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THE FAMILY ALTAR

A heart-to-heart talk on the Christian Practice of "Family Prayers."

Stressing:

1. The Bible Foundation for this Practice.
2. The Blessings that follow it.
3. The Battle involved in getting the Practice introduced.

"The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish" (Prov.14: 11).

We begin by asking you a question. Have you ever had the privilege of regular participation in Christian "Family Prayers"? Have you, with others, sat by quietly while a godly father, for instance, takes from the shelf a well -worn Bible and reads to all, the daily portion? And then, when the precious Bible is reverently closed, have you knelt down with the others while the loving parent briefly commits the little family to the Lord for His mercy and protection through the day? If you happen to be one who HAS enjoyed this priceless privilege, you will know exactly what we have in mind as we send forth this appeal. And you will join us in our prayerful longing that countless multitudes in every place might come to know this self -same blessedness.

This message certainly comes from a burdened heart, for it touches a matter of great importance, and bears down upon a vital secret which can be of untold value to the church of God in the days in which we live. It certainly concerns those who seek the welfare of their children, and their children's children, and many such may be responsible to take some very practical steps in this connection.

What we are pleading for, of course, is just this simple practice of daily "Family Prayers". It has been our own great privilege to drink deep into the blessedness of this practice, both in our own home and in many other homes where it has been our joy to sojourn as itinerant servants of the Lord in many parts of the world. Memories crowd in of happy homes amidst the snows of Scotland, the towns and cities of Europe, the burning plains of India, the sheep lands and fruit orchards of Australia, and the favoured islands of the Philippines. In all these places, and more, we have met the Lord as we have taken our place with the members of some Christian family for their few brief minutes of "Family Devotions". What is written, therefore, is rooted in considerable experience; -we have seen this simple practice bringing untold blessing to Christian families in many lands.

On the other hand we have had to witness the many breakdowns and tragedies which increasingly show themselves amongst the younger generation of so -called Christians; breakdowns, and tragedies which, very probably, could have I been avoided and averted if Christian parents had! I known and grasped, in time, this blessed secret of I the "Family Altar", -and if they had been willing to I pay the price for its simple application in their own homes. But now those young and impressionable and formative years have all slipped by; the course of life is set, and only mighty miracles of grace can get us back to where we might have been. In fact we have to say that certain priceless values and advantages have been forever lost.

In a recent survey of members of a group of evangelical churches in Ohio, U.S.A., it was learned that ninety percent of those members never have family worship. The same is probably true in other places, and this, we believe, goes right to the heart of the need that we have mentioned. Those tragedies exist, to a large extent, because something vital was missing in the testimony of the home.

Of course we know that there is no mere technique or formula, which, by itself, provides the answer to such a situation. We do believe, however, that, when the hearts of the parents are truly for the Lord, and when there is, in consequence, the longing to see the much -loved children deeply established in the Lord, and visibly rejoicing under His gracious smile, there most certainly are scriptural "ways and means" that can be employed as being divinely conducive to the end in view. This treatise deals with one of those appointed "ways and means", and if our simple suggestion is adopted, in real dependence on the Holy Spirit, blessing will come to many families, and our homes will begin to approximate more closely to what God wants them to be. More important, perhaps, the Church and the

churches will thus become revitalised, and material will be gathered which, may be greatly used of God to coming generations.

(To be contd.)

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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27-2-2002

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and glorious Name of our Lord Jesus, the One Who hath saved us by His grace, and is building us upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, while He Himself is the chief corner stone, to be His Temple and Habitation of God through the Spirit. By being fitly framed together, growth in grace and holiness may mark our lives, so that "in his temple doth everyone speak of his glory, "and" rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Eph.2:20 -22; Psa. 29:9; Rom.5:2).

"...Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..." (Matt.16:18). Upon Peter's confession of the Lord -"...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v .16) spoken of by the Lord as the revelation the Father which is in heaven granted to him, our Lord declared for the first time of His predetermined programme in this age of grace, or dispensation of the Spirit of God, -that is, the period following His crucifixion, resurrection, exaltation to the right hand of God and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, on the day of Pentecost according to promise (Acts 2:23,24,33,36).

Thus it may be fully affirmed that the Holy Spirit is the supreme Builder of the Church, as He is the supreme witness to Jesus Christ (Eph.2:22 (through the Spirit); John 15:26,27). The words "through the Spirit", closing Ephesians chapter 2, a solemn emphasis, denotes not the mode of God's habitation -that is self -evident, but the agency engaged in building the House of God. With one "chief corner stone" to rest upon, and one Spirit to inspire and control them, the apostles and prophets laid the foundation, and the Church was "builed together for an habitation of God". Hence its unity. But for this sovereign and supreme inspiration and influence of the Holy Ghost the primitive founders of our most holy faith like the later Church leaders, would have fallen into fatal discord. Let us understand and exalt the grace of the Holy Spirit that preserved them from discord and disputations of a continuing nature. Had this been so. No foundation could have been laid. The Church would have fallen to pieces from the very beginning.

In the hands of the faithful and wise stewards of God's dispensation of grace, the stone which the builders rejected was made "the head of the corner" (Matt.21 :42). Their work has been tried by fire and flood, and it abides. The rock of Zion stands unworn by time, unshaken by the conflict of ages -amidst the movements of history and the shifting currents of human thoughts and philosophies, the one and only foundation for peace and welfare of His people.

In the Old Testament we read of God's building according to His plan and pattern, especially the temple which Solomon built, and was filled with His glory (2 Chron.5:14). However this foreshadows the spiritual House or Habitation God is building, through lively stones as we read in 1 Pet.2:5 -through born again believers, born of the Spirit, and of the Word of God (John 3:6; 1 Pet.1 :23).

Solomon began building on the "second day of the second month" as we read in 2 Chron.3:2. Incidentally we are closing upon the second month, though not according to the Jewish calendar. We have been able to visit and pray for many Prayer Houses this month, for the purchased site as well as material buildings. These buildings -material have to house the spiritual, as believers continue to assemble there for worship, prayer and the study of His Word. Though our emphasis and execution are related to the spiritual we cannot do without the material -a suitable site where an earthly tabernacle is raised by the labours of the saints, with further building as the work in each place enlarges.

The temporal and numerical enlargement of, as well as in our assemblies, is good and gratifying the saints and servants; but at the same time the spiritual building up should not be lost sight of -" to build you up, and to give you

an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). In this connection may we draw a parallel between the "second day of the second month" mentioned in 2 Chron.3:2 highlighting the word "second" -and the "second day" mentioned in Gen.1 :6-8. In the creation story we read, "And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament...the second day" (Gen.1 :7,8). The spiritual application, I may suggest, is that the saints and servants may come into the "second day" in an inward way. By faith identification with the crucified and risen Christ, the Holy Spirit may bring about within them, a clear-cut division between things above and things below. "...risen with Christ, seek those things which are above... Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col.3:1,2) -or a division between things seen and unseen or things temporal and eternal. Also we may experience a dividing asunder of the soul and spirit by the Word of God, sharper than a two-edged sword (2 Cor.4:18; Heb.4: 12). Where this is experientially known within by us as worshippers and workers of our Lord Jesus Christ, the "second day" beginning becomes true, and the spiritual house takes form soon and finishes according to the fashion the Lord hath shown, giving Him glory and rest.

Pray that this may be true amongst His people who are engaged in the temporal construction of the buildings, with further additions in the following places. At Chennai, at Ambattur area, about 15 kms. From Jehovah -Shammah, the local believers have acquired a small area, for the construction of anew Prayer House and we could meet with them in prayer on the 6th of February. Also at Beersheba, Avadi, another 8kms. From Ambattur the Lord has been gathering a company of believers for more than four decades. They covet our prayers for the widening of the prayer hall and slabbing of the roof. At Horeb, Malakpet, we could gather with the saints and pray for the construction of the first floor on 17th February. On Sunday the 24th we joined the believers at Horeb, Tarnaka in Secunderabad for worship, and give thanks and dedicate the two large halls on the first floor, for Junior and Senior Sunday School children, naming them as Berea (Acts 17:10) and Berachah (2 Chron.20:26) respectively ..Also let us remember our brethren in Andaman engaged in construction. Let us pray that in all these places and more, saints be constituted on the basis of the second day "division" for spiritual enrichment side by side with their temporal building additions.

Bro.Paul Sudhakar writes that about forty participated in the Breaking of Bread after worship on the 10th February at Singapore and about sixty or so attended the two days retreat, on the 12th and 13th in a hired facility. Responsible brethren Isaiah Timothy, Paul Subramanyam and John Albert covet our prayers for the little flock there. The contact name will be Dr. Timothy; Phone:00657924063 or Cell: 006594598165.

Pray for a team of about 12 brethren who with Bro. Eliezer and others are in the Gospel ministry in Karimnagar area for a week from the 25th February that the Lord may work with them according to Mark 16:20.

Though belated we would mention the Home call of aged brother Bisram Bakhla of Luru village on the 25th January about 200 kms. From Ranchi. He was a humble and faithful servant of the Lord who laboured in that area for more than five decades. Pray for the comfort of his wife.

Praying that we all be enabled to build ourselves in our most holy faith and be labourers together for the upbuilding of His Church,

I remain yours in His grace,
K. PHILLIP

Jude 20; 1 Cor. 3: 10 -15; 1 Peter 2: 1-5

MY JOY MIGHT REMAIN IN YOU—4 BAKHT SINGH

Repentance means turning our backs towards the devil and our faces towards God. Such a work takes place only by the Holy Spirit, and not by ourselves. Now, supposing a sinner in Hyderabad repents today; then straightway, the Lord Jesus Christ will give a command to the angels saying, "Come along My angels, hurry up, bring your wonderful golden harps". There is no organ in heaven. Only golden harps! The Lord Jesus Christ commands, "Come along My angels, do not delay, come and rejoice with Me". And, they question, "Lord, what has happened? Why is there rejoicing today?" The Lord says, "That man in Hyderabad has repented. That short man has repented, or that tall man has repented. Come and rejoice". The Lord says to the angels, "He is very precious. I have purchased him with My blood. He is My precious jewel. Rejoice". That joy began there. Heaven is first filled with joy, and from there, that joy is poured into that person who repents. And that is why no man can take away that joy. It begins in heaven and from there it goes on flowing. "And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you"(John 16:22). Your neighbours cannot take it away. Your

friends cannot take it away. No power can take it away. Even your enemies cannot take away that joy from you. No mother-in-law can take it away, howsoever cruel she may be, she cannot take that joy away from you. Many people lose their joy because of their mothers-in-law. That is not real joy. This joy no man can take away from you. It begins in heaven. But you have to repent sincerely. Have you repented? When and how did you repent? What happened when you repented? Was it whole-hearted repentance? Are you still hankering after sinful things? That is why your joy is not full. Your repentance is not true. You want to keep your face both towards God and devil. Some people are like that. They can be good everywhere. When they come for worship, they are very good. When they go into the world, they are still happy. Wherever they go, they are happy. They are blind and deaf spiritually. They are the agents of Satan. Oh, please make sure that you have repented truly and sincerely.

Secondly, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name" (Luke 10: 17). These disciples were sent by the Lord Jesus Christ. They were 70 in number. They went two by two, and returned rejoicing; because they saw many miracles. They said to the Lord, "See, what mighty things have happened in Your Name". But the Lord said in verse 20, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven". That is true joy. That assurance that my Lord has written my name in heaven, gives true joy. And that gives assurance that my sins are forgiven, they are covered, never to be remembered. They are removed as far as the east is from the west. When you go to heaven, you will be welcomed by your own name. Whomsoever you meet, you will be called by your name. But upon the earth we say, "I have seen you somewhere, but I cannot remember where". Others may say, "YOU have forgotten me so soon. Only last year you came to my home and had tea with me, and I gave you so many nice things", and the person will say, "Yes, yes, now I remember". That is how we forget. But in heaven, whosoever you are, and whichever place you come from, you will be greeted by your own name with great honour. It is only after you repent that your name is written in heaven. The Lord will say, "O My angels, such and such a person in Guntur has repented; do not look at his false teeth, to Me he is very precious". So your name will not be forgotten. All will know your name in heaven. That gives joy. Even though upon the earth very few know me, yet in heaven all will know me, because I am purchased by His precious blood, and I am a peculiar treasure of the mighty and living God.

That is why you have to make sure that your sins are forgiven. No man can forgive your sins. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can. And He will not forgive you unless you ask Him. He says, "Ask and you shall receive", Ask for heavenly things. Now tell me when did you ask the Lord to forgive you? What happened to you? Did He say, "My son, My daughter, thy sins are forgiven thee"? Joy comes into you with the very same words.

(To be contd.)

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THE FAMILY ALTAR - 2

For convenience and simplicity we shall group our thoughts under three main headings.

First we shall think of **The Biblical Authority and Background for this practice**. Of the very much that might be said in this connection, we shall here present only a few brief tokens, but even these will be more than adequate to show that this simple practice of "Family Prayers" is most certainly supported by the Word of God.

Beginning in the New Testament, we notice that Christian parents are expressly enjoined to bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph.6: 4). This, of course, embraces many matters, but including, we would say, this matter of a daily occasion for family prayer together. The root idea in the verse is that the Christian home is intended to function as the child's first happy "school" in the realm of spiritual things. If this is so, what better occasion could possibly present itself than this daily meeting with the Lord at the "Family Altar"? Here, most certainly, we can do much to bring up our children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord", and we can count on the Lord's wonderful presence with us at those times.

We are told, for instance, that, "from a child", Paul's beloved Timothy had "known the holy scriptures" which were able to make him "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2Tim.3: 15). We learn that he was Blessed, too, by having a mother called Eunice who had "unfeigned faith", and his grandmother Lois was just the same (2 Tim.1: 5). No one will question, then, that it was in that homely domestic setting that the boy himself had come to know those Holy Scriptures, and had been made wise unto salvation through faith in Christ. The faith had come by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom.10: 17). We are not expressly informed of the details, but we can well imagine how, in that home at Lystra, the children were regularly assembled, and the Word of God was opened to them by parents and grandparents who had already proved for themselves the power of its saving message. Little did they imagine, at that time, how the captivated boy before them was destined to become the chosen associate and companion of the great Apostle Paul! Day by day, and little by little, the Word of God was finding entrance into the heart of the attentive child, and creating, as it always does, a beautiful "faith unfeigned". No doubt Lois and Eunice had their difficulties in arranging these occasions, for evidently there were particular complications in the home (Acts 16:1), but, by their "unfeigned faith", they pressed through these difficulties, and blessing followed. In answer to their prayers, the occasions WERE made possible, and in the end they had this great reward.

Reverting now to the Old Testament, it is very noticeable that, again and again, the Israelites were expressly commanded to be specially diligent in teaching the Word of God to their children (Deut.4: 9,10). A few chapters further on the instructions are repeated, and further details added: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest in the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:6-7). Surely, in these verses, we have strong warrant and support for our present practice of Christian Family Prayers! "These words shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...when thou liest down and when thou risest up".

As if this were not enough, the great divine demand echoes out again, just a few pages further on, and in terms, this time, which will surely move our hearts to action. Almost word for word, the Spirit repeats the call to lay up God's words in our hearts and in our souls, and to teach them to our children, when we are seated in our homes, when we lie down, and when we rise up. Then are added the wonderful words: "That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth" (Deut.11: 21).

What could be more inviting and alluring? Days of heaven upon the earth; days in the land which He swore unto our fathers to give us! This is what we may know if we will lay up God's Word in our hearts, and if we will teach it to our children.

And let us remember that, in this dispensation, we do not have to think of an earthly and material land, which the

Lord has given us! We, thank God, are privileged to live in the days of the vastly greater spiritual antitype! To us "the land" is that Great Rich "Fulness of Christ" in which the grace of God has set us! (1 Cor.1: 30; Eph.1: 3). If then, we will lay up God's Word in our hearts, AND TEACH IT TO OUR CHILDREN, our days shall be multiplied in That Land, and so shall the days of our children! We shall find ourselves eating and drinking continually into that great All -sufficiency of our Living and Exalted Lord, for, what He is in glory, He is for us, and we shall find ourselves declaring exultingly with Paul, "I can do all things THROUGH Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil.4: 13).

O that Christian parents, in our day, might really dwell in this Great Land of CHRIST! And O that our children, too, might come into that Same Land, and live long in it! We may be sure that, if they were truly enjoying the Greatness and All - sufficiency of Christ, the subtle appeals of Egypt and "the wilderness" would cease to captivate them. Rather would they say with their parents and with the ancient prophet, "...What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him" (Hos.14:8).

But we must not digress. We are simply noting that all these blessings, physical and spiritual, are the fruits of laying up God's Word in our hearts and souls, and teaching it to our children.

How wonderful if God could say of parents now-a-days what He said of Abraham; "...I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord...that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Gen.18: 19).

What a commendation that was of the ancient patriarch! God was confident that he, at least, would teach his children after him. O that He might be able to have the selfsame confidence in those who are the heads of Christian families today! And to such, the daily "Family Altar" would be the suitable and prized occasion.

Before we close this section we would like, perhaps, to go a little deeper, and mention a matter, which is of tremendous significance in this connection.

We refer to the place given to the Christian Home in the Epistle to the Ephesians. As we scan that Epistle as a whole, we see that all those precious doctrines of the "Church", presented in the first three chapters, are made to focus down immediately, and very strongly, on the Christian Home. Twenty-one verses are given to this subject, and, in effect, the Apostle is pleading earnestly for the establishing of families and households, which will, in their very constitution and behaviour, worthily express the exalted truths, which he has earlier set forth. This is most impressive. There is no mention, just here, of local churches, nor of elders or deacons, nor of the problems of the local work! Even the passage in chapter four regarding the various gifts distributed by the ascended Lord upon His members, envisages, for the time, the universal Church, and the universal work..."until we ALL come to a Perfect Man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ!"

Why this silence, then, for the time, regarding local churches, and why this emphasis instead upon the Christian Home? The answer, surely, is very obvious. The Holy Spirit is carefully showing that the Christian Home is intended by God to be the first collective outworking of redemption. Here, in the homely family circle, God plans to have His initial glorious expression of "the Church". Here, first of all, shall "the Mystery" be seen. That is what God always works for, and that, incidentally, is why He said to the Philippian Jailor, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved AND THY HOUSE".

Needless to say, the local church becomes, in turn, the fuller sphere of testimony, for it is the happy aggregate of all such homes, but, on that matter, even Ephesians; for the time, is silent. It all starts in the HOME! The rest will surely follow!

In practical terms, it means that, in regular family affairs, first of all, Christ is to have the preeminence; there, in the family circle, He is to be known as Lord; there, in everything, His will is to be consulted and His directions followed. There, beneath that roof, His Name is to be worshipped and His glory praised. There, in everyday affairs, the Great Ascended Lord of Glory is to be our All in All. In such a situation will be found the first clear focus of the Eternal Mystery.

It may appear that we have deviated somewhat from the simpler matter of our subject, the daily practice of Christian Family Prayers, but to those who have eyes to see, the connection will be very obvious. God wants His testimony established in our homes, and, while this has its bearing on numerous far-reaching issues, we ask, "What could be more conducive to this great end and purpose than this daily gathering of the family to the Word of God and to the ministry of prayer?" This, surely, would be altogether foundational to the testimony in view.

(To be contd.)

C.R.G.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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25-3-2002

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the exalted Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of God, far above all principality and power, the Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all (Eph.1: 20-23). He hath set us members in His Body, as it hath pleased Him (1 Cor.12: 18), that we may be perfected for the work of the ministry, for the edification of the Body of Christ (Eph.4:11-13).

As the "priest upon his throne" (Zech.6: 13), the Son of God, the Lord Jesus, called of God an High Priest after the order of Melchizedek is ministering in the heavenly sanctuary, by the power of an endless life (Heb. 7:3,6, 17) for His Church. With the "washing of water by the word" the Lord is sanctifying and cleansing His Church to be presented unto Himself, "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph.5: 26,27). Our Lord's heart is set upon to bring His Church, His elect, whom He has purchased with His own blood to her glorious consummation, even though she is passing through toil and trials and tribulation -"the Church triumphant" as the Hymn writer mentions.

In Eph.1: 4,5 we are reminded of our election "unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ...according to the good pleasure of his will" Sonship to Himself and being conformed to the image of His own Son is the believer's status, as God hath purposed from eternity for His elect Body in Christ -the Church taken out of, and separated from the world.

The purpose of this loving fore -ordination of believing men in Christ is twofold: it concerns at once their "character" and their "state". He chose us that we should be holy and without blemish in His sight, and "unto adoption as sons through Jesus Christ for himself". These two purposes are one. God's sons must be holy and holy men are His sons. For this end we were elected of God from the beginning. To provide God with such sons, Christ must be the "firstborn among many brethren" (Rom.8:28-30).

We would like to consider five features of such sons "conformed to the image of His son", who form His Body, the Church finally victorious and triumphant. Firstly they are a jubilant company of saints, rejoicing and joying in God amidst all circumstances. Apostle Paul himself was a rejoicing Christian inspite of being confined to the loneliness of the Roman prison. In his letter to the Philippian saints, a church dear to him, he writes about rejoicing in every chapter (Phil.1: 18; 2:16, 17; 3:1, 3; 4:4). Habakkuk says "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (3: 18). Secondly, such sons are "vigilant" -"taking heed" "watching and praying" against the adversary and the snares and cares that can overcome them. Some references we read in 1 Pet. 5:8; Mark 13:33,35,37; Luke 21: 34-36; 1 Cor.10: 12 and other Scriptures. Thirdly, they are a diligent body of people "...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue;" and so on making their "calling and election sure" (2 Pet 1: 5-10). Besides all this, Peter exhorts us to be diligent that we may be found of Him in peace...blameless (2 Pet.3: 14). Fourthly, such a company would be "tolerant" -in other words, gentle and long suffering which is the fruit of the Spirit, an essential prerequisite to be walking worthy of their vocation. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit (Eph.4: 1-3). This long suffering is an attribute of God Himself, as we read in 2 Pet. 3:9 -"long suffering to us -ward." Finally, being brought into the image of His Son, means such ones are a "fragrant" company. They become a "sweet savour of Christ" unto God (2 Cor .2: 14-16). As we seek to exalt and work out our own salvation with fear and; trembling (Phil.2: 9-13), the Holy Spirit may form these features in our inner man, that we may be JUBILANT, VIGILANT, DILIGENT, TOLERANT and finally FRAGRANT, to be the Church TRIUMPHANT.

May we mention the following for your information and continued prayer. You may recall that from the beginning of the year we have been coveting your prayers for the various problems we have been facing concerning the administrative affairs of the Society of Trustees of the Indigenous churches in India. This society was founded as early as 1971 by our late Bro.Bakht Singh (he being the Principal Trustee), and registered the Society under the certificate of Registration No.114 of 1971; its aims and objects being mainly to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus individually and collectively and establish Indigenous churches throughout the country and even outside, according to the heavenly pattern in the New Testament, and also safeguard the properties and places of worship of all such

churches in India, affiliated to this Society.

Because of the ailing condition of Bro. Bakht Singh, the Principal Trustee, a General Body Meeting, as required by the State Society Rules, could not be held for many years, with the Principal Trustee to preside over such a meeting. However, after his Promotion to Glory, we had to call for a General Body meeting, under the Chairmanship of the writer (Bro. K. Phillip), Governing Body Member giving notice to all the members as per the original 1971 list of membership. Though many of them have been called Home over the years, about 42 were present for the General Body Meeting held on 21-02-2002.

The agenda included the acknowledging and acceptance of the four newly nominated members to the Governing Body, to fill the vacancies caused by the Home call of the four previous Governing Body Members inclusive of the Principal Trustee.

The General Body thus unanimously resolved to acknowledge and approve the nominations of Bro. Theodore Reginald, Bro. Paul Sudhakar, Bro. Daniel Rai, and Bro. F.C.S. Peter, to function together with the existing Governing Body Members, Bro. K. Phillip, Bro. G.T. Benjamin and Bro. S. Martin, thus making the total number seven, as per the Society by -law. The General Body also unanimously passed the Audits of the previous years with the yearly Audit Certificates, expressing their full confidence in the new Governing Body, willing to extend their heartfelt co-operation to them to foster the aims and objects of the Society, as founded by the late Principal Trustee, Bro. Bakht Singh.

It was also resolved to form a fact finding committee of senior God's servants mainly, with others as the Lord leads, to make prayerful spot enquiry of the various needs, arising amongst saints and servants and the affiliated churches and appraise their findings to the Governing Body for further prayer. After this, suitable action will be initiated by the required quorum of the Governing Body members and orders passed with the signatures of-, minimum three of the Governing Body.

Thank you for your prayers and do continue to pray for the proper implementation of the above, as well as for the favourable decisions of the judiciary.

It has pleased the Lord to promote to Glory Bro. Yesurathnam, God's servant at Horeb, Yellandu on the 18th of this month. He had been an associate with us in the work of the Lord for the past five decades, since Elim days of late Bro. Bakht Singh. The funeral took place on the 19th with many servants of God and saints of Khammam and nearby assemblies joining us. He rests from his labours (Rev. 14: 13). Pray for the comfort of his wife and children and for the need of the saints at Horeb, Yellandu.

Sis. (Mrs.) Suvarnala Suniyam, (wife of late Bro. Krupavaram, elder and minister of Gilgal, H.M.T.) was promoted to Glory on the 20th of this month after a period of hospitalisation. She laboured much for the Lord (Rom. 16: 12). Pray for the comfort of her two sons and daughter.

Pray for the ministries fulfilled by a team of Hebron brothers in Gospel outreach by van in nearly 30 villages in Mahabubnagar Dist, for a week from 9th March.

Praying that His abundant grace be with us all to press forward in this holy and heavenly calling given to us in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world,

I remain yours in His grace,
K. PHILLIP

Rom. 8: 17, 18; 2 Tim. 1: 9, 10; Phil. 3: 13, 14

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