

## **Makarios Blessing annual victory report for 2016.**

**“Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end” Isaiah 9/7**

# **2016 - A Year of God Glorified**

Shalom, Shalom.

It is with some great fondness I am typing this. It has been an eventful year. A year of memories made. Of lives changed forever. Of a new stage of destiny entered into. I want to share with you some of the highlights of this year of mission and encounter with the living God. I also want to encourage you in your praying for me that your prayers are not in vain.

### **Blisworth Baptist Church**

It seems I am there every two of three months nowadays. Every time I have the chance to preach there I feel stirred to not only preach but to preach prophetically to the congregation. There is such a stirring to encourage the church to have confidence in the gospel and to be ministers of God's peace. The Spirit of God is stirring others in the church too. I want to share one of a number of testimonies of God's word.

I was in the worship service and I had my sermon notes in my book in front of me. Nobody was told what I was going to preach of the text I was using. One of the women in the church who operates in a prophetic gifting came to me and told me God had pointed out the top that I was wearing {I had on a bright yellow hoodie as it was cold}. She said God had pointed it out to her telling her God was using me to shine and glow with his presence and peace. God told her to tell me He had 'clothed me' with his presence. God had clothed me with power to minister. Right then I showed her the title of my sermon. It was called 'Being clothed'.

We always have a good time together when I am there. There is a genuine openness to the Holy Spirit and people are often greatly stirred and encouraged.

### **London - Destiny Calling**

As many of you know, around 3 years ago I joined Every Nation church in Hammersmith, West London. It was a supernatural calling. God has done so much in that time but I want to share a few testimonies of what God has been doing more recently. I fully believe God has called me to be based in this church and in London but for now I am still working in Northampton.

I felt stirred by the Holy Spirit to find a weekend address in London where I would be based from Friday to Sunday every week. Needless to say this was quite intimidating especially as I had not yet found work in the capital and rents in the city are sky high. I was praying one evening and God spoke to me and told me to approach him as a Father. I realised I was coming before him with a bare minimum of faith as if I didn't really deserve to ask for much. I was both challenged and encouraged by this and so I asked God again, this time more boldly and with confidence, for everything I needed to make the move to accommodation. I gave God an exact figure of what I needed. Just days later a friend who knew I was planning to move said he and his wife wanted to give me a gift to help with the house move. It was a

cheque for the exact amount I had asked for. I was able to pay for the removal, rent in advance and deposit at no cost to myself because of this amazing act of generosity. To some, to stay in Northampton during the week and have accommodation in London seems illogical but it is an act of faith. It is an act of pursuing the destiny God has put in my heart. I had packed most of my stuff in anticipation of the move before the money even came in. What's more, God has placed me in a Christian household where the owner charges significantly less than the market rate in order to help Christians. All this happened without my speaking to anyone but God about my needs in these areas. God truly is good and he meets all our needs.

As if that wasn't enough, one of the tenants in the house is committed to street evangelism which is something I desperately want to get more into. He has opened up for me many other opportunities to minister on the streets of London which leads me to the next section of this report.

Note : In a recent development I have been sounded out about the possibility of an internship at my home church. This is an exciting opportunity and another big step in my vision to minister in London on a full time basis. At present we are still going through the process and so I have not received a formal offer but I would ask you to be in prayer for me about this. We are looking for me to be in place early next year. The internship will centre around teaching and evangelism as well as some administrative work and training.

### **Street Outreach**

This year started off very slow in this regard for several reasons but since I have made the move to the capital things have accelerated. I work with an excellent street evangelistic ministry called 'Now Believe' and they have restarted a monthly outreach in Soho. The environment is undoubtedly challenging but rewarding as well. Members of the team sometimes share a prophetic word with people or pray for them one to one. In our final outreach of the year we saw someone on the streets commit their life to Christ. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead in our regular Soho outreaches and if my job move to London goes ahead I will be looking at being on the Soho outreaches twice a month.

There have been a variety of other locations we have used for outreach including outside Clapham Common underground station {we do this a couple of times a month} and a more low key outreach in Epsom, just south of London. In our London outreaches we have plenty of open air singing/ worship, street preaching, testimonies and offer to pray for any needs we come across including praying for those who are sick.

Further afield, our last outreach in Bonn Square, Oxford, resulted in two people making a commitment to follow Jesus. One of them was a young man who was fairly sure he was going to heaven until he had the gospel clearly explained to him and upon hearing, realised that he needed salvation. He gave his life to Christ on the streets there and then.

### **International Mission**

The big event for 2016 was the mission trip to Nairobi, Kenya. This started with a wonderful miracle of provision. As a matter of course I checked the Kenyan embassy website to see the visa conditions {I'm very familiar with them by now. It's a formality} only to find they have

changed things. I now need special permission from a certain government department which would take typically three weeks but is now suffering severe delays {I checked about three weeks before flying out}. I went anyway and someone who knew nothing about any of this told me God had shown them something whereby they saw Nairobi as this heavily protected and foreboding place but that God said I will walk in unhindered. You can get the regular visa at Nairobi airport but my circumstances were different and you would often have to wait ages and get many questions as well. When I got to the airport without a visa I barely waited five minutes before being called. I had no questions. I simply handed my passport over and they put a visa in it without any questions or even looking at me, I paid the visa fee and walked right on through. I have never known it to be that easy. God gave me favour!

The mission itself was diverse and exciting. We had teaching seminars where the presence of God came and prophetic giftings were released. We had door to door evangelism. We had street crusades where we saw people come to Christ and people miraculously healed. In the final few days we joined up with 'Pais Kenya' and did a street outreach in different locations every day. We saw two more people give their lives to the Lord including a man called Kennedy. I decided to share my story with him and he really appreciated the openness and honesty. He had a number of questions and has clearly been thinking about things yet there were sticking points for him. As we were about to move on, Kennedy expressed his desire to give his life to Christ. We were overjoyed to pray with him and for him. We deliberately avoid pressuring people. We want them to come to a place of genuine Holy Spirit conviction and it was awesome to see God at work in this way.

In the final day of the mission we got permission to do a talk in a school with a few hours notice. We did a presentation on the subject of peer pressure. Crammed into a classroom were around 70 pupils aged from 13 to 15. We had fun, played games talked about stuff young people faced and weaved the gospel into it. At the end, with teachers present, we had a full call to salvation with a chance to respond and 6 young people openly responded to the gospel before their peers and gave their lives to Christ including a young headscarved muslim girl who was in tears when she heard what Christ had suffered for her. It was an amazing end to two weeks of mission .

There were other financial miracles surrounding this mission. I was just a few days from flying out and £300 short of the total I needed. I had no money to pay for a hotel. That Sunday, having told nobody of my predicament, I set off from church to find a cafe I knew of and got inexplicably lost {I still can't understand how it took me over an hour and several wrong turns to get there}. As I got there, however, there was a couple I knew who had just popped in for five minutes. They explained how pleased they were to hear of my mission and wanted to make a contribution. The amount they had decided on was £300. How amazing is that! There I was getting lost in London and yet in the perfect timing and will of God.

In order to balance my budget I had put off one of my bills at home until the last possible moment {It was waiting for me when I returned and it had to be paid}. It was around £170 and I knew after budgeting I simply didn't have the money. I gave the issue to God. On my way back to London I was given an offer by the airline to be a voluntary reserve. They deliberately overbook their flights because there are almost always a few no shows. If, on

the off chance, everyone shows up they have a select few passengers before check in who act as reserves. This means, if you agree to this, if everyone else shows up, the airline will put you on the next available flight and their expense plus a compensatory cheque {Which covered the entire amount of the bill waiting for me when I got home}. In all the times I have travelled I have never been given this offer before but I asked God to meet every need, all of a sudden, this opportunity arose. I was even given a voucher to use to get food at the airport while I waited.

### **Preaching at Home**

One of my personal highlights is to preach at my home church which means a lot to me. I have been given a couple of opportunities this year and God has given me the right words at the right time. There has been a real emphatic response as God has taken that to speak into people's lives.

The most recent of these was the most remarkable. We were doing a series of encounters with Jesus and I had chosen Nicodemus encounter with Jesus where Jesus said 'You must be born again'. During the week leading up to that Sunday I wasn't well and felt particularly bad on the day so the pastor offered to cover for me and said there was a slot I could take two weeks later. Soon after it transpired one of the leaders of our fellowship would be passing through that Sunday and we had a fantastic opportunity to get him to speak. I felt fine about this. God had given me a message I was very excited about and I knew it would be released at the right time. Some weeks later I was given another slot and a chance to close the series off. That Sunday morning as I went through my final preparations I realised it was exactly 23 years to the day that I had been born again {December 11th 1993}. I not only got the chance to speak about being born again but also the opportunity open to those who are born again of being led by the Spirit and being open to that. I have no idea what is happening among the congregation when the preaching is going on but so many people responded at the end by coming forward as a show of commitment to being open to being Spirit led at the end.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all of those people who pray for me on a regular basis. I have seen numerous miracles of God's divine leading and supernatural provision as well as being involved in encounters that have seen peoples lives changed forever. The report here gives just a few examples of that. Once again, thank you for your prayers and support.

These are exciting times. 2017 looks like being a breakthrough year. More and more opportunities for frontline evangelism are presenting themselves. In the next few months I could be making my move to London permanent and leaving behind my job of nearly 20 years. After carrying a vision for many years it looks like I could be in what is termed 'full time ministry'. This is a wonderful opportunity in a time when I believe the church in the UK is on the brink of a great outpouring of God's Spirit and revival. God is putting things in place and we are going to see much greater things. There has been much said and written about what's wrong with the churches. I think we are about to see a lot about what's right with them. Here's to a year of breakthroughs.

God bless you.

*Steve Johnson*