



2008: WHAT A YEAR!

It has been said that we are condemned to repeating the mistakes of the past if we don't learn from our history. We also know that we won't achieve the right outcomes if we replicate our actions that continue to produce undesirable results. The Bible instructs us to thank the Lord for all things. We can't really do this without being aware and cognizant of what has transpired in our lives. So, as we draw near to the end of 2008, it's good to look back and review what we have gone through as a church community during the past year.

Our church family greeted 2008 with a praise and prayer vigil. We prayed for all the families in our spiritual community. Those who came received a prophetic message, giving them a sense of what God had in store for them in 2008. Our last message series in 2007 reminded us that it was time for us to step into our God-given destiny. We had three choices for 2008: (1) To stay with the status quo, (2) To back up to a safer zone, or (3) To go for it. As a church family, we chose to go all-out to fulfill God's dream for our church family and to commit our lives to doing "whatever it takes" and, trusting our Heavenly Father, to go do it.

God's dream for Gospel Life is to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all the world as a "testimony" to all nations with power and glory. Our destiny is for our ministry to be accompanied by supernatural power. So, what happened in 2008 that opened the way for Gospel Life to step into its divine destiny? Two message series in 2008 prepared our church family to realize what needed to become most important to all of our people.

The first message series ("**Real Men**") stressed the critical role of Christian men in their families. God chose Christian men to be the priests of their families. God designed men to be proactive in their intimacy with God and their intimacy with their wives. Christian men are called to fight for their personal holiness and for their families. It is God's design that men protect and fight for their families. God planned for fathers to bless their children, and they're to do this by calling out their children's God-given destiny. The second message series ("**Keys to the Kingdom**") gave us a better understanding of the "Gospel of the Kingdom" that we are to share with lost people. The Bible is not about religion or philosophy. It is about relationship. God created man to live in perfect relationship with Him and to rule His kingdom on earth as a surrogate image, a copy of God. Because of Adam's disobedience, God's earth kingdom was lost and man became disqualified from fulfilling the destiny that God had originally set for him. But because of Christ's perfect obedience, Christ, the second Adam, humanity can be restored to God's kingdom. Based on this series, we now have a revised *Basic 10* and new study guides for small groups.

This year, we can thank God for opening many doors for the

fulfillment of our destiny as a church community. Last February, we received news about the first Gospel Life congregation in the Philippines. The hard work of Pastor Fred and Nita Alejandro in Jala-Jala, Rizal resulted in fifty baptisms and the establishment of a congregation.

In April, Jec and I attended a Randy Clark's Healing Seminar in Phoenix, Arizona, where we received more Holy Spirit impartation for healing ministry. Since then, we have experienced more miraculous healings, especially here at Miracle Hill. In the same month, Prom and Norma's trip to Palawan resulted in the establishment of several Basic 10 small groups and baptisms in Puerto Princesa City.

In August, our leadership board voted to establish our mission outreach board (**Gospel Life Global Outreach**) in order to organize our people and resources for moving into our destiny as a mission outreach church. Within a month, our church ordained Prom and Norma (Philippine Global Outreach Coordinators) and Jon-J and Marcia (N2L Mission Coordinators - to assist Bacolod City Harvest Church in establishing a school of the supernatural) to the gospel ministry. They have moved and are now busy in their work in the Philippines.

Last September, the enrollment of Leonard (Potter's House) and Junior (IWAR Worship School) at the Mission in Vacaville increased the number of our students to three (Ned Espiritu is in his second year at Potter's House). We are assured that the next generation of leaders and ministers are being prepared and equipped now. Many doors were also opened during our trip to the Philippines (Sept. 22 to Oct. 22). We shared our Basic 10 and other materials with a group church leaders in Guimba, Nueva Ecija (they now use Basic 10 in small groups and in their preaching). Our New Covenant Seminar in Bacolod City Harvest Church enabled many pastors and churches in Negros to start using Basic 10. Our visit to Jala-Jala GLC and the ordination of Pastor Robert brought much-needed encouragement and support to their membership. They are now in the process of purchasing a church property.

Our first Leadership Seminar in Puerto Princesa gave the local church leaders (Palawan and Jala-Jala groups) basic leadership training and equipping and it also resulted in many baptisms. There is now a thriving church in Puerto Princesa (with six small groups) that is planning to build its first chapel.

We also now have a legal church corporation in the Philippines (Global Outreach of Gospel Life - Philippines), enabling us to own property and to authorize our ministers to legally officiate in marriages. We are in the process of printing the Leader's Guide in English (*Keys to the Kingdom*) and Tagalog (*Bagong Liwanag ng Kaharian*) for distribution in the Philippines.

We praise and thank God for all that He has done for us in 2008. What a year!