

Hebron Messenger

Published Fortnightly

VOI. XLIII

August 7, 2005

NO 16

HELP FROM ABOVE-6

SEVENFOLD HELP OR BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD (SHADE)

"The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night" (Psalm 121: 5,6). Sunstroke and moon stroke are real dangers faced by people who live in desert countries. Very often, they lead to death. When God promised to protect His people from both these attacks, it was a precious promise. Though to the people of Israel this applied literally, to us it applies in the spiritual sense. The Lord promises to be our shade in this hostile world.

The heat of the sun speaks to us of the hostility of the world against believers. In the parable of the sower and the seed (Matt. 13:5,6,20,21), the sun that scorched the plant was the tribulation or persecution, which arose because of the Word. All believers have to face persecution because of their testimony. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim.3: 12). "... In the world ye shall have tribulation" said the Lord Jesus (John 16:33). During the time of such tribulation the Lord Himself will become our shade. This is another great blessing we receive from God Who created the heaven and the earth. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty"(Psalm 91:1). At the time of persecution, we must learn to live under the shadow of the Almighty. All over the world persecution against believers is on the increase. It is the Lord Who will cover us and take us through at such times. As those who are under the shadow of the Almighty, what should be our response to persecution? We suggest a threefold response.

1. Lean on the Lord: When we are persecuted as believers, we must always remember that the Lord has predicted it already. In fact the Lord Jesus has asked us to "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad" when we are persecuted for His Name's sake (Matt.5:12). Also He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). Let us believe this Word when we face persecution. Having gone through a time of persecution, the Psalmist said, "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say; If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us" (Psa.124:1-3). Here the Word "the LORD who was on our side" comes twice. When others are against you, the

Lord is on your side. He is closer to you than at any other time. So lean on Him. Lean hard on Him. Thousands of Christians throughout the world have gone through severe persecution victoriously, because they had learned to lean on the Lord. There is nothing else we can do at times of persecution. Appealing to authorities, the government, and human rights organizations, may not always bring expected relief. Our Lord is our refuge. He is our hiding place. When we are persecuted, we must concentrate more and more on our Lord Jesus Who "endured. . .contradiction of sinners" (Heb. 12:3). Please do not open your mind to other suggestions. Walk very close to the Lord Jesus. Let His vision fill your eyes. Lean on the bosom of the Lord Jesus. Remember and be warned that the sinister purpose of the devil in bringing physical persecution is to break our spiritual walk with the Lord. So do not be deceived. The Lord is on your side.

2. Love the persecutors: Loving the enemies is what Christ is known for, all over the world. Even non-Christians tell that Jesus taught His disciples to love their enemies. We should practice what He taught. A believer has no right to hate his persecutors. If we want to be called Christians we should be like Christ. On the cross He forgave His persecutors. It is most unfortunate if we do not follow His example and simple teaching. "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"(Matt.5:44). Never take any other course of action when they persecute you. Notice the commandments given in that verse concerning the persecutors -LOVE, BLESS,DO GOOD AND PRAY. It is amazing what the Lord has instructed us to do. Our answer to the persecutors is this: "If you persecute us more, we will love you more, bless you more, do more good to you and pray more for you". Those who give any other response are not truly Christ-like. If we do not love our enemies, we are not worthy to be called Christians. We must make sure never to harbour hatred in our hearts towards our persecutors. Stephen the first martyr of the church could truly say that he had the spirit of Christ. While being stoned, he cried with a loud voice, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60).. It is indeed a difficult thing to say so when you are being persecuted, nevertheless nothing less than this will be approved by our Master.

3. Look for the reward: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven" (Matt.5: 11,12). This promise will help us to go through persecution joyfully. The Lord Jesus has always encouraged us to look for the reward. "...Behold, I Come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Rev.22:12). "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1Cor.15:58). Furthermore the Bible says, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him" (2 Tim.2: 12). So always remember that if you are being persecuted for His Name's sake, all what is actually happening is that God is preparing you for reigning with Christ.

So now we understand the meaning of the promise in Psa.121 regarding the Lord becoming our shade. "The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night" does not mean that the Lord will take away the sun and the moon but their ill effect will be taken away. The heat of the sun will continue to be there, but it cannot strike you dead. The spiritual meaning is this. Though the

persecutor is active, the ill effect of the persecution will not defeat you. The Lord is our shade to protect us from the heat of the persecution.

(To be contd.)

N.J.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

International Assembly
4274 Lafayette Road
Jamesville, NY 13078
July 22, 2005

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who was "made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" -even "a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec", "made. ..after the power of an endless life". Since. He ever liveth to make intercession for US, He is able to succour us in all our temptations, save us to the uttermost and make us worthy to be partakers and participants of His heavenly Jerusalem (Heb.2: 17, 18; 7: 16,17,25).

Continuing our meditation of the New Jerusalem we come to the river of water of life and the tree of life. "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev.22: 1,2).

All this again speaks of the relation of the city to the millennial earth and reveals the source of millennial life and blessedness. The throne of God and of the lamb are the fount as ever of grace and life; and the leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations. The glorified only will feed upon the twelve fruits of the tree. Hence it is added, "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; ...and they shall reign for ever and ever" (vs.3-5). Adam after his fall was shut out of the garden, and God placed Cherubim and a flaming sword to keep the way of the tree of life (Gen.3:24). Now the tree of life is on either side of the street of the golden city, and the glorified saints find in its fruits sustenance and joy. The curse therefore is forever abolished. His servants serve Him perfectly, see His face, and have His Name in their foreheads. These are indeed wondrous expressions of the full and perfect bliss of the redeemed. God Himself is the source of their light and they have no need of created light. His glory illuminates the whole scene. In this condition they will reign forever and ever, associated with Christ, in all the glory of His royalty and Kingdom.

God has thus placed before us the varied perfections and glories of His heavenly city, which will form such permanent future of the millennial period. From the

heavenly city and heavenly sphere, Christ will carry on His government on the earth as King as we are told, "...the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, ...The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end ..." (Isa.9:6, 7). Concerning the exact way in which our Lord will carry on the government as King upon the throne of David in fulfillment of the above prophecy, the Scripture is silent. Let us accept the Word in Deut.29:29, "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God" and still serve and glorify Him by our faith and obedience to what He has been pleased to reveal in this age of grace.

The saints and the brethren of the International Assembly, Lafayette Road, Jamesville, together with Bro. T .E. Koshy and elders, would have us to thank and praise the Lord for answered prayers for the 23rd North America Holy Convocation held at Lemoyne College premises, Syracuse, from 14th to 17th July. A company of nearly 300 were present, drawn from various parts of this country, besides those who came from overseas. Bro. Koshy has given the following note for our continued prayers for the follow-up work and thanksgiving. He covets our prayers for his ministry in Germany, Romania and Switzerland from 21 st July till August 15th.

"Throughout the Holy Convocation we experienced the presence, power and provision of the Lord Jesus Christ. This year's Holy Convocation was bathed with whole night prayers as well as extraordinary prayers of the saints. Even though initially Satan tried to disrupt, the Lord fought the battle all through the Convocation. Everything went on smoothly and for the blessing and edification of a,-' those who attended. Many testified that this was a unique Holy Convocation. The Lord brought timely messages through His anointed servants Bro. K. Phillip, Bro. Paul Wolf of Strasbourg, France, Bro. John Richard, Bro. Gorden Olsen of U. S.A. as well as Bro. Lazar Sen and myself along with Bro. D.S. Christopher and Bro. John Hawse of Australia. Bro. Dayakar Benhur's testimony was challenging to all present. The anointed servants of the Lord spoke on the theme "The household of God" (Eph.2: 19).

I personally want to thank all those who not only prayed for us but also lent practical help providing necessary transportation, accommodation etc. Besides the saints of the International assembly we thank the Lord for the timely services of Bro. Christopher and Sis. Ruth of Hebron. Please pray that the Lord may guide and direct us regarding the future. How good is the Lord we adore!". I covet your prayers for my travel to London on the 24th July and for the ministry there and in surrounding areas for a week, reaching Chennai on the 3rd of August, God willing.

Pray for a team of Hebron brothers who have gone for a Gospel Campaign in Godavarikhani area for about ten days, beginning from 18th July. Praying that we all be enabled to love and honour and serve the Lord acceptably under the government of His throne, upheld by His High priestly prayers,

Heb: 12 : 28,29 , John 12 : 24,26 ,Psalm 100: 2

I remain, Yours in His grace, K.Phillip.

GOD'S SERVANT 3

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.

Elisha was going about his ordinary daily work, until he was called. He was doing that work faithfully. He was in the field ploughing with the oxen. He was not found sitting and dreaming under a tree. He was occupied in active service, and it was during the course of this daily life that God called him. You too may have had some kind of occupation before you began to serve the Lord. It may have been a job in a field, village or town. No one needs to know what it was, but it is certainly necessary to know whether you were doing that job faithfully. If you were a farmer before you became a preacher, can you say that you were doing your farming faithfully? Or as a teacher were you faithful in your teaching? As a shop-keeper, were you faithful in your business? Have you been faithful in your home life? Can you say truthfully that whatever job was given to you in your home or outside, you were faithful in it? You must answer this question truthfully, because your faithfulness in small or ordinary things will have a great bearing upon your future ministry.

The service of God is the most important work, which any man can do. God is never in a hurry. Before He calls a man He prepares him for His service, and this preparation may take many years. Do not think that God can give you a short course and make you fully qualified. Some people want a short cut to God's service. When I joined a college in London, one day the registrar of the college called me. He wanted to know what opinion the youth in India had about the Universities in U.K. I asked him the reason for such a question. He told me that someone from India had written to him that he wanted to become an engineer and that he wanted to finish the course within a few weeks. The young man also wanted to know the amount of money he should send for that course. We do not know how he got that idea, but it is a fact that many young men think because they are the sons of wealthy men, they can get through an engineering course or any other course in a short time. It is often the same with some Christians who think that by carrying a Bible they can become preachers. This is quite a wrong idea. Others think that they must go through some special training before they can serve God. No matter how clever we are, certainly we need to be trained before we can be used but the training must be God's own training. Read the lives of Moses, David and Paul and see how they had to be trained and disciplined by God before they could become His servants.

Whenever God intends to call a man for His service, He first demands that whatever job he is doing, it should be done faithfully. Soon after my conversion I had to do odd jobs. Sometimes I had to work as a salesman; sometimes as a

coolie in a firm; sometimes digging in the fields, or feeding pigs, or doing other heavy jobs on the farm. At one time I even worked as a cook. I thank God now for all the training and discipline I went through then. God was proving me whether I would give my employer a chance to bring a charge against me. God trains His servants in this way, and if you are unfaithful in your offices or homes, you must ask Him to forgive you, for He cannot call you to greater service till you have been faithful in that which is the least God trained Elisha in this way, and then called him. Before He can call you for His service, He will train you in the same way.

Elisha was a vessel prepared and ready for the call of God. By this means God showed Elijah that He was calling Elisha to carry on the ministry that had begun through Elijah. God sent Elijah to the field, but at that time He did not tell him everything. He told him only that He wanted Elisha. Now Elijah, as God's prophet, was well known to everyone. Even by his dress and manners everyone knew that he was a prophet, so it did not take long for Elisha to recognise him. As Elijah passed Elisha, he threw his mantle upon him. This may have been a custom at that time to indicate one chosen for service. That mantle of Elijah thrown on Elisha indicated that God wanted him and had some work for him to do. Without that sign Elisha would not have known it, but now he knew that the Lord had immediate need of him. He knew that the casting of the mantle upon him meant that he was to leave his job and go after Elijah, without any delay. The call came to him in such a clear, unmistakable way that he wanted to go home and say 'goodbye' and then go after Elijah. Have you heard that call in your life? It may come in one of the many ways. God is not limited in the manner of His call to you but can you say truthfully and faithfully to your fellow-workers that God has indeed called you? Has God taken away the desire for the work, which you have been doing? Has He put into your heart a strong desire for His service, even though you cannot see any clear plan as to what He wants you to do for Him? If not, you must pray: "O God! take away from my heart the desire for my job and give me a strong desire to follow Thee wherever Thou shalt lead me".

(To be contd.)

Crossroads, Hyderabad -500 020. Edited by Bro. K. Phillip, Printed and Published
by Bro. G. T. Benjamin for Hebron, Golconda
Crossroads, Hyderabad -500020

Hebron Messenger

Published Fortnightly

VOI. XLIII

August 21, 2005

NO 17

HELP FROM ABOVE-7

SEVENFOLD HELP OR BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD (Sanctity)

"The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul" (Psalm 121: 7). We know that as believers God has called us to lead a life of holiness. As sinners we were used to a sinful way of living. After we are saved, we can live a holy life. With the help of the Holy Spirit of God we should learn to "...lay aside ...the sin which doth so easily beset us" (Heb. 12: 1). This indeed is a difficult task. Many Christians are discouraged today because they thought holy living will come their way automatically. It is wrong for us to expect God to do everything in keeping us holy and do nothing by ourselves. His promise to preserve our soul from all evil depends on our readiness and willingness. Do you desire to lead a sanctified life? Then God will give you such a life.

All believers have one common enemy, the devil. He continues to tempt us all throughout our life. But remember, God has promised to help us overcome every temptation of the enemy. The day I was born again, I was asked to memories 1 Cor. 10:13 and believe it. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make away to escape, that ye may be able to bear it". It is an important thing for each believer to know how to face temptations and overcome them. The question how to deal with temptations can be answered in three simple words -pray, prevent, and promises.

Pray: In the model prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ given to the disciples, the last request is, "...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matt. 6: 13). According to this verse, the Lord wants us to ask the Father not to lead us into temptation. Many of us have forgotten this prayer. That is why we succumb to temptations and commit sin. The Lord Jesus considered this request such an important one that He included it in His model prayer. It is absolutely necessary that we talk to God about the temptations we face. This is the first step towards victory. God is not going to be angry with you if you tell Him about the temptations you face. In fact, you need to identify your temptations and ask God to strengthen you against them. A common sin among Christians is to pretend that they have no temptation. Very often, Christian leaders fall into that category. The person who pretends not to have temptations may also pretend not to have sin, whereas in fact he has already fallen into sin. Remember, it is by talking to the Lord about your temptations, that you can be better prepared

when they actually come.

Prevent: You have heard the saying, "Prevention is better than cure". It is the same in spiritual life also. A Christian believer needs to be watchful and avoid situations where he can be tempted. Most Christians make the mistake of walking into the trap of the devil, knowing fully well that there is one ahead of them. We cannot prevent a crow from flying over our heads, but we can definitely prevent it from building a nest on our heads. Very often we are tempted by what we see. Remember there again, we cannot help the first look, but we should definitely prevent the second look. The Lord Jesus wants to give us sanctity. So when we take preventive measures, He will do the rest. Take the example of a drunkard who is saved and stops taking liquor. There are two ways to reach his house, and one of them has a tavern on the way. Which road should he use to reach his home? He should avoid the tavern road completely. If not he will be tempted to take liquor when he passes by the tavern. Remember what Joseph did when he was confronted with a terrible temptation brought by Potiphar's wife. The Bible says that he ran out of the room. It is important for us not only to flee sin but also to flee temptation. There are books, magazines, newspapers, which bring temptations. If you want to prevent temptations, put them out of your house and destroy them. Paul advised Timothy to "Flee youthful lusts" (2Tim.2:22). The word flee meant that Timothy should not even be in a place where he would be tempted.

Promises: Our sanctity as believers does not depend on our strength but on the promises of God. God has promised to show us a way of escape when we are tempted. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10: 13). Every believer must put his faith on this precious promise of God. This verse tells us firstly, that the temptations which we face are not new. Other believers have already faced similar temptations. None of us can say that my temptation was greater than others, so I could not help falling into sin. Secondly, we learn from this verse that even in the midst of severe temptation, God is faithful and He is by our side. He has promised, "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb.13:5). Remember, when temptation comes the Lord will not leave you. You are not facing the temptation alone. When Satan knocks at the door, we must ask the Lord Jesus to answer him. Thirdly, this verse teaches us that with the temptation God will also make a way of escape. We need to believe this promise. If there is a temptation there is a way of escape also. We must look out for that way. When you are hedged in by temptation, look out for the way of escape that God has provided. If you take that way, you can escape temptation. It is when we refuse to take that way of escape that we fall into sin. Believe the promises of God and you will always enjoy victory.

Sanctity is among the many blessings that the Lord gives us. "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil"(Psalm 121: 7). (To be contd.)

N.J.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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August 8, 2005

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and mighty Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, even God our Father, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. Apostle Paul thus begins his epistle to the Ephesians with an outburst of praise and adoration. In Greek, the first twelve verses constitute a single complex sentence. The speech he pours out of his mouth, out of the abundance of his heart -a heart inhabiting eternity, though confined to a prison - was a continuous flow of metaphors in musical style without pause and punctuation. He begins by blessing God for blessing us with every conceivable spiritual blessing.

Here is a reference to Trinity .For the origin of blessing is "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph.1: 3), Who is our Father. Its sphere is God the Son, for it is "in Christ", by virtue of our union with Him that God hath blessed us; and its nature is spiritual, "all spiritual blessings" -a phrase which may we!1 mean, every blessing of the Holy Spirit, Who as the divine Executive applies the work of Christ to our hearts. As mentioned by a famous writer, "These blessings are spiritual, not merely they pertain to the soul, but because derived from the Holy Spirit, Whose presence and influence are the great blessings purchased by Christ". May the Lord grant us a growing desire to enter into and enjoy the fullness of these blessings as recorded in the prayer of the Apostle from Eph .1: 17 to 2: 10. Though we might have been believers for years, we need to have the eyes of our understanding enlightened that we may know what He hath been purposing and planning for His elect, from before the foundation of the world in Christ, His beloved Son.

Thus we continue our thoughts from verse 4 of chapter 1; the Father electing us (vs.4-6), the Son redeeming us (vs.7-12), and the Spirit sealing us (vs.13-14), each thought concluding with the refrain, "to the praise of his glory"(vs.6, 12, 14). First, God the Father is the source or origin of every blessing which we enjoy. His initiative is set forth plainly for He is Himself the subject of almost every main verb in these verses. It is He who "has blessed us"(v.3), "chosen us "(v.4) and "predestinated us" to be His sons (v.5), Who freely bestowed on us His grace (v.6) -literally graced us with His grace, indeed lavished His grace upon us (v .8), Who also made known to us "his will" and purpose, which He set forth in Christ, to unite all things "in Christ" (vs.9, 10). Further He "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (v.11). Turning from the verbs to nouns, Paul refers in quick succession to God's love and grace, to His will, His purpose and His plan. Thus the whole paragraph is full of God the Father, Who has set His love and poured His grace upon us and is working out His eternal plan.

Secondly, the sphere in which, within which, the divine blessing is bestowed and received is the Lord Jesus Christ. In the first fourteen verses of the Ephesian letter, Jesus Christ is mentioned either by name or title (Christ, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, the Lord Jesus Christ, the beloved) or by possessive pronoun (He, Him, His) not less than fifteen times. And the phrase "in Christ" occurs eleven times.

Already in the first verse the Apostle has described Christians as "saints" and "believers", who are "in Christ Jesus". Now in the rest of the paragraph he draws out the implications of this pregnant expression, which denotes a new principle of human solidarity. Formerly we were "in Adam", belonging to the old fallen humanity; now we are "in Christ", belonging to the new redeemed humanity. It is "in Christ" that God has blessed us in time, and chosen us in eternity (vs. 3, 4). It is in the "beloved" that He has bestowed on us His grace, so that in Him "we have redemption... forgiveness" (vs. 6, 7). It is "in him" that the first Jewish believers became God's people (vs. 11, 12) and also it is "in him" that Gentile believers were sealed as belonging to God (vs. 13, 14). It is also "in Christ" that God has set forth His plan to unite all things "in him" or under His headship (vs. 9, 10). Once the Gentiles were separated from Christ and therefore hopeless and Godless (2: 12), but now "in Christ" we have been overwhelmed with blessings.

Thirdly, there is the Holy Spirit. Although in this paragraph He is mentioned by name only in verses 13 and 14, His activity is assumed throughout and His varied work is described in later chapters. What Paul stresses here is that the blessings God gives us in Christ are spiritual. A contrast is probably intended with the Old Testament days, when God promised blessings which were largely material. An example is found in Deut. 28:1-14. It is true, the Lord Jesus promised His followers some material blessings, for He forbade them to be anxious about food, drink and clothing and assured them that the heavenly Father would supply their needs, if they put the concerns of His rule and righteousness first. Nevertheless the distinctive blessings of the New Covenant are spiritual, not material; for example, God's law written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, a personal knowledge of God and the forgiveness of sins (Heb. 8: 10-12). Although these details may look wearisome, we are exhorted to study and search the Scriptures, and seek the Holy Spirit's illumination. May the Lord open our understanding (Luke 24: 45). God helping, we will continue in our next issue.

I do take this opportunity to thank one and all of you for your prayers for this humble servant, for granting me journey mercies as well as wisdom for the brief ministry of the Word together with others in the North America Convocation; above all to understand the value of fellowship with saints as "God's Household" according to the theme we dwelt upon during the Convocation - saints whom I have not seen for years and others drawn from various parts of the country as well as from other continents and thus be renewed in our bonds in Christ as His Household. The Lord also granted me a precious and profitable time for the few days in London in places like Ealing as well as Forest gate, besides, Reading, where Nepalese brethren gather. Also we had one night gathering at Coventry, Birmingham. Bro. Jabez David and co-brethren in the ministry continue to covet our prayers for wisdom and enablement for the upbuilding of the "little flocks" in these and other areas, which they visit regularly.

Many are aware of the unprecedented rain and flood which befell Mumbai some weeks ago, causing loss of life and property. Our fellow believers in areas like Panvel, Vikroli and Mulund went through much distress, loss and hardship. Let us pray for their relief and needs and that they may not be shaken in their faith by these afflictions.

Thank the Lord for enabling Bro. Lazar Sen to return to India after the few months in U.S.A. and participating in the Chicago and Syracuse Convocations. He covets our prayers for his ministry in India, based at Beer-Sheba, Ahmedabad. Please pray for the full recovery of Sis. K. Vijaya, the Lord's handmaiden at Hebron, who underwent a major surgery about two weeks ago.

Praying that the Father .of glory, may continue to open our eyes of understanding and our vision of His eternal purpose as revealed to Paul and made known to us through his letters, especially the letter to Ephesians, for our grasp and guidance in our ongoing service for His glorious Church,

Eph. 1: 17- 20 , Rev. 3: 17, 18, Rom 15: 4.13

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K. PHILLIP.

GOD'S SERVANT 4

BAKHT SINGH

In my younger days, I was extremely fond of engineering, and it was my lifelong ambition to become an engineer. I even dreamed about being an engineer and spent many years in studying engineering in order to become an efficient engineer. At that time I would go and visit all kinds of workshops where they were making machinery .Gas engines, steam engines, big engines and small engines attracted and fascinated me and whenever I saw or heard of a new machine I wanted to see how it worked. But when God called me, suddenly I lost all interest in machines and machinery, no matter how new and wonderful they were. God filled me with a great longing to go and tell everyone what I knew about Him. At first it was very very embarrassing for me, because I had a stutter, and I stammered in my speech. I had a strong desire to tell all my neighbors about God, but the words would not come out of my mouth. However carefully I tried to speak, I would begin to stutter, and then my friends would say: "Pardon me! what did you say?" I never could open my mouth and at once speak properly. I was ashamed of myself, and it was a very humiliating condition; yet I never got discouraged. Even though it took half an hour to begin to speak I never left the man until my tongue came straight. My desire was so strong that I wanted to tell everyone about the Lord Jesus Christ, so whether in a shop or anywhere else I would begin to talk about the Lord.

In England barbers are very talkative. One day when I went to have my hair cut, the barber said to me, "What a miserable day!" because it was cloudy and

raining. It is common among barbers to open conversation in this way. I answered him, "Yes sir, but I don't mind the rain". So he said, "I suppose you come from India where the sun shines every day". I am not talking about India's sunshine," I replied, "but a sunshine that has come into my heart". He stopped cutting my hair and listened to my story. What a joy it was to tell that barber and everyone in the shop about the Lord! You see, the call of God fills you with a strong urge to tell others what He means to you, and that is indeed why God is calling you. If you call yourself a servant of God you must prove that you have a strong call from God to serve Him, and that He has filled you with a great urge to tell others about Him.

When God called Elisha, he had to give up his job and follow Elijah for sometime, and in doing so he had to do some very ordinary jobs. He had to minister to the needs of Elijah and was called the one who "poured water on the hands of Elijah" (2 Kings 3:11). Usually when someone wants to distinguish a man he will describe him as "a man who has traveled in many countries" or as "a man of many degrees". But Elisha was known to the people as one who poured water on the hands of Elijah. Secondly, it was told about him that the word of the Lord was with him (2 Kings 3:12).

Now what is the special qualification of being one who poured water on the hands of Elijah? Simply this, that though he was a wealthy man in his country, owning his own oxen and land, yet for ten years he served Elijah, doing the ordinary jobs of a servant, and that is how God calls and prepares His servants. Do not be discouraged when you are proved and tested in different ways. The first thing you need to do is to convince others that God has called you for His service. It is not enough to give a few verses to your friends, but to prove it by a change which took place in your life, when the Lord took away the desire for the work you were doing and gave the desire for His work. You will find that idle and lazy people have never been proved to be God's servants, for God first proves His servants in very small things, and only then He gives them real and greater responsibility, where their true ministry can begin. When God calls you for His service, remember that you will first be proved; so you must be faithful to God, even in that which seems to be the least, and thus be able to prove that God is calling you to be His servant, His mouth-piece, and His vessel.

The whole training of Elisha is thus summed up in 2 Kings 2. For ten years God was proving, testing, and training him by keeping him under the discipline of Elijah and you will find that in almost every case God uses someone to train us. In some cases it is rather painful.

(To be contd.)

Crossroads, Hyderabad -500 020. Edited by Bro. K. Phillip, Printed and Published
by Bro. G. T. Benjamin for Hebron, Golconda
Crossroads, Hyderabad -500020