

Returning to Vietnam: Seeing of the Miraculous Intervention of God!

I begin this article even as I am on my flight from Hong Kong to Ho Chi Minh City (July 18, 2011). After having a four hour delay in Vancouver, my flight into Hong Kong arrived as my connecting flight departed. I missed it by mere minutes. I did my best to find an alternative departure, only to ultimately purchase a new ticket on another airline, the next day. Why do I mention this you may ask.

I have been learning a simple yet valuable lesson over the past few years as I have been traveling and ministering in Vietnam.

Challenges usually defined as inconveniences, progressively are thrust at me designed to remove my peace and rest. Evidently, this 'spiritual warfare' is meant to kill, steal and destroy the gift of God within me. (*John 10:10*) My alertness to these tactics has taught me to no longer allow them to impact me to the point of distraction, as in the past. I've learned that many times, such tactics though birthed by the evil one, are then used by my heavenly Father to develop greater spiritual strength within me. (*Genesis 50:20*)

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pastor or intercessor alone, but for each of us. I echo the prayer of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians. "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere without offense till the day of Christ." (*Philippians 1:8-9 NKJV*)

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The turmoil of the world around us increases daily. Asian markets are closely monitoring what is going on in America understanding that what happens there will impact all markets, everywhere. The Euro Zone is teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. These tests are not meant for our destruction, but rather for our strengthening. Therefore, the discerning of spirits (*1 Corinthians 12:10*) is crucial for each of us to survive in these days.

As much as the early part of the journey to Vietnam has had a number of hiccups, my peace has not been affected. My focus to watch and hear all that the Lord would speak as found in John 5:19 is my first concern.

The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do, for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. John 5:19

Within 3 hours after landing in Ho Chi Minh City, I will be meeting with the national core team at a coffee shop, where we will each share that which the Father has laid on our hearts. In anticipation of that meeting, knowing the hearts of these precious brothers and sisters, an excitement arises that we together will undoubtedly hear and discern the purposes of God for Vietnam on this journey.

Yes, within my heart there is a unshakable conviction that in spite of glitches on the path, the Lord will have His way. John 14:27, declares, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

The above paragraphs were the last I wrote until today, September 2, 2011. I have not changed anything that I wrote, but I am picking up from where I left off that day. As I read my thoughts I see the mercy of God as He gently wooed me into a place of being settled in my heart no matter what would happen on that trip.

Some of you would know, that on July 22 at approximately 3 am, I received an emergency call from Denise Boland in Colorado Springs, USA. Some of you know her because she is our prayer shield coordinator. Within a three minute call everything changed. Ann had been trying to reach me from University Hospital in London. She had received a call that my mom had been rushed by ambulance to the hospital. It was now ninety minutes later and things were unfolding quickly.

Mom had a massive brain aneurism and was not doing well.

At 4:30 am I arrived at the Ho Chi Minh Airport hoping to get on a flight that would leave at 5:50 am. As I write this to you, looking back on the situation I see the finger of God directing every event as I traveled home. Miraculously I traveled 1/2 round the world and was home by 9:00 pm London time. I was picked up at the airport and taken directly to the hospital. There had been over 17 hours of no communication as I flew from Hong Kong back to Toronto. My ride to the hospital seemed very long. I just wanted to get there and find out how things were.

In the midst of our tests, we can see the hand of God guiding and directing every detail, yet there can be cracks that pop up under the pressure. I could feel them trying to work their way to the surface. I recognized my natural inclination rising up. That inclination would be to say, "can't we drive any faster?" Yet, in the midst of my anxiousness a prevailing peace allowed me to just rest. It was by no means easy. I had to fight my desire to "hurry up and get there!" As I did, the truth of God's rest touched me deep into my soul. It's important that you know of my struggles and testing's.

I share this with you because of the pressure that we faced from the time I arrived at the hospital. I walked into the family room, and hugged Ann, Jillian, my sister and her daughter, my brother and his wife and their kids. Less than five minutes later, the surgeon emerged to give us a post-operative update. Sharon, my sister-in-law has been an ICU nurse for over 25 years and Jillian our daughter is a NICU nurse at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. They were there and I was very grateful to have them there. They were able to read between the lines and that was a great help. I was the last one to arrive at the hospital, but everyone was looking to me as the "oldest" to step up to the plate and know what to do.

The surgery had failed. A second bleed had been caused and in the words of the surgeon, "the next 24-48 hours would tell the story". So as a family, we settled in and went on a roller coaster ride of emotions, hopes and fears. Without a doubt, some of you have experienced what I am talking about.

Now was the time to remember the very words I wrote a few days earlier just before everything changed. Interestingly, on Thursday afternoon (before leaving Vietnam) when we were finishing the day, I leaned over and spoke quietly to Toan, my translator and said; "I could go home now and know that in 2 1/2 days we accomplished more than I could have imagined." Even as

I spoke those words, I thought it odd. I still had over a week of meetings in Vietnam and I was then moving onto Malaysia to be a part of what God was birthing there. Why would I even say something like that?

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Hindsight is 20/20 vision! There are situations and circumstances that you are or will be facing that will seem completely surreal. You may be left wondering what is this all about? Yes, the old adage is true. In fact, truer than we ever want to believe. "I know less about God now than when I began!" I'm not at all convinced that in "our thinking we knew God" we actually knew much. I'm more of the conviction that as a father, God allows us to grow in our understanding and walk with Him.

Don't be disheartened when 'things' that you thought you understood seem to go amiss. Don't allow the accusation of the enemy to crush your faith, but rather allow the increasing of His knowledge and your discernment (*Philippians 1:9*) to keep your heart and mind at peace in Christ. (*Philippians 4:7*)

We live in exciting days. Days when the Spirit of the Lord is moving at a speed that at times is difficult to keep up with. Like me, you will experience the voice of God preparing your heart in new and wonderful ways. These ways are not ways the way we have known in the past. Nevertheless, they are the maturing ways Father God is teaching us as we walk with Him. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (*John 14:1-3*)

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

The Lord prepared my heart to return home early from a trip I knew He called me to embark on. The end of this article looks nothing like what I thought it would when I began.

However, I have determined I will not let the enemy steal, kill or destroy anything the Lord has given to me. I will walk and live in His abiding rest and peace no matter what comes my way! How about you?



IMPACT NATIONS! September & October 2011

We need your prayer support from September 11 – October 9

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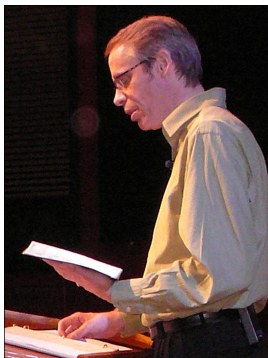
What's Special About This Trip?

As I embark on this 4 week expedition, which surprisingly includes two trips into Malaysia, the Lord spoke to my heart.

He said, *"you are going to build a bridge between South East Asia and Central Asia, just like a spider spins a web."* The return trip to Malaysia after having been with the national fathers of Central Asia will double the strength of the bridge He establishes.

Interestingly enough, as I spoke to a couple of our board members today a couple of thoughts became very evident. One member said, "Michael, I hope you don't mind me being too bold, but I pray that you bring the fulfillment of destiny to people in this season, changing how they understand God and His plan and place for them in Him!"

Later in the afternoon as I spoke to another of our board members and he encouraged me with the picture of the Canada goose. The Canadian goose is never found flying alone, but always as a flock in a 'V' formation. Secondly, there is never just one goose who remains at



the tip of the formation during their migration. The lead goose meets the greatest resistance as he or she cuts a path for the entire flock! I've known of this analogy for years and shared it numerous times when describing how the Lord has been leading the Church in Canada. A new thought came to mind as he shared with me today.

We, you and I are geese flying in formation. Each one of us has a time where we are to lead the formation, but we should never try to 'hang on' to the position of leader. Similarly, there will be different times and seasons for individual geese within the formation to be the ones who step up in an extra way to financially ease the load off the rest of the flock and leader.

None of us were designed to do it all on our own. It takes a family functioning as one to see the will of the Father fulfilled. Perhaps this is a time and season where you are to be one of the geese who carries the weight in the financial realm as we continue to 'fly' with one heart and one mind following the leading of the Holy Spirit in these end time days of incredible favour.

What's special about this trip? We are very aware of the need to fly in formation as the Canadian goose does. Thank you for taking your place in the 'V' formation!

Map of Asia to Help...



Kazakhstan



Vietnam



Malaysia



Ministry Calendar

September 11-12		Travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
September 13-15	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Taking part in The Malaysian Gathering with Vietnamese Leaders
September 15		Travel to Almaty, Kazakhstan
September 15-16	Almaty, Kazakhstan	Minister at Gathering of Pastors from all over Central Asia
September 17-18	Almaty, Kazakhstan	Ministering at Joy Church
September 19		Day Off
September 20-21	Karaganda, Kazakhstan	Ministering at Gathering of Pastors from Central Kazakhstan
September 21		Travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
September 22-23	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Days Off
September 24-25	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Ministering at CLGC
September 26		Travel to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
September 26-30	Vietnam	Meeting with and ministering to pastors and leaders
October 1		Travel to Vancouver, Canada
October 2	Vancouver, Canada	Minister at local church
October 3	Victoria, Canada	Day Off
October 4-8	Vancouver, Canada	Meeting with Canadian Leaders to wait on the Lord



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