

Inspire

Attracting the presence of God

We chase and run after so many things in life—wealth, prominence, power, pleasure understanding and influence.

One we sometimes forget is the presence and power of God. This is a desire of our spirit that we often put on the back blocks of our life. But really, it should be number one.

Matthew says: *“Seek FIRST God and His kingdom.”* This must be our number one pursuit in our personal life, church family, ministry, city and our nation. It is in that place that lives are changed, marriages are enriched, bodies are healed, finances are blessed, sinners are saved, businesses prosper and churches break through. It is where the power lives and the blessing flows.

Luke 5:17 says....
“One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.”

We need God’s power present in our world. That is why Solomon declared: *“The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.”* Proverbs 10:22

King David also knew the key to the blessing of God in our lives. Psalm 16:11 *“You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand”* That is why when David became king of Israel the first thing he wanted to do was NOT fix up Medicare, change the flag, and amend the education system but to get the presence of God over his nation.

Moses was the same. He said in Exodus 33:15: *“If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.”* He knew the importance of the presence of God.

That is why he would seek God in the tent of meeting.

“Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the ‘tent of meeting.’ and he prayed a prayer in Exodus 33:13: ‘Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight. And [Lord, do] consider that this nation is Your people.” Wow! What a passion for the presence of God.

David went after God’s presence. David knew that the presence of God hung over the ark of the covenant so he put together a crack outfit of elite soldiers, called them “raiders of the lost ark” and sent them into the enemy’s camp to retrieve and return what rightly belonged to the people of God. 2Samual 6:1-7. (Read this yourself)

The only problem was, they retrieved it wrongly.

1. They put it on a new donkey cart
2. They tried to uphold the presence of God or the ark by their own effort

The presence of God wasn’t built for donkey carts, no matter how new they are. The presence of God doesn’t rest on a new idea or the latest fads or trends—it rests on people’s lives. It rests on people that have made room for God to move, people that have yielded themselves to his plans, people that worship Him in spirit and truth. In this story in 2Samuel we also see a man who tried to uphold the presence of God and was struck dead. We do not need to try to uphold God’s presence. He stands in the solitude of Himself. He is agust and unique, unparalleled and unprecedented. He doesn’t need our smoke machines and light displays to make himself felt and

seen. He just needs an open and hungry heart.

God spoke to me one time concerning His power and presence at a time when pushing people over during the altar call was really in. It was as if we were trying to fill in the gaps and make God look bigger and greater. He said to me: *“If you don’t touch my glory I’ll increase it.”*

The blessing of God makes us rich

2Samual 6:9-12. David got concerned and decided to leave the ark of the covenant parked at Obed-Edom—the Gittite’s house and Obed-Edom was blessed because of the ark. I love Phil Pringle’s version of this story. He said that when Obed-Edom got up one morning after the ark had been there for a little while, he thought he’d give his broken down tractor another go. It started first attempt. He drove out to the chicken pen. The chickens were laying three to four eggs a day. The sheep were all having triplets and the corn was growing 20 feet high. By the time David caught wind of what was happening Obed-Edom had already built an extension on his house, put in a pool and purchased a holiday villa. That was enough for David, he wanted that presence and blessing in his nation. So this time he discovered how to bring the presence of God into his nation properly.

I remember visiting a church in Fiji over 20 years ago. There was such a presence of God among this group of churches. The main church that was six months old grew to over a thousand people with 20 people every week being saved and baptised, and regular major miracles taking place. Numbers of high-income people were coming to Christ and joining the church. Even the prime

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minister's wife attended. I was privileged to preach within this group of churches numbers of times over a two year period. I remember preaching in a new church in Nandi that was only five weeks old yet 300 people were in attendance. The music department consisted of two ukuleles (small guitars) which you could not hear anyway, but there was such a hunger in the place. The presence of God was so rich that night as I preached. Five girls were drawn from the night club across the road who gave their life to Jesus. A deaf ear was opened up along with numerous miracles.

That church had attracted the presence of God so richly that I knew I simply had the privilege of just flowing in it.

Keys to attracting God

There are many lessons in this passage that help us see how to attract God's presence in our lives and church.

Verse 9

A reverence and holy fear of the Lord

David and the team might had taken the ark with casualness and contempt, like so many believers do with the presence of God. But after some serious hitting the fan, he got a bit more committed. This happens to all of us from time to time. We take a few hits or a few things go wrong. This causes us to start seeking the face of God and wanting the presence of the Lord. It causes us to recalibrate and adjust our lives according to His plans and purposes. Simply walking in the fear of the Lord and having a reverence for Him is making sure we are living according to the destiny He has set out for us.

Verse 12—with rejoicing

Thankfulness

David started to rejoice in the Lord. Sometimes we are so ungrateful. Even if we think we have nothing to thank God for, or our life is just going bad., we can thank God for who He is!

It says: *"I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart."*

In Philippians 4:4 it says: *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"* and in verse 6: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

Also in Ephesians 5:20: *"always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

You know I really can't stand whingers complainers and grumblers. I actually just silently pull away. But when people are thankful, positive and encouraging I get attracted to that. I believe God likes and enjoys seeing and hearing thankful people.

Verse 13—men carried the ark

Obedience

The ark was to be moved in a certain way. It was to be carried on the shoulders of Levite priests, men who had consecrated themselves for the purposes of God. It is an amazing thing that when we do what God tells us to do, things happen, blessings flow, miracles take place, provision comes. Mary was right when she told those around Jesus...*"whatever He says just do it."* (John 2:5) That's faith! That's obedience! That's what attracts the presence of God.

Verse 13—He sacrificed a bull and fattened calf

Sacrifice

I know this is not a popular point in a consumer style of Christianity or in a faith group of people who would declare that Jesus paid the sacrifice and we are to receive its blessing. But explain that to all the disciples who lost their lives sharing the gospel. The road to Calvary was bloody but the road after Calvary was bloodier, stained with the sacrifice of the saints. It is interesting to note that when this sacrifice happened it was

generally followed by an out pouring of God's presence and power. I'm not saying to go and get martyred for Jesus and the cause of His kingdom. We will probably never have the opportunity of dying for the Lord Jesus in our western nation, but between now and the time we get to heaven, we will certainly have the opportunity to make a sacrifice with our time, talent and money.

Verse 14—danced before the Lord with all of his might

Praise and Worship

I know I have mentioned thankfulness, but praise and worship from his people out of a great heart is a major key to releasing the blessing and the presence of God. I have no doubt that one of Hillsong's great attributes is that they praise and worship God so much.

So often we can take or leave praise and worship. In fact I once heard some preacher say that praise and worship is not a New Testament principle—it is only mentioned two or three times. I've heard myself say this too, but praise and worship is a key to releasing and attracting the presence of God over what we are doing.

In fact it actually says that David was clamorously foolish before the Lord to a place where his wife was embarrassed and judged him. She remained barren, like so many Christians that judge churches that praise and worship God with all of their might.

Love Kevin



Letters of Support & Encouragement

Hey Kev

Just wanna thank you for being such an encouragement in Jesus. I love ya, mate! Our church was soooo blessed by your visit. People talking about it all week. Have a good week—I may drop up one day soon with Peter. Will call before we come to make sure you are around.

Life House
Church
Campbelltown



Dale & Angela

Hi Kev,

Just to let you know that Church is going great down here and are very encouraged by the Inspire newsletter - God's way of mathematics, etc... We have been going through some challenges here but at the same time some great things are happening also. Antonia and I are on a steep learning curve and greatly appreciate your support and looking forward to you visiting in February 2009.

Malcolm & Antonia Weir
Huonville Tasmania

CD Pack

"Attracting the Presence of God"

available \$10.00 + postage

Ph 49610211

Healing Seminar

Saturday 17th January 2009

@ Life Church

Steve Clarke who oversees "Father House" from the Blue Mountains ministers around the nation seeing hundreds of healings.

Cost is \$25.00 per person

Or

\$40.00 per couple.

Book by phoning Life Church

Ph 4961 0211



GlobeReach



Philippines—Alvin Bautista

Praise God for another successful Youth Camp! During the week of October 29-31, we all made the journey to Cabangan Zambales for the first time. We held the youth camp in front of the black beach such exciting days for the youth. Attending the camp this year were a total of about 90 people. Our count of 71 campers was up by nearly a dozen from the year before, and the balance were staff members. It is very encouraging to us that the number of campers attending is on the rise! Thank God for this. The theme for the camp this year was "One Way". As we gathered at each service, one could hear the beautiful songs of God's people singing this song and reminding us indeed that

He is the Only Way, the Truth and the Life...". As His praises were lifted upward, His blessings came down. Our Australian friends from Wollongong, Australia were our guest speakers Brendan Elliot and team and did a wonderful job of ministering to the needs of campers and staff alike.

I'd like to express my personal thanks to all of our staff members who made such sacrifices, as always, to be a part of making the camp a success. It would be difficult to mention everybody, but I want each one to know what a blessing you are. Thank you so much for those people who support us financially and in

prayers. We do really appreciate it so much for continuing to support us.

We still have a lot to do, and many more victories to be won. We have a lot more young lives to reach. May God bless you always!

Yours in Christ

Alvin Bautista

Email: acbautista_24@yahoo.com

*Ken & Maisie Gibson will be leading a team to the Philippines in February 2009. If you would like to support this mission please contact Ken Gibson on:
Email: khgibson7@bigpond.com.au*

Philippines—Brendan Elliott

We arrived late Monday night and drove for 1 1/2 hours up to Bulacan and the school where we stayed. Ate (a term of respect, like Aunty) Lolit, pastor of Life Church Philippines and Alvin, youth pastor of same church met us. The drive from the airport was a culture shock in itself. Roads congested with traffic that mildly obeyed the rules, multi towered hotels and office blocks making way for shanty town like villages of tin and canvas within one block of each other. People everywhere, at food carts, karaoke bars, bus stops, outside homes. It made Australia feel very empty indeed. Tuesday was a day of 'sightseeing'. At one of the churches we were greeted with signs saying "Welcome Australian friends". Then all of our names. Now that was pretty cool. That afternoon we were caught in a flood in an area just

outside of Manila that is a town built on a garbage dump. We were visiting one of the schools when it started to pour and, by the time we were leaving, the streets were awash with water up to our ankles, even knees in certain spots! Alvin kept reminding us that Philippine weather is very unpredictable. Of course such a flood washed out the road heading back to Bulacan so a one hour trip turned into a six hour trip! One of the best things that happened while we were away was the youth camp that we attended. It was in a place called Zambales, at the northern tip of the Philippines. It was a long six hour trip on the back of a truck squeezed in with the Pilipino youth, but was worth the drive. To see God move in the lives of the youth and young adults on this camp was really amazing. We saw eleven youth give their lives to God including a 'lady boy'

who dressed as a girl at the camp but was amazingly touched by God. To sit through a sermon in Tagalog (Filipino language) not understanding a word and yet still feel the presence of God really blew Him out of the box I know I had Him in. Of course there were plenty of games, rice, morning exercises, rice, laughs, rice, singing, rice and we also got to eat rice which was great. Our trip ended in Boracay, which must be Tagalog for "paradise!" It's a small island that you fly, then boat across to. Aqua water, white sand beaches, amazing sunsets, restaurants on the water—a stunning part of the world. We were able to take Alvin with us and give him a well earned holiday.

Brendan Elliott, Youth Pastor
South Coast City Church Thirroul
Email: brendanelliott@gmail.com

24HR EXPRESS @ LIFE

Will be on the 20th to 21st February 2009 playing at Soapbox will be Bodacious Cowboys. Martyn Webb will be displaying his artwork

24hr express is a 24hr experience for ministers & leaders that will give you a missional approach to church. You will experience a Soapbox night where some of the best muso's in Australia play. It will have its own bar and restaurant. Then you'll serve in Soul Café among the needy of Newcastle. You will also get to see an art exhibition, attend A.A. and spend time with Kev talking about the whole missional church. For more information and accommodation suggestions, contact Life Church office on 4961 0211 or Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798.

**It's Missional
It's Emergent
It's Incarnational
It's 24 Hr Express**

**Cost for Soapbox \$45.00
Cost for 24 hr Express \$35.00**



An Australian based relationship of churches and ministries that work together in reaching our nation and beyond

to plant, parent and partner with churches in order to see them impact their communities Providing—relational and visionary oversight

CONNECTING IN 2009 Ministers & Leader's Gathering

NEWCASTLE

Monday 19th January 2009

10:30am to 2:00pm at Kevin & Tracey's, (Murrakin Reserve Estate) 20 Murrakin Street, Kahibah. Steve Clarke will be sharing with us followed by a BBQ lunch (BYO). Enjoy a nice drop of little wine from Murrakin Reserve Estate vineyard.



MELBOURNE

Friday 20 to Saturday 21st March

Ozreach gathering at Mantra on the Park Melbourne from Friday 12:00noon to Saturday 12:00 noon.

Bookings can be made on Ph 03 9668 2500. If you have an entertainment gold card we have been quoted \$180.00 for a 1 bedroom apartment or \$220.00 for a 2 bedroom apartment. If you DON'T have a gold card you can book your room through Luke Thompson on Ph 03 9668 2500 and let them know

you have been quoted \$192.00 for a 1 bedroom apartment and \$272.00 for a 2 bedroom apartment.

WEB address is:

www.mantracityhotels.com.au

See attached brochure for details of the hotel.

A number of the team will be sharing along with a few ministers from Melbourne plus many enjoyable meals will be had together as we enjoy the restaurants of Melbourne.

Profile Ken & Sharon Robinson

How long have you been married?

33 years

How long have you been in ministry?

20 years

Favourite things you like to do?

Ken: Fishing

Sharon: Gardening, reading, boating

When are your birthdays?

Ken: 25 November

Sharon: 19 August

What's your favourite food?

Ken: Lamb roast

Sharon: Lamb roast

What do you like about OzReach?

Kingdom, relationship, vision, missionary action

What other work have you done?

Ken: Electrician, footwear retailing

Sharon: Bank teller, office supervisor for Kenneth Copeland Ministries

What's the hardest thing you find in ministry?

When people go through hard times but won't receive or implement Kingdom counsel that would alleviate their problems.



Bread of Life Fellowship

For how long have you pastored the church? 8 Years

What things are running well in your church? Ladies' ministry, prayer meeting and fellowship

What is your vision statement? To build a community of believers who live by faith expressed through love.

What things can you improve on? In church—music/worship

Outside—greater interaction with the community greater revelation of the real reason Jesus came to earth (restoration of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth)

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This team get together once a month for the purpose of prayer & fellowship.

All churches wanting to relate will need to make contact with this team.