

The background of the cover features a dense pile of smooth, light-colored river stones. Several stones are inscribed with text or drawings. One stone in the center has 'Vance family' and 'Amherst, N.B.' written on it. Another stone to the right has 'LORD WE REPENT' in bold, black letters. A third stone in the lower left has 'GRINSBY Ontario'. A small, round, yellow stone with a drawing of a person is also visible. The top of the image is dark with glowing, colorful fiber optic strands in green, yellow, and red, creating a starburst effect.

# The Kingdom experiment

DAVID DEMIAN



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# Prologue

I shifted uncomfortably in my chair as my friends began clearing the dishes from the dinner table.

“David, why don’t you relax while we clean up? Would you like a cup of tea?” they asked.

“Yes, tea would be wonderful, thank you very much,” I answered as I walked into the living room.

I sank into the couch, exhausted. “I don’t know how much more of this I can take, God,” I murmured under my breath.

When the invitation had come to minister at my friends’ church, I had joyfully accepted. They were a precious godly couple pastoring a large thriving church. We shared the same heart and passion for the Lord and whenever we met together, I left feeling encouraged and edified.

But from the moment I had arrived for this visit, I knew something was wrong. There was tension hanging in the air that told me there had been an

argument and things were not yet resolved.

As dinner progressed, the tension grew worse. I felt like I was walking on eggshells trying to avoid saying anything that might cause an explosion.

Now as I sat on the couch, waiting for my after-dinner tea, I silently prayed. “God, I love to visit my friends but I can’t stay - this tension is killing me. Maybe I can go for a walk for a few hours or even stay overnight in a hotel. But how can I tell them without offending them or hurting their feelings?”

Gently the Lord spoke to my heart with a sadness I will never forget. “Now, David, you understand how I feel in My church. I love My bride and I want to be with her so I always come to visit. But after a while, all the fighting, the strife, the jealousy it grieves my heart and I can’t stay. So I leave. But then My longing for the Bride draws me back and I visit – and then leave. Visit and then leave.

So tell Me David, where is My resting place?”



# Where is My resting place ?

## The Resting Place

This is what the LORD says:  
"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?" *Isaiah 66:1*

Since the Garden of Eden, God has been looking for a resting place among men, a place of fellowship and communion. The tabernacle in the desert and Solomon's temple were both foreshadows of God's master plan. The Most High would not live in a house built by human hands but in a temple built of living stones, joined together in Christ. *Ephesians 2:19-22*

Haggai prophesied that the glory of this "latter" temple, the Church of Jesus Christ, would be even greater than Solomon's temple (Haggai 2:9), where the glory of God had literally flattened people to the ground. But are we experiencing that "greater glory" in the Church today?

go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" *Exodus 33:15-16*

Moses understood that angelic manifestations or signs and wonders or even the inheritance and the promises aren't the most important things. What is most precious is the presence of God. This is what would be the distinguishing mark, setting apart Israel from all the other nations on the earth.

Do our hearts echo with the heart of Moses? Are we consumed with an insatiable desire for the presence of God to distinguish His Church from the world around us? Or are we content with the occasional revival or angelic visitation or miracle?

## since the Garden of Eden, God has been looking for a resting place among men

No, in fact, we are experiencing far less. We may boast about our great spiritual encounters or the blessings of God in our lives and ministries, but overall the Church is devoid of the resident glory of God.

In many ways we have become like the children of Israel trying to enter the Promised Land. Their whole focus was getting to the blessings. They didn't care that their grumbling and complaining had so grieved God that He told Moses that although He would honour His promise to allow the Israelites to enter the Promised Land and would even send angels to go with them, He Himself would not go.

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not

Do we want to see His glory more than we want to fulfill our own vision or destiny? More than ministry growth and success?

If the answer is yes, then I invite you to journey with me in the next few pages as I tell you a story. It is a story about a remnant of people, with hearts just like yours, who are determined to see the Church in Canada fulfill its destiny and become a resting place for the glory of the Lord. It is a story about the faithfulness and perseverance of a people meeting the sovereign majesty, mercy and grace of the Ever-Lasting God.

So let's begin...



# The Journey Begins

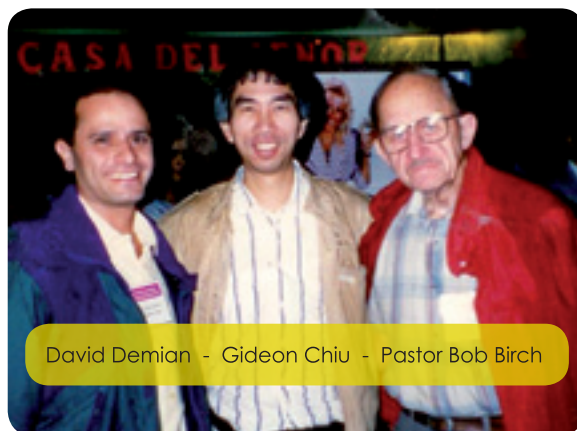
I had never wanted to come to Canada.

It had been 6 years since God had surprisingly uprooted me and my young family from Egypt, the land of my forefathers, and planted us in Vancouver, Canada. The move had been a great shock. I already had a thriving ministry in Egypt focused on what I was sure was my life's calling - to reach my people, the Arabs, with the gospel. Suddenly I had been brought to this northern nation, with a culture that was at least as cold as its winters. I was miserable, confused and lonely.

The only comfort for me at this time came from a divine connection God had given me with Pastor Bob Birch. Pastor Bob was an 80-year-old "apostle of prayer" who was loved and respected by leaders the world over. Soon after we met, Pastor Bob invited me to travel with him and I agreed to go, carrying his bags and being a companion to him on his trips.

Waiting on God and prayer were central to Pastor Bob's life. One of his life verses was "he who has an ear, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the church." He also had a passionate love for Canada and a desire to see the fulfillment of the prayer of Jesus in John 17 for the unity of the body. Every night Pastor Bob would get up 2:00 a.m., pull out a chair, kneel down and pray until 8:00 a.m., petitioning God to fulfill the destiny of the church in Canada and bring unity among its believers.

Not long after I met him, Pastor Bob felt stirred by the Lord to bring together a group of young men to pray and wait on the Lord for Vancouver and for Canada. This group was the seed for a ministry that would one day be known as Watchmen for the Nations. But I'm getting ahead of my story!



David Demian - Gideon Chiu - Pastor Bob Birch

As the years past and I continued to travel with Pastor Bob, eventually people came to know me, so Pastor Bob graciously opened the door for me to share and minister alongside him. Soon I was also getting requests to travel and speak on my own. I was grateful for all the doors of ministry the Lord was opening, even if this was a very different life

than I had thought I would have in Egypt. Slowly over time I was coming to accept living in Canada and trying to make the best of it

There was only one thing that I still found very hard. Sometimes Pastor Bob and I would be in meetings with internationally-respected prophetic leaders. Recognizing the anointing on my life, they would begin to speak the word of the Lord to me - incredible words of all the great things God was going to do with my life. The first few times I was excited - here was proof God hadn't abandoned me in Canada - He still had a purpose for my life! But as the words continued year after year without anything ever changing in my circumstances, I had come to the point where hearing another prophecy didn't bring me any encouragement - it only stirred the pain of "hope deferred".

"Why can't they just leave me alone?" I had often complained to my wife. "I don't need to hear about all the great things God is going to do with me. It's bad enough I had to leave Egypt and the whole ministry to come to a country I never wanted to be in the first place. I'm trying to be content and thankful for what I do have. But it doesn't help to be constantly reminded of what I am not and what I don't have."

But how can you tell a prophet to shut up?

Little did I know I was about to have an encounter with God that would change my whole life.

It was 1994 and a friend of mine, Imiel Abadir, a recognized prophet from Egypt, was traveling through the United States. When I heard of his trip, I invited him to come to Vancouver for a visit. I wanted to introduce him to Pastor Bob and my other friends in Watchmen.

As we met together and shared hearts, our spirits were stirred. Suddenly Imiel looked straight at me and began to prophesy. "There is a conference that needs to happen next year," he began. "And you have two months to plan it. If you don't start planning you will miss something. The Lord is about to do something great in your nation."

I wish I could say that I received his words with joy - but in fact my reaction was quite the opposite.

"Yeah, yeah" I thought, "the Lord is going to do great things, yeah yeah. You know, God, I've heard it a thousand times and I really don't want to hear it anymore."

But as much as tried ignore the word, I could feel

something had shifted inside my heart. Faith and excitement were creeping into my spirit.

"Why now?" I asked myself. "What is different about this word than all the other words that I've heard?"

All of a sudden a memory flashed through my mind of a cartoon I had once seen. In it, the character, Mickey Mouse or Goofy, I couldn't remember exactly which, was lying on the ground, hollow, and completely drained of life. All of a sudden the red colour (blood) appeared, first in his toes and then it quickly ran up his whole body until he jumped to life. That was exactly how I felt! Like someone had suddenly poured life into me.

"This," a voice inside my heart sang, "this is what you were born for!"

"This," my mind countered with scepticism, "this is what I was born for? I was born to organize a conference?"

## I had never wanted to come to Canada

So I shook it off and tried to forget the whole experience. One thing you have to know about me is that when I'm determined, nothing is going to sway me. I was not interested in planning a conference or any other event for that matter. Frankly, I was becoming disillusioned by much of what I saw in ministry. So many programs, so many events, so much effort and money and time and yet there seemed to be very little lasting fruit. Where was the change and transformation in our city or our nation? No, I had no interest in repeating what others were already doing. Just thinking about planning a conference made me weary.

So one month passed. Then another few weeks went by when suddenly people in my church started having dreams of conferences. And they went to my pastor, Gideon, and said "We see a conference next year and we feel it is urgent that the planning begins now."

Gideon is one of my closest friends and he had been at the meeting when Imiel prophesied to me. So he came to talk with me.

"David, what's going that you don't even want to consider this word?" he asked.

"I don't want to plan a conference Gideon! There



are already tons of conferences and I can't see how I'm going to do something more than what's already being done. I don't want to repeat things. I'm tired of trying to initiate things, to get God to move. If God wants me to do something He has to tell me plainly what it is."

"Ok David" he responded gently, "I understand what you don't want to do. But can you tell me what is on your heart?"

"I would love to see a people who are longing for the presence of God come together only because God calls them, not because of an agenda or the names of speakers. Imagine a conference where there are no speakers announced and we just wait on God until He speaks to us about His heart for Canada. Imagine worship without time limits – we don't stop until the Lord releases us. Even if all we do is worship for hours – as long as He is pleased, then we should be too. And if the Lord wants to say something, then He can anoint whoever He wants to speak the word of the Lord. Even if it's an 11-year-old boy – if he has the word of the Lord I want to see that word released. I want to see the Church in Canada being prepared for His presence, His glory."

"I have never been to a conference like that," Gideon said. "But I want to. I think this is exactly what the Lord wants us to do."

## Whistler

The next summer, July 1995, we held the first "Gathering of the Nations". As we prayed about the location, the Lord confirmed in our spirits to hold it in Whistler, BC, a beautiful resort community nestled in the Rocky Mountains. The problem was we still didn't know what to call the event. We didn't want to use the word "conference" because we knew that what we were doing was very different from



## Can Eagles Fly Together?

One day when praying about the heart and purpose for the Whistler Gathering, the Lord posed a question to the Watchmen team: "Can eagles fly together?" This was an intriguing question because eagles are known for their independence – they fly alone, not in flocks. As the team talked together, they felt the Lord was saying the gathering would be a unique test: would believers, and leaders in particular, have the humility to lay aside their independence (their allegiance to a particular vision or denomination or stream) to come together, without schedule or agenda, to simply wait on the Lord together?

A few months before the gathering, a report came on the national news about an unusual phenomenon happening in Squamish, a small community near Whistler. Thousands of eagles had congregated over the town and began flying together, locking their wings to the point that pilots were unable to see the runway in the local airport. It seemed to be a confirming sign from the Lord that eagles can fly together and they would!

a traditional teaching conference. As we took this question before the Lord, He led us to Zechariah 10:8 – I will whistle for them to gather them together.

Whistle... Whistler... gather... gathering?

"Ok," we agreed, "it seems the Lord wants us to call it the Gathering."

We didn't do a lot of advertising for the Whistler Gathering because we really wanted people to come because the Holy Spirit spoke to them, not because of fancy marketing and promotion on our part. We created a basic brochure that explained in very simple terms the heart of the gathering: we believed the Lord was looking for a remnant of His body to gather to worship and wait on Him with a heart to see His resting place established in the Church. There would be no pre-determined human agenda, no schedule, and no speakers announced.

## Spiritual Fathers and Mothers

The only names we did announce were those of the "spiritual fathers and mothers" of the faith who had agreed to provide oversight to the gathering. Spiritual fathers and mothers are those leaders who have proven by their faithful service to the body that they have hearts bigger than their own ministries or visions; they want to see His kingdom established no matter what the cost. Many times they are older leaders, but not always, because being a spiritual father doesn't have so much to do with age or influence as it does with being given a grace from the Lord that brings trust and respect in the body and among other leaders.

## I want to see the Church in Canada being prepared for His presence, His glory

Spiritual fathers and mothers have a very important role to play in the body of Christ by providing a spiritual covering to protect the Lord's purposes. I had come to understand the importance of this covering the hard way during my years of ministry as a young man in Egypt. While I had a great deal of passion, zeal and vision, I did not have a lot of wisdom. So many times as I was running forward in the vision God had given me, I would hit walls (obstacles, trials, spiritual resistance) and this would leave me and the people following me hurt and confused.

But spiritual fathers, who have the benefit of experience from their journey with God, can often sense these obstacles well before they come. And they also have wisdom on how to abort the enemy's attacks before they can even happen. If younger leaders could learn to walk under the covering of trusted spiritual fathers and mothers, we could avoid a lot of "needless casualties of war" in our pursuits for God.

So as I began this new "journey" in Canada, I was determined not to go it alone. I knew the covering of the fathers and mothers would be even more important in the gatherings, because we were venturing into new territory, trying something we had never done before. On the one hand, we wanted to give the maximum freedom to the Holy Spirit to direct the meetings but at the same time, we needed to ensure that we maintained proper spiritual order. The wisdom of the fathers and others would be

invaluable in helping us to keep this balance.

## The Gathering Begins

Since we were an unknown team doing something very unusual I had hoped that perhaps 700 or 800 people might respond. But a few weeks after we mailed out the brochure, our administrator phoned in a panic.

"David the registrations are full," he announced.

"What?" I exclaimed.

"Two thousand people have registered and people are calling the office every day from around the world. I told them that we are full, there is no more space. David the meeting place can only hold 1800. But they are begging me to come – they say God told them that they have to be at this Gathering. What should we do?"

"Close the registration for everyone except internationals. Somehow we'll find a way to fit everyone in."

We did find a way – by removing one-half of the chairs in the conference centre so that many of the 2300 people sat on the floor for the five days of the meetings. But no one complained – we were all too caught up in the presence of God.

The Whistler Gathering was glorious – in the true sense of the word – we encountered a measure of the presence (the glory) of God, I had not experienced before. Despite the fact that we didn't "plan" anything, as we gave the Holy Spirit the freedom to orchestrate the meetings, He started opening many deep issues of historic wounds and divisions in the Church. And He stirred us to intercession, repentance, declaration and specific prophetic acts that we knew were spiritual "strikes in the ground" 2 Kings 13:8 shifting the spiritual atmosphere of Canada. But little did we know that our journey was just beginning.





# A Coming Judgment

“I’m not doing another gathering!” I vowed.

I was tired and discouraged.

After the Whistler Gathering, the team of fathers and mothers (which had now grown to more than 20) prayed together and we felt the Lord directing us to hold another gathering the next year. This time, 4500 people packed into an arena in July 1996 and once again God met us and orchestrated the meetings with divine precision.

But after the gathering, real problems started surfacing. First the enemy hit the leadership team very hard. Questions turned to accusations turned to outspoken division – we were fracturing and splintering at our core.

In addition, I was beginning to question what we were doing. I knew the gatherings were powerful. I could see the Lord was opening issues of division and wounding in the Canadian church that were key to releasing it into its destiny to be a healer to the nations.

The problem was the breakthroughs weren’t lasting. A few weeks or months after the gathering, the effects seem to “wear off” and people went

## The Destiny of Canada

The official name of Canada is the “Dominion of Canada”. This name was taken from Psalm 72:8 “He shall have dominion from sea to sea” and this phrase is carved in stone in the Parliament buildings in the nation’s capital of Ottawa.

Canada is the only country in the world with a leaf prominently displayed on its flag. Different international leaders, inspired by the Lord, have prophesied that the blood-red maple leaf illustrates the divine end-time destiny of Canada to bring healing to the nations, even as the leaves of the tree of life in the book of Revelation (Revelation 22:2).

Canada has been prepared by God for its end-time assignment by divine design. Every tribe, every colour, every language has been welcomed into Canada and the unique cultures of each have not been lost but carefully preserved and woven into the ever-changing tapestry of the Canadian identity. We are Nigerian Canadian, Ukrainian Canadian, Chinese Canadian – diverse but one in brotherly love.

right back to how they were before – wounded, suffering, divided. It was very frustrating.

Even worse, recently a number of respected international prophets had begun releasing words warning of a judgment that was coming to Canada.

All of this troubled me deeply. I loved experiencing God’s presence in the gatherings, but I wanted more than just great meetings. I wanted His presence to flood the church in Canada. I wanted to see permanent measurable transformation in our nation.

Something was holding back His favour from Canada, something was preventing the breakthroughs from becoming permanent victories. Until the Lord revealed what this root issue was, I knew there was no point in doing more gatherings. We needed to seek His face and wait on Him.

## Waiting on God

When the Watchmen team began walking together in the gatherings, God led us to make a foundational covenant. The first part of the covenant was that we would never initiate for God but we would always wait on Him until He speaks. Regardless of how long we would have to wait, we would be like the children of Israel following the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. We would not move until we had a clear word from God.

Waiting is a lost art in the Church today. Some people believe that we have struggle to wait because we live in such a fast-paced society, where we can have everything instantly. And while this may be true, I don’t think patience is at the heart of our problem with waiting on God. What is really at the heart is our understanding of the Lordship of Christ.

## One Head

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. *Galatians 2:20-21*  
The price of our salvation is death – not just the death of Jesus but our death too. I’m not speaking of physical death (although some may be called

## something was holding back His favour from Canada...

to this), but of death to a life controlled by “self”. Becoming a Christian means that we have accepted Jesus not just as Saviour but as Lord of our lives. And from that time forward, we must live modeling ourselves after the pattern of our King, Jesus.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! *Philippians 2:5-8*

Even though Jesus was fully God, He denied Himself



the right to make any decisions on His own. Instead He humbled himself and lived a life of complete submission and obedience to the will of the Father.

I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. *John 5:19*

These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. *John 14:24*

So Jesus did nothing except what He saw the Father doing. And He spoke only what He heard the Father speaking. I don't think we fully grasp what that kind of submission looks like.

we would never initiate for  
God but we would always  
wait on Him until He speaks

Imagine for example that you are I are friends. And you come to me and say, "David, would you like to go for lunch?" And I answer, "I would love to but I can't do anything without checking with my wife first". So I would ask my wife and because she said it was ok, we would go out to eat.

Then let's say the next day you have to go shopping for some new tires for your car. And you happen to run into me on your way to the store and you ask me if I'd like to come with you to look at the tires. If I respond, "Well, I would love to but I can't really do anything without asking my wife first", you might start to feel a bit uneasy, wondering what was going on with me.

And what if a few days later, you have tickets to the ball game and you know that I love baseball, so you phone and ask me if I want to go to the game with you. And I answer "Wow, I love baseball and I would really like to come with you but you know I can't do anything without asking my wife first."

How would you react to this? I think, whether you would actually say it or not, you would probably be thinking, "What in the world is wrong with that guy? Doesn't he have a mind of his own? Can't he do anything without checking with his wife? He needs to start acting like a man!"

A huge part of what makes us human beings is our free will – our right to self-determination. Take that right away from us and a part of our humanity is lost. So Jesus didn't just humble himself and deny His rights as God; He went even further and denied His right even to make decisions as a man.

If we understand what it really means to be a bondservant in submission to the King, then waiting on God won't be a problem for us anymore. Because if we don't have the right to do or say anything on our own then the whole posture of our lives becomes one of very active listening. We will want to wait on God until He speaks knowing that we only have right to move in obedience to a command from Him.

I believe that embracing death to self-rule and total surrender to His rule is the first major step in seeing the kingdom of God established.

And that is why I was determined not to do another gathering or plan any meeting until we heard from the Lord. Why were words of judgment coming to the nation? What was the root issue preventing the church of Canada from being His resting place? And what did He want us to do?



## The Challenge of Hearing God

"David, you have been asking Me what is the root issue holding back My favour from Canada. Well I want to tell you."

I was so relieved!

For months the Watchmen team had been seeking the Lord, waiting on Him to reveal His heart to us. What would the Lord say? I paused, listening intently for the answer.

"The root issue is the anti-Semitic heart that the European forefathers came with when they founded Canada. This has grieved my heart and David I am asking you to call Canada to

repentance for its anti-Semitic heart. If the nation does not repent, judgment is coming."

I was so confused!

Canada is anti-Semitic? That can't be right! Canada is known as one of the most tolerant and accepting nations in the world. How could this be the root issue?

And yet somehow deep in my spirit, I sensed this was a true word from God.

The battle had begun.

### Repenting for the Past

Should we as believers be repenting for the sins of our forefathers? In 2 Samuel 21 there had been a famine in the land of Israel for three years. When David inquired of the Lord as to the cause of the famine, God answered "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death." The Gibeonites were a heathen nation with whom Joshua had made a covenant, promising not to harm them. Yet many years later, Saul in his zeal tried to destroy the Gibeonites. And because of this sin, years later the land of Israel was suffering a judgment of famine. But as David made amends with the Gibeonites, "God answered prayer in behalf of the land" *2 Samuel 21:14*

So we have both the right and the responsibility to repent for historic sins, as God reveals them to us, so that His purposes will not be hindered in our nations.



## The Two Receptors

Every one of us has two receptors for hearing God: our mind and God's Spirit.

Our mind functions by reason. When we hear something our mind tells us whether it is reasonable or not.

God's Spirit, however, functions by discernment. Discernment doesn't measure whether something is reasonable – it simply witnesses whether something is from the spirit of God or not.

## what we hear from God however is very much dependant on which receptor we use

We have this capacity to discern from the time we are born again and God's spirit quickens our spirit. Discernment is what Jesus was talking about in the parable of the good shepherd. Sheep, He taught, can tell the difference between the voice of their shepherd and a stranger and that's why they won't follow a strange voice.

What we hear from God however is very much dependant on which receptor we use. If we use our mind, then anything that the mind judges as "unreasonable" will be automatically filtered out before our spirits even have a chance to discern if it is God.

The problem with this is that God operates in the realm of the supernatural – beyond what is reasonable. He is the God of the impossible (Luke 1:37; 18:27). His thoughts and ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). So if we limit God to the confines of our human intellect, we will never experience anything in our Christian lives beyond what our mind can comprehend. And yet isn't it true that all the stories of faith that we love– from David and the Goliath to Joshua marching around the walls of Jericho – are examples of God defying human logic?

Paul talked about the important of living by our spirits and not by our natural minds.

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. *1 Corinthians 2:14*

So what then do we do with our minds? Do we shut them off? No, but we do put them in subjection to our spirits and allow God to sanctify, transform and renew them.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. *Romans 12:1-2*

Living by the Spirit will always be challenging because our minds will be stretched to grasp what our spirits already know. And just when we think we have things figured out, God will expand our horizon of faith and our minds will have to stretch again!

## living by the Spirit will always be challenging

I could definitely feel my mind stretching as I tried to comprehend what the Lord was saying to me about Canada's root issue being anti-Semitism. And I had a decision to make – would I allow my mind to discount what I had heard or would I allow my spirit to discern if this was the voice of the Lord?



# The Power of Unity

As much as my mind was struggling to understand how anti-Semitism was the root issue for Canada, my spirit was witnessing that what I had heard was a true word from God. But in something this important, I wasn't going to trust my discernment alone – I needed to share it with the rest of the Watchmen team.

Corporate discernment is the second part of the foundational covenant we made at the start of the gatherings. Corporate discernment simply means that each person tests the word from the Lord in their spirit and then we share together what we sense. Each of us only sees in part (*1 Corinthians 13:9*) and that's why there is safety and wisdom in a multitude of counsel (*Proverbs 11:14; 15:22*). Our heart was to model ourselves after the Early Church in the book of Acts, when the disciples would seek the Lord together until they could say "It seems right to the Holy Spirit and to us". So we committed that we would not act on any word until there was a clear corporate witness. If we could not come to a corporate agreement, we would continue to seek the Lord and talk together until we came to this place of clarity in our spirits.

As the team talked together, there was a clear agreement – even if we couldn't understand logically what anti-Semitism had to do with our destiny, we felt this was something the Lord wanted us to pursue.

It was not long after our meeting that we began to receive confirmations of this word. Stories came to light about Canada's anti-Semitic immigration policies during the Second World War. Because of these racist attitudes, many Jewish people, seeking refuge from the Nazis, were denied entry into Canada and were left to die in the gas chambers of Europe.

"The blood of the innocent is crying out," the Lord told us. "I want you to call Canada to repentance for its anti-Semitic heart."

## The St. Louis

In June 1939, a ship named the St Louis set sail from Germany to Cuba. On board were over 900 Jewish people who were fleeing Nazi Germany for a new life in Cuba. Or so they thought. When the ship arrived in Cuba, they discovered that the entrance visas they had been sold were fake and Cuban authorities refused to allow them to enter into the country. In desperation they appealed for refuge to every South American country – without success. The ship then sailed northward to Miami, Florida where telegrams were sent to the American President Roosevelt, pleading for asylum in the United States. But all their pleas fell on deaf ears.

After many weeks at sea, they were running out of supplies and needed to dock. Their last hope for refuge was Canada and so they wrote the Canadian Prime Minister, Mackenzie King,



appealing for mercy. But internal political issues between the English and French caused the Prime Minister to refuse their request, "in the name of Canadian unity". The ship sailed back to Germany as the nations debated what to do. Finally England, Belgium, The Netherlands, and France each agreed to take some of the refugees. Soon after the war broke out and eventually France, Holland and Belgium were occupied by the Nazis. More than one third of those who had been on the ship eventually perished in the concentration camps.



But how could we, a small group of leaders from one region of the country, call the whole nation to repentance? We knew that by ourselves didn't have the spiritual authority for such a nationwide call. There would have to be an agreement of at least a remnant of leaders from across the nation.

## Corporate Authority

One of the areas in which the Lord is longing to restore revelation to His body is corporate authority – that is the power of unity to release the authority of God in the earth.

There is a power in unity – we see that in the story of the tower of Babel.

## Acts 2 was God's divine redemption and restoration of the power of unity defiled at Babel

The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth. *Genesis 11:1;4-9*

Unity released a power that was so great it was not safe in the hands of those not submitted to God. So God confused their ability to come into one voice. And from that time onward, men exercised authority as individuals. Even when God wanted to fulfill His will on earth, He would choose a prophet, a priest, or a king and give them the authority to lead. Until the day of Pentecost.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come,

they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. *Acts 2:1-6*

I believe Acts 2 was God's divine redemption and restoration of the power of unity that had been defiled by human will at Babel. At Babel men came together in the power of the human spirit to build something for man's glory. But in the Upper Room, as the 120 submitted themselves

to wait upon the Lord, the Holy Spirit released the power again of "one voice" – the language of the Spirit – which brought glory to the Lord alone and resulted in the harvest of 3000 souls!

What happened on the Day of Pentecost was a signal that God had begun to establish His kingdom on earth. Until then, the disciples had walked in individual spiritual authority, experiencing signs, wonders and miracles when they were sent to heal the sick, cast out demons, and preach the gospel. But now a new model of the kingdom had been displayed. One body, united in submission to One Head, was empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in the authority of God to change the spiritual atmosphere over an entire city.

The enemy has always understood that there is a power in unity to release a corporate authority from God that will address powers and principalities that have established strongholds over cities or regions or nations. That is why He has fought so hard to steal the

revelation of corporate authority from the Church.

We understand the principle of corporate authority operating in a family. We know that a husband and wife who are walking in unity have the authority to see God's purposes fulfilled in their family. But if they are divided (not in agreement) their authority is compromised. The same applies to a church or a ministry. If the leadership team walks in unity they will have authority in that church or ministry to see the purposes of God fulfilled.

having a vision is not the same thing as having the authority to fulfill it

But if a couple who is on a church board have unity in their home, does that mean they have the authority to bring forth the purposes of God in their church, even if the rest of the board is not in agreement with them? Of course not because we know the sphere of this couple's authority is their home. The only way they can extend that authority with their church is by coming into unity with the whole leadership team.

So why then do we think that an individual or ministry, who has a vision for a city for example, can act independently from the rest of the body to address powers and principalities and see the vision for the city fulfilled? Having a vision is not the same thing as having the authority to fulfill it. Establishing God's purposes for a city requires a corporate authority and this cannot be wielded by an individual or ministry or even a denomination, no matter how anointed they are or how much revelation they possess. To address spiritual entities controlling corporate spheres requires an authority from God that will only be released when there is a corporate body coming

there is safety and wisdom in a multitude of counsel

together in unity and in total submission to One Head.

## The Sovereignty of God

So for the next year Gideon and I traveled across our vast nation – from city to city – meeting with different leaders – whoever would be willing to listen to our story. Time and time again we were astonished to see how God in His sovereignty had either prepared people before we arrived or how the presence of God came with conviction when we shared. Leaders, who were typically very reserved, wept openly. Over and over we heard: "You have put your finger on the spiritual root issue of this nation."

The question now was: "Where do we go from here?"

## Calling a Nation to Repent

Traveling a nation as large as Canada in order to rally the Church to repentance was not a small challenge. Canada is the second-largest nation in the world (next to Russia) spanning 5.5 time zones and stretching almost 4000 miles from west to east.





# God's Ways

We knew the sin of anti-Semitism had caused God to turn His face of favour away from our nation and that repentance was key to restoring Canada back into right-standing with Him,

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14*

But what was the exact strategy of God for this national repentance? And what was His timing?

The foundational covenant we entered into at the start of the gathering had three parts. Number one, we would not to initiate for God but wait until He speaks. Number two, anything the Lord spoke to us, we would discern together until we could say "It seems right to the Holy Spirit and to us". And number three, when we knew we had a true word from the Lord that had been corporately discerned, we would wait on God again, until He would reveal to us His exact strategy; the steps He wanted us to take to fulfill the vision and the timing of those steps.

Many of us have true visions and words from the Lord

for our lives and ministries. But in our excitement or eagerness to fulfill the will of the Lord, we often forget to ask the Lord how and when He wants the vision to be accomplished. We assume that because we've heard it now, we must act now and so instead of

## God's ways are not our ways

inquiring of the Lord, we set about trying to fulfill the mandate of God the best way we know how.

Yet God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. God told Joshua that Israel would overthrow Jericho. Joshua was a military commander, skilled in the ways of war, with an army of tens of thousands of men ready to "take the Promised Land". But if Joshua had just assumed that he knew how to fight the battle and had marched out in his military might, would Jericho have fallen? No, because the victory wasn't hinging on the might of the army or the brilliance of their strategy. The victory was hinging on their obedience to God.

Have you ever wondered why God told the Israelites to march around the walls of Jericho, once a day for seven days and seven times on the seventh day? Was their marching weakening the walls in any way? No. But it was weakening the Israelites. I'm sure they felt silly.

Maybe they were even ridiculed by the inhabitants of Jericho as they paraded around day after day. But God was testing the Israelites obedience to His word and He was ensuring that they would always know that the walls had fallen down not because of their strength but because of their obedience to a rhema word from Him.

## Rhema and Logos

There are two words in Greek for "the word of God" - logos and rhema. Logos is God's written word that we have preserved in the scriptures. By logos we come to know the character and nature of God, who we are in Christ and the principles of God's Kingdom.

Rhema is the word of God spoken to you by the Spirit in the here and now. It may be a scripture (logos) that suddenly jumps off the page at you or it may be a still small voice in your spirit. It may be a prophetic word God speaks directly to your heart or through someone else. But no matter how you hear a rhema word, you know it is rhema because your faith is activated to lay hold of God's purposes.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the

## and His thoughts are not our thoughts

word of God (rhema). *Romans 10:17*

Rhema also contains within it the power of creation.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their stary host by the breath of his mouth.. For he spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm. *Psalms 33:6-9*

Just as God spoke the worlds into existence, He is still speaking His will into existence on the earth today. That is why if we want to see His kingdom established on this earth, we need to be listening for what He is speaking.

The rhema word also contains within it the power to activate miracles and to change the spiritual and natural realms. It was a rhema word "come" in Matthew 14 that caused Peter to get out of the boat and walk on the water as if it was a solid ground. A major challenge we have in the Church today

is when people try to live by logos alone. We know that all scripture (logos) is God-breathed and useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking and training in righteousness (*2 Timothy 3:16*). But that doesn't mean we can discount the rhema. Jesus said: "Man cannot live by bread alone but by every word (rhema) that proceeds out of the mouth of God." *Matthew 4:4*

But we have to be equally careful that we don't take a rhema word and try to act like it is a logos word. The scripture tells us that we are to be holy as God is holy - this is useful for my training and instruction in righteousness. The Bible also records Jesus rhema word to Peter to walk on water. But I can't take this word and decide that it's for me and start walking out on the Pacific Ocean! Yet this is what happens so often in the Church. We try to take a rhema word, a strategy of God for a particular person or ministry and turn it into a program. We hear that a church experienced growth through cell groups, so we launch cell groups, hoping to get the same results. But this will never work because the power of God isn't in the strategy itself - it's in hearing and obeying a rhema word of God.

That is why no strategy from the Old Testament was ever repeated. Because none of the actual strategies - march around the walls - carry torches in jars - strike

the ground with arrows - had any power in themselves. We have these stories not so we would try to repeat them but because they illustrate to us a principle. If we will wait on God to receive a rhema word, our faith will be activated and as we move in obedience to His word, the power of God will be released to see His kingdom established on earth, even as it is in heaven.

the victory was  
hinging on their  
obedience to God





# The Next Step

"If you delay, you will miss it," the Lord spoke clearly.

"Miss it?" I thought. "Miss what?"

Gideon and I had been traveling for almost a year through the nation, testing what the Lord had revealed to us with different leaders. It was September 1998 and we were meeting together with some of the Watchmen team when one of the leaders started sharing a dream she'd had a few days before. In the dream she had become distracted by many things, and not realized that the time had grown very late – 11 minutes to midnight. Then suddenly, disaster struck. When she woke up she felt the Lord saying "it's the 11th hour" – an expression in English that means that time is almost up, it is the last chance.

We all felt a witness that this dream was a warning from the Lord. So we prayed and asked the Lord to show us His plan. He impressed upon us that we must gather a group leaders and intercessors and share the vision with them so that we might press in together for the next step in calling a national repentance. And since the Lord had highlighted "11" we felt the meeting should begin on November 11th (11/11).

Because the time was so short, we immediately contacted some of the leaders we knew across the nation to discern this word. All of them witnessed that we should gather, but there were questions about the timing of the meeting.

"It's too fast, David," they told me. "Pastors are busy and they need more than a few months notice if they are to free their schedules for such a meeting. And November is not a good time – everyone is beginning to focus on preparing for Christmas – Christmas plays, Christmas banquets, Christmas outreaches. Why don't you wait until February – you will get a much better turn out then."

Their advice made sense to me but we still took the decision before the Lord. And that's when He spoke, through some of the prophetic people among us, that if we delayed we would "miss it".

I couldn't figure out what God meant – miss what? We had been carrying this vision about the repentance for a year already, so what difference would a few more months make? But since we had covenanted to be obedient to the Lord in every detail, we released the call to gather from November 11-14. To our amazement, over 600 people responded from all over Canada.

We didn't have any clear plan for the meeting so the first night, we felt it would be good for everyone to see who had come from which part of the country. We placed flags from the different provinces around the room and asked the people from each region to congregate around their flag. As they moved into position, suddenly a wave of the presence of God swept across the room and people began dropping to their knees, overcome with travail and weeping. In fact, people were so overwhelmed with lament that they did not even have the strength to reach in their pockets for a Kleenex to wipe their dripping nose or streaming tears.

intimate knowledge and trust of the Lord must be our foundation if we want to be part of establishing the Kingdom of God on the earth today

I was stunned because I hadn't even had the chance to share the vision with people yet. Suddenly I realized that we had landed in a kairos timing of God.

## The Timings of God

There are two different Greek words for time in the Bible – *chronos* and *kairos*.

*Chronos* is normal linear time; the day-to-day, week-to-week, year-to-year passage of time. In *chronos* time, our walk with God is characterized by our daily faithfulness and obedience to follow His voice. In *chronos* time, when God speaks, we have three options: we can obey, disobey or delay in our

response. And because the unfolding of God's plans is contingent on our obedience, the purposes of God will move forward or be delayed.

*Kairos* however is defined as "an appointed season, the fullness of time." *Kairos* moments are specific times in history when God steps from eternity into the earthly timeline to effect His perfect plan and purposes. Often in *kairos* seasons, normal rules of time and nature are altered. Also in *kairos* times, we no longer have the option of delay in our response to God. God has determined to do "whatever He wills" and there is no power on the face of the earth that can delay His purposes. In *kairos* times, our obedience will not affect God's plans – it will only affect our place in them. We can either be participants in what He is doing or we can stand on the sidelines, watching God move. The choice is ours.

Jesus' birth is an example of a "fullness of time" moment. From the foundation of the world God had decreed when Jesus would be born. And as part of this plan, John the Baptist had to come first to prepare the way for Jesus. So as the timeline of human history intersected with God's eternal purposes, both Zechariah (the father of John the Baptist) and Mary (the mother of Jesus) entered into *kairos* moments.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth *Luke 1:11-15*

Zechariah's wife Elizabeth had been barren all their married life and now they were both far too old in the natural to have children. Yet God had not forgotten their prayers of decades past. The angel was coming with great news – it was a *kairos* moment and God's supernatural power was being released to bring all things into alignment with His



purposes for establishing His Kingdom. The longing of Zechariah and Elizabeth's hearts was about to be fulfilled.

So how did Zechariah respond in this kairos moment? "How shall I know this for certain, for I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years?" *Luke 1:18.*

Zechariah was a priest – he knew the scriptures very well. He knew therefore that there was precedence for what the angel was saying to him. This is not the first time God had brought a child to a barren woman, beyond the age of childbearing – God had done the same thing for his ancestor Sarah. Knowing this and knowing the character of God, the angel's announcement should have been enough for him to be certain. But because he tried to process the angel's message through his natural mind he faltered in unbelief.

God's response to Zechariah's unbelief was to silence him (probably for his own good so that he would not further disqualify himself!) until He would see the fulfillment of the promise. Nine months later, as the family was debating what to call his newly-born son, Zechariah remembered the word of the Lord. His name shall be John he wrote on a tablet and as he came into alignment with God's will, his tongue was loosed and he could join fully in rejoicing over God's gracious gift.

Months after Zechariah's angelic encounter, his relative, Mary, was also visited by an angel bearing surprising news.

"Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" *Luke 1:28-34*

Mary's situation was different from Zechariah's

because there was no precedence for a virgin conceiving. So Mary asked a very reasonable question – how is this going to happen? And she got a very "unreasonable" answer.

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. *Luke 1:35*  
At this point, Mary had a decision to make. If she tried to process what God was saying through her mind there was no way she could accept what she had been told. But by the grace of God, Mary chose a different response.

"I am His bond slave; let it be unto me according to your word" *Luke 1:38*

## there are two different Greek words for time in the Bible - *chronos* and *kairos*

Mary's answer reflects the deep trust she had in God. Trust comes from knowing the character and nature of the one we are trusting. Mary's simple faith allowed her to accept this most unusual word, even though she knew that the consequences of it were going to alter the course of her life as she had known it. Her image was about to be changed from that of a respectable virgin pledged in marriage to that of a woman pregnant out-of-wedlock. Yet she was so sure of the nature and character of God that she was able to release herself fully to Him to simply obey His word and trust Him to take care of all the consequences.

I believe this kind of intimate knowledge and trust of the Lord must be our foundation if we want to be part of establishing the Kingdom of God on the earth today. As we move further down the timeline of human history into the "end of days", we won't just experience the occasional "kairos moments" but entire kairos "seasons" as God brings alignment and fulfillment to purposes that He has held in his heart for millennia. And that's why the Lord is testing us, teaching us, and training us now in how to walk as sons of God, led by His spirit and as wise men, who can ascertain the seasons and timings of God. *Romans 8:14, 1 Chronicles 12:32*

# When Esther Rose Up in the Land

“David, listen to this,” Gideon said excitedly, turning up the TV newscast.

“On what he called the most emotionally-moving pilgrimage of his life, Prime Minister Jean Chretien wiped tears from his eyes yesterday as a Canadian survivor of the Holocaust, Mordecai Ronen, prayed for his mother and sisters at a Nazi death camp.

The visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau was fraught with emotion. After seeing prison cells, gas chambers and crematoriums where 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, were murdered during the Second World War, a shaken Chretien had this to say.



“You don't know what to say. You can only say you remember and it cannot happen again. We have all the collective responsibility to make sure it never happens again.”

Chretien is Canada's first prime minister to make a visit to a Nazi death camp. He was accompanied by Holocaust survivors Mordecai Ronen and his son Moshe, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

In other news, Canada...” the voice faded away as Gideon turned off the TV.

My spirit was racing. In the November meeting, as the leaders wept and travailed, the Lord had spoken a promise to my heart that I hadn't fully understood at the time.

“David because a remnant has risen up in the land like Esther to present themselves before Me, I am extending to you the sceptre of My favour. I am about to show you what I can do.”

When Esther chose to stand in the gap for her people and present herself before the king (without concern for her own life), the Lord gave her favour with the king. He then stirred the king to “look into the scrolls” and remember Mordecai's faithful service



to the kingdom, which in turn brought the king into alignment with God's heart – to protect the Jewish people.

In November, God had caused a remnant of intercessors and leaders in Canada to present ourselves before Him, our King. And now God had caused our natural "king" – our Prime Minister Jean Chretien to go to Auschwitz to "look into the scrolls" and remember the story of the Jewish people. And He had even arranged for a "Mordecai" to go with him! And now our Prime Minister had declared that Canada would stand for the protection of the Jewish people, literally bringing Canada into alignment with God's heart.

## throughout the Old Testament we see God using a remnant for the blessing of the whole

Now I understood why the Lord had told us that if we waited to February we would miss it. I had learned a valuable lesson about the importance of moving according to God's schedule and not expecting Him to move according to mine.

### The Remnant

I was also learning another important principle – that in order to see God's kingdom established or our nation transformed we don't have to amass a large number of people. We only have to have the "right number" of the remnant that will please God's heart. If a remnant, called by the Lord, will posture itself in humility and brokenness and wait for His direction, then He will extend the sceptre of His authority to bring the government and whoever else He wants, into conformity with the purpose of His will.

I think that this principle – of a remnant standing on behalf of the whole – is something the enemy has also stolen from the Church. Somehow we have come to believe that unless we have large numbers, we cannot have any influence in our society. We think if we can gather tens of thousands of people to pray together, then the spiritual atmosphere

of our city will shift. And maybe it will – but not because of the numbers; it will only shift if this is what God has ordained as His strategy to shift the spiritual atmosphere of the city. Our strength is not in numbers, it is in the collective obedience of a remnant who have heard what the Spirit is saying. (Zechariah 4:6)

Throughout the Old Testament we see God using a remnant – a smaller group – to release the victory for the whole. So just what is the right number of the remnant? I don't think it's a fixed number – it varies with each situation. Sometimes it can be as few as one person

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it... Ezekiel 22:30

But more often it is a company of people. God reserved 7000 in Israel who had not bowed their knee to Baal to preserve Israel in the midst of wicked rulers. In Sodom and Gomorrah, just 10 righteous people would have been enough to spare these large cities and their thousands of inhabitants from suffering God's righteous judgment.

In Gideon's day, 300 men were what God wanted to rout the enemy and win the victory for the whole nation. And in the book of Acts, 120 men and women, coming together in one accord, were enough to bring the promised release of the Holy Spirit into the Church and birth a new model of the kingdom for the generations that would follow.

### The Glory to God Alone

So why does God choose to use a remnant? Why doesn't He cause the whole body to move together to fulfill His purposes? One reason, I believe, is so that we never forget that our victories come from the hand of God and not by our own strength.

The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own

strength has saved her, announce now to the people, "Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place." Judges 7:2-7

So does that mean that the remnant are the "chosen ones" – that they are somehow better than the "rest of the body"? Not at all. God knows precisely what gifts and anointings He has placed in each person and that's why He will stir different people at different times to be part of His remnant to fulfill specific purposes.

But no matter who is part of the remnant, their role is always the same – to stand in the gap as servants for the blessing and breakthrough of the whole. The remnant is like the leaven that Jesus talked about in Luke 13. Without the dough (the whole), the leaven (the remnant) is unable to function properly. And without the leaven, the dough can never rise to become what is intended. It's only when the leaven "serves" the larger lump of dough that the two become intermingled and both together become the whole that was intended. It is a beautiful picture of the interdependence God has created in His body.

We were so grateful to God for His mercy in raising up a remnant of leaders to stand together in the November meeting. And for the next five months, our prayer would be that all those appointed to be part of the remnant for this national repentance would hear the Lord and respond and that nothing would hinder them in their obedience.

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strength



# Striking the Ground

many faithful believers have suffered much discouragement and disillusionment because of “partial victory”

For two days, 2300 believers had been worshiping, waiting before the Lord, travailing, lamenting and weeping on the gymnasium floor at the University of Winnipeg. But we weren't breaking through. And we knew it. We were exhausted and unsure of what to do next.

“What are we going to do David if we don't break through?” some of the leaders asked me as we gathered in a discernment meeting between sessions.

“We will call another gathering,” I insisted. “And another, and another, and another. We will keep striking the ground until we break through. Failure is not an option. We are fighting for the destiny of our nation – and we cannot let go until we know that the Lord has received our sacrifice.”

There is a perseverance that we need to come to if we want to see God's kingdom established and the destiny of our nations, regions and cities released.

The story of the prophet Elisha and King Jehoash illustrates the importance of this perseverance. Elisha gave the king arrows and told him to strike the ground.

“He struck it three times and stopped. The man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times.” *2 Kings 13:18-19*

This is amazing story because it shows us that the battle was not won or lost on the field of conflict and the outcome was not dependant on the strength of the army. The battle was won first in the spirit, in the prophet's chamber and the outcome was dependant on obedience of the king being made complete *2 Corinthians 10:6*



How many times have we stopped “striking the ground” and ended up with a “partial victory” instead of the fullness of God's purposes being released? And even worse, how many times has the enemy pushed back and reclaimed the ground? Many faithful believers have suffered much discouragement and disillusionment because of “partial victory”.

Jesus taught about the importance of perseverance in his parable of the widow with the unjust judge.

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them

that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!’

we can only lose if we give up

And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” *Luke 18:1-8*

God is looking for our faith to lay hold of His word and not let go. We can only lose if we give up.

## The Final Push

We returned to the gymnasium for the afternoon session full of determination. We would keep crying out to the Lord, day and night, for as long as it took, until He heard our cries and turned His face of favour to our nation.

“Father,” I prayed, as I stretched myself out again prostrate on the floor, “we don't know what else to do. We have done everything that you have asked. We have tried to be obedient in every step. We have released the call and Your people have responded. We have cried, lamented and travailed. And we will not give up - as long as you give us breath and strength Lord. We will not let go of your purposes for this nation.

Have mercy on Canada O God – spare us from judgment! Help us in our weakness – we don't even know how to repent or lament or travail as we should – without You we have no hope. Please help us God – give us a push, help us to breakthrough.”



A few more minutes passed when suddenly a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit flooded into the room. Our cries and travail escalated to a new height, a new intensity. It was as if God Himself was giving us a push because He knew we had exhausted all our strength. He was showing us how determined He was to birth His purposes for Canada.

## God we make You a witness and the angels a witness of this day

And then as suddenly as it began, the wave subsided. The sweet, gentle, unmistakable presence of the Lord descended over the room and a peace settled that we had not felt at any other time during the gathering.

All of the leaders looked at one another – had we broken through? We could all feel the sense of rest but it was so sudden, it had taken us by surprise. As we huddled together on the floor of the arena, we asked those with recognized prophetic gifts among us to inquire of the Lord. Was this just a pause, a time to rest and regroup or had the Lord heard our cry?

"I have received your sacrifice," came the prophetic word, confirming the witness we all felt in our hearts. "Go and lay down the stones."

## An Altar of Remembrance

One of God's instructions to us for the gathering was to ask each person to bring with them one or more stones to Winnipeg. At the end of the gathering, these stones would be laid in a memorial altar as a permanent reminder for generations to come of the day the Lord had heard our cry and turned His face back towards our nation.

Thousands of stones of remembrance were laid down in a makeshift altar that afternoon on the sidewalk outside the University of Winnipeg gymnasium. And when the time came to dedicate the altar, the Lord led me to pray,

"God we make You a witness and the angels a

witness of this day. And may these stones be a witness for generations of the faithfulness of a remnant who wept and repented before You and of Your mercy to shift a nation from a place of judgment to place of favour."

As we finished praying, suddenly a double rainbow appeared in the skies over Winnipeg. And we were reminded of Noah and God's promise that He would never again send a flood as judgment over the earth. We knew this was a sign from the Lord that something had changed over our nation that day. It was a promise, that although our journey to redeem the destiny of the Church of Canada was just beginning, our inheritance was now secure.

## Stones of Remembrance

Every stone that was laid in the altar in Winnipeg on July 1, 1999 represented the obedience of a heart longing to please the Lord.

Among these offerings was a small vial sent by a young woman who was not able to be in Winnipeg but who was determined to honour the Lord with her repentance. For months before the gathering she prayed and wept, capturing her tears in a bottle.

"Just sprinkle them on the altar", she had instructed her friends who carried the bottle to Winnipeg.

When the time came to dedicate the altar, David Demian poured out her sacrifice on the stones just before dedicating the altar.



# The Nations – His Inheritance

In Psalm 2:8 the Father makes this promise to His Son

in His kingdom.

Ask of Me and I will give the nations as your inheritance.

Jesus is looking for every nation as His inheritance. Each nation, each people group has a unique character, destiny and purpose in God – and each is meant to reflect a beautiful facet of His glory. And it is our responsibility as His Church to steward Jesus' inheritance wherever He has set us.

From one man he made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. Acts 17:26-27

Where we live, the people group to whom we belong, is not an accident – it has been determined by God. Just as Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden and told to guard and keep it safe from the enemy, so we too have been placed in a "garden" by God that we need to guard and protect until it can be made part of His inheritance

I truly believe that in every nation and in every people God has reserved for Himself a remnant of His body whose greatest longing and desire is to see His resting place established. This remnant will deny their rights to make their own decisions and will lay aside everything – man-made plans, agendas, schedules - to posture themselves, as one unified body, in humility and brokenness before the King to receive revelation of the dream of His heart for their nation. They will embrace the call to be bondservants and live in surrendered obedience, following the Lord as He reveals each step in His plan to see the purposes for their nation fulfilled. And they will stand in the gap on behalf of the whole until they see the glory of God fill the Church and, through the Church, their nation.

The time has come for these remnants of believers to arise in the nations of the earth with one cry:

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!





I know that there are many believers across the world who have the same longing that I do: to see the glory of the Lord find a resting place among His Church.

My heart in writing this was to share some of the Kingdom principles the Lord has taught us in our decade-long journey in Canada so that you might be encouraged to contend for your nation to become His inheritance.

My prayer is that within these pages you have found stories of inspiration and Heaven-sent revelation that will stir your spirit to never give up: keep "striking the ground" until full victory comes.

My hope is that one day soon the prayer of Jesus that has been echoing through the generations will find its complete fulfillment. And there will be One Body, united in supernatural love, submitted in total abandonment to One Head. And Jesus will finally be fully revealed to the world He died for and they will finally know just how much they are loved.

For His renown,  
David



David Demian resides in Vancouver, BC, Canada with his wife of 22 years, Ruth, and their seven children.

To find out more about the Canadian journey, please visit [www.watchmen.org](http://www.watchmen.org)

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The  
Kingdom  
experiment

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