

ICCRS Prophetic Consultation Bethlehem

Michelle Moran

160 key leaders from 43 countries gathered in Bethlehem from 14th-18th November 2013 to hear from the Lord at this strategic time in the history of CCR as we journey towards the golden jubilee in 2017.

The opening address focussed on Deut 11:14 and Joel 2:23: "He will give the rain for your land in due season... the early and the latter rain." In biblical lands the early rain (the autumn rain) is what makes seeds germinate; the latter rain (the spring rain) brings in the harvest. In the early years of the Renewal we had the "early rain." But now we are in the time between the two. We are not in the latter rain yet, because we are not moving in the power of the Spirit strategically, healing the sick, doing miracles, reaching out to the poor, evangelizing in power. There is a need for repentance, because we have at times fallen into the trap of just wanting to entertain people, of settling for the comfortable.

On the first evening it seemed that the Lord needed to speak to each of us personally before he could lead us forward in His ways. There were a number of words about the call to holiness, a strong reminder of his deep personal love for each of us and quite a strong word about immorality in our midst 1 Cor 6:18-20 and the need to purify ourselves because we are temples of the Holy Spirit.

A Breakthrough Moment

It was not long after 3.00pm the hour of mercy when on Fri Nov 15th darkness descended on Bethlehem due to an electricity failure. In obedience to the programme we came together in our darkened meeting room. With no light, microphones, amplification, translation system, what could we do? Mary Healy reminded us prophetically of the famous Duquesne, retreat in 1967 when there was a problem with the plumbing and they had no water. So they all began to pray for water. The Lord answered their prayer but not only did the plumbing get fixed, floods of living water poured down from heaven and so began the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Mary shared that this was the early rain. She said; "now

we're at a different time. The fact that we've lost electric power today has prophetic significance. Just as back then they prayed for water and the Lord gave water from heaven, so now we have to pray for power, and the Lord is going to give us power from on high. We have to lean into this moment, pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is telling us symbolically and ask for power with great confidence."

After a time of anointed praise and worship in the dark, the large olive wood cross that had been on the back wall was brought into our midst. Then in the darkness, we worshiped the one who is the light of the world. Everyone was bowing before Jesus and acknowledging his lordship in a deeper way. Then Oreste Pesare stepped forward and said; "The Lord has truly given us a word for the Charismatic Renewal, *you have no more power... come to me.*" Then in the midst the darkness, suddenly and dramatically, boom! The lights came on with full power. Some were crying, some repentant, some lying prostrate on the floor but everyone certain that the Lord was in our midst in power.

Acknowledge my Lordship

During this time there were several words given. We heard the Lord no longer calling us His servants but calling us his friends. He said 'I gave power back to you because you bowed down on your knees. I do not want to have a gifted CCR or gifted leaders I want a humble CCR with humble leaders. I can switch off power and light and you can do nothing. I gave you a sign to remind you that without me you cannot do anything. As you acknowledge my Lordship and bow down on your knees in worship I will give power to you.'

After this, we were prophetically invited to take off our shoes; "My people, you have taken off your shoes in my holy presence. One

shoe is the shoe of pride. The other is fear and insecurity. There is no place for pride, because all that you do is totally dependent on me. And there is no place for fear and insecurity, because all that you do is totally dependent on me. When you go forth, you will go forth in power. You will not need to be afraid, because it is my power.”

Together in the Cenacle

On our final day we prophetically set out together for Jerusalem. The highlight of the day was another move of the Spirit. We were unsure as to whether we would be able to actually 'gather' in the Upper room as normally the groups just pass through. So tentatively we assembled and began to pray quietly until all the group arrived. Then, taking courage, we started singing and the praise got louder. Apparently at one point the officials entered the room to see what was happening and as they came in they were stopped in their tracks

and after a few moments they withdrew and left us to it. So we managed to pray together loud and long for more than an hour in the very place where the Holy Spirit was first poured out on the infant Church. There were a number of very powerful prophetic words, including this from Bruce Yocum; the Lord says, “I have poured out my Spirit abundantly, and I will continue to pour it out. I will pour out my Spirit generously, lavishly, continuously until even the hardened hearts are softened and the wasteland becomes fertile. This I promise, that I shall pour out my Spirit continuously until I bring about through my Spirit the renewal that I intend.”

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