

PENTECOST:



INTERNATIONAL REPORT

A Communications Service of the International Pentecostal Press Association

Break through by prayer and fasting

Make 2008 a year of spiritual victory and renewed service for the Kingdom

As a movement, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church is focusing on six objectives for the 2005-2009 quadrennium: (1) praying for the harvest, (2) giving generously, (3) reaching people, (4) discipling believers, (5) planting churches, and (6) developing leaders. I rejoice for the success God has given us so far, but if we hope to reach our maximum potential, we need some breakthroughs.

Jesus gave us a graphic lesson about how to achieve breakthrough and move mountains (Matthew 17:14-21). While Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John, a man brought his convulsing, demon-possessed son to the other disciples, and they could not cure him.

Jesus rebuked the demon, and it left him; the child was cured from that very hour. Later the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him why they were unable to cast out the demonic spirit. Jesus told them their weakness in this regard was because of their unbelief and if they had faith as a grain of mustard seed, they could move mountains. However, He said, this kind of faith is possible only through prayer and fasting (Matthew 21:14-21).

Could it be that the IPHC will need to fast and pray for breakthrough? The prophet Isaiah described the kind of fasting that is pleasing and acceptable to God:

“This is the kind of fast day I’m after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I’m interested in seeing you do is: sharing your

If we are not achieving breakthrough, could it be we need to fast and pray as Jesus taught us in Matthew 17?

food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering illclad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’” (Isaiah 58:6-9, *The Message*)

In his book *Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough*, Dr. Elmer Towns gives nine biblical fasts for breakthrough, based on Isaiah 58:6-8:

1. Disciple’s Fast, designed to “loose the bands of wickedness” (v. 6)—breakthrough for addictions and “besetting sins.”

2. Ezra Fast, designed to “undo heavy burdens” in your life (v. 6)—breakthrough in the area of problems.

3. Samuel Fast, designed to bring liberty to the oppressed (v. 6)—breakthrough for revival and renewal.

4. Elijah Fast, designed to “break every yoke” (v. 6)—breakthrough for breaking yokes on your life and the lives of others.

5. Widow’s Fast, designed as a means of meeting the humanitarian needs of others (v. 7)—breakthrough in meeting needs.

6. Saint Paul Fast, to gain insight in the process of making important decisions (v. 8)—breakthrough for making decisions.

7. Daniel Fast, designed to improve health and/or gain healing (v. 8)—breakthrough for healing and well-being.

8. John the Baptist Fast, designed to enhance your testi-

please see *Prayer and fasting* next page

PENTECOST:

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Prayer and fasting continued from page 1

mony and influence for Jesus (v. 8)—breakthrough in increasing the influence of both pastors and the church.

9. Esther Fast, designed to protect from the evil one (v. 8)—breakthrough for overcoming Satan and his plans against us.

If we are not achieving break-

through, could it be we need to fast and pray as Jesus taught us in Matthew 17? In the words of Bill Wilson (Metro Ministries), “Whatever it takes” is what we must do to get the job done.

The IPHC united with the Awakening America Alliance—a coalition of evangelical, Pentecostal, and charismatic

denominations and movements across the nation—in a 21-day Daniel Fast January 1-21, 2008. The IPHC is a member of this alliance.

— Terry Fowler

From IPHC Experience. Terry Fowler serves as director of iWIN/iCARE, the prayer network and pastoral care arm of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church. He and his wife, Imogene, live in Oklahoma City.

Asking God for the nations: Your prayers this year can impact missions

Prayer lays the foundation for all effective missions work. Even before missions personnel reach a field with the gospel, that nation or community can be targeted with faithful prayer. Jesus himself prepared for ministry through prayer. We can do no less.

Praying for unreached people groups

“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession” (Psalm 2:8).

The Rif Berbers are an unreached people group consisting of 19 different tribes scattered throughout Algeria and Morocco. They are a tough and hardened people eking out an existence on the harsh, uninviting slopes of the Rif Mountains.

They are predominantly Muslim; however, their religious practices are based on traditions rather than on the Qur’an. For a century they had no Christian witness living among them.

A church’s prayers

In the 1980s the Christian Life Center in Yakima, Washington, committed to pray for an unreached people group, and they chose the Rif Berbers. For five years they prayed for God to open the door to this people group.

In 1986 God called a medical doctor in Argentina to go to

Men and Women of Action team of workers to help in the renovation of the building. When the medical clinic opened, who do you think was the first patient? A girl from the Berber-Rif tribe! The doctor treated her medically and through it led her and her mother to Jesus Christ.

You too can join!

You too can join the global prayer warriors who pray for unreached people groups. Unreached groups are distinct cultures of people who have not yet heard the gospel. Many of them have no Bible in their language and no known Christians.

“Operation World,” available through Pathway Press or your local Christian bookstore, offers a guide in praying for the nations of the world. It identifies more than 3,000 unreached people groups. Most of them appear within the 10/40 Window, the nations between 10 degrees and 40 degrees above the equator. Why not adopt one of these people groups for your prayer focus?

You too can join the global prayer warriors who pray for unreached people groups, distinct cultures of people who have not yet heard the gospel.

Spain and to spearhead a medical missions program to reach North Africa for Christ. The YWEA project provided funds to purchase a hostel to be used by the local church and to house a medical clinic to reach Arabs.

When the church in Yakima heard of this project, they sent a

You can visit the Joshua Project (www.joshuaproject.net). This site provides a country index and hundreds of profiles of unreached people groups. Ask God to redeem people and raise up a viable church in the unreached groups. Everybody should have a right to hear the gospel.

How to pray:

- Select and identify an unreached people group.
- Ask God to reveal himself.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to remove blindness to the gospel.
- Ask the Lord to raise up believers.
- Ask God to break all bar-

riers that hinder the light of the gospel from shining through.

- Ask that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into His harvest field.

— Douglas LeRoy
Assistant Director
Church of God World Missions

Fida International: 53 countries reached, and growing

Fida International (formerly known as Finnish Free Foreign Mission) is the largest mission and development cooperation organization in Finland based on the number of missionary personnel. In 2005, 370 Fida missionaries served in 53 countries.

Hand in hand with its evangelistic projects, Fida also sponsors about 100 development cooperation projects and programmes in some 30 countries. It delivered humanitarian aid to 10 countries.

The ministry recently marked 80 years in missionary work. The Finnish Free Foreign Mission was founded in 1927. Nikolai Pöysti, who had gained missions experience in Russia and Manchuria, was sent to China as the first official missionary worker of the Pentecostal movement in Finland.

Some 230 independent Finnish Pentecostal Churches and their nearly 50,000 members continue to carry out the Great Commandment. Missionaries are hired by churches and funds are raised voluntarily.

Fida maintains a ministry phi-

losophy connecting missionary work and social help. Lähetyksen Kehitysapu (LKA) was founded in 1974 to answer the challenges of communities' social needs.

Over the years, LKA expanded its work and received widespread recognition. Today, it is one of the leading development cooperation organizations in Finland.

The transition to Fida

Fida enjoys a long-term cooperative relationship with Finland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

International came in 2001 when Finnish Free Foreign Mission and Lähetyksen Kehitysapu changed their names to Fida International. The development cooperation department of Fida International is responsible for LKA's continuing work.

The world has become more international and missions ministry offers a multidimensional array of tasks. Through continued changes on the mission field, Fida's role as a coordinating

organization and representative of Finnish Pentecostal missions work abroad has become stronger. Fida International aims at finding new channels for missions work and inspiring churches to answer new challenges.

"Our Finnish Pentecostal Churches own the organization," says Executive Director Arto Hämäläinen, "but we serve everyone regardless of religious, cultural, ethnic or racial backgrounds. Our partners are generally national churches or congregations that know the culture and circumstances of their country. This is a great help in directing our aid to the right destination."

Hämäläinen also notes the ministry's long-term cooperation with the Development Cooperation unit of Finland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

"That partnership shows our work has been recognized and that it is appreciated. We are one of the leading Finnish civic organizations to receive support from the government," Hämäläinen says.

— <http://fida-en.eyhdistys.fi/>

Pentecostal European Fellowship sponsors 'Europe Sunday' prayer emphasis

The Pentecostal European Fellowship sponsored a "Europe Sunday" prayer emphasis January 6, 2008, with the goal of unifying Pentecostal churches across the continent regarding key prayer needs.

PEF Chairman Ingolf Ellsel invited participating churches to join other congregations on January 6 or set aside another day in January for the prayer emphasis.

Three main themes for concerted prayer included the February 22-24 PEF Youth Conference to be held in Brussels, Belgium; the 2008 Pentecostal European Conference "Impact Madrid" scheduled for October 23-25; and prayer for the EU Parliament.

Greeks for Christ offers weekly Hour of Hope

The Greek Hour of Hope is a weekly radio program which airs in the United States, Canada, and Greece. The ministry began in 1974, when God provided the door of opportunity for a radio ministry in the Greek language on KFAQ 1100 AM in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Since then, the ministry has grown to

more than 10 stations which reach hundreds of thousands of Greek-speaking people.

The weekly program is hosted by Dr. Peter Vourliotis and Theo Vourliotis along with many guest speakers who have visited the program through the years. You can find a listing of the stations, locations and broadcast times at www.greeksforchrist.org/radio. Visitors are invited to listen to the truths of God's Word in the Greek language.

— Greeks for Christ International

Book review: Pentecost at the Ends of the Earth

(Pentecost at the Ends of the Earth: The History of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand (1927-2003) by Ian G. Clark)

Ian Clark's book, *Pentecost at the Ends of the Earth*, is an historical read that informs us of the down-under birth and growth of Pentecost through the Assemblies of God in New Zealand. There are events, names, dates — all threaded into an extensive yet easy read.

Ian has injected some interesting insights throughout. For instance, Smith Wigglesworth's services in the Wellington Town Hall saw "800 present for the first service, but by the third eve-

ning 3,000 crammed the building. ... There were great numbers of conversions to Christ, the restoration of many backsliders, the sick healed and many Christians filled with the Spirit. ... In some meetings as many as 500 persons at one time responded to the messages."

We don't have Wigglesworth with us today, but his message is still relevant — to see thousands brought to Christ, miraculous healings and packed-out town halls. That's worth knowing about.

The story of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand covers 76 years up to 2003. Its history has tracked with our nation through the Great Depression of the '30s, the Second World War, the youth reorientations of the '60s and '70s, the charismatic renewal, economic booms, ethnic diversities, and so on. Ian's history gives priority to healthy growth and spiritual exhilarations, yet it does not ignore our hardships, mistakes and failures.

I commend Ian for the amount of work he has put into this history. For an understanding of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand, this book is a must read.

Pentecost at the Ends of the Earth is available by e-mailing Pastor Clark at clarib@ihug.co.nz or writing to 29 Leefield Street, Blenheim 7201, New Zealand.

— Kem Price

COMPILED BY SCOTT HARRUP, INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

Please mail news for the next issue no later than the first week of February to:

Scott Harrup, c/o *Today's Pentecostal Evangel*, 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802-1894 U.S.A.

PENTECOST: INTERNATIONAL REPORT

is mailed without charge to members of the International Pentecostal Press Association.

Nonmembers may obtain the newsletter by subscription (\$5 U.S. per year).

Mailing address: IPPA Secretary-Treasurer, P.O. Box 12609, Oklahoma City, OK 73157 U.S.A.