

news
PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

Raphah



The Best of Times, The Worst of Times

Towards the end of the millennium 2000 CE, when invited to offer his assessment of the 20th Century, Oxford historian, Felipe-Fernandez Armesto offered this insight:

“It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. The 20th Century produced more creativity, more effort, more technical resourcefulness, more planning, more freedom, more power for good than ever before in human history. .

It was also the century of the most destructive wars, the most inhuman massacres, the most barbarous tyrannies, the worst extremes of wealth and poverty; the foulest environmental degradation, the most trash, the cruelest disillusionment. It promised so much and betrayed so many.

The big mystery of the 20th Century is: how did progress fail?”

The Bible tells us, that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but everlasting life. ... But men loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:16,17 NKJV). 🙏

Deeper Into The Heart Of The Broken Child

14 years ago, a young lady walked through the wooden side gate of *Beit Raphah*—House of Healing—Raphah Ministries’ very first training and ministry Centre in SS2, PJ. Her intention was only to seek help to restore her broken marriage, but God had a bigger agenda: her spiritual and emotional breakthrough!

“To many people I appeared as a fine person: confident, intelligent, happy, etc. However, all this was just a front; a front to hide the real person within because from a very young age I had struggled with persistent negative emotions. I often felt broken, rejected, depressed, worthless and fearful. I also struggled with feelings of low self-esteem, helplessness and hopelessness—all because I was an adopted child.

I must admit that I was initially skeptical and doubtful whether this ministry would be able to help, having tried over so many years and through many ways to be set free, only to no avail. I questioned how by just praying over me and my situation I would find my release. I had prayed many times, too, but nothing much happened. Nevertheless, because of my desperate need I was prepared to give it a try.

Over a period of seven months I received prayer ministry into the different areas

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which needed healing and deliverance. Amazingly, after each session, I felt a substantial measure of relief from the burdens I had been carrying. Since that time I have also become truly more confident, having been set free from the negative beliefs about myself that had held me captive for so many years."

Raphah Ministries has come a long way since those early days. In that time God has taught us that healing deep wounds and deep hurts involve more than just praying over a person and his situation and they would find release.

It also involves correct diagnosis of the person's presenting symptoms, accurate identification of roots or root causes of issues, and application of appropriate spiritual truths and principles to set people free.



All of which God has been teaching us, no less by the leading of the Holy Spirit and by experience in the counselling rooms.

But God is far from finished with instructing us. On the contrary, He is taking us deeper and deeper into the waters of His healing streams.

In our quest to provide a thorough and lasting healing ministry to people in need, God is prompting us to pay greater attention to a person's events in childhood, especially the impact of trauma in childhood.

Interestingly, findings from recent medical studies are confirming that *Adverse*

Childhood Experiences (ACEs), e.g. physical, emotional or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect; parental mental illness; substance dependence; parental separation or divorce or domestic violence, all have an impact on a growing child.

In fact it has been pointed out that childhood trauma affects a person's health across a lifetime!

On a score of 1 to 10: persons with a score of 4 or more are 2½ times more at risk of heart disease; 2½ times more at risk of hepatitis; 4½ times more at risk of depression, and 12 times more at risk of suicide. And a score of 7 or more can potentially shorten life by up to 20 years!

This data confirms that something happens deep in the spirit, soul and body of a person when subjected to repeated trauma in childhood; potentially triggering healing crises later in the adult.

When these traumas are resolved, healing and release inevitably follows.

We praise God that He is giving us a greater reason to believe for the wholesome and effective healing of those who come seeking for help.

He is drawing us deeper into understanding the process of healing, especially the healing of the heart of pain, the pain of a broken childhood.

All this would not be possible apart from the encouragement, prayers, support and contributions of those who have stood with us in our mission to heal hearts and rebuild lives! Grateful thanks! 🍀



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Following the practice of immediate past years, the 2018 edition of Raphah Ministries' flagship training course, the *Modular Raphah School of Prayer Counselling and Healing Ministry*, was held at Raphah Centre PJ. The choice of PJ Centre as the venue was deliberate as it meant the cost of attending the School could be substantially reduced for participants.

As it turned out, Module 1 took on an "international" flavour with the welcome presence of several participants from overseas: *Cambodia* (2), *Thailand* (2) and the *Philippines* (5).

But the 'star' of the student body had to be LINDA CHONG, of Raphah Centre Ipoh, who demonstrated outstanding commitment and intentionality through her DAILY COMMUTE by train from Ipoh to PJ to attend the School; a round-trip of some 5 hours each day! Thank you, Linda, for your awesome and inspiring example!

2018 School of Prayer Counselling & Healing Ministry

Module 1, *Understanding the Issues and Root Causes*, from 11-15 June 2018, was attended by some 50 participants comprising new students as well as School alumni returning for a refresher.

Module 2, *Prayer Counselling Principles, Skills and Tools*, from 20-24 August 2018, was a smaller student body of some 30 participants, as the break between Modules made it too prohibitive for overseas students to return to complete the School.

In view of the possibility of welcoming overseas participants again to the 2019 School, the decision has been made to run Modules 1 and 2 back-to-back in June 2019, with a repeat of Module 2 in August 2019 to accommodate continuing students who cannot afford to be away from their work or other commitments for a continuous stretch of two weeks. 🙏

Not How Many But WHO

Raphah's leaders, teachers, trainers and prayer counsellors are often reminded that the ministry is never about people numbers; rather it is about WHO is potentially touched or influenced.

One participant who attended a recent Modular School bears testimony to this reminder:

"I studied psychology in a Christian college. I was so interested in it but unfortunately most of our lessons never really touched on the Christian way of relating to or handling issues. Though many of my professors were Christians, they had difficulty holding it together (science and the Word of God). Thus I was never really satisfied with all the answers I got or learned. I am very blessed that in this School the teachers have managed to integrate both science and the Word of God fantastically! God bless Raphah Ministries!"

Praise God indeed for this affirmation of Raphah's uncompromising commitment to biblical truth and to a wholistic biblical world-view. 🙏



Touching the Heavens, Changing the Earth

At Raphah Ministries, we believe that when we intentionally pray and intercede, we move the hands of God.

In fact, Raphah Ministries was birthed as an ongoing ministry following 9 years of monthly prayer gatherings. Today, that legacy continues as leaders and associates gather regularly to seek the Lord for guidance, direction and favour.

With a view to encouraging more people to pray, and to raise the level of prayer support for the ministry, the once-month-

ly *Overnight Prayer* (10.00pm-6.00am the following morning) at PJ Centre was moved to a once-monthly Saturday morning slot (8.00am-12.00noon) effective the beginning of the year.

Besides rescheduling the prayer gatherings, leaders and associates were also encouraged to read blocks of Scripture each time they met for prayer, in keeping with the *Rule of Life* adopted by Raphah Ministries.

To this end, the whole book of Genesis and the whole book of Revelation have both been read through completely, blocks of chapters at a time.

Among those who participated in the public reading of the Scriptures, many have testified to being deeply refreshed, moved and inspired as a result of both reading and hearing the Word of Scripture!



Raphah also gives out a simple monthly *Prayer Update* to invite prayer support for its various activities and programmes in the different months of the year. 🙏



Asian Religious Beliefs and Practices: Blessing or Bane?

In July 2018, Raphah Centre PJ was invited by the Equip School of Ministry (ESOM) of Glad Tidings Assembly of God, Petaling Jaya, to teach over 4 nights on the topic “*Asian Religious Beliefs and Practices: Blessing or Bane?*” under their SEEDING programme.

Pastor Vincent and PJ Centre Coordinator, Timothy Chui, undertook the teaching, accompanied and supported by several of the associates from PJ Centre.

The teaching was well received by those who came, with attendance over the 4 nights swelling to a peak of some 500 in one session.

Raphah Ministries is thankful to be given the audience and the opportunity to share its perspective on the subject, as seen and understood from the revealed Word of God.

One participant wrote in response:

“Over the years I’ve come to realize that culture played a major role in shaping my thoughts and decision-making...At the Raphah seminar I came to understand why my pre-Christian world-view contrasted so sharply with the Word of God.

The seminar exposed how the enemy had successfully masked his fiery darts and desensitized me to glaring contrasts between present realities and the Word of God! I’m so blessed to have had my spiritual senses and eyes opened!” 🙏



The Philippines Connection

In May 2018, Raphah Malaysia partnered Raphah Life Rebuilders Philippines in conducting 2 key seminars for believers in Iloilo City—*Embracing Your Identity in Christ* and *Reclaiming Families and Generations*. The latter seminar was then repeated for the staff and faculty of the Central Philippines University in Iloilo. Then in October 2018 Raphah Malaysia was again in Iloilo to teach and minister at the 10-day *Raphah Modular School of Prayer Counselling and Healing Ministry*.

Reporting on the latter event, Pastor Reynaldo Del Rosario, Ministry Director with Raphah Philippines wrote,

“We give THANKS to God for how He brought the School into being. He brought the teachers, the students, pastors, lay leaders and the young at heart; very hungry, very open; ready to receive His revelation of what the Jesus Christ model of prayer counselling and inner healing was all about.”

“A very INSPIRING experience seeing participants Holy Spirit anointed and baptized; students receiving insight and understanding into the roots of issues in their lives, and the HOPE to be found in Christ for their resolution.”

“We CELEBRATE with the students their testimonies of restored relationships and marriages; spiritual blinders and hindrances removed; Holy Spirit empowerment

received for ministry, and the realignment of all to God’s mandate of Preaching, Healing and Deliverance in God’s Kingdom!”

A younger participant testified, *“A great learning experience, not overwhelming for a youth like me....Raphah’s teaching gave me HOPE and really touched my heart.”*

Our grateful thanks in God to all team members, intercessors, supporters and donors who contributed selflessly to make this Philippines Connection of life-change an inspiring reality! 🙏



Happenings Ipoh Centre

Besides being a venue for the hosting of healing seminars and the training of its prayer counsellors, Raphah Centre Ipoh continued to provide through its monthly “Coffee Corner,” a safe place for people to come to fellowship and, at the same time, learn truths about “*healing hearts and rebuilding lives,*” albeit in smaller doses!

Apart from these events, other regular activities through the year, like *Spiritual Retreats* and *Morning Prayer Watches* — which form the spiritual lifeline and backbone of the ministry—brought together leaders and associates to seek God, to encourage one another, and to pray for the ongoing work of the ministry.

Two recent testimonies bear witness to the difference the ministry of Raphah Centre Ipoh have been making in believers’ lives:

“Raphah’s teaching showed me that fear, worry, anxiety, self-hatred, unforgiveness, toxic thinking and feelings are poisonous to my body. Like garbage they needed to be burnt!”



“I was also made aware of the ‘iceberg’ in my life: the unresolved issues deep within me that are the real causes of surface problems and relationship conflicts. These bad roots need to be removed before the good fruits can be produced.”

“I am being transformed by the Holy Spirit, to enable me to enjoy fruitfulness and wholeness in the Lord.”

CBD

“After attending Raphah’s seminars, I realized that my life was a mess. There was so much ‘rubbish’ in me! I also learned that I had many wrong perceptions about myself.



I needed to unlearn and relearn so many things in order for God to do a deeper work in me. As I allowed God to do so, I am beginning to see His hands doing a great work of restoring and rebuilding my life.

The healing process, I am learning, is much faster when I obey Him and let Him take control of my life.”

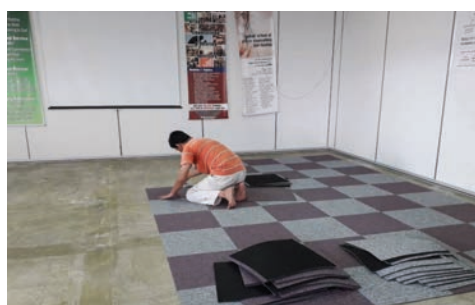
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Praise God for these testimonies of healing, restoration and rebuilding of lives.



The Centre also recently embarked on a project to re-carpet the floor (first carpeted 10 years ago!), as well as to install new plumbing, double sink, and a more reliable water supply to the kitchen.

On behalf of the ministry, our appreciation and grateful thanks to all who contributed towards the cost of the project. 🙏



A Decade of God’s Faithfulness

The end of 2018 also marks the end of the first decade of healing ministry at Raphah Centre Ipoh.

Many people have come and gone, but God’s faithfulness to the ministry and its team of leaders and associates has remained steadfast. In the words of the classic hymn:

*“Yesterday, today, forever,
Jesus is the same;
All may change but Jesus never,
Glory to His Name!”*

As the work advances into its second decade beginning 2019, the ministry is prayerfully and diligently seeking God for spiritual refreshing, divine guidance and clear direction in providing a biblical teaching and prayer counselling ministry that will make a lasting difference in those seeking healing and restoration to wholeness for their broken hearts and damaged lives.

Raphah Centre Ipoh kicked off its activities for 2018 with:

- A “Roadshow” at New Life Lutheran Church, Ipoh
- 2 seminars at Christian Life Centre, Sitiawan
- A seminar at Life Church, Kampar

For 2019, Raphah Centre Ipoh would be looking forward to partnering with Wesley Methodist School, Ipoh, to heal hearts and rebuild lives. Glory to God! 🙏

Hate Broke My Heart!

A Testimony

2014 was a turning-point in my life, when God intervened, healed, restored, and delivered me from a deep disillusionment with and hatred towards my fellow believers.

My problem, I came to learn, was rooted in the brokenness and pain suffered during my childhood and growing years. Cared for by an aunt who tried her best to nurture me, I ached for the love of my largely absent parents.

As a young adult, due to financial difficulties at home, I was forced to leave family and friends to briefly work overseas as a foreign worker. Returning after 2 years, I found work in a company where I met the man who would eventually become my husband.

The first five years of our marriage soon degenerated into a “fight-full” nightmare, and my “Mr. Dream Boy” song changed to the cry, “Please Release Me, Let Me Go!”

Despite the relentless pressure to leave my husband, I hung on; all the while crying and praying that God would save our marriage. One day my husband told me that if I ever found him changing for the better, it would not be because of me, but because of my God.

God heard my prayers; my husband met God, believed in Him and was genuinely born again! Not only did he attend church with me, he also began to woo me all over again! Even so, the quarrels and arguments never completely went away.

My husband took a position as an assistant pastor in a local church, which only made things worse as I couldn’t find anyone to confide my unresolved personal and spiritual conflicts and issues in.



Not long after, these unresolved hurts and pains soured my relationships with the leaders and members, eventually forcing us to leave and move out of the church altogether.

God led us to another church ministry and everything was good, but only briefly, as the “good” slowly became “fine” (feelings inside never expressed).

I would soon learn the full force of the painful truth that hurting people hurt people.

Before long, some “brethren in Christ” began to openly attack and oppose my husband who—despite his shortcomings—had been a faithful worker. As his spouse, I was deeply affected. The breaking point came, when no longer able to suffer the rejection, abuse and hurts, I exploded!

I refused to associate with the Christians in the church any further. I even hated them! They were worse than the people they called unbelievers! I was broken in spirit and soul!



“I refused to associate with the Christians in the church any further. I even hated them! They were worse than the people they called unbelievers!”

Shortly after, the anguish of my soul led to a string of sicknesses in my body. I could not sleep; I couldn’t stop crying, and I had great difficulty swallowing.

Dismissed from the church; confused and troubled in mind; broken in heart, and downcast in spirit, my husband and I flew to Malaysia to attend the 2-week 2014 *Raphah International School of Prayer Counselling and Healing Ministry*. It would prove to be God’s turning-point for me!

As I sat in class at the School, I found my-



self excitedly declaring: this is it! This is what I desperately needed: the healing of my broken-heart! I signed up to see a *Raphah* prayer counsellor over my issues.

Thus God began a deep healing and liberating work in me, as layer after layer of suppressed emotion and pain were peeled back to unlock the trauma of deep hurts and wounding within.

With tears freely falling and guided by the prayer counsellor, I broke loose from ev-

ery clinging bitterness, hatred, disappointment, ungodly thought and feeling towards myself and towards others. I emptied the garbage in my heart as I made Port Dickson a dump site for my sick emotions!

It was God’s sovereign will to use the 2014 *Raphah School* to heal and restore me to the wholeness of my identity and destiny in Him.

I departed Malaysia for home, to my family and to my church; healed, refreshed and resolved to love the Christians again as God in Christ had loved me. To Him be all praise and glory! Amen! 🙏

Note: JDR is now actively involved in the leadership of a Christian healing and discipleship ministry in her home country.

Calendar 2019

PJ CENTRE

January

05 Sat CTT / PSG
 19 Sat **Understanding & Overcoming Rejection Seminar**
 Morning Watch

February

02 Sat CTT / PSG
 23 Sat Morning Watch

March

02 Sat CTT / PSG
 16 Sat **Making Sense of Your Emotions Seminar**
 Morning Watch

April

06 Sat CTT / PSG
 20 Sat **Embracing the Father-Heart of God Seminar**
 Morning Watch

May

04 Sat CTT / PSG
 11 Sat **Freedom From Addiction Seminar**

15-26 Wed-Sun

Teaching Mission PH
 Morning Watch

June

01 Sat CTT / PSG
 03-07 Mon-Fri **Module 1: School of Prayer Counselling**

10-14 Mon-Fri

Module 2: School of Prayer Counselling
 Morning Watch
 22 Sat Morning Watch
 29 Sat **Healing from Childhood Trauma Seminar**

July

06 Sat CTT / PSG
 20 Sat **Healing the Troubled Mind Seminar**
 Morning Watch

August

03 Sat CTT / PSG
 12-16 Mon-Fri **Module 2: School of Prayer Counselling (Repeat)**
Chinese Beliefs & Practices Seminar
 Morning Watch

September

07 Sat CTT / PSG
 21 Sat **Reclaiming Families & Generations Seminar**

22-25 Sun-Wed

Council-Management Teams Retreat & Planning Meeting
 Morning Watch

October

05 Sat CTT / PSG
 19 Sat Morning Watch
 26 Sat **Out of the Black Hole of Depression Seminar**

November

02 Sat CTT / PSG
 16 Sat **Born This Way Seminar**
 Morning Watch

December

01 Sun 17th Evening of Celebration & Thanksgiving

IPOH CENTRE

January

02 Wed Coffee Corner
 11 Fri CTT / PSG
 12 Sat **Embracing Your Identity & Destiny Seminar**
 Morning Watch #1

February

15 Fri CTT / PSG

March

06 Wed Coffee Corner
 08 Fri CTT / PSG
 09 Sat **Healing the Troubled Mind Seminar**

April

03 Wed Coffee Corner
 12 Fri CTT / PSG
 13 Sat **Making Sense of Your Emotions Seminar**

May

01 Wed Coffee Corner
 10 Fri CTT / PSG
 11 Sat **Understanding & Overcoming Rejection Seminar**
 Morning Watch #2

June

05 Wed Coffee Corner
 21 Fri CTT / PSG
 22 Sat **Healing from Childhood Trauma Seminar**

July

03 Wed Coffee Corner
 12 Fri CTT / PSG
 13 Sat **Chinese Beliefs & Practices Seminar**

Aug

07 Wed Coffee Corner
 09 Fri CTT / PSG
 10 Sat **Rightly Handling Loss & Grief Seminar**

September

04 Wed Coffee Corner
 13 Fri CTT / PSG
 14 Sat **Unveiling Truth, Exposing Deception Seminar**
 22-25 Sun-Wed **Council-Management Teams Retreat & Planning Meeting**

October

02 Wed Coffee Corner
 11 Fri CTT / PSG
 12 Sat **Out of the Black Hole of Depression Seminar**
 Morning Watch #3

November

06 Wed Coffee Corner
 08 Fri CTT / PSG
 09 Sat **Cultivating an Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Seminar**

December

08 Sun 11th Evening of Celebration & Thanksgiving

- CTT Counselling Team Training
- PSG Prayer Support Group

RAPHAH BERHAD

ORGANIZATION INFO

RAPHAH MINISTRIES is registered in Malaysia as **Raphah Berhad** (949004-X) a Company limited by Guarantee.

Churches, Associates, Friends and Others who wish to support the work of Raphah Ministries through donations or partnership gifts can make out their gifts to:

PJ Centre

Raphah Berhad
 Public Bank Berhad: 317-111-2727

Ipoh Centre

Raphah Berhad
 Public Bank Berhad: 317-148-2428

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- Rev. Vincent LAU
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- Ms. Mae LEE
- Ms. Katryn TAN

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- Mr. Timothy CHUI
- Dr. CHEAH Siew Cheong
- Mr. David ENG
- Mrs. Lydia ENG
- Ms. LEONG May Chan
- Ms. LIM Pin Sim
- Ms. Lydia TAN Bee Eng

IPOH CENTRE MANAGEMENT

- Mdm. CHEAH Chim Wah
- Ms. Linda CHONG
- Ms. Poh Sun LEE (*Management Intern*)
- Mrs. LAI Oi Lan
- Mr. LIM Soon Joo
- Ms. Michelle NEOH