

AC TALK

WHERE THE
APOSTOLIC COUNCIL
SHARE THEIR HEARTS

JUNE
2011



FROM
KEN'S HEART
TO YOURS

THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus ascended to heaven He gave a charge to His followers:- What they had seen Him do to a few, i.e. healing, express the Kingdom's presence through acts of power, love even those who hated Him, etc, they were now to do to many. He was turning His mission over to the church. This message was not just given to the disciples, but to all believers, no exceptions, and it is still valid today.

John Wilber had two questions he encouraged every Christian to ask themselves regularly:- Firstly "What business are we in?" and secondly "How's business?" The first paragraph is a very brief statement of the Kingdom business we are in. The rest of this article is designed to explore the second question: "How's business?"

Tony played part of a DVD at a recent AC meeting – a Chinese Church Leader was describing a phenomenon that is taking place in China right now. With the great growth in industrialisation, there has been a large migration of rural people into the cities to meet the demand for factory workers. Amongst these are Christians, rural people without most of the Christian equipping opportunities we take for granted. Yet in the cities they have spawned, geographically, the fastest church growth in China at present.

The challenge from this account is that any believer who loves the Lord and makes himself available for Kingdom building with an expectant heart can be at the cutting edge of Kingdom growth.

Another account of Kingdom building illustrates the same truth:- It has been our privilege to have a network of churches in Cypress as part of our Cluster. The Greek speaking Cypriot leader of this network was called to work amongst Sri Lankan workers who come as short term contract workers to Cypress, perform menial tasks as house workers or looking after the aged, etc.

They are permitted to stay only 4 years in Cypress before being sent home and are never permitted to return. The consequence of this is that on average the church has members for only two years, after which they must return home.

Imagine a church where you lose every member every two years. All your musicians, cell leaders, evangelists, carers, etc leave every two years. Yet this church is growing, because every member has a role to play and evangelism, equipping and releasing people into their gifting is a daily part of the life and work of this church. As a natural course of events, **everyone** is involved. Just one example; Sunday service starts at 08h00, when everyone goes into the parks in the city to mix with the many foreign contract workers who relax there on their only day off during a week. Those with whom they connect are invited to come back to a service that starts at 10h00. Many who come are brought to the Lord; this is immediately followed by the process of discipling and release into ministry areas according to their gifting.

“ Jesus has equipped us to live above the ordinary human plane of life ”

The ethos of the church is **everyone** being involved. We so enjoy our visits to this church because it is so different to the norm of many of the churches we have experienced in the past. The norm can be described by the 80-20 rule: 20% doing the work of ministry while 80% are non-participatory spectators, instead of **everyone** being involved.

The Swiss Reformer Oecampadius stated:- "How much more would a few good and fervent men affect the ministry than a multitude of lukewarm ones?" – "Ouch" – How's business in your neck of the woods?

Now that the restoration of the five fold ministry has taken place in the church, and the equippers are in place, the "day of the saints" [Eph 4] should be a natural outcome. The saints, equipped and released, now sown as Kingdom sons and daughters. Remember, 'Creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of GOD to be revealed.' [Rom 8:19]

HOW DO I GROW AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS SEASON

Firstly and foremost, no matter where we are in this walk, it must always be Character Before Gifting. - Eph 4:1-3 "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

GOD's plan for His Church is that everything, even everyday routine and menial tasks, be Spirit led! – GOD has never ordained anything less, even for the 21st Century.

Stephen was chosen to do a menial task, of waiting on tables for the Greek widows. To start with he was chosen because of his character, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. As he faithfully went about his task, he did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

Like Stephen, we are privileged; Jesus has equipped us to live above the ordinary human plane of life. This is not a proud statement, but one that describes our equipping to serve the Lord and others, because the same anointing and power of the Spirit that was in the apostles and Stephen is in us. Stephen, an ordinary man became extraordinary under the Spirit's anointing. He was in a place where GOD could move him. Even when waiting tables his gaze was on Jesus and so he affected those around him; he knew what business he was in.

The 'Day Of The Saints' means a surrender of self! When I am honest with myself, I realize I have held on to my own desires, plans and vision for outcomes too much of the time. Only when I come to the end of myself can GOD take control. We can't enter into our calling as Saints until we relinquish control. 'Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom.' We need to throw away our good ideas and surrender fully to the authority of GOD.

Saints Are People Who Are Always Advancing. The very outworking of love is growth. Read how this gripped Paul. "...one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Remember in this advance, even our most trying times are times with great opportunity for growth.

Saints Prepare Themselves For Opportunities. At the wedding feast at Cana, when the wine ran out and Mary told Jesus, she relayed a message to the servants, "Whatever He tells you, do it!" Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water. They were large jars containing between 75 and 115 litres of water and would take some filling; many trips to the well and back. But we are told the servants filled them 'to the brim'. This describes the attitude of those servants: one of willingness and servanthood. Because of this, when the time came for the miracle, the jars were full.

Are you filling the jars in your life, preparing yourself in the area of your gifting? Are you preparing yourself for service to the degree that when the time for the miracle arrives, you are ready? Remember: no full jars, no miracle.

This is the season for the full release of the fivefold ministry and the equipping of the saints. The target for this is awesome; "...that we may attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Remember "The whole body grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."



KEN & ANN TURNER

Ken and Ann focus on leadership development, as they received a prophetic word that they would be father and mother to many. The evidence of this is in their spiritual children all over the world. Their ministry focuses on building the Kingdom.

Ken

KINGDOM CLIPS

Some lighter thoughts this month, or maybe not.



FROM
TONY'S HEART
TO YOURS

At the African COTN conference last month I mentioned in the last session that for several months I had two dates on my heart for this year. **September 9, 2011** and **November 11, 2011**. As an apostolic council last year we made a decision to move the International Prayer Day from May to the 2nd Sunday in September. Little did we realize that this year it would fall on September **11 or 911 AS IT IS NOW KNOWN**; The exact 10 year anniversary of the day that changed the world. Who would have thought that since this was shared at the conference, Bin Laden would have been killed and that plans for another major attack on **9/11** this year were found in his compound.

A memory of my childhood was standing at the Cenotaph (War Memorial) in Melbourne, Australia and realizing that on Armistice or Remembrance Day, the ending of the Second World War, a ray of sunlight shines through an aperture in the roof to light up the word "Love" in the inscription at exactly **11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month**. This year, as we know, it will be **11/11/11/11**. I was driving a couple of weeks ago and looked at the dashboard to see the mileage was **111111**. I received an e-mail today from a friend that said the following;

This year we're going to experience four unusual dates. **1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11** and that's not all... Take the last two digits of the year in which you were born - now add the age you will be this year. The results will be **111** for everyone in whole world. Since I shared at the conference others have mentioned hearing about the significance of this date. We are also aware that those who oppose the Kingdom of Heaven are interested in it. This maybe just fun with numbers, or maybe fuel for intercession; you choose but if any revelation comes then share it with us. Talking numbers, it is interesting that in Biblical Numerics **11** stands for disorder and judgment, **12** stands for governmental perfection. Interesting when you look at all that is happening on the earth in the first half of this year. It gives us great hope for next year as the Government of the Kingdom of Heaven is more established on the earth. Let's keep praying "Thy Kingdom Come".



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