

WRITTEN WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOU!

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MAY
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THE BEAUTY OF RESTORATION

In 2005 the Museum of Biblical Art in Dallas caught flame—and not in a good way. The fire destroyed the building and ruined or affected thousands of pieces of art. Over the next six years, they worked to rebuild the museum and restore the art to its former glory.

Have you ever seen a painting in the process of being restored? Getting it back to its original state is painstaking. The conservator, the person restoring the piece, has to know the painting inside and out. What color is it supposed to be? What about the original artist—what was their style, the way they applied the paint? Is this shadow in the corner a result of the fire or part of the original? When possible, the conservator uses a photo of the original as a model.

God is into restoration, too. As I was reading this morning, I came upon Isaiah 61:4:

*They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.*

Jesus read this passage in his home synagogue in Luke 4. He started at the beginning of the chapter, declaring the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord was upon Him to preach, heal, set free, open, etc. And then He began to talk about restoration.

In the broader context of Isaiah, it is clear that God was talking about restoring His people after their exile in Babylon, but Jesus took this prophecy a step further.

Even though it had been fulfilled 500 years earlier, He declared it was being fulfilled right then. Again. For the second time.

Today every believer carries a fulfillment of these verses. We all have been given the Spirit of the Lord so we can proclaim the Gospel, heal the sick, set free the oppressed, deliver the demonized and spread the Kingdom of God.

Isaiah 61:4 came alive for me in a more personal way this morning. Threads of revelation I've received over the years converged in a moment, and I understood a larger portion of the calling God has given me. It's not that I saw a new calling, but I received understanding of something God has been doing in and through me since I met Him.

Threads of Revelation

Our last apartment number was 6104. When Dawna and I moved in, I knew those numbers pointed to Isaiah 61:4. At the time, I was focused more on verses 1-3, but I realized verse 4 was important for the season we were in, that this passage would define that period of time for us. We were living in this apartment when we took over the leadership of Streams.

About ten years ago, I had a visionary experience where I was walking with an angel through a destroyed city. I knew that it was a sphere of culture—or to use a more popular term, one of the mountains of culture. As we walked, I realized what was happening—someone had received revelation about their work, acted on that revelation, and was successful. I watched as the devastated city transformed into a beautiful, vibrant metropolis.

The angel explained that as people were faithful to follow the revelation God gave them, the

BETTER TOGETHER / Continued

Father would also give them success in a way others would recognize. Instead of announcing the revelation outright, if these people waited until others asked how they were successful, God would use their humility and servant hearts to open doors for conversation, which would change the organizations where they worked.

Ever since finding the Lord, I have been fascinated with beginnings. How did this denomination get started? What was this movement like at its peak? When the Spirit of God first moved in this city, what did He do? How did He begin? What was He saying about His plans? I love seeing the beautiful plan God intended for something—before time marked it and various issues inevitably arose. I feel compelled to remind people, churches, cities and businesses what God said about them at their births.

Repairing Ruined Cities

This desire to build up the ancient ruins is part of the call of Streams. It is how we accomplish what God has given us to do. At the beginning of every course workbook he wrote, John Paul Jackson included a letter to the students, saying:

Days will unfold when signs and wonders increase and the church will see the greatest move of God since the birth of the church at Pentecost. In preparation for the days ahead, the Holy Spirit is awakening our awareness about the teaching of the biblical prophets and the desert fathers who walked in the deeper things of God.

When we teach about the crazy things God does—like speaking in dreams and visions, taking people into heavenly encounters, moving people from one location to another or sending angels with messages—we are not teaching anything new! All of it is at least 2,000 years old. I like to tell people that if someone comes teaching a new doctrine or subject, run! If its roots are not at least 2,000 years old, it is not worth hearing. The new thing God is revealing is an old thing forgotten, not a new thing created.

The myth of progress needs to die. This concept that we are progressing in understanding and knowledge, that we are more mature than the

church before us, is false. We have lost more than we have found, and God is revealing those things to us again. He is repairing ruined cities. He is calling churches and denominations back to where they began, to remember the truths that birthed them and the power that grew them, to go back and do the works they did at first (Revelation 2:5).

This is not just about the church. This is true in nations and businesses, education systems and hospitals—everything God has made. The Lord doesn't want us to be preoccupied with what He did in the past, but at the same time, we don't have to let go of the good of yesterday to grab hold of the beauty of today and tomorrow (Ecclesiastes 7:18).

When I look at the church, I can't help but think about Ezekiel 22:30. Is there not a cause? Are not the walls broken down and the foundations shaken? Who will stand in the gap and cry out for justice? Who will remind the beautiful bride of Christ who she is and call her to her King? I know with certainty this is something I was created to do.

Streams Ministries will continue to remind people of the teachings of the biblical prophets, the desert fathers, the mystics and saints, the reformers and the revivalists of the past, and we will help the new generation see the trajectory God has placed us on—from glory to glory, to greater heights than we have known in the past! To the greatest move of God that will surpass even the birth of the church at Pentecost (Haggai 2:9). When every stream of revelation released to prior generations flows together as one river.

There is a lot of work to do, but God is faithful. We are very grateful He has joined you to Streams Tribe. As Esther 4:14 asks, "Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

IN HIS LOVE,

JOHN E. THOMAS
PRESIDENT



HONG KONG TRAINING CENTER

A number of years ago, John Paul Jackson visited Hong Kong, where he taught *The Art of Hearing God* and commissioned some of his friends to start a training center: Streams Asia. Since 2013 John E. Thomas has been traveling to Hong Kong to help expand the training center, provide leadership training, equip new teachers and work with the growing team.

Three directors currently lead Streams Asia: Alison Scott, Patty Keung and Rose Wenceslo. They teach *The Art of Hearing God* and *Understanding Dreams & Visions*; hold regular Dream Labs and prophetic activations; and have team members in Hong Kong, China, South Korea and Singapore.

We've translated *The Art of Hearing God* and a number of John's blogs into Chinese. We've also subtitled some of the Streams videos, which are being distributed as freely as possible, and started to translate the *Hearing God's Voice* small group curriculum.

This year for the first time, Hong Kong required a visa before John could enter the country and he was unable to get one, so his trip for May was postponed. We will try again in 2019.

Ways you can pray for Streams Asia:

- Strength of unity in the team
- Greater levels of prophetic gifting, dream interpretation and miracles
- Favor with local churches
- Finances for further translation projects
- People who will grasp the vision, volunteer to help and provide support
- More intercessors to cover the work



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Is there more to “kingdom business” than asking God to bless your workplace? As an employer or employee, how do you invite God into your workplace? What does fivefold ministry look like when integrated into business management? When Heaven’s culture and values are fused into the

way a business is structured, what changes? Come learn from people who have successfully walked out what it can look like to operate a Kingdom-based business. There will be short presentations and teaching, as well as time for a Q&A.

Date: August 25, 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Come in person: Dallas, TX

Livestream: www.streamsministries.com/marketplace

COURSES

The Art of Hearing God

- July 12-14, 2018 | Auckland, New Zealand | Cherie Trent
- August 9-11, 2018 | Glen Carbon, IL | Lisa Winter
- October 4-6, 2018 | Wichita, KS | Lisa Winter

Understanding Dreams & Visions

- June 7-9, 2018 | Fourways, South Africa | Taught by Yael Berry
- June 14-16, 2018 | Satellite, FL | Taught by Kim Nicholas & Darren Zinn
- August 28-30, 2018 | Weslaco, TX | Taught by Lisa Winter

Advanced Workshop in Dreams & Visions

- July 12-14, 2018 | Fourways, South Africa | Taught by Yael Berry

Limitless

- June 15-17, 2018 | Scotland | Taught by Charity Bowman-Web