

Author's Note

Thank you for choosing to read this account of some of the amazing works of the Holy Spirit in Vietnam that we have had the great honour, privilege and joy to witness and to be a part of these past 22 years. This is a record of the Acts of the Holy Spirit continuing in our day.

- It is a story of grace, hope and love
- A testimony of the triumph of faithful followers of Jesus Christ; men and women serving Him in often difficult and challenging circumstances
- The hunger of people for God that has not waned
- A story of the unfailing faithfulness of our God, that is not only shown to this writer, but more importantly His unrelenting faithfulness and never failing grace poured out on the House Church of Vietnam.

Faith love and hope

You do not have to spend too much time with the believers in the house churches before discovering and seeing the same thing that the apostle Paul saw, wrote and testified of when writing to the believers in Thessalonica.

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

Paul went on to talk further about their testimony and the inspiration those believers were to all who heard about them.

You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers....

The Lord's message rang out from you....your faith in God has become known everywhere. 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 (NIV)

That truly sums up the House Church in Vietnam!

A foretaste

In one of my early visits I was told about a C&MA Church pastor who between the years of 1978 – 1983 experienced a visitation of God.

They said, “His ministry focus was on Prayer, The Crucified Self-life and Christ as the All in all.”

It was reported that he started with approximately 20 members and grew rapidly to around 3000. A wonderful move of God was evident with reports of healings, demons cast out and the gift of tongues experienced by believers.

This was a brief foretaste of what was to come. In 1983 the authorities closed the church, the people were scattered, the pastor was arrested and he spent the next six years in prison until his release in 1989 when he was then sent to the USA.

There are also other reports that describe past revivals. One such account is from 1938. They report that revival came about after two years of prayer by four Bible College Students in Danang. The Chinese revivalist John Sung visited and preached in Vinh Long, Saigon and Danang.

Missionaries reported they had never seen such spiritual power. (Vietnam's Christians – A Century of Growth in Adversity – Reg Reimer)

Why House Church?

This account describes the beginnings (1988) and growth of the House Church Movements (also known as the underground church) in Vietnam. These churches came about as a result of men and women being filled with the Holy Spirit, which was evidenced by them speaking in tongues (see Acts 2). The pastors and other believers that were initially filled with the Spirit were part of the ECVN(S) whose position on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues was that this had ceased back at the end of the first century of the Church. This outpouring caused a massive challenge for the ECVN(S) leaders who were both very conservative in their theology and traditions. This visitation of the Spirit was rejected and denounced by the majority of those leaders. They pressured those who were now speaking in tongues to cease and threatened them with excommunication if they didn't.

This fresh breath of God coming through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit meant new life, freedom and joy for believers who were hungry and wanting more of God and who had been praying and seeking the Lord for a fresh wind of His Spirit to blow through their land. The Lord had heard their prayers and He poured out the Holy Spirit on them. These believers chose God the Holy Spirit over the traditions of man and a new fire and zeal burst out from among them.

The testimony of these men and women who received the fullness of the Spirit in 1988 (as it is today) was simple. They said, “We knew it was the Holy Spirit because we all spoke in tongues.”

I have often said that this is one of the world's best-kept secrets. Because of the dangers facing the Vietnamese believers and our own desire to return again and again, we have not been able to openly talk or publish many of the details of this great work of God. Therefore, it is my joy to present this account of the glorious work of the Holy Spirit in His Church in Vietnam and His work in and through us as our own lives became entwined in this wonderful journey.

What we have seen and heard

I wish to emphasise from the very start that this is simply our story, primarily our own interaction with and experience alongside the believers and leaders in the House Church in Vietnam. There has been an ongoing faithful witness by many in the ECVN(S), but to date we have not had any formal association with them. In later chapters I write about the exciting work of the Spirit in the North and this includes the ECVN(N). This book is not so much meant to be a historic record, though dates and reports are accurate, but this a testimony of the grace God.

Please note: This is neither an exclusive or exhaustive record of the work of God in Vietnam. I am acutely aware that there are so many more stories that could and should be told and many other great people and their own amazing exploits that need to be spoken of, such as local believers, national leaders, missionaries and visiting foreign workers and ministries.

This is simply a portion of our story; what we have seen and heard.

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

Hungry for more

This story started and came about through the hunger of men and women for more of God.

- A heartfelt cry to heaven
- A petition to the throne of God for revival
- An invitation for God to come and save and heal their land

That hunger has not ceased and even today there is still a cry from the House Church leaders and believers for more.

My friends and associates often tell me, “We need a revival, we’re praying for revival.”

My reply to them is, “You don’t know how hot the water is that you are sitting in.”

It is exactly that hunger, the environment in which they live that causes them to pursue the much, much more that there is to gain from the Almighty God and His Son Jesus Christ who are more than willing to pour out the Holy Spirit on all who ask and fill all those who hunger and thirst for Him.

This too is the great cry from our own hearts; “Jesus we need more!”

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “ If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” John 7:37-38

Unity

One of the significant factors contributing to the growth and strength of the House Churches is unity. When I began visiting Vietnam there were three or four key leaders of developing movements, working together and soon this number increased and the Vietnamese Evangelical Fellowship (VEF) was formed in the South. A similar group now also exists in the North. The executive members of the southern coalition (VEF) have been my closest associates and friends with whom we relate to and work with. The

membership of the VEF presently consists of 29 Movements represented by the heads of those Church groups. On a number of occasions I have been privileged to meet and share with the Executive Members and a few times to also speak to all the VEF members. It is potentially dangerous to gather with these high profile and closely scrutinised House Church leaders.

Identities protected

The majority of people mentioned throughout the book are still alive and actively serving Christ at the time of publication. Dates and locations are referred to in general terms. Other names have been substituted for actual names of the people mentioned with churches and ministries not specified. This is to protect their identities as they continue serving Jesus in one of the few Communist nations left in the world today, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The authorities still view the church with great suspicion, resist evangelism, attempt to stop new churches being planted and persecute believers for what they call unauthorised and illegal gatherings. Though, some House Churches Movements have now been registered and some individual churches have been given a licence to hold meetings. There is still a great need to exercise caution. Foreigners are not generally permitted to speak in the churches or engage in the training of nationals and especially not in the unregistered and 'illegal' House Churches. It is also necessary to keep my identity obscured as I plan to continue to visit and minister throughout this nation for many years to come. Therefore, I am AJ.

Multiple visits

I had the great joy of first visiting Vietnam in October 1994. The story of that visit is told in chapter one. Up until the end of 2007 it was mostly an annual visit of approximately three weeks duration, packing in as much ministry and teaching as we could each time. After resigning from the senior pastor role of our church and beginning in 2008 I have visited Vietnam around three times a year. Sometimes entering on a single visa, staying a few weeks, other times with a multi-entry visa allowing me to go back and forth as I travelled in and out and across other nearby nations. I have never been refused an entry visa or been questioned about the regularity of my visits.

Since 2003 my wife has also accompanied me a number of times, but not as often as we would have liked, due to family responsibilities and her own work commitments. Her ministry to women and men, leaders and pastors has also been well received and is very much appreciated and sought after. Our hope is that she will be able to travel with me more frequently in the future.

What a joy

It has been and still is the most wonderful journey imaginable as I hope you will see while reading through this story. Among all the exciting and glorious things we have experienced there is one that stands out and brings us great joy. We have been privileged to watch the lives and ministries of young men and women grow and develop as they pursue the call of God. We are watching them fulfil their destinies in Him and have also seen various ones marry and begin their own families.

Be inspired

My hope and prayer is that as you read this account it will be more than just a book of informative and entertaining stories, but you too will be inspired.

- Firstly, you might receive more of God's love and love Him more in return.
- Secondly, to understand that you too can be filled with the Holy Spirit, see His power manifest in and through you, to be an infectious believer whose life can bring hope and healing to those around you.
- Thirdly, catch something of the hunger of the Vietnamese for revival.
- Fourthly, my heart's desire is that this account would also birth in you a desire to pray for the whole Church in Vietnam.

And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Luke 10:2

Amazing grace

Finally, this story is presented acknowledging the absolute sovereignty of our God, His amazing grace, limitless love and

supreme power. This is a testimony to glorify God; to give Him all the honour and praise due His glorious and mighty name.

Lord You are great, and worthy of the highest praise! For there is no end to the discovery of Greatness surrounding You! Generation after generation will declare more of Your greatness, and discover more of Your glory! Your magnificent splendor and the miracles of Your majesty are my constant meditation! Your awe- inspiring acts of power have everyone talking! And I'm telling people everywhere about Your excellent greatness! Our hearts bubble over as we celebrate the fame of Your marvelous beauty; bringing bliss to our hearts! We shout with ecstatic joy over Your breakthrough for us! Psalm 145:3-7 (TPT)

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

With inexpressible love and abounding gratitude, AJ – Servant
Messenger / Author

1.

An Open Door

Our privilege is to serve the One true and living God and He is the one who opens a door that no man can shut!

.....What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.
Revelation 3:7 (NIV)

Our first visit - October 1994

The arrival

It was late morning and we had just checked in for our flight departing from Guangzhou, China, for Hanoi the capital city of Vietnam. Our bags packed with Bibles and Christian literature, and enough clothes for the next four days, were being loaded on to the plane.

Travelling with me was my teenage son (who had just turned 13) and my administrator from our local church. We had spent the previous two weeks in Hong Kong and Southern China, delivering Bibles and meeting with House Church pastors and leaders. It had been an exciting and fruitful time, but things were about to go to a whole new level.

We were a little apprehensive at first, not knowing exactly where we were going, who would be waiting for us and what we were heading into. Nevertheless, the excitement of heading to Vietnam overrode any apprehension I may have had. Finally, I was going to Vietnam.

The call

Let me take you back to the beginning and to where it all began. For all of our Christian lives; my wife, since her childhood days and myself, from my late teenage years, we have both been conscious of the call of God to the nations. Looking back over my life I can see many little things, that were insignificant at the time, but in the bigger picture they have all come together and played a

meaningful part in this call to Vietnam. Like a tapestry; one thread by itself is insignificant, but once woven together with all the others they form a beautiful picture.

Several years earlier, prior to going for the first time, the Lord had planted a great desire to visit Vietnam in my heart. I woke up one morning and was suddenly conscious of a strong impression that I should go to Vietnam. Trying to comprehend what those sudden thoughts and feelings meant, I asked the Lord to confirm that He was speaking to me, as I hadn't had any thoughts about visiting Vietnam before.

On that particular morning I was about to travel into the inner city where we lived. I was going there to prayer walk a certain part of the city where we were planning to plant a church. I boarded the train still contemplating the early morning experience with the question foremost in my mind, "Is the Lord really telling me to go to Vietnam?"

As the train pulled into the next station, the doors opened and I looked up to see a young Vietnamese boy step through the door and sit down exactly opposite me. The train was empty with many seats to choose from and there he sat. In those days, if you had asked me, I would have said that there weren't any Vietnamese living in this particular area. Yes, where I was travelling to, some 40 minutes away in the inner city, there were plenty of Vietnamese. Some months earlier we had begun visiting and praying in this inner city suburb, joining with some close friends who were living there outreaching to this growing Vietnamese community.

More than two decades later I am still in awe of that, "Yes" from the Holy Spirit. He was confirming the invitation to Vietnam. At that time we had no contacts and didn't know anyone working in Vietnam. The burden for and desire to visit Vietnam remained with me for several years.

As it happened we did not actually go ahead with the church plant in the inner city at that time, but instead we accepted an invitation to pastor a small church in an outer western suburb of the city. A little while after moving into that church and teaching them about the importance of every local church being involved in world missions, we began to plan a mission trip to China. While making plans for that trip I decided it would advantageous for me to visit Vietnam at the same time. However, I found myself having an

argument with the Holy Spirit, who at that time was clearly saying, “No”.

So as I am tenacious, I persisted, trying to explain to the Holy Spirit that it made perfect sense for me to go to Vietnam at the same time. But with no peace in my heart (which is always the case when you try push your own agenda) I eventually surrendered and laid down my plans for the visit to Vietnam. With hindsight I am so grateful that the Lord gave me the grace to let go, as I had no idea of what was eventually going to open to us. It was crucial, then and now, that He is the one in complete control; the one who owns the call on our lives. At that time I had not shared anything concerning the growing longing and burden to go to Vietnam with anyone, not even my wife.

A few weeks later we were in a Director’s meeting with our ministry partners and were discussing the up and coming visit to China, when each of the board members shared that it would be good for me to visit Vietnam at the same time.

Our administrator, who was going to accompany me to China said, “I have no doubt that I am meant to go to China with you. I’m not sure if I’m meant to go to Vietnam, but I believe you should.”

I remained silent as I was remembering the Holy Spirit’s very definite no to me earlier on this matter. My wife had gone out to collect our dinner from a nearby restaurant. When she returned, rejoining the meeting she asked what were we talking about. The reply was that they had been discussing that it would be good for me to go to Vietnam after visiting China.

Without hesitation my wife said, “Yes, so do I!”

There was a sense of immediate agreement in the room.

I had been rehearsing in my mind how I would tell them about my previous conversation with the Holy Spirit and His definite no. But as soon as my wife spoke and gave her very definite agreement, just as clearly as the previous ‘no’ had been, I heard the Holy Spirit say, “Now, you can go.”

All that took place on the Friday evening and I was pretty excited, but still did not know how we were going to make it happen as the plans for China were being set in place. This was before emails, text messages and instant communication tools that we are so accustomed to today. On the following Monday morning I went to

the post box and collected the mail. There was the letter from our friends in Hong Kong who were arranging the China visit.

In the covering letter JH wrote. "You will find enclosed two itineraries. One has you in Hong Kong and China for the whole time. The second itinerary has you leaving China and going to Vietnam for four days. You choose which itinerary you want."

I sat there staring at the letter with tears in my eyes. It was time to go to Vietnam! Obviously the Lord was in complete control because this letter and the itineraries were on the way before our Friday night meeting!

At that time not one of us knew what the Lord was going to do. We had no real perception of the door that was about to be opened wide before us. Later when I asked Him why He had dealt with me in the way He did, His explanation was simple. He had to be the one who initiated and owned the call. It is His open door, His season of grace on our lives and ministry for Vietnam. He owns this call!

Time to board

Even now, 22 years later, I still cannot truly describe the feelings, the emotions and excitement that I was experiencing as we boarded the plane for that first flight out of China to Hanoi. I just knew, in every part of my being, that something spectacular was about to happen, without fully realising that my whole life and ministry was about to change, that the destiny and pathway for the rest of my life was about to unfold.

I would love to tell you that I was clever enough to know what was happening, that I had a plan, that I knew where we were headed and in the long term I knew what was going to happen. Honestly, I had no idea! Nevertheless, I did have an almost overwhelming sense of excitement, an inexpressible feeling that something awesome was about to happen.

We boarded a small, old, Russian made jet airliner that resembled a pencil with wings and an engine in the rear. Taking off we headed west on a short flight to Hanoi. As our plane descended, lining up to land, all that we could see around us were paddy fields filled with lush, green, maturing rice plants. It was a beautiful site and a refreshing change from the busy, noisy cities of Southern China. Such was the contrast from the previous few

weeks in China my son grabbed my arm and said, "Dad, I don't want to land in the fields!"

I assured him that the runway was directly in front of us and we would soon be landing safely on solid ground.

On landing in Hanoi and disembarking, we headed into the terminal and discovered that Noi Bai International Airport terminal building, at that time, was not much more than a large tin shed. Before we left China some missionary friends who came see us off, told us that at Hanoi's International Terminal, new 'state of the art' bag-scanners had been installed two weeks earlier. Oh happy day! Our five bags that were to be scanned contained Bibles, books and various pieces of Christian literature for the Underground Church.

I suppose we were a bit of a novelty as at that time there were not many western tourists arriving in Hanoi, and especially tourists with a good looking, fair headed teenage boy. In fact, though I didn't know it then, it would be one of the warmest welcomes I would ever experience arriving in Vietnam, north or south.

After being processed at immigration, we gathered our bags and waited patiently to be called forward for the customs inspection and for our bags to go through the new scanners. My administrator, who was travelling with us, began to panic and seeing an open path to the outside door, decided that we should make a run for it with our bags. I grabbed his arm and said, "No!" as firmly as I could without making a scene. This would have been disastrous on so many levels! Firstly, our bags were so heavy that we could not have run anywhere with them! Secondly, there was no way anyone could leave the airport without having their bags scanned. We would have been arrested!

We stood there praying, "Lord, may seeing eyes not see. Thank you Lord for the safe delivery of our precious cargo; let seeing eyes not see, in Jesus' name."

As our turn to have our bags scanned was imminent, a young looking customs officer took an interest in my son and he attempted to have a conversation with him, asking his age and where we came from. The officer then took a chair and put it next to his own beside the baggage-scanner and invited my son to sit with him. The officer pointed to the screen, obviously very proud of the new piece of technology, and in broken English tried to tell my son all about it.

It was now my turn to place our bags on the conveyer belt and I was still praying, "Seeing eyes will not see, in Jesus' name."

My son, sitting beside the customs officer, trying to contain his excitement and apprehension, beckoned me over to look at the screen with our bags now passing through the scanner. There for all to see clearly were the images of all the books and Bibles in the bags amongst our clothing. To our great delight nothing was said! Nothing was seen!

With our bags having passed by without any questions I took hold of my son's hand, thanked the officer for his kind and friendly welcome, and walked around to the other side of the machine. We picked up our bags and headed for the exit breathing a huge sigh of relief, wishing we could have shouted a loud HALLELUJAH. Instead we settled for a quiet but heartfelt, "Thank you Jesus!"

This, our first entry into Vietnam, was a powerful, convincing demonstration and confirmation that God was indeed with us! His constant favour has been with us throughout all these years. His miraculous interventions have been repeated over and over again.

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Drug Dealer's Miracle

This is a story about a young man, that we will call David, who was once a notorious drug dealer. He lived in a town approximately 40 km from the centre of Hanoi. David had been a drug addict and dealer for 14 years; an addiction that began with heroin and later progressed to ICE. It was said that at times he was literally out of his mind.

This wonderful account of a life transformed was shared with me in April 2015 while visiting with him at his home. We take up the story from two years earlier.

I want to die

David was gravely ill, afflicted with disease and suffering terribly as a result of his many years of drug abuse and addiction. He also had an intestinal flat worm living in his brain and was literally in the last days of his life. Scans of his lungs showed them to be damaged beyond repair. David lived in constant pain and there was nothing more the doctors could do for him. He had given up and did not want to live. In this state of mind he took a drug overdose attempting to kill himself, but it didn't work and he did not die. Many of his friends had died from drug overdoses and disease.

Desperate to find relief he sought help and tried many things to relieve his suffering, including a visit to a priest and also the government drug rehabilitation program. But nothing and no one could help him! Sick and with no desire to live, his days were spent lying on his bed waiting to die. David's wife had already purchased a coffin and preparations were being made for his funeral.

Then one day a friend visited him and told him about a group of people in the next town who could probably help him. With nothing to lose he agreed to go. So with the little strength he had left he was taken to visit a small house church.

David told me, “I felt the power of God.”

Right from the beginning of this first visit he knew something was different about these people.

The believers told him about Jesus, His power to forgive and heal. That day David surrendered his life to Christ. The believers prayed for him and then they made arrangements for him to be sent to a Christian drug rehabilitation centre in Hanoi. He stayed at the centre for the next year. There he was delivered from his drug addiction, healed and his body completely restored.

Ongoing impact

Now, two years since his miraculous conversion and healing David has returned home and is living with his wife and family. With the help of other Christian workers, they are reaching out to drug addicts and others in their community.

An extension has been added to his house to accommodate young men in the new drug rehabilitation centre being established there. Another extension to his house has been the building of large room on the roof, which can hold 120 people and will be use by the local house church.

This has been a hard area to penetrate with the Gospel and it has been very difficult to establish a strong church there. A Christian worker who came to the area from Hanoi had been beaten 10 times, but he never gave up. His persistence is now reaping great rewards. Through the testimony of David’s conversion and the evidence of his subsequent new life, many people have witnessed this miracle and even the local authorities acknowledge his outstanding transformation.

This is just the beginning of a truly remarkable and glorious work of the Holy Spirit in this region. It is a highly populated area with a number of large factories providing employment for thousands of people. This is their mission field right on the doorstep!

Place of refuge

At the time of my first visit there were 10 recovering drug addicts already living in the centre adjacent to the man’s house and each Sunday about 40 believers were attending the worship service. This home once shrouded in darkness, a centre for evil where drugs were sold and lives destroyed, has now become a beacon of

light, a place of refuge, a house of God giving hope to the whole community.

I was told. "The mothers here would cry and plead for him not to take their sons away, but now it is different. They are asking David to please help their sons."

David, like many other young men and women in the North are involved in the ongoing Leadership Training program building and developing strong leaders. Our associates are busy keeping up with the rapid growth of the church across the north of Vietnam. As a result of their faithful ministry and persistent outreaches, many lives are being transformed and communities impacted with the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

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An Open Heaven

No boundaries, no limits, is a place that I aspire to dwell in. If I asked you, do you believe that God can do anything, that nothing is impossible for Him? Most likely you would answer yes. However, it is a different story when we have to live in that space and often we all fall short of living in that reality.

I don't say this with any thought of condemnation, just acknowledging the fact that we are all human and all need to learn how to breakout of the limitations that we mostly put on ourselves and breakthrough into a place where we can pray with confidence, believing for no boundaries, no limits and expect an answer in line with that expectation.

One of the most exciting things about serving our God is that He knows no limits. He is not bound by our limited expectations and He can and does explode into our midst with glory and grace that leaves us in wonder and awe of His majestic goodness.

On more than one occasion, even though I had believed for great things, the Holy Spirit has stepped into the situation and with miracles, signs and wonders He did more than we had anticipated. One outcome in my own life of these interventions is to challenge and inspire me to believe for the more; no boundaries, no limits.

On the glorious splendor of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, I will meditate. Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, and I will tell of Your greatness. Psalms 145:5-6

The following account is one of those moments when the Holy Spirit suddenly broke in and again far exceeded our expectation.

One of the House Church Movements we work closely with had invited me to speak at their 2004 Leadership Conference over three days. It was the first day and we were about to start the second session of the morning when I felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to pray for those who were sick instead of waiting until the end of the day, which was the usual routine.

Jesus could not wait

The session began and after a time of praise and worship I explained to those gathered that before we continued teaching I would like to pray for the sick instead of waiting until the end of the day. While saying that, the Holy Spirit prompted me again to invite forward only the people who had been sick for 12 months or more. I must admit that I was a little surprised, as I had not done anything quite like that before.

Obedying the Holy Spirit and stepping out in faith I asked for the people who had been sick for 12 months or more to come forward and quickly added that everyone at some stage would also be prayed for. There was a strong sense of the presence of the Lord, a growing excitement and anticipation that something very special was about to happen.

The first person came for prayer and it was obvious that Lord had touched him. The second person, a woman, came forward and I vividly remember her. It was like Jesus just could not wait to heal her.

The lady said she had not been able to hear with her left ear for a long time and wanted to be healed. Wanting to know how deaf she was before I prayed, I went and stood behind her and snapped my finger beside the deaf ear. I asked the interpreter if she could hear that. He spoke to the woman and she nodded indicating she did hear me. So I did it again, quieter this time, and again the woman said she could hear. Initially I wondered if I had misunderstood and had checked the wrong ear and so I snapped my finger beside her right ear and she heard me. I asked the interpreter to check with the woman as to which ear was the deaf one. Again she indicated it was her left ear and so once again I snapped my finger beside the left ear and again the woman acknowledged that she could hear. Suddenly I realised that she was already healed. We all laughed and rejoiced understanding exactly what the Lord had done. He didn't need me!

As I went on to pray for the next person the interpreter said, "You haven't prayed for her yet."

I replied, "What for? She's already healed."

Nevertheless, I did pray for her asking the Holy Spirit for a fresh touch of His power and we continued praying for the other people. Others were also healed as they came for prayer.

Healed and restored

One couple that really touched my heart was a husband and wife who were still showing the bruises from a beating they had received for being pastors of a house church.

The husband had an injured leg that he could not straighten and as soon as he was prayed for Jesus healed him. The two of them were healed and restored, both physically and emotionally. When they had arrived at the conference their appearance was dark and they looked sad and discouraged, but after the Holy Spirit touched them there came a new joy and a fresh brightness returned to their faces. They were ready and empowered to return to their harvest field with new strength and courage.

The joy of being a part of those incredible moments, witnessing the transformation of lives and ministries restored, are the most joyous.

Everyone was healed

There was a great sense of the presence of God; the Lord was present to heal. At one point I stopped praying for those at the front and spoke to the congregation inviting anyone else who needed healing to stand up. A number of them did and I prayed over them declaring and commanding healing in the name of Jesus.

To the best of my knowledge everyone was healed that day. The atmosphere was charged and the whole room was filled with a powerful presence of the Lord. We continued rejoicing for sometime with joy and laughter. Some soaked in His presence, others were filled with the Holy Spirit and we all enjoyed the rich and thrilling presence of the Lord.