

Hebron Messenger

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YOUR COMPANION IN TRIBULATION-3

A Scripture-taught Christian would never asks, "Why am I suffering?", but would rather ask, "Am I suffering aright?". Suffering is of two kinds, coming to three classes of people. First one is destructive suffering. "The sinner in rebellion against God" sows seeds of self-destruction. Like the prodigal son who went astray in a spirit of rebellion and self-dependence, sinners find them selves amidst great shame, want and hunger. When the wayward boy realised his condition he cried out, "I perish with hunger". Isaiah tells us about the idolater, who left the true God, "He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?" (Isa.44: 20).

The second class of sufferers are those who are born again but living a life of carnality. Their theoretical knowing has not become practical living. Their positional sanctification has not been worked out into practical sanctification. God has worked in His great salvation (Phil.2:13), but they have not "worked out" their salvation with fear and trembling. They have obtained "precious faith" as 2 Pet.1:1 tells us, through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. They are given exceeding great and precious promises (2 Pet.1 :4) but these, content with their initial experience have not given all diligence to add to their faith virtue; to their virtue knowledge; to their knowledge temperance; to their temperance patience; to their patience godliness; to their godliness brotherly kindness; to their brotherly kindness charity. These things were not added and therefore they turned barren and unfruitful (2 Pet. 1 :5-8).

1 Pet.4:15 tells us about four such people. The murderer who engages in character -assassination in the Body of Christ; the thief who robs that which is of Christ for his personal ends; the evil-doer who schemes the downfall of others and the busybody who interferes in other men's matters. The prodigal son could also be an illustration of the backslidden believer. In fact, the son fits in more to a believer than an unbeliever. Notice where the fall began. It began when the son was in the house, with the servants, under the father. The sheep may be lost in the wilderness but the coin and the son were lost right within the house. Going by this chapter of Luke 15 and the three stories, two-thirds of the lost people seem to be inside God's House, than outside it. The percentage of the lostness is more inside the house than outside. One in a hundred lost in the wilderness, but one out of ten pieces of silver lost inside the house. The percentage of lostness in the wilderness is one percent, while in the house it is 10% and coming to the climax story of the prodigal son, the percent age of lostness is 50%. How shocking! We confront an unpleasant truth here. More believers are lost inside the Church than outside it. These three stories speak of three aspects of a believer's rebellion; the sheep through self righteousness, the coin through self -pity and the son through self-will. Isa.53:6 tells us that "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way". Prov.14:12 tells us why we turn to our own way. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death". Such a self-righteous believer is difficult to reach out. Ecclesiastes4:13 tells us, "Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished". Secondly, "self-pity" of the coin. The hiddenness in the dust, in the darkness, right within the house is not a mark of humility but a mark of depression and self-pity. Some have so many arguments to tell us why they do not like to involve in the ministry of the church, than they have for involvement. They prefer silent martyrdom to active involvement. Thirdly, "self- will". The younger son, lived with the father, ate the best food, was served constantly by the servants but he failed to appreciate these privileges as they came to him freely by birth. As days go by, we can get used to the blessings of God that we ignore Manna and crave for the leeks and onions of Egypt. As the father

allowed the son to leave, God allows us in our mad course of self-will till we are back on the track saying, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against thee; I am no more worthy to be called thy son. Make me one of thy hired servants". Such a suffering did not contribute to the development of the son or to the glory of the father.

The third class of sufferers are those blessed people who suffer for the right causes, bringing glory to God, blessing to others and rewards to themselves. Such a holy company suffer atleast for four important reasons and John the beloved apostle belonged to this holy company.

The Bible tells us clearly that as believers we pay a cost for following Christ. Matt.5:11 tells us, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake". Here is suffering for the sake of Jesus Christ. It is a guilt by association. The Man called Christ was "despised and rejected of men" (Isa.53:3). "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John1: 11). "For neither did his brethren believe in him" (John 7:5). Christ was the most controversial figure in the days of His earthly ministry. He had a few friends but innumerable enemies. Those who followed Him in the early days of ministry by looking at His miracles, walked no more with Him. John 6 speaks to us about the miracle of the loaves, the multitude , who came seeking for Him, and also many disciples who went back and walked no more with Him (6:66). The chapter ends with a note of the betrayer Judas Iscariot w~ was one of the twelve. Forgotten by friends, deserted and betrayed by disciples. Christ trode the path of unpopularity alone. Such is the lot of every true Christian. There is yet to be born any other who lived so perfectly like Jesus of Nazareth. Yet His generation called Him "winebibber and gluttonous" (Luke 7:34), a man beside himself (Mark 3:21), a man who had a devil (John 7:20), a man who is an upstart (John 1:4) who tried to project himself, and a deceiver (Matt.27:63). The Bible says that, "...none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would' not have crucified the Lord of glory!" (1 Cor.2:8).

To associate with such a Christ is to invite ridicule and rejection of this world. Christ said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18). At the hour of trial Peter refused to own up his association with Christ. A damsel confronted Peter outside the palace to say; "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee". Peter said, "I know not what thou sayest"(Matt.26:69;70) Another maid said, "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth". Peter denied with an oath," I do not know the man" (Matt.26:71 , 72).

Today is the hour of rejection for Christ. If we do not suffer with Him, we have no share tomorrow when He comes in royal splendour to be seated on the Throne. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" (2 Tim. 2:12). To be ashamed of Christ is to be ashamed of the words of Christ. Not everything that goes by the Name of Christ goes by the Word of Christ. The presence of 25000 Christian denominations should tell us that very very few are Scripture-based. With newer cults surfacing in the horizon, the Word of, God is either ignored or altered or added to, to nullify it. "Whosoever therefore shall be-ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his I Father with the holy angels"(Mark 8:38).

The end times is marked with a new wave of emotionalism that claims to glorify Christ. The "blessing-oriented" revival is of great acceptance everywhere. The "laughing" revival, the "vomiting" revival, have found good congregations. To keep the crowd coming, the preacher must exercise " great care to keep the cross-centred, self-denying Christianity in the background.

Christian faith is no longer something to be dreaded of. The disciples suffered, saints suffered, martyrs died their deaths. It is all in the past. Christianity now is very attractive. The change of heart, yielding of the will, cleansing of the conscience-well, these are not priorities. Come to Christ, love Christ-your diseases flee, problems get solved. John, the apostle knew of a different faith of a different Christ than the one commonly preached and presented today. His association with Christ saw him exiled to the lonely

isle of Patmos. His brother James had an early martyr's death. Peter; had already been crucified, upside down. Stephen was stoned to death. Matthew was slain in Ethiopia. John Mark was dragged in the streets until he died. Philip was crucified and stoned. Why? All because, they chose to stay with Jesus. Blessed are those who suffer for His sake and for His Word's sake.

(To be contd.)

P.S

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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October 17, 2002

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and matchless Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, "even the death of the cross". Exalted far above all, He lives by the power of an endless life, a Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true Tabernacle which He pitched, able to save us to the uttermost. May the Holy Spirit work out this great salvation experientially in our lives, as we, moment by moment, yield ourselves to Him, to the praise of the glory of His grace (Phil.2:8,9; Heb.8:2; 2:1-3; Phil.2:12,13,16).

In continuation of our meditation on the life of Israel's king Saul; Samuel the prophet who anointed him, pays a tribute to his earlier humility. "When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel?"(1 Sam.15:17). Samuel is giving Saul credit for at least a measure of genuine humility. It is one thing to be little in our own eyes, but it is another thing to be out of our own "sight altogether. True humility is not thinking low of ourselves, it is not thinking of ourselves at all. What we need is not so much self-denial, as self-crucifixion and utter SELF-FORGETFULNESS. The perfect child is just as unconscious in the highest place as in the lowest, and the true spirit of Christ in us recognises ourselves as no longer ourselves, but so one with the Lord Jesus that we may truly say, "NOT I, but CHRIST liveth in me". "...by the grace of God I am what I am".

But what are we to learn from this combination of so many excellencies in one life and its ultimate failure and ruin? We are to learn that Satan's choicest wile is to mingle the good with the evil, and to cover his poison as a sugarcoated pill, because he knows that we would never take it in its unmixed and undiluted evil. Satan's choicest agents are those that are attractive and naturally lovely. Esau was more a winning man than Jacob naturally. You may be beautiful, you may be wise, you may be cultured, you may be moral, you may be useful, you may be noble and generous, and yet, withal you may be living for yourself, and at last like Saul be self-destroyed. All that Satan wants is to have a hand in that which would serve God's highest purpose, so that by some means it can be disrupted or destroyed. It is the MIXED lives that are doing the MISCHIEF. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"(2 Cor.6:17, 18).

Fourthly, the first test came to Saul in an hour of severe trial when, beleaguered by his enemies and deserted by all his soldiers, he seemed to be facing destruction (1 Sam.13:6-14). Waiting seven days for

Samuel to come and begin the battle by the usual sacrificial offering, Saul at last grew discouraged and impatient, and he presumed to take upon himself the priestly function which belonged only to Samuel, and to offer up the sacrifice without waiting for the prophet. As he was offering it, Samuel came and instantly pronounced upon Saul the terrible sentence, "Thou hast done foolishly.. now thy kingdom shall not continue..." (1Sam.13:13,14).

Many a life succeeds while all is successful, but in the hour of trial self always shows itself. Saul became discouraged, self-assertive and presumptuous and dared to take into his hands the things that belong to God. He usurped the Throne of God Himself and showed his true nature. He was a man of his OWN HEART and not of GOD'S HEART, who should do God's will and not his own, and thus be a true representative of Israel's true King. In the latter verse of the same chapter we read how, after Saul had shown himself in his real character, God immediately delivered the people out of their peril by two feeble men-Jonathan and his armour-bearer. Saul could not be trusted with God's work, and his persistent SELF-WILL would always hinder the WILL and WORK of GOD.

Note that not instantly did the crisis come in the life of Saul. God had let this spirit of SELF-work out to its full development slowly. And it was evident from this hour that Saul's life must fall, according to Samuel's prophecy. God willing, we may continue these meditations in our next issue.

The saints and brethren at Jehovah-Jireh, St. Thomas Mount, together with the elders of Jehovah-Shammah would have us to thank and praise the Lord for the abundant answers to prayer for the five day Youth Camp (residential) held in the above premises from October 11th. Pray for about 40 who made decision for salvation and the many who recommitted their lives to the Lord with a few who offered themselves for full time ministry. The weather was kept fair with food arrangements for all who attended. The ministry of Bros. Theodore, Timothy, and Paul Sudhakar, besides the testimonies of others was inspiring and instructive to appropriate the "fullness of the blessing of the gospel"(Rom.15:29), being the theme. Young and old, an average of six hundred, including many full time servants and brethren in responsibility from Chennai and South participated. Continue to pray for the ministry accomplished and for God's servant Bro. Glen with the brethren in responsibility in the ministry with him at Jehovah-Jireh.

It pleased the Lord to promote to Glory, Bro. Rajendra, God's servant who was labouring in Miraj, on the 13th October after undergoing. Chemotherapy for several months. Pray for the comfort of his wife Sis. Catherine and the only daughter.

Sis. (Mrs.) Yesurathnam, wife of late Bro. M. N. Yesurathnam, who had been associated with the Lord's work and His servants from the early days of this Testimony at Hebron, was called Home on the 16th October after a period of hospitalisation due to old age infirmities. Do pray for the comfort of the members of the family.

Thank and praise the Lord for answered prayers for the profitable and encouraging time granted to young brothers with Bro. Walter and others, who went on a nearly three week Gospel ministry , traveling by van from Hyderabad to Roorkee and adjacent hill areas, covering nearly 130 places distributing 8,000 Gospels with tracts. They reached Kanpur in the end to participate in the Youth Camp held there from October 8 to 13. The Lord blessed the ministry of Bro. Paul Sudhakar and others, fellow-workers from the North. Pray for the souls contacted in open air as well as those who decided for the Lord at the Camp.

Praying that we may all be granted grace to labour faithfully for the Testimony of the Lord, far and wide, and even labour more abundantly yet not we, but the grace of God with us as Paul speaks in 1Cor.15:10,

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

1 Cor. 3 .9

Matt. 9 : 37 ,38
Rev. 22 .11,12

**SHE REQUIRED NOTHING
BAKHT SINGH**

In this fragment "She required nothing", (Esther 2: 15) we see the secret of divine favour. Those who are going to be joined together as life partners in the presence of God and before His people have a longing to be blessed by God. The very fact that they want to be joined in the House of God shows their longing that the Lord may bless their union. They know somehow, unless God blesses their union, whatever they may do or possess will not bring true happiness in their lives. But God also wants His own divine laws to be fulfilled before He can bless them. He is the God of blessing, and He desires to bless us as He says in Heb.6:14, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee". That means, as far as God is concerned He is willing to bless us throughout eternity. It also means, He goes on adding blessing-to-blessing everyday, every month, every year and throughout the ages. There is no end to it. What a promise and what a blessing, and that blessing is upon all those who call upon God.

God is not a respecter of persons. Whatever He offers to one He offers to all, provided you are willing to abide by the divine laws. Whatever He gives is for eternity and in abundance. He wants to give us everything in fullness and abundance as we read in John 16:24. "Ask..that your joy may be full". These words were spoken to those disciples who were with Him for three and a half years. During those years, they saw many miracles performed by our Lord Jesus and were privileged to be with Him when He performed the miracles.

(To be contd.)

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YOUR COMPANION IN TRIBULATION—4

Every true Christian suffers for a cause. While suffering that comes to us through rebellion would prove detrimental, that which comes because of submission would always be developmental. While we cannot escape suffering in this sinful and wicked world, it must be our goal to suffer aright for the right reasons. We cannot escape the yoke in life. If we escape the yoke of Christ, we end up under the yoke of the world. Christ told the multitudes, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt. 11: 30). Christ never minimized the cost to recruit more followers. Here is a candid statement to those who would accept gladly the yoke of Christ. It is going to be easy and light in comparison to what the world would offer.

Unfortunately many would not believe this proposition. The arch-deceiver has poisoned many, even the very elect, to believe that the yoke of Christ is hard. Sin appears so attractive. Yet, as Sadhu Sundar Singh said, "One would discover at the end of his life that the yoke of Christ is far lighter than the yoke of the world". A Christian knows why he suffers. Matthew 5:11 speaks of suffering for Christ's sake. The second justifiable reason for suffering is found in Matt.5:10, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven".

John the Baptist was one such man. Herod Antipas the governor, wickedly coveted Herodias the wife of Philip, his brother. John condemned him for this and Herod knew that John spoke the truth. John told him fearlessly, "It is not lawful for thee to have her"(Matt.14: 4). Herodias who detested John had him arrested and finally persuaded Herod to have him killed. John paid a price for the sake of righteousness. It is increasingly becoming difficult for true Christians to survive in the modern society. Bribery, deception, exploitation are accepted as norms today in business and governmental transactions. A Christian gladly pays the cost knowing that in heaven he has "a better and an enduring substance" (Heb.10: 34). The writer of Hebrews gave this promise to those who endure a great fight of afflictions and reproaches.

The third noble reason is to suffer for the Gospel's sake (Mark 10:29,30). Jesus said, "...There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29,30). Suffering for His sake and the Gospel's. The Christian Gospel centers in the person of Christ. With Paul we stand up to say, we preach "Christ, and him crucified"(1 Cor.2: 2). Salvation is centred in the finished work of the person of Christ on the Cross of Calvary .The means to obtain it is by faith. Biblical faith is always a sequel to Biblical repentance. Therefore, the link is Repentance, Faith, and Salvation. The objective of faith and salvation is "holiness" of life.

The true Biblical Gospel demands repentance that is evidenced by a change of life. This change of life is the result of a change of basic motivation in living. Why do I get saved? The right answer to this question decides whether I have received the right Gospel or not. A man of God wrote; "There are basically two master dispositions in the world. There is the mind of Christ, which is the mind of a servant and is characterized by selflessness: and there is the mind of Satan characterized by selfishness. One is controlled by the will of God and oriented towards God's interests. The other is controlled by self-will and oriented towards self's interest".

Fourthly the Christian accepts suffering for the elect's sake. Paul in 2 Tim.2: 10 wrote, "...I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory". Paul longed to present "every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col.1: 28). Paul longed to die in Christ for it was a gain to him. He had a desire to depart. "Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you" (Phil.1: 24) was one of his reasons to remain on earth.

Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed God's word to God's elect people for forty years though he met with little success. All this while he endured from the apostate Judah, opposition, beatings and imprisonment. When Jeremiah ministered to the Jews in Palestine, Ezekiel ministered to the exiles in Babylon. He prophesied for atleast twenty-two years faithfully for the restoration and blessing of God's people.

Moses stood and suffered for the elect people of God. Heb.11: 24 tells us that Moses when he was come to years refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Moses gave up the lucrative royal position of ruler ship in the Egyptian palace to identify himself with the despised nation of slaves.

His sacrifice and suffering were least under-stood, much less appreciated by God's people Israel. They provoked him by their words. They decided even to stone him, elect a new captain and turn back to Egypt. The sufferings of Moses came, not mainly due to Pharaoh and the Egyptians but due to the people whom he sought to serve sacrificially-the elect Israel of God, yet he stood to serve them faithfully.

Suffering for the Son of man's sake (Matt.5:11), for Righteousness' sake (Matt.5:10), for Gospel's sake (Mark 10:29), and for the elect's sake (2 Tim.2:10) are glorious reasons to suffer for. Paul and John the Baptist, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Moses-who suffered tribulation may not have got their rewards in this present generation but Christ is coming to show the difference "between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not"(Mal.3: 18).

(Concluded)

P.S.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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November 4, 2002

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

May His Name be praised and glorified even, the Name of our Saviour, Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, the first and the last, Who hath in His goodness and mercy led us into the eleventh month of this year. Looking unto Him the author and finisher of our faith, let us run our race with patience, in the paths He hath foreordained for us, and seek to finish our course in view, for the year, to the praise of His glory (Rev.1:11; Heb.12:2; Eph.2:10; Acts 20:24).

The following are some matters for thanksgiving and praise as well as for prayer, as sent to us from our fellow-saints and other ministers of the Word associated with us in the furtherance of the Lord's Testimony. in the land and regions beyond.

Bro. T. E. Koshy of Syracuse, would have us to thank and praise the Lord for answered prayers, for the ministry he was enabled to fulfill at the Mini Convocation, together with brothers Dr. Sukumar of New Castle, George Lonen of Wales and Dyva Prasad of Tirupathi from 19 -22 September. Scattered believers of Indian background mainly, numbering about 150, gathered at the Hotel facility rented for the same purpose, by Bro. N. Jabez and other family members of late Bro. N. David of Malakpet, Hyderabad. Their contact number is 89977934 at Middlesex London. They covet our prayers for the work in U.K.

Bro. Koshy writes that he was enabled to minister in Germany, with Bro. Werner Tietze, and Czech Republic from October 2-14 and pass through Switzerland visiting the widow of late Bro. Karl Frei on his return. He would have us to pray for him and Sis.(Mrs.) Indira Koshy as they plan to visit Australia and New Zealand, from November 15th to December 8th, the last 2 days spending in Sydney, Australia, with Bro. Kenneth Timothy, John Hawes and others. He covets our prayers for the completion of Bro. Bakht Singh's biography soon.

Bro. and Sis. D. S. Christopher had a very refreshing time with Bro. and Sis. Golsworthy in Brisbane for a week, though sister is completely bedridden and unable to recognize or communicate. The following is an excerpt of dear Bro. Golsworthy's, message particularly to dear saints in India as cassetted and sent.

"Our burden and prayer for the Lord's people, especially the church in India is that they may be prepared as His true Bride and co-heir to share the Throne with the Lord Jesus Christ, in His coming Kingdom and Glory, according to His eternal purpose. But it takes much preparation upon this earth, through trials and sufferings and humble and willing service to Him, and His saints. This is a secret of the Lord, which we have to learn if we aspire to be with the King on His Throne, as promised in Rev .3:21-"with Me on My Throne". The story of Abigail being taken by David to be his wife, after the death of her husband Nabal reveals the principles that underlie this secret. (1 Sam.25: 3,39-42). She was of a beautiful countenance, and it may be said beautiful in character and virtues, inspite of the trying circumstances she had to undergo from her wicked husband who finally perished in his folly. When the day came she was called to become the wife of king David, and the high privilege to share his throne, she reveals her true inner beauty by all that she did and said, "the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Pet.3:4). "...she arose and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord".

"This should be the attitude and desire of every believer in order to be qualified for reigning with our Lord Jesus, as His holy Bride. We should be willing to wash the feet of the least of the servants or saints of the Lord, the least among our fellow-brethren. This is what the Lord did in that memorable night, when He instituted the Lord's Supper in John 13. In that night when He knew that He should depart out of this world unto the Father-"knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands" (John 13:3). He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments...girded him self... and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them..."(13:4,5) -an example for us to follow.

" I am still learning how to bow low at the feet of my precious Jesus daily and maintain a servant character for His people. How wonderful would be that church and fellowship of the saints, where everyone competes for the lowest place in the assembly, not to be leaders or elders or administrators. May the Lord bring you dear ones in India to this attitude of true servanthood in the plentitude of His great grace and love, which He manifested in becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross for us all. God bless you dear ones in India, Hebron, Jehovah-Shammah, Ahmedabad, and those high areas of Kalimpong in the North and the plains of the central South. God bless you all. Alleluia".

Let us remember the ministries being fulfilled in various cities of the country. Bro. Theodore Reginald is ministering in the Special meetings arranged for a week at Beer-Sheba, Ahmedabad, from the 3rd November. A three-day Youth Camp has been arranged at the rented facilities at Goregaon, Bombay, where brothers Paul Sudhakar, John Stewart, and Purnachandra Rao and others are sharing the ministry of the Word, and discussions and counseling from 4th November. Bro. Lazar Sen participated in the

Gangtok, Sikkim Convocation, held recently after his return from America. He is ministering the Word in interior Nepal at Kutihawa till 5th November, and then spends time in the assemblies of Nepal D. V. Though all these meetings will be over by the time these lines reach you, pray for the Word ministered and the souls who responded.

Bro. M. Jeremiah, Elder at Jehovah-Shammah, Chennai covets our prayers as he is proceeding to Andamans by 15th November, God willing, for the completion of the Prayer House construction. The believers there have been praying together with our brother for the dedication meetings, besides a mini Holy Convocation, God willing by January end or so.

The passing of the Anti-Conversion Bill by the Government of Tamilnadu is a matter of great concern to us all and Christians throughout the state and the country as a whole. So we covet the prayers of you all so that we may still have the wisdom and enablement to communicate the Gospel in possible ways to reach the hungry and needy souls.

Please pray for the marriage of Bro. Joseph, second son of late Bro. Solomon Prasad of Tukaram Gate, Secunderabad (younger brother of Mrs. K. Phillip) with Sis. Phebe, daughter of Bro.C.Yesudas of E.C.I.L. God willing on Thursday the 14th of November at 10 A.M. in Horeb Prayer House, Tarnaka, when Bro. G. T. Benjamin and Bro. K. Phillip would be sharing the ministry in solemnization of the wedding.

Bro. G. Moses, God's servant and the saints of Zion, Godavarikhani, would have us to thank and praise the Lord for the acquisition of the land for the construction of the Prayer House as well as for the dedication service of the new Prayer Hall held on 14th September with Bros. K. Phillip and G.T. Benjamin ministering the Word.

Praying that the Great Shepherd of the sheep may continue to work in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, and perfect that which concerneth us, for His glory and for the edification of the saints amongst whom we are continuing in fellowship,

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

Heb. 13: 5, 6, 20, 21

Phil. 1: 6

Psa.138: 8

SHE REQUIRED NOTHING—2 BAKHT SINGH

In Luke 10 we see that the disciples were sent by the Lord two by two, and they also performed miracles, and came back rejoicing to tell the Lord, "even the devils are subject unto us through thy name". But the Lord knew, that none of those things could make their joy full. He did not want them to take pride in the miracles they had performed. So He said, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). When you are sure that your name is found in the Book of Life, only then, your life can be blessed abundantly. That is only possible when we are given the gift of Eternal life. That is why the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world as He said in John 10: 10. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly". Also in John 6:47, He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life". New life will give you new joy. When the new life comes into us the Lord will teach us all His Divine laws. The Divine life will

make you content and give you true inward peace as the Lord said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid". Whatever we receive from the world in the form of wealth, gold, silver, honour, position and prosp'3rity is only for a short time. You find your earthly joy melting away after you have received what you have desired. But there is a joy which becomes more and more in suffering and trials. It does not depend upon our health, position, wealth or knowledge. That is why we read that small fragment from God's Word, "She required nothing".

The story of Esther is an old story and a true story .It took place about 2000 B.C. It is a true story of how a woman named Esther was brought in favour with a great king named Ahasuerus. We are told that many young women were brought before him one by one. Before they were presented before the king, they were told that whatever they desired they could ask for it and they would be given. They were told, "You bring your requirements, and you will receive them freely without any restriction, whether you require garments, gold, silver, or things for purification, ask for them and take them". Nothing was withheld from them. Here we are told in verse 15, that Esther required nothing. Other women had a long list daily. But Esther required nothing. What a miracle for a person to say, " I want nothing". I do not know of any one who has said, "I do not want anything". Some are never satisfied with whatever they are given. You may give your wife 100sarees, she will ask for 10 more and some more. They want something new every month. You may give them any kind of jewels. They are not satisfied. Some husbands take all their salaries to their wives. They wait for the payday of their husbands. If the husband gives Rs.25/- less, she will question him, "What happened? Why this month Rs.25/- less? Where did you spend it and what did you do with it and to whom did you give it?" And the whole salary will be spent within 10 days and they want more money. They are not satisfied whosoever they are.

Here the story says, when Esther's turn came she required nothing. The result was, she found favour. Esther found favour from all who, looked upon her. Not only was she brought in favour with the king, but she found favour with every one in the palace. She became the most God- fearing queen, and through her life and faith the whole nation of Israel was saved. She learned that secret, how to be content and how to be satisfied. She knew that nothing in the world could satisfy her. However attractive the world may be, it could never satisfy her. There are so many men and women, who think by eating and drinking or by buying garments or gold or silver or jewels, they can get pleasure.

(To be contd.)

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