

Hebron Messenger

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NO.1

Is it your NEW YEAR?

The ushering in of a New Year is a welcome event to most people.. Lest they miss the excitement of the transition of the old into new, many people keep awake through the night of the last day of the last month. The celebration wanes off by the end of the day and one discovers that nothing has become new except the calendar that has replaced the old. Old problems and previous sorrows linger on. The oppressive employer, the nagging neighbour the disharmony at home, the uncertainties of the future are still there. What newness can be brought in just by a good meal, go04dress and the sound of crackers that rend the air? It is another vanity that vanishes thin into the air.

The walls may receive anew paint but the brick and the mortar inside remain the same. With the fears and sorrows still locked in the heart, what newness can come just by wearing something brand new?

The history of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt thirty-four centuries ago was just that. Sighing and sorrow, poverty and slavery were their lot under Pharaoh and his taskmasters. Months and years rolled by. The tyranny of Pharaoh would not lessen nor the tears of their tormented souls cease. What joy, what newness could there be to a soul in slavery and sorrow? The universal disease called SIN has done just that to the whole world. Sin appears a pleasure to begin with, but slowly it turns into a power. The monsters of lust, greed, selfishness, deception and envy, rule and ruin the hearts of people. "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant (or slave) of sin", the Lord Jesus said (John 8:34). Sin brings the wages of eternal death (Rom.6: 23). Sin brings guilt and guilt brings unrest. Fear and frustration cause people to go to the extreme act of committing suicide.

Hebrew slaves cried in desperation. Their tormentors were too strong for them. God in heaven saw their plight and sent a saviour in the person of Moses. God did this to deliver a small community of people. Later God sent a global Saviour in the Person of Jesus of Bethlehem. No human is concerned or capable enough of solving the sorrows of men. The Scripture says, "...he saw that there was no man...therefore his own arm brought salvation" (Isa.59: 16). In the Person of Jesus on the cross, God stretched out His arm of sympathy and salvation.

Deliverance to the Hebrew slaves came not by signs and wonders that Moses performed. Victory came through the blood of the slain Passover lamb. This incident is recorded for us in Exodus 12 and this is one of the "cross" chapters in the Old Testament. "...we have redemption", Eph.1 :7tells us "through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace". Salvation is in Christ. He is our Passover Lamb. Salvation is offered free for the recipient but for the Donor, it did cost Him His all. Deliverance demanded the blood of Jesus.

Salvation is conditional. Though Christ is the potential Saviour of all, He is the practical Saviour of only those who repent and believe on Him. He is "the Saviour of all men", Paul tells us, "specially of those that believe" (1 Tim.4:10). The belief or faith envisaged here is a special kind of faith. It is not merely intellectual -a mental grasp and acceptance of objective, historical truths. It is a faith that comes with repentance. Repentance that is Biblical involves two things. Firstly, there is a turning away from sin in godly sorrow and secondly, there is a turning to and a yielding to God and His will. Biblical faith is always a sequel to Biblical repentance. The Hebrew slave who applied the blood of the slain lamb was

spared and the one who did not, perished. The slaying of the lamb alone did not bring salvation but the applying of its blood did. God did not save the Hebrew slaves because they deserved it. God does not save anybody because he or she deserves it. Salvation is always by 'grace'. Salvation is God's unmerited favour to undeserving sinners.

The work of redemption -the slaying of the lamb and the application of its blood -brought a new start to the life of a Hebrew slave. The years that had gone before were left uncounted and unvalued. Divine dating begins with salvation. "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Exo.12:2). God values only Redemption years and not calendar years.

Have you begun with God? January firsts may come and go. They have no real and lasting significance. In the life of the Hebrew slave, redemption through the blood marked a new beginning.

Such a beginning is characterised by four aspects. Firstly, it was a beginning of their liberty from all bondage. God in His mercy freed the slaves. Secondly, it marked the beginning of their separation. Salvation must be followed by separation. Thirdly, it was the beginning of God's continual provision. It was a marvel that God fed two to three million people in the wilderness by raining manna from heaven. Fourthly, it marked the beginning of revelations regarding Himself, His Law and His Sanctuary.

God desires to initiate such a fourfold beginning in your life and mine. Christ was made sin for us on the cross (2 Cor.5: 21), only to initiate such a new year in our lives. Have you begun with Christ a NEW YEAR?

P .S.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,
Golconda Crossroads,
Hyderabad -500 020,

A.P., India.
Telephone No.27613066
January 3, 2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and mighty Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the Almighty, the One Who "remainest", Who is the same, yesterday and today and forever, and whose years shall not fail, as we read in Hebrew 1: 11, 12. As we have entered into the New Year, 2004, not knowing what the year may bring forth, and not knowing the way ahead clearly, let us look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and receive direction from Him, in running the race set before us (Psa.32:8). He will hold our hand and guide us with His counsel. He will guide us continually, even unto the end (Psa.73: 23,24; Isa.58: 11; Psa. 48:14).

From the beginning of the New Year, let us be assured that we are coming closer to the end of our spiritual race, and so let our eyelids look straight before us to that blessed hope (Prov .4:25; Tit.2: 13). There is one who has gone before. He is our forerunner, Who has entered within the veil (Heb.6: 20). In Him we have a strong refuge and sure hope. He is able to perfect that which concerneth us (Psa.138:8).

Looking unto Jesus would mean a look of faith and a love for His House, -a priority to dwell there, behold His beauty and also inquire in His temple, as David the man of God says in Psalm 27:4. At the beginning of the Psalm, David recognises the Lord as being his light, his salvation and strength, and hence he adds, "...of whom shall I be afraid...my heart shall not fear... in this will I be confident" (Psa. 27:1,3).

As we start the New Year, let the same choice of David govern and guide us, keeping the Lord as our joy, goal and prize. He alone has the answer to all our problems. He is the only One Who can meet all our needs in a troubled world of calamity and uncertainty. In the past year we had been in the habit of looking at ourselves or others, at circumstances, surroundings, possessions, positions, even achievements or defeats. We might have been tempted, struggling and striving, grieving, murmuring and complaining, going in circles rather than going forward. Let us look unto Jesus our Lord now, and receive life and love, peace and power as well as grace and glory from His fullness and press forward toward the mark of the high calling of God in Him (Phil.3: 14).

We live in a troubled world. Many people live in the fear of the powers of darkness which seek to bring destruction and devastation world -wide. It is clear from this Psalm that David also had reason to fear the wicked -those enemies who sought to take his life. The confidence of faith in the protecting grace of God, however, gave him a blessed assurance that the Lord was ever present in his life, and he had no cause to fear. In the first Motto Text for the year, "I will never leave thee" is a deep assuring promise of the Lord and hence we also must learn to say in the words of Heb.13:6, "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me".

As we seek to remain in this assurance of faith, it is important that our hearts should be focussed upon Jesus Christ Himself, the "author and finisher of our faith" (Heb.12:2). The Psalmist reveals the one thing that was his heart's desire, - to dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of his life and be protected and preserved. This is a significant lesson we should learn to apply to ourselves.

Is our first priority, life in Christ, or is it life in this world? If our treasure is in heaven, then we can say with Paul, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil.1: 21). If our first concern is this present world, then we too will know fear, because we lack the CONFIDENCE of a CHRIST - CENTERED life. We can understand this point more clearly if we consider the purposes that David envisioned for living in the House of the Lord.

As we dwell in the House of the Lord, we are enabled to take delight in the beauty of our King, the heavenly Bridegroom. We behold the radiance of His love for us. The world saw no form or comeliness in Him Who was indeed a Man of sorrows. We perceive His love, which constrained Him to lay down His life for us, and constrained by that unique love of Christ which passeth knowledge; we may also learn to lay down our lives for the brethren (1 John 3: 16). Amidst the increasing darkness in this present evil world, let us pray that the Lord would give us also, what He gave to David -a heart filled with faith, hope and love.

As was David, God's children are established upon the Rock and hid in the secret of His tabernacle. In Psa.27:6, David experiencing such a lifting within,-lifted above the enemies to a place of security says "...I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord". As we read in Col.3: 3, our lives are also "hid with Christ in God". There is no better place of refuge, and as joint -heirs with Him (Rom.8: 17), we may accept that the present sufferings are meant for our glory, when Christ our life shall appear. Then we shall appear with Him in Glory even to receive a CROWN of LIFE as He promises in Rev.2: 10. The Lord writes this word upon our hearts.

Let us thank the Lord for the year -ending ministries fulfilled in the many assemblies throughout the land and pray that He may accomplish His Word according to Isa.55: 11. In Hebron, Hyderabad, it was a huge

gathering of saints in the Watch night service, when Bros. Koshy and Paul Sudhakar shared the Word. The worship and fellowship went on to about 4.30 a.m. In Jehovah -Shammah, Chennai, about two thousand gathered for worship and Breaking of Bread, closing with the sharing of God's promises, followed by a light refreshment. The ministry ended by 2 a.m.

Pray for Sis. Esther Prabha, handmaiden of the Lord in the ministry and fellowship at Hebron, as she has undergone a major operation of the lower abdomen, and has to undergo chemotherapy. Please continue to pray for the Lord's healing touch upon Sis. Joan Aaron at Hebron who is suffering from cardiac problem with its severe side effects.

Pray for the ministry fulfilled by Bro. G.T. Benjamin at Botswana for ten days and his return to Hebron. Pray for the Silver Jubilee Meetings arranged at Jehovah -Jireh, St. Thomas Mt. Chennai, God willing, from 7th January .Bro. Neville Jayasundara will minister the Word with Elders from Jehovah - Shammah participating and leading the gatherings.

Praying that the goodness and mercy of the Lord may follow us, as we dwell in His House, and make the year profitable and prosperous, according to His purpose in Christ,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP
Psa. 27: 4, 13, 14
Col. 3: 1 -4
John 16: 13, 14,33

SECRET OF EFFECTIVE SERVICE BAKHT SINGH

Scripture portion: Exodus 3

In this well-known story from God's Word, we are being made to see how each and everyone of us as God's witness can become fruitful and even abundantly fruitful in God's service. All of us as fellow-believers are called by God to a high heavenly calling. He not only forgives our sins but He also wants us to serve Him as His co-workers. In two places in the Scriptures we are called God's co-workers. "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain"(1Cor.3:9; 2 Cor.6:1). That privilege is not given to angels even though they are mighty angels, and that is why nowhere in the Bible do we read of angels as God's co-workers. God has called us not only with a heavenly calling but with a high heavenly calling, to build for Him His glorious, everlasting, heavenly Sanctuary. That mystery cannot be understood by us, by any kind of worldly knowledge, or wisdom. By faith we accept it, and by the same faith we want to be prepared for our part in it. God wants us to be filled with His fullness and become His everlasting Habitation in return.

From the story of Moses we see how God prepares us for His ministry. First of all, we see that our human zeal cannot make us useful for God. Moses tried to serve God with his zeal and met with failure. Even though he made a great sacrifice in refusing to be called Pharaoh's daughters son, and showed much zeal to serve the people of God and help them, he came across failure. He had to run away and hide himself in a desert with his father-in-law for forty years. During that period of forty years, he forgot what all he learned in Egypt. Even though the man of God was so mightily taught in all the wisdom of the Egyptians

and was mighty in words and in deeds, God could not use him. To make him forget all what he learnt in Egypt, God had to take him away from Egypt. Thus he became empty, before God could use him mightily and fruitfully.

Then God gave him a definite personal experience of his holiness. That is how the story begins in Exodus chapter 3. None of us can be useful to God by our human qualifications, wisdom, or cleverness. First of all we need to have a personal experience of the loving and the living God. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I" (Exodus 3:2-4).

By living in the desert with his father -in - law for forty years, Moses became like a dry bush. Everything that he learned from the great teachers of Egypt was forgotten by him completely. Only then he could become entirely dependent upon God and God's word to serve Him and follow Him.

Then he saw the fire in the bush, and that bush was not consumed. He was made to see how God is holy. God wants us to be indwelt by Him. In a symbolic way it speaks of the experience of new birth. We know that in our flesh dwelleth no good thing (Rom.7:18). According to God's standard, He wants us to have everlasting righteousness. Only then we can become His co -workers for eternity in His heavenly kingdom. This burning bush and the divine fire, speak of the righteousness of God -God's own righteousness. According to Rom.1 0:3,4 there is God's righteousness and there is our righteousness. Moses tried to become righteous before God by his own wisdom and zeal for his people. No one could find any fault in his life at that time. He was a man of great sacrifice. Always he had some way to help his people. That way he became self -righteous. What we do in self -righteousness cannot please God. When Moses saw the fire, he understood how he had to become righteous before God.

Now the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is our righteousness, not our Bible knowledge, nor the rituals in which we take part. "But of him are ye in, Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption"(1 Cor.1: 30). By that righteousness alone we can stand before God for eternity.

Now, having become righteous, Moses heard God's voice (Exo.3: 4). After we become righteous by God's righteousness, we have to receive heavenly, definite commission to serve God in some capacity. Many believers think of salvation only as coming to meetings and going back home, or having their family prayers morning and evening or giving some money for God's service. They are satisfied with these things but do not make any inquiry from God or find out His purpose in saving them. The very fact that the Lord Jesus Christ gave all that He had to be our Saviour, is proof to us that He had a high purpose in doing so. According to Col.1: 16 the Lord Jesus Christ is the creator of the whole universe. He created it by one word. He created it from nothing (Psa.33:6 and Heb.11 :3). But to be our Saviour and Redeemer He had to empty Himself as we read in 2 Cor.8:9. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich"

(To be contd.)

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NO.2

SPIRITUAL DELUSION

Malachi 3:13- 18; 2 Thessalonians 2

One of the marks of the end days is delusion. The Lord Himself will send delusion among His people in the last days for two reasons. Firstly, because they do not love the truth. "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of truth..." (2 Thess 2:10). In 2 Timothy 4:3,4 Paul says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables". If a man has itching in some part of the body, he wants to scratch it. If someone scratches they have a nice feeling. In the last days people will have itching ears. These days there are scratching preachers who leave out the truth and tell fables. They have turned their places of worship into places of entertainment because they are pleasure- loving. Secondly, God will send delusion because people do not love righteousness. Thousands of people want to go to heaven, but they love unrighteousness. God wants them to put away every unrighteousness and untruth in their lives but they are not willing. For these two reasons the Lord will send delusion.

We are living in such days where we can be easily deceived. In the days of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Pharisees were the most religious people, but they were spiritually deceived by delusion. The church at Laodicea also was in delusion. They thought they lacked nothing, but in reality they were poor, naked, blind, wretched and miserable (Rev.3: 21). This is the mark of the last days. In Matthew 7:22,23 we read how in the last days many will come and tell the Lord how many things they did in His Name. But He will say, "I never knew you". They lived in spiritual delusion: They will realise this only on the last day. If you do not love the truth, and if you do not love righteousness, you will be caught up in that delusion. You may think that you are alright, but on the last day, you will realise that you were in delusion.

In the days of Malachi people lived in spiritual delusion. Among God's people, only a handful of them feared God, and thought about Him, as we read in Malachi 3:16. "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name". Not only were their names recorded but they were made His jewels (v.17). The Lord is coming back for such people. Those who have truly feared God and escaped delusion will be His Bride. We shall now see three things about the fear of God. (1) Marks of those who really fear God. (2) How we can have this fear, and (3) Rewards for those who really fear God.

MARKS OF THOSE WHO FEAR GOD

(1) They never doubt the love of God. Those who do not fear God doubt His love. "I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Where in hast thou loved us?"(Mal.1: 2). They never truly put their trust in the love of God. When they see other people prospering and they themselves having many problems, they begin to doubt God's love. Many young people doubt the love of God, if they do not get their desired seat in colleges or universities. When they see people getting jobs by giving bribes and themselves not having a job, they say, where is God? When their friends get married by giving dowry, and they are left out because they do not give dowry, they doubt God's love and care. The children of Israel also said like that.

"Wherein hast Thou loved us?" God showed His love on the cross of Calvary. The Lord Jesus Christ shed His blood for us to redeem us. He made us members of His body, which is the temple of God. There is no need to feel jealous about worldly people.

In Psalm 73, the Psalmist also made the same mistake. He began with a clean heart and also said, "Truly God is good" (v.1). After some- time his heart was filled with envy, by seeing the prosperity of worldly people. He forgot that they had only temporal things. In verse 13 he said, "Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence". That is how some believers also think. Attending meetings is in vain, prayer is in vain, everything is in vain, so they stop going to God's House. But the Psalmist, instead of doing that went to the sanctuary of God (vs.16, 17). When he went there he understood the future of worldly people and his own future. What is the future of worldly people? Their end is "destruction" (v.18). What is his own future? "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory" (v.24). If you really fear God, no matter what He allows in your life, however severe your trials may be, you will never doubt God or His love. If you are not secure in His love, you can never truly love Him. Rather, for small things also you will begin to murmur. In 1 John 4:19 we read. "We love him. because he first loved us". Those who fear God are secure in His love.

(2) Those who fear God truly, honour Him. The children of Israel thought that they feared God and honoured Him, but the Lord said, "...if then I be a father. Where is mine honour?" (Mal.1: 6). They brought offerings to God, which were blind, lame and sick. They offered God something, which cost them nothing. So God said, "And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if ye offer the lame and sick. is it not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? Saith the Lord of hosts" (Mal.1: 8). Our God is great and His Name is great, as we read in verse 11. "For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles~ and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts". To honour God we should bring pure offerings, and offerings in righteousness (Mal. 3:3). If our offering is not righteous, He will not accept it. He will treat it as dung and spread it upon our faces (Mal.2: 3).

Secondly, God wants spiritual sacrifices. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God. thou wilt not despise"(Psalm 51:17). If our offering has to be acceptable to God, it must come from a broken heart. How can you know you have a contrite heart? David wrote this Psalm after he repented of his sin. Very often we ask forgiveness from God, but we commit the same sin again. If you have a broken and contrite heart like David. You will never again do the same sin. God wants from us the sacrifices of a broken heart.

Thirdly, according to Rom12: 1. We have to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice. Holy and acceptable to God. If we have truly offered our bodies to God, no lie or angry words will come out of our mouth. In the same way all other members also will be used for God only. If that is not true, our singing of songs unto God and putting our offerings in the offering box will not be acceptable to God. It will be like dung to Him. When we offer something to a big officer, we carefully examine everything and give the very best. Those who are in spiritual delusion and do not fear God. Do not offer righteous offerings. Contrite hearts and living sacrifice of their bodies.

S.J.A.

(To be contd.)

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,
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Telephone No.27613066
January 12, 2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and prevailing Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Lamb without blemish, without spot, Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world for our redemption (1 Pet.1 :20). In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace. In Him we are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit (Eph.1: 7; 2:22). The risen, exalted Lord and Christ has entered upon a building programme, predetermined before the foundation of the world, since the coming of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, as He had promised to His disciples, -the building of His Church, concerning which He spoke to Simon Peter, for the first time in Matt.16:18, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it".

Though through carnalities and rivalries, disorders and divisions. Besides legalism, mysticism and spurious spirituality, the gates of hell have been assailing the true Church even from apostolic times, the Lord has laid the unassailable and unshaken foundation as well as provision for the completion of His Church. Through His cross. He triumphed over satanic hosts, principalities and powers through His cross. May the Lord enable us all to become partakers of His triumph progressively and promote the building and beautifying of His Church, hastening His appearing.

"I will build my church", is taken as the central Motto Text for this year, and may the Lord find you and me as true builders according to His pattern. It will be so only when the cross of Jesus Christ is brought by the Holy Spirit right to the root and foundation of the life of each one of us. This is of course fundamental and foundational. And thereafter a continuous "in working and out - working", in and through us by His Holy Spirit.

As believers we believe in the Holy Spirit. Very many desire to know the Holy Spirit as a growing reality and power in their lives. But it should really be understood and recognized that the Holy Spirit is committed and wedded to the cross. His coming awaited the work of the cross. Only after the symbolic representation of the cross in the death, burial and resurrection with Christ by baptism, did the Holy Spirit take His place in power in the lives of the first believers. The taproot of everything that the cross was meant to deal with is the SELF -LIFE, the self-principle, the New Testament word for the same being, "the flesh". Thus the Holy Spirit leads those under His government into the experiences which are calculated to expose and bring to the cross the self -life of the child of God. It is a primary and inseparable part of the Holy Spirit's business to make good and real the meaning of the cross.

This is not a popular truth, but the cross is the gateway to fullness, and the deeper the cross, the greater the measure of divine life, power and light. This is the only way for things to be as they should be, and as God wishes them to be. Life, food, light, fellowship and much more depend upon the degree in which the cross is a reality in the individual and the company. This touches the whole realm and range of Satan's power and work. Power and authority over him is inseparable from the cross. Therefore he will do everything to undercut, to set aside, to belittle and discredit the cross. The Person of Christ and the cross of Christ have been the two grounds of the most bitter controversy in the history of Christianity or Christian work. Of course, they are really one thing. It is the Person that gives the cross it's real meaning, and it is the cross that vindicates the Person, provided that by the cross is meant the death, burial and resurrection.

When we say about the cross, and its fullness in several aspects of our faith, that is, abundance of life, food, light, fellowship, finance and victory over Satan -it is not just theory or idealism. We have seen it in reality, from the life and ministry of late Bro. Bakht Singh and the course of things in many true Christian communities. This calls for a further very important reminder. It has to do with what we may call the spread over of the cross. The Scriptures cited from the letters to the churches at Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Philippi, Colosse and other places make it quite clear that the cross of Christ something that has to become very real in the experience, and not only in the doctrine of the believer. But who could survive the cross in what it meant in the case of Jesus Christ? It rent, devastated, and desolated Him, soul and body, heart and mind. For Him it was a going into outer darkness and forsakenness. All the eternal agony was concentrated in a few hours and a last terrible moment. There is no other creature in God's universe, who could go through that and survive.

Thank God, no other creature is ever required to go all that way. He went it for us. And yet, that does not mean, that the whole teaching concerning our being "united together in the likeness of His death" (Rom.6: 5), is a contradiction. Nor does it mean that the cross is only an objective, historical, doctrinal matter. Paul spoke of "Always bearing about in the body, the dying of the Lord Jesus" (2 Cor .4:10). The working of His death in the history of a believer, and in a local church (if it is on a right foundation) will be progressive and periodic. The law of nature is, more life, more fruit, more growth, by recurrent winter, alternating experiences of death and life, and every cycle unto increase. This is the law of the cross. The theory of the cross is universally held. We sing about it, "It is the way of the cross". It is the way the Master went and should not the servant tread it still? So the meaning of the cross is to displace one entire kind, in order to make room for another.

One of the greatest enemies to things being as they should be, as God wishes them to be and could be -is our SUPERFICIALITY, externality. This is an age of quick returns, instant makes, easy gains, least trouble, everything with as little effort and cost as possible. Depth is a lost dimension. Stamina is a minus quality. This superficiality is costing the church and the believers very dearly, and so there is artificial life, artificial food, artificial fellowship, which will not go through in the time of testing.

There is such a depth, power and fulness in the cross of Christ as to spread over all time and eternity. The Apostle who saw it, when at the end of the fullest life, still cried, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"(Phil.3: 1 0). And the Lord would have His Church built and beautified through all such, to present Her unto Himself. May the Lord be pleased to work in us both to will and to do, to accomplish His pleasure, to the praise of the glory of His grace.

Bro. Koshy wants to thank all the believers for their prayers for the ministry fulfilled in Beersheba, Ahmedabad, from 7th to 11th January. A few saints from various assemblies like Baroda, Surat, Dohad, Anand, Rajkot and other places attended. Souls were saved, backsliders were restored and several recommitted their lives to follow the Lord all the way. Seeing the spirit of the meetings, Bro.Lazar Sen commented that it was like a mini convocation. Please continue to pray for Gujarat as they are facing more than their share of trials and persecution, that the Lord may do anew work throughout that state in this New Year .Let us claim this year's Motto Text, "I will build my church", that the Lord may truly build His church in Gujarat and other places.

Pray for the Youth Camps and retreats, which are being held at various centres of the land including Kalimpong, God willing, during the second week of January.

God willing, the Telugu version of Bro. Bakht Singh's official biography will be released at Hebron, Hyderabad, on the 18th of January when Bro. Koshy also would be present before he returns to U.S.A. Let us thank the Lord for all who have diligently laboured to have it put into Telugu and printed through the O.M. Publishers. The book is priced As.119/-.

Praying that we all be enabled to fulfill our ministry and stewardship faithfully and-holily for the upbuilding of His Church, earnestly embracing the cross of Christ,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP
Gal. 6 .14
2 Cor. 4 .7-12
Matt.16 .18,21, 24

SECRET OF EFFECTIVE MINISTRY -2
BAKHT SINGH

The Lord Jesus Christ left His glory and Kingdom and came down to this earth. He offered His whole body to be broken and blood to be shed. He became poor, emptied Himself and gave all, to be our Saviour. That itself is a proof to us that our Lord had a very grand and lofty purpose in saving us and calling us to Himself. In the beginning, Moses never knew why God called Him. But he knew God had spoken to him and called him by his name saying, "Moses, Moses". God's call to me for His service became clear to me two years after my salvation, but He spoke to me about His service soon after I was born again. A month after my conversion I went for a meeting. Nobody knew me there. As an utter stranger I was standing there outside the church building. One tall man came near me and enquired who I was. I told him, "I am also a Christian". He said to me, "Why don't you go to India and preach the Gospel?" I said to him, "Sir, I am an engineer. I spent so many years studying engineering. To make things worse, I stutter and stammer. To make things still worse, I am shy. How can such a person be a preacher?" He said nothing afterwards. But somehow these words came to me again and again. "Why don't you give up engineering, go to India and preach the Gospel?" I could not understand why, but I knew that the same voice was coming to me. Only after two years I could fully realise what God had called me for. So after we are born again, to have a desire to serve the Lord is good. We realise that the Lord wants us for something, and we have to pray definitely, "O Lord, make your call clear to me. What are you expecting me to do for you? Even though I know my limitations, weaknesses, failures of the past, and my handicaps of all kinds, I know you have some purpose for me". After you are truly born again that must be your prayer. God has saved you for something. He paid the price for something. You should find it out.

When God spoke to Moses, he answered saying, "Here am I" (Exo.3:4). Then God said to him, "...I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God" (v.6). And straightway God made him see the great purpose for which He had called him -to be His mouthpiece, as a witness, a servant and a messenger. That purpose is mentioned in verses 7 and 8. "And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their task masters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the land of the Egyptians, and to bring them out of that land unto a good land..."

(To be contd.)

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