



**COMMISSION ON HOLY
SPIRIT EMPOWERMENT IN
THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Asian Conversation on
Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st
Century**

Hong Kong, China
Hyatt Regency Sha Tin Hotel
May 28-30, 2009

The Asian Conversation on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Hong Kong from Thursday May 28 to Saturday May 30 2009. This conference was attended by 22 leaders from 7 Asian countries. In attendance were Pastor Wirachai Kowae from Bangkok Evangelistic Center; Dr. Edmond Teo from International Christian Assembly; Dr. David Sumrall from Cathedral of Praise; Dr. Prince Guneratnam from Calvary Assembly of Church; Professor Lung Kwong Lo from Chun Chi Divinity School; Scholar Vinson Synan from Regent University School of Divinity; Pastor Donovan Ng from Kwong Pentecostal Holiness Church; Wayne Graham from Strategic China Initiative, Taiwan; Dr. Luke Vandari from Himalayan Mission, Nepal; Pastor Derek Dunn from City Harvest Church, Singapore; Cheolsu Pakk (Charles) from International Coordinator WLI and HIM; Jun Escosar from Every Nation Global Network, Philippines; Michael Paderes from Every Nation Global Network, Philippines; Pastor Wayne Crook from Hong Kong City Church; Pastor Lai Yu Kai (Heman) from Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong; Curtis Jones director for Asian Center for Mobilization; Samuel Lau from Hong Kong Revival Christian Church; Pastor Timothy Wu from Bethesda Community of Hong Kong; Pastor Yengil Choe from Kimpo Full Gospel Church S. Korea; Junghoon Kim from Harvest International Ministries Administration; Rev. Tsang Shing Kei, Superintendent of the General Council for Hong Kong Assembly of God Church; and Pastor Caleb Wherli from Inspire International.

The purpose of this meeting was to ascertain what the Holy Spirit is doing in Asia, discover and discuss issues facing the Spirit-empowered church in Asia, discover contemporary methods and vocabulary needed for engaging new generations in Spirit-empowered living, and form an alliance with Asian leaders in order to facilitate a Spirit-empowered movement into a united river of blessing that will flood the earth. These goals were achieved, under the leadership of Pastor Billy Wilson, as the group discussed eleven pivotal questions to an understanding of the 21st century move of the Holy Spirit in Asia. The findings from the questions are noted below:

Q1: What are you seeing and hearing that indicates the direction of the Holy Spirit's work and how He is moving today? What is God doing now?

The group noted:

- God is equipping and empowering people, regardless of their age and gender, to transform society.
- God is raising up fathers to empower the next generation.
- God is using secret-service Christians to impact people of all nations.
- More people are calling upon God instead of simply relying only on their education.
- Missionaries can get into China much easier than in the past.
- Pentecostal churches are more willing to dialogue with each other.

- Christian churches are wealthier than before so they can do more for the kingdom of God.
- God's power and presence is made known and manifested in places like Korea and Nepal through 24 hour prayer movements.
- Youth and kids, as young as 8 years old, are experiencing Holy Spirit empowerment in Korea and Nepal through overnight prayer meetings.
- Unbelievers are more open to the move of God and the supernatural.

Q2: What is producing fruit and what is no longer producing fruit in the Spirit-filled movement? What must stop, start and continue?

Factors that are no longer producing fruit are:

- Controlling leaders.
- Lack of fathering in and outside of the Church.
- Leaders who lack integrity and character.
- Preaching of the prosperity gospel.

Factors that are producing fruit are:

- Leaders that model truth and genuineness.
- Leadership development.
- Fathering of the younger generation.
- Sincere worship and contemporary music that has a message.
- Going to the unsaved instead of waiting for them to come to the church.
- Leaders who balance power and the Word of God.

Q3: What unique challenges and opportunities are now facing Spirit-empowered Christianity in Asia? What should we expect in the future?

Challenges that are facing the Spirit-empowered Christianity in Asia include:

- Taking people from ground zero with no faith to the point of saving faith and then faith to trust God for greater things.
- Filipino pastors are imitating the western model of doing church instead of formulating a model that is unique to the Philippines.
- Lack of unity in charismatic churches. Pastors are more focused on their churches, not a united fellowship. There is a lack of coordination of the five-fold ministry.
- The Church does not know how to communicate the gospel to intellectuals and Muslims.
- Historically the Charismatic/Pentecostal movement was a rural movement among the poor. However, China has become urbanized and now has more educated people than in the past. The challenge is that the church is not equipped to communicate the power of the Holy Spirit to people in the urban societies.
- Pentecostal leaders' approach to ministry is becoming outdated.
- The urbanization of society has prevented people from spending quality time developing their spiritual lives.
- There is a huge gap between the people who own the resources and the people who are on the mission field.

- Churches are selfish. They constantly approach God with a “bless me” attitude, instead of trying to see how they can help others in need. People need help in their life situations: poverty, pains, abuse, etc.
- There is a lack of spiritual fathers. Even though the church needs younger leaders, the older leaders are not sufficiently developing younger leaders to continue the work of the ministry.
- Good leaders are so busy they do not have time to disciple and train prospective leaders to be effective leaders.
- Not too many people want to commit to full time ministry.
- Fifty percent of the Asian population is below the age of 25, but there are not many appropriate strategies in place to disciple them.
- Very few Christian university programs prepare their students to do practical ministry.
- Christians are skeptical about supernatural matters such as rolling and shaking. Thus some churches have become mildly charismatic.
- Hong Kong is greatly influenced by western Pentecostal charismatic scholars. Currently there are no Chinese Pentecostal textbooks.

The opportunities that are facing the Spirit-empowered Christianity in Asia include:

- People in Asia, especially the next generation, are hungry for God. Thus, they need to be discipled and led out to share the Gospel.
- Music is a relevant tool for evangelism. As such worship, music, and the media need to be incorporated in the communication of the gospel.
- People are looking for authenticity. They will easily listen to authentic ministers. Thus, ministers need to be authentic in their practice of ministry.
- Twenty-four hour prayer houses are helping people to experience Holy Spirit empowerment. There are discussions about establishing it in every city in South Korea. This will also provide more opportunity to preach the gospel.
- In this time of economic hardship, the wealthy churches can employ more college graduates, and equip them for the work of the ministry.
- The ‘supermen’ and ‘lone ranger’ church leaders can now be fathers and role models to the youth.
- In the Asian context youth are very respectful to adults and the family unit. As such, the adults can use this privilege as an open-door to impart the youth.

Q4: What trends are now affecting the next generation as it relates to their being empowered by the Holy Spirit?

- This generation is more educated and knowledgeable than the previous ones. Thus there are economic changes, and educational changes.
- There is a gap between older and younger generations. This gap needs to be closed. One way to close it is through implementing programs in public schools.
- Lack of mentors and role models to share and demonstrate spirit-empowered living with youth.
- Effective worship: there is a change in worship that is more appealing to youth.
- Youth are negatively impacted by the internet, sex, and drugs. However, prayer can positively impact the negative trends.

- The sixties and seventies way of conducting worship services will not work today. Churches have to move away from pulpit-led to people-led services.
- Christians are marrying non-Christians.
- Young people understand and are more desirous of the supernatural works of the Holy Spirit.
- This generation needs to be taught about the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Q6: How can we engage the next generation in Spirit-empowered living? What vocabulary will help them embrace the work of the Holy Spirit? Q: 7: What action steps can be taken which new generations will perceive as empowering them for greater service?

- Employ some university students as interns, relate to and treat them as youth leaders, and help them develop their spiritual lives.
- Equip the youth and send them on missions.
- Form youth prayer groups.
- Provide youth with effective role models.
- Offer the next generation an environment in which they feel significant and accepted, regardless of their past mistakes and present struggles.
- Teach and demonstrate for them how to move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Emphasize the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Using street language that youth can easily understand and identify with. Example, “touched by God” instead of “slain in the Spirit.”
- In love, be real and honest with the next generation and not protect the truth.
- Develop manifestos or core beliefs that will be a guide for the youth.
- The church needs to enter the world of the youth, engage, challenge, and believe in them.

Q8: What steps can we take that will help this generation experience the fullness of the Spirit? What about speaking in tongues? How can we help them connect spiritual power with practical impact in the 21st Century?

- This generation needs to be taught about the demonstration of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They also need to be shown from scripture the importance of speaking in tongues.
- Mature believers need to share personal experiences about the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- Music and worship can be powerful tools to introduce youth to the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Churches need to be bold and go and reach the youth wherever they are at.
- Pastors and church leaders need to understand their audience, especially as it relates to speaking in tongues.
- There needs to be an emphasis on corporate versus individual infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- There needs to be an emphasis on surrendering to the Holy Spirit and demonstrating a life of love.

Q10: What is the one best thing we can do to equip or train the Asian youth for Christ in the 21st Century?

- Take them on cross-cultural missions (learn on the spot to preach and share their faith)

Q11: What would a spiritual father and spiritual son model look like in Asia in the 21st Century?

- Your biological father can be your spiritual father.
- Your father should be your friend.
- Invest the church's money into the lives of young men and women.
- Encourage the youth to pursue and excel in education.
- A father provides, protects, guides, instructs, exhorts, corrects, and inspires. He is always willing to give his life for his child.
- Seek out the fatherless and show them what a good father looks like.
- Assign a spiritual father to each young person or encourage them to have a spiritual mentor.
- It is difficult to be a father if you do not know how to be a son.
- The account of our lives will be based on how we parent (father) the next generation.
- We should rejoice when our children excel; we should not be threatened by their success.
- We need to move from a corporate mindset to family mindset.
- In the natural you learn to be a good son by choice. So it is in the spiritual relationship.

Q12: What are the top theological questions you are facing in Asia?

- What is the initial evidence of Spirit baptism? Formulate a proper theology of the evidence of Spirit Baptism. Teaching about tongues.
- What is our view of eschatology? Is the kingdom of God a past, present, and/or future reality?
- What is the role of women in ministry?
- What is the relationship between the Word of God and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- How to prepare the atmosphere for people to freely flow in the Holy Spirit?
- What are the ways people are led in to the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- How to communicate with clarity things such as slain in the Holy Spirit, holy rolling, and laughing in the Holy Spirit.
- How do we answer questions about biogenetics, stem cell research, etc.?

Q13: What could we do to help Asia's involvement in the conference and what would it look like to represent what the spirit is doing in Asian today?

- Setup a scholarship fund to give to the house churches and those who would like to, but cannot afford to travel to the conference.
- Invite some key people from varying professions to make presentations in the conference.

The Asian conversation revealed that, in Asia more churches need to turn the blessing of the Holy Spirit into practical outreach; the church needs to be more active in evangelism; there is a great need for spiritual fathers; worship can be a very effective method to prepare the youth for Holy Spirit empowerment; the urbanization of society is having a significantly negative effect on the churches evangelism plan, as it does not know how to evangelize urbanites; there is a great need for leaders of good character and integrity who can model exemplary lives before the next generation; there is need for sound biblical teachings on the fruit, gifts, and baptism of the Holy Spirit.