

Connections

MAY 2009: Connecting With A Prophet At The AWCF Conference

At the 2009 Apostolic World Christian Fellowship Conference in Evansville, Indiana (www.awcf.org), Caribbean Prophet Benjamin Smith told me, “*I have a word from the Lord for you. A businessman is going to pay your way to go to India and that part of the world. God will give you favor with Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists.*” At this same conference, Bishop David Fuller, AWCF Foreign Missions Director, encouraged me to get involved preaching around the globe.



Al & Prophet Benjamin Smith

SEPTEMBER 2009: Connecting With God In A Night Vision

A single word in my mind awakened me in the middle of the night. I felt it was the name of a city, especially since the first letter was capitalized, but in my state of slumber I could only discern just over half the letters. The last few letters seemed to be coming out of, and fading into, a fog. I wrote down my guesses on a *Post-It Note* and prayed about it for several months, but I remained unsure of the spelling. Was it...

Colombiu? Columbio?

I trusted the Lord to reveal the exact word in another dream, or in some other way, in the future. As you will discover, He certainly did show me, without a doubt, what the word was a few months later.

AUGUST 2009: Connecting With An Old Friend At The ACN Conference

Several months later, at the Apostolic Christian Network Conference (www.theacn.net), I re-connected with a fellow-minister whom I hadn't seen for nearly twenty years: Randy Bassin. He had been doing the work of an Apostle in Southeast Asia for several years, so I introduced him to Lynn Davis, our ACN's Foreign Missions Director. At an afternoon luncheon, I was happy to see them making plans to work together to reach that part of the world. At the time, I thought nothing of what my connecting with Randy would have to do with the fulfillment of the earlier prophecy and one-word vision.

DECEMBER 2009: Connecting the Dots During the Holidays

Just after Christmas, I received a phone call from Randy Bassin who had seen my *Reach Seminars* web site (www.reachseminars.org) as advertised in the ACN's *Coverge* magazine. He asked to have lunch with me to discuss sharing all three of the seminars with the churches he was ministering to overseas. At our meeting, Randy explained that he had a thriving outsourcing business in India. He shocked me by saying that if I was willing to go, his business would pay all my expenses (airfare, ground transportation, food, lodging and even vaccinations), to go with him for two reasons: to speak to his business staff in India and then do a Saturday Leadership Seminar and preach at a Sunday Worship Service in Sri Lanka! I told him about the prophecy I had received in May about the businessman who was going to pay for me to travel to, and minister in, that part of the world. He boldly exclaimed, "I must be the man!" So knowing it was absolutely the will of God, I said without hesitation, "Yes, I'll go!"

When getting my vaccinations for the trip, our County Health Department asked which cities I would be going to so they could recommend the appropriate shots. I told them the name of the city in India was Cochin, but I did not know the name of the city in Sri Lanka. So, I emailed Randy and asked him the name of the Sri Lankan city where I would be teaching and preaching. His one-word response via email stunned me. It was:

"Colombo"

Upon reading it, the Spirit of the Lord fell on me, confirming the name of the city I had been trying to discern from my vision four months earlier.



Randy, "the Jew" & Al, "the Lebanese" departing from the Grand Rapids, MI airport.

February 2010: **Connecting With the Church in Sri Lanka**

I had an awesome time meeting Pastor Kumara Christie and his dedicated wife, Elaine who are both people of “like precious faith.” They are holding forth the Word of life in an economically, spiritually and governmentally challenged area of the world. Since they had severed ties with a legalistic and controlling apostolic organization several years earlier, they dearly appreciated the fellowship.



Pastor Kumara Christie & Al. Note: Teaching barefoot is customary.



A few of the 40 men and women leaders preparing for the three-hour Saturday “Reach” Seminars.

Thank God I had gone to both organizations’ conferences in the United States in 2009 to make these strategic connections. Lord willing, you can be sure I’ll be attending both of them in 2010!

We had a wonderful move of the Holy Ghost at the Sunday Worship Service as many of our friends, relatives and apostolic churches in the USA prayed for an outpouring of God's Presence. Several were baptized with the Holy Ghost and one of the Pastors was healed of a serious chronic back problem. Many were visibly touched by the Word and Spirit.



Preaching at Sunday Worship with over 150 in attendance from 5 congregations.



An outpouring of the Holy Ghost after the preaching.

February 2010: Connecting With Hindus, Muslims & Buddhists

Furthermore, as prophesied, I made some positive connections with, and testified to, those of other religions...both in India and Sri Lanka.



New friends in India who work for Randy: Prajith (Hindu) and Isahack (Muslim).

A Buddhist man named Sashi, who is a member of a rock and roll band, was befriended by Kim Bassin while she was staying at the hotel where he was playing. This happened when she was in Colombo teaching a Ladies Seminar in January. Sashi had dinner with us when we arrived in February. We testified to him about the Gospel and he prayed with tears at the restaurant when the Spirit fell upon him. After giving his life to Jesus, he committed to be baptized in Jesus name and also prayed to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost right at our table! The next day I gave him a Singalese Bible on behalf of our congregation in the USA and Randy and I had many hours of Bible studies with him. He also came to the Sunday service with us and made a wonderful connection with Kumara, his new Pastor.



Our new friend Sashi (Buddhist) in Sri Lanka was thrilled about giving his life to Jesus.

August 2010: Connecting With the Churches in Colombo This Coming Year

I invited Kumara and Elaine Christie to join the ministerial fellowships of both the AWCF and ACN. They are planning to attend the ACN Conference in August. And with the invitation and help of myself, and Randy Bassin, are planning to visit various Apostolic churches to raise funds for obtaining facilities for worship. This is necessary because they are in a Buddhist country whose government has made it difficult for them to hold meetings anywhere other than in a church building (which they cannot afford to build on Third World offerings). I told him I believed our American churches would do their best to help him fulfill his dream to construct a church building in Colombo. That way, all 5 of the scattered churches he oversees in Colombo can have their nearly 250 members come together for prayer, praise, preaching and leadership training without fear of harrassment.



Kumara, Randy and Al in Colombo, Sri Lanka, after Sunday service.

August & September 2010: Would You Like to Connect?

To book a visit of Pastor Kumara and his wife to your congregation in August & September of this year, please contact ASAP:

- ACN's Foreign Missions Director, Lynn Davis: acnmissions@yahoo.com, 936-648-6358
- AWCF's Foreign Missions Director, David Fuller: davidfuller@grandecom.net, 254-744-1107
- Randy Bassin, Missionary to Southeast Asia: rbassin@globalforceinc.com, 616-204-4847
- Al Gossan, ACN North Central Regional Director: agossan@att.net, 616-405-5960

Thanks...and may God bless you in advance for helping to further the work in Sri Lanka.

NOTE: To see some exciting video clips of this trip and the two church meetings we held, visit: www.gallery.me.com/agossan. To see more pictures, visit Al Gossan's *Facebook* photo albums.