



March 2008 News

God, the author

Despite the summer being the holiday season here in New Zealand, the last few months have brought opportunities of many kinds, and we have been blessed to see God move.

I have had opportunity to pick up the work on the book on authority. Some people can do their research, complete the book structure, and then begin to write. I find I only get the ideas after I have started! I write myself into a corner and then see that either I must be wrong, or there is a God-solution! Then the revelation comes. It is heady stuff when it happens, and I am learning so much. Here is a sneak preview...

God not only gave man dominion [*radah*] over the earth, but also commanded them to 'subdue' it. This means that the purpose of our being given dominion is to enable the earth to fulfil its God-given potential.

Man's authority was therefore an essential and inextricable part of God's creation of the whole earth, i.e. an earth uncontrolled by man would not fulfil its God-intended destiny! It was given to him during, not after, creation, as part of God's work of the final day. And then *there was evening and there was morning – the sixth day* (Genesis 1:31). So man's dominion is an inherent part of the functioning of the created world. Without it, nature is incomplete.

This is quite a different picture from the one usually painted, that nature is perfect until man touches it and then it turns to custard. Why is it then that this custard scenario is so often the case? Why is it that we are cutting down our forests, plundering our resources, exterminating species, polluting our seas, eroding our soils and warming our globe? We are coming to that!

Perhaps the highlight of the summer was the visit of Reinhard Bonnke, here for just two days, but what days they were! I was blessed to be asked to be his driver, so got to spend more time with him than I otherwise would have. He just seems to grow in stature, in zeal, in vision and in grace. It is a privilege to know him, and impossible to spend any time at all with him without having your own zeal for the lost rekindled, which I know is entirely what he would have wanted!

Filling shoes

I have had several preaching engagements, including a School of Healing at a church camp in the north of the country, where a number assembled in holiday mood to enjoy a bit of beach, fishing, food and fellowship. But even though the atmosphere was relaxed, the folk sought the Lord, and he moved in healing. Quite a few found their healing, and one or two were delivered too, but there were many others who we longed to see set free from their

symptoms but we saw no immediate evidence of the healing that Jesus has already paid for. This is the continual frustration of the healing ministry, and something that we must all come to terms with. We have two possible reactions – to get depressed (and let's be honest, we all feel like that when nothing appears to happen), and decide that we are not being used by God. This in turn can lead to other wrong conclusions – it is our fault, it is their fault, it is God's fault. Because we don't understand, we wait until we 'feel' that a person is going to be healed before we begin. Already we are on the downward spiral of doubt, until we stop ministering to the sick altogether, comforting ourselves with the thought that we don't want to disappoint or hurt already hurting people.

Our other response is to press through our doubts, asking God to show us how we can improve, to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit, to increase our faith. Once when Reinhard Bonnke had prayed for a line of fifty blind people, just three of them were healed. Afterwards, someone asked him, 'What about the forty-seven?' His response was, 'What about the three?' This is not being unkind to the forty-seven. They could become envious, asking, 'why did God heal them and not me?' Or they could hold onto the hope held out to them that Jesus had just healed three blind people. So there is hope for me to be healed too! With this attitude, they will surely come forward next time someone calls for blind people to join a

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healing line! And guess what, some will be healed! I heard of one guy in a wheelchair who had been prayed for 180 times. On time number 181, he was fully and instantly healed! Then why were they not healed the first time? I DON'T KNOW! But we cannot stop ministering to the sick when nothing appears to happen! We MUST just press on, and trust in God.

I also had the scary privilege of a weekend's preaching in Brisbane. Scary, because I was to step into Bill Subritzky's shoes! Bill has been a lighthouse of healing and deliverance in New Zealand and internationally for decades, and is one of my great heroes! Sadly his wife is unwell at the moment, so he was unable to fulfil an engagement in Australia. The pastor of HistoryMaker church happened to be in Auckland, and happened to be talking to a pastor here who I had happened to meet the day before, well you get the picture... it was a God thing! I went in no little trepidation, as they were such big shoes. But of course, when God brings to the point of delivery, does he fail to bring to birth? Several gave their lives to Jesus at the packed men's breakfast. On Saturday evening double the number expected crammed into a small auditorium, and Jesus began to heal the sick!

I had asked for words of knowledge, and he instantly replied, 'back aches, head aches, ear aches.' I remonstrated, thinking that they were difficult things to demonstrate, when I felt strongly rebuked by the Holy Spirit! 'How dare you question what I want to do!' Oops. Sorry, Lord! So that is where we began, and immediately people with back and headaches were healed, including some long-term sufferers! A girl came who had fallen from a swing as a child, and her back had grown distorted, giving her continual back pain and frequent severe headaches. As we prayed she said she actually felt God pushing her vertebrae back into place. The next

morning she testified that her back was straight, and all her pain gone. God is good. [\[see her testimony 3 months later!\]](#)

By the Sunday morning service we still hadn't seen anyone healed of ear ache, so I asked if anyone had such pain. One lady came forward, saying that she had had a nervous condition for many years, giving her pain in the right side of her face, including her ear. As I prayed for her, the Holy Spirit touched her, and with a seraphic smile, she swooned into the arms of a waiting catcher! I asked her how she was feeling, and all she could produce was a long, languorous, 'LOOOOOOVVVVELLYYY!' But she also managed to confess that all her pain had gone! Later the Lord touched many more, including one older lady who received a complete 'makeover'!

At home work has progressed on the garage, and the long, dry summer has allowed us to complete the landscaping without a hitch. Bron is muscled and bronze from gardening. Now it's the inside, and soon we'll be in and finished. The upstairs is a delightful room with great views over the trees to the neighbouring hills. We still cannot get over what a wonderful place God has given us.

Now we have several Schools of Healing coming up, for which we really value your prayers. We so want to see breakthrough in the healing ministry, with more people healed. It grieves me that people still suffer, when they shouldn't need to! Lord, give us faith, compassion, and wisdom ...!