

# Hebron Messenger

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NO 18

## GOD'S PROVISION FOR MAN'S PROSPERITY

While dividing the inheritance to the chosen people of God under divine direction, six cities known as "Cities of Refuge" were set aside (Josh. 20:7,8). These six cities clearly show how every need of man can abundantly be met only in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1: 30). "Christ is all, and in all" (Col. 3:11). "In him was life; and the life was the light of men... That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1: 4,9). To the weary, wandering and wasted humanity, the loving Lord Jesus extends His invitation, "Come unto me,...I will give you rest" (Matt. 11 :28). "Look unto me, and be ye saved" (Isa. 45:22). "...Obey my voice,... that it may be well unto you" (Jer. 7:23). In Him alone we can "live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). for a purposeful life of satisfaction and fulfillment. We want to consider a few unique common characteristics of these six cities, which convey clearly the marvelous provision in the Lord Jesus Christ for all of us.

1. Locality: First of all, these six cities of refuge were centrally located. All cities were almost equidistant from the city of refuge in that locality. No city was far away from it. The Lord Jesus is not far away from anyone of us (Acts 17:27). All religions with their ordinances and observations show how man is trying hard to reach God. But our loving Lord Jesus took the first step to reach out to the fallen humanity. He left the glory of heaven and came to this earth "to seek and to save" everyone lost in sin (Luke 19:10). Though He is the "high and lofty One" (Isa. 57: 15), to provide His great salvation for us, He became humble and lowly. No greatness marked the humanity of the Lord Jesus. He was born in a manger (Luke 2:7). He had no home of His own. "And every man went unto his own house. Jesus went unto the mount of Olives" (John 7:53; 8:1). "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Luke 9:58). He had nothing to call his own. He preached from someone's boat and His body after crucifixion was kept in some one else's sepulcher. In His death, He was counted among criminals though He "knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21), "did no sin" (1 Pet. 2:22) and in Him was "no sin" (1 John 3:5). Thus He "made himself of no reputation" (Phil. 2:7). All of us are equally precious to Him, whether we are rich or poor, high or low, educated or illiterate, popular or insignificant, and accepted or rejected by others. That is why He paid the same price of His own: precious blood to redeem us from the bondage of sin, corruption and rebellion. Whatever may be your present pitiable predicament, the Lord Jesus! comes close to you with great compassion to help you (Luke 10:33). Hence call upon Him now with confidence.

2. Accessibility: Every city of refuge was easily accessible. No one could miss the way to a city of refuge. There were well -built roads from all directions leading to it. The roads were carefully repaired and maintained in good condition always. The bridges on the way were kept in safe condition. Good road-signs and indicators were clearly provided so that no one might lose the way while fleeing to it speedily. The Lord Jesus does not distance Himself from anyone but accepts everyone who comes to Him with love and grace. "...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). He is only a prayer away. "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth" (Psa. 145:18). We do not need any mediation to come to the Lord Jesus, whether priest, preacher or saint, dead or alive. He understands us fully. No one can feel our pain, loneliness, loss or deepest need as He sure can. He is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Heb. 4:15), because "he himself hath suffered" (Heb.2: 18).

You can come to Him with confidence and assurance that He fully understands you and will accept you as you are. He has already gone through whatever you are passing through spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally except committing sin. He knows what it is to be ignored, insulted, rejected, falsely accused, deserted and deceived. He knows what it is to have excruciating pain from head to foot. He knows what it is to be mocked, slapped, spat upon and beaten. He felt the pain of splinters piercing through His body. Come with all your pain and heartaches. He will readily receive you. You need not 'put on airs' to come to Him. Come just as you are. The "Friend of sinners" will

warmly welcome. even the foulest sinner .coming to Him with repentance. The Lord Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Come just as you are and He will accept you and transform you.

An artist wanted to draw a picture of a beggar. He found a 'model' after searching for a while in the streets. He told the beggar to come to his studio the next morning, and paid him some money as advance. The beggar was excited. He had a haircut and clean shave. He hired nice clothes for a day and went to the studio in his best appearance. The artist had difficulty in recognizing him and turned him out saying, "I wanted you to come as you were. Now you are of no use to me. You can go away:' God does not want any religious make- up or moral mask when you come to Him. Any sinner of any degree can come to the Lord Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing. Hence come to Him with confidence and faith, and receive His free gift of salvation right now. (To be contd,) T.R.

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### LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,  
Golconda Crossroads,  
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Telephone No.27613066

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the wonderful and matchless Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Beloved of the Father, Who was sent forth in the fullness of time, made of a woman, that we might receive the adoption of sons, and be accepted in Him. The Lord enable us all to keep ourselves in the belovedness of the Father and do those things that are pleasing in His sight, and thus be brought into the likeness of His own Son, and in vital union with Him (Gal. 4:4-6; Eph. 1: 5-7; 1 John 3:2,3).

Continuing our thoughts on "chosen in the beloved", and "accepted in the beloved", we shall now consider, " UNION with God in the Beloved". As seen from the life and ministry of Apostle Paul, we truly assume, that it was indeed the outflow of his own life in experiential understanding of what it is to be in "union with God"- "in Christ" and that a living, organic union. In the Old Testament God used different terms concerning Israel; they were called -His child, His son, His daughter, His betrothed and His wife. All these are organic vital conceptions. It is not the cold inanimate relationship of one brick to another in a building, though closely connected. It is the throbbing life of a love -union, so strong and deep, that Paul would cry in one of those inexpressible utterances of his -"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Rom. 8:35). Then he tabulates and calculates all things that do effect separations- life, death, things present, things to come and all the rest, and he says-but none of these things "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"(v.39). The union is so much apart of Himself that any separation would be seen as dividing God and dividing His Son.

We may look into a passage from 1 Cor. 1: 13. "Is Christ divided?" That is only one way of saying that you cannot divide Christ-you cannot make Christ into parts without destroying His very Person. So this love makes for such a oneness with God- of an organic and vital character, that to separate would be to destroy an organism. Would God that we had the right conception, God's conception of the Church and of relatedness! What a tremendous statement that is in Rom. 8:38,39; "For I am persuaded, that neither death nor life" nor this or that (tremendous things), "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

Paul's whole conception and unfolding of the purpose of God from eternity is in this little phrase "in Christ", "in the beloved". Hence in the letter to the Ephesians, you have the summary of it all. He goes right back before we were formed, and before ever this world existed in its present order- before the recreative activity of God. It was back there that God chose us in the Beloved; looking doing through all the ages, He chose us in Him.

We are also CALLED into the fellowship of the Beloved. Paul passes from the eternal choice of love and speaks about our being called into the fellowship of God's Son. How do you look at your conversion, or experience of salvation, or coming to the Lord? Is it no more than just? That one-day

you met the Lord Jesus and were saved? We have to recognize that it was the day of a call, concerning something related to us, and to which we are related, which goes right back before time. It is as though God in eternity past chose you in love, and called you according to His purpose. He had to wait until you were here actually to call you. And the call came; but that call was wrapped up in something vast, and that vast thing was union with God Himself in His Son in the terms of eternal love.

What is God after? And when He gets what. He is after, what will things be like? We talk about the Testimony of Jesus. We have to say a lot about the fullness in Christ, of the Church, which is His Body, of identification with Christ. All these are great truths, great conceptions but what we find is this, that we have not come to an end of God's thoughts yet. We may be very glad about those truths, but is the most painful thing we can know that we never come to an end here. And in order to go on to a further stage, something has to happen to us, that knocks the bottom clean out of all that has gone before. That is to say, we go through anew experience of death, desolation and emptiness of hopelessness in order to come to something further on in divine revelation. We thought, "Oh, now we have come into the fullness of God's thought; now at length we are seeing what God is after. We get on with that for a time and it fills our whole vision, but soon everything is as though it were nothing, and we go through a terrible time. It was right, it was true, but it was not God's end. It is through just such a history with God, of repeated desolations and emptying and despairing after wonderful unveilings and times, when you feel there cannot be anything more that you are brought up again into something further on, with your vision enlarged. We do not know whether we have come to the last point of God's movements. But we know, and it cannot be otherwise, that when God gets His end, everything will only but absolutely, be a manifestation of His love. We may assume that, that is what Paul meant in his letter to the Ephesians, for there is a wonderful revelation in it. Let us look at the place grace and love occupy in this letter; "the breadth, and length, and depth and height", and "the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge" (Eph. 3:18, 19). That is the object Paul has in view, that we may come to that in the end. Well then, if you and I are going on to God's end, what will characterise us? We may say this one thing -we will abound more and more in love. The Lord help us to know this experientially.

Please pray for God's servant Bro. Habakkuk as he has been invited for a weekend ministry, on 28th and 29th August, in the assembly at Chembur, Mumbai, where Bro. K. Edwin with others is bearing responsibility.

A team of 12 Hebron brothers went for Gospel ministry mainly in Godavarikhani and surrounding areas including N.T.P.C., and Manchiryala. Thank the Lord for the liberty they enjoyed in the ministry, and pray that the Lord may accomplish His work unto salvation of souls. Also pray for God's servant, Bro. Moses and saints as they are completing the slabbing of their new Prayer House, Zion, at Godavarikhani.

We covet your prayers for Chennai, because of the severe water shortage the city is facing, and particularly for our need in the premises of Jehovah -Shammah. As we are sinking a new bore well, God willing, in the premises, pray that the favour of the Lord be upon this task, to touch the proper source for the copious and continuous supply of sweet water. Praying that we may be kept in the vision and revelation of our 'Beloved', the Lord Jesus Christ, inspiring us to closer communion and effective service, according to His purpose,

John 12 : 24-26  
2 Cor. 5 : 14, 15  
Rev. 22 : 1-4

I remain,  
Yours in his grace,  
K.PHilip

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## **SERVE IN NEWNESS OF SPIRIT**

BAKHT SINGH Scripture Portions: Num.16:1-34;17:1-11; Rom.6:13-15

Korah, Dathan and Abiram were leading men among their tribes. They were jealous of Moses and so they murmured against him. They wanted name, fame and power. That is the desire of every man in every country. He longs for authority and power over fellow-men, and so by every possible means he tries to have that. You find such men in the assemblies also. Some believers have a desire to become elders in the church. If they are not given that position they fight for it. Some fight with their tongues, and some with their angry looks. If you give them some authority, they are satisfied. That fits human nature. In the days of Moses these three leading men, men of renown, gathered together about 250 princes. They must have been wise and familiar with the Word of God because they managed to get these princes on their side (Num.16:2). The princes thought that these three men were more concerned about the welfare of people than Moses and Aaron. So they were deceived and turned on their side. They all organized rebellion against Moses and Aaron, the men of God. As a result, they, along with all their possessions were swallowed up (Num. 16:32). The earth opened her mouth and swallowed them up. Their sin was so great that God's judgment fell upon them immediately. Thus you find that much harm is done in families, among God's servants, and churches through jealousy.

Most of our troubles in the family are due to some one's jealousy. Perhaps your brother is against you or your own sister is jealous of you. They wait for an opportunity to do some harm to you. Sometimes in your office your colleagues become jealous of you, when you get promotion. Even in the ministry, if some servant of God is being used of the Lord, others become jealous of him. They think, "Why is So and So given so much importance? In which way is he better than I?" Thus through jealousy and suspicion, the enemy brings much harm. Jealousy is a great sin and God will judge that sin very severely.

Now those rebels also were saying, "In which way are Moses and Aaron better than we?" Perhaps they were more familiar with the Scriptures, and preached better than even Moses. Perhaps they were more popular and could speak well. So they were proud and thought that they knew more than Moses. That is what many people say even today. "In which way are you better than we? We also read the Bible. We have passed many exams. We know the Bible very well". They do have much Bible knowledge. They know every statement in the Bible about salvation. You cannot find any fault in their teaching, but there is something lacking. Then the rebellious men also said, "Why do you say that you are the only persons whom God has chosen to lead? There are lakhs of people amongst us, but why only two should lead them? We too will bear the responsibility of leading them." They were fighting for leadership. You find the same thing going on in every country and much more among Christians. They have an ambition to have power, fame, name and leadership in the assemblies.

Korah and his company were judged very severely and yet we see that the children of Israel did not stop murmuring against Moses. "But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD" (Num. 16:41). That is why God told Moses to take twelve rods, one for each tribe and keep them in the tabernacle. Then He said, "And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you. And Moses laid up the rods before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness" (Num. 17:5,7).

God wanted to show who were chosen by Him to lead His people. That is why He asked Moses to put the rods in the tabernacle. The next day, they saw to their surprise that the rod with the name of Aaron had blossomed and yielded almonds. It all happened overnight. Normally it takes a long time for an almond tree to bear fruit. Here in one night, the rod brought forth buds, blossom and fruit. Through this, God was saying that even though Aaron's rod appeared to be the same as other rods, there was a vast difference. There was some kind of life in that rod which other rods did not have. It was heavenly life. When a seed is sown in the ground and watered, it grows because the seed has life in it. (To be Contd.)

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# Hebron Messenger

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NO 19

## GOD'S PROVISION FOR MAN'S PROSPERITY - 2

The six cities of refuge mentioned in Josh. 20:7,8, represent the Lord Jesus Christ and vividly illustrate how our needs can be abundantly met in Him. The five common characteristics of these cities convey clearly the five aspects of salvation by grace, available freely in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have seen firstly about LOCALITY. Every city of refuge was equidistant from all other cities. The Lord Jesus is not far away from anyone of us (Acts 17:27), in spite of our background, upbringing or religious and social status. Secondly, the ACCESSIBILITY of these cities shows that the Lord Jesus Christ can be confidently approached by anyone for salvation. We will try now by God's grace, to dwell upon the other three aspects.

3. Certainty: The city of refuge could never refuse admission to the one who came running to it. He would find a warm welcome and free admission at the entrance of the city. He was sure that he would never be 'cast out.' We may feel foul and loathsome about our own selves and in the opinion of others. But the Lord Jesus receives us with open arms when we come to Him. A young man traveling in a train was anxiously peeping through the window every now and then. A co-passenger asked him why he was so anxiously looking out. The young man said, he had committed a crime a few years ago and was imprisoned. He had brought shame upon his family and had almost broken his loving mother's heart. Before his release from the prison, he had written to his mother asking her, if she could forgive him and receive him. To show her willingness to receive him, he wanted her to put a white flag on the big tree near the house on the day of his return. If not, he was willing to go away without getting down at the nearby station. When the train approached his house, he saw that the whole tree was covered with white flags. In her concern that her son should not miss to see one flag, the loving mother had put so many of them on the tree as a proof of her forgiving love. One look at the cross would suffice to convince fully anyone of the forgiving love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps you have grieved the heavenly Father's loving heart and wandered far away from Him. "Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously" (Hosea.14:2). Like the father of the prodigal son who waited anxiously for the son's return and saw him "a great way off" (Luke 15:20), your Heavenly Father has been awaiting the moment of your return. Come now, and come just as you are.

4. Sufficiency: Every city of refuge was supplied with sufficient fuel, water and food all through the year. There was no lack in the city of refuge. The Lord Jesus Christ supplies all our needs - spiritual, emotional, material and physical. "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" (2 Cor. 8:9). When the Saviour comes into a person, he is blessed with "so great salvation" (Heb. 2:3), which transforms his whole personality - the spirit, soul and body (1 Thess. 5:23). His dead spirit is quickened (Eph. 2:1) and he is spiritually made alive. His darkened soul (2 Cor. 4:4) is enlightened and he is guided correctly in his emotions and decisions. His defiled body (Jude 23) is cleansed and brought under the control of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:10). There is a total transformation in his deeds, words, as well as thoughts. His interests, motives and attitudes are all changed. This salvation pertains to the past, present and the future. We are delivered from the punishment of our past sins, are being delivered from the power of sin in the present, and will be delivered from the very presence of sin in the future. In Christ Jesus we are blessed with all heavenly and earthly blessings. In everything and in all situations we can prove His sufficiency by His grace (2 Cor. 9:8). It is foolishness to reject the invitation to come to the Lord Jesus. There is nothing to lose but so much to gain.

5. Security: Inside the city of refuge, everyone enjoyed perfect safety and security. No power-human or inhuman-can affect or afflict a child of God. He is always under the divine protection. "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4) "... they that be with us are more than they that be with them" (2 Kings 6:16). "... with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles" (2Chron. 32:8). He is "able to keep you from falling" (Jude 24)."... neither shall any man pluck

them (my sheep) out of my hand" (John 10:28). The ever-abiding presence of the Lord Jesus Christ gives us victory always in all things and we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us (Rom. 8:37). No one has ever regretted for coming to Christ and committing his life to Him. Oh, do not delay! Come to Him now and accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. The fivefold benefits are yours in Christ Jesus, your Eternal Refuge. (Concluded) T.R.

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## LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,  
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Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

May His Name be praised and adored, even the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the "Beloved Son" of the Father, into Whose Kingdom He has translated us, having redeemed us through His precious blood. The Lord enable us all to walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, abounding therein with thanksgiving (Matt. 17:5; Col. 1: 13, 14; 2:6,7).

Continuing our meditation concerning our union with God in the "Beloved", we may now consider the all-sufficient PROVISION in the BELOVED. The Father called us, blessed be His Name. His calling of us is on to and into a perfectly prepared ground, to an all-sufficient provision. It is in Christ. What a terrible thing it would be if after calling us with so great a calling, He had left it to us to find all that is required for attaining it and somehow attain it ourselves! Why, it were better that we had never been called! We know how utterly impossible it is for us to provide the smallest degree of anything that can attain to God's end. Can we find ourselves this love of God, this kind of love? Why, we have only to read one section of this whole revelation to find ourselves defeated at every point. Refer to 1 Cor. 13. "Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not easily provoked, taketh no account of evil" (vs. 4,5, R.V.). To sum up all, "love never faileth", i.e. love never gives up. Where are we in the light of these statements? Can we stand up to them? No! But He called us in the BELOVED, and in CHRIST is a perfectly prepared ground. "In whom I am well pleased" -'in the all-sufficient provision'.

That causes Paul to go out along one wonderful line, and he says.. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer that I live, but Christ liveth in me; and that life which I live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20). (Paul is not saying that when we died in Christ, we lost our individuality. We ought to have lost our individualism, but not our individuality). "I live by the faith of the Son of God," can be meant to convey, in keeping with so much more that Paul says, that it is Christ Who is providing what is necessary for this new life -the other side of the cross. "I live by Him, I live by the provisions that He makes." Thus God has called us into His Son, has called us into an all-sufficient provision. We may say, that we cannot love, especially in certain directions. But Christ can and He has proved it in our case. Can we say that every one loves us? There are some people who do not love us, but Christ loves us, whatever we are. We might be unloved for very good reasons by everyone else. But God in Christ loves us now with that love that can and does love the unlovely. He can provide us with a love to love.

It is this that makes the whole evangel so unique and wonderful. We have heard of missionaries who have returned home saying, "When I was called of God to go to such and such a country, the people there were the very ones I felt I could never love; everything about them stirred up in me only bad feelings; but I have come to love them; they are my people." This may illustrate the point that when we are called into Christ, it is being called into a provision for what that very word 'Beloved' means. We have a great example of Paul and the Corinthians. If ever people deserved the opposite of love from a man, those Corinthians deserved it from Paul. They owed everything to him and they treated him, to say the least, most shabbily and shamefully, so that he could say that the more he loved them, the less they loved him (2 Cor.12: 15). When we read about them, our uppermost feeling is that it requires a great deal to love those people. Yet what is Paul's attitude? His

heart is going out in brokenness over them. This is love that is not natural; it is in Christ -it is indeed the provision in the Beloved. Let us catch this thought. In Christ therefore, is an all -sufficient provision.

Paul has many aspects to this great reality of "In Christ". He says that God puts us all into Christ in the cross. When Christ was judged of God and when He died, in Him we too were judged of God, and death passed upon us all. We are risen also in Him, and not only so, for we are not just left here on this earth as risen; we are in Him seated in the heaven lies. How many aspects there are of this "In Christ" matter? What does this amount to? It amounts to this, that only Christ is the sphere of the believer, and in Christ that great heart-intention of God in creation is realised, -a people in the Beloved, beloved of God, the objects of that love, who should be filled with the same love of God. It is in the sphere of Christ that God proceeds with His love- purpose. May we all be found continuing in His love- purpose. We may consider further, God helping, "in our next issue.

God's servant Bro. Andrews, together with the helping brethren and saints of Alwyn Colony, near K.P.H.B. Colony would have us to thank and praise the Lord for answered prayers, in the construction of a new hall for their worship and fellowship gatherings, as well as other facilities needed for the ministry of the Lord's House. On Friday the 27th August, we were enabled to have the dedication service, naming it "Bethphage" (House of figs, Matt. 21: 2). As you know it is from Bethphage, the Lord sent for the colt, the foal of an ass to ride into Jerusalem, in fulfillment of the prophetic word in Zech. 9:9. Our Lord's word through the disciples to those who would question the loosing of the colt was, "The Lord hath need of them." Thus the Lord's need was met through this animal from Bethphage, upon which He rode amidst the cry of the multitude who acclaimed Him as the Son of David, Who came in the Name of the Lord, as their King. This is a portrayal of how as a local company of His redeemed people, we should minister to the particular need of the Lord amidst all our many-sided church activities, and contribute to the manifestation and establishment of His Kingdom. We should be those who bear Him amidst the rejoicing multitude, giving Him and Him alone, the central and preeminent place. In the meetings that followed, Bro. Nehemiah, God's servant from Anantapur, and others ministered the Word. More than eighty testified in baptism in the newly constructed baptism tank, on the Lord's Day. The saints and brethren covet our prayers for their follow-up ministries and witness in that area.

Bro. Kurien Chandy, the Lord's servant based at Berachah, House of Worship, Trivandrum, together with the brethren in responsibility, would have us to thank the Lord, for answered prayers, regarding the mini convocation they were enabled to hold from 22nd to 25th August, in the hired Mission facility, at Kovalam beach area. Bro. Paul Sudhakar, although now based at Hyderabad, was enabled to take the ministry of those days, based on the theme, "The Church which is His Body". About sixty were present and also they had a profitable time in procession with songs for the Gospel outreach one afternoon. Bro. Kurien Chandy and co-brethren covet our prayers for their effective ministry and witness in Trivandrum and other parts of Kerala.

God's servant Bro. Dyva Prasad covets our earnest prayers for complete recovery of health for his wife Sis. Hulda after the recent operation she underwent for gall bladder stones, at C.M.C. Vellore on 6th September.

God's servant Bro. R.S. Kuruville of Patmos, Coimbatore would have us to pray for the little flock at Agartala, amongst whom he ministered from 25th to 29th August. Praying that we may be granted grace to continue in His purpose of love in our beloved Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Cor. 5: 14,15, 18  
1 John 3:1-3, 16,21  
Rom. 8 : 28

I remain,  
Yours in his grace,  
K.PHilip

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**SERVE IN NEWNESS OF SPIRIT-2**  
BAKHT SINGH

When a seed is sown in the ground and watered, it grows into a tree because the seed has life in it. Sometimes a plant is planted, but it too must be a green one. There must be life in it. Only then it begins to grow. But Aaron's rod was completely a dry one and yet the same dry rod yielded blossom and fruit. The same power was manifested when God created everything as we read in Gen. 1: 11, "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. "There was no sowing, tilling or gathering. God just spoke and different kinds of trees came forth straightway. That is how in the beginning the whole earth was created.

Some people make fun of the record of creation in the Bible and say, "Did God make the egg first or the chick?" But according to the Bible, all animals came into existence straightway. Adam was created from the earth and Eve from the rib of Adam, but animals were created by God's word. He said and they came into existence. He said, "Let there be light, and there was light." He said, "Let there be birds" and the sky was full of birds. In the same way He said, "Let there be fishes" and there were fishes. That is the power of the word of God. God wanted to give man power to live forever, but man in his folly wants power only to destroy. Even though Moses and Aaron were ordinary men, yet God had put new life into them. The Spirit of God was working through them.

God appeared to Moses in a dry bush as we read in Exo. 3:2, and told him to go to Pharaoh. Moses said, "I am not eloquent" (Exo. 4:10). As a prince in Egypt, Moses was proud of his wisdom and knowledge, but when he ran away from Egypt and was in the wilderness for forty years, he could see for himself how weak, empty and foolish he was. Once there was a wealthy man who was fond of reading. He prepared a long list of books and bought them, thinking that if he read those books he would become a scholar. One by one he read them all very carefully. After many years of reading his friends asked him, "What have you learned by reading these books?" He said, "I have learned that I know nothing." After reading those books he discovered how foolish and empty he was. That is our condition. When we are empty and foolish, we make much noise. An empty tin makes much noise. So also with the crop. Before it ripens it is straight but once it is ripe, it bends.

Moses was proud in Pharaoh's palace, but now he is humble. With all his wisdom he thought he was able only to look after the sheep. Even though he had much knowledge he was willing to work as a shepherd. Supposing a person has obtained his Ph.D. or any other high degree. When he applies for a job and shows his certificates and testimonials, the only job offered to him is that of looking after swine. That was the condition of Moses. Even though he was learned in all the wisdom of Egypt and was mighty in word and deed, still he was looking after sheep. He had become totally dry and empty. God had allowed that. When Moses became empty God appeared to him in a bush. God poured new life into him and called him for a great ministry. According to Exo. 4:12, he became God's mouthpiece. Later, God showed him on the mountain the plan for building the tabernacle. He was not to take any suggestion from anyone. In every small detail he had to obey God. In Exo. 40:16, we read this phrase, "according to all that the Lord commanded Moses". It is repeated a number of times in the same chapter (vs. 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32). Moses had to obey the Lord and give His message at His command. Whatever God told him he spoke without adding anything to it. But Korah and his followers thought that Moses was saying everything in his own wisdom.

Even though Moses and Aaron spoke the same words as others, yet there was life in their words. One could find new life flowing through their words. In John 7:46 we have this testimony about our Lord Jesus. "Never man spake like this man". There was authority in every word that He spoke. Whether it was a rebuke or a warning, there was authority in it. He had the words of eternal life. "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matt.7:29). Luke 4:22 says, "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth". (To be contd.)

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