

DON'T DESPISE THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS (FROM ZACHARIAH 4)

By Dan Brewster

Children are small things. We must not despise them. In fact, as Wess Stafford says in the title of his book -- children are the next big thing! The HCD movement is a small thing. Our gathering was a "small thing." Some seminaries are only getting started. None of us has a really clear idea of the way ahead. Our consultation is a small thing. But let's not despise the day of small things!

Zachariah is instructive as we think of this "small thing" -- this HCD movement in SE Asia. Here are some thoughts:

1. **The Power.** What we have begun in the Spirit must be finished in the Spirit -- not in the flesh. Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit. The work of God must be done by the anointing of the Spirit. The oil is continually flowing into the lampstand -- without it we smoke and smolder. Let's not rely on sleepless nights and sweaty brows. Let's stay connected to the source.
2. **Remove the Obstacles!** The mountain = obstacles, difficulties. Some of us see lots of obstacles in beginning HCD programs. It can be discouraging. But difficulties cannot become an excuse to stop the work, or to lose focus or commitment. What are the obstacles facing us? What are the mountains that must be moved? Pray (and trust) that the mountain of difficulties will become level ground.
3. **Look at things from God's perspective.** Zachariah saw (prophetically) the capstone -- the last brick. The task is done one brick at a time. We may be discouraged, not even having laid the first brick. But move on. Do the work. By faith, envision the completion. Let's keep the end in mind -- the HCD vision -- key seminaries with HCD programs in every country.
4. **"These Hands."** (Take a piece of paper and on it outline both of your hands. Label the page "These Hands.") Realize that whatever God intends to do on earth He will accomplish in the power of His Spirit, but with *our* hands -- old hands, young hands, strong hands, feeble hands, steady hands, trembling hands. MY hands, YOUR hands. There is a time for praying, but also a time for action. What will be accomplished in HCD development will be done with OUR hands. (But always clean and anointed hands.)
5. **The Plumb line.** If the wall doesn't match the plumb line, don't blame the plumb line. The plumb line is the standard. God must be glorified in our methods as well as in the outcomes. Let's seek to have the "gold standard."
6. **Don't despise the day of small things!** Most things start small. Our efforts, results, and resources may look small at the moment, but don't despise small things. A journey of a thousand miles is begun with a single step. With consistency and patience, small and insignificant things -- like children, or like HCD programs -- can become very large and important.