

Teaching for 10-22-08

God's Top Ten

The following “God’s Top Ten” is taken from *The Sentinel Explorer*, a publication of The Sentinel Group, producers of the Transformation Videos. We want to encourage you to not simply ask the question, *Why is this happening there?* But, to begin to pray and believe that God does want to bring transformation to your community.

Does revival “just happen?” A case study in Fiji where, especially on the village level, whole communities are turning to God in repentance and reconciliation, and healing of bodies and land is a result. Ian Shelton of Toowoomba, Australia, a first-hand observer of the revival in Fiji, shares core reasons why God’s presence lingers in that island nation. From the perspective of a quarter-century friendship with Vuniani Nakauyaca, one of the key men God is using in Fiji, and many ongoing visits, Shelton give us ten distinctives he sees in the move of God in Fiji.

God's Top Ten

1. Key leaders faithfully interceded for their nation for 20 years before the revival started. During that time they saw no church growth, only hardship and poverty. But they never gave up.
2. There is a deep humility and lack of religious pretension that is impacting. There is not - talk about ‘my ministry’ or ‘my success’, only a self-effacing humility totally happy with sitting in the back seat and never seeking to draw attention to self.
3. Youth have been used as intercessors and prayer warriors. A team of 40-50 youth intercede and fast for three to four weeks in each village before a community-wide service of repentance is held. The zeal of these youth is awesome.
4. There is a total unity of the church in the village. Catholics, SDA, Pentecostal and Methodist leaders and people repent and humble themselves before each other – event washing each others’ feet. This is a huge departure from their recent church history.
5. There is a preparedness of community leaders from village chiefs right up to the Prime Minister and President to humble themselves before God and their people. This too is very much against the flow of Fijian culture.
6. There is a central place given to repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and restitution. These meetings, after weeks of prayer, have been the triggers to release God’s transforming power into the village.
7. There is an understanding that corporate salvation is the key to the blessing of the village. IN Fiji (and in the Bible) the corporate is over the individual, whereas in the West it is the other way around. Once the corporate repentance is underway, the individual responds and finds his/her place within that expression.

8. The faith 'as a little child' expressed by the people is so refreshing and challenging. To hear their testimony of the many miracles that have occurred is indeed a humbling experience.
9. The church and the community see the importance of dealing with historical sins. They have a good oral history and nothing is 'swept under the carpet.'
10. Spiritual warfare is an integral part of their preparation for the transformation of the village.

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Last week we talked about preparing a place for God's presence to come in His manifest presence. Let us not be stuck in simply asking God "why it happens there" when He is eager to manifest His power and Presence in our lives and our communities. Here is a quote from George Otis, Jr. from his book, *Informed Intercession*, p. 55. *Transformed communities do not materialize spontaneously. If they did we might legitimately wonder why an omnipotent and ostensibly loving God did not turn the trick more often. We would also be left to ponder our own value as intercessors. Fortunately such thoughts can be banished immediately. This is because community transformation is not an arbitrary event but rather the product of a cause and effect process.*

Our Father, we pray today that you would open our hearts and our minds to look beyond our own thoughts and ideas, to embrace what is on your heart to bring transformation to where we live. Let us not be content to hear and observe what you are doing in other places around our world. Give us a passionate hunger for you that will not be quenched until you come in your manifest transforming Presence. Make these top then a part of our hearts and prayers, and we pray this in Jesus' transforming Name. Amen.