

NEWS FROM DAVID AND GRETA

AUGUST 2019

Greta and I have recently returned from a three-month trip visiting twelve churches in the **United Kingdom** and two in **Singapore**. We conducted seminars, leaders' meetings and spoke at Sunday services. Additionally, we ministered to over 115 pastors at three regional meetings in southwest England and Wales, plus took two electives on prophetic ministry at the annual Elim Leadership Summit in Harrogate.

Some of the highlights included:

SALVATION

- In one church in England, a number of people made decisions to follow Christ, including a university student who had been away from God and church for three years. She said that she woke up that morning with an urge to visit church and recommitted her life to Christ. The unsaved mother of one of the worship team members also shared how she felt an urge that same morning to attend the meeting and gave her life to Christ.
- In another church, a US army veteran who had been shot three times in Iraq made a recommitment to the Lord.
- A special blessing was preaching at a church in Singapore on Easter Sunday morning, where 19 people came to faith in Christ.

Over 60 people made decisions to receive the Lord on the trip, some for the first time and some returning to God.



HEALINGS

- In a Releasing Spiritual Gifts seminar in Bristol, we asked the sick to stand and others to gather around to pray for them. First, however, we led them in a prayer of renouncing sin and forgiving others. One young African woman had come to the seminar with an infected tooth that had troubled her for days. Her gum and the whole side of her face were swollen and the pain was so severe that she could not eat, or talk easily. As she followed us in prayer forgiving others, the Holy Spirit told her that she needed to forgive herself. As she confessed that she did, the pain instantly left and the swelling disappeared- she said it felt like a balloon deflating. Unforgiveness - whether

of others or ourselves - can be a powerful blockage to healing. Father loves and accepts us in Jesus despite our failures and imperfections.

- As we were leaving one church, Greta slipped and fell off the edge of a high step. She badly sprained her right foot and ankle, tearing several internal structures. She was barely able to walk, but the Lord encouraged her to stand in faith for a healing miracle. We prayed and by the next day there was marked improvement - she could walk normally. After three days, she was running her usual distance pain free. As Greta is a physiotherapist she knows

that such an injury can take weeks to recover from, even with treatment. We are so thankful for Jesus' healing power.

- We noted that numbers of people received healing from arthritis on the trip.

Many other healings took place mostly as people were taught how to pray for one another in the seminars we ran.

GOD-ENCOUNTERS

- In one of the seminars, during a session on words of knowledge and wisdom, we encouraged the people to ask the Lord for words and then share them. Over half of the 55 people present came forward and gave accurate words that were for others in the audience.
- In a School of the Holy Spirit in Scotland, numbers were baptized in the Holy Spirit, released in tongues, encountered God powerfully, were healed, and prophesied for the first time. One highlight was meeting a thirteen-year-old girl whose parents pastor a church in another town. She spent £10 of her own money for a bus ticket for the hour's drive to be at the school. She was filled with the Spirit, prayed for the sick, and at the end of the school gave Greta and me a prophetic word as good as any we have ever received. She was back Sunday morning drinking in the messages we shared. Such incredible hunger for one so young. She also gave us £15 towards our ministry. Amazing!
- In a Sunday evening Encounter service in another church, Greta and I challenged the people to the call to prayer for spiritual awakening. At the end we asked the Holy Spirit to impart a fresh fire of passion for prayer, for mission, and for God. He came and many were powerfully touched and we ended up praying for and prophesying over at least 55-60 of the attendees. The Lord divinely energized us as we ministered out of rest - it seemed so easy. The pastor said they had not had a move like it for a long time.

We returned to New Zealand very grateful for all that God had done and thankful for the faithful prayers of friends and our home church, Church Unlimited, Auckland.

ITINERARY FOR AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

August 4: Church Unlimited, Whangarei, Northland. Leaders' meeting plus Sunday services.

August 11: Church Unlimited, West Auckland and Auckland City. Sunday meetings.

August 14: River Church, Howick, Auckland. Connect group leaders' meeting.

August 16-18: Causeway Church, Mangawhai, Northland. Afterlife seminar plus Sunday meetings.

August 25: Equippers Church, Auckland and Manukau. Sunday meetings.

September 5-24: Travelling in England and the United States.

September 29: Hope Centre, East Tamaki, Auckland. Sunday meetings.

PERSPECTIVES

Abortion is much in the headlines at present. With the rising pro-life movement in the USA and attempts to liberalise abortion laws in New Zealand, a battle against this evil practice is on. But in the midst of the battle few stop to ask the question – what happens to the souls of babies that are aborted, or miscarried, or children who die young? The following is taken from the chapter *What is Heaven Like?*, pages 122-124 in our book *Afterlife* (available from our website at <https://spiritlife.org.nz/store.html>):

There is no **age of accountability** or innocence identified as such in Scripture. God alone knows when rejection of him has taken place, when the love of sin exists in the heart and when rebellion against God is conscious and wilful. What then happens to children who die before this age of accountability or moral awareness? Do they go to heaven? The answer is yes, based upon the confidence of King David who, when his little baby died, said, *"He cannot come to me, but I shall go to him."* (2 Samuel 12:22-23). It is clear from the Psalms that David knew he was going to Sheol or paradise upon death. **It would appear then that God treats children prior to the age of accountability as innocent.** It does not mean that they are not fallen or that they are not sinful (see Psalm 51:5); rather it means that God mercifully treats them as innocent in spite of that, and exercises grace to do that, just as he exercises grace to save those who believe in Christ as their saviour.



Most people who have had **visions of heaven** or who have had near death experiences claim to have seen deceased loved ones looking younger than when they died on earth. The elderly on earth become young again in heaven. Their appearance is of someone in the absolute prime of adulthood, perhaps similar to Adam and Eve when God created them as fully formed adults. Those who have had these visions rejoice to see the effects of earth's aging process rolled back in heaven. There, the spirits of the redeemed have been made perfect (Hebrews 12:23). However, a number of

others claim to have also seen children in heaven.

One would think that if the aged become young again in heaven, surely those who die young would join them in adulthood? It seems that this may not be so. Could it be that a merciful heavenly Father allows precious children who have been aborted in the womb, miscarried, or who have died young, to enjoy their childhood in heaven? Though premature death has cruelly robbed them of their destiny and purpose on earth, could it be that God is training them for their destiny in the new earth and heaven he will create? This is conjecture of course, because the Bible is silent on the matter. Perhaps in granting people these visions, **Father wants to give hope to multitudes** who have suffered the loss of their treasured children or who are living in deep regret regarding an abortion they had. It does not make abortion right; rather it shows that our God can redeem the most grievous mistakes and turn them to good.

If you have lost a young child, be confident that they are with the Lord, and as you maintain faith in Jesus, you will one day join them in Paradise.

Blessings,

David and Greta



Ministry Support

SpiritLife Ministries is supported by the **faithful giving** of friends, churches & businesses. Please consider joining with us in strengthening the body of Christ to advance God's kingdom strongly in these days. SpiritLife Ministries is a registered charity (registration number CC 23072). All donations are tax deductible and receipts are issued at the end of the financial year. In NZ, donors can claim one third of all donations as a tax refund. If you would like to make a **one-time or regular donation**, details are as follows:

BANK TRANSFER

Account Name: Spiritlife Ministries

Bank: ANZ **Account Number:** 01-0258-0042232-00

Please designate "Donation"

(We can only issue tax-deductible receipts for New Zealanders if we have your name and address, so please email these if making a donation. Overseas donors: branch address is 389 Remuera Rd., Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand. Swift code is ANZBNZ22)

PAYPAL

To donate to this ministry via secure PayPal please click on:

<http://www.spiritlife.org.nz/content/view/64/122>

POST

Send cheques to: SpiritLife Ministries, PO Box 69012, Glendene, Auckland, NZ.

Contact details:

Email: davidp@spiritlife.org.nz

Website: www.spiritlife.org.nz