

## **Teaching for 11-26-08**

### **Transformation Thanksgiving**

At Thanksgiving many ministries send out their “Thanksgiving Greetings.” Some tell the history of the celebration in our country. We thought it might be good to send out a brief giving of thanks for what God is doing in various places around the world in transforming Revival. Some of these reports are taken from the Transform World – Brazil conference recently held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Perhaps some of these accounts will deepen your hunger for and commitment to transformation in your community.

### **Transformation of Government**

Up until 2001, Brazil was considered “ungovernable.” The Government tax was a whopping 38 percent. Christians were called to fast and pray, and all across the country believers took seriously this call to prayer and fasting. The Church was called to 40 days of fasting and prayer in 2002, and again in 2003. Today, there is a strong economic recovery in Brazil, and a GDP that is 14% above that of the U.S. The Church is stepping up to its place in social transformation as 41% of social service funding is done by the Evangelical Church. Brazil is known as the place of the Carnival. Yet in city after city where believers are committing to fasting, prayer, and repentance, Carnival celebrations are being discontinued. The mayors of over 120 cities have given the keys of their cities to Jesus. In 2006, after a year of worship in over 250 cities, foreigners who came to Sao Paulo found no open prostitution places, and in Rio the only prostitution houses open were in the homosexual areas. Many Police were given the day off in Rio.

The city of Palmas, Brazil began when three people travelling through the open countryside sopped at a stream and held a prayer service. During that time, God showed them that there would be a thriving metropolis in that place where at time there was nothing. In March of 1989, the foundation stone of the city was laid in a service that was called by the Evangelical pastors of the city. Today, Palmas is a thriving city where the most important principle among the churches is unity. Palmas is the only city in Brazil that does not have a patron saint.

### **From poorest to 10<sup>th</sup> Most Prosperous**

55 years ago, South Korea was one of the poorest countries on earth. Like in most places, the transformation of South Korea was birthed in crisis. The conflict began with a great revival to rival the Azusa Street revival in global impact in 1907. However, there rose up ideological conflicts that became deep and severe. In 1953 those who believed that God is real and present fled to the south. The conditions were tragic in every sense. The land was dead, women did not have names, they could not leave their homes during the day, and could do nothing but cry out to God. Through repentance, and prayer, God has brought transformation to this once poor country so that South Korea is not one of the ten most prosperous countries in the world, with a prayer movement that is a model for the global church.

## **From Presidents to hostages**

God is powerfully at work in Colombia where the church is making a major impact on governmental institutions. Principles of the Kingdom of God are being taught in the Supreme Court as the President of the Supreme Court taught the members of the court, who then taught the Judges these Kingdom Principles. The court system is being transformed by the power of God. At a recent Presidential breakfast with 1,000 key leaders, military leaders, the Vice President of Ecuador, the President of Columbia took the microphone, and for two hours recognized how the Christians were living out their faith and making a difference in their country. A recent dramatic rescue of hostages in Colombia was the result of the government asking for prayer for this secret operation. When it was successful, everyone knew that God had done it.

## **Defeating AIDS**

In the 1980's and '90's the epidemic of AIDS hit the country of Uganda hard. As the church came together to pray and ask God for answers to this devastating crisis, the rate of AIDS in the country was between 20 and 30 percent. Through prayer, the Lord gave a simple solution, known as the ABC's. A – abstinence, B – Be faithful, and C – Christ (not condoms as the U.N. changed it to). Today, the AIDS rate in Uganda is right around 6%. In Uganda today, it is reported that the Church has a bigger say in what happens in the country than do the politicians.

## **Children Lead the Way**

In northwest Thailand there is a great tidal wave of revival that is being led by the children. Massive revivals that are being led by children as young as nine and even four years old. These children rise at three o'clock in the morning to worship and pray. Similar movements or prayer with children are happening in the Pousa area of Indonesia where God raised up three young girls to minister physical healing, salvation and social reconciliation. No limelight, no public platform, refusing adulation and money. All of this noted in the secular Indonesian press, the Nuansa Post.

Yes, there is much for us to give thanks for in these days. God is mightily at work around our globe for the glory of His Name. As we give thanks on this Thanksgiving Holiday, let us also ask God to grant to us a hunger to see these kinds of things multiplied in our cities and in our country.

*Our gracious Lord, we confess that as we watch your work of transformation in the rest of the world, we continue to hold on to our distractions, and we are not willing to step out in radical faith. We pray that you would use these challenging days to bring us to a place of genuine desperation for you, and as we get desperate for you, may we find that you are more ready than we could have ever imagined to bring transforming revival to our cities, our country as well. Come, Lord and transform our hearts. Amen*

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