

Word for British Columbia

No more “same old thing...”

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Hany Soryal



Vancouver's B.C. Place Dome on Dec. 17, 2007

God is using drastic means to get through to us. The recent series of wild winter storms, especially the phenomenal January 5th storm in southern BC, is a sign with a message. It is God's way of saying, “May I have your attention please!?!” And now that He has our attention, it is urgent that we understand what He is saying.

Creation is God's first book. He is constantly manifesting His glory and His character through creation. As it is written in Romans 1:20,

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...”

And, in Psalm 145:10-12:

“All your works shall praise You, O Lord...They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.”

As Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:46, God also often gives us a picture of a spiritual truth in the natural before the spiritual truth is manifested: “...the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.”

Winds of Cleansing

The storm that ripped through southern BC on January 5th came with fierce winds and wet snow. Over 1,000 trees in Stanley Park in Vancouver were left strewn on the ground, trees that prior to the storm had withstood years of weather. Snow covered everything. In the same way, the wind of the Spirit is about to blow through the Body of Christ in unexpected ways, bringing down old mindsets and habitual ways of doing things. The trees represent even the “well-established” leaders and organizations who may find the new moves of God destabilizing. These leaders must be firmly established in a day-to-day, “listen-and-obey” relationship with the Lord in order to stand strong.

Just as BC's natural flora thrives in the climate of regular rain, so also the Christian community has thrived under the teachings of church leadership (Deuteronomy 32:2). But

a new season has arrived, one that will require more than just good teaching. We must move beyond simply hearing and receiving the word of teaching.

The snow that blanketed everything in BC prophetically speaks of cleansing from sin. God is bringing a profound and fresh season of cleansing to BC. Sin is not simply disobedience to one of the Ten Commandments. The apostle Paul said that “whatever is not of faith is sin!” (Romans 14:23). In this light, sin is every decision that we make by the wisdom of man, or by logic alone, rather than by the “here and now” word of God. Our decision-making process must be based on FAITH in what God says. We must BELIEVE that He is faithful to accomplish what He has spoken.

No More Spectators



Collapse of B.C. Place Dome on Jan. 5, 2007

Today we are witnessing one of the greatest shifts in the character of the Church. Until recently, most believers attended church the same way that they attended the cinema: passively, with the vague hope of hearing or seeing something inspiring. On January 5, 2007, a significant event happened in Vancouver that marks the beginning of this shift—the dome roof of the B.C. Place

Stadium collapsed. In the prophetic, we must always ask “why this and not that?” Why was it a stadium, and not a school or an office building? A stadium is a place where people go to be spectators, therefore the roof collapsing signifies that the old spectator mindset is being taken down in the hearts of Christians. **Christianity is not a spectator sport.** We will not survive the coming intense spiritual battles—let alone be victorious warriors—if we are merely spectators. God is calling us to take our positions as the indomitable warriors in the battle against dark forces.

The B.C. Place stadium had the largest self-supporting inflated dome in the world. Until today, most local churches have managed to survive in a “self-supporting” mode without linking arms with the rest of the Body. But this too is changing. Churches and ministries that are not walking in true fellowship and relationship with the rest of the Body of Christ will be vulnerable in the face of the wild storms that are coming against the church. The January 5th storm is not a punishment. Rather, it is God extending His grace to the province, so that we can be prepared to impact the international scene for His glory in the Vancouver Olympics in 2010.

New Eyes

About two years ago I asked the Lord, “If Canada were a human body, which part would BC be?” I immediately had a vision of a set of eyes that were going under laser surgery. As we see God afresh, we will be transformed from infants and invalids into an invincible love-army. It is then that we will effectively advance His kingdom and prepare the way for his coming—for the day is at hand. It is vital that we start seeing and thinking anew

because what we behold, we will become. "...we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1John 3:2). We must see the new ways that God wants to move and we must walk accordingly. We must see God as He is.

The Final Shift

We are shifting from the era of Moses to the era of Joshua, the time when we will finally enter our "Promised Land." This transition requires many changes but one of the most essential changes is the role of the leadership and the way we as Christians walk.

During the leadership of Moses, he was almost like God to the people. It was he who had the rod of God. It was he who heard from the Lord. It was he who demonstrated the power of God and who showed the rest of the people God's ways. Leadership in most churches follows the same model: the pastor is the one with authority, the one who hears God and instructs the people.

This model changed when Joshua was ushered into leadership. His first commission from the Lord was to lead the people across the Jordan (see Joshua chapters 1-3). But rather than Joshua leading them personally, the priests were instructed go ahead bearing the Ark of the Covenant, the presence of the Lord. The people were to fix their eyes on the Ark, not on Joshua, as they crossed. They were to follow God's presence. This is the renewed call of church leadership today: to point the people away from themselves to the presence of God; to train and equip the people of God so that they can hear from Him themselves and follow Him freely (see Ephesians 4).

BC, fix your eyes on the Lord. Seek His presence. Follow His lead.