

# Majestic Ministry

**Isaiah 60:1-62:5** So many Christians spend their lives looking forward to when their ministry will be released in power. While they are waiting, they miss so many opportunities. The great ministry they hope to have one day may never develop. Many years ago when I almost died, the Lord taught me about the ministry of the moment. As I felt my spirit leaving my body as I was hemorrhaging after a miscarriage, I realized I might not have another minute to live. At that time I learned how precious every minute is. True ministry is seeing every moment as an opportunity to minister to another person or to the Lord.

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## Relief Groups Aid Philippines Flood Victims

✘ Humanitarian groups are assisting victims of what some are calling the Hurricane Katrina of the Philippines.

In just 12 hours Saturday, Typhoon Ketsana dropped more than a month's worth of rain in Manila, flooding the homes of more than 1.9 million residents. More than 240 people have died and an estimated 380,000 people are displaced.

Operation Blessing International (OBI), which has offices in Manila, is distributing food and water, partnering with local groups to conduct cleanup efforts and deploying medical teams to some of the hardest-hit areas.

"This is Hurricane Katrina of the Philippines," said Dr. Kim April C. Pascual, executive vice president and chief operating

officer for OBI Philippines, whose own home is also under water. "Almost a month's worth of rainfall has submerged riverbank cities like Marikina and Pasig, and buried neighboring cities and provinces under ravaging floodwaters, putting the whole region under a state of calamity."

World Vision, which is the one of the world's largest Christian humanitarian aid organizations, has set a goal of helping at least 100,000 of those in dire need. Working with the Philippine Coast Guard, the agency is targeting four of Manila's hardest-hit areas, all of which are home to thousands of poor residents living in low-lying areas next to a river.

To date, World Vision has been able to deliver relief packs via helicopter. Fellow Christian relief organization Catholic Relief Services is also providing immediate assistance by distributing food among those who fled throughout the northern island of Luzon.

"Thousands of people have lost all they owned-their food, their clothing, bedding, school items, and kitchen equipment," said Boy Bersales, a director for World Vision Philippines. "But their immediate needs are for food and water. Many have gone without either for hours and hours and the children are especially vulnerable having been trapped in flooded conditions for several days. The city is only now waking up to the massive extent of the devastation."

World Vision is assisting storm victims in Vietnam, where the storm made landfall on Tuesday. The storm killed at least 23 people, and more than 170,000 were evacuated from its path, the Associated Press (AP) reported. World Vision reported that 700 families who were evacuated received small packs of food assistance to see them through the disaster.

"We believe the communities we work in are well prepared for disasters," said Danny Selvanayagam, national director of World Vision Vietnam. "We feel that people were made well

aware of the approaching typhoon and World Vision is well geared up to respond to any suffering that may result.”

Philippines officials appealed for international aid, warning they may not have enough resources to withstand two new storms forecasters have identified in the Pacific Ocean, the AP reported. One storm could hit the northern Philippines later this week and the other early next week.

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## **Evangelist Roberts Liardon Leads London Bible College**

✘ Evangelist Roberts Liardon has been named principal of the International Bible Institute of London (IBIOL), the training arm of the charismatic Kensington Temple London City Church.

The school, which began classes Monday, trains Christians to evangelize throughout Europe and around the world.

“Roberts brings an enormous amount of experience in ministry in general and in training in particular,” said Colin Dye, founder and president of the school and apostolic overseer of Kensington Temple. “We know Roberts will be a blessing to us, and we hope to be a blessing to him.”

The appointment comes nearly eight years after Liardon stepped down from his Embassy Christian Center in Irvine, Calif., after confessing to a short-term homosexual relationship with the church’s youth pastor.

Dye said he believes Liardon, 43, has been fully restored to ministry since his December 2001 confession.

“He went far beyond the recommendations set for him by those involved in the initial six-month process of his restoration,” Dye said. “After two years of counseling and recovery, he returned to ministry.”

The scandal, however, triggered an exodus from Liardon’s church and his accredited school, Spirit Life Bible College. Some leaders who left complained that Liardon did not accept initial pastoral counsel from a leader who advised him to step away from the pulpit for one year.

Both organizations closed in 2007, when Liardon relocated his itinerant preaching ministry to Florida.

Dye believes the two ministries will be of mutual benefit. Because Kensington Temple is part of the Elim Pentecostal Churches of Great Britain, Liardon will be subject to its accountability structure as part of the church’s staff.

But Dye said Liardon is answering a Macedonian call by moving to London, where he said religious freedom is being stifled as a result of Islam’s influence across Europe. In September, a Christian couple who run a hotel in England was arrested for talking to a Muslim about Jesus, he said. Other Christians have been fired for saying “God bless you” or wearing a cross.

“[Liardon’s] burden for Europe as a major 21st-century spiritual battleground has been welcomed by European ministers who see his coming as part of the ongoing spiritual partnership between the U.S. and Europe,” Dye said.

In a statement, Liardon said IBIOL will emphasize evangelism to prepare students to reach diverse communities with the gospel. “IBIOL is raising up men and women of faith who can stand against these challenges,” Liardon said. “We are training them to re-evangelize European nations and to plant new churches. Much of Europe has no effective evangelical witness.”

Liardon is the author of *God's Generals*, a history of Pentecostal pioneers. He has relocated to London, but will continue preaching, writing and leading his international missions ministry.

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## **Turnout at Muslim Rally Lower Than Expected**

✘ A Muslim prayer rally on Capitol Hill Friday drew between 3,000 and 5,000 participants, a figure well below the 50,000 organizers hoped to attract.