

Truth and Power

# THE HEART OF THE MATTER



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When believers find themselves mired in major problems and difficulties in daily life, they not only need counselling and prayer, they also need to understand how they had arrived at their particular predicament in the first place, and the way to their healing and restoration to wholeness.

In many instances, instead of taking responsibility for what may have been their own doing, people battling problems are

quick to declare their problems to be caused by others, and themselves the victims of such people's mischief or malice. Sadly, many believers adopt such a stance!

The Bible tells us that it is God's will for us to have life and life more abundantly (John 10:10). Yet many believers, supposedly walking in the full counsel of God, and led by the Spirit, still struggle with:

- resentment, bitterness and unforgiveness instead of love;
- fear, restlessness and depression instead of joy;
- insecurity, internal conflicts of envy, lust, rejection and pride instead of peace;
- outbursts of anger and impatience instead of long suffering;
- hardness, abrasiveness and discourteousness instead of gentleness;
- reveling in criticisms and contention instead of meekness;
- selfishness, self-centredness and covetousness instead of goodness and generosity;
- lust for power through the occult, influential people and flattery instead of faith in God;
- imbalance in life –in use of time, energy and resources instead of temperance.

What could have caused these problems in the first place? And how could they have continued to remain to trouble these believers?

The Bible offers an **insight** into this matter through

the word of James 4:1-3 where he writes, "you lust and do not have, you murder and covet and cannot obtain, you fight and war, yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasure or your own gratification."

Without mincing his words, James tells it like it is: we are often in human and spiritual conflict largely because we are driven by the carnal lusts and covetousness of our hearts.

We need to realise that on receiving the Lord into our lives, our innate and desperately wicked hearts' desires (Jeremiah 17:19) do not automatically go away! It is this law of sin that causes problems to surface and manifest in our lives.

People struggling to overcome in their discipleship need to recognize that in many cases, the root of their continuing problems is not found in others, but in their own sinful hearts and their responses. That is why God spoke through Jeremiah 1:10 that before there can be a new work done—a new planting of the Lord—there first must be a rooting out, a pulling up, a destroying and a throwing down of the old and sinful.

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PJ Centre



Ipoh Centre

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Training & Equipping:

## The Walls Come Down!

It was a choice between aesthetics and privacy, and practical functionality. In the end, practical functionality won as the walls of partition and division came down at the Raphah Centre Ipoh!

After just six months into the work, the overwhelming number of participants at each seminar compelled the leadership team to remove the partition separating seminar room from the office, resulting in a much larger space for seminar seating and facilities for a resource library and book table. Praise God for the faith vision of the leadership team!

Praise God also for the many gifts of support that have come in for the outfitting of the Centre, the latest being the donation of new floor carpeting for the entire Centre, and funds for a day-bed in the counselling room.

With support from the believers in the Kinta Valley, it is the unanimous desire and prayer of the leadership team that the Centre would become a fountain of blessing from which will flow God's healing for the many spiritual, mental and emotional needs among His people in Ipoh City and beyond!

God is indeed most wonderful! 🙏



Top: Resource Library & Book Table  
Bottom: New & Enlarged Seminar Room

## Dedication of Ipoh Centre

A Celebration and Thanksgiving event will be held at the Ipoh Centre on **Saturday, 25 July 2009** at 5.00 pm to commemorate the dedication and consecration of the Centre.

Apart from the act of dedication and consecration, the evening's programme will include an account of the beginnings of the Ipoh ministry, testimonies from the leadership team and supporters, as well as a fellowship and thanksgiving dinner at a nearby venue. 🙏

## Meet the IPOH Leadership

- Mary *Training & Ministry*
- Siow Chooi *Networking & Publicity*
- Oi Lan *Prayer Support*
- Jennifer *Admin & Finance*
- Chim Wah *Hospitality & Facilities*
- Michelle *Personal Ministry Appointments/  
Resource & Library*
- Ps. JayZee *Team & Ministry Oversight*
- Ps. Vincent *Team & Ministry Oversight*

Praise God for raising up a Leadership Team that beats with one heart and vision for God, and always "serves" with a smile! 🙏



View of Registration & Reception Area



L-R: Pastor JayZee, Chim Wah, Jennifer, Mary, Michelle, Siow Chooi.  
Not in Picture: Oi Lan, Pastor Vincent

Partnering Churches:

## Team Retreat 2009

**B**uilt right smack in the middle of an oil palm estate, Harvest Haven in Gopeng, Perak, proved unexpectedly to be an ideal venue for Raphah Ministries' Team Retreat 2009 from 2-4 April. Bringing together members from both PJ and Ipoh Centres, this particular Annual Retreat is remembered with much fondness.

From start to end, the entire Retreat was bathed in a wonderfully warm, relaxed, atmosphere where people, conversation, fellowship, snacks and tid-bits moved freely from table to table, and where the dining hall became the focal point of animated discussions from food to fashion, business to politics, and from random life issues to the finer points of lay theology! It could only get better, and it did!

Beginning with the first notes of praise and worship, to the reaffirmation of the vision that birthed Raphah Ministries, to the moving personal testimonies, to the celebration of Holy Communion, and the final exhortation on the last day, many would agree that this was a God-anointed Team Retreat like none before.



*Giving the Joints some Exercise!*



*Lifting Praise & Worship to the Almighty*



*Outside the Main Building, Harvest Haven*

In the words of one person after the Retreat, "I am so privileged to be a part of Raphah Ministries!" Praise be to God!

## Welcome on Board!

Raphah Ministries' PJ Centre with gladness and thanksgiving to God welcomes on board:

- **Pastor Peter Wong**—formerly pastor of SGC Life Sanctuary in Damansara Intan, PJ—who comes out of "re-tyrement" to join the work as a half-time staff member with effect from May 2009.
- **Wang Hwa**—as administrative assistant beginning January 2009. She brings with her many years of experience in administration and management in the retail sector.
- **Boon Leong**—who will be complementing the teaching team. He will also assist in the development and implementation of the Chinese language work in Raphah Ministries.

May they find much joy and fulfilment in the work of touching hearts and rebuilding lives! 🙏

*...from page 1 The Heart of the Matter*

Healing, deliverance from problems and internal conflicts, and restoration to wholeness will come when there is genuine confession of sin, repentance, and renunciation of sin and sinful practices. Merely reciting Scripture verses, praying soothing and comforting prayers, giving hugs and pats on the back, will not suffice to deliver people from their problems and difficulties.

At the end of the day, the heart of the matter is a matter of the human heart. 🙏





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## PJ CENTRE

- 04 (Sat) The Father-Heart of God Seminar  
 06 (Mon) Beit Raphah Open Day for Pastors  
 13 (Mon) Healing Service #72  
 27 Jul-1 Aug (Mon-Sat) "Understanding Christian Healing: The Issues" Training Course #16  
 27 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

## IPOH CENTRE

- 18 (Sat) Defeating Anxieties, Fears & Phobias Seminar  
 21 (Tue) Leadership Meeting  
 25 (Sat) Combined Leadership Mid-Year Review  
 Dedication of Raphah Centre Ipoh  
 27 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

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## PJ CENTRE

- 08 (Sat) Defeating Anxieties, Fears & Phobias Seminar  
 10 (Mon) Healing Service #73  
 22 (Sat) The Father-Heart of God Seminar (Chinese)  
 24 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

## IPOH CENTRE

- 15 (Sat) Making Sense of Your Emotions Seminar  
 18 (Tue) Leadership Meeting  
 24 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

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## PJ CENTRE

- 05 (Sat) Control, Domination & Manipulation Seminar  
 07 (Mon) Leadership Meeting  
 14 (Mon) Healing Service #74  
 19 (Sat) The Power of Forgiveness Seminar (Chinese)  
 21-24 (Mon-Thu) Prayer Counselling Ministry Skills Training Course #16  
 26 (Sat) Ministry Team Building Day #10  
 28 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

## IPOH CENTRE

- 15 (Tue) Leadership Meeting  
 19 (Sat) Embracing Your Identity & Destiny Seminar  
 28 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

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## PJ CENTRE

- 03 (Sat) Healing Families & Generations Seminar  
 05 (Mon) Leadership Meeting  
 10 (Sat) What Is Christian Healing? Seminar (Chinese)  
 12 (Mon) Healing Service #75  
 24 (Sat) Understanding & Overcoming Homosexuality Seminar  
 26 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

## IPOH CENTRE

- 13 (Tue) Leadership Meeting  
 17 (Sat) The Father-Heart of God Seminar  
 26 (Mon) Prayer Support Group  
 31 (Sat) Ipoh Leadership Planning Retreat

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## PJ CENTRE

- 01-03 (Sun-Tue) PJ Leadership Planning Retreat  
 07 (Sat) Understanding & Overcoming Rejection Seminar  
 09 (Mon) Healing Service #76  
 21 (Sat) Reclaiming the Ground Seminar  
 27 (Sat) Overcoming Addictions Seminar  
 30 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

## IPOH CENTRE

- 03 (Tue) Leadership Meeting  
 16-21 (Mon-Sat) "Understanding Christian Healing: The Issues" Training Course #1  
 30 (Mon) Prayer Support Group

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## PJ CENTRE

- 07 (Sat) 7th Celebration of Thanksgiving Evening

## IPOH CENTRE

- 12 (Sat) 1st Celebration of Thanksgiving Evening

\* Prayer Support Group Meetings in PJ are held at Raphah Centre, PJ

\*\* Prayer Meetings in Ipoh are held at Raphah Centre Ipoh

For the latest information of events in Petaling Jaya or in Ipoh, kindly contact Raphah Ministries Office at 03-78770035, or email to [raphah@streamyx.com](mailto:raphah@streamyx.com).

Please note that the Ministry Office is closed on Sundays and Mondays.



**Raphah Ministries Malaysia** is a non-denominational Christian healing and discipleship ministry with a vision to touch hurting and wounded believers with the Father-Heart and love of God, and to rebuild such broken lives with healing and restoration to wholeness through the Word of God, biblical counsel and Spirit-enabled prayer.

The ministry is actively committed to the dual tasks of promoting awareness of the validity and necessity of Christian healing in discipleship, and teaching, training and equipping of individuals and church-based ministry teams to serve the healing needs of congregations. The ministry is served by teams of volunteers and a leadership comprising members from different congregations.

Raphah Ministries is a current member of the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF), and has training and ministry centres in Petaling Jaya in Selangor, and Ipoh in Perak.

**Note:** All payments and donations are to be made to **Life Builders (M) Sdn Bhd**. Official receipts will be issued in acknowledgement.

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