The process repeated itself until, again, the pastor looked like he was ready to shake them and practically yelled, "How many?"

“Only two hundred and twenty people. Not many, no . . . not many.”

Quickly multiplying in his head, the pastor said, “Two hundred and twenty in thirty churches?”

“Oh, no, in only one, but that one is a very small church, very small. There are bigger ones. . . .”

As the pastor interrupted he heard the numbers repeated by his guests: “Two hundred and twenty is small? Dear Lord, I wish I had some that large.”

“Ask them how many are in the big churches.”

The process began, but with a more reverent inquiry: “And how many in the big churches? You know, the biggest one?”

“Oh, not many”

“I know, ‘not many.’ But, please, ladies, how many?”

“Oh, less than five thousand. Only four thousand nine hundred Yes, less than five thousand. We have just started.”

From behind the pastor came the sound of weeping:

“Dear Lord, forgive us.”

Conclusion

“What did they do? How did they do it? Ask them what they did?”

When asked, they looked astonished. “What did we do? Why nothing. Yes, we did nothing, nothing.”

“You did nothing? You have thirty churches - the smallest with two hundred and twenty people, the largest with almost five thousand new Christians! And you did nothing?”

“No, nothing. We just prayed.”

“I know you prayed, but what else did you do?”

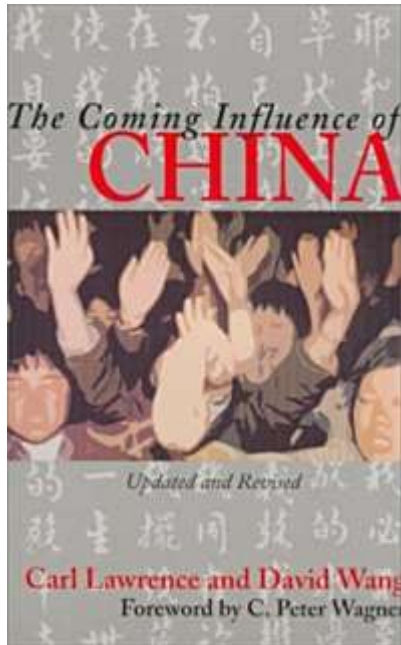
“After we prayed, the Holy Spirit would tell us exactly what to do. We would keep praying and he would tell us what to do, and we would do it. Then we prayed and then he would tell us what to do. We would do it and keep praying.”

“Dear Lord, they *just* prayed . . . and the Holy Spirit told them exactly what to do and they prayed. . . .”

The pastor laid his hands on the shoulders of the two sisters. Behind him his two guests, on their knees weeping, joined as they ‘just prayed’.

**Note that Jesus prayed and obeyed.
He told us to follow him.**

This story is reproduced from *The Coming Influence of China* by Carl Lawrence.



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Conclusion to Part 2

Jesus the Model for

Supernatural Mission

Supernatural short term missions now spread globally, not just from White or Western countries but within and from all countries.

The model Jesus gave us and demonstrated, and that model seen also in the early church, is being followed world-wide today. Jesus is still building his church this way.

We encourage you to be involved. You can link with Randy Clark and their Apostolic Network of Global Awakening. You can link with your local church or denomination's mission teams.

You can see on-going reports and blogs on these websites.

Renewal Journal:

www.renewaljournal.com

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www.facebook.com/groups/renewal.revival

The best conclusion is from Jesus himself:

The Great Commandment

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' ²⁹ Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." ³¹ The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

(Mark 12:28-31)

The Great Commission

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

(Matthew 28:16-20)

The Great Compulsion

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

*⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'
⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (Acts 1:4-8)*

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About the Authors

Geoff Waugh, taught on renewal and revival at Alcorn College (Methodist), Trinity Theological College (Uniting, Anglican, and Catholic) and Christian Heritage College (charismatic) in Brisbane, Australia, as well as in Bible Schools in Papua New Guinea (Baptist) and in the South Pacific Islands (with Churches of Christ and United Churches). He led short term missions and taught church leaders in Africa, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, China and in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. He is the founding editor of the *Renewal Journal* and the author of books related to renewal and revival including two translations of *Flashpoints of Revival* in Korean. Geoff is father to three adult children and grandfather of eight, lives in an extended household with two of those families, and is grateful to his family and to God for his strong evangelical heritage and for enriching fellowship with God's wonderfully diverse people.

Bart Dornweerd wrote as a Dutch missionary with *Youth With A Mission (YWAM)*, working in Holland.

Randy Clark, founding director of Global Awakening (globalawakening.com), leads short term missions in the power of the Spirit worldwide. His personal stories are also in his books *Lighting Fires* and *There Is More*.

Carl Lawrence, a former missionary, wrote the award winning *The Church in China*, and co-authored *The Coming Influence of China* with David Wang.

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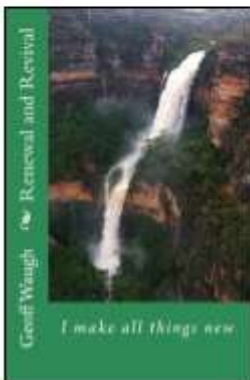
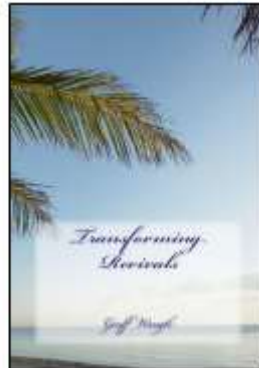
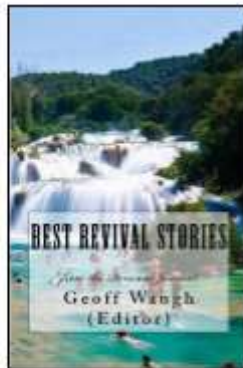
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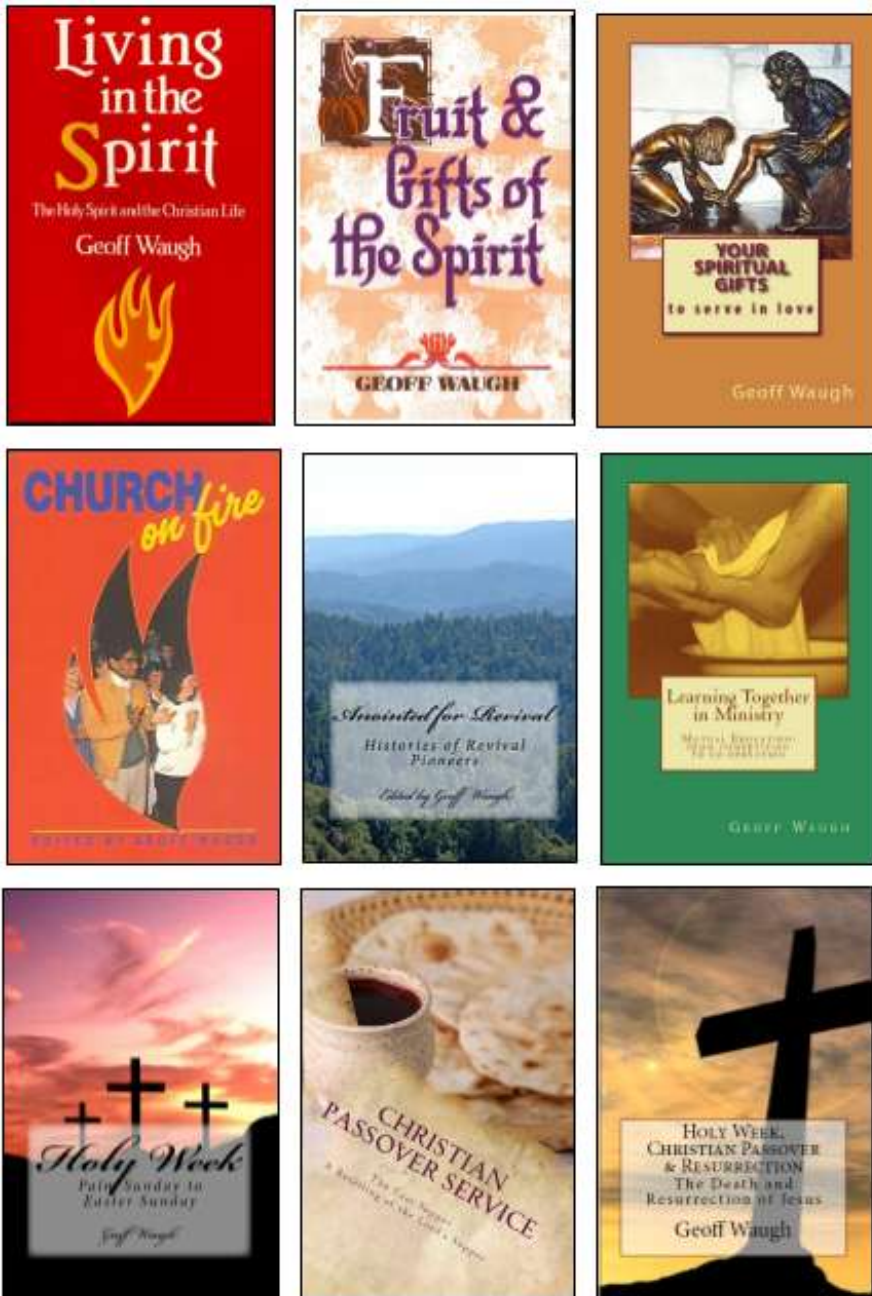
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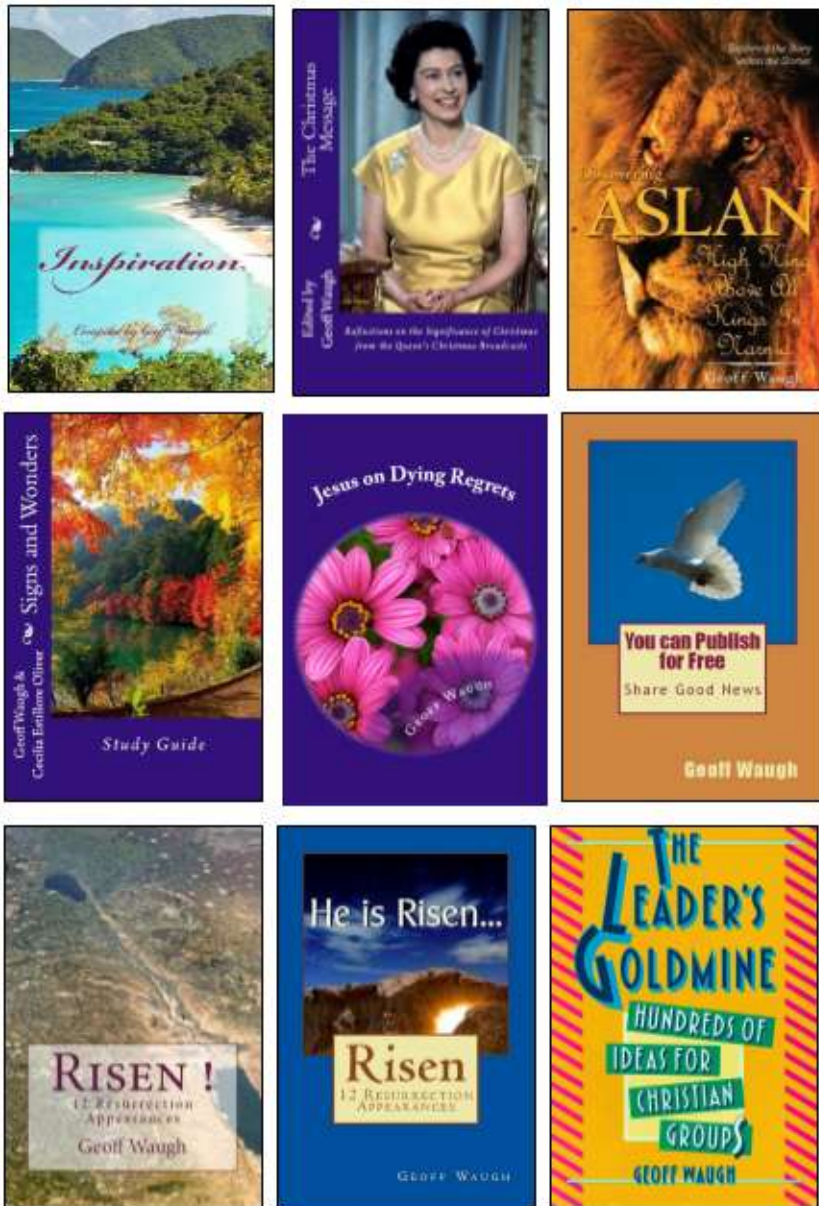
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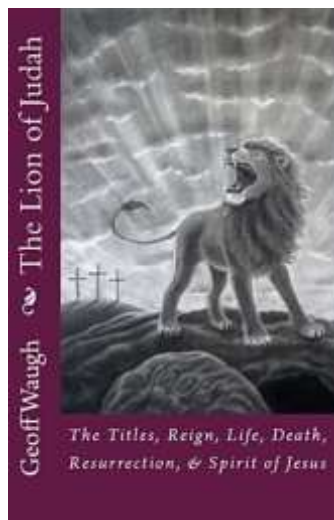
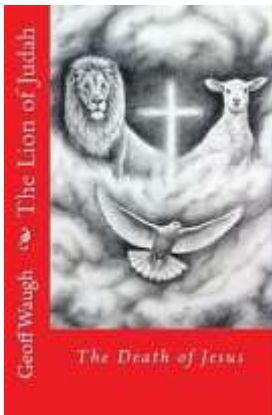
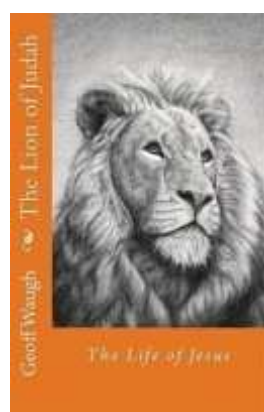


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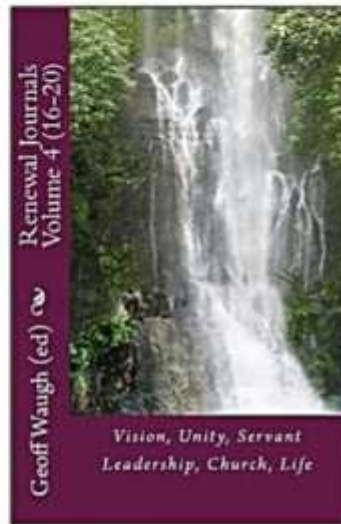
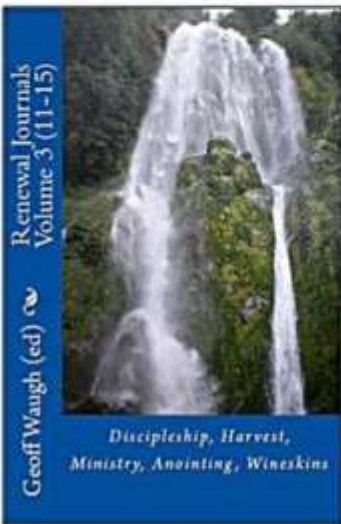
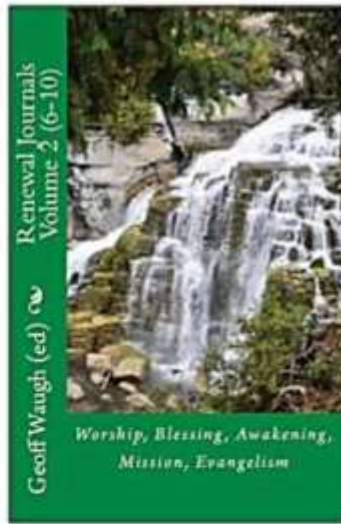
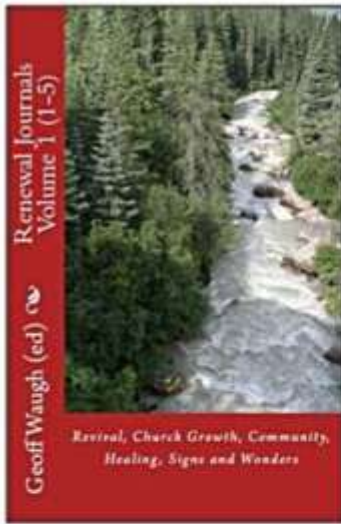
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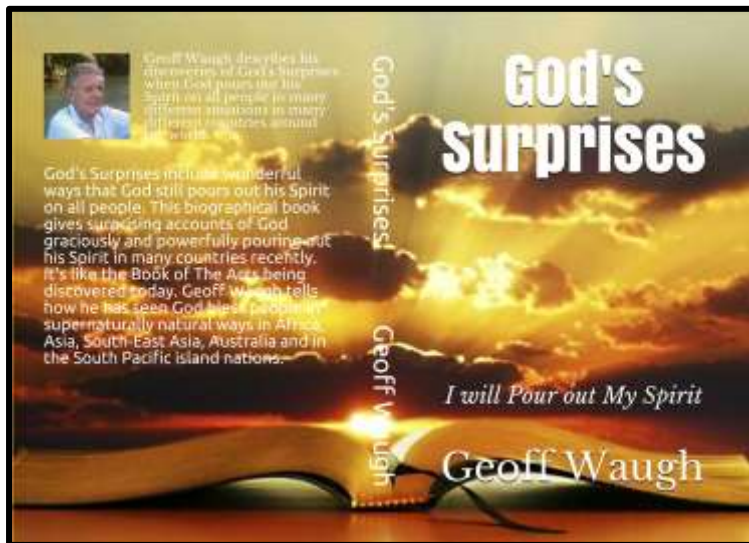
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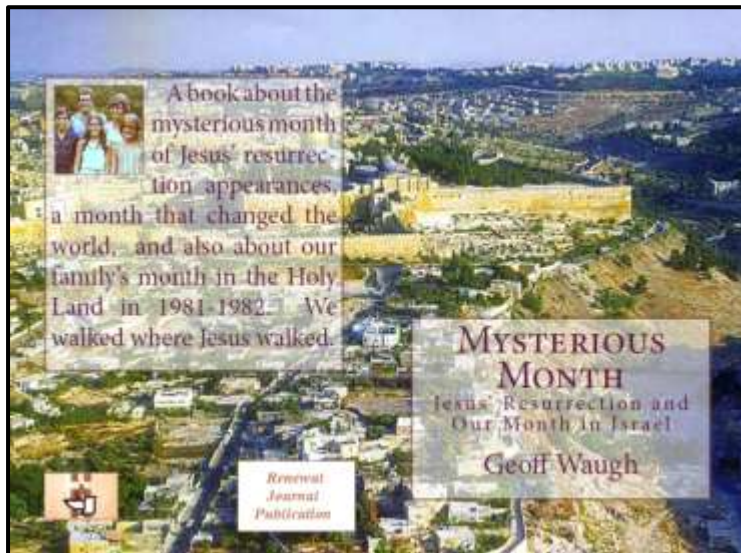
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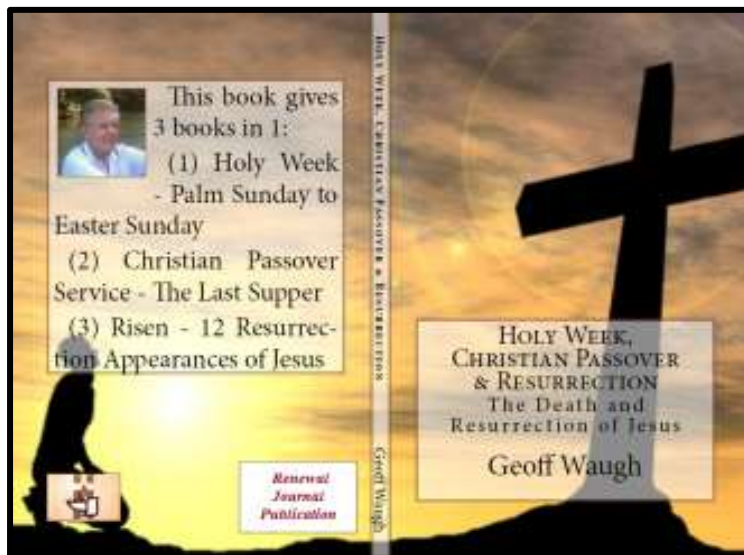
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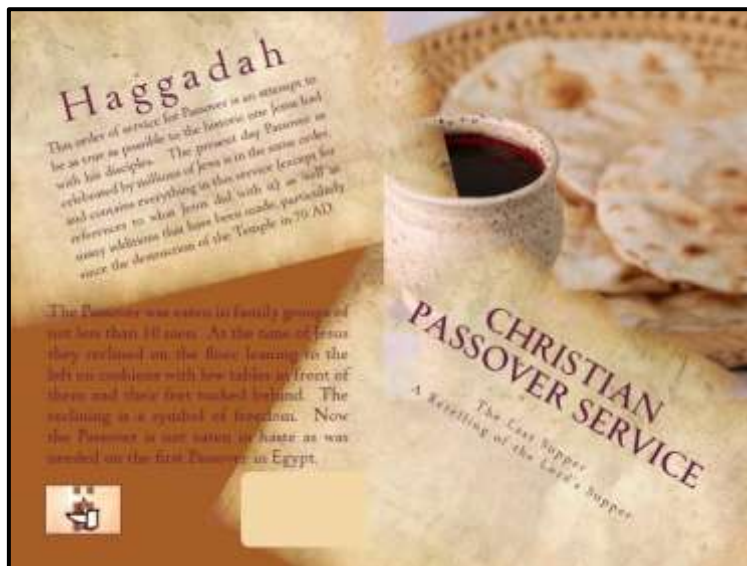
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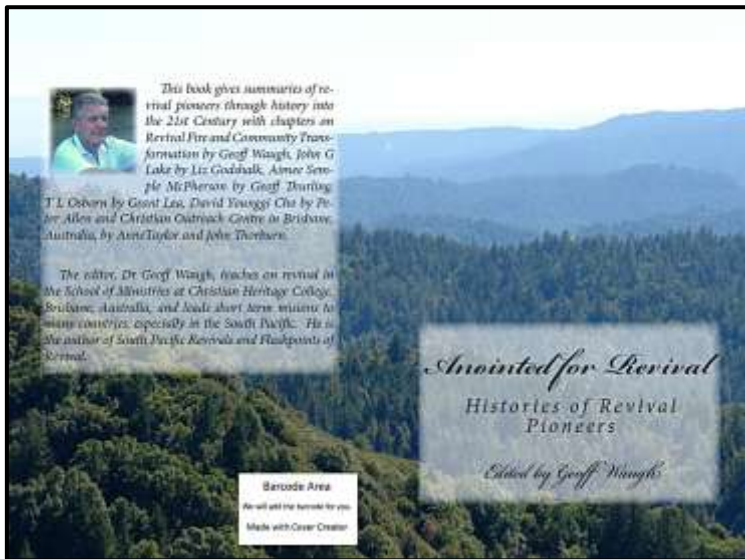


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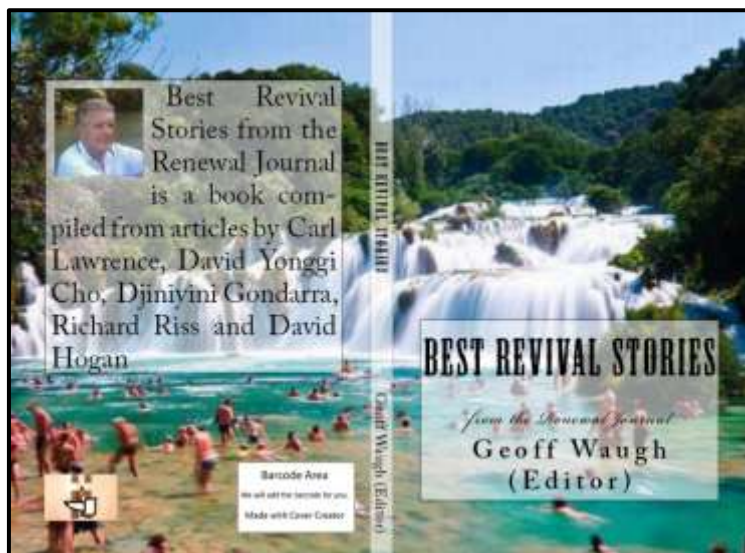
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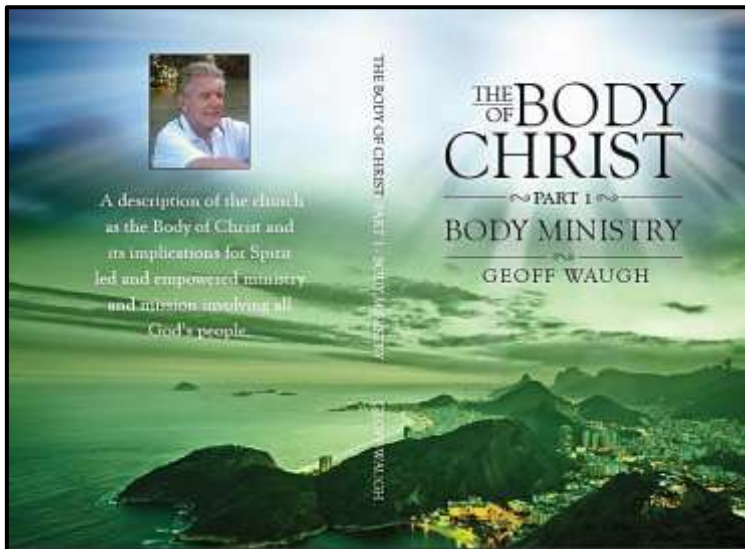
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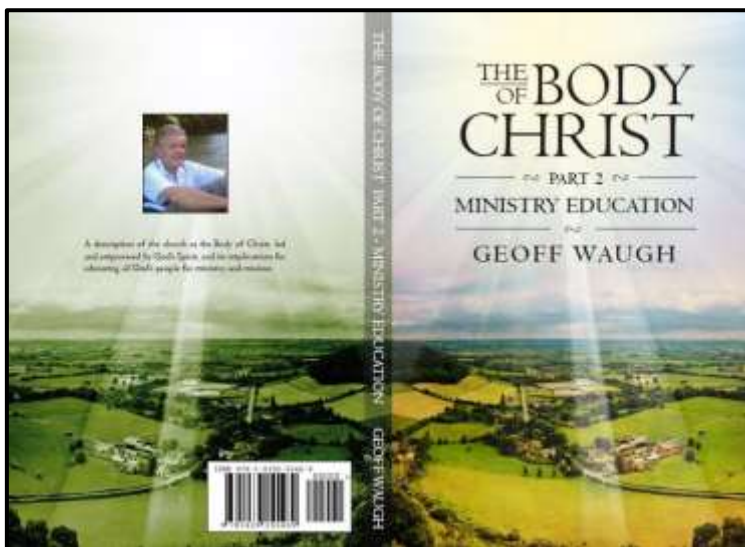
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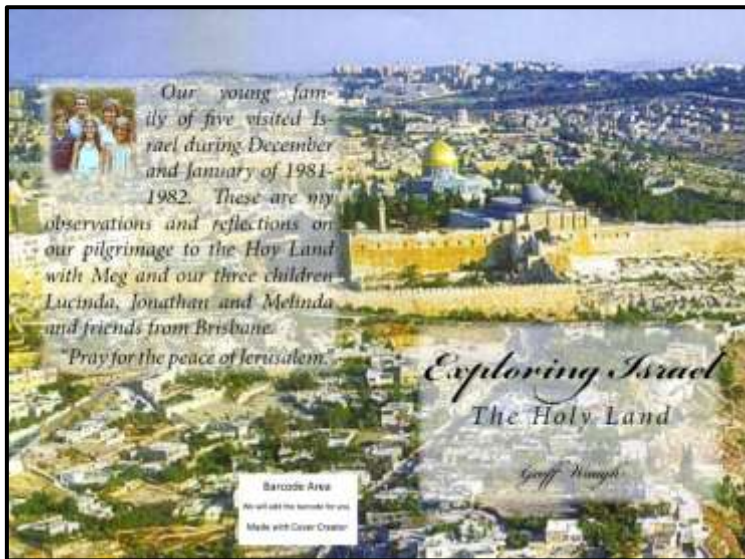
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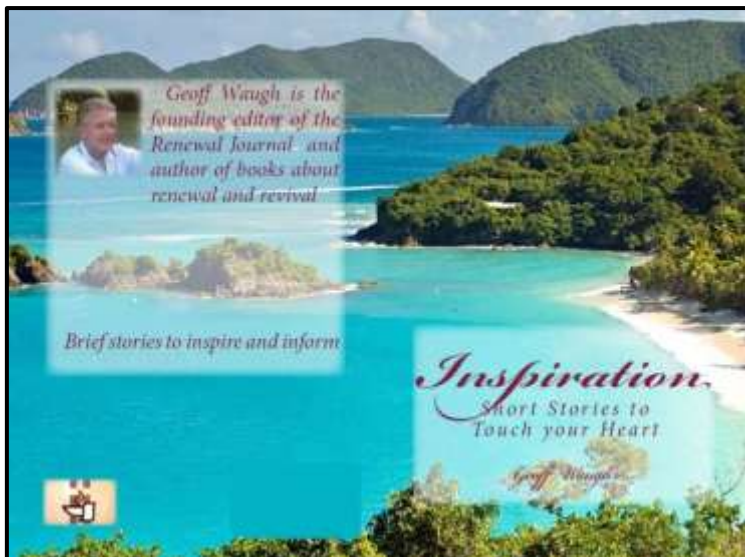
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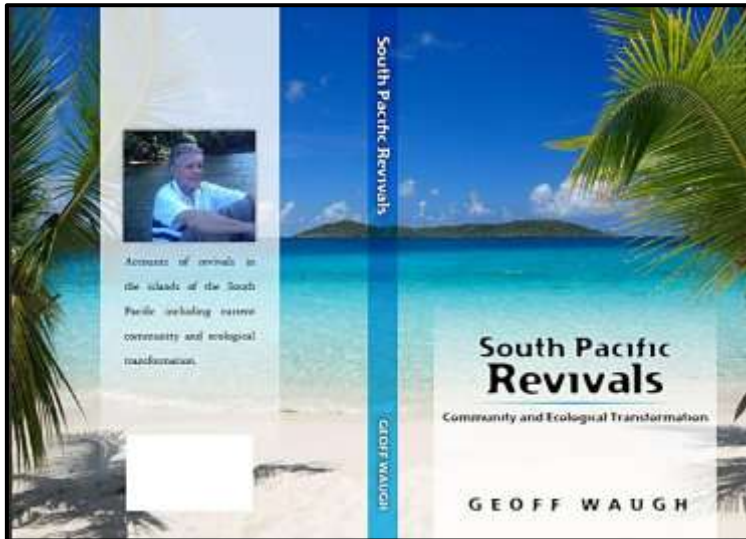
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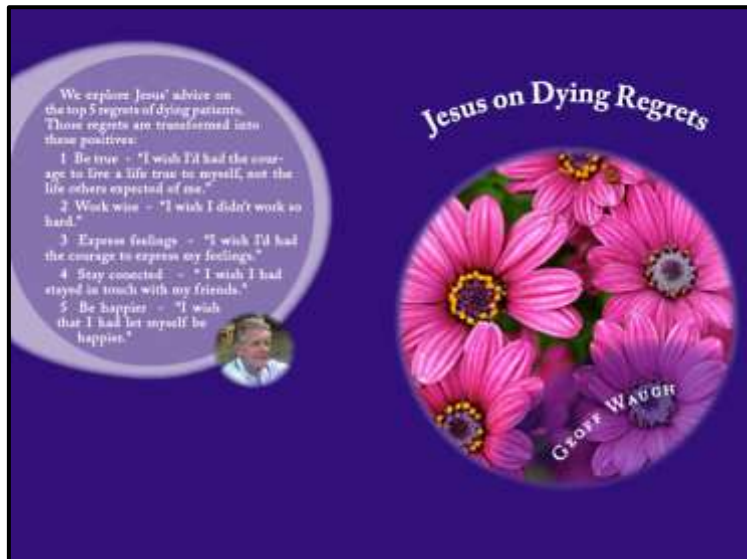
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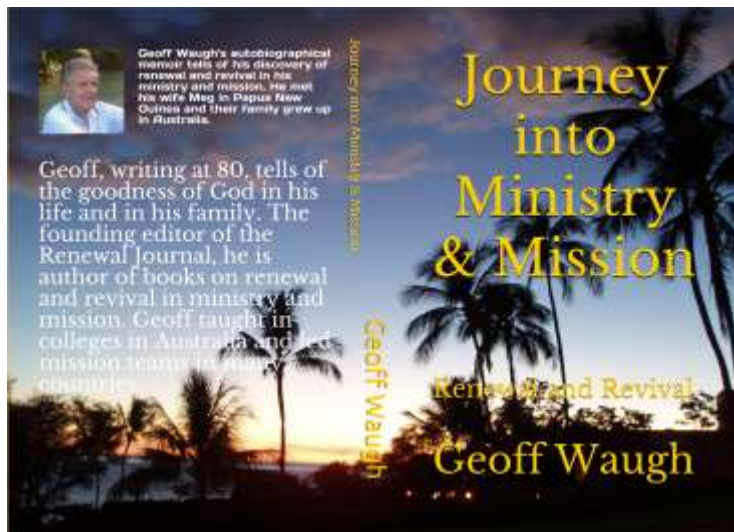
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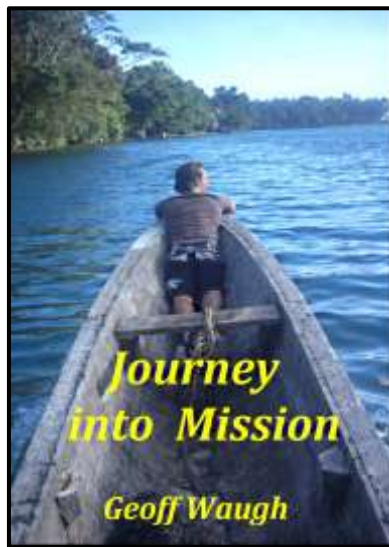


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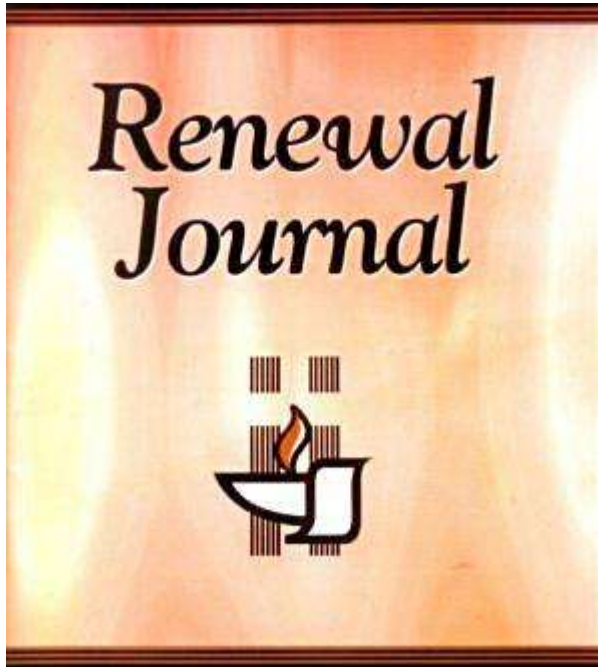
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