

PENANG HOUSE OF PRAYER

PENHOP'S YEAR-END NEWSLETTER



REBUILDING THE ALTAR

BY VIOLET SIM

2022 has been a year of regathering His people and rebuilding the altar in the House, one piece at a time.

After two long years of silence due to the Covid restrictions, the prayer room has opened its doors again for God's people to come together to behold Him corporately.

We find ourselves small in many ways; the community has shrunk and the physical prayer room hours have been reduced. ***Yet, our hearts take courage in God's words in Zechariah 4:10a, "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand."***

We delight in His joy over the small yet significant moments of being faithful in rooting ourselves in His love, pursuing the knowledge of God as a community, and showing up to put fire on His altar. We spur each other within the PenHOP Community as well as the larger Body of Christ to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in our worship and intercession.

We boldly boast as Paul did in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

These past 12 months, the Lord has shown up in profound ways beyond what we can ask, think or imagine.

Called to spark and strengthen the Body of Christ, PenHOP had the privilege to collaborate with KLHOP to launch Nexus Internship; a part-time, six-month journey, designed to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Lord, while having the Malaysian cultural context in mind. The first cohort of 32 interns came from different states in Peninsular and East Malaysia. In the newsletter, you will read two earnest reflections on the interns' contemplations of their Nexus Internship journey.

My prayer is that as 2022 comes to a close, this newsletter draws you to a deeper conviction of Jesus' desires to be known intimately and to make His dwelling with His people. By His zeal, He will accomplish the desires of His heart. His eyes are searching for ones who will partner with Him in readying ourselves as a people prepared for His return.

May we be found at His altar. Our cries remain, "Maranatha".

GROWING AS A FAITHFUL INTERCESSOR

BY TAN YONG XING

Intercession is something I am passionate about and is deeply personal to me. I started learning about intercession when I began rooting and planting myself in the Penang House of Prayer after I completed my Burn Internship in 2013. Being a timid person who did not have a prayer life and could not pray smoothly in English, I used to hide at the back of the prayer room whenever there was an Open Mic Prayer or Rapid Fire prayer. I was afraid whenever someone asked me to pray, as I would think, "I cannot pray like these people!"

Things started to change when **I realized the power of prayer and how prayer shifted things in the spiritual realm. My spirit man was awakened to the understanding that prayer is our most powerful weapon against the enemy.** After years of pouring over books on prayer and intercession and attending different prayer meetings, I began to grow more confident in praying.

The Lord continued to shape my understanding of intercession, especially in the past two years. The prohibition of in-person gatherings two years ago has changed the usual expression of a PenHOP intercession set. What used to be a two-hour intercession set that weaved worship and prayer became an hour-long intercession on Zoom.

I had the privilege to lead the intercession set for the past six months contending for these key focuses - Justice, The Great Commission, The Church & Awakening, and Revival. **Intercession is not a one-off thing; these key focuses have been hammered in during PenHOP's intercession sets for more than a decade.**

I learned that intercessors are to grow in their knowledge of God and be in the know of current happenings around the world. I am reminded of Joy Dawson, who would hold the newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other hand, modeling for her children what it means to intercede for the world with the word of God.

The ministry of intercession is hidden, but prayers of the righteous will avail much. God is looking for His people who will agree with His desire to make things right, to see the injustice He sees, to hear the cries of the oppressed He hears, to pray to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers, and to love the church He loves.

Over the last six months, I began to discover that **beyond answered prayers, the fruit of intercession is friendship with God.**

Abraham and Moses were two biblical examples of intercessors whom God called 'friends of God'. It is often said at PenHOP that **"Intercession is agreeing with God what He says He will do."** As I show up faithfully at the intercession sets, I am growing in my knowledge of God and His desires, and in doing so, I become more acquainted with His face and His hands.

I want to be known as a friend of God as I stand in the place of intercession. What about you?

**"BEYOND THE ANSWERED PRAYERS,
THE FRUIT OF INTERCESSION IS FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD."**



GROWING AS A PROPHETIC SINGER

BY NG SIEW YONG

Do I sound okay? Am I singing in key? Was I loud enough so people could hear? These thoughts used to run wild and loud in my head whenever I sang!

Serving on the Friday Night Burn team this year has spurred my growth as a prophetic singer. Learning and growing in **this discipline of listening and asking the Lord for His words and insights has left a lasting mark on my being.**

This constant leaning on the Lord taught me that the melodies he puts on my lips flow out from the intimacy of my relationship with the Lord. As I learn to posture my heart to wait on Him, I have grown in the knowledge of His word and expanded my capacity to pause and pay attention to His voice.

Reminding myself that He is the One who directs my singing, I learn to listen, ask and wait on Him, helping me be less self-conscious and more "God-conscious". With increasing dependence on God, I grow more confident that each time I sing, it is from Him and for Him.

My Lord delights in my singing and does not despise my voice; at the same time, I am also mindful that He deserves excellence. **This pursuit of excellence comes not from a need to perform but from my heart's desire to give my best to my God, who loves me excellently.**

"The number of them along with their brothers, who were trained in singing to the LORD, all who were skilful, was 288." - 1 Chronicles 25:7

Longing to offer my God my best, I worked on improving my skills as a prophetic singer. I did vocal exercises, sought out honest and truthful feedback on my singing, tried different methods and techniques, and I even set a goal for myself - to try and develop choruses each time I serve on set.

I'll admit it can get mundane over time, but what we do in the mundane is what truly matters!



"THIS PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE COMES NOT FROM A NEED TO PERFORM BUT FROM MY HEART'S DESIRE TO GIVE MY BEST TO MY GOD, WHO LOVES ME EXCELLENTLY."

GROWING AS A PROPHETIC SINGER

BY NG SIEW YONG

One key verse that anchored my journey as a prophetic singer comes from:

PSALMS 27:4 - ONE THING I ASK OF THE LORD, THIS IS WHAT I SEEK: THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, TO GAZE UPON THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD AND TO SEEK HIM IN HIS TEMPLE.

In fixing my gaze on Jesus, the only One worthy and deserving of unceasing adoration, I sing and position my heart to worship Him in the beauty of His Holiness.



**STILL ON THIS JOURNEY,
I LEARN AND STRIVE,
FOR THE ONE WHO IS AND WHO WAS AND WHO IS TO COME.
COME, TAKE MY LIFE THAT YOU, JESUS, MAY BE GLORIFIED.
HERE AND NOW I RELY
IN YOUR GRACE ALONE I THRIVE.
THERE ISN'T A DAY THAT YOU ARE NOT BY MY SIDE,
FOR ALL ETERNITY YOU WILL BE BY MY SIDE.
SO I SING FOR YOU AND YOU ALONE,
CAUSE THAT IS WHERE MY HEART BELONGS.**

GROWING AS A PROPHETIC SINGER

BY MABEL JAMES

I am so thankful that the Lord called me into prophetic singing. Not only did it help me realize the importance and significance of singing prophetically, but my relationship with the Lord grew.

One of my biggest revelations from my journey was this. Whenever we sing prophetically, we are singing prophetic scriptures.

2 Peter 1:19 to 21 says - 19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Think about this, **whenever we sing prophetically, we are partnering with the Lord by singing and declaring His word.** We are speaking words spoken from God through the Holy Spirit! What an honor it is to partner with Him to sing and declare about Him and His coming kingdom.

In my initial journey as a prophetic singer, I realized that there were moments when I lacked boldness. I thank God for surrounding me with leaders and those who have gone before me to encourage me to sing out boldly. They've encouraged me, saying - Everything that I sing out prophetically, as simple as it may be, carries weight to upbuild and encourage those around me. **We all have something on our hearts regarding the beauty of the Lord, and we should not be afraid to sing and express it.**

I know that my journey as a prophetic singer is an ongoing one. I recognize that there will be moments when I still struggle, but I realize all the Lord is looking for are ones that would give Him their "Yes". He is looking for ones whose hearts are fully committed to Him. Ones who would partner with Him in ushering His return. Isaiah describes the generation to which the Lord returns to as a generation that would prepare the nations by building up the highway of the Lord and declaring His coming salvation. I believe the Lord is raising a generation that will set their hearts to give Him their "Yes" no matter the cost.

My prayer is that whoever is reading this would have an awakening to step up to where the Lord has called them. Even though it may seem difficult or impossible, through God's grace and guidance, I believe that He will equip you and send people alongside you to help and encourage you to take your place in ushering His return and His second coming.

PASS THROUGH, PASS THROUGH THE GATES! PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE PEOPLE. BUILD UP, BUILD UP THE HIGHWAY! REMOVE THE STONES. RAISE A BANNER FOR THE NATIONS. THE LORD HAS MADE PROCLAMATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: "SAY TO DAUGHTER ZION, 'SEE, YOUR SAVIOR COMES! SEE, HIS REWARD IS WITH HIM, AND HIS RECOMPENSE ACCOMPANIES HIM.' "

ISAIAH 62:10-11





NEXUS INTERNSHIP REFLECTIONS

BY CALEB YEOH

I've always believed I knew what it was to be a Christian.

I go to church, serve with the worship team, took part in Outreaches, and even led a small group in my youth – what more could there be?

Reflecting on the Nexus Internship in 2022, I can safely say that I've never been so pleased to be proved so wrong. I had the rug of my Christian faith get pulled out from under me. I didn't hit the floor while falling, but I did fall into an open, daily invitation to walk with and be led by the One who holds it all.

To be completely transparent, I joined Nexus this year intending to just accompany my future wife in her deeper pursuit of Christ. Safe to say, I got more than I bargained for. If there was any point in 2022 that marked Caleb with a renewed, refreshed desire to pursue Him, it was definitely during this internship.

The lessons learned during this internship helped set the pace and tone of my daily pursuit of Him. The lessons re-learned, in a deeper context have strengthened the cornerstones of my Christian faith. If you were to ask for an example of how Nexus has changed me, I'll answer with this - I'm now a morning person; to a certain degree, of course.

Mornings and I never used to mix well, but as each new day begins with the hope of dawn's first light, my mornings now begin with my pursuit of Him. Seeking Him first as the day begins has been one of my life's best and biggest changes. In the mornings, I now commune with Him in prayer; after coffee.

Understanding that “prayer begins with, is about and ends with God” has transformed how I pray. I've learned that prayers are open dialogues with our Father in heaven where we connect with His spirit, align with His will and intercede for the things on His heart.

Now, if you were to ask how Nexus has impacted me, I'll say, or sing – “I want to be like Mary, sitting at Your feet, lavishing my love upon You. How I choose that one thing, I give all for love. Surrendering everything for you.” Mary of Bethany was never mentioned in the history of the church and wasn't known for any ministry, but Mary knew that “One Thing” that would rule over every other thing.

She knew that the posture of her heart was more important to God than anything else. Mary was also one of three people who were known as friends of Christ. In short, Mary of Bethany knew what was up. Mary's “one thing” was knowing to sit at the feet of Christ, to receive from Him, to simply be with Him and to hear Him speak. Mary postured her heart this way, regardless of what anyone would say or think.

I could go into the whole story and trust me it would be a good one, but I think I'll end this piece with an open invitation to you. An open invitation to read Luke 10: 38-42 and/or Matthew 26: 6-10 ... or to sign yourself up for the next Nexus Internship =)

UNDERSTANDING THAT “PRAYER BEGINS WITH, IS ABOUT AND ENDS WITH GOD” HAS TRANSFORMED HOW I PRAY.



NEXUS INTERNSHIP REFLECTIONS

BY ELDEN ZEE

The biggest revelation I received from the Nexus Internship was a tangible understanding of God's desire to return again.

We covered this in week 4, through Hebrews 11:39-40.

"These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect." Hebrews 11 highlights why the promises our forefathers received were not brought to fruition in their lifetimes. Only together with this generation will these promises come to pass and be made perfect through God.

My point of interest was understanding why God chose to do it this way. From this, I realized that every generation has its own dreams and promises. And as each generation looks into Hebrews 11:40, they receive the Word of God saying that there is "something better for us". And with each generation that passes, the standard of "something better" is brought higher.

I questioned this open-ended promise, this "unstable system" (in engineering terms, it means that the response goes exponentially towards infinity) and realized that **with each passing generation, God slowly unveils more revelation on His return. The "something better" and the "made perfect" will culminate in the promise of Jesus's 2nd coming.**

God destined that all of humanity will, on the day of the Lord, experience the fulfillment of his ultimate promise, His return. Abraham did not receive the fulfillment of his promise because God intended to upgrade that promise. God knew their generation was not ready to recognize the glory of His 2nd coming; His return for all of humanity.

With this revelation, I suddenly recognized God's agenda. I saw the patience in His leadership. He gave understanding to each generation, bit by bit until we fully grasped the weight of His promise. My heart ached like a birth pang as it resonated with Him for His return.

I believe this is His desire and His movement for us at this hour. He desires to give revelation of His 2nd coming.

AND ALL THESE, THOUGH COMMENDED THROUGH THEIR FAITH, DID NOT RECEIVE WHAT WAS PROMISED, SINCE GOD HAD PROVIDED SOMETHING BETTER FOR US, THAT APART FROM US THEY SHOULD NOT BE MADE PERFECT.

HEBEREW 11:39-40



NEXUS INTERNSHIP REFLECTIONS

BY ELDEN ZEE


With this, I gained a new understanding of Malachi 4:6, when God says He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the hearts of the children to their parents. This is unity towards a common vision, the longing for His return. I realize that when John the Baptist, a forerunner, "turned the hearts of parents to their children, and children to their parents," he directed all people of all ages to look towards the same man, Jesus. As forerunners, we too, shall do the same.

God desires to bring both the "parent" and the "child" to the same longing. And when he does this, both generations can set aside the age gap, cultural differences, pride, offense, and misunderstandings to come together in one desire – the longing for His return. A church that understands the revelation of His return will have intergenerational unity firmly in place.

Now, it is essential to note that God is the author of the story in each generation (for it is His story). From this, no generation is outdated, obsolete, or irrelevant. We, the younger generation, need to understand that the revelations received by those who came before us came from God. Their revelation, as well as ours, falls in line with Him. The fear of the Lord compels us not to dismiss those who come before us as old-fashioned.

I am encouraged to know that the reason we sow into the church is not just because we want to raise up good Christians who love God. **We do this as part of our calling to partner with the heart of God. To urge all generations to respond rightly to His second coming.**

In my personal context, where I struggle to connect to the heart of the older generation in my local church, I feel more encouraged now to persevere, knowing this is not just a Christian duty for generational unity but something that is divinely motivated until His return.



**"WE DO THIS AS PART OF
OUR CALLING TO PARTNER
WITH THE HEART OF GOD. TO
URGE ALL GENERATIONS TO
RESPOND RIGHTLY TO HIS
SECOND COMING."**

GOSHEN: PROPHETIC INVITATION INTO GOD'S STORYLINE

BY ALAN SIM

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
Isaiah 55:8-9

2021 ended with an undeniable witness of the Holy Spirit that now is the time to begin to contend for the fullness of the prophetic invitation, given to PenHOP in 2012, to possess the building. The leadership started 2022 by taking leaps of faith towards this with the Holy Spirit guiding us step by step on the journey.

Phil 4:19

And My God will supply all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

We were (and are) without a doubt that God will provide the requisite amount for the purchase of the building, however, as the year has unfolded it has become increasingly clear that God is more concerned with our formation and maturity, and that he is desiring to prepare us to steward the increase and not be crushed by it. This year has taken us on a faith journey that is forming us and maturing us as a team and as individuals.

Upon reflecting on the nature of Goshen we should not be surprised by the season of refining that we are walking in. If we are to build a place of sanctuary that will be a place where God's people can be sustained spiritually, mentally and physically **it is not a physical building that will achieve this but rather a company of people fully yielded to God who have an unwavering trust in Him.**

And so, as 2022 draws to a close, in many ways we have more questions than we started the year with. Simultaneously though, God has made it increasingly clear that now is the time to continue to step towards the prophetic invitations spoken over the house. Our only choice is to trust.

We are not the first to desire clarity and instead be ushered towards trust.

When the brilliant ethicist John Kavanaugh went to work for three months at "the house of the dying" in Calcutta, he was seeking a clear answer as to how best to spend the rest of his life. On the first morning there he met Mother Teresa. She asked, "And what can I do for you?" Kavanaugh asked her to pray for him.

"What do you want me to pray for?" she asked. He voiced the request that he had borne thousands of miles from the United States: "Pray that I have clarity."

She said firmly, "No, I will not do that." When he asked her why, she said, "Clarity is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of." When Kavanaugh commented that she always seemed to have the clarity he longed for, she laughed and said, "I have never had clarity; what I have always had is trust. So I will pray that you trust God."

As we step into 2023 we are encouraged that despite the lack of clarity that would be comfortable for us God is clearly at work in forming the Goshen within us and that he will take care of the physical space. We are learning to grow in trust that God's ways are higher than our ways and our cry continues to be: "We believe. Help us with our unbelief."

PARTNER WITH US

We are grateful for all who have sowed throughout 2022, be it financially, serving on the Prayer Sets, or showing up as faithful intercessors on the countless zoom calls.

With a renewed zeal to build God His resting place and to hasten His return, we trust that God will continue to thrust forth His people and resources to see His Name magnified. Surely He is zealous of preparing His people for His coming.

As we bear witness to the acceleration of the move of God, we believe that God is raising individuals to labor together with us in building God a resting place, not just in Penang, but Malaysia and even the nations.

If you feel led to sow a season of your life serving as a staff, or a volunteer at PenHOP, we would love to connect with you. If you require more information on serving at PenHOP, please send us an email at info@penhop.org.



If you feel led to sow financially into the House, whether through a one-time or monthly offering, you may do so via online banking. Drop us an email at info@penhop.org if you like to connect with us about Goshen.

Banking Details:

PENHOP
PUBLIC BANK 3171001325



Calling intercessors to partner with us by praying for us as a House, and also joining us for our weekly intercession sets. If you carry this burden to pray alongside, we love to hear from you! Drop us an email at info@penhop.org.



Nexus Internship content has been prayerfully created by Malaysians and people the Lord has sent to love and sow into Malaysia, to facilitate spiritual alignment and discernment for the season we are living. For more details, check out: <https://www.nexusinternship.com>, registration opens on 11th January 2023.