

PENANG HOUSE OF PRAYER



Faithfulness in the Mundane

By Violet Sim

As the year draws to a close, we pause to reflect and consider how we have stewarded Penang House of Prayer (PenHOP) as a ministry and a spiritual community. We are thankful for the faithful intercessors who have responded to the Lord's call to stand, watch, and pray.

Throughout the year, whether it was a regional gathering of houses of prayer, hosting Malaysia United Fire Wall, Penang, collaborating with other intercessory ministries, or praying together during the weekly Thursday Lunch Time Prayer, we see glimpses of the Lord's desire to gather the Body of Christ in oneness. Our common denominator is our love for Jesus, which transforms us to love what He loves and share in His intercession.

Between these 12 months of seemingly ordinary worship and intercession-centric activities in

PenHOP, the Lord moved significantly.

For the first time in PenHOP's history, the vision of a 24/7 house of prayer came to pass for 21 days, as worship and intercession were brought before the altar day and night over 504 hours. The zeal of the Lord is in His House, and by His zeal, He will accomplish His desire. The 21 days of continuous day and night worship and intercession have drawn out the deep desire to see the fulfillment of a 24/7 House of Prayer right in the heart of Penang.

One of the prophetic words spoken over the function of PenHOP is "engine room". Imagine the impact over the principalities when this "engine room" is powered 24/7, 365 days. For this reason, the Lord has, in His very unique way, thrust us into the impossible task of acquiring the building.

Read on as Alan brings you on the faith journey in the Goshen article.

The God-sized task at hand seems to attest that we have been good and faithful in stewarding the many mundane moments in the days, weeks, and months of the prayer room. Many who are serving in PenHOP are unknown. Yet, they will show up week after week to minister unto the Lord. In their faithfulness, they are being transformed more and more like Jesus.

As you continue to read this newsletter, may you be strengthened by the testimonies of this House and the Lord's faithfulness towards His beloved children.



ISAIAH 62 GLOBAL 21-DAYS PRAYER AND FASTING

By Maggie Tan

For twenty-one days, from 7th till 28th May 2023, we, as a House, consecrated ourselves to stand as watchmen on the wall in response to the Isaiah 62 Global Prayer and Fasting call issued by a collaboration of over ten thousand ministries, including IHOP-KC, Lou Engle, and Jason Hubbard.

This call was for believers to fast and pray for God's purposes for Israel and to ask Him to raise a hundred million intercessors for Israel who will remind the Lord of His promises for Jerusalem until Jesus's return. During this period, more than five million believers dedicated at least one hour daily to pray for Israel.

Our team in Penhop consisted of three full-time staff and three passionate volunteers. Together, we set aside twenty-four hours daily to

participate in this call. We took shifts to stand, watch and pray for Israel. Every morning, we gathered to pray, and at noontime, we took turns with KLHOP to lead a national lunchtime prayer network in intercession for Israel. At different times of the day, we would lead worship sets in the Prayer Room. Other times, other Penhoppers would come to lead worship, with our regular sets running as usual. Whenever there were no live sets, the Prayer Room live-streamed sets from IHOP-KC.

As we pondered our participation in this global call, we came up with several key takeaways.

Penhop's vision is to build a 24/7 house of prayer for the Lord. This participation gave us a sample of what running a 24/7 house of prayer would be like.

In addition, it also caused us to acknowledge the significance of our role in the global prayer movement, especially when we have been steadfast in our prayers for Israel for the past several years. Our intercession is ongoing, and what we have experienced was just a foretaste of a tangible global prayer movement. As for walking out Isaiah 62:6-7, we will continue to stand as watchmen on the wall for Israel through the power of prayer.

Lastly, the Maestro is the Lord, who has orchestrated this global call to fast and pray for Israel. It was His idea. Over five million believers across the earth fasted and prayed the same prayer focus for twenty-one days, and Penhop was a part of this massive orchestra. What an honor! Praise the Lord!

TESTIMONIES FROM THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ISAIAH 62 GLOBAL 21- DAYS PRAYER AND FASTING

"Despite thinking that I didn't have enough knowledge or understanding to pray, it was the spirit that was praying through us, and many times I found myself breaking into tears and weeping before the Lord for His chosen people."

- **Rebecca Ho, Terengganu**

"These three weeks in PenHOP praying and fasting for Israel completely changed my heart for the nation. During this time, I realized how deeply God loves his people and how passionate he is for them. He loves his people like the groom loves his bride, like a daddy loving his children, and like how a husband would love his wife. How love is relentless and unconditional!"

- **Hannah Rebekka Nováková, Germany**

"At the end of the fast, when Rebecca led and got us all to sit in a circle and worship just as we are, no music, no frills. I thought it truly summed up my encounter. It was about Him. No more, no less. Praying for Israel was not ultimately about Israel, but about Him and His heart for each of us, for the world and unto His return, because He longs to be with His people."

- **Eunice Khoo, Kuala Lumpur**





PRAYING FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL: BECOMING A PEOPLE OF UNDERSTANDING

By Alan Sim

We have been privileged to steward Thursday lunchtime prayer with the support of the churches in Penang since 2021. Over the last 3 years of faithful intercession, the Lord has plumbled our hearts with Ephesians 4 - the unity in the body. Our hearts are stirred further by His deep desire for the maturity of His Bride in Penang, which led us to intercede from the book of Daniel.

The book of Daniel provides a prototype of a mature end-time church. Daniel consistently faces the tests that the end-time church will face, and he passes them all. For example, Daniel endures periods of an antichrist figure, great compromise, suffering, and the seduction of Babylon. God strengthens him with supernatural revelations and insights.

Daniel also gives us a picture of the lifestyle and values that the Lord is calling forerunners to embrace. These include wholehearted dedication, endurance in persecution by taking a stand for Jesus and His Word, and boldness to speak prophetically, even to secular authorities. The Lord is raising forerunners who will give others understanding of God's purpose and plan to expose the deceptive strategies of the enemy.

Armed with this growing revelation, we begin to contend systematically through the book of Daniel for the release of understanding upon His people, so that they are not deceived, confused, offended, fearful, or seduced by sin - especially in the midst of the unique circumstances that will occur in the

generation of the Lord's return. Rather, the Lord's people are to walk in clarity, peace, gratitude, confidence and holy love.

We thank God for leading us to stand with Him to contend for the maturity of His bride in Penang. With expectant hearts, we are looking forward to being witnesses of the fruits of a maturing bride in Penang.

COMBINED TUESDAY INTERCESSION WITH KLHOP: GROWING IN INTERCESSION

By Nikki Soriano

Nexus Internship is a 6-month part-time discipleship school jointly organized by Penhop and KLHOP. With a unique focus on the Malaysian context, Nexus is centered on three pillars of Intimacy, Intercession, and Inheritance.

Twenty interns joined Nexus in 2023, its second year running. Interns engage with topics through intercession in a combined hybrid prayer room which allows attendance online or in-person at KLHOP.

Throughout my time in Nexus, the Lord graciously allowed me to experience how prayer ignites love within us for those we pray for. He grew my heart in intercession for

Malaysia by increasingly aligning my desire with His own when He prayed **“that they may all be one... so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:21)**

I glimpsed this oneness during the mini Worship and Intercession Trip, a key element of Nexus. Interns prayer-walked through KLHOP's Brickfields area and interns' respective neighborhoods whilst simultaneously tuning in to ongoing worship in KLHOP. Upon turning on our Zoom cameras to reveal where we were prayer-walking, everyone could visibly see that, despite being scattered in different locations across the country, we were united in prayer and in carrying God's heart wherever He strategically placed us.

The Lord also deepened my understanding of what oneness in the Malaysian Church looks like, particularly during intercession on the topic of “Living Generationally”. We were led to pray for one another – the older generation for the younger, and vice versa – which culminated in a powerful, Spirit-filled time of repentance, healing, and restoration.

Partnering together with KLHOP for Tuesday Intercession has, in itself, been a practical challenge to grow in and walk out that very oneness that the Lord so desires. May He continue to lead us to lean into, embrace, and embody His desire for oneness in the Church. The more we do, the more we become the Bride who looks more like the Bridegroom.





EMBRACING MY DNA OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER

By Isaac Lee

When I came to Malaysia back in 2016, I was excited to hear about the existence of a House of Prayer in Penang through a colleague of mine who was serving there. Previously, I had gone through a discipleship training school in Kansas City where attending sessions at the International House of Prayer was a part of my daily schedule. I've been a part of worship teams since I was in high school, but only came to learn about prayer and intercession back in 2007. Ever since then, the way I worship and pray has changed; prayer and intercession became a part of my DNA.

I started my journey of serving at PenHOP by playing acoustic guitar in Worship With the Word sets, and slowly got my feet wet with other sessions like Intercession and Friday

Night Burn. Now, as a worship leader currently serving in Friday Night Burn with my wife Erin, I am blessed to offer up worship and praise every other week.

I am especially grateful for the opportunity to serve in FNB as my two children, David and Heaven, are present in the prayer room. By engaging in worship together, I hope to impart to them the very essential DNA of prayer and intercession. Also, with my children in the prayer room, I can literally proclaim, "Heaven is here!"

Worship is the reason why we were created, while prayer and intercession should be our DNA and lifeline with the Father. I would encourage everyone to come, taste and see the fullness of what the Father has in store for His children.



ENCOUNTERING GOD IN SERVING HIM

By Phan Yun Xin

Before joining PenHOP, my spiritual journey revolved around serving; my Christian identity became defined by how much I served and how perfect I thought my work was. Hence, when a church leader I deeply respected told me that I was not qualified to lead worship, it felt like rejection from the Lord, shattering my enthusiasm for serving in church.

In 2020, I hit rock bottom and left the church. It was a valley season in my life, plunged deep in depression and self-doubt. Then, out of the blue, I was invited to PenHOP. It was a simple invite to come, sit, and “do nothing”, which felt strange. Little did I know, this marked the start of my healing journey with God.

Over the next two years, God broke me down and started rebuilding me.

During this time, I truly learned who the Father is, what it means to be a daughter of the Most High, and most importantly, to trust Him.

When PenHOP reopened after the pandemic, our community shrank. I was hesitant to get back into serving, not wanting anyone to see what I could or couldn't do. I just wanted to be “Mary”. When Alan asked me to help out with the LCD, I thought it was safe in the sound booth, away from the spotlight where I could contribute without fear of being judged. But God engaged me in a powerful way, showing me that worship sets are more than setting an atmosphere for worship. It is also about beholding Him, declaring His Word and promises through singing, and ministering to the audience of One. Later, I was challenged to sing on

set and was once again forced to address my fear of inadequacy. Thankfully, the leaders gave me permission to “fail gloriously”, lending courage to step out of my comfort zone, learn to encounter God where I fell short and let Him catch me.

It is not a coincidence Psalm 27:4 was the anchor verse on my first Adoration set. Once more, I encountered God, realising that worship is the same, whether I am on or off set, behind the mic or behind the sound booth, inside the church or out in the world, regardless of my talents. What matters is that our worship flows from the heart's desire to behold the beauty of the Lord. And wherever we are, in valleys or on mountaintops, God is faithful to meet us there.

VERTICAL MARRIAGE: A GODWARD PREPARATION FOR LIFE TOGETHER

By Caleb & Mabel Yeoh

There's no short-cut or cheat code for a healthy, long-lasting, loving marriage, but thankfully for us, there's **a model to follow that has stood the test of time**. Christ and how He loves the church.

Mabel and I started our pre-marital counseling in 2022 with Alan and Violet, using Vertical Marriage by Mike and Anne Rizzo as our guide. A year later, we're still together, and here's what we have to say.

God often used the relationship of man and wife to illustrate human relationships with Him. From the life of Hosea to the marriage supper of the Lamb, there are numerous examples of this illustration in scripture. **God has sanctified and set apart marriage as a holy institution that serves as a reflection of Christ and His church**. Christian marriages are meant to tell the story of faithful, covenant love. This was God's intention in the garden, perfectly modeled by Christ, and is the mandate for man and wife.

A key component here is knowing that **marriage is a union that transcends the life of a marriage**.

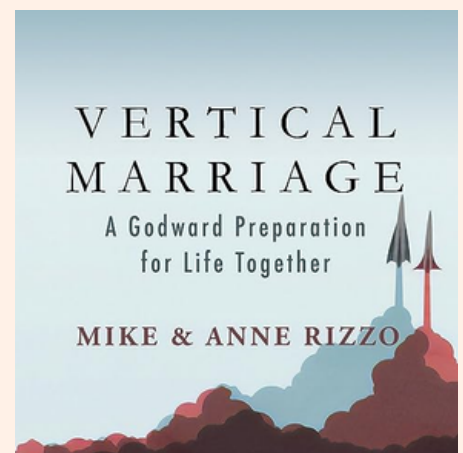
A healthy marital gaze is to look beyond your spouse to see Christ. As a married couple, our eyes ought to be fixed on our final destination, eternity. When temporal resources become our destination, we begin to reason and make choices as if this is all there is. But we are called to fix our eyes on what is unseen, what is coming ahead, the eternal glory.

A key lesson I picked up from this book is that **"The enemy is NOT your spouse"**. Simple, obvious statement, yes, but did you know that the same enemy that attacked you when you were single is still out to get you even when married? Worse, it's now a two-pronged assault coming at you on the personal front and on the marital front.

Using an example from the book, "A husband is running late, trying to head out of the house and he's not in the mood for conversation. His wife is asking him questions as he's moving toward the door. He tries to give brief answers, and as he heads out the door and drives away, he hears the tape in his head going - "She's nagging me. I hate when she does this".

The enemy is never, ever your spouse. **The enemy is that voice in your head** that goes - "This is not respect" or "His priority isn't you". This voice directly aims to derail what God intends for us all - a married life consecrated to Him.

We implore that this book be read by couples in all phases of life - whether you are just dating, engaged, wanting to prepare for when marriage happens, or even if you've been married for years. Vertical Marriage guides you through setting up your relationship with Christ as the cornerstone of your every day, for the rest of your life; or until He comes again. Whichever comes first.



THE WELL

By Jemma Stephens

Towards the end of 2022 there was a growing conviction amongst the leadership team that it was important to meet together to study the Word on top of our regular sets and leadership meetings. On Saturday 4th March 2023 we kickstarted 'The Well Gathering' (TWG). Aside from a brief pause during the Isaiah 62 fast we have continually gathered on Saturdays as a community to explore Spiritual Disciplines and study the Word together. We focused on the Spiritual Discipline of Gratitude and completed various exercises together to stretch us in this Discipline. From very long lists of things we were grateful for, to gratitude tree artwork, to contemplative exercises we intentionally challenged each other to grow as a community in this important Spiritual Discipline. We also focused on the Upper Room Discourse in John for our study of the Word and explored many interactive ways of studying the Word with grammar studies, improvised drama, and lectio divina helping us to grow deeper in understanding. In the latter part of the year we have focused our time on conversations surrounding the book of Daniel. It has been a joy to have out of town PenHoppers join us for these Saturdays when they are visiting and also to grow deeper in understanding of the Word as a community amongst those of us who have consistently attended.



REGIONAL GATHERING/ CONVERGE PART II 29 & 30TH APRIL 2023

By Violet Sim

Early this year, a few key House of Prayer leaders from the region felt it was time to reconvene since our last Converge gathering in 2018 in the Philippines. It was decided that Converge would take place in Singapore from 25 to 28 April and a second gathering was to be held in Penang thereafter. Initially, it seemed redundant to call people to Penang since many would have attended Converge in Singapore.

Yet, there was a strong stirring that the Lord would do something distinctive with the gathering at PenHOP. In obedience, we welcomed 48 participants representing different Houses of Prayer, nations, and people groups.

Many met for the first time as we kick-started our time over a delicious spread of local Malay cuisine. In hindsight, we realized that the choice of cuisine was God's way of affirming His delight in having His children across the region share a meal in the oneness of Spirit. Within this short time together, PenHOP's calling to be a House of Prayer for nations and by nations unfolded before us. Worship and Intercession were lifted. Hearts were ignited. Prayers were released to mark hearts afresh to burn for Jesus and to love on those

He desires to bring into His sheepfold. In His redemptive storyline, these will provoke His people to cry, "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD."

We recognized the significance of the gathering. The Lord assembled His people from the regions to lend strength to one another.

From this little prayer room, we are sent out once again to bear witness to the worthiness of Jesus and spurring one another to keep our eyes fixed on the finish line; the Return of Jesus.



GOSHEN: PROPHETIC INVITATION INTO GOD'S STORYLINE

By Alan Sim

2023 has been a journey of trust where every step defined the trajectory of our walk of faith in response to His invitation to purchase the building PenHOP is currently in - Project Goshen.

As a leadership team, we've been careful to ensure that we are aligned with how the Lord is building His house in PenHOP.

More often than not, when we wait upon Him, we find strength and comfort knowing that **waiting is God's way of seeing if we will trust Him before we move forward.**

There is growing expectancy as we wait upon the Lord for our next step, especially after the Lord gave us a significant financial breakthrough in 2022 as a definitive signpost that we are on track with Him.

I often say that the Lord has given us His deposit, and now the ball is in our court to put in our deposit. On 22nd March 2023, we heard about the Isaiah62fast, a global solemn assembly calling many believers to fast in various ways and to pray for the Lord's purposes for Israel and to ask Him to raise 100 million

intercessors for Israel according to His promise in Isaiah 62:6 - to sovereignly "set," "appoint," or "mark" intercessors who will remind the Lord of His promises for Jerusalem until Jesus returns.

The leadership was unanimous and resolute with our "yes" to 21 days of 24/7 worship and prayer. This was a surreal moment for us; with PenHOP at its slimmest, weakest state in history, the house was still able to respond to a call deemed impossible by human eyes.

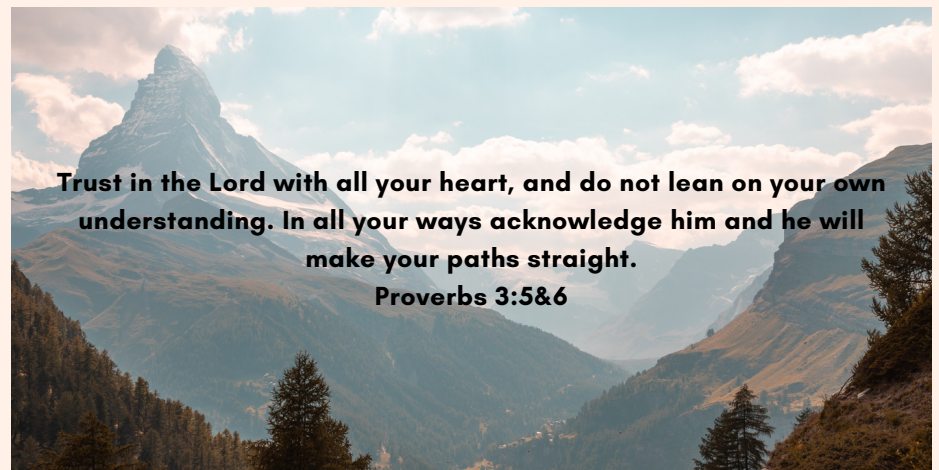
Yet by the providence of the Lord, the Isaiah62fast became a historic and significant marker of our Goshen journey, where we were reminded that the acquisition of the building is tied to the establishment of a 24/7 house of prayer in the heart of Penang. **The Lord impressed upon my heart strongly, "You cannot build that which you do not own."**

Coming out of Isaiah62fast, there was a rising urgency tempered with the fear of the Lord concerning the building. In one of our regular meetings, Violet confidently mentioned that we will have a

decisive response concerning the building by the end of 2023. We continued to persevere in our prayers.

On 20th September, the owner of the building initiated a sudden meeting and officially gave us the first right of refusal to purchase the building and a consideration period of 30 days! During the consideration period, **the Lord has again demonstrated His faithfulness and kindness towards us by speaking clearly through dreams and scriptures to remind us that He is with us and we are keeping in step with Him.** It was also during this time that it dawned upon the leadership that this journey, which started in Oct 2021 leading up to now, has been a preparation and training phase ordained by the Lord for us individually and collectively to have the faith to possess our inheritance.

As of December 2023, we have formally entered into a negotiation period with the owner. As we step into 2024, we are trusting and leaning on the perfect leadership of the Lord to complete what He has started.



WAYS TO PARTNER WITH US

SOW FINANCIALLY

If you feel led to give, whether through a one-time or monthly offering, you may do so via online banking.

Banking Details:
PENHOP
PUBLIC BANK 3171001325



BE WATCHMEN ON THE WALL

Calling intercessors to partner with us by praying for us as a House and joining us for our weekly intercession sets. We would love to hear from you if you carry this burden to pray alongside!

Drop us an email at info@penhop.org.



JOIN 2024 NEXUS INTERNSHIP

Nexus Internship content has been prayerfully created for Malaysians and those laboring in Malaysia.

Check out <https://www.nexusinternship.com> for more details. Registration opens on 1st February 2024.



INTERESTED TO CONNECT MORE

The House is in need of those whom the Lord has given a burden to minister in His House day and night, lifting worship and intercession for this nation and beyond.

Reach out to us via email at info@penhop.org or contact Alan Sim at 0173902209.

