

a newsheet of
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RaphahNews



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TOUCHING HEARTS
REBUILDING LIVES

Born for Destiny!



He was different. Just different. There was something about Him; something about His manner, His word, His self-awareness that was arresting, commanding, authoritative and which set Him apart from the rest.

His presence exuded a confident peace which belied a driving passion, a consuming desire for a divine cause. He seemed so definite about who He was and what He needed to do. He was both gentle and compassionate yet firm and unflinching.

He was also misunderstood, misrepresented, despised, abused and rejected. Yet He had been chosen and born of God for a great destiny—Saviour of the world!

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:11-12 NKJV

We may not be like Jesus in His virtues, character or conduct. But like Him, as children of God, we are born for a purpose, a destiny—a great destiny!

What this means is that we are created by God to enjoy a unique relationship with Him, and to find our life's fulfilment in loving and serving Him.

But sadly, far too many of us today live our lives going from moment to moment, from activity to activity, without a clear sense of, or reason for, our busy-ness.

It has been said that the greatest tragedy in life is not death, but living without a clear purpose or knowledge of the reason for our birth or our existence—which certainly was not the case with Jesus!

We read in the Bible that at the very tender age of twelve, Jesus already understood who He truly was, and what His life was all about.

And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement He spoke to them.

Luke 2:49 NKJV

Purposeful living is not an option for someone who has been "born again" in the will of God. It is a *necessity* because purposeful living produces a passion and zeal for life and all that it has to offer. It ignites zest and motivates like no other challenge. And it keeps us in step with God!

God indeed has a truly wonderful plan and purpose for each and every one of us. Unfortunately, a sinful nature, a disobedient heart, and an insubordinate will have combined to wreak havoc, chaos and destruction in many a life.

Instead of enjoying God's favour and blessing, divine health and wholeness, many of us battle daily with issues and problems of lack, ill-health, sickness and disease, sometimes with little sign of breakthrough or success.

God's gift of His Son, Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at this time of the year, is His means for delivering man from out of his hapless dilemma, and into His marvellous hope and freedom.

At Raphah Ministries it has been our joy at all times to be given the opportunity to speak into people's lives the healing words of God's truth, and to help many individuals—experiencing both problems and dysfunctions—find their healing and wholeness, and in the process, rediscover their identity, purpose and destiny in Christ and in God!

The work of ministering healing and restoration—of touching hearts and rebuilding lives—is far from complete. Much still needs to be done to take back from the enemy what he had been allowed to steal, kill and destroy.

Yet, thanks be to God, knowing that we are children of God, born for great destiny in Him, will keep us pressing on until all is accomplished in Him who was born, Saviour of the world! 🌱

God Be Praised! An International Flavour

Early in the year Raphah Ministries played hosts to Janeke and Marilette, the first two international participants to attend Raphah's 6-day *Prayer Counselling Training Course* which ran from 6-11 February.

Janeke and Marilette—English language teachers in Taiwan—were on their way home to South Africa with a view to starting a Christian ministry among marginalized youth. The duo had met the team from Raphah Ministries when the latter visited Kaohsiung in August 2005, and had expressed an interest in attending the Prayer Counselling Course. After ten days in Malaysia, the broad smiles on their faces would suggest that they were not disappointed with their visit!

Continuing the international flavour three months later, Pastor Daniel of *The Pearl in Taipei Church* led a group of seven others from Taiwan to participate in a subsequent edition of the Prayer Counselling Course. This also followed from a visit to the Church in Taipei by a team from Raphah Ministries earlier in the year.

Interestingly, all these international links had come about through one Malaysian's desire to be a blessing to the Taiwanese Church he had been attending with his family!

Raphah Ministries is glad to have had the privilege and opportunity of sowing into these international links! 🌱

A Remarkable Year

Over the course of the year, Raphah Ministries either hosted or were involved in a number of programmes and events that included:

- Prayer Counselling Training Courses
- Seminars
- Healing Services
- Ministry Team Days
- Prayer Support Group Meetings
- Church Visits
- Prayer Ministry Appointments
- Phone Counselling

Looking back, 2006 turned out to be the most active year yet for the ministry since its founding in July 2003.

All this would not have been possible without the strong participation, support, giving, encouragement and prayers of the Leadership Team, volunteers, friends and a whole host of prayer partners.

To all of them Raphah Ministries and all those it ministers to owe a huge debt of gratitude and appreciation for their



Janeke & Marilette at Bintang Walk, KL



Janeke beaming from the bargains she picked up at Salvation Book Centre



Course participants from Taiwan with fellow students and helpers

partnership in the work of the Gospel. That said, the ministry cannot afford to sit back and let down its guard.

As more and more believers own up to their personal and spiritual struggles and begin to take responsibility for their actions, they will need all the godly and wise counsel they can get to resolve their issues, and be put back on track to their healing, restoration and wholeness in Christ.

Pray with Raphah Ministries that its workers will be wise and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in ministering to these great needs. 🌱

Looking Ahead

Raphah Ministries anticipates that the immediate future will still see the ministry doing much sowing besides reaping and harvesting: sowing seeds of hope, and the encouragement of faith, to believe in God for the healing especially of emotional wounds, and the resolution of dysfunctions in personal lives, families and congregations.

We invite you to join with the Leadership of the ministry in asking the Lord for more workers—voluntary as well as stipendiary—who will come alongside the ministry to touch hearts and rebuild lives. 🌱

Raphah Ministries wishes all its associates, supporters and friends a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2007!

The worship team at The Pearl in Taipei.



Team members with Emily and Annie, two members of the congregation at The Pearl in Taipei.



Sunday evening service at The Pearl in Taipei, a church planted and served by Pastor Daniel Chang.

Ministry to The Pearl in Taipei

From 22-26 February, a team from Raphah Ministries comprising Dr. Florence Wang, pastors Vincent and JayZee Lau and Esther Ee, taught and ministered at The Pearl in Taipei Church, Taiwan.

Grown from a small fellowship group to a congregation in excess of 40 people, The Pearl in Taipei is a unique congregation of native English-speaking Taiwanese, foreigners, as well as the children of mixed Asian-American marriages who had returned to Taiwan for work or to settle.

This diverse cultural, social and spiritual reality presented a real pastoral challenge to its founder, and Raphah Ministries was invited by the leadership of the church to teach on "Inner Healing" besides ministering to its members.

What begun as a relatively relaxed and light programme turned out to be a packed 5-day intense ministry time in which more than 40 people in all received personal counselling and prayer during the day and at night!

Although exhausting spiritually, psychologically and physically, the sight of radiant smiles and visible "freedom of spirit" that still remained on the members at the end of the five days was reward enough for the team members.

This joy of sins forgiven and the freedom of spirit that followed were clearly reflected in the spontaneous and exuberant Sunday evening worship service which rounded off the team's ministry.

Raphah Ministries is grateful to God for the opportunity to touch into these key people and hopefully make a difference in their lives. 🌱

A Seed Takes Root

After making regular visits to Kuantan over the past two and a half years, Raphah Ministries rejoiced with the congregation at Kuantan Wesley Methodist Church as they commissioned their pioneer Ministry Team in September 2006.

Do pray for the five of them as they step out in faith believing in the power of God to give healing and restoration as members who have been in pain take back what the enemy had stolen from them. 🌱

Team Retreat

Members of the Leadership will be away from 26-29 December at a Retreat in Fraser's Hill to pray, plan and prepare the ministry for a new year.

Among the many things the Leadership has to review and consider is how to keep the ministry fresh and relevant to the needs of the people it serves. Ask the Lord to grant the Team sensitivity and discernment into the changing trends in society, and the wisdom to know how best to respond in a godly way to them.

Pray too that the Leadership would be open to changes as necessary, so that the Holy Spirit may have full room to work His healing solutions through Raphah Ministries. 🌱

Our Condolences

To Kathryn Tan of the Leadership Team on the passing of her beloved brother, the Rev. Derek Tan, President of the Theological Centre for Asia, Singapore, on 12 June 2006. 🌱

Time Out

In keeping with past practice, Raphah Ministries will observe the month of December as a break from ministry events in order to allow for the Centre, ministry and staff to review, renew and be refreshed for the new year. 🌱



From top:

1. Fellowship over food before the "hard work" of learning begins!
2. Pastor Dan testifying to the spiritual journey that had brought him to Beit Raphah.
3. Praying for one another, and imparting a blessing for the journey ahead.
4. Saying goodbye to new friends and family members.

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About Raphah Ministries

Raphah Ministries is a non-denominational Christian healing and discipleship ministry with a vision to touch believers with the Father-Heart of God, and rebuild lives damaged in the course of living out their God-given destinies. Raphah Ministries is also committed to equip and work alongside the local church in carrying out this task.

The ministry had its beginnings in a prayer support group and grew out of the desire of a number of alumni of the *Ellel Ministries International Schools of Evangelism, Healing and Discipleship* to establish a local ministry and training centre where believers could come and receive teaching, be trained and equipped to serve the Body of Christ.

Based at *Beit Raphah—House of Healing*—in the residential suburb of Petaling Jaya, Raphah Ministries is served by a Leadership Team comprising believers from different congregations, and the Leadership Team is in turn advised by a panel of senior Christian leaders of the Malaysian Church community.

Raphah Ministries is registered with the authorities as Life Rebuilders (M) Sdn. Bhd., and is a member of the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship of Malaysia (NECF). 🌱

How You Can Be Involved

• PRAYER

Regular, committed intercession is vital in this work. At Raphah Ministries we believe that without prayer nothing lasting will be accomplished. Prayer Supporters will receive regular information about the ministry's needs.

• GIVING

Raphah Ministries is a faith-based ministry, and looks to the Lord for much of its funds. Sharing this load among many enables the ministry to focus its attention on the work God had called the ministry to do. 🌱

Calendar H1 2007

January

- 08 Healing Service #44
- 20 Ministry Team Day #1
- 22-25 Foundations of Christian Healing Ministry : Understanding the Issues
- 26-27 Foundations of Christian Healing Ministry : The Practical Ministry
- 29 Prayer Support Group

February

- 03 Making Sense of Your Emotions Seminar
- 05 Leadership Team Meeting
- 12 Healing Service #45
- 26 Prayer Support Group

March

- 03 Honoring Godly Sex and Sexuality Seminar
- 12 Healing Service #46
- 26 Prayer Support Group
- 31 Battle for the Soul Seminar

April

- 07 Embracing Your Identity and Destiny Seminar
- 09 Healing Service #47
- 16-19 Foundations of Christian Healing Ministry : Understanding the Issues

- 20-21 Foundations of Christian Healing Ministry : The Practical Ministry
- 30 Prayer Support Group

May

- 01 Ministry Team Day #2
- 05 Reclaiming the Ground Seminar
- 14 Healing Service #48
- 28 Prayer Support Group

June

- 04 Leadership Team Meeting
- 09 Power and Purity Seminar
- 11 Healing Service #49
- 25 Prayer Support Group

July

- 07 The Father-Heart of God Seminar
- 09 Healing Service #50
- 16-19 Foundations of Christian Healing Ministry : Understanding the Issues
- 20-21 Foundations of Christian Healing Ministry : The Practical Ministry
- 30 Prayer Support Group

Dates and events are subject to change as necessary. Please call the Admin Office or visit Raphah Ministries' website for the latest information. 🌱