

Teaching for 2-6-08

More of the Move of God

A recent report from the *Sentinel Group's Explorer Program* shares the amazing story of continued growth of a revival in Thailand that is being fueled by prayer, fasting, and repentance. Since October 2007, nightly revival prayer meetings are occurring in a community called NogKhiuw (in a northern province of Thailand). The church is experiencing miraculous confirmations from God—and even the children are experiencing visions from the Lord and boldly testifying about Jesus.

This revival is another of the many outbreaks of transformation that are happening globally as God's people take seriously the call to fast, pray, repent, and seek God's face. In the OmKoi province in Thailand, another revival has been preceded by more than ten years of fasting and prayer. In March of 2007, some 16,000 people attended a conference that was preceded by more than 10,000 days of cumulative fasting and prayer. Some have committed themselves to fast and pray for forty days per year for revival.

The results are breathtaking and profound. In one village of 350 people, God appeared to the entire village—and now almost every villager is part of the church that used to only have five members. The incidents of the Lord appearing personally to people in visions or dreams are on the rapid increase around the world—and especially in Muslim countries. *These are astonishing days!*

More Amazing Stories

Another amazing part of this growing revival is the place of children. Many children, some as young as four years old, have seen visions of heaven and hell—and have in turn encouraged adults to repent. Groups of children and youth now gather to pray every morning and evening.

One 17-year-old boy, Noah, goes to prayer meetings every day after experiencing his own revival in his heart. He now speaks of hearing the voice of Jesus often through the Holy Spirit. Jesus has affirmed for Noah that it won't be long before His return, and that He will use Noah to encourage others.

There are many other stories of God's amazing work in this region. The hallmark of this move is repentance and a burden for the lost. There are more Christians than Buddhists in OmKoi! The revival is spreading throughout Thailand, and there are no signs that the revival fires are waning any time soon.

Our Faithful God

When we read these reports, it is easy to get excited about such a move of God. But beyond the excitement, it is a good standard by which to measure our own understanding and commitment to the principles of God's Word. It is a fierce reminder of the faithfulness of God to His own principle of seeking Him with humble and repentant hearts.

When we see movements like this happening in region after region around the globe (Sentinel Group reports that there may now be more than 600 around the world), we naturally wonder about our own communities. If we observe the lack of such evidences in the Western Church, we *must* ask ourselves why. It is basic good stewardship to ask why we are not seeing such a tidal wave of the move of the Holy Spirit in the West.

The reality is that we are plenty busy in our ministries. We have programs, seminars, and conferences for just about every interest one can imagine. We wear ourselves out with running from meeting to meeting. We

have spent untold dollars promoting what promises to be *the* key to the next great move of God. Yet we are not seeing the move of God that is taking place elsewhere.

It could be that we lack what most of the rest of the world already possesses: desperation with expectation. The desperation that comes from letting go of our own abilities and holding on to absolute confidence that God will keep His word when He makes a promise such as 2 Chronicles 7:14.

The *Sentinel Explorer* article concludes with a pointed quote from Stephen Olford (an evangelist and preaching mentor to thousands of preachers worldwide). It would be good for us to read and take to heart:

As long as Christian people can trust religious organization, material wealth, popular preaching, shallow evangelistic crusades and promotion drives, there will never be revival. But when confidence in the flesh is smashed, and the church comes to the realization of her desperate wretchedness, blindness and nakedness before God, then and only then will God breathe in. Yes, there must be the point of desperation but there must also be the point of intercession. Oh, that God would bring us to this place of intercession! We cannot think or talk, let alone taste of revival, without intercessory prayer. Indeed, the reason for an unrevived church in the last analysis is the sin of prayerlessness (Stephen Olford).

Stories taken from *The Sentinel Group Explorer Report*, © 2008 (www.sentinelgroup.org). For further reading: Worapong Jariyaphruttipong, New Life Development Team (firstprioritydevelopment.org), Thai Mission (thaimission.info).