

Hebron Messenger

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NO 3

"UNION IN CHRIST" (PREFACE)

In the booklet entitled "If Thou Believest..." we dealt with the heavenly mystery of our Union with Christ, His death, burial and resurrection - of which baptism by immersion is a God-appointed testimony. The understanding of this mystery through revelation by the Holy Spirit will help us as believers to understand the great salvation, which God has prepared for us through His beloved Son. This will constrain our hearts to praise God for His great wisdom and His great love towards us. It will also help us to appropriate by faith the value of that union with Christ when temptations assail us in so many ways. Again and again in fresh ways and aspects through the varied and intricate paths of a pilgrim to the Heavenly City, the implications of this union will be learnt in the school of experience. Although each trial may bring its doubts, fears and sorrows for a time, after we have crossed this Jordan we find that our trial was only the death, which leads on to resurrection. So each new trial reveals to us in a new way the power of His resurrection, as it is out-worked in our own life. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:5).

Now in these articles, also meant chiefly for those who have just begun their Christian life, we pass on to speak concerning, we feel we can safely say, an even more wonderful mystery - OUR UNION IN CHRIST with all those who are united to Him. Our hearts are full of praise and thanksgiving to God, firstly for giving us the privilege to know this mystery, and secondly, for the privilege of telling others concerning it. "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God (Eph. 3:8,9).

As we begin we pray that the Lord may be in charge of this undertaking as it is His and not ours. May our Blessed Lord grant that it may be with us as it was with the disciples on the road to Emmaus: "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself... And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:27, 31, 32).

It is encouraging for us to know that although this mystery we are referring to is one which has been hid in God from the beginning of the world, God yet desires every child of His to know this mystery in some measure from the very beginning of his spiritual life. That is why God has included it in the "first principles of the oracles of God" or the "principles of the doctrine of Christ" or the "foundation" (Heb. 5:12; 6:1).

In Arithmetic the first principles are Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. We learnt them in childhood and have used them ever since. There can be no Arithmetic

without these.

Again in building a house we first lay the foundation. The strength of the whole house depends very much upon the foundation. So it is very important that the foundation should be properly laid. If it is well and strongly done, a beautiful and strong building upon it will be seen and appreciated by the human eye. The foundation itself remains unseen and un-admired; yet the whole structure depends upon it. God wishes that we should go on to perfection. But see first that you allow the Holy Spirit of God to lay the foundation strongly and well in your inner life. The understanding of this mystery will be like such first principles and like such a foundation to your spiritual life.

This mystery is not, however, a doctrinal teaching only, having an importance in itself. But it points to and reveals the Christ, the Son of God, Who alone is worthy of pre-eminence over all things. That is why it is included in what are called "the principles of the doctrine of Christ". Except any doctrine exalts Christ or reveals His glory it has no value whatever. For it is the purpose of God that "in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18).

The spiritual understanding of this doctrine of which we are speaking will help to lay in your life the true foundation, which is none other than Christ. "For other foundation can no lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11).

May the Lord grant you heavenly revelation concerning this mystery.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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January 25, 2006

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and prayer- answering Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Priest of the order of Melchisedec, Who ever Liveth to make intercession for us. May the Holy Spirit turn our eyes and heart upon Him to see Him Who ever Liveth, in a new and living way. Thus we may be drawn closer to Him, devoted to Him and delight in His ways, which He would make known to us. May He set us in the way of His steps, even in His ways which are everlasting, as we read in Habakkuk 3:6. The everlasting God our Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth may give us power lest we faint, and increase our strength as we wait upon Him (Heb. 7:17,24,25; Rev. 1:10,12,17; Psa. 85:8,12,13; Isa. 40:28-31).

We take this opportunity to thank all our friends, regular readers and subscribers for their prayers and contributions for the maintenance of this small written ministry of the Word of God. We would covet your continued prayers for the Publisher and Editor and those who contribute the articles. And let us thank the Lord for all who are engaged in the work of translation into Telugu and Hindi, editing, printing, dispatch and maintenance of accounts etc. Pray that the Lord may inspire and encourage all such to continue in their good work. Kindly make sure that your addresses are correctly given and that your subscriptions are paid up to date.

We have the first Motto Text taken from the words of assurance and power from the glorified, enthroned Lord to Apostle John in his old age, banished to the isle of Patmos. It was "I for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:9). It seemed that his work for the Master had ended, being in that lonely isle, cut off from all intercourse with other children of God and the churches, and the ministry he was hitherto fulfilling to the joy and blessing of many. But God was choosing him to be a channel to convey to His people the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him. He must show unto His servants the things which must shortly come to pass (Rev. 1:1). The plan of the Omnipotent Lord turned out to be greater and wider service than he had ever dreamed of. It was to be more far reaching in its effects than any previous part of his life.

The Apostle addresses himself to us in lowly and humble terms, I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:9). His words have a message to us all who are willing to be the "bond servants" of the Lord for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ and its furtherance in our land. No doubt we are in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, but how far are we prepared to be companions in tribulation in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, should be a matter of personal exercise and endurance, "seeing him who is invisible" as it is spoken about Moses, in his service for God's chosen people.

This has a personal and practical application for us all, as laborers together with God, in the sphere and area of our stay and work. We are reluctant and hesitant to move on to a new place, leaving the present place and Prayer House, where we might have been used of the Lord for the ministry of the Gospel and the upbuilding of the saints and the church. Whatever be the lacks and limitations we may have to face in the new place to which the Lord would have us to go, with burdens of family and education of the children and such, the Lord should grant us the spirit of the "bond servant". In the path of discipleship and devotion to the Lord, we have to deny ourselves to be available for Him and His people in the new place. So in the light of this, we would remind our fellow-servants who have been continuing in the ministry in an assembly for more than five years, to please pray about your being transferred to a new place, by the time the academic year closes, i.e. by April or May. Except some of those of our senior servants who in virtue of their responsibility and ministry over a wide area have to continue where they are, others should be ready for being posted to a new place in the interest of the Lord and His Church. You have two months at least to get ready. The Lord grant you grace and willingness of mind and heart to co-operate with us in the furtherance of the Testimony of the Lord in the land. Obedience would be for the enrichment and enlargement of your life and walk, family wise, as well as fellowship wise, among His saints.

Apostle Paul in his second letter to Timothy exhorts and encourages him, stating that "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,... but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God" (2 Tim. 1:7,8). He adds that He has "saved us according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (v.9). In 2 Tim. 4:5, Paul exhorts him to "endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry". Endurance is a very important aspect of a life devoted to the service of the Lord. In Matthew 24, the Lord Himself spoke of the characteristics of the end times (24:5, 10-13) "Satanic deception, self-assertion and exaltation, as seen in the revelation of the "man of sin"(2 Thess. 2:3, 4,7), with the spirit of accusation and betrayal of brethren. Even so Paul writes to Timothy, "I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2Tim. 2:10) - a challenging and inspiring exhortation in his parting words to a son in the faith, to follow on. The Lord grant us such heavenly vision, blended with self "renunciation and sincere subjection to serve His elect, and be partakers of His eternal glory.

We thank the Lord for enabling Bro Paul Sudhakar to go to Botswana, South Africa, for

the year - ending ministry. The following few lines are taken from his brief write up of the ministry the Lord accomplished through him for our further prayer.

¶ By God's grace the assembly established in Phikwe, a few years ago through Bro. Eddy Williams and others and later visited by Bros. G.T. Benjamin and John Victor has grown in strength to about 130. Half of them are from the local population. Besides that place we now have the Lord's Table instituted at Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. God gave us the opportunity to minister in two main prisons, besides going to the neighboring country Zimbabwe, just for a day, where we had three meetings. Kindly pray for the many who responded to the Gospel invitation both in Botswana and Zimbabwe. Let us uphold Bro. John Paul sent from Hebron in full time ministry laborer with other Elders, Bros. John Samuel, Raj and Kumar.

Also pray for the Youth camp held at Kalimpong, where our brother Paul Sudhakar shared the Word of God. More than a thousand young people gathered for the Camp and many recommitted their lives besides others who made decision concerning their acceptance of the Lord.

Though belated we would mention the Home going of Bro. Koteswara Rao of ongole. He labored for several years in Tenali and also at Nellore and Nidubrolu for shorter periods. His last four years he served in Addanki, until he was promoted to Glory on 9th January. Faithfully he served the Lord and it may said of him that he rests from his labor and his works do follow him (Rev. 14:13).

Praying that we all may be renewed in our vision of faith of our Lord, Who hath said, ¶ I am alive for evermore¶ and hence walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called, in building up the Church which is His Body,

Prov. 29:18,19; Jer. 46: 27,28; Eph 4:15,16.

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K. PHILLIP.

GIVE YE THEM TO EAT

BAKHT SINGH

Scripture Portion : Matt. 14:13-21

They need not depart; give ye them to eat¶ (Matt. 14:16). Our Lord revealed a great mystery in this simple statement. The disciples were somewhat puzzled at that time. They saw a great multitude, which had been with the Lord Jesus for three days. They had come to see His miracles and hear Him speak, but now the disciples were feeling very sorry for them, because they were so many and were in a desert place. ¶ And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals¶ (Matt. 14:15). This shows that the disciples were helpless to meet the needs of the multitude. First, it was evening time; and second, it was a desert place. The disciples could not see any possibility of the multitude receiving food. Naturally they were feeling truly sorry for them, and that is why they came to the Lord Jesus Christ with a suggestion. Perhaps they consulted one another as to what they should suggest to the Lord Jesus Christ. They might have thought that the Lord had no concern for the hunger

of the multitude, so they were hoping He would send them away while it was still day, for these people were far from home and could get no food in the desert. So out of sympathy for the people, they brought what they thought was a practical suggestion or proposal to the Lord Jesus Christ. They said in effect, "Will You please stop preaching, and performing miracles, and ask the people to go home, or to nearby villages to buy food? Let them come tomorrow for more teaching and miracles". Our Lord answered clearly, "They need not depart; give ye them to eat". What was the Lord saying? He asked them to do two difficult things; "They need not depart, give ye them to eat". The disciples were looking at the circumstances and asking the Lord to let them go. But our Lord wanted them to provide food for the multitude. They were still more puzzled as to how they, who were few in number, and with no resources, could give such a vast multitude to eat - they were about 5,000 people, besides women and children.

Those who are born again, and can truthfully and honestly say that the Lord Jesus Christ has become their personal Savior, are expected to give bread to the hungry people around them. Wherever we may live, whether in a village or in a city, we meet many spiritually hungry people. We see them doing deeds of shame and living in darkness and defeat. We naturally feel sorry for them and like these disciples we try to suggest that they go somewhere in order to be fed spiritually. But human advice will not satisfy such hunger. It is a human tendency to send such needy ones somewhere else; but our Lord's command to all of us is, "Give ye them to eat". We who have received the bread of life from the Lord Jesus Christ, have with us plenty of bread to offer those who are hungry and thirsty. They may not accept our offer, but we have the privilege to offer what we have, and the Lord can use us to satisfy the hunger of others. In verse 17 the disciples said, "...We have here but five loaves, and two fishes". On the one hand they saw the multitude and its need, and on the other hand they realized that they had nothing to meet that need. It is only when we confess our poverty, when we know exactly what our true inward spiritual condition is, that the hunger of others can be satisfied. But when we think we have plenty to give, we cannot satisfy the hungry and helpless, and we cannot be of use to the Lord.

Then the Lord commanded, "Bring them hither to me". They had acknowledged their poverty. Now whatever little they had they brought to Lord Jesus Christ, even though there were only five loaves and two fishes. Unless He blesses these things they cannot be multiplied. We have got to learn the lesson, that whatsoever we have, and howsoever little it may be, it must be brought to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ in simple faith. "Lord, even though I am feeling weak and empty, I bring everything to Thee. I do not know what to say or how to say. Lord, please use me entirely for Thyself". In the same way, whatever money you have, do not hesitate to give it to the Lord. That is God's way of using us. But whenever we try to use what we have for ourselves, we find that no matter how much we get, it does not satisfy. If we try to use our wisdom, knowledge and strength, we fail. By faith we have to bring to the Lord all that we possess, and allow Him to bless and use it.

Once the bread and fish were brought to the Lord, He commanded the multitude to sit down by companies. In Mark 6:40 we read, "And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties". Here we see divine order. It was not an easy job to control that vast crowd and serve them food. So, before they began to distribute the loaves, the Lord commanded the multitude to sit down in order. We cannot do the work of God without order. Generally, whenever we want to help others, people do not like divine order. They rebel against God's Word. But we have got to see that divine order is maintained whenever we seek to serve God. It was a large, hungry and mixed multitude, but the Lord commanded them to sit down on the grass. We must always follow divine order, if we want hungry people to be fed and to be satisfied. Our God is the God of order, and we must learn to work in divine order, and to see that it is maintained.

There is a simple secret for maintaining order in the House of God, and that is, to show

reverence and respect. If you have learned how to behave yourself in the House of God, how to kneel and show reverence to God, you will learn divine order. God's servants must learn how to come into God's order, for it is only then that you will find God's blessings. The Lord commanded the multitude to sit down, and it appears that men sat on one side, and women and children on the other, because men were about 5,000. God has an order for family life, for church life, and even for ordinary Sunday gatherings. In every ministry divine order has to be maintained.

When divine order is maintained, God adds His blessing. The Lord looked up to heaven and blessed the bread and brake it. Unless food is blessed by God it cannot satisfy. However you must believe that God blesses whenever you claim that blessing. Most Christians have the habit of saying grace before they have food, but they do not believe that God has heard their prayer and blessed the food, because they seem to get much more joy in mutton than in dal. If you believe that the Lord has blessed your food, you will get equal joy in any kind of food. Most husbands pray solemnly, God bless the food! , but then they scold their wives if there is no mutton or fish, or if something is not cooked according to their taste. I can say that from the time the Lord saved me, I do not worry about my food.

(To be contd.)

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NO 4

UNION IN CHRIST-2 (The Mystery)

"..the mystery of Christ, Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs (joint-heirs-Gr.), and of the same body Joint-body Gr.), and partakers (joint-partakers - Gr.) of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (Eph. 3:4-6). There has been a mystery hidden in the heart of God from before the foundation of the world. The above verses introduce us to this mystery. Now a "mystery" is something known only to those who have been taught and revealed according to the meaning used in Scripture. But you have become a child of God; you have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. So you have every right to know this mystery. Now what is this mystery? It is stated in the words emphasized above. Dear reader, you have believed the Gospel and you are in Christ now. Therefore you are a joint-heir, and in the joint-body, and a joint "partaker of God's promise (We use the literal translation of the original Greek for the three words to bring out the emphasis which the Holy Spirit has put in them). You are heir to the Kingdom of God. Do not think that your sins have been forgiven only that you should be given a corner in heaven, though as sinners deserving eternal punishment, even this we would have been very thankful to receive. Praise be unto God for the riches of His grace! As God created Adam to give him dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:28), so God has created you anew in Christ to have dominion in the world to come.

Having understood that you are an heir, remember also that you are a joint-heir along with all the others who have received the grace of God. Do not think that you belong to any sect, or group, or movement, however good or bad. Do not glory in any of those earthly things. God has called you to something far greater. Let your heart be enlarged to receive the thought of God. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God"(Eph. 2:19). "... be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:18,19). Again you are in the joint-body. You have a place in the body of Christ in which every other believer also has a place. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12). Thirdly, you are a joint-partaker in God's promise. You cannot partake of it alone. You need to be in the value of union with fellow-believers to enjoy fully the blessings of God's promise which are yours in Christ through the Gospel which you have heard and believed.

II This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:32). The Church is indeed a great mystery. Those who have not been taught by the Holy Spirit cannot understand it. It is the Bride of Christ covered with a veil and hidden from the gaze of the common eye. The word "Church" (Gr. ekklesia) means "that which is called out". It refers to those who have been called out of this world of sin, onto heavenly ground. We have been called with a heavenly calling, a holy calling and a high calling

(Heb. 3:1; 2 Tim. 1:9; Phil. 3:14). The Church which is composed of all those who are born again, believers redeemed by the blood of Christ, is also called "the Body of Christ". "... the church, Which is his body (Eph. 1:22,23). "He is the head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18); and "... his body's sake, which is the church" (Col. 1:24).

The word "Church" is never used in the Bible for a building, which is being used as a place of worship. But we often hear people saying, "In our Church there are many benches and chairs." They are obviously referring to the building where they meet. As long as you also think in these terms you cannot grow in the comprehension of this "great mystery". Again we often hear people asking us, "To which Church do you belong? Where is the Headquarters of your Church? Is it in England or America?" They are thinking of societies or organizations founded by individuals or groups. This idea also is entirely of human origin and is quite foreign and contradictory to the wonderful mystery of God, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith (Rom. 16:25,26).

But these human ideas have become so firmly embedded in the minds of people that they refuse to receive the thought of God. The natural mind resists the things of God. So the Word of God says to us: "...my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8,9). If you want to understand this mystery of God you must be willing to empty yourself of all these human thoughts so that God may replenish you from His heavenly treasure-house.

III "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have (how greatly I strive) for you, and for them at Laodicea... That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement (full-knowledge "Gr .epignosis) of the mystery of God... of Christ" (Col. 2:1,2).

In this Body of which God is speaking to us, Christ is the head, and we are the members, joints and bands in the body (Col. 2:19; 1 Cor.12:27). God wants us to come into all the riches of the full- assurance of understanding. Do not allow doubts to come into your heart. In the beginning you will rejoice very much that you are no more alone but a member with all your fellow-believers in the Body of Christ. Then sooner or later the enemy will attack you and misunderstandings will arise with other believers. They may deal unfairly or unlovingly with you, and wound you and grieve you. You would have had great expectations and now you will find yourself badly disappointed. Then the Tempter will bring into your heart the thought that all this "tall talk" of union in the Body of Christ is humbug and it does not and cannot work. But thank God, if you know the riches of the full-assurance of understanding by revelation of the Holy Spirit, storms and tempests in your life, however severe, however unexpected, cannot shake your faith. And even then you will need to remember that although you might have come to the full assurance, you have yet to go on to the full- knowledge (Gr. epignosis) of the mystery of God. But the mystery is so great that in this life we can go only a limited extent into this full-knowledge. In the ages to come we shall know it more, in all its implications in relation to powers and principalities in heavenly places. The apostle tells us that as we come into the full assurance and press on to the full-knowledge, our hearts will be greatly comforted and we shall be knit together in love.

We begin with Gen. 1:7,8, - the division in the firmament, in the creation by God. (2) Num. 10:11,12-the cloud taken up in the journeys of the people of God. (3) 2 Chron 3:1,2 - the season for building the House of God. (4) Jonah 3:1-3, - the sending forth of the messenger of God. (5) Matt. 26:42 - the prayerful surrender to the will of God. (6) 1 Cor. 12:28,29 - the prophetic ministry in the Church of God. (7)1 Cor. 15:46-49 - the bearing of the image of the heavenly; of God. May the Holy Spirit throw light upon the application of these Scriptures, both in the heart of the writer and the reader, so that we

may render acceptable service unto the Lord, in the upbuilding of the Church, which is His Body.

(To be cont.) N.J.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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February 8, 2006

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and wonderful Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who hath led us into the second month of the New Year, with His precious promises, assuring us of His living presence and power and provisions, for us, as we seek to serve Him, in the furtherance of the Testimony of the Lord, honing and obeying His living Word. Like John the Apostle, who is our "brother, and companion in tribulation" as he addresses us in Rev. 1:9, may we be granted a fresh vision of the glorified Son of man walking in the midst of the seven candlesticks, - the seven churches. Responding to the voice of His Spirit in true obedience, may we be made over-comers to inherit all things in His Son (Rev.1: 3,8,9,16,17; Rev.3:19-21; Psa. 85:5-8,12,13). Having entered into the second month, I am led to consider together with you, seven texts from the Scriptures, with the word second day, second month, or second time, or just secondly. From the contextual setting of the word "second" in these passages, we can derive a spiritual application and revelation, for our obedience and continuity in the ongoing purpose of God, in this age of grace.

We begin with Gen. 1:7,8, - the division in the firmament, in the creation by God. (2) Num. 10:11,12-the cloud taken up in the journeys of the people of God. (3) 2 Chron 3:1,2 - the season for building the House of God. (4) Jonah 3:1-3, - the sending forth of the messenger of God. (5) Matt. 26:42 - the prayerful surrender to the will of God. (6) 1 Cor. 12:28,29 - the prophetic ministry in the Church of God. (7)1 Cor. 15:46-49 - the bearing of the image of the heavenly; of God. May the Holy Spirit throw light upon the application of these Scriptures, both in the heart of the writer and the reader, so that we may render acceptable service unto the Lord, in the upbuilding of the Church, which is His Body.

Coming back to Gen. 1:7,8, we read, "God divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: And God called the firmament Heaven". Here we read of a vertical division and separation. Though we have come out of darkness into His marvelous light, relating to the first day creation activity of God, there must be a clear division within us, in our heart and mind, to set our mind on things above where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God, as we read in Col. 3:1-4. This is preceded by the expressions, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above" (v.1). "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (2:12). Col. 3:5 says, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth". Also it is commanded to put on the new man, having put off the old man (vs. 8-10). While there are legitimate needs and responsibilities concerning our walk and work upon this earth, we must be taught and instructed by the Holy Spirit as to where we must draw line of

division between that which is above and that which is under We should never allow that which is of this' earth to override that which is above the heavenly, lest we fall short of our attaining unto the possession of our full inheritance with all who are sanctified. Like Apostle Paul we must learn to count things loss ¶ those Things which Seem to be gain now, and thus ¶ win Christ'. The Lord helps us all.

The saints and brethren with God's servant Bro Andrews of New Jerusalem., Sangareddy would have us to thank and praise the Lord for enabling them to solemnize the marriages of the following young God's servants with the following respective handmaidens of the Lord-, Bra. PD. Paul with Naomi, Bro. M. Math with B. Mercy, and Bra. B. Enoch with P. Dorcas. A company of nearly 2500 were present on the occasion. Bro. G.T. Benjamin and myself with the local servants Shared in the ministry of the Word and solemnization, The above couples covet our continued prayer. Pray for God's servant Bro. R.S. Kuruvilla as he has been in Australia for the past three weeks visiting the saints and assemblies. Pray for Bro. J.C. Rao of Delhi as he has been in Singapore for the past ten days in the ministry, in the fellowship of the saints and brethren in fellowship with us all. Bro. Neville of Colombo has been requesting us to pray earnestly for the recovery of Bro. Francis Vijaysingh, God's servant at 1-lebron, Winnepuwa, Sri Lanka. He is laid up with paralysis, because of cerebral hemorrhage. ¶ He visited us six months ago in 2005, and has been a strength and support for the Testimony of the Lord in that Island, together with the saints and elders of the Christian Fellowship Center, Wellewatte, Colombo. Bro. Theodore Reginald has been undergoing medical treatment in Chennai, for the healing of the piles problem. Let us pray for his speedy recovery.

Though belated we would have you all to thank and praise the Lord for the freedom and liberty enjoyed in the ministry of the Gospel Campaign, in Kolkotta from 18th to 25th December. The team of 20 young brethren who went is thankful for the prayers of the church, in that the Lord was pleased to use them in various parts of the city according to His promise in Matt. 28:19,20 as His witnesses besides Barrackpore, together with the local brethren. There was no opposition and more than 400 portions of the New Testament besides Gospels and Testimonies were sold. One policeman seems to have asked them enthusiastically, ¶ Have you come here with the purpose of removing the sins over this city of Kolkotta?" Let us pray that the Lord may bring souls to salvation, by watering the seed sown in the corners of that Metro city. The saints, together with Bro. Victor David, God's servant and elders of the church at Shalom, Vizag, would have us to thank and praise the Lord for the profitable time of fellowship and ministry of the Word from 26th to 29th January. Bro. John Stewart and myself shared the word based on the theme ¶ Let them make me a sanctuary¶ . Hundreds of believers from far and near, from the various churches participated, with ready response for the word of God. They covet our prayers for the increasing need of the future ministry. Please pray for the recovery of Sis. Kamala Jeremiah, an aged inmate of Hebron as she is suffering from fracture of the hip, after an accidental fall.

I would also covet your prayers for my trip to Sydney, Australia, God willing, on the 17th February and return by 14th March. It has been a longing upon the heart of Kenneth Timothy my son- in-law, an elder in the church at Padstow Heights, that I should be present for the baptism of our grand daughters, which has been put off for some time. Also I would like to visit our aged and honored God's servant Bro. Golsworthy at Brisbane, if possible, conveying the love and regards of the saints in India, a country he had always loved in the ministry of the Gospel, and praying for the up - building of the saints. We are thankful for the written ministry he has been fulfilling hitherto for the Hebron Messenger, which he is not able to continue because of the infirmities of age. Let us continue to pray for him. It pleased the Lord to promote to Glory Bro. Albert Raju (Bro. Daniel of Book-room) of the church at Jehovah - Shammah, Chennai, on 2nd February, after a period of ill-health. He had been living in the premises of the church for a period of four decades, a regular worshipper, serving the Lord in the Book - room ministry besides being a spiritual help to believers. He rests from his labors according to Rev.

14:13.

Praying that the Lord may grant us all wisdom and enablement to fulfill our responsibilities in the furtherance of the Gospel and His Testimony in the land and that He may be pleased to raise up more laborers to be sent forth into His vineyard,

Matt. 9: 36, 38; Haggai 4:5,23; 2Cor. 4:5-8.

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K. PHILLIP

GIVE YE THEM TO EAT--2

BAKHT SINGH

There was an urgent need to give God's message to His people during the reign of the wicked king Ahab, but even the mighty man Elijah did not know how God was going to meet that need. Though Elijah did not know, God knew through whom He was going to meet that need. He sent Elijah to Elisha because He knew all about Elisha before Elijah knew anything about him. Elijah had been saying, "Take my life away. When there is sin everywhere, what is the use of one man struggling on alone?" But God showed Elijah that unknown to him He had already been working.

I do not care what kind of food is given to me; I have decided never to murmur or grumble. I believe from my heart that the Lord blesses the food for me, and it becomes tasty; so I enjoy it whatever it may be. It is quite true that the Lord does bless the food when you ask Him. Here were a few barely loaves and a few small fishes, but He blessed them, and multiplied them, and because He blessed them they must have tasted good. Whenever you do something for the Lord, seek His blessing upon it and you will find that it will be blessed and made to bear fruit. Sometimes you may be frightened to talk to someone because you think he is highly educated and you are not. You may say, "I am an illiterate person and he won't believe me," or, "I cannot speak because I have no understanding or knowledge. I don't know anything properly." But if you claim God's blessing, He will bless the broken words, which you may utter. Broken words have power behind them. I know it by experience. I have asked myself, "How can these broken words convince any one? But afterwards I have discovered that every word was a blessing. If the Lord can bless the loaves, surely He can bless the words we speak. Put God to test, and you will find it is true in your case also. If you want your neighbors and co-workers to be blessed through you, do not be afraid to say to the Lord, "Touch my tongue and bless the words which I speak in Thy Name." We know that men are in misery and sorrow and they want God's message, and if you are willing, God will use you to satisfy their spiritual hunger. Even though the loaves and fishes were blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ, the disciples had to go and distribute to the multitude. He did not seek sturdy and strong men to do that work. There was a great crowd of 5,000 men, besides women and children. There might have been at least 10,000 people, and the disciples could have said: "Lord, we are only twelve in number, how can we distribute food to so many people? Can we select from this multitude strong men to serve?" There is no mention of such a thing here. The disciples did the serving. Others could not be co-workers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Only the disciples had that privilege. Only those who are truly born again and follow the Lord, can be His co-workers. The disciples were serving the food, which was blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ. In the same way, the Word, which is blessed by the Lord alone, will satisfy people. Many have knowledge and can argue very effectively. They have so many books that it would take

many years to go through them all, but when they speak, they do not minister life. Others may say only a few words, but you find strength and inspiration by those broken words, because every word, which is being spoken, is blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ. It is quite true that through faith, the words which you utter in His Name will be blessed But you must pray every morning; ¶ Lord, anoint my lips, my tongue and my throat today I acknowledge my Lord, help me to give the r1 word for the people whom I meet¶ , and then you will find that throughout the day someone is given the bread of life through you. Even a few words are sufficient to answer a question, provided, the Lord Jesus blesses them.

“They did all eat, and were filled” (Matt.14:20). There was no need for them to go hungry. When there is a big crowd, those who supervise the serving of food will advise the servers to serve a little saying, “Be careful, lest we run short of the food”. In fact, they dilute the sambar with water to make it sufficient for the crowd. No wonder the disciples said: ¶ Five thousand people, and how can we serve so many? ” - Yet the five thousand ate and were full. They were given as much as they wanted. In the same way, whenever a hungry soul comes to you, seek to satisfy his hunger with the bread of life. There are some who come with small problems and some with big and many problems, but we must be prepared to meet their need. Have patience to hear their story, however long it maybe; Do not be impatient because to you the trouble may not be serious, but to them it is serious. We must have some word of counsel and encouragement to give for all their problems, and by faith they will be satisfied.

“They did all eat and were filled and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets”. Our Lord does not like wastage. There is a simple lesson here. If we as disciples of the Lord Jesus have to satisfy the hunger of the multitudes then there should not be any wastage in our life. Alas! We waste so many things. We waste our time, we waste our energy, we waste our food, and we go on wasting many things and that is why we cannot satisfy the hungry. These fragments were not thrown away, they were gathered purposely, because the Lord wanted to teach an important lesson to the disciples. God does not like wastage. Can we say sincerely that our time is being profitably spent, or do we waste time in ordinary conversation, or on things of low value? How do you spend your time? Supposing you have one or two hours to wait somewhere for the train, or for the bus. How do you spend that time? Do you spend it by reading magazines or books, or by looking at the walls, or the people going by? Can you say you make the best use of your time? Whether on the railway platform or bus stand, our time must be spent profitably either in reading the Bible, or in giving our testimony or in some other useful way. We must make the best use of every second, because we have to feed the hungry and the needy people.

(To be contd.)

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