

# Kingdom thoughts

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28

**BMI Devotional** February 2014

## The Holy Spirit

We have just concluded a wonderful week at the BMI Summer Camp in Victoria. Our subject this year was the Holy Spirit.

The reason for choosing this topic was that the Third Person of the Trinity has not only been somewhat neglected in mainline churches but also, surprisingly, in many Pentecostal churches. Thus we wanted to focus on Him as part of our endeavour in BMI to return to the Scriptures as foundational and that the Holy Spirit is the person who dwells within to provide the power to live for Jesus. This gives us a solid foundation to build our relationship with God through the person of the Holy Spirit.

It has thus been somewhat gratifying to learn that a number of Pentecostal churches are returning to a greater focus on the Holy Spirit. Some churches that had banned the operation of spiritual gifts in services are beginning to restore them again. For us a return to the scriptures and the work of the Holy Spirit is much more than the gifts, as we usually confine those gifts to short periods in our services — perhaps we put the Holy Spirit in a box!

The Holy Spirit, of course does much more than sponsor some gifts in the church, as important as that may be. He is our sanctifier, our teacher, our

indwelling friend, etc. Now there are some thoughts for a message — perhaps even a whole series — on the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Incidentally, we recorded the sessions at the Summer Camp and these will be available soon through the BMI office.

Our exploration of the Holy Spirit at the Summer School was wide ranging — exploring the working of the Holy Spirit, particularly through the gifts in the early centuries of the church, which were much more common than many of us have previously thought. We also looked at the theological roots of Pentecostalism which helped us understand where we had come from and how we have ended up where we are today. Other aspects tackled included the person of the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit in Preaching, the Law of Christ, prayer, gifts, and others.

David Abbott from the UK took a session on the Holy Spirit and Children, wrapping up an excellent week. I was greatly encouraged of the Lord that the direction we feel BMI is being led is in line with what He is doing in a number of other places. I believe we as BMI can step into 2014 with confidence that the Lord has gone before and prepared the way for us.

*Peter Frogley*

