



Reflections from Malaysia...

After a very long intercontinental flight I felt my energy level had dropped significantly. Sleeping in planes has never been my thing and upon arrival I felt my body had arrived while I wasn't sure where my spirit was. The apostle Paul wrote to the church of Corinth about being absent in body but present in the spirit. I felt the opposite with my body being in Kuala Lumpur, while my spirit was left behind somewhere along the way. These are the moments where you actually look like your passport picture!

Tired and worn I made my way through a long line leading to customs. Ironically no one wants to make these things a custom, so I guess they should change the name of this ordeal, but it's part of the experience when visiting other countries.

Eventually I met the young man who was going to drive me to my final destination. The moment I got into the car I saw two other young people in the back who were going to drive with us to the conference. One of them had just flown in from China, while the other had come from Cambodia.



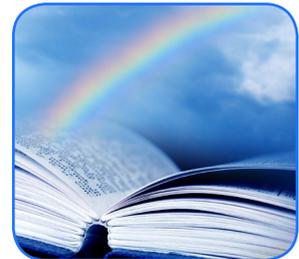
Joseph, our driver, started the car and immediately said with a loud enthusiastic voice; "It's testimony time!" Now, I love testimonies, but I must admit that my feelings right then preferred sleep. Joseph immediately volunteered to start with his testimony. Less than a minute later I sat up straight in my car seat taking in every word he shared. His English was not fluent, but his words conveyed a powerful testimony of a transformed life. He was a brand-new Christian who had recently come out of a life of drugs and homosexuality.

All tiredness suddenly seemed to leave my body and I was completely present in a moment of sharing the joy of what the gospel is capable of doing in a person. In amazement we listened to Joseph describe the changes that had happened and the true freedom he now experienced. He bore the physical as well as emotional scars of a life enslaved to sin, but Christ had begun picking up the broken pieces of his life and was putting him back together again in a process of restoration.

Joseph's testimony was a living example of all the sermons I would share that week in Malaysia. I preached from the book of Romans, which provides a panoramic picture of the gospel and its impact on our lives. As we moved from chapter to chapter the attendees were following closely while taking notes.

Many of the conference participants had come from China and my sermons were translated into Chinese from the stage. It was encouraging to hear different stories of how the church in China and other countries in the Far East were coping while facing pressure and opposition. It reminded me again that the Word of God stands the test of time and cannot be defeated.

In European history there was a time when Bibles were publicly burnt. Revelation chapter 11 speaks of the two witnesses, representing the old and new testament containing the Word of God, who would be killed and lie dead in the street. But after



a time of persecution the Word of God returned in power – *“the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.”* (Rev 11:11).

At times it can seem like the Word of God has been defeated, but we know that the whole earth is finally going to be illuminated with the glory of God (Rev 18:1). I know that many of our brothers and sisters in the Far East are praying for the Word of God to penetrate the darkness of communism, traditionalism, skepticism, and modern relativism. Let us join these prayers, asking God to transform lives just like he transformed the life of Joseph.

What I will remember most about my time in Malaysia is the love I saw for the Word of God. I have been inspired to keep sharing the truth that has the power to change the hardest of hearts!

Written by Daniel Pel



Living Water Ministry, Daniel & Silvia Pel | Bølbekkvegen 8, 2860 Hov, Norway |
D: 413 61 490, S: 930 20 036 | daniel.livingwater@gmail.com, silviapel.livingwater@gmail.com

Check out our webpage for new sermons and other resources:

www.livingwater.no