

Makarios Blessing Year in Review 2023

Introduction

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus.

It has been a year of reset, reconsecration and relaunch. 2023 really was a year of out with the old and in with the new. Below is an overview of a changing {and sometimes challenging year}

Philippines 2023 mission

At the tail end of 2022 I flew out to be with my wife as our child was born. We named her 'Hannah' after the character in 1 Samuel. Our child really was a miracle child and that very passage of scripture in 1 Samuel was the one that God gave the day my wife announced she was expecting. The name Hannah comes from the feminine of the Hebrew word for grace. Hannah was a gift of grace to us.

Around 10 years ago when I was on mission in Kenya, God gave me a vision for a number of nations. I saw myself going into Uganda and South Sudan. Both these doors were opened to me. I also saw myself in the Philippines with two specific promises. I would travel to different locations and I would be there for 6 weeks. When I applied for paternity leave and added on the remainder of my holiday entitlement for the financial year it added up to EXACTLY six weeks in the Philippines. While the bulk of my time was spent with my wife and daughter we had the chance to travel to a different church every Sunday. Various invitations came in.

The Gospel goes North, South, East and West

It was great to spend 6 weeks with the extended family. We used the Sundays for ministry at various churches. Here is a summary of what happened.

We went north to Opol: God gave me a word to encourage the church to take the gospel to others and there was a huge response to the message and several prophetic words were given. Since then so many in the last year have been added to the church as new people are coming in almost on a weekly basis and being baptised.

We went East to Talisayan: The church here has experienced decline but in this service we had an encounter with the Spirit of God and there was a powerful anointing to prophesy.

We went West to Alubijid where 3 people made a decision to follow Christ.

We went south to Baluarte. God gave me a very specific word about forgiveness and how Jesus forgiving on the cross led to fruitfulness and increase. I didn't know anything about this church until afterwards when I was told the church had suffered after the controversial departure of their former pastor. As I preached, the lady who had stood in to cover the role of pastor was in tears as God began to minister. I led the entire church in a prayer of repentance and forgiveness and remarkable things began to happen. Many visitors had, for some reason, decided to visit the church. There were several decisions for Christ. A man was healed of back problems and another with vision problems had his sight restored before we could even lay hands on him!!! We saw increase, liberty and anointing through the service as the congregation took the word of God to heart. It was so powerful.

*Click on the underlined link below
for a snapshot of the miracle service in Baluarte*

[Fresh Flow of the Holy Spirit in Baluarte](#)

A time of testing

2023 has been a year of testing and moving on. Before I had even returned to England I had been informed that my rent had been raised again. A total of 30%. I could no longer afford to live there and in the midst of a cost of living crisis many people were trying to move home and find cheaper accommodation causing rents to spike further. {I heard testimonies of landlords playing prospective tenants against each other to get the highest rent possible.~ I had to move out of Ealing where so

much of my ministry was based such as evangelism and a fledgling bible study group and move to Harrow.

It actually felt like a failure but God showed me that my ministry had not failed. It had been COMPLETED. There was a clear sense of peace as I moved into new accommodation.

The year has also brought severe financial challenges and an injury that has kept me out of work for weeks. Worse still my daughter contracted life threatening pneumonia. Thankfully she is in good health now.

It has been incredibly tough but God has sustained us through every trial. Not only that but there have been some remarkable 'God' moments.

Wembley Prophetic preaching

Back in 2022 I was led by God to prayer-walk Wembley. As I prayer-walked the area I was struck by just how many people there were of different religions. I sensed in my spirit that there were many spiritual strongholds there and that the gospel would be opposed here. I asked God what the key was to breaking this stronghold and He told me. "Preach Christ crucified". The local authority had put up a sign banning all amplified broadcasts and performances. With a hugely busy and noisy main road going right alongside this area how would we be heard?

Several months later I became aware that an old evangelist friend of mine that I have worked with in the past would be running an evangelism equipping seminar in WEMBLEY and outreaching in the very place! I felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit to be there despite the fact that I would be finishing a 12 hour shift by 6 in the morning. So I got a couple of hours sleep, grabbed a coffee and made my way down to Wembley. I caught the seminar just before lunch and had some time to mingle with the attendees {and my evangelist friend} before we all headed out to the location. There they unpacked and erected a large podium, draped it in banners, and set up a P.A system. All of this was within several metres of the clearly visible sign that strictly prohibited amplification. I did wonder about this. Did he have special permission from the authorities? I guessed he must have because..well...because he must have right? At this point I must mention a rather unusual and erratic gentleman who was hanging around where we were planning to set up. It quickly

became apparent that he was disturbed. He was shouting out strange religious slogans and his behaviour was similar to what I have seen when someone is oppressed by an evil spirit.

He was quite a distraction and some of the team tried to talk to him but he was still unsettled, erratic and disruptive, some offered to pray for him but this made absolutely no difference. It was as if the prayers just bounced off him. Some among us prayed that the spirit would be bound in Jesus' name but nothing worked. We gathered together in prayer in a circle and this seemingly did nothing. He was still destructive. The spirit within him was determined to disturb and distract. We began with a song of worship {from experience I know that worship changes the spiritual atmosphere} but he carried on regardless. It was as if the man knew somehow we would be there and was waiting for us.

Then Dominic, my evangelist friend, without any introduction or explanation of how the outreach programme would run, simply made his way to the top of the platform and began to preach with great passion on the subject of Christ crucified. Within seconds the demonised man began to walk away and didn't bother us for the rest of the outreach. It was quite remarkable. Nothing else we did that normally worked actually worked.

One person after another preached and it was on another level as each person emphasised the cross and Christ with great fervour. Nobody stopped or hassled us. We had complete freedom. It was only as we were winding down that a couple of enforcement officers came, pointed to the sign and said we couldn't do what we were doing there. Nearby a couple of police officers stood and watched to enforce the law if need be. We were literally finishing. When I spoke to Dominic later he hadn't seen the sign. Nobody did despite it being just several metres away. God had given us divine freedom for as long as we needed. In my prayer walk I sensed that this would be a place for fruitful outreach but in my mind I wondered about the restriction and realised we needed supernatural wisdom and favour to outreach there. God answered that emphatically.

Click on the link below to watch the prayer walk prophecy

[Wembley prayer walk prophecy](#)

- We engaged with 2 muslim women. One of the team was given a name by the Holy Spirit that matched the name of one of the women. She testified of being physically aware of the presence of God as she heard the preaching.
- We spoke to 2 other girls, one of which said she could sense the presence of God when she listened to the preaching. She gave her life to Christ.
- A muslim man we saw limping was willing to receive prayer from us.
- A group of men were listening from a nearby pub. One of them was so touched by God he ended up in tears and received Christ.
- One of our team actually attended because the Holy Spirit convinced him to come. His boss even allowed him to take the afternoon off. He preached on the street for the very first time.
- One lady was initially resistant until the team member gave her a word of knowledge about previous hurts and pain. She ended up giving her life to Christ.
- A man was called out by one of the preachers as he was preaching. The man was a muslim. He agreed to let us pray for him that Jesus would reveal himself.
- A man with breathing issues received prayer for healing and could now take deep breaths which he could not do before.
- A young muslim agreed to consider whether Jesus was more than a prophet.
- We spoke to a Hindu man who believed in the truth of all religions. He heard a powerful testimony from one of the team who nearly lost his arm and died. Upon hearing this the man agreed to pray when he got home and ask Jesus to reveal himself.
- A lady who had grown up in an abusive cult group had no time for religion but admitted she had no peace. She had just spent all night at the hospital after her brother was hit by a car. By divine appointment God caused the exact right person to speak to her. She told the lady her own story of surviving religious trauma and how Jesus brought healing to her and gave her peace. The lady was deeply touched. They swapped details and later that day she

got in touch to say how much their meeting on the street meant to her and to arrange to meet for coffee.

Huge harvest at the Franklin Graham crusade

This year we were able to hold a huge crusade one night event in London and God was moving powerfully. There was such an atmosphere of worship and I sensed that many Christians were awoken out of their slumber. Many were previously stirred to stand in the gap and pray for this crusade.

I had the opportunity to serve in various capacities. I was on the streets as part of the team doing evangelism in the run up to the event, joined with brother Franklin and the various ministers and team members in morning devotions, helping with the set up on the day and working as a counsellor as people responded to the gospel.

Heavy rains surrounded us in the hours leading up to the crusade yet around 10,000 turned up. It was obvious God was doing something with the strong sense of anointing and the crowds of people flowing into the venue even half an hour after the start. After pastor Graham had preached he called people forward to respond and the front of the building was packed with a sea of people. Crowds filled the aisles in an attempt to come forward. Many of the counsellors had to pray with two, three or four people. We ran out of literature and bibles to give them and had to acquire more. Around 870 people committed their lives to Christ in the venue and others responded online. Along with the decisions we saw on the streets there were well over 1,000 who committed their lives to Christ.

[Read the Report from the Billy Graham Association here](#)

Other Outreaches in London

Despite it being a quiet year for outreach and no longer being able to easily make it to Ealing there were some occasional outreach activities in London. I have been able to connect with new and familiar old faces.

As well as in Wembley I have been evangelising in Stratford and Bromley, Walthamstow and Stamford Hill, prayer walking in Stepney Green, Preaching at churches in Kensington and Stratford and we have had some great encounters and conversations with people.

I also went to Kings Cross where a remarkable thing happened. As we were preaching, a demonised man walked all the way over and sat right in front of us and began to yell and spit out the most horrendous abuse. We prayed, bound the spirit and did all we knew to do but he sat there resolute, spewing out vitriol and hatred non stop. He continued this as I began to preach and then I felt a prompting from the Holy Spirit.

Watch below. The Resurrection power of Christ sends demons fleeing. As I was sharing my testimony, God prompted me to preach the resurrection power of Christ. You can hear the preaching go up a level in intensity as the anointing comes down {from the 5 minute mark}and the camera pans round to show the demoniac suddenly deciding to leave.

[The Same Power that Raised Jesus From the Dead](#)

Preaching in Walthamstow. There was such a liberty to minister in this place. People were actually coming to us to talk.

[Those Who Look to Him are Radiant](#)

Preaching in an orthodox Jewish neighbourhood. One Jewish man was even happy to let us pray for him.

[A Garment of Praise](#)

Summary - 2024: The year of Breakthrough!

I have purposely held back from prayer walking Harrow because I sensed that it was not yet time. Recently I have met so many people that God has strategically placed in the area and I sense that now is the time.

I joined a Romanian friend the other Friday evening as He shared the gospel in the high street and we were joined by one of the members of a local church who has a heart for the gospel in our community. We had a number of good conversations and I shared my testimony and the gospel with a young man. I also joined a local church in the Christmas carol outreach.

We are going to prayer walk this area in 2024 and launch a street outreach on Saturday 13th January {Hopefully the first of many}.

Pray for Wealdstone in Harrow Borough. The time has come. We can



already see God's favour and openness.



{left} On the streets of Wealdstone with loan from Romania

{right} Sharing my testimony and the gospel with a passer by

Every blessing for 2024...Steve Johnson