

Team Retreat 2008

A VISION REVISITED



Peacehaven, Genting Highlands, venue of Team Retreat 2008

Stepping into Peacehaven, Genting Highlands, the morning of Thursday, 20 March for Raphah Ministries' inaugural Team Retreat, brought back many nostalgic memories.

It was at this venue, some thirteen years earlier, that some of the current Leadership Team members had gathered to fellowship, envision and pray into the establishment of a Christian healing and discipleship ministry modelled after that of Ellel Ministries International, England.

Raphah Ministries, founded in July 2003, is the fruition of these prayers.

In the five years since, the initial group of eight leaders has grown to a faithful and committed band of two dozen team members. Although it has been a trying journey, it is, nevertheless, a wonderful and rewarding one—calling into being a unique ministry to touch hearts and rebuild lives with the Father-Heart of God!

The Team Retreat was held to fulfil THREE objectives:

1. to provide a platform for team members to meet, fellowship, and pray together outside of Beit Raphah;
2. to review the progress of the ministry, and to make recommendations for its improvement and greater effectiveness; and
3. to formulate and adopt a "road map" for recruitment, training and continued development of team members.

Looking back over the years, team members could clearly see the hand of God guiding and leading the work.

Recognizing this, the Retreat affirmed the importance of building a *credible ministry* founded on the Word of God, *competent and committed ministry teams*, and a *comprehensive strategy* for team and ministry development.

Also emphasized and affirmed was the need to raise more "partners" for the ministry: partners in *ministering* (counselling), partners in *praying* (intercession), and partners in giving (*financial support*).

Mapping the way forward was made easier with the discerning wisdom and practical insights of long time friend and supporter of the ministry, Dato' George Ting, when he helped the Retreat to identify and prioritize the dynamics of growth.

As the team members wound their way down Genting Highlands 72 hours later, there was a thankfulness in everyone's heart for a very special time spent together.

More importantly, there was an excitement and an anticipation in their spirits of greater times to come in the Lord! 🌸



Raphah Ministries' Team Retreat 2008



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Fresh Initiatives:

First Chinese Seminar a Success!

1 May, Workers' Day: While most people and families took the opportunity to enjoy a day off from work, Beit Raphah was a hive of activity as the first Chinese language seminar to be held at the ministry centre got underway.

Taught by Dr. Florence Wang—a member of the leadership and teaching team—the one-day introductory seminar on “What is Christian Healing: Does it concern Me?” drew a substantial number of participants from several Chinese-speaking churches in the Klang Valley.

Eversince the founding of Raphah Ministries in 2003, the leadership and team members had been praying that one day Raphah Ministries would be able to extend its work to the Chinese-speaking churches. The much anticipated seminar on Workers' Day 2008 was the fruition of this long-time vision.

Participants sat in rapt attention as Dr. Wang shared insights and principles from the healing Word of God. For some, it was the first time that they had heard the word of God being expounded in such a manner, and the response to the teaching was beyond expectation.

At the end of the seminar, when the altar call for healing was given, many stepped forward with little hesitation to receive prayer.

Tears freely flowed as Dr. Wang and ministry team members prayed into the situations of those who came forward for ministry. Clearly, a deep healing work was taking place in these precious lives.

A quick poll of the participants indicated that they had found the seminar both enlightening and helpful, with some expressing the wish that more of such seminars could be offered regularly. We praise God for the encouraging comments and feedback from participants.

A second Chinese seminar, “The Father-Heart of God,” is scheduled for Wednesday (a public holiday), 17 September 2008. Further details and registration forms will be made available nearer to that date.

Other Developments

The first five months of 2008 also saw a substantial increase in the number of seminars and training events held, compared to the same period in 2007.

Among them were two seminars that were held at Beit Raphah for the very first time:

- Healing from Accident and Trauma Seminar
- Handling Grief and Bereavement Seminar

Other seminars and courses that also saw an increased number of participants included:

- Understanding Christian Healing: The Issues (13th Edition)
- A Comprehensive Approach to Cancer Seminar
- Understanding and Overcoming Depression Seminar
- Embracing Your Identity and Destiny Seminar
- Making Sense of Your Emotions Seminar

As part of the ongoing development of the ministry, two new seminars: *Defeating Anxieties, Fears and Phobias*, and *Raising Godly Families and Generations* will be introduced in June and August respectively.

Details of these seminars and registration forms will be made available in due course.

Dates of other events in June through August can be found on the Calendar of Events on page 4 of this newsletter. 🌸



Dr. Florence Wang teaching, and ministering with team members at Raphah Ministries' first Chinese language seminar.

Fresh Initiatives:

Ipoh hosts first PSG outside Klang Valley

Raphah Ministries' first Chinese seminar on Workers' Day, 1 May was preceded by another "first" that took place on the evening of 17 March: the first Prayer Support Group to be convened outside of the Klang Valley!

What had started out as an idea to gather and network with the small handful in Ipoh, who had been on one or more of Raphah Ministries' training events, soon gathered momentum through word of mouth and became a vision-casting meeting on 18 February attended by twenty curious souls!

Those who attended the meeting were shown a media presentation about the origins, vision, goals and work of Raphah Ministries, after which they were challenged to pray God for a similar healing ministry to be raised in Ipoh.

In response to the challenge, a number of those present committed themselves to meet monthly thereafter as a Prayer Support Group for Raphah Ministries and for the city of Ipoh.

An inaugural Ipoh PSG meeting was subsequently held on Monday, 17 March at the Ipoh YMCA, attended by nineteen believers from different



congregations and with Michelle Neoh, formerly of Raphah Ministries, acting as the liaison for the PSG.

Patterned after the meetings in Petaling Jaya, the Ipoh PSG meets *every third Monday* of the month at 8.00 pm at the Ipoh YMCA.

Those interested to visit, attend, or to know more about the Ipoh PSG or Raphah Ministries can contact Raphah Ministries' office at 03-78770035 or Michelle at 012-9258143. 🌸

A Healing Word!

"God loves you and wants to heal you. And apart from the empowering of the the Holy Spirit there can be no real freedom or healing!"

This was the stirring message that Pastor Ronnie Yeap of Full Gospel Assembly Kuala Lumpur, brought to Raphah Ministries' monthly healing service in April.

Speaking passionately from his heart, and from years of walking in God's grace, favour and blessing, Pastor Yeap testified to God's work in his own life—how as a young man, spoilt and with access to easy money, he was living a frivolous life that was headed towards utter destruction when God met him, saved and restored him, and gave him a new purpose and destiny in life.

Delivered by God from bouts of depression, and thoughts of suicide that had beleaguered him, the born-again Pastor Yeap soon left secular employment and found his life's calling in loving and serving his Lord Jesus.

With such a remarkable testimony, the altar call that followed saw many in the congregation stepping forward to receive encouragement, prayer, and in some cases, a prophetic word. 🌸



The Ipoh Prayer Support Group meeting in the YMCA

Raphah ministries' calender of events

may

- 01 (Mon)** What is Christian Healing? (Chinese Seminar)
- 04 (Sun)** Ministry Team Training (FGA Kepong)
- 05 (Mon)** Leadership Meeting
- 11 (Sun)** Ministry Team Training (FGA Kepong)
- 12 (Mon)** Healing Service #59
- 17 (Sat)** Making Sense of Your Emotions Seminar
- 18 (Sun)** Ministry Team Training (FGA Kepong)
- 19 (Mon)** Prayer Support Group - Ipoh
- 25 (Sun)** Ministry Team Training (FGA Kepong)
- 26 (Mon)** Prayer Support Group - PJ
- 28-31 (Wed-Sat)** Prayer Counselling Ministry Skills Course #13

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- 01 (Sun)** Ministry Team Training (FGA Kepong)
- 02 (Mon)** Leadership Meeting
- 09 (Mon)** Healing Service #60
- 14 (Sat)** The Father-Heart of God Seminar
- 16 (Mon)** Prayer Support Group - Ipoh
- 20-22 (Fri-Sun)** Church Seminar - WMC Kuantan
- 28 (Sat)** Defeating Anxieties, Fears & Phobias Seminar
- 30 (Mon)** Prayer Support Group - PJ

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- 05 (Sat)** Ministry Team Building Day #7
- 07 (Mon)** Leadership Meeting
- 12 (Sat)** Breaking the Occult Bondage Seminar
- 14 (Mon)** Healing Service #61
- 21 (Mon)** Prayer Support Group - Ipoh
- 26 (Sat)** Control, Domination & Manipulation Seminar
- 28 (Mon)** Prayer Support Group - PJ

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- 04 (Mon)** Leadership Meeting
- 09 (Sat)** Raising Godly Families and Generations Seminar
- 11 (Mon)** Healing Service #62
- 15-17 (Fri-Sun)** Church Seminar - WMC Kuantan
- 18 (Mon)** Prayer Support Group - Ipoh
- 18-23 (Mon-Sat)** "Understanding Christian Healing: The Issues"
Prayer Counselling Course #14
- 25 (Mon)** Prayer Support Group - PJ
- 31 Aug-01 Sep (Sun- Mon)** Healing Retreat #1



Pastor Ronnie Yeap ministering at the Monday night Healing Service in April



Janice Tan teaching at the Ministry Team Building Day in March

Seminars and training courses

Raphah Ministries is committed to the dual task of encouraging awareness of Christian healing ministry, as well as the raising of church-based ministry teams to serve the healing needs of congregations.

In line with this commitment, Raphah Ministries' Leadership Team and team members are available on invitation to speak in churches, as well as to conduct Seminars and Training Courses for congregation members, or specific ministry groups.

Church leaders interested to host a Team member, Training Course or Seminar at their churches can write, fax or email their requests to the *Coordinator for Training* at Raphah Ministries.

Raphah ministries' needs

Raphah Ministries is a faith ministry, trusting in God for its needs. But we welcome support from friends of the Ministry and invite you to pray along with us. The following are some of our short-term and long-term needs:

Staff: Additional full-time Ministry Staff and volunteer Associate Ministry Team Members.

Equipment: LCD or DLP Projector, Digital Video Camera & Stand, DVD Recorder

Partners: Individuals who are in agreement with the Ministry and willing to be *Partners in Ministering* (prayer counsellors), *Partners in Praying* (intercessors & prayer supporters), and *Partners in Giving* (financial supporters).

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

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