

Hebron Messenger

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NO 5

UNION IN CHRIST-3 (The Church)

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which the purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph.3:10,11).

God had a purpose in His heart from eternity. That purpose is to be fulfilled through the Church now. In Acts 7:38 the children of Israel are called the church in the wilderness. God committed Himself to them. He wished to reveal His glory and power through them. He wished to judge sin and Satan and the wicked nations through them. But sad to say, they themselves rejected Him and turned after idols. They became a failure. So for a time it looked as if God had been defeated, and Satan and the powers of darkness had prevailed. Jerusalem was pulled down, the Temple burnt and desecrated, and the people of God taken into captivity. The faithful remnant had to pray, O GOD, why hast thou cast us off for ever?... Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary. Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations; they set up their ensigns for signs... They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground. They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land. We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long. O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever? (Psa. 74:1 3,4,7-10).

Such was the woeful condition of the people of God. Even after Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah returned from Babylon and restored the Temple, only a few centuries passed and we find Israel again under the foreign yoke of the Romans. In their hearts they were under the foreign yoke of Satan and so they rejected the Messiah and nailed Him to the cross. Thus Israel ended as a total failure.

What God could not fulfill through Israel, He has purposed to fulfill gloriously through the Church. And we know definitely from Scripture that this cannot and will not end in failure. Dear reader, God has given you this great privilege to live in these days when God's eternal purpose is fast approaching fulfillment. You have a part to play; you have a responsibility; because you are a member in the Church, which is His Body. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly (Rom. 16:20). Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (1 John 4:4; 5:4).

Although God had this purpose in His heart from eternity, He could not fulfil it until Christ died for our sins on the cross, rose again for our justification, and ascended higher than the heavens to sit on our behalf at the right hand of God. But when that was fulfilled the

final phase of God's purpose began to be set in motion, and we find that ten days after His ascension the Lord sent down the Holy Spirit and the disciples were baptized into the Body. Barriers were pulled down, the power of sin and Satan was broken, and the Church - the precious thought hidden in the heart of God from before the foundation of the world, was brought into being. ¶ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit¶ (1 Cor. 12:13). ¶ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one (one man R.V.) in Christ Jesus¶ (Gal. 3:28).

From that time onwards, as the Book of Acts records, the history of this new people of God is one of celebrating the Lord's victory from place to place in every part of this world. ¶ Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place¶ (2 Cor. 2:14). Thus the day of Pentecost was the day in which the Church was born, and God's eternal purpose began its final out-working. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is of great importance in the plan of God, because through it the Church came into being. Without the Baptism of the Holy Spirit there could be no Church through which the mighty eternal purpose of God had to be fulfilled. This explains very clearly why the Lord in His parting words to His disciples emphatically told them to begin to do nothing but wait until the day of Pentecost. ¶ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in... Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high¶ (Luke 24:49). ¶ And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence... But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth¶ (Acts 1:4,5,8).

Can you understand how wonderful is this Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Year after year through the centuries, Israel celebrated the Feast of the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. Then centuries later, on that very day, the Lamb of God without spot and blemish, died upon the cross:¶ For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us¶ (1 Cor. 5:7). Year after year, on a certain day after the Sabbath, Israel celebrated the Feast of First fruits. After the crucifixion on that very day after the Sabbath, when the priests of Israel who had rejected the Messiah, should have been waving the sheaf of first fruits before the Lord in a dead literal obedience to His Word in Leviticus 23:11, on that very day the Son of God rose again from the dead, so that the Apostle Paul says: ¶ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept¶ (1 Cor. 15:20). Again counting fifty days from that day after the Sabbath, came another day after the Sabbath, the day of Pentecost, when Israel brought two wave loaves of fine flour, and offered a new meat offering unto the Lord. On that very day the risen and exalted Lord sent forth the Holy Spirit and baptized the believers into one Body, of which the loaf of bread is the symbol, as it is written: ¶ For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread¶ (1 Cor. 10:17). It was not by chance that on the days of these three great feasts in a certain year two thousand years ago, three great events occurred. The Lord had been pointing out year after year through these feasts of Israel, that the Cross, Resurrection and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit were central in the thought of God as the means of fulfilling His glorious purpose which He had hid in His heart from the beginning of the world.

At this stage you might be asking yourself, ¶ Have I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?¶ That is an important question which has to be answered. So please see Acts 2:47; ¶ ...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved¶ At the time they were saved these believers were added to the Church by the Lord. Likewise when you were saved and received the new birth, you were added to the Church by the Lord. Now the Church is the Body of Christ. So that means, you became a member in His Body. But there is only one way by which you can become a member in the Body of Christ: ...

by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body (1 Cor. 12:13). So it is clear that when you were born again you also received the gift of the Holy Spirit; your body became His temple (1 Cor. 6:19) and you were added to the Church. So you have already been baptized by the same Spirit into one Body.

So now, dear reader, as you have been added to the Church, may the Lord grant that the eyes of your understanding be enlightened, so that you may know your calling and walk worthy of it. ¶ As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory... Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 2:11,12; 2Thess. 1:11,12).

(To be cont) C.E.D.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Padstow Heights
Christian Assembly
121 Villiers Road, Sydney
N.S.W. Australia
February 21, 2006

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and prayer- answering Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our exalted Priest and King at the right hand of the Majesty on high. May He strengthen and sustain us by His High priestly ministry in the power of an endless life, to serve Him acceptably and sacrificially in His supreme thought and purpose for His Church in this age.

The building of His people into a Spiritual House is the supreme thought of God and a New Testament concept. Paul speaks of it as a ¶ mystery ¶ , that is, a divine secret hidden in ages past, but brought into actual manifestation after the death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus to the throne of heaven, and the descent of the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. In those ancient times in which David lived, the Church was a hidden thing, but it was figuratively set forth in the plan of a temple given to David. Both the tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple in Jerusalem were built by principles which foreshadowed God's thought and purpose for His Church.

David the king, inspite of all his sins and failures was finally lifted by the grace of God to such spiritual elevation with personal consecration, that the Lord could make h understand in writing all the works of this pattern (1 Chro. 28:12,19,20). In other words, he received by revelation the things of God which can never be brought to living reality by imitation. Sad to say, many in our times attempt to imitate the pattern of the local church, but the Lord cannot set His seal on such a work.

The stones for this House were not only blasted out of a deep quarry, but were chiselled and shaped and polished so as to fit together into a building. In terms of spiritual life, this kind of work on the stones spells out in a figure much of the secret work of the Spirit of God upon the lives of redeemed people and explains much of what happens to us. The events of life are not simple happenings. They are the sharp tools of God's ordaining to

shape us to a pattern for fitting us into His House structure.

David's whole life is really a rich spiritual history which included many deep exercises and painful experiences as the chisel of God to mould him into shape. But all God's dealings with him in redemption, correction and discipline brought him at last to the revelation of God's full purpose, which was to be expressed in the building of a House. Though David desired greatly to build God's House, that honour was given to his son Solomon. So we read, Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Oman the Jebusite (2 Chron. 3:1). Thus the building of God's House began in the very place where Abraham was asked to sacrifice his only son Isaac (Genesis 22:2). This call to sacrifice his only son seemed to the natural eye, to be a means of defeating every possibility of increase. From whence could Abraham's seed arise which was to be as many as the stars of heaven for multitude and as the sands of the seashore, if Isaac died? And God took Abraham to the place where, though not actually accomplished, his son figuratively died in the mind of Abraham. For Abraham had to build the altar, lay Isaac upon it and not until the knife was raised in Abraham's hand did God call him to halt. This tremendous trial brought Abraham into fellowship with what was in the heart of God - the sacrifice of His own eternal Son for human redemption.

Abraham had already seen in vision the ultimate end of God's redeeming work - "a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10). The foundations upon which that holy city was to stand was shown him in mount Moriah, to be one of supreme sacrifice, and the sacrifice was to be of God's own eternal and beloved Son. From the natural viewpoint, that death upon Calvary's cross too was the end of everything. It was the end of all that was fleshly. So it must have appeared to Abraham in the offering of Isaac. But Abraham believed God to be the God of resurrection, and that through resurrection life, God would accomplish His purposes. Thus we see that the foundation of all God's building is in the death of His Son, but the structure itself begins to rise through the resurrection life of His Son. There is no building of the holy House of God until after our Lord's resurrection. That is why it is so important to believe both, for the Lord's death upon the cross dealt only with sins, but His resurrection dealt with the law of death so that believers could be "living stones" for His holy temple. But things must be laid in the dust of death before resurrection life is given, and before the revelation of God's great purpose breaks upon the soul. God starts to build on the ground of the cross. God helping, we will continue in our next issue.

God's servant Bro. Joseph Kurien and responsible brethren at the church at Beersheba, Kadapa, would have us to thank and praise the Lord for enabling them to lay the foundation for the construction of the new Prayer Hall on Sunday the 12th February. Bro. Lazar Sen with his son Hanock and many other fellow-servants participated in the above to the joy of all. The local saints covet our prayers for the speedy completion of the construction.

Bro. Sundar Rao and the saints at Pulivendla would have us to thank and praise the Lord for enabling them to complete a four room living quarters for the servants and ministers. We have named it Rhegium (Acts 28:13) on the day of its dedication on the 13th February.

God's servant Bro. P. Samson and saints and responsible brethren at Bethany Prayer House at Proddatur would have us to thank and praise the Lord for enabling them to hold the marriages of God's servants Bro. M.Solomon with Sis. K.Yesumani and Bro. Manasseh with Sis. Hephzibah. The marriages were solemnised by Bros. P. Samson and Joseph Kurien.

At Rehoboth, Alagadda, the Lord blessed the special gatherings from 10th to 14th February when Bro. Eddy Williams and some of us shared in the ministry. On the 14th

evening the foundation stone for the new Prayer Hall, Rehoboth, was laid with many servants from Rayalaseema also being present. God's servant Bro. Samuel of Alagadda covets our prayers for the completion of their new construction. The same evening God's servant Bro. Joshua and Sis. Jyothi were united in marriage. The couple covets our prayers.

I am thankful for your prayers, for I could reach Sydney safely by the 18th of February.

Please pray for the speedy recovery of the Lord's handmaiden Sis. Ruth (wife of God's servant Bro. Joseph Canara at Beer-Sheba, Ahmedabad) as she underwent a major abdominal surgery on the 18th February at Ahmedabad.

Praying that the Lord may help us all to be fully dependent and obedient to His plans and directions in our endeavours to serve Him acceptably for His Church,

Isa. 48:17; Matt. 11:28,29 ;Eph. 6:18,19

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K. PHILLIP

GIVE YE THEM TO EAT--3

BAKHT SINGH

The Lord performed the miracle of feeding the multitude to teach His disciple's lessons. They were to be His apostles and the Lord was saying to them, " My disciples, you are My co-workers. I have come into the world as the Bread of Life to satisfy the hunger of the multitudes. The whole world is like a desert and it is in darkness. Everywhere people are tired and weary of many burdens. They have no place to go where they can be satisfied with heavenly bread. You must know how to serve them. Your time or money should not be wasted or misspent, for you have to give an account to God". Some time ago I had the privilege of spending about ten months in traveling to different countries, and in all those ten months I bought only three things: two tubes of tooth paste and a tooth brush. The Lord did not give me liberty to buy anything else because I knew there was a better use for the money; the Lord kept on supplying all my needs from heaven, and there was no lack. The Lord gave many gifts and He also gave me the privilege of spending that money on other people.

At the beginning of my Christian life, I learned this lesson and I learned it in a very simple way. At that time I used to gather very small copper coins because the Scripture says that if anyone asks we have to give. One day a beggar came to me and asked for alms. I wanted to give him a copper coin, but the Lord spoke to me, " This is My money. You have no right to give away My money". I wanted to give, but could not. I said, " I never thought of it that way, Lord". But the Lord said again, " It is My money, I bought you with a price and everything of yours belongs to Me. Whether time or money, all belong to Me". I asked the Lord's forgiveness and He taught me that even though it might be a small amount, I must not waste it unnecessarily. I must spend my money according to God's will. In this way you can help others. Do not waste your money howsoever small the amount may be. It is not your money. Pray before you spend it. Pray every time till the Lord gives the answer because He wants us to satisfy the hungry all around.

In the same way you must not waste your energy. You cannot say you can sleep as often as you like. You may say, " Lord, I am feeling tired, I want to sleep". But He says, " It is My body, not your body, I have paid the price". Learn when to sleep and how long and in that way you will learn to help other people with your money and time and energy. Nothing should be wasted in our life.

(To be contd.)

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NO 6

UNION IN CHRIST-4 (Subjection to the Head--Christ)

"We shall go on to see the implications of our union in Christ as members in His Body. This will enable us to walk worthy of our heavenly calling.

I "And (God) hath put all things under his feet, and gave him (Christ) to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22,23). The body is the complement of the head. The head needs the body to fulfill its purposes, plans and desires. So also Christ is the Head and the Church is the Body through which He has to work. The Lord Jesus Christ needs you, however weak you may be now. "...the head (cannot say) to the feet, I have no need of you" (1 Cor. 12:21). He is the One Who filleth all in all, and we are the members in His Body through whom His glory and power are to be revealed.

II "But speaking the truth in love, ... grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Eph. 4:15). "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church" (Eph. 5:23). "And he is the head of the body, the church... that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col.1:18). Let no man beguile you of your reward in . not holding (Gr. - holding fast) the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God" (Col. 2:18,19).

Christ is the Head of the Body. He is your Head, you have to give Him preeminence and obey Him in all things. You have to learn the meaning of His Lordship, of holding Him as the Head, in every part of your life. Only then can you receive nourishment from the Head, and as a joint and band in the body will you be able to pass on nourishment to other members in it, so that all may be knit together. Even though you may yet be spiritually young, your ministry is required for the work of knitting the members together; because Satan is always attacking the harmony in the Body, and only by being knit together can the Body increase with the increase of God.

We are warned in Col. 2:18 that if we do not hold Him as the Head we shall be beguiled of our reward. It is quite possible for a person to go about here and there, apparently serving the Lord, and yet not be under the direction of the Head. Such labour cannot be of eternal value and will bring him no reward. Many times we hear this sad story, "I laboured much and I thought I saw results at the time. But years have gone by, and now the fruit seems to have disappeared! I am left to weep and wonder whether all my labour has been in vain" Only in the measure that you are under the government of the Head can you labour with abiding value and receive the reward of giving satisfaction to the Lord.

As we have seen, holding the Head will lead to the members being knit together. Any work which causes divisions in the Body of Christ is not of the Lord. "Now I beseech you,

brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Rom. 16:17,18). "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife ... preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds.... r walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things" (Phil.1:15,16; 3:18,19).

Through the cross of Christ, God had one aim in view to be accomplished: the bringing into being of the Church as it is in the finished thought of God; the City of God, Zion, the perfection of beauty, out of which the God of glory can shine (Psa. 50:2). "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge. For, 10, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and hasted away. Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail... As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever' (Psa. 48:2-6,8).

Now the Church, the City of God, is the perfection of oneness, the marvel of the kings of the world, and the terror of the powers of darkness. For the Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, has prayed for us, and His prayer must be fulfilled; "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us : that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one..." (John 17:20-23).

This is the purpose, which God wishes to fulfill through the cross. Those who appear to preach Christ, and yet are creating and maintaining divisions in the Body of Christ are not serving the Lord Jesus, but they are really serving their own belly, and they are the enemies of the cross of Christ

This oneness is an essential factor in the purpose of God. God appeared to King Solomon in a dream and gave him a wise and an understanding heart. Note the very first manifestation of this divine wisdom. "And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other" (1 Kings 3:25). Solomon's wisdom revealed the simple fact that only the false mother would agree to divide the living child.

Again, in the time of Elijah, Israel had fallen away from God, and had lost their unity. Before calling upon the Lord, Elijah "...took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the Sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD" (1 Kings 18:31,32). The oneness had to be symbolically restored before the power of God could be revealed. The power of God can be revealed only as the Church is in the value of this oneness in Christ. "... that they also may be one in us : that the world may believe that thou hast sent me... that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me (John17:21,23).

Holding the Head, refusing to be separated from it, also means accepting the Lord's order; in the Church, that is the government of the elders in the Church. This is something against which the heart of man naturally rebels. It takes the real humility of Christ to be worked out in us before we can submit to obey with joy in the Church. Sometimes in our youthful zeal, we are liable to be deceived by the enemy into thinking that we should obey only the Lord and not any man. This spirit of independence will only bring loss and confusion. The Word of God says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves : for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may

do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you". "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5).

It is good to remember that you may not always find elders who are perfectly according to your mind, and you will often find many in the assembly rebelling against them. This is a great snare in our spiritual life. Korah, Dathan and Abiram, and their fearful end when the earth opened and swallowed them up because of their rebellion against Moses and Aaron, stand as a great warning to us. "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft" (1 Sam. 15:23).

Again, God anointed Saul as king of Israel. When he failed, God anointed David in his place. Saul, filled with envy tried many times to slay David, but the Lord protected him. At one time David had a good opportunity to kill sleeping Saul. But David said, "... Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?" (1 Sam. 26:9). Saul's unfaithfulness made no difference. God had anointed him, and David was rightly afraid to touch him. The Lord God is the King of kings. It is for Him to raise up one and put down another. But let us beware lest we should raise up our hand against the Lord's anointed servants. May the Lord keep you humble and teach you to remain in subjection.

III "Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God" (Psa. 92:13). If you want to grow and be fruitful, your place must be in the House of the Lord, the Church. Your root must be there, and your fruit must be there. You must be inseparably joined to the House of God. You must say as the Psalmist said of Jerusalem, "... all my springs are in thee" (Psa. 87:7).

God has given you talents. You must use them in full co-operation with the Church for the salvation of souls and for the upbuilding of the saints, so that the members being knit together may increase with the increase of God. Stir up the gift that is in you. (2 Tim. 1:6).

You have also an important ministry of prayer in the Church. The Lord has promised that great things shall be done in answer to the prayers of believers when they gather in His Name and unite their hearts upon the earth. Whatsoever they shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven : and whatsoever they shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matt. 18:18-20). See what tremendous authority! The very powers of Satan and of darkness and sin can be bound by hearts uniting in prayer; and souls taken captive by Satan can be released in answer to prayer.

So you have to learn to love your fellow - believers in the church, to forgive them and bear with their short-comings, so that you can unite your heart with theirs and exercise this heavenly power for the glory of God.

(To be contd.) C.E.D.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Padstow Heights
Christian Assembly
121 Villiers Road, Sydney
N.S.W. Australia
March 4, 2006

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Praise and thanksgiving unto our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath in His mercy and goodness led us into the third month with His precious promises. May we all be kept in the vision and victory of the Lamb of Whom we read, "... behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda... hath prevailed to open the book.... Jo, in the midst of the throne and ... in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as if he had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth" (Rev. 5:5,6). The Lord grant that our walk, work and witness in this age be under the government of that throne and controlled by the Spirit of God, to the praise of the glory of His grace.

On Sunday the 19th February, the first Lord's Day of my arrival in Sydney, I participated in the worship service which was held at Doonside about 60 kms. from the assembly at Padstow Heights. This is a new work begun by Bro. Kenneth Timothy and two other families after a time of prayer with the saints at various assemblies. This new location in the southwest of Sydney is convenient for many believers living in that area. On 29th August 2004, the Lord's Day, the first worship service began with about eight members and now it has increased up to more than 50 every Lord's Day, by the grace of God. This company is mainly young families as well as young brothers who are engaged in their studies, coming from India, mostly from Andhra Pradesh. They meet for mid-week Bible study also in small groups in five convenient places. They need our prayers that the Lord may grant them proper New Testament teaching by the Spirit of the Lord to continue in the ongoing purpose of God in Christ Jesus in this age.

The baptisms of our grand-daughters, Grace Lois and Mercy Susannah were witnessed by nearly 100, drawn from the various assemblies in Sydney, besides their friends from their school and university. I was burdened to speak on Matt. 28:19,20, the great commission of the Lord to the eleven, with reference to Acts 2:38-41, and also on the laying on of hands upon the Samaritan believers by Apostles Peter and John sent from Jerusalem. This is the Scriptural way of expressing the oneness and fellowship in the Body of Christ under the Headship of the Lord. 1 Cor. 12:13 reminds us that by one Spirit we are baptized into one body whether we are Jews or Greek, bond or free, and all have been made to drink of one Spirit. After I baptized them. Bros. Ron Jarlette and Kenneth Timothy from Padstow Heights, Bro. Grant Hayman from Oakflats Assembly and Bro. R.S. Kuruvilla and myself, laid hands upon them and prayed claiming the Lord's promises.

On Sunday the 26th February, I could join in worship service and fellowship in the ministry of the Word at Padstow Heights Christian Assembly. In the evening I was requested to bring the Lord's message at the "Soul Salvation" gathering at Stratified, about 40 minutes from Padstow Heights by car, amidst a company of nearly 100. They are mostly Arab speaking believers and were very receptive to the Word of God.

Bro. Eld hose and Sis. Krupa (daughter of Bro. R.S. Kuruvilla) as well as Bro. Newton, Sis. Beulah and children are thankful for your prayers as they labour in this country in fellowship with the believers at Padstow Heights. The latter are thankful that their father Bro. K. Samuel from Jehovah - Shammah, Chennai, could be with them for sometime.

God willing, I am planning to leave Sydney on the 13th night and reach Chennai via Kuala Lumpur on the 14th March. I would value your prayers for travel mercies and for the ministry fulfilled that the Lord may accomplish His Word according to Isaiah 55:11.

In continuation of our previous meditation on David building God's House, we would like to continue as follows.

God starts to build on the ground of the cross. This ground in David's day was also

spoken of as the threshing floor of Oman. It was the very place where David had a sifting experience from the Lord for his self-glorifying project of numbering his fighting men as though victories were won by the skill of men and not by the power of God. That kind of fleshly boasting was simply a result of the provocation of Satan (1 Chro. 21:1). It meant that there was still an element of un-crucified flesh in David, which gave Satan ground for the activity of pride. Impulses of Satanic origin can never build up anything for God, nor will the Lord take into His building that which has the slightest touch of Satan upon it.

There is quite a lot of this thing in our day. Men seek for reputation in the realm of divine things. Flesh cries out for recognition. Spiritual gifts are often used for man's own satisfaction and advancement. The mentality of the natural man takes hold of the things of God and robs them of their value for God's building. The very moment flesh touches anything, even though it be originally given by the Lord, He drops it. He will not build with any material in which the flesh glories. The ground God builds upon is a threshing floor where all worthless chaff is sifted out. Whatever exalts man is ruthlessly dealt with. He builds only on the place where the flesh is brought to judgement and where things contrary to His nature are rejected.

Please pray for the Gospel Campaign to be conducted God willing, by a team of Hebron brothers in Sironcha, Maharashtra, from March 12th to 19th.

Praying that our Lord, the builder of the Church may protect us from every self-centered or self-glorifying project and make us co-workers with Him, doing everything according to His pattern, and with material that is precious in His sight,

John 4 : 34-38; I Cor 3:10-15 ; Heb. 12:27-29.

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K. PHILLIP

GIVE YE THEM TO EAT--4

BAKHT SINGH

The multitude were with the Lord for more than three days and when they went back they probably had to face angry masters, wives, children, husbands, etc. They would naturally ask, "Where have you been? Did you forget your shop, home, children?" Just imagine five thousand people being away from business, shops, wives, husbands and children for three days. Some had to face angry masters, or parents, etc. And what do you think they would do when questioned? They would have put a crumb in the mouths of their accusers out of the fragments that were left out in the baskets, and would have said, "Before shouting at me, taste this". And the angry one would say, "Where did you get this? It is so tasty". Remember, this was after three days. But the One Whom we follow blesses, and even those fragments were a means of blessing. Nothing was wasted.

You will find that wherever you go, the Lord will do something through you to fulfil His purpose. You have the words of life to give a message to others and the power of God to help others. Even if you do not say anything, your very presence can bring blessing. Some people bring anger to those who see them. Others make you feel like weeping. They look so miserable! Wherever they go, they bring tears, and wherever you meet them, they are carrying their burdens. But there are some people whose very presence gives joy and that should be your attitude. Nothing in your life should be lost or wasted. We have no right to say to anyone: "You go away from us", for we have been given a

message, by God for every one and also we are given as a blessing for everyone. Do not think how to send them away, but say, "Lord, give me the privilege of satisfying these men who are hungry", and He will help you to do so. Do not send them away. The Lord said, THEY NEED NOT DEPART, GIVE YE THEM TO EAT" (Matt. 14:20). Put your name in the word, "YE."

May this be your daily experience.

(Concluded)

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