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RaphahNews

Breaking New Ground

Raphah Ministries In Taiwan



Pastor Charles Bivens of the Bread Of Life Christian Church International Fellowship, Kaohsiung commending Raphah Ministries to his congregation

In the two years plus since Raphah Ministries came into being, the Lord has been gradually testing and stretching the faith of the Leadership and challenging the Ministry to look beyond the Klang Valley.

In response to this, from July 2004, Raphah Ministries has been making regular visits to a local church in the East Coast state of Pahang to train and equip members to minister into the needs of the congregation.

An opportunity to break new ground further afield came about when Raphah Ministries received an invitation to send a team to Kaohsiung, Taiwan, to conduct a similar training programme.

At the invitation of Pastor Charles Bivens of the *Bread Of Life Christian Church International Fellowship, Kaohsiung*, a team of five members led by Rev. Vincent Lau, Coordinator for Training and Ministry, touched down at Kaohsiung International Airport on 18 August for ten days of teaching, training and personal ministry with the leaders and members of the Fellowship. Interestingly, this connection had come about courtesy of Kevin Lai, a Malaysian and friend of Raphah Ministries, who works in the city and attends the International Fellowship.

Over the ten days, except on their day off, the team members taught into

subjects of emotional and relational restoration; understanding godly sex and sexuality; keys to freedom and wholeness, as well as spiritual freedom and deliverance from demonic powers.

Besides the main training sessions, team members also had opportunities to minister and speak into the lives of individual church members at the Care Cells that they were invited to.

Even though the invitation had come from the English-speaking International Fellowship, the Chinese-speaking members of the mother church were not without blessing as well!

Early the very next morning after arriving in Kaohsiung, the Chinese-speaking members of the team were whisked off to minister to a group of ladies from a Chinese Care Cell.

God moved in a wonderful way to affirm the ladies in their desire for more of Him in their lives. And over the following days, as word got round of the ministry among the ladies, many more came forward with their needs for anointing, deep healing and restoration.

Despite the many exhausting hours put in by the Chinese-speaking team members, their ministry only met a tiny fraction of the many needs that surfaced among the believers. Nevertheless, to the glory of God, this ministry to the Chinese-speaking believers turned out to be a unique learning experience of God's goodness, greatness and faithfulness in a deep measure.

The ministry team was able to give perspective and purpose to their teaching when at the two Sunday evening worship services the Rev. Vincent Lau preached first on "*The Wounded Church*" and subsequently on "*One Man's Story: The Restoration Of Peter.*" Both services were well attended, and the atmosphere in the church by the end of the second Sunday was palpably one of a deeper hunger for victorious Christian living and holiness.

The people of Taiwan live their lives somewhat on edge: frequent typhoons and storms; extreme anxiety over the political future of the island; trusting in many gods, hard work and education to succeed.

Too many highly qualified professionals jostle for too few jobs while too little land for housing has

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TOUCHING HEARTS
REBUILDING LIVES

God Healed Me!

A Personal Testimony

In mid-October 2004, I was diagnosed with cysts and blood clots in my left ovary.

Upon examining me, a gynaecologist at a private hospital recommended immediate surgery within the next four days, citing concern for my well-being lest the cysts burst and damage my fallopian tube, womb, etc.

I was shocked when he gave me the fearful news, and in a daze I hurriedly consented to the surgery. I went home and shared this news with my family and friends who thereupon advised me to postpone the surgery and seek a second opinion. By that time, my mind had become clearer and I was more at peace and composed as I sought the Lord that night in the privacy of my room.

I recalled what I had learned in the *Deeper Life Seminars* and on the different *Raphah Ministries'* courses - never to allow Satan the right to have a hold over my life by reaffirming my status as a child of God; confessing and repenting of my sins and declaring the Lordship of Jesus in every area of my life.

My prayer that night was a strong declaration of my complete trust in Him and all that He had promised - a wholesome life that comes with His gift of salvation. I declared my belief that He could remove whatever growths, tumours, or blood clots within me, and I literally asked Him that night to do surgery on me while I slept. So, in faith, I laid hands on my abdomen and petitioned the Lord to remove the cysts and blood clots from my body. Immediately, I felt a warm touch of the Holy Spirit of God flowing through my hands onto my abdomen and down my legs.

Praise the Lord, the next morning, I felt much better and called the hospital to cancel the surgery. The gynae later called me and demanded to know why I had cancelled the surgery and whether I was aware of the serious risks to myself. The tone of his response took me by surprise, but I remained firm about not proceeding with surgery. Nevertheless, I decided to see a different gynae for a second opinion.

The night before I went for this second gynae's appointment, I again went before the Lord to pray and repent of any conscious sin and unforgiveness I might still have had within me. And as an act of my own free will, I chose to release those who had wronged me into the freedom of my forgiveness. Then once more I laid



A memorial to eternal love and sacrifice



Members of the Ministry Team to Taiwan in prayer at KLIA before departing for Kaohsiung.

hands on my abdomen and claimed complete healing, and a clean bill of health, from the Lord.

This time, the anointing of the Holy Spirit was tangible, real, strong and powerful - flowing through my hands, spreading to the lower parts of my body and down my legs. There and then I knew, and I knew and I knew, without a shadow of doubt that He had miraculously worked an act of healing in me; there was such deep peace within me. Words of Scripture kept repeating in my mind:

"As you have believed, let it be done for you"

- Matt. 8:13

I eagerly waited for the next morning to arrive so that the gynae could independently confirm what I had felt so powerfully in my own body.

True to His Word of assurance, I got a clean bill of health from the gynae who gave me such great comfort that it just seemed like God was speaking to me through her that everything was fine; my womb was healthy and well and showed no risk at all of any adverse activity. I was too dumbfounded for words and could only gasp with amazement at the marvelous work of salvation and healing He had done in me.

I received the final confirmation from the laboratory not long after - when the blood and urine tests confirmed that everything was normal. Faith, submission, obedience and trust in Him had indeed healed me!

All glory and thanks to God for all that He had done!

"Faith, submission, obedience and trust in Him had indeed healed me!"

Kristine

Participants at a Ministry Team Training Course conducted at a local church.



Emphasizing a point during a break at a Prayer Counselling Training Course held at Beit Raphah



Trainers, trainees and helpers at the completion of a Prayer Counselling Course at Beit Raphah.

Training

Part from promoting awareness of the healing ministry, training and equipping prayer counsellors for the local church has been a major thrust of the Ministry in 2005.

By the end of the year, teaching teams from Raphah Ministries would have completed training programmes with several churches in the Klang Valley and another in Pahang state. This is besides the three rounds of training conducted at Beit Raphah itself. To the glory of God, altogether not less than 220 people have had the opportunity to work through the material in our "Touching Hearts, Rebuilding Lives" Training Course.

One participant had the following to say, "The Course has revealed many areas of my life that were not previously known to me, and taught me even more things about myself and other people. It has helped me to relate, and have a better understanding of the situations that I'm going through, as well as that of other people."

Another participant found that she was now "more aware of the issues in life, and the roots behind them." The insights gleaned from the practical ministry also had the effect of challenging her to "correct my ways of counselling others, and to see them from a different, corrected perspective and understanding."

We are deeply thankful to God for these encouraging words, especially the knowledge that the Ministry is helping to make positive and strategic differences in peoples' lives.

Website

After a slow start, Raphah Ministries is happy to announce the launching of its ministry website. With immediate effect, friends and supporters of the Ministry can access the site at www.raphahministries.org.my for the latest news, dates, views and happenings at Raphah Ministries.

Our heartfelt thanks to those responsible for helping to get this website online.

Ministry Break

In keeping with past practice, Raphah Ministries will observe the month of December as a break from ministry events in order to allow for the Centre, ministry and administrative staff to review, renew and be refreshed for the new year.

Apologies

Due to various delays and other reasons issues of our newsletter, RaphahNews, were not produced in the second and third quarters of the year. Our sincere apologies to all regular readers, supporters and friends.

With this issue we trust that you will be brought up to date concerning the activities and happenings with the Ministry.

Condolences

Our deepest condolences to the Chairman of our Board, Mdm. Linda Tang, on the passing of her beloved sister, Lilian Lee, on Sunday, 9 October after a length of illness.

Lilian was both a friend and strong supporter of Raphah Ministries, especially in its early days, and took an active part in its activities and events. She was a joy and encouragement to all who were blessed to know her.

Raphah Ministries in Taiwan *from page 1*



seen buildings mushrooming upwards with little or no open ground space, becoming almost a concrete jungle.

Our hearts go out to the believers in Taiwan as they seek to be strong and free from spiritual and emotional bondages; as they reach out to grow in the Lord and be light in the midst of darkness, in a concerted effort to bring hope to a people living and labouring under such trying times. Raphah Ministries is greatly blessed to have been a small part of this effort.

The team's mission to Kaohsiung, Taiwan, was a success beyond expectation because the members were united and together in heart, mind and ministry; upholding one another in prayer, and offering mutual support and encouragement at all times. Weeks before the event, the team had begun meeting for times of prayer and spiritual preparation, joined in the task in different places by those who had been "recruited" as prayer partners for the mission. To them also belongs the blessings of this mission. Together they had sought the Lord on this matter, and the Lord answered powerfully and sovereignly.

All glory and praise to His mighty Name!



Postscript

Members of the ministry team to Kaohsiung, Taiwan, had the opportunity to renew fellowship and return hospitality to their hosts when Pastor Charles Bivens and family visited Malaysia recently on vacation.

The Bivens family is exploring the possibility of relocating to Malaysia sometime in the near future so that Pastor Charles may pursue further theological studies at a local Bible School in the Klang Valley.



Coming Up

A Celebration Of Thanks

In thanksgiving to God for yet another year of ministry: for faithful provision, blessing and fruitfulness in touching hearts and rebuilding lives, Raphah Ministries would be hosting "A Celebration Of Thanks" for friends and supporters of the Ministry on Sunday, 11 December, 2005 from 6.30 p.m. at its ministry centre, *Beit Raphah*, 35 Jalan SS 2/2, 47300 Petaling Jaya.

The programme for the evening will feature thanksgiving, reports and testimonies from the year's activities and events, as well as highlights from its ministry mission to Kaohsiung, Taiwan. As it would be close to Christmas Day, the evening's programme would incorporate an early celebration of the birth of Christ, and will be preceded by a buffet dinner.

Please note that places at the function are limited and admission will be by invitation.

Partnering Raphah Ministries

Raphah Ministries is a non-denominational Christian healing and discipleship ministry based in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. If you wish to know more about its origins, ministry, events, activities and programmes, or to invite a Raphah Ministries team to your fellowship, please contact the Ministry Office at the address and numbers given on the left.

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