

Hebron Messenger

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NO. 18

VOICE OF GOD IN CREATION

God has given humanity the gift of "sound". How dull and monotonous the 'world would be if the silence of the cemetery were to rule everywhere! The chirping of birds, the sound of a flowing stream, the loud whispers of a rainfall and the incoherent sound of infants fill us all with delight. Beautiful indeed is this creation. Of all the creatures, MAN possesses the supreme ability to express himself -his feelings, thoughts and decisions in words. Speech with all its treasure of words is nothing but organised sound. The beauty of creation with all its sounds stands as a mute testimony to the beauty of the Creator. God is a winsome, beautiful Being and the very first act Bible records is that God created our world and that He created it by the power of His word. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, chapter one and verse three reads: "And God said, Let there be light". God spoke the world into existence. "For he spake, and it was done" said the Psalmist (Psa.33: 9). The worlds were framed by the word of God affirms the writer to the Hebrews (Heb.1: 2). Herein lies the uniqueness of the voice of God. The Divine voice stands apart from all voices that are human and mundane, it is the voice of CREATION.

Broken into comprehensible fragments, the voice of God seemed to have said, "Let there be flowers of all hues sending forth the sweetest smell" and 10! they came into being. The snowcapped mighty mountains and the breath -taking valleys, the rain and the sunshine were all there just because He chose to say it. The pre Adamite earth was "without form and void" (Gen.1: 2), and we are not told how the original earth came into such a state and shape. This fact is nevertheless stated and the Divine record goes further to record another and that is of supreme importance to us. God spoke and put everything into shape. Into the formless, ugly world, God spoke beauty, form and content. That is the God of the Bible.

Around sixty long centuries have slipped by between that act of beautifying our earth and our present generation. Man has travelled quite far into the fields of Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry and Computers, engineering and medicine. Now we know how to tap, different sources of power, Hydro, solar and wind, thanks to the creative genius gifted to us by our Creator. Yet, the most basic field that gives worth and true, pleasure to our existence has been left untrained and un-tamed. It is the field of the human heart, so fertile with weeds of hatred, greed, lust, pride and deception. Together they have unleashed horrors of hell among us. Despite our philosophies and peace conferences, we seem to descend only further into the bottomless pit of human depravity. Though Jeremiah uttered the words, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"(Jer.17:9) around twenty -six centuries ago, it sounds stunningly relevant for us today. Governmental regulations, religious observances cannot govern, much less change, the ruined heart. Violence, bloodshed, human cruelties at alarming proportions have come to be accepted as the order of the day.

What beauty could there ever be if our world continues to be filled with crimes, police stations and jails? People dying in our hospitals with terminal illnesses, the funerals end empty homes that follow~ bring ugliness and horror. As it was in the beginning of creation man is without form and shape. He has only seeds of self -destruction within himself. Help, if any, must come outside himself. The good news is that it did. God chose to speak again to lift us out of our chaos. The solution HE sent is called the LOGOS, the WORD Jesus Christ WHO is able to create something that never existed before.

The voice of CREATION now rings across nations and to every individual. "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert" (Isa.43: 19). Into our wild and wasted life God has chosen to send His life and light. HE longs to bring us out of barren lands to brimming fertility. This HE chose to do in us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

"...if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor.5:17). To give us this gift of newness, Christ paid the price. God became man. God had to set aside His glory, His greatness and divest Himself of all His prerogatives just to reach us. One Who "dwells in alight which no man can approach unto" became accessible and contactable in incarnation. If reaching us through incarnation is so great a condescension, how great must His humiliation be, when He embraced the most cruel cross for our salvation? He became "sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2Cor.5:21). Such is the love of God for us.

My friend, there is hope for you and me in Christ. God restores shape and beauty to anyone who calls for help. God's helpline is never busy. Call upon Him today, now where you are! The cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" could work wonders for you. "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom.10:13). Whosoever -Why not you?

P.S.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,
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Hyderabad -500 020,

A.P., India.
Telephone No.27613066
August-24-2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and wonderful Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the chief corner stone laid in Sion, elect and precious. Coming to Him we also are built up as lively stones, and an holy priesthood in His Spiritual House, to offer up spiritual sacrifices. Rendering the sacrifices of praise to God from our hearts, while not forgetting to do good and communicate, may characterise our lives as His pilgrims looking for the city to come (1 Pet.2:4-6; Heb.13:14-16).

In our last issue we have mentioned that there are two aspects of building the House of God; one, as lively stones added to the spiritual House set in its place, and the other, "spiritual and moral side" of building God's House. The former without the latter will leave the House incomplete, as the House of God is not only a numerical thing, but a SPIRITUAL and MORAL thing. That is, it has a character and

takes its character from its Head. It will eventually in its consummation, be recognized not as a great multitude of saved souls merely, but as something that bears the character of its Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. The time is coming when the Lord will cause His Name to be upon His own. We shall be called by His Name. His Name will be upon our foreheads (Rev.3: 12(b); 22:4). The Lord Jesus will be fully manifested in His own. He will be so much in evidence, that it may be said, "That is the nature of Christ-we have seen Him in them". Such a gathered company of His people, built up spiritually and morally, displaying the character and nature of the Lord Jesus Christ, will be a channel of His own universal expression.

We have to humbly admit that there is a great lack of this aspect of the House of God- an expression and manifestation of Christ, amidst the assemblies in fellowship with us. While we are adhering to the New Testament pattern of foundation and fellowship, fostering the ministry of the Gospel, with good numbers forming the congregations, somehow the true meaning and spiritual character and state of His House is missing, -say it has declined. The material and mundane aspects have come to the forefront, and in the stewardship and service of which, brethren in leadership or responsibility have their quarrels and fallout in connection with the spiritual and moral building of His House.

May the Lord lift and liberate us by His Spirit, taking control of our lives, so that we in our day may learn to count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ, and serve one another with love. Let us restfully believe that the trials and temptations, pressures and problems of many things that seem to be against us, through fellowmen in His service or through the facts and, realities of life, are permitted under the divine ordering of our sovereign Lord. They are meant to teach us spiritual warfare, as we hold fast with faith and patience. Exercising faith in Calvary's victory we shall emerge victorious -something wrought in us, and become a part of us, to be an expression of Christ, morally and spiritually. Through the fruit of the battle and conflict we have come through, we would be adding to the building and beautifying of His House, His Church.

We read in 1 Chron.26: 27, the following instructive statement, in relation to the truth of building or maintaining His House, as a true expression of God's nature and character:" Out of the spoils won In battles did they dedicate to maintain the house of the Lord". Thus we may say that the House of the Lord is constituted out of our conflicts. The Lord builds from the fruit of conflicts. Thus it was in the temple, given through David to Solomon. The silver and gold and all the precious things it comprised, were taken in battle by David, and wrought into the House of God according to the pattern, given by David to Solomon. This illustration in the Old Testament is true in reality of the New Testament. The greater Son of David, greater than Solomon, Who is "here", builds the House from the spoils of His own warfare and the warfare of the saints. David, through the vision of the House of God, seems to be moved by the Spirit of God, to see that the House could never be realised until the enemies of Israel were subdued and overthrown. When the Lord had given David victory on every side round about, then he handed over to Solomon the plan to carry out the building of the House and the spoils of those battles were the material for the Lord's House (1 Kings 5:4,5).

The enemy had the resources for the House of God and he had to be despoiled that the House might be built. The Lord allows enemies -inward and outward to remain for our overcoming, in order that He may get the material to beautify and glorify His House. The world, the flesh and the devil are constantly our enemies within and around us, to hinder our spiritual and moral growth, development and progress, to come into the likeness of Christ, -His moral quality and virtues being reproduced in us for His glory. From every trace of carnality, legality and superficiality we must emerge triumphant and trustworthy as we take our stand united by faith with the Man of Calvary, to do His will, and thus finish the work and ministry, He has assigned to one and all of us -in the family, fellowship of His House, and the ministry of the Gospel at large.

Though belated, we mention the promotion to Glory, of Bro. K. Samuel, God's servant at Bethania Prayer House, Nidadavolu, on July 14th. He was a humble chosen vessel, who laboured in association with

senior servants of the Lord like Bro. Martin and others, for more than four decades. "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world...the weak things of the world"(1 Cor.1: 27) in relation to His service, is true of our late brother. He rests from his labours (Rev.14: 13). Pray for the comfort of his family and spiritual need of the saints at Bethania, Nidadavolu.

Also please pray, though belated, for the comfort of Sis. G. Sujana (wife of Bro. G.S. Samuel, God's servant at Allagadda) and family members as her mother Sis. Manikyamma was called Home on 10th July.

Sis. (Mrs.) Rajas Earnest Christian, who had served the Lord faithfully together with her husband late Bro. Earnest Christian, in the church at Bethany, Pune, for a few decades, was promoted to Glory on the 18th August. She finished her course and came to her grave in full age as we read in Job 5:26. Please pray for the comfort of all her relatives.

Bro. M.G. Lingdong, together with other responsible brethren and saints at Berachah, Gangtok, covets our prayers for the preparatory work, with its plans and provisions of ministry for the Convocation, God willing to be held in their midst from 4th to 12th October.

Let us pray for Bro. Victor Pradhan, the Lord's servant and minister at Mt. Hermon, Siliguri that the Lord may help them for the speedy completion of their new large worship hall and quarters and chambers connected therewith. Praying that we may be enabled to take our humble share in the building and beautifying of His House, the Church of the living God, standing fast in the victory of Calvary,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,
K.PHILLIP

Phil. 4: 1, 4, 13
Gal. 5: 1, 6,24,25
Psalm 90: 16.17

YE ARE MY WITNESSES -16 BAKHT SINGH

Acts 13

"But God raised him from the dead" (v.30). "But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption" (v.37). We see in the Acts of the Apostles, that emphasis is laid on the power of resurrection. The Apostles tried to prove from all the Scripture portions and references how the Lord Jesus Christ suffered, died, and was buried and rose again. Without the power of resurrection we cannot live a victorious and triumphant life. We need to depend upon this very same experience. In the early days the apostles and disciples made it a point to make this fact very clear.

"...I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will" (v.22). As David was a man after God's own heart, God wants us also to be men and women after His own heart. It is not because of human qualifications or outward humility or simple dress that we can be called men or women after God's own heart. It is the greatest privilege to be a man after God's own heart. Such a person wants to do God's will in whatever he does or wherever he goes. We have the privilege to be in the will of God.

Our whole life, preaching and teaching should please God. But many times we fail. Generally speaking, we look at great men and are carried away by their appearance. Even a great man like Samuel the prophet

was about to make a mistake in choosing the king of Israel. Eliab was the eldest son of Jesse: going by his height, countenance and appearance Samuel thought he was fit to be the king. But the Lord said unto him, "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).

Generally, we look on the outward appearance. Some take pride in their family, some in their nationality, some in their knowledge, some in their education, and some in their appearance and their talents. That is how many make mistakes in marriages, business and other matters. Many marriages are a failure and they suffer very great loss afterwards. In some cases, they are in misery life-long. They look at the outward appearance rather than knowing God's will. That is why Samuel made Jesse to bring all his sons before him. Samuel was a prophet, Jesse was a God-fearing man, but none of them knew God's mind. Samuel was about to make a mistake and anoint Eliab. He looked on Eliab, and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him", but the Lord said unto Samuel, "I have refused him". That means, howsoever clever, gifted, or educated we may be, we cannot trust ourselves. We make many mistakes in our lives. Many great men made great mistakes in their lives. They were carried away by fame and name. People may talk about God's will like a parrot, but they do not know what is God's will. Going by God's Word we have to wait on Him and persevere to know His will. Jesse made Abinadab, Shammah and seven of his sons to pass before Samuel but the Lord had not chosen them. If God wanted He could have told Samuel to go to Bethlehem and ask Jesse for David and anoint him. But that is not God's method. God knows our nature. He knows how easily we are misled by the outward appearance. To avoid that, we need much patience to wait upon God to hear His voice. After David came, God said, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he". We have to wait till we have every evidence to prove that we are in God's will and God's plan. When God speaks there must be clear inward registration. We have to hear God's voice. We should not be carried away by only one test. We need to have every evidence to know God's will. The first great proof is the inward voice of God, which means to have a consciousness of God's presence. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace" (Isa.32:17). To feel God's presence in a greater, growing way, we must be in God's presence for a long time. We should not be governed by the first registration but we should have the registration many times. We must enjoy the inward peace, great peace, multiplying peace and heavenly peace.

According to Psa. 119: 165, it is great peace which creates in us a growing love and consciousness of God's own presence in our lives. The peace of God and the presence of God go together (Psa.16: 11). If you desire to know God's will do not go by one evidence only, but have all other evidences. Even though you may have peace for some time, you may be led in a wrong way and you may be deceived. There will be growing consciousness of God as you pray.

(To be contd.)

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BOAZ

Boaz is one of the most beautiful characters in the Bible, and he is an unmistakable type of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was the great-grandfather of king David, and his story is told in the book of Ruth-where he is seen as the great redeemer, and then as the loving husband of Ruth. In our present study we shall trace a number of ways in which Boaz depicts our Lord, and we trust we shall be led into a fuller understanding of our own Great Saviour, and a fuller love for Him

We are first introduced to Boaz in Ruth chapter two, where he is described as
A MIGHTY MAN OF WEALTH

(Ruth 2:1)

That is a very suggestive title, and no doubt many Bethlehemites would have held him in very high esteem on that account. While we do not know the exact extent of his holdings, there is much in the story that shows how considerable they were. He evidently employed many reapers to gather in his harvests, and later it seemed no problem to him to purchase the threatened fields of his late relative Elimelech. It is evident also that he loved to share his abundance with others, and many around would have testified, "Of his fullness have all we received" (Cp. John 1: 16).

Having said all that, however, we only need to ask, how much more worthy of that title is our Lord Jesus! He is THE "Mighty Man of Wealth", and "the cattle upon a thousand hills" belong to Him (Psa. 50:10, 11). The whole universe is actually His estate. He made it; He maintains it; and certainly He holds the title-deeds (See Psa. 89:11; John 1:1-3; Col.1: 16, etc.). What is more important is the fact that all those hidden treasures; -"treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3), are likewise His, and "in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9). Here is wealth that can never be counted, and here are riches compared with which all the so-called "assets" of earth's millionaires are as nothing. Yes, -Christ is THE "Mighty Man of Wealth", and Boaz is just a faint reflection of Him. How amazing that HE has called us His "friends" (John 15:15), -and how wonderful when we can sing with the hymn-writer:

"Why should I charge my soul with care,
 The wealth in every mine
 Belongs to Christ; -God's Son and Heir,
 AND HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE".

The next glimpse we have of Boaz is of one who is

A BELOVED MASTER TO HIS WILLING SERVANTS

This, we would say, is particularly beautiful. When Boaz went out to his fields he greeted his happy reapers with, "The Lord be with you", and they answered him, "The Lord bless thee" (Ruth 2:4). The verses that then follow illuminate still further the loving "relationship binding them together. Those reapers had a loving master, and they loved him in return. Here, most certainly, was a master-servant relationship seldom seen in our days, and the very thought of something like this existing in the fields of Boaz is itself elevating, and also challenging. Boaz certainly loved his reapers, and they loved him.

And how true is this again of our own Far Greater Boaz, -the Lord Jesus Christ! We read, "...one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren", -truly a love-relationship! (Matt23:8). Those who labour in Christ's fields do so for love of Christ, and with the ever-deepening assurance that He loves them!

We well remember a large missionary gathering in Central London where, amongst many others, a bent and grey-haired missionary-lady was being commissioned for yet another term of service in China. When asked before the whole throng whys he was going again, she rose to her feet, and in a feeble voice (but what a heavenly smile!), declared to the thousands present "I love, I love my Master; I will not go out free" (see Exo. 21: 5). Personal devotion to her Heavenly Master was her compelling secret, -stemming from many years of proving His love to her!

The early apostles of Christ gave similar testimonies in relation to the service they rendered. Paul said, "For the love of Christ constraineth us" (2 Cor. 5:14), and that, surely, was the secret behind all those labours described in such passages as 2 Cor. 6:4-10 and 2 Cor. 11: 23-31. And Peter was just the same. Behind his labours would have lain his avowed confession of John 21: 15-17, -"Lord, thou knowest that I love thee". As for John, he revealed his motivations when he wrote, "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). All those laboured for Christ because they loved Christ; -and having learned His great love for them! And this has been the story of all Christ's reapers down through the centuries; it has been a service rooted in a love-relationship. While the picture of Boaz and his reapers is captivately beautiful, -all will agree that it was but a faint fore view of the love-relationship that exists between Christ and all who are sent to gather in His sheaves. The love of the Master constrains them all! Boaz was a much-beloved master to his servants, and so is Christ to those who serve Him.

C.R.G.

(To be contd.)

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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September-9-2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the wonderful and glorious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who in the

foreknowledge and wisdom of the Father hath chosen us in Himself, and redeemed us by His precious blood. Praise be unto Him Who hath also sealed us by His Holy Spirit, so that we are a people of His own possession, affirming within ourselves-"The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation" (Exo. 15:2). He in His mercy hath led us forth as His redeemed people, guiding us in His strength unto His Holy Habitation, like the redeemed Israel, as we read in Exo. 15:13. As those called according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ before the world began, may we have grace to continue in His eternal purpose to attain unto its ultimate goal, i.e. His glory in His Habitation or His House, the Church of the living God (Eph. 1: 4, 7, 13; 2 Tim.1: 9; Eph. 3:21; 1 Tim. 3:15).

The Book of Exodus, which speaks of the bringing out of Israel from the bondage of Egypt and the servitude of Pharaoh, by the blood of the lamb, and crossing the Red Sea, portrays the redemption that is in Christ Jesus for us. The forty chapters can be divided into three sections stages in this redemption. Chapters 1-18 speak of LIBERATION: chapters 19-24 speak of SEPARATION: and chapters 25-40 speak of HABITATION, culminating in GLORIFICATION.

In chapters 25-40, we notice that the materials for the construction of the Tabernacle are listed and described seven times over. If we compare this with the creation story in Genesis, the materials for the creation of the world are enunciated only once. From this we should understand something of the importance of the truths illustrated by the structure of the Tabernacle. Moreover we begin to see why it is so important, if we look for the interpretation of this Old Testament picture as it is found in chapters 8-10 of Hebrews.

It was a revelation given to Moses in the mount, which typified something else, which is called a heavenly Sanctuary (Heb. 8: 1-5). Moreover it represented what was true in the deepest sense of that word (Heb. 9:23, 24). We remember that our Lord Jesus said that Eternal life was to know the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom He sent. This Tabernacle is not a picture of what is transitory, like the things of the earth, but of something, which is eternally true. Now the things that are Eternal cannot be seen, as Paul reminds us. That is why we are given this visible representation of them. Things like love, truth, honesty; purity cannot be handled and wrapped up. So they are given to us in pictures, as though the children under the law, were being taught by their guardians, using the ABC picture book in preparation for the fullness, which was to appear later.

God's ultimate reality, as Hebrews 10 gives a hint, is that one-day the real thing will appear. The Tabernacle was anticipation, a kind of prophecy of good things, which would come, not by the sacrifices made year after year. But by a different kind of sacrifice which would make the consciences of the people perfect. So we see that the New Testament interpretation of this Tabernacle is that it speaks of what is HEAVENLY REALITY which is to come in due time.

We therefore are dealing with what belongs to the SPIRIT and to HEAVEN, God's domain. It shows the mode of His existence and the reality of His realm. Just as the music of a wonderful song can be expressed in black dots on paper, which we call music. Although it is not music. but only ink on paper, so the things of God which cannot be seen are made real to us, and since God hath put eternity into our hearts. we reach out for them. Now a symphony or musical piece is put on paper. in order that you and I can share with the composer the beauty of his music, and God brought the Tabernacle into being. so that men could enjoy the beauty of His thoughts. The real purpose of the dots on the music score is not only that men may desire to hear the harmony and enjoy doing so. But also that individual may learn to play their own part on the instruments and so make the song their own.

In the same way through Jesus Christ. We are called to participate in the heavenly realities. not only enjoying the contemplation and communion of heavenly resources. but also sharing in them and LIVING in them, in this NEW REALM of God. The children of Israel had to erect the Tabernacle -it did not drop out of heaven readymade. This shows that while to some extent the Tabernacle is the Lord Jesus Christ, yet there is a sense in which it speaks of our active LIFE WITH Him and IN Him. The Israelites had to

put up the Tabernacle because they had apart to play in making use of what God had revealed and we too have a part to play in making make use of what is revealed in Christ, and through Him start to enjoy the resources of heaven.

Moses could not actually see love, truth, holiness and purity; he did not actually see God, but through the pattern given to him in the mount he saw the symbols of what God Is like, and where He dwells. God has a mode of existence and through the symbols of the Tabernacle He seeks to show us a way for men to approach Him and DWELL with HIM. This mediation into the presence of God is found in the sphere of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the work and worker of it all. This is basically what the Tabernacle is all about and it is truly profound, so much so, five different names are found in the book of Exodus to provide a whole comprehension of God and His purposes. The study of the Tabernacle is not a side issue of Biblical teaching, for it encompasses the whole of God's being and the revelation of His purpose. God helping, we shall continue these thoughts in our next issue.

Bro. Joseph Kurien and Sis. Flora of Beulah, Kazipet, covet our earnest prayers for the recovery of their only daughter Elizabeth to normal health, after the successful operation she has undergone on her jaw and gums at the I[do American Cancer Institute, Hyderabad, on 6th September.

Pray for the special meetings to be held God willing from 12th to 14th September at Berachah, M.G.R. Nagar, Chennai, when Bro. B. Timothy would be ministering the Word with others like Bro. E.B. Samuel from Jehovah -Shammah, Chennai.

Pray for the Gospel outreach, the church at Jehovah-Shammah is planning to have with all branch assemblies, on 2nd October in Villiwalkam area of Chennai. Pray that they may reach the needy without being hindered.

The annual residential Camp for young people, at Jehovah Jireh, St. Thomas Mount, will be held, God willing from 2nd evening to 5th October, when Bros. Theodore and Timothy would be sharing the ministry on the theme, "Let us build" (Neh. 2:17), the elders of the church at Jehovah Shammah also participating. Pray for all the arrangements and needs.

Bro. Neville of Colombo, would be spending about six weeks in Australia beginning at Sydney from 20th September and God willing touching the various assemblies in NSW and also spend a few weeks in New Zealand. Let us pray for the L9rd's anointing upon His servant.

Pray for Bro. T .E. Koshy's visit God willing, to Germany and Rumania, Bro. D.S. Christopher also accompanying him, beginning with the Youth meetings at Metzingen, Germany from 1 st to 5th October, besides different places in Rumania from 7th to 20th October. Bro. Koshy's first visit to Rumania in 1993 was wonderfully used of the Lord to bring many of the Gypsies there (nomads) to salvation and to such transformation so that now they are found worshipping companies on the New Testament basis. They covet our prayers.

God willing, the biography of late Bro. Bakht Singh will be released on Sunday the 14th evening. Some of the Directors or personnel of O.M. publishers are expected to be present. In view of the limited supply of the first edition now available, we are inviting only the believers of the twin cities for the present. With the second edition, a larger supply will be available for all. Pray for the Telugu translation of the same to be completed in two months.

Please pray for the comfort of God and consolation as well as continued encouragement for Bro. Ephraim Arul Dass, the Lord's servant at. Beulah, Rakshapuram, Hyderabad, Mrs. Salome Ephraim and family as their eldest daughter Sharon was called Home to Glory on 4th September suddenly, having fallen from a moving Autorickshaw. The funeral was attended by many including our fellow-workers from other assemblies.

Please pray for Sis. (Mrs.) Glory Maxwell, wife of deacon Maxwell of Jehovah-Shammah, Chennai, as she has to undergo Angiogram in M.M. Mission Hospital, God willing on 23rd September.

Praying that the God of all grace Who hath" called us to eternal Glory through Christ Jesus our Lord, may uphold us all amidst all our problems, and reveal unto us abundance of peace and truth to stand fast in the faith and serve Him acceptably,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,
K.PHILLIP
Psa. 134 : 1-3
Heb. 9 : 11,21, 24
1 Cor. 15 : 57, 58

YE ARE MY WITNESSES -17 BAKHT SINGH

Acts 13

There will be growing consciousness of God's presence as we pray in the morning, pray in the evening and pray in the night. Ask the Lord, "Lord, is this Thy will for me?" We have no right to command God but we have the privilege of calling upon Him as we read in Jer.33:3. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not". Go on calling upon Him till He speaks in a very clear way and shows His perfect will. We can trust God's Word. Do not open the Bible at random to find God's will. Learn to read God's Word in a systematic way. Try to find God's will in a clear way from your daily portion of God's Word.

For finding God's will it is necessary for us to die to our own will. In many cases our desire for something is so strong, that we ask the Lord saying, "Give me this, or that". We have to pray honestly, truthfully and sincerely with these words, "Not my will, but Thy will be done". Even though our desires and affections are very strong, we should not be governed by them. God's will can be different. For that purpose we have to claim the power of resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and die to our own will, as Paul says in Gal.2:20, "...nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Please note the fragment, "yet not I, but Christ liveth in me". Unless the Lord Jesus Christ takes full charge of our lives we cannot say that He is jiving in us. That should become our daily practice. You should pray saying, "Lord, not my choice, but Thy choice; not my desires but Thy desires; not my thoughts but Thy thoughts; not my plan but Thy plan; not my ideas but Thy ideas". We should pray like that because the Lord can see everything. He knows the end from the beginning. We should die to our own will.

When Saul was chosen to be king, he came upon the throne immediately. But David had to go through many painful sufferings and afflictions for eight years. Rather than appreciating his victory over Goliath, Saul became jealous of David, and tried to kill him three times. He went on pursuing him. The Lord permitted these sufferings in David's life so that he might learn to find God's will. To teach David these lessons, God took him through many painful experiences. He learned to call upon God. In the Old Testament period there were Urim and Thummim to find God's will. They were two stones behind the breastplate of the high priest. Even today we do not know how these stones worked, but one thing we know that they used these two stones to find God's will. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Urim and Thummim. He is the life, He is the truth and grace. By going to Him constantly and waiting upon Him we can hear His voice. We see how David went to the Lord so many times to enquire of Him. "Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah" (1 Sam.23:2). In verse 4 we read, "Then David inquired of the Lord yet again. " Thus he went on enquiring for every matter. Abiathar the high priest came to David with an ephod, which had the two stones with which they enquired from the Lord. Now in

the New Testament period we can go to the Lord Jesus at any time for any matter. That requires patience and perseverance. We have to wait, till we hear the voice of God and it is confirmed by His Word.

When sufferings increased David failed to enquire of the Lord. He thought God had forgotten him. Without enquiring from God he joined the Philistines. David knew that Saul could not touch him as he was anointed by God. Also he knew that God would not allow him to kill Saul and that in His own plan, and in His own time, God would judge Saul. That is why God did not allow David to kill Saul even though he came very near to him. But without enquiring from God and without knowing His will he joined the Philistines against Saul.

(To be contd.)

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