

Keith & Sharon Higginbotham

NEWS FROM THAILAND

JANUARY 2010

HOLD ON! GOD WILL DO IT AGAIN!

Did 2009 challenge your faith? It has been published as a notorious year with the global economic crisis impacting every nation and all aspects of society including the church. With the loss of jobs and the struggles that come from increasing expenses and decreasing income, it is easy to fall into feelings of hopelessness and to give up believing that God will provide, give up believing the Lord is our Shepherd we shall not want. In the face of challenges, did your faith survive 2009 and have you held on to your faith?



The writer of Heb. 10:23 says, "Let us hold fast the confession of our confident expectation without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." One of the first things people tend to forget in the face of prolonged challenging circumstances is to keep up the confession of faith together with corresponding actions. It is natural as people talk to us, to respond with the usual chitchat about what we see with our eyes, or are experiencing. Yet, those are the very kinds of words which undermine our faith and set us back, separating us from receiving the promise.

Remember Abraham? Romans chapter four says that Abraham first became strong in faith and then received God's promise after many years at the age of 100! Abraham faced prolonged discouraging circumstances, yet he learned how to become strong in faith to overcome and receive the promise. In the same way, do not give up on the promises by allowing circumstances to dictate to you what God's will is or if God will keep his promises to you. God's Word does not rely on the things of this world to verify its authenticity or to affirm that the promises are for you right now. That is the role of our faith! Our faith affirms to us (Heb 1:1) that we receive what we ask when we believe we receive (Mk 11:23-24).

Obviously, the writer of Hebrews knows a thing or two about faith. He also tells us in Heb 10:36-38, "For you have need of endurance so that

after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise". If you want to receive what has been promised, then it is imperative that you plan to hold fast, and endure, no matter what you see, feel, or experience (2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight=experience.)

King David knows how easy it is to let pressures and challenges cause us to forget God's Word, for he said in Psalms 103, "Praise the Lord Oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits..." We have to make ourselves remember, by reminding ourselves of what God's Word says and remembering what God has done.

Now is the time for us to remember. Remember when we had a need and God provided. Remember when we were in trouble and God delivered us. Remember when we were sick and God healed us. Remember when we were in bondage and He set us free. Remember how He came through for us, and know that He has not changed! He is still coming through for us now.

The Apostle John charges us to remember our fervor and stand for the Lord, and to go back and start doing again the things we did at first, and to return to our first love (Rev 2 -3). We do that by spending time with God and allowing "the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

It is time now to rekindle the fire. Now is the time to throw more wood on the fire and stoke the flames to get our hearts burning bright with faith in God again. Let's get back at it! Let's get back to spending time with God, putting up post-its everywhere to remind us of what God says, singing the scriptures. Let's get back to putting actions to our faith, and being doers of the Word and not hearers only! Let's hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering! Let's endure and not faint so that we reap the harvest and receive the promises of all that God has given us!



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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We had an overflowing crowd of guests for the 2009 Christmas Banquet at Rhema Bible Church Bangkok. Believers brought their unsaved family and friends to discover the true meaning of Christmas. The "hi-tech" presentation of the Gospel was a video

simulating a news broadcast of people entering eternity without a redeemer, and was created by our own team of volunteers who developed the program to bring the message of hope and salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Rhema Band Thailand stirred up an atmosphere of joy with Christmas Carols and then ushered in a strong anointing for presenting the Gospel with praise and worship. For more pictures and videos, see the RHEMA Thailand Facebook page.

HEAVEN@HOME. RETREAT



Kanchanaburi, Thailand with it's surrounding forests, River Kwai, and outstanding scenery is a perfect getaway for a marriage retreat! Five couples joined us for a time of refreshing with their spouses, and to be reminded of the principles in God's Word which make for a happy and lasting union. The second evening we played a sanctified version of *The Newly Wed Game*. The couple married only one month won, but they've known each other for 7 years. Keith and Sharon administered the game, otherwise they for sure we would have been the winners! ☺

HMZ HEADLINES

History Makerz had a lot going in December! From doing what teenagers do best (eating) to celebrating Jesus, and sharing Jesus with the world., this group of kids have made history this year!

Eighteen kids joined the fun and got the message at our 2009 Christmas Party. When presented with the message, "Jesus Gave His All for You What Will You Give to Him?", they got real serious about their Christmas commitment to Christ which they wrote and sealed inside a fold up gift box. Each one took his box home, so that every time he sees it, he'll be reminded of his promise.

Kids love fun, yet they can be seriously committed to serving God too. On Sat. Dec 26 HMz went caroling in the neighborhood near that church. It was really hot that day and we were all soaking from sweat but no one complained but pressed on to reach more people who had not heard the real Christmas story!

