

July 2008

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! In a twinkling of an eye, we are into the second half of 2008. What an eventful first half the world went through. The economy went topsy-turvy in the financial markets. Property prices climbed, as did inflation rates around the region. Oil and rice prices surged upwards, triggering similar trends in the prices of other consumables. More recently, we read of the cyclone, earthquake and typhoon that hit Myanmar, Sichuan (China) and Ilo Ilo (Philippines) respectively. What in the world is happening? Everything seems to be reeling out of control.

Looking back, I can't help but marvel at how God prepares and leads His people. As I had shared in my Feb 2008 Newsletter, God had already warned us of the shaking that would soon take place around the world. This caused me to preach "Building. Shaking. Filling." across many congregations. This word was further confirmed when Bro Francis Khoo released the prophetic word for 2008, warning of major reversals in many situations. Indeed, the circumstances may appear dire but our God is still in control!



Still, the word of God is of no use to anyone if it is not responded to. To this end, I wonder how many have acted upon God's call for us to build the temple, that we may grow and mature spiritually, that we can then stand steady through even the strongest of shakings. Even so, the objective is not merely to survive the shaking but be positioned to receive and be filled with the fullness of God's glory that is coming in new and fresh dimensions!

Amidst the shaking of the heavens and the earth, pockets of revivals are breaking out, the most prominent (and most controversial too) being the one in Lakeland Florida. God's glory is being poured out into temples that are built-up, ready, willing and set apart for Him. Before we fold our arms and 'poo-poo' the less-than-normal manifestations (when are manifestations normal in the first place?), let's stay open to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. If we agree



with the *building*, and we see the *shaking*, why do we question the *filling*? And if we are open and hungry to be filled, another question beckons to be answered: What is this filling for? I personally believe that the many prophecies about an Asian Revival will be fulfilled very soon, starting with us right here in Singapore! The glory of God will come in such mighty waves that there is no denying His power, His presence and His person. I don't know about you, but I want to be a carrier, not a barrier, of His glory! I humbly submit this for your reflection as you seek the Lord for wisdom, understanding and revelation.

In the meantime, the work of the ministry continues and I praise God for gracious glimpses of His glory! Speaking across five sessions at the Canaan Church Camp in Desaru, Malaysia (31 May – 3 Jun), God's presence was experienced so tangibly. On the final morning, the entire church responded to the altar call and God ministered to each one personally. I thank God for enabling me and also for journey mercies as He brought our entire family there and back smoothly and safely. On 15 Jun, I brought a Father's Day message to the three services at Faith Methodist Church. I especially appreciated the opportunity to catch up with the Pastor-in-Charge, the Rev Dr Kow Shih



Ming, who guided me and helped me process the call to fulltime ministry back in August 2000.



At FGA Filipino Fellowship (8 Jun), I sensed such a heaviness during the time of praise and worship. I shared this observation and invited everyone to press in even more and to cast every care to God. We just worshipped and tears began to flow as each person cried out from the depths of their hearts. After 20mins, the entire spiritual climate changed and the people were ready to receive God's Word. Praise God for His leading!

Before leaving for Barker Road Methodist Church's Prayer & Praise Service (20 Jun), a pain developed in my body. I prayed as I drove to the venue but it became worse as I parked the car. But when worship began, the pain totally disappeared! Then I felt led to declare that a healing anointing was present and encouraged all present to receive healing for their own bodies and situations! I believe something happened in the spiritual realm that very moment. After sharing "The Spirit of the Forerunner", the entire congregation responded readily to be used by God in these last days! Glory to God!



The preaching circuit for May & June also included Sanctuary of the Living Word, Full Gospel Assembly, Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church, Christalite Methodist Chapel, Orchard Marketplace Fellowship and Index-Cool Staff Devotions. More doors opened for me and for the very first time, I spoke at Fairfield and Hingwa Methodist Churches.

Covenant Vision School of Ministry remains an encouragement to me as I see the students grow and mature in Christ. Many began with simply a hunger to know more about God and His Word. After a year, these are raring to minister for God that other lives may be touched and transformed. Come December, the first intake of students will graduate with the Certificate in Practical Christian Ministry. This is indeed exciting and a milestone for the School as it is for me. For more information about the School and programme, please visit www.covenantvision.org or just email me.



In our family's series of birthdays, it was Sarah's turn to blow out the candles as she turned eight on 22 May. Then, on 7 Jun, our little baby Deborah Hope celebrated her very first birthday! It seemed like only yesterday when we welcomed her into our family in the lobby

of Mt Alvernia Hospital! After Deborah's big day came Serene's birthday on 1 July. We give thanks and praise to God for each of these special days. And for His abundant grace and provision towards our entire family of eight! It is definitely not easy balancing ministry and family but God's unceasing faithfulness enables Serene and myself to keep keeping on.



To this end, God continues to direct brothers and sisters in Christ our way and their support and love have been invaluable to us. One key area is prayer and we want to take this opportunity to thank you all for praying for us, especially those who have signed up to be our Prayer Partners. Please know that your prayers are very precious and much, much appreciated. If the Lord is leading you to partner us in prayer, simply go to www.brohenson.org, click on "Prayer Partners" and you will receive our monthly prayer updates.



Finally, if you haven't visited my personal website recently, do take a moment to check it out. There are new articles and testimonies which I hope will bless and encourage you. As always, I welcome feedback so that I can keep the contents relevant and useful, that many will be edified and that God will be glorified!

Thank you so much for being a part of our lives and our ministry. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always sufficient for you and your loved ones!

In His love and for His glory!

Bro Henson