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June 2008 News

Back to back Schools!

Three Schools of Healing in the last month, together with numerous other ministry opportunities has meant little time for much else! But they have been good days. We can never complain of being too busy when about the Lord's work. It's a privilege to be the instrument of changed lives, wherever we are. And if we genuinely ARE too busy, then it is no longer the Lord's work!

These meetings have been characterised above all by a marked increase in the numbers of people receiving healing, whether physical or otherwise, and the range of sicknesses overcome by the power of the Name of Jesus has been too great to record. By God's grace we have seen deafness gone, eye problems disappear, demons cast out, aches and pains vanish, and crippled people 'jumping and leaping and praising God!' We've seen an elderly lady, used to walking in a half-crouch, 'stand up for the first time in years', according to her own testimony.

At Kawakawa Bay, a pretty 45 minute drive out of Auckland, the local Presbyterian church had gathered a good crowd for the first of these schools, and almost all the delegates received a physical healing of some kind ([see separate report](#)). It was heart-warming to see so many rejoicing in his touch. This may be a small village church, but they are growing and have great vision.

Later we visited Life City Church in North Auckland, where about 80 attended, and again many received healing. The most remarkable story though was of a lady who had not attended church for awhile, 'happened' to walk into a Christian bookshop, 'happened' to pick up one of the brochures, and came because 'she was made to feel welcome', which is a wonderful irony because I thought she was someone else! I love God's sense of humour! Meanwhile, Bron had been struggling with a migraine, but felt it was too stupid not to come to a healing meeting because she was too sick! She bravely made the attempt, and was rewarded by being instantly healed!

She then found herself speaking to the lady above, to discover that their mothers had been best friends! That night she recommitted her life to Jesus, was healed, set free

and two weeks later was baptised! Truly a God-engineered encounter!

Over 280 attended the most recent School, at our own LIFE church, and there was a great 'buzz' as people saw and experienced healing for the first time.

Deliverance!

This month we have also seen several people delivered from demons. This is something that I believe should be a consistent feature of any healing ministry, indeed of ANY Christian ministry. It is significant that in 25% of all the healing miracles that took place in the gospels, demons were involved. I know that this was a new thing then, and therefore would have been emphasized, but I believe it also shows us that deliverance should be a *normal part of*

every disciple's experience. Jesus did, after all, *command* his disciples to cast them out! I recently heard of a situation where several thousand people had been ministered to over several years, but only one person was reportedly delivered. Surely something's wrong there!

I am not saying there are demons under every bed, nor that we should hunt them out like game. But if we ARE genuinely ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit, then demons should find it hard to hide, and even harder to remain. If only 1% of sick people are demonised (and I would put the figure much higher), then in almost every altar call for healing we should expect to see someone set

free from demons! And they submit to us precisely and only because our names ARE written in the Lamb's book of life, for which we give God thanks and praise. That is why we have the authority to deliver people, and why we are neglecting our responsibilities if we don't!

We cannot always do it of course. If a person is not willing to be set free, we can do nothing. God does not work against our wills. And if a person is not willing to submit their lives to Christ, we would only leave the house 'swept clean and put in order', ripe for reinfestation, making their situation worse (Luke 11:25-26). Sadly Bron & I grieved over such a girl recently, unable to help her. But those we



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see set free are wonderfully changed and ever thankful. We praise God with them.

It has been a blessing to be part of a School of the Supernatural hosted by Elim church in Auckland. The main blessing for me has been ministering with other like-minded people from different churches around New Zealand. In recent months there has been an upsurge of interest in the supernatural, and I have been told that there are 'at least eight' similar Schools taking place independently of each other in Auckland alone! Such hunger is unprecedented, and we fully anticipate it to result in a flood of salvation, healing and deliverance.

'New' is the fingerprint of God (see added comment below)**

I cannot end without a brief comment on what the Lord is doing in Florida. While we personally haven't visited the latest 'outpouring', many friends have, including those whose judgement I trust completely. All have been blessed and re-fired! I say this because some question whether this move is of God, because, they say, some of the doctrine is unsound. It probably is.

I don't pretend that my own is perfect either! But speaking of false prophets, Jesus said, '*By their fruit you will recognize them*' (Matthew 16:20). Not by their appearance, title, money, humour, power, eloquence or even doctrine! So I ask, 'What is the fruit?' Are people being saved? Are the blind seeing? Are the broken-hearted finding healing? Are people being delivered of demons? (If so, it must be God, because a kingdom cannot be divided against itself). Are people falling in love with Jesus, and giving him the glory? Yes, there will be false prophets, and yes, there will be false miracles. But these will point AWAY from Jesus, not TOWARDS him.

John in his first epistle brings us back to the non-negotiables: '*Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also (1 John 2:22-23). *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God' (1 John 4:2). 'If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God' (1 John 4:15). Here is the bottom line. Jesus is the Christ, Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus has come in the flesh. That is why, when Peter declared to Jesus that '*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*' (Matthew 16:16), he was expressing these three irreducible truths that tell us what is of God, and what is not.**

Why, then, do we see things like feathers, gold-dust, jewels and oil in the hands, when they don't happen in Scripture? Why are people seeing angels, and 'being caught up to heaven' in ways that we don't read about? Listen! Scripture itself shows us unequivocally that

God is the God of the new thing. Consistently, God does things that have never happened before. That is one of the major lessons of Scripture. In fact, since the devil is a copier not a creator, it is the devil who cannot do new things! He only has his usual old tricks! [John 10:10 tells us that he comes ONLY to steal, kill and destroy, not to do new things]. Therefore new things must be from God. '*Behold, I make all things new!*' (Revelation 21:5) [The Greek word here means 'new', not 'renewed'!]. This phrase can mean not only that God makes new things, but also that all new things are made by God! Creation was new; the flood was new (and will never be repeated); healing was new; prophecy was new; deliverance was new; the Cross was new, and will not be repeated either; the church was new; the baptism in the Holy Spirit was new! We read about them as history, but when they first happened, they were brand new. When they first happened, they didn't exist 'in Scripture' either!

Every move of God has brought a new thing, but some were convinced that that was the only new thing! When the next new thing

came along, they resisted! If we want to keep up with the Spirit, we had better be ready to move! He is after all, the Wind.

We love you people, and thank you for your prayers.

Blessings

John & Bron

**** Since this was written, of course, the work of the enemy has been exposed, and very sadly much of what the Lord was doing too has ended. In the parable of the weeds (Mat 13), Jesus tells us clearly that the devil will sow weeds among the good seed. We should expect it!**

My remarks were in no way intended to endorse all that was happening in Florida (as some have inferred), nor to denounce them all (as others inferred!). Both viewpoints are inherently dangerous (see Mat 7:21-23 & 12:30-32).

My purpose was to encourage us to use our Biblical wisdom and spiritual discernment to determine what was of God, and what was not. I apologise if I did not make myself clear.