

## **A Unique Experience in Philadelphia**

*Eddie Broussard*

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, and my wife Barbie and I were leaving our hotel room for the Sunday morning worship service at New Covenant Church, our friends Rich and Jane Berry called. Bishop Grannum wanted the Berrys and the Broussards to join he and his wife on the platform that morning.

Shortly after we took our seats on the platform Bishop Grannum leaned over to Rich and me and told us he would like us each to share a 5-minute response to a question on partnering. Before I knew it, the four of us were on the podium with Bishop Grannum before an ocean of 1,000 faces.

As Bishop Grannum repeated the question a deep feeling of surprise overtook me as I realized I had prepared a response to the wrong question! I peered out prayerfully over this mass of faces as I recast my thoughts only to notice a microphone was now coming my way. As I took the microphone from Bishop Grannum I had one clear thought from the Lord, "Transforming versus Performing." I began to quietly share this though with the Church. As I spoke, the Holy Spirit seemed to be guiding me moment-by-moment and speaking to the hearts of people across this sizable auditorium.

I reached a point near the end of my remarks where I noticed the Bishop throw his hands I the air and whisk every one off the podium leaving me alone. I Finished my comments and leaving the podium I remember saying, "That's all I have to say." As I handed the microphone to the Bishop, he responded, "No, I think you have more to say. Go preach the Word. God's anointing is on you!

As I returned to the podium the audience was on the edge of their seats with anticipation. I, on the other hand, had a sinking feeling in my stomach; I'd already shared all that I had to say! Now what am I supposed to say to this energetic crowd?

In fervent prayer and quiet dependence on the Lord I asked him for direction. Then I noticed that my thoughts began to string together into a clear and powerful sermon that merged my earlier comments with three dynamics of the nature of sin. By the Lord's grace, I finished my last point and stepped off of the podium to take my seat.

To my surprise, the Bishop again met me, this time to ask me to give an "altar call", that is an invitation for people to respond to what they have heard. As I went back onto the stage I thought to the Lord, "Is there something you want to do?" I have given altar calls before, but frankly have seen very few people respond. Nonetheless, in faith I look out at this audience and gave an invitation to respond to God. I was astounded to look up and see a hundred people crowded around the platform to do business with God. While some cried, others jut looked on soberly as I had the privilege of leading over 30 of them to place their faith in Christ and enter His Kingdom! God is at work!

What a privilege it is to be surprised by his hand of power in our simple acts of obedience and faith.