

# Hebron Messenger

Published Fortnightly

VOI. XXXIX

SEPTEMBER 9, 2001

NO.1 8

## IF ANY MAN...

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt.16:24). In these words our Lord emphasizes that the decision to follow Him is by man's own free will-"if any man will come". This decision is a voluntary response to His call. There is no compulsion except the compelling force of His love. He draws us "with bands of love" (Hos.11 :4), and "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

**Deny himself:** Our Lord then lays down three conditions for true discipleship -"Let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me".

Self is the root cause of sin. It is opposed to God. Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit believing the serpent when he said, "in the day ye eat thereof, ...ye shall be as gods" (Gen.3:5). They asserted their will against God's and disobeyed Him desiring to be equal with God. Sin thus entered the world and since then man's self is ever opposed to the will of God. Hence our Lord's first condition for discipleship is "Deny yourself". But Peter, to whom these words were spoken, denied the Lord instead of denying himself. He chose the easy way of escape through self-will, self-confidence and self-exaltation. The self in us should be crucified and the Lord enthroned in our hearts. The Lord enables us to do this when we choose to follow Him. Thereafter it is, "not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal.2:20).

**Take up his cross:** This leads us to the fulfilling of the next condition, "Take up your cross". We submit ourselves to His discipline. The condemned criminals under the Roman Government were each given a cross, to carry to the place of crucifixion and to be crucified thereon.

They had no choice. The Lord has a purpose for each one of us and in working it out He gives a cross to each. Paul had a cross and the Lord would not take it away though he prayed thrice for its removal. The Lord

does not place the cross on our shoulders for us to carry in a grumbling, resigned way. He expects us to willingly take up the cross He gives us and carry it cheerfully, believing that it is the best He has to give us and is for His glory. The Lord took up and carried our cross of sin as though it were His. Having done that, He is ever near to help us carry the cross which He has given us.

**Follow Me:** Then we fulfill the third condition, "Follow me". We should follow as a sheep follows its shepherd and a servant his master.

"And run not before Him, whatever betide, In I joy or in sorrow still follow thy Lord".

Where are we to follow Him? The Lord was leading Peter to Calvary, but Peter failed Him at Gethsemane and denied Him at His trial. He was not found at Calvary. Yet the Lord did not leave him. He took hold of him after His resurrection and led him on to Pentecost. The self-willed Peter was Spirit-filled and became a mighty servant of the Lord. The Lord will lead us on to victory if we follow Him.

**Would you be victorious?** Dear reader do you feel a sense of defeat in your Christian life? Do you find yourself doing what is not pleasing to the Lord in spite of all your prayers and strivings? Do you realize a lack of power in your life and feel that you do the several acts of service for the Lord by force or habit? The cause for all this is that self and not the Lord, is holding sway over your life. You have not responded to the Lord's call. Choose, Him as your Lord, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him. He will lead you on to victory.

**If any man hear:** "...if any man hear my I voice, and open the door, I will come in to him"(Rev.3:20). So anxious is the Lord to be with you, that He not only invites you, saying, "Follow me", but He is even at your door! "Behold, I stand at the door and knock". He knocks while calling to make sure you hear Him. The distracting noises of the self try to crowd out

His still small voice. But the Lord knocks on saying. "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27). He cannot leave you and go, because you are His sheep and He gave His life for you. " And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you" (Isaiah 30:18). The latch is on the inside and it is you who should open the door and let Him in. He will come in and abide with you enabling you to live victoriously.

**Victory that overcomes:** How real will be your victory? God's Word says, "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small" (Prov.24:10). Do you find yourself inadequate to face the trials and temptations in your life? If that be so, your strength is small; you have not allowed Jesus to be your Lord. He tells us. "I have overcome the world". If He is your Lord, you will be an overcomer too. Yours will be a glorious victory that "overcomes the world".

I was in adversity recently. It was a storm which the Lord had allowed to overtake me. But He came walking over it, assuring me, "It is I; be not afraid" (John 6:20). "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor.12:9). His peace and comfort filled my heart. "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living". (Psalm 27:13). I humbly praise Him for this glorious victory.

"If any man –  
Will come after me-  
Will hear my voice-  
Be in Christ-  
He is a new creature".

Are you that man? D.S.M.

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<b>LETTER</b>	Hebron,
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	25-8-2001

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, King eternal, invisible, the only wise God; unto Him be honour and glory for ever and ever, Amen. While the coming of His Kingdom in its full manifestation, with power and great glory is awaited, we are called to serve Him in the enjoyment of that Kingdom, already in testimony within us -the Kingdom of

God which is "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men" (Rom. 14:17, 18). The lord enable us that we follow after the things that make for peace and the things wherewith one may edify another, in this Kingdom that cannot be moved (Heb.12:28).

Let us pray for the various meetings and Gospel Campaigns, that were arranged in various parts of our land, through our sister assemblies, on the country's independence day -15th August - that the word of salvation sent forth through song and Scripture and preaching may be used of the Holy Spirit to bring souls into His Kingdom;-The anointed King set on the Holy Hill of Zion (Psalm 2:6,8), may have the heathen for His inheritance, in virtue of His Calvary work, for the redemption of the human race.

In Chennai the saints and brethren at Jehovah-Jireh, St. Thomas Mount area had "prayerfully planned a Gospel Campaign, in fellow- ship with the church at Jehovah -Shammah and sister assemblies in the city. More than 500 brothers and sisters including children participated, from 9.30 A.M. onwards being divided into 15 teams, to reach the highways and streets around. Singing, and a brief preaching of the word of salvation, followed by prayer, kneeling down in the streets, before books and tracts were given out, was the mode of witnessing, as recipients of that Kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. The sales amounted to RS.4200/-. Lunch was served as teams returned by 2 P.M. or so. After a little leisure and prayer, the ministry closed with a joint procession, with song and proclamation of the Gospel for a short distance. As you would remember, these are part of the ways in which we learned under beloved servant of God, late Bro.Bakht Singh, to maintain evangelical fire and fervency of the Spirit, side by side with the Church-building ministry. The Lord keep the country open for such outreach, let us continue to pray, and participate in the same as occasion arises with our time, talent and even treasure. Let us not be like the servant spoken of in Matt. 25:14-30, the one who received one talent, went, digged the earth and hid the Lord's money. If earthly affairs preoccupy us predominating our life, we are falling into the danger of this unprofitable servant. Whatever be the profession of our faith, without works, it becomes dead.

Continuing our consideration of the distinctiveness of the Church, as from our last issue, may we come to the second aspect of the same which may be expressed as a distinct history. A second way the Church is distinguished from future Kingdom is her unique history. The differences are found in three areas; the circumstances of the Church's existence today, her calling, and her relationship to Christ's return. Believers during our present Church age undergo testings and trials and persecution of all kinds (2 Tim.3:10-12; 1 Pet.1 :3-9). They endure suffering, groaning, and refining (Rom.5:3-5; 8:18-23; Jas.1:2-4;) The believers joy is in viewing the future and reflecting upon the heavenly realities (2 Cor.4:18). This stands in sharp contrast to the wonderful conditions of the Millennial Kingdom, with its perfect justice, universal peace and prosperity and peace on earth, as the Old Testament prophets described, under the rule of the Messiah.

Secondly, the Church is a non-political entity. She witnesses, submits to authority and prays for those in authority (Rom.13:1-7; 1 Pet.2:13-20; 1 Tim.2:1-2). The believers of the Church though living in an hostile environment are never called upon to lead a rebellion to take over the country. But the citizens of the Messianic Kingdom will be sharing the rule of Christ and assert His right and authority over the entire earth.

Thirdly, the coming of Christ at the rapture will conclude the Church age, while His glorious return to the earth will inaugurate the Kingdom age. The Church age will therefore end before the Kingdom age begins. When Paul depicted the resurrection of all who "sleep in Jesus", and the catching up of all the living believers" (1 Thess. 4:13-18), he said nothing about the establishment of the Kingdom. The glorious return will be a separate event, and that is why it was not mentioned by the Apostle in his description of the rapture.

In 2 Thess.2:3,4,7,8 Paul speaks of the mystery of iniquity and the "man of sin", also called "Antichrist", The "falling away" refers to a worldwide rebellion against God, culminating in the "man of sin" desecrating the rebuilt temple, and presenting himself there as God. (Dan. 11 :36-45; Matt.24:15-21 ). Paul added another comforting truth. The Church will be removed from the earth, before the rebellion and revealing of the man of sin. "...he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" (2 Thess.2:7). Paul spoke of someone who was hindering the full unveiling of the man of sin. The

Church indwelt by the Spirit is the salt of the earth. We have reason to believe that Paul was speaking of the "taking up" or the "snatching away" of the Church. Then when the restraining work of the Holy Spirit, through the Church is removed, evil will break forth as never before. The Church's time on earth will end before the great tribulation; while the Kingdom will be established after that awesome period is concluded. This leads us to consider the third distinctiveness of the Church, that is her distinct relationship to Christ. This we may consider, God helping, in our next issue.

A Youth Reunion was held at Hebron, on the 22nd August which drew a crowd of nearly 2500 young people from the twin cities. Bro.Paul Sudhakar gave the Bible study in two sessions on the theme, "He hath set his love upon me" taken from Psa. 91: 14. There was good response to the Gospel and many young people stood up to show their decision to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Pray also for the Word released through Bro.Paul Sudhakar in Bidar on the 23rd August.

Pray for the ministry of Bro.John Stewart in Hebron Fellowship at Byculla, Mumbai, from 18th to 23rd August and thereafter in Surat up to 30th August.

Bro.Devadanam the Lord's servant at Giddalur is having cardiac problem, and needs to undergo by-pass surgery .He is hospitalised in Care Hospital, Hyderabad.

Bro.John V .Rao requests prayer for about 40 souls saved during their Gospel Campaign in Chhattisgarh in the month of June, that they may be established in the faith and be brought on the foundation of Acts 2:42.

Praying that we all be enabled to look up because our redemption draweth nigh, and be labouring on, loving the appearance of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,

Eph. 5 : 25,27

I remain,

Heb. 9 : 24,28

Yours in His grace,

Matt. 24 : 42,44

K.PHILLIP

#### **THE RUNAWAY SERVANT OF GOD -4**

**BAKHT SINGH**

Jonah became angry with God for sparing Nineveh. How inconsistent Jonah was! On the one hand, he admitted the goodness of God, but on the other hand, he was angry with Him for saving Nineveh and said, "I knew thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to

anger and of great kindness", Then why should Jonah be angry? He was angry because his pride was hurt. He thought of himself and his own importance: "I preached in God's Name that the people of Nineveh would be overthrown. But God has forgiven them, and Nineveh still stands! What will the people think of me?" Jonah was concerned only about his own honour and self-respect, Just like Jonah, many servants of God think more of their own name and honour than of God's honour and Name; and consequently much of their ministry is only "in the flesh, and not in the Spirit". Jonah ought to have been thankful to the Lord for using him, even though he was so disobedient. On the other hand, he was angry with God because he thought his honour was affected.

Jonah was angry with God for another reason. He was full of ill feeling towards the people of Nineveh whom the God of grace and mercy had forgiven. He should have said, "Oh God, Your ways are higher than my ways; your love is higher than my love; that is why Nineveh is saved". But he did not; jealousy prevented Jonah from understanding God's ways. In the same way because of jealousy towards others, many servants of God murmur against Him.

Jonah went on a "death strike" against God, somewhat like "hunger strike" against the Government, so common in our days. He left the city and pitched a booth outside it, towards the east; and sat down. He was like some children who when they fail in their examinations refuse to take food. When their parents lovingly prepare them tasty food and to persuade them to eat, they get angry with them. Instead of apologizing to their parents for not working hard enough, they become angry with their loving parents.

The God of love knew that Jonah needed better protection from the sun than what the booth provided for him. In a matter of minutes, God "prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a

shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief" (Jonah 4:6). Jonah did not thank the Lord for His loving and wonderful provision of the gourd, nor did his anger against God abate in the least degree. Very patiently God took steps to bring Jonah to his senses.

"But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, ...And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted" (Jonah 4:7,8).

Jonah had not yet learnt the lesson provided by the gourd, and was still angry, thinking that God was wrong and he was right. We see the marvellous patience of our loving God Who tenderly rebuked him. "Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured...should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than six score thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?" (Jonah 4:10,11 ).

The Lord never makes a mistake. He uses many means, as He did with Jonah, to bring us back to Himself. When we run away from Him, He allows storms to overthrow us, but provides safety in "a whale". He shows marvellous loving kindness to us even when we create our own problems, and "go on strike" against Him. He suddenly provides "a gourd to protect our head", and as suddenly removes it to show us our utter dependence upon Him. When we obey God, He supplies all our needs and pays for all our expenses. But when we disobey Him, He uses both simple as well as extraordinary means to bring us to our senses, so that we may learn to live in the presence of God and be His co-workers.

May the Lord bless this message to our hearts.

(Concluded)

# Hebron Messenger

Published Fortnightly

VOI. XXXIX

SEPTEMBER 23, 2001

NO.19

## THE LITTLE SERVANT -MAID

"And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife" (2 Kings 5:2).

Strange though it may seem, the "little maid" referred to in this chapter became an outstanding channel for God's blessing to a dark and needy world. Men in high places were blessed through her witness, and, more importantly, we read how "a point of Testimony for God" was established in darkest enemy territory, -a place where the True and Living God would be worshipped from experience of His power. Because of this, the "little maid" of our story clearly foreshadows the ministry expected of God's Church in the days in which we live. Doubtless this was a privilege which she never dreamed of, but nevertheless it is true. We now hope to list a few outstanding characteristics of that child, -learning what we can from her example, and seeing some of the abiding principles on which God ever works.

In the first place we note that

### *SHE WAS A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND*

We read that she had been brought away from her home-country and set down in the land of Syria, -enemy territory indeed. All around her were those who spoke a foreign language, and whose habits and customs were entirely different from her own. This also is the case with true Christians today, and we are told that, in this world, we are but "strangers and pilgrims" (1 Pet.2:11 ). That, we would say, is a truth which *has to be deeply wrought within us* if ever we are to be effective instruments for God in our day.

We notice next that

### *SHE WAS AMONG THE "ARE-NOTS" OF THIS WORLD*

She was Just "a little maid" and we do not even know her name! This surely reminds us of Paul's word to the Corinthians. -"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound -the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised,

hath God chosen, yea, and things which 'are not', to bring to nought things that are; That no flesh should glory in his presence" (1 Cor.1 :27- 29). This must be very reassuring to most of us, and it explains why, sooner or later. God has to "bring us all down to size" in order to be able to make use of us. We do well to yield to these necessary disciplines and humiliations, remembering that It is the low river-beds that carry the water of Life.

We remind ourselves, now, that

### *SHE CAME FROM A BACKGROUND OF SUFFERING*

And what suffering it was; -very intense and very personal; -but altogether necessary for her allotted ministry! We recall her capture by the marauding bands of Syrians (and all that that would have entailed for a young girl!) (v.2). and then her being wrenched away from what was probably one of the few remaining godly homes in Israel. She was then carried away to distant Syria. -surely a place of awful loneliness for such a child. All this was suffering indescribable, and perhaps it is a mercy that the whole story was not written.

But there is another, and perhaps deeper, factor which must not be forgotten, -and relating to her still earlier years prior to the actual capture. We have to remember those *dark* times spiritually,- and nationally, into which she had been born, when enemies were in the ascendancy, and Israel at her lowest ebb. They were the days of wicked Ahab and his successors. - the Ahab who had done more to provoke God to anger than all the kings that were before him (1 Kings 16:33). Idolatry and false worship were everywhere, shaming the nation, and bringing a peculiar suffering to *anyone* who *still* had a heart for God. Those were the days of this "little maid", and she would have had her share in that deep grief. All this has its clear counterpart today, and we need only say that it is *suffering indeed* to be surrounded by a decadent "Christianity" (so called), where there is little or nothing of what could be called "true Testimony". But we suggest that all that, (as was the case with the "little child") could be

"essential background" for the kind of ministry God now needs. All through the Bible we see the principle that it is suffering that leads on to ministry, and the child in our story is just an example of that.

As for her actual "*ministry*" in Syria, we note that SHE SPOKE ABOUT ELISHA

We could even say that Elisha was, in fact, the sum total of her message to needy Naaman, - "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for *he* would recover him of his leprosy"(v.3). Our point is that she spoke about a *person*, -a person with power, -Elisha. And so indeed, must we, though, in our case, it is Someone Greater than Elisha! When originally commissioning His Church, the Lord said, "...ye shall be witnesses UNTO ME " (Acts 1 :8), and a survey of the messages given by the apostles at Pentecost, and thereafter, show that that is exactly what they did; - they spoke of Christ, -they recommended a Person, alive and powerful, just as the little girl had spoken of Elisha. (Had we the time, we could point out how that same Elisha was one of the clearest Old Testament types of Christ, and that in great detail, - but here we must refrain!) It needs to be stressed in our day that Christians have not been set in this world just to talk about "things", even Christian "things", but to bear witness to a CHRIST Who IS *real* to us, -certainly so if today's "lepers" are to be cleansed, and anew kind of worship planted in enemy territory .The ministry of the "little maid" certainly anticipates what Paul wrote centuries later; "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" (Eph.3:8). The question is, " Are we doing it? -do we *know* Christ enough?"

Finally, thinking of the "little maid", we would point out that

SHE HAD A TOTALLY UNOFFENDED SPIRIT

This, surely, is one of the great marvels of the story. Bearing in mind the sufferings she had endured, she could so *easily* have been bitter and resentful. She could even have harbored some secret delight when she saw the high Syrian officer smitten with leprosy, -feeling it was God's due judgment on him, and on his nation. But we find not the slightest suggestion of this; -only a deep heart- longing that Naaman be healed. Indeed, she had an unoffended spirit, and that is one reason why she was blessed and made a blessing. Speaking of one in a very similar situation, Christ said, "...blessed is he,

whosoever shall not be offended in me" (Matt. 11 :6). And, are we not reminded of this little girl when we read the well- known words in One Corinthians thirteen: "Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own. is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ...Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth" (1 Cor.13: 4-8).

That, surely, was the heart and spirit of the little maid,-totally unoffended, and only concerned for the welfare of others.

As we close, we would like to draw attention to the fact that the "little maid" was not even mentioned after verse three! What actually transpired when Naaman returned home from Israel is not told us, and we certainly do not *read* of any special "honours" being heaped upon the child. But it would certainly have been in keeping with her character to remain fully content with continuing obscurity. The Bible tells us that we are not to seek great things for ourselves (Jer.45:5), and spiritual Christians always feel themselves fully rewarded when Christ gets *all the* glory. Their language is always that of the Psalmist, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory"(Psa.115:1). Indeed, indeed, may God give us Christians like that "little maid", and a Light like hers within the Church, -today. '

C.R.G.

<b>LETTER</b>	Hebron,
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<b>AND</b>	A.P. India.
<b>PRAYER</b>	Telephone No.7613066
	10-9-2001

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the worthy and wonderful Name of our Lord arid Saviour Jesus Christ, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father and the Prince of peace. Praise be unto Him, Who made peace through the blood of His Cross, to reconcile all things unto Himself, even us that were sometime alienated and enemies in our minds by wicked works, to present us holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight. Hence let us be enabled to preach Him, "warning every man, and teaching everyman...that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus", whereunto Paul the Apostle laboured, according to

His working, "for his body's sake, which is the Church" (Isa.9:6; Col.1 :20- 22,24,28,29).

"...for his body's sake, which IS the church: Whereof I am made a minister..."(Col.1 :24,25). Elsewhere in 2 Cor.4:5, he mentions, "...ourselves your servants. for Jesus' sake...". When he wrote the Colossian letter from Rome, he looked beyond the prison walls and its painful prospects. He was, so to say, horizoned by the revelation of the Church which is His Body, for which he was rejoicing and willing to suffer all things. The Lord through His Holy Spirit, we pray, may kindle in us such a sound and solemn conception of His Church, that we too may follow His footsteps, for the upbuilding of the Church His Body, according to the measure of the gift of Christ we have been endowed with.

This leads us to continue our consideration of the distinctives of the Church-namely, A DISTINCT RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST, which is the third, the first two having been already mentioned in our two previous issues. We have already seen that the Church and the Kingdom are distinct in their constituency and in their history. Now let us consider how they differ in their relationship to the Lord Jesus. The Bible clearly speaks of the Church as the "Body" of Christ (1Cor.12:27; Eph.4:12) and as His "Bride" (Eph.5:24; Rev .19:7). But these terms are never applied to the Old Testament believers, nor to people who will be saved during great tribulation and the Millennium. This special privilege belongs only to the Church- that organism born on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and raptured before the awesome "day of the Lord" (1 Thess.4: 13 -18; 2Thess.2:1-12). It was the baptism of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus to the disciples (Acts 1 :5) that formed the Church. Later, Paul told the Corinthian saints that every person that believes on the Lord Jesus is baptized into the Body of Christ, as we read in 1 Cor .12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...". This is distinctly the Church truth. The people who will be saved in the great tribulation, and those who belong to the Lord in the coming Millennium will not be baptized into Christ's Body. All the same, we must remember that there is a basic oneness of God's people from every age and dispensation. True, only saints of the Church age are baptized into the Body of Christ, but believers of every age are saved through union with Christ.

Faith always was and always will be the means by which a person is united with Christ. Believers in the Old Testament times offered

sacrifices which pointed to the offering of Jesus on the Cross, just as we look back to what He did there. The disciples were on the Old Testament ground -for Christ had not yet died, risen, ascended and sent the Spirit -when He said to them, "I am the vine, ye are the branches" (John 15:5). They were already "IN CHRIST" through faith. Thus every one in every age is forgiven, and accepted by God on the same basis - by faith in the sacrificial death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev: 13:8). That. is why water baptism which portrays union with Christ, in death, burial and resurrection, will continue through the great tribulation and the Millennium. People of those eras will not be baptized into the BODY of CHRIST. But they will be saved through UNION with CHRIST. Their water baptism will be the outward tangible expression of this ONENESS with Christ, just as the ordinance is today (Matt.28:19,20; Mark 16:16; Rom.6:1-5). The Lord help us all to delight more and more in this distinct relation into which He hath called us by grace, and be willing to be made all things to all men" for His Body's sake". 17th September marks the completion of an year since our beloved Bro.Bakht Singh was promoted to Glory. Though no special gatherings are being hosted at Hebron you may have a brief time of thanksgiving in your own respective Assemblies to inspire us to emulate his life and example.

Please pray for the anniversary gatherings in the third and fourth weeks of this month at three of the sister assemblies of the church at Jehovah-Shammah. The saints and brethren at Berachah, Tadong, Gangtok (Sikkim), covet our prayers for all the preparatory work and plan and provisions for a mini convocation in their midst from 20th to 28th October, God willing, when Bros.Werner Tietze, Eddy Williams and others are expected to minister the word on the theme, "The House of God". Pray also for the anniversary meetings, God willing to be held at Rehoboth, Somajiguda, Hyderabad from 24th to 26th September.

Bro.Devadanam, God's servant at Giddalur has to undergo a by-pass surgery in Care Hospital, Hyderabad during the third week of this month. Pray that the Lord's hand may be upon His servant. in his old age, supplying all needs, medical and otherwise.

The other Camps and Convocations for which we are requested to pray for, are as follows. A Youth Camp, God willing to be held in Jehovah- Jireh, St. Thomas Mount area, from 24th to 28th -October,

specially intended to minister to the youth in our assemblies in the South, the theme being, "The House of God".

Brethren and saints at Beer-sheba, Ahmedabad covet our prayers for their Annual : Convocation, God willing from 10th to 18th November, and for all the preparatory work and provision concerning the same.

Elders and co-workers of EI-Shaddai, Kalimpong, are praying for the All India Holy Convocation, God willing to be held from December 15th to 23rd.

The Elders of Nepalese Mount Hermon, House of Prayer, in Hong Kong Limited would have us to pray for the visit and itinerary of Bro.Shammah, the servant of God at Darjeeling, God willing to be ministering at Hong Kong from 1st – to 26th September, and later touching South Korea, Brunei, and finally at Hong Kong from November 2nd to 5th.

It pleased the Lord to promote to Glory, God's servant Bro.Perimbam Paul, on 4th September after a period of hospitalisation at Bangalore. He was in fellowship with Bro.Bakht Singh and co-workers, from the inception of the Lord's Testimony at Jehovah-Shammah for nearly sixty years, although for the past few decades he had been labouring at K.G.F.only. He was indeed what Apostle Paul says in Col.4: 11, a fellow-worker "unto the kingdom of God, ...a comfort unto me" - even many. Let us continue to pray for the comfort of all the family members.

Praying that we all may be led on in His prepared paths and provisions, and according to His own purpose, to gather His harvest helping the saints to grow up into Him, the Head, even Christ,

Eph. 4:1-3, 11-13

I remain,

John 15 : 16

Yours in His grace,

Acts 6 : 4,7

K.PHILLIP

## PEACEABLE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BAKHT SINGH

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the lord delivereth him out of them all" (Psa.34:19). When we see many believers and God's servants passing through various afflictions, it is comforting to be reminded that the Lord has, promised to deliver the righteous out of all these afflictions, however painful and hard they may be.

It is good for us to note the purposes for which God does permit such painful afflictions to come upon us. The lord has many spiritual lessons to teach us through trials which He allows to come upon us.

FIRSTLY, these afflictions help us to understand the meaning of 'righteousness' which God wants us to have. We, as human beings, try to work up our own righteousness; and we fail miserably in the task. The lord wants us to possess His righteousness which alone will last through all eternity. This can only be attained when we accept the lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, and He becomes our righteousness. "...Christ Jesus...is made unto us...righteousness" (1 Cor.1 :30). To all appearances, Job was a perfect and upright man, one who feared God and eschewed evil (Job 1 :1 ). Yet, after he had gone through the mill of affliction, we hear this same Job say, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5,6). It was after Job had gone through several painful afflictions that he began to see that his true nature was sinful and corrupt, and realized that he could become righteous only by a personal experience with the holy, living and just God.

SECONDLY , through afflictions we can develop a strong active faith. In 1 Pet.1 :7, we read: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ".

(To be contd.)