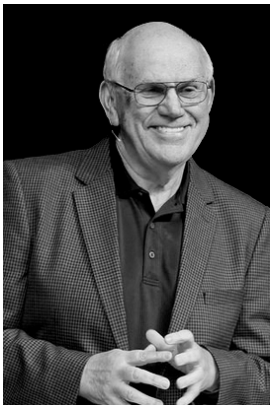




IS THIS
THE END,
OR IS IT THE
BEGINNING,
OR IS IT THE
BEGINNING OF
THE END?



**FROM
TONY'S
HEART
TO
YOURS**

As I write this paper, the bombardment of Ukraine continues, Covid 19 still spreads across the earth as, only a couple of weeks ago, the death toll reached the 6 million mark globally. Financial instability and growing inflation in many countries continues to cause great concern for many. As a COTN family we have known loss and heartache through the above and we surround those who are grieving and facing difficult times. We pray that you will know the Father's love, comfort and provision. These things can lead to many questions, far too many to answer here, but I trust that these

thoughts that we have shared over the last few years, will encourage and give us some focus, as we diligently serve in the advancement of our king's kingdom on earth.

When I began to share a few years ago that we were entering into a time of seismic shift, I don't think I fully realized what that was going to mean. I believe it started for me when, for a few years, Marilyn and I visited a German town called Magdeburg, to share with a community of believers there. Magdeburg is about an hour's drive from Wittenberg, the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation that took place in 1518. In 2018, a few weeks before the 500-year anniversary, I had the privilege of visiting there and was quite moved by the thought of how huge a shift can happen on earth, through a simple beginning, of a young Catholic priest Martin Luther receiving a revelation from God, that the just shall live by faith; that salvation was not obtained by works

or religious activity, but by simple trust in the grace of God. A seismic shift took place that radically changed the religious and political landscape of Europe and onto the world. I had held in my heart for those years a sense that around this anniversary Europe again would be on the precipice of major change. We are still watching this unfold!

Before that time and since, there have been other moments in history of seismic shift. The greatest of all was the coming of Jesus over 2000 years ago, to live, die and rise again, in order to reconcile humanity to their Heavenly father and, through this, to rebirth and usher in an age of the kingdom. The Constantine era in the early 300s was another shift, and the most recent before now, as I understand it, was the 1960's and 70's, when God broke into a time of religious and political upheaval with what we refer to as the charismatic renewal or the Jesus people revolution. It was in that time that Marilyn and I, along with many others, were thrust into our destinies. Time does not allow in an article like this, to share all that happened but, suffice to say, the church as we knew it was never going to be the same again. Since what happened then and, over the 50 to 60 years that have followed, we have gone through many seasons of blessings and waves of visitation of the Holy Spirit, as we have been equipped and prepared for the day we now live in, that can only be described as another seismic shift.

Isaiah wrote, and it is recorded in Isaiah chapter 43 verse 19: "Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. (KJV). Back in the 70's, this Scripture was put to music and we sang it fervently, declaring the new day we were living in. The Amplified Bible translates it this way: "Listen carefully, I am

about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert". The Christian Standard Bible says it this way: "Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it?"

Behold, listen carefully and look, emphasize the importance of the moment. Will you not be aware of it, do you not see it emphasizes that we can live in such a day and not be aware of or see what God is doing?"

As our heavenly father deepened our understanding of his kingdom coming to earth, another seismic shift began to take place and we are witnessing the unfolding of that right now. We are privileged to be alive in such a time as this. God has prepared us for such a time.

The Covid Pandemic has not brought about this day, but it has been a catalyst which Father has seized, to propel us into this shift. Previous shifts have often run parallel with times of great upheaval, and this one is no different.

The last shift gave birth to many church movements, as well as a deep understanding of kingdom theology. God seized the moment and, amongst all this, our COTN family was born. We were born in a time of tremendous change and "Constant change is here to stay" became our unofficial foundational slogan.

What does a Seismic Shift do?

A It changes the LANDSCAPE.

Personal, economic, political, and even global change. Perhaps the world has never gone through as much change as it is currently experiencing. I have been mindful of many

changes in church life as well, all bringing adjustment and shaping of direction, as the Kingdom of Heaven continues to increase on the Earth.

In the midst of such constant change, there are moments that affect not only your life, but change history as well; moments of seismic change that “shift” the very ground under our feet.

- B It starts with a few, but soon explodes.**
- C It suffers persecution.**
Let us be aware that history show us that often the most recent persecuted become the current persecutors.
- D A new breed of apostolic/prophetic leaders are released.**
- E A remnant comes forth,**
realizing that, although they may not know exactly what the future will look like, the one certainty is that life can never go back to what it was.
- F This remnant doesn't only move on from, but it builds upon. It draws on treasures old and new.**
- G A generation of Fathers moves from vision to dreams,** and releases a new generation to go further than they themselves have ever gone as they identify and fulfill their visions.
- H The sons of the Kingdom (male & female) are released** to be that which the Bible says, “the whole earth is groaning for.”
- I New wineskins are formed.**
- J Believers become the seed in the hand of the sower,** to be sown wherever he wills, for social and cultural transformation, for Kingdom advancement.

K The Kingdom of Heaven sees great growth on earth.

In briefly answering my opening question: Yes, this is the end of much of what we have known and maybe now take for granted. Yes, it is a beginning of a new season as we move through this global seismic shift. And yes, I believe, the beginning of the end of this age, not of this world, as we rapidly move towards the return of our King to rule his kingdom here on earth and we live in the fulfillment of what He asked us to pray for: “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Let us not be sidetracked by the darkness and remember that Isaiah prophesied, as darkness covered the earth, kings and rulers would come to the brightness of our rising. Light shines brightest in darkness. We are a part of a kingdom that knows nothing but increase.

For those reading this and who are part of our Church of the Nations global family, we ask that you will pray for the apostolic council as we meet for the first time in person in 2 ½ years, from April 25-29 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Believe with us for wisdom and clarity as we seek the father's heart for the way ahead, as we navigate our place in this great day of Seismic shift in which live.

Tony

