

NEWS FROM DAVID AND GRETA

APRIL 2017

We hope that you will take a moment to read what has been happening in our ministry recently and be encouraged. The Perspectives section also contains an excerpt from what we believe was the most impactful message given at the recent NZ and Beyond conference in Auckland.

Latest News

During February and March, we visited 10 churches, lectured at a Bible college, and spoke at a Northland leaders' meeting. Six of the churches were also in Northland (red section in adjacent map).

God's eye is on this northern part of NZ, the place where British missionaries first preached the gospel in the early 1800's, a message received enthusiastically by the Maori people.

One of the scenic jewels of New Zealand, Northland has fallen on hard times socially and economically. However, God has not forgotten the warm reception to the gospel, nor the prayers of fervent Christians of previous centuries and decades. He is going to restore spiritual beauty to the area, to match the natural beauty.

Here are a few highlights:

- In the tiny Northland town of Kaiwaka, the Holy Spirit came and touched many in Kaiwaka Revival Church, including three 5-6 year old girls who were very hungry for God. God's presence rested on them so powerfully that they were in tears. In the last few years, we have noticed increasing numbers of young children being saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, healed, and in turn, ministering to others.
- At Central Baptist in New Plymouth, we taught the youth group how to operate in the gift of prophecy and then let them practise in teams of three. In one team, one person had to visit the bathroom. While he was away, a young woman shared with the recipient that she saw a picture of lions and started to prophesy over her that she would be as bold as a lion etc. When she had finished, the missing team member returned and said that he had only one word for the recipient, and that was the word 'lion'! All three were amazed at how simply and clearly the Holy Spirit can speak.
- Also in New Plymouth, we were invited to speak to a Christians Against Poverty group, where we shared our testimony and the gospel with the largely non-Christian audience. 5 adults and 3 children committed their lives to Christ, and two adults stayed for the evening service.
- A woman from the UK recently wrote, *"You prayed for me last year before you left the UK [in July]. After months and years of diarrhea related to Irritable Bowel Syndrome, I can now eat vegetables and normal food again!!!!!!Praise the Lord, it's a joy to say He touched me and healed me."*



New Zealand and Beyond Conference 2017



NZ & Beyond Auckland

Hosted by our home church, Church Unlimited, this multidenominational conference involving more than 50 churches, doubled in size this year in Auckland, and saw significant increase in Christchurch as well. 3000 people packed the ASB Trust stadium in west Auckland to hear speakers Tak Bhana, Wayne Cordeiro, Bayless Conley, and Graham Davison.

The presence of God was tangible and the love and honouring of Christians from different groups was very special. NZ and Beyond exists to help stimulate the mission to reach New Zealand and the nations with the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ. God is intent on

pouring out his Spirit to enable this, if we fulfil the conditions. See keynote message in the Perspectives section below.

2018 conferences will be held in **Christchurch (April 16-18)** and **Auckland (April 19-21)**. An exciting development will be **UK and Beyond in Birmingham, England (September 13-15, 2018)**. God is breathing on conferences presently, with many seeing dramatic increases in attendance. Spiritual hunger is increasing.

ITINERARY FOR APRIL-JULY

April 7-8: Kingdom Community Church, Singapore. Empowered for Greater Works seminar.

April 9: RiverLife Church, Singapore. Sunday morning services.

July 23: Equippers Church, Auckland. Sunday services.

July 24-25: Equippers Church, Auckland. Open Heaven Encounter nights.

July 30: Church Unlimited, Auckland; west and city campuses. Sunday services.

PERSPECTIVES

Back to the Upper Room

(Edited from Pastor Tak Bhana's recent message at NZ and Beyond)



The Upper Room

After his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, *"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."* (Luke 24:49) Many days later, on Pentecost Day, God poured the Holy Spirit out in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem where 120 of Jesus' disciples were gathered. Strangely, 500 saw Jesus after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:6) but only 120 were in the upper room.

Before the upper room, the disciples were fearful and ineffective. The coming of the Holy Spirit transformed those disciples into fearless proclaimers of the gospel. Today, we

may feel that the great commission to reach all nations is unobtainable. It looks and feels like pre-upper room. But the upper room gives us hope.

What was present in that upper room that brought heaven to earth?

Acts 1:8: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.”* This was Jesus’ last command to his disciples. Their response?

Acts 1:14: *“They all met together and were constantly united in prayer.”*

Jesus last command is our first responsibility. Pray and go. The go without the pray is ineffective. Every great gospel advance in history began in an upper room. E.g. Acts 13, the Moravians, John Wesley, Azusa St revival and so on. Prayer is an ancient well that the devil fears will be opened in our day.

The church in New Zealand is now re-digging the ancient well of fervent prayer. Today, we hear a lot about legacy and it is important. One of the greatest legacies we can pass to the next generation, however, is a passion and heart for prayer. The work of God can be the greatest enemy to the worship of God. GOD MADE THE UPPER ROOM THE CENTREPIECE OF THE EARLY CHURCH.

They were there with one accord. A few weeks before Jesus died they were arguing over who was the greatest. Praying together removes the competition. It increases

our love for other Christians. We need to recreate the soil of prayer and unity for God to move. Jesus’ prayer for unity in John 17 was his longest recorded prayer. This implies that it was dear to his heart and is probably the hardest to see happen.

‘One accord’ includes honouring one another. Satan uses divide and conquer. God uses unite and conquer. Locusts are normally solitary insects, but when they come together they become an unstoppable army. To reach the nations, it has to be the whole body or no body.

The greatest result of the upper room was that the Holy Spirit came. That encounter with him set them on fire and they changed the world.

Blessings,

David and Greta



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Contact details:

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