

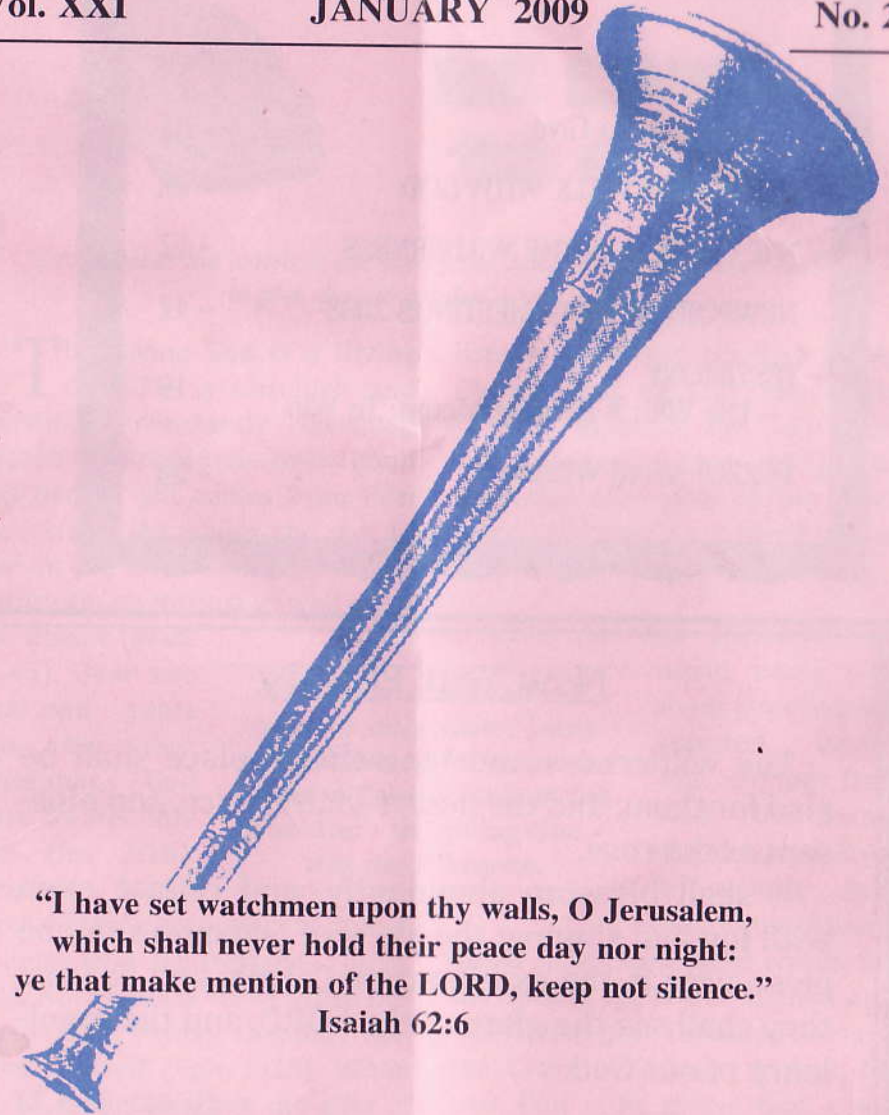
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TRUMPET OF THE LORD

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**“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem,
which shall never hold their peace day nor night:
ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence.”**

Isaiah 62:6

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New Year Promise

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

(Isaiah 35:1,2)



Editorial



HE LIVES TO GIVE

"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

The Living God is a Giving God. He is unselfish and sacrificial, constantly lavishing gifts on His loved ones. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him (Jas. 1:17). He makes the sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just as well as on the unjust (Matt.

5: 45). Over two thousand years ago, the first Christmas, God **gave** us His only Son (Jn. 3:16). Prophet Isaiah

foretold this glorious act of giving. "*...unto us a son is given...*" (Isa. 9:6). About thirty three years later, on Good Friday, this only Son **gave** Himself (Eph. 5:25). When Christ arose, He **gave** the gifts of the apostles, prophets, evange-

lists, pastors and teachers to the Church (Eph. 4:8,11). Then, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was **given** to us (Acts 2:33). With that, the nine gifts of the Spirit were **given** to the Church (1Cor. 12:7-11).

Until the first Christmas, the world knew only about gods that **demande**d wealth and offerings from men. They feared and dreaded these self-seeking gods that required man's

blood to appease their wrath. But the eyes of the world opened only when Jesus gave His blood for us on the Cross of Calvary. At last, the true God - the giving God - was made known.

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God is the epitome of unselfishness and Jesus is the embodiment of selflessness. God opens the windows of heaven to pour down His blessings upon us. *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"* (Mal. 3:10). Hell is quite the opposite; it is never satisfied! *"Hell and destruction are never full..."* (Pro. 27:20). The people who are heading for hell share its characteristics. *"...a proud man ... enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people"* (Hab. 2:5).

The first man, Adam, was made in the image of God; but his fall made him selfish. Today, the whole world is filled with selfish people who live for themselves. This is a sign of the end-times. Men shall be lovers of themselves. *"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy"* (2 Tim. 3:2). The young generation has be-

come riotous in their wild pursuit of pleasure. Instead of loving God, they love pleasure. *"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God"* (2 Tim. 3:4). In other words, 'pleasure' is the god of this age. The generation of these end times is self-seeking and self-indulgent. They want more fun, better food, extra perks and increased entertainment. They want to make themselves more and more happy and be filled and fulfilled. Any business guru knows that the way to success is to feed this nature of selfishness by mixing business with pleasure. For example, the company's important meetings are

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held in a pub. Of course, they call it 'motivation', quite a nice-sounding name for the promotion of this wretched pleasure mania.

The underlying cause of many of our problems is our selfishness. Many domestic problems can be traced to this root of selfishness. The husband who lives for himself and his own happiness is constantly at war with his wife who does not live to make 'him' happy. He will be happy only if his will is done. His wife's tearful pleas do not move his hard heart; instead, blinded by his self-interest, all he can tell

his wife every day is that because she does not share in his desire to make 'him' happy, it is obvious she does not love him. On the other hand, the self-serving wife seeks her own happiness and does not bother if that affects her husband or her children. Even though she is herself selfish, she is stridently intolerant of her husband's selfishness. What a selfish man he is, she thinks to herself, living only for himself and not for 'me'! Our self-interest and our self-centredness make us a loathsome race. Only an unselfish God could continue to love us.

A selfish man does not cease to be selfish when he is born again. After he is saved, his selfishness remains; only that it is now varnished, as it were, with a

The heart that is truly regenerated by the Spirit follows the example of Christ, seeking to please God and others, not itself.

coat of Christianity. As a worldly man, he had lived for his own pleasure; now, as a Christian, he still lives for his own pleasure - only that religion becomes involved. The worldly Christian finds his pleasure in anything that is both worldly and Christian. He looks for a church that can make him happy, not holy. He is content with a ministry that satisfies, not sanctifies. He wants gloss, not a cross. It is apparent that only the

'source' of pleasure has changed; the man himself continues to be self-seeking, self-involved and self-indulgent. He still continues to be aggressively self-assertive; only, he now calls it zeal for the Lord. Where he was vainly ambitious for promotion, he now wants to be used for 'the glory of the Lord'. Until he is totally regenerated by the Spirit, this man will continue to be a selfish man, living to please himself, to succeed in his ministries, and in the end, also want a reputation that he is 'unselfish'. There are some Christians who appear to be unselfish, but in reality are very selfish; they are those who are willing to 'lose' anything for their 'own'

gain; for example, they are willing to go to any lengths to make a sacrifice to earn themselves a good name. Be it preaching or cooking, they are willing to sweat it out and labour for God in any ministry to maintain their record, but they never stop to analyse their real motives.

St. Paul devotes Ephesians chapter 5 to teach about the role of sacrifice and unselfishness in the family; but the self-absorbed husband and father cannot understand this; so his family continues to pay the price, while he wonders why

they always complain. The selfish Christian wife, meanwhile, wants to somehow reach paradise, not caring about her family's spiritual welfare. She has time only for herself and she prays mainly for herself. Others are selfishly concerned only for their own families and remain grossly unconcerned about other families.

What we really need is not an improvement of heart but a heart transplant. We need to get down to the brass tacks. We need our underlying nature to be dealt with. Jesus said, "...It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

That precisely is the big change that every man needs in himself; living to give, and

Those who desire to become like Jesus should have the mind of sacrifice.

not living to receive. True conversion is more than a change of taste; it involves a total change of attitude towards oneself and others. The heart that is truly regenerated by the Spirit follows the example of Christ, seeking to please God and others, not itself. This is seen in the confession of St. Paul, "*And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved*" (2 Cor. 12:15). He was willing to lose that 'others' might gain. What a peaceful home it would be where

the husband and wife sincerely seek the welfare of one another and not oneself.

The sacrifice of God demands unselfishness from us. "*And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again*" (2 Cor. 5:15).

"Love so amazing, so divine Demands my soul, my life, my all."

Those who desire to become like Jesus should have the mind of sacrifice. It is a mind that practises self-denial. The person with such a

mind will be willing to 'lose' that others might 'gain', willing to go hungry that others

might be fed, willing to suffer that others might be comforted, willing to be silent that others might be acquitted, willing to be hidden that others might be seen, willing to step down that others might be promoted, willing to be condemned that others might be justified.

May God transform us into people who can give and forgive, reflecting the sacrifice of Christ through our words, ministries and the attitude towards others.

Do You Know What Sacrifice Means?

Two wealthy Christians, a lawyer and a merchant, joined an evangelical team that was going around the world. Before they started, their minister earnestly asked them to observe and remember any unusual and interesting things that they might see in the missionary countries through which the party was to travel. The men carelessly promised, to do so.

One day in Korea, they saw in a field, by the side of the road, a boy pulling a crude plough, while an old man held the handles and directed it. The lawyer was amused, and took a snapshot of the scene.

"That's a curious picture! I suppose they are very poor," he said to the missionary who was interpreter and guide to the party.

"Yes," was the quiet reply. "That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was being built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money so they sold their only ox and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plough themselves."

The lawyer and the businessman by his side were silent for some moments. Then the businessman said, "That must have been a real sacrifice."

"They did not call it that," said the missionary. "They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell."

Let Me Give

I don't know how long I have to live
But while I do, Lord, let me give
Some comfort to someone in need
By smile or nod - kind word or deed.
And let me do what e'er I can
To ease things for my fellowman.
I only want to do my part,
To "lift" a tired and weary heart.
To change folks' frowns to smiles again
So I will not have lived in vain.
I do not care how long I live
If I can give-and give-and give!

ABRAHAM'S WALK WITH GOD

"When Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Gen. 17:1).

God revealed Himself to Abraham by appearing to him on many occasions. On each occasion, God revealed Himself to Abraham in one of the following ways.

1. As the God of Glory (Acts 7:2)

God appeared to Abraham as the God of glory while he was still in the idolatrous land of Mesopotamia and told him to leave that land and to go to a land that He would show him. When God appeared to Abraham as the God of glory, all the glory of this world lost its value to him. With this vision before him, Abraham started his journey.

2. As the Almighty God (Gen. 17:1)

When Abraham was ninety-nine years old, God appeared to him as the Almighty God. This was before Isaac was born. We will consider the significance of this appearance later.

3. As the Everlasting God (Gen. 21:33)

God appeared to Abraham as the Everlasting God after the birth of the promised seed (Isaac), when Hagar the bondwoman and her son Ishmael were cast out.



In the verse quoted above (Gen. 17:1), God appeared to Abraham as the Almighty God and spoke to him saying, "...walk before me, and be thou perfect." Why did God have to appear to Abraham and give him such an instruction at that time? When we consider the earlier chapter (Gen. Ch. 16), Abraham had walked after the flesh and brought forth a fleshly seed, a fleshly child, a bond child. From then on, for about thirteen years, Abraham had no word from God, no vision from God and in fact the Bible does not record any dealings between God and Abraham during this period (Gen. 16:16; 17:1).

By the Baptism of the Holy Spirit we become the spiritual seed of Abraham. *"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"* (Gal. 3:29). Such Spirit-baptized children of God must continue to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"* (Rom. 8:1). If we walk after the flesh, we will bring forth a fleshly seed 'Ishmael' (which shows unsanctified, carnal natures being brought forth in our innerman). This fleshly seed of Abraham became a great enemy to the children of Israel. Even so these carnal natures within us will become great enemies to our spiritual growth and perfection. Hence, let us not give in to the demands of the flesh but through the Spirit, let us mortify the deeds of the flesh (Rom. 8:13).

When God appeared to Abraham as the Almighty God and gave him the instruction to walk before Him and be perfect, Abraham realized where he had failed and made a fresh start to walk in truth before God. From this point forward we see Abraham's life shining as a true example for us to follow, as we walk with our God. We shall now try to understand the mean-

ing of a true walk with God from the example of Abraham's life.

1. We must be in agreement with God.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). If we have to walk with God, the first step is to come into an agreement with God. We should say 'Amen' to all that God speaks to us. The Lord Jesus agreed to all that the Father told Him. Hence His name is 'AMEN' (Rev. 3:14). When He was humiliated, despised and rejected, Jesus never asked questions, murmured or complained. He was in perfect agreement with the Father even in such adverse situations. When we are in agreement with God, we will also be in agreement with those whom God has kept above us. We will remain submissive and obedient to them. We will also be in agreement with all the children of God and be able to preserve our life of unity. Through such oneness God's blessings are experienced (Psa. 133). In Genesis 22:1-3 we see how Abraham had learnt to agree with God. *"And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the*

mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him." As soon as God called his name, Abraham said, "Here I am" and when God told him to take his only son Isaac and to offer him as a sacrifice, Abraham agreed with God without a second word. Being in perfect agreement with God was of utmost importance to him now.

2. Walk in Love

Once Abraham was in agreement with God, his was a walk of love. Love leads us to a life of sacrifice (Eph. 5:2). Abraham was ready to offer his son as a sacrifice. Our Lord Jesus, being in perfect agreement with the Father gave Himself as a sacrifice. Abraham proved that he loved God more than he loved Isaac by his willingness to offer up Isaac. Jesus said, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:37). We too have to prove our love for Jesus by loving Him and giving Him the pre-eminence in our lives. Let nothing take the place which belongs to our Jesus alone.

3. Walk in Faith

In Genesis 22:5 we read of Abraham's confession of faith, "I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." Abraham's life with God was also a walk of faith. He was able to confess this word of faith. Though he was on his way to sacrifice his son, yet he confessed that 'they' would return. The word of God exhorts us to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). We see how things happened to Abraham according to the faith he had and the word he confessed. We have received the spirit of faith and the word of faith in order to help us walk in faith. "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;" (2 Cor. 4:13). When we have this spirit of faith and the word of faith, God will fight for us and the enemy cannot stand before us. Concerning the Israelites, we read, "When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion. The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back. The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs" (Psa. 114:1-4). The children of Israel were dwelling in Egypt amongst a people who had no faith. During this period, they had no word of faith or spirit of faith. But, in the

course of their wilderness journey, they learned to confess the word of faith and received victory. The Red sea saw them and fled, Jordan was driven back, the mountains and little hills (the nations big and small) skipped like rams and lambs. Rahab, expressing the fear her people had for the Israelites, told the two spies, " ...I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you" (Jos. 2:9). When we use the word of faith, the enemy trembles. Ten of the twelve spies, who returned from spying the Promised Land, had only words of unbelief and an evil report of Canaan, by which they troubled the whole congregation. The other two spies, namely, Joshua and Caleb had the word of faith. They were able to say, " ...Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Num. 13:30). "If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us..." (Num. 14:8,9). The people hearkened to the evil report and murmured against the Lord and the Lord told them, "Your car-

cases shall fall in this wilderness..." (Num. 14:29). All those who did not have the word of faith perished in the wilderness. It was perhaps, the knowledge of this evil nature in the children of Israel that made Joshua issue this command before they took Jericho, " ...Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout" (Jos. 6:10). Finally when Joshua bade them shout, they shouted (the word of faith), and the mighty walls of Jericho fell flat.

David too had this spirit of faith and the word of faith. When he faced the giant Goliath, he was able to say, "This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (1 Sam. 17:46).

4. Walk of Obedience

Walking in faith is followed by our implicit obedience to God. As Abraham walked by faith, God testified about his implicit obedience and said, " ...In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because **thou hast obeyed my voice**" (Gen. 22:18). Obedience brings all

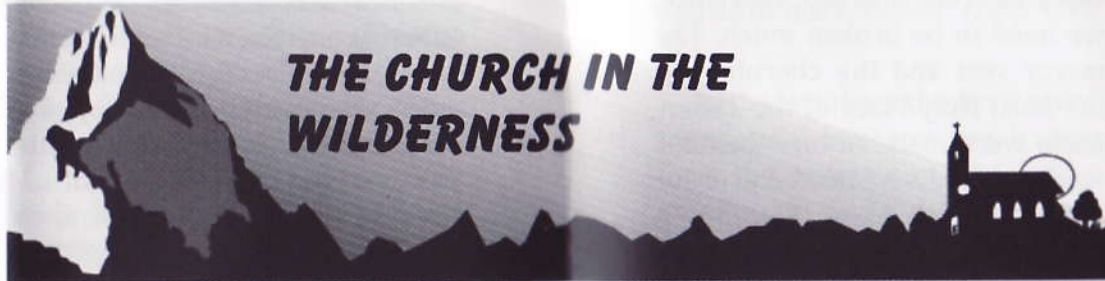
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In the last issue, the Israelites came to the camp at Hashmonah (Num. 33:29). Hashmonah means 'fatness'. Fatness was a blessing of the Old Testament. The word of God constantly teaches us that the inner man must be fat. The health of our spiritual life depends on the health of our inner man. If our inner man is unhealthy, then we need a spiritual health check. We considered some possible reasons for inner malnourishment. **1)** A carnal life. Many care for the health and beauty of their outward man, but severely neglect their soul. **2)** Another reason for being spiritually undernourished is our failure to put our trust in the Lord. The Bible says, "... he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat" (Pro. 28:25). **3)** When we neglect being filled with the Spirit or defile God's house, whose house we are, we will lose the blessing of fatness from His house. (Psa. 36:8). But when we are faithful to God's house, God will faithfully feed us. **4)** If we are always insisting upon our will, then we will not be made fat in the inner man. When the Israelites demanded meat, the Lord "...gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul" (Psa. 106:15). Selfishness leads to spiritual leanness, for only "The liberal soul shall be

made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself" (Pro. 11:25).

From Hashmonah, the children of Israel came to the camp at Moseroth (Num. 33:30). The meaning of Moseroth is 'Bond' or 'Fetter'. It speaks of the experience of being bound together in unity.

In each of his epistles, St. Paul exhorts the different churches to



(A BIBLE STUDY ON THE JOURNEY OF THE ISRAELITES)

*"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come"
(1 Corinthians 10:11).*

be united. The unity of the New Testament does not refer to the friendly association of peoples and cultures. It is a spiritual bond that makes God's children one in heart and mind, binding them together so strongly that there is no distinction whatsoever among them. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing,

and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). To make this possible, Jesus had to die for us (Eph. 2:14-18).

On the day of Pentecost, the people were of **one** accord and in **one** place. However, that was still only the Old Testament unity. But when the Spirit was poured out, they were united in a totally un-

precedented way. They became **one body**, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). True unity is the soul of Christian fellowship. It is the essence, the core, of life in a church. It is so important, that in the New Testament, more attention is given to unity than to heaven or hell. St. Paul says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"

(Eph. 4:3, NIV). Christ paid the highest price for the Church. He wants it to be protected from the devastating damage that is caused by division.

When God made Adam and Eve, He revealed His desire for unity. "...and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). But through sin and pride, they were divided from God and from one another. In the next generation, the division between Cain and Abel became so serious that one murdered the other. Generations later, Ham, the son of Noah was divided from his father, Esau and Jacob were divided, Joseph was separated from his brethren. However, God, once again, chose the Israelites to be a united nation under Him. But history tells us that after the reign of King Solomon, the kingdom was divided into the northern and southern kingdoms. Divided Israel never recovered as a nation after that.

Division is a major problem in the world, affecting families, cultures, communities, nations and kingdoms. Wars, terrorist threats and violence are some outcomes of division. The leaders of the world have tried in vain to forge a unity of many nations in which each individual nation continues to retain its identity. But the Bible clearly teaches us that true unity

can be achieved only when many nations lose their individual national distinction and become one holy nation (1 Pet. 2:9). But this is impossible in the world as the people of the world are proud of their nationality, culture and caste. Religious pride too makes religion a threat to unity.

The New Testament Church comprises people from every nation and every language in the world. There are differences in colour, education and culture. But in order to live in true unity, we must lose the pride of nationality, the pride of religiosity and the pride of language, colour, education and culture. Sadly, there are so many children of God who continue to be involved in such things. They closely follow the news of ethnic and racial conflicts taking place in different parts of the world and feel elated or roused according to who is winning in war; they sometimes bring such discussion into the Church causing pain to Christ. There are others who still adhere to caste distinctions especially when it comes to marriage arrangements. In the Old Testament, the animal chosen for the Burnt Offering is flayed (its skin removed). By this we cannot distinguish its colour. This speaks of the removal of all

distinctions of caste, colour, nationality, language etc., by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as we surrender our members unto God to do His will (Rom. 12:1, 2).

There are others who continue to be divided over domestic issues. There is no peace in the home as differences of opinion, misunderstanding and suspicion create unhappiness. The truth is that we still have much pride. Pride divides us from God too; therefore, we need to be broken much. The mercy seat and the cherubim in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle were made of one "beaten" work i.e. they were beaten in order to become one piece (Exo. 37:7); so also, we must suffer much in order to be one with Christ. Broken people do not break homes or hearts. From Leviticus chapter 2, we understand that for the Meat Offering in the Old Testament, the grains of wheat get pounded until they join together and become fine flour. Oil added keeps it together as **one lump**. So also, saints who suffer, allowing their own will to be pounded, are united by the Holy Spirit. We are being built as one holy temple. The stones of this temple should be placed in their proper places, that they might be perfectly joined together, leaving no gap in the wall.

Perhaps, special mention should be made of the role of prayer in this work of unity. When we pray as a group, it binds us together in unity. *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, ... And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common"* (Acts 4:31, 32).

In the last days, the devil is trying to make believers break away from the servants of God. Let us honour all God's servants even when they rebuke us. When saints rebuke us, it is an act of kindness (Psa. 141:5). When St. Paul re-

buked St. Peter for not walking uprightly (Gal. 2:11-14), Peter showed the right attitude by honouring St. Paul in his epistle (2 Pet. 3:15).

At each step of salvation, God does a work of unification by destroying everything that divides us. This process continues *"Till we all come in the unity of the faith ... unto a perfect man..."* (Eph. 4:13). At the final step of salvation, which is perfection, those who have surrendered themselves totally to the Lord for this work of unity to be carried out in them, are caught up, as **"one"** Bride, at the Coming of the Lord. Let us therefore who have come to Moseroth make this surrender to the Lord that He might be able to do this work.

(To be continued...)

Too Busy For Everything But One

Too busy to read the Bible, too busy to watch and pray
Too busy to speak with kindness to someone by the way!
Too busy with cares and struggles, to think of the life to come
Too busy building mansions, to plan for the heavenly home.
Too busy to help a brother who faces the winter blast.
Too busy to share his burden, when self in the balance is cast.
Too busy for all that is holy on earth beneath the sky;
Too busy to serve the Master, but not too busy to die.

Abraham's Walk With God ... Continued from Page 11

the blessings of God into our lives. As a result of disobedience Adam lost all the blessings of God. Through the perfect obedience of Jesus all these blessings are restored to mankind. *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous"* (Rom. 5:19). Once, we walked as the children of disobedience. *"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"* (Eph. 2:2). Now as God's children we must walk as obedient children. *"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance"* (1 Pet. 1:14).

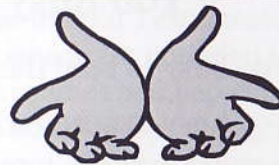
5. Walking as an Overcomer

"...they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy" (Rev. 3:4). Here, walking with God shows an overcoming life. Only overcomers can walk with God. As Abraham learned to walk with God step by step, he finally came out as an overcomer in his trial. Therefore his seed was able to inherit all the blessings of God. Only overcomers can inherit all things in eternity. *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son"* (Rev. 21:7).

In this New Year, let us agree with God when He speaks to us. Let us love God, speak the word of faith, obey Him and come out as victors in all our trials. Jesus is coming soon to catch away such overcoming saints.



PALM OIL



Fred W. Cropp, president of the American Bible Society, received a letter asking a question: "What do you recommend for keeping the leather on the back of Bibles from getting stiff, cracking and peeling?"

The reply was, "There is one oil that is especially good for treatment of leather on Bibles. In fact it will ensure your Bible will stay in good condition. It is not sold, but may be found in the palm of your hand."

NEWPORT REVIVAL MEETINGS 2008

South Wales has been the location for revivals in the past, the most famous of which would probably be the revival in 1904 when the Holy Spirit came down with much power, bringing conviction and repentance to thousands in the land. Wales had truly become a Christian nation again. Since that time, the country has, like many others, slipped away from its first love and devotion to God. Many of the locals had attended Sunday School as children in Pentecostal churches but are now no longer walking with the Lord or going to church. Nevertheless, the country does still have an evident pro-Christian focus.

We were not sure what exactly God would do in these revival meetings but our desire was that, once again, the message of salvation would be declared and many would respond to the call and come to Christ.

Since the opening of the Newport Faith Home in 2007, these were the first Revival Meetings being held here. God provided us with an excellent venue. The believers, including the young people, worked hard to get everything ready. The different functions of the body of Christ were seen in

many different ways, as the children of God laboured out of love for the Lord. We found that outsiders also helped much in the work. Prayers were held every Sunday night and Thursday night and were very well attended. It was evident that each one had a burden for these meetings. Tracts and handbills were given out in thousands to invite people to come for the meetings.

Newport was drenched with rain for ten days prior to the Revival Meetings. However, the Lord turned the weather around from the first day of the meetings. As the school was unavailable until Friday afternoon, the Friday lunch had to be cooked at the rear of the Faith Home. God held back the rain that day. There was only a short shower of rain after the cooking had finished. Praise the Lord! From then onwards, the weather was beautiful.

Once the meetings started, the presence of God was there to be felt by all. God brought servants of God and believers from all the different assemblies in the UK to support the work here. On Friday night, we believed that we could hear the sound of abundance of rain. The Gospel message that evening started with 2 Corinthians 6:2, *"...behold, now is*

the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." We heard that our sins have separated us from God and that there will be a pay-back time for all of our sins. However, now we can be washed in the Blood of Jesus and be cleansed from all of our sins.

On Saturday morning, the believers gathered for a time of prayer before going out from house to house, and into the city centre to give out tracts and handbills. The souls there were welcoming and receptive to the tracts given. God brought a few new souls for the meetings.

The message we heard on Saturday night was based on Isaiah 6:8. "...Then said, Here am I; send me." Before Isaiah spoke these words, he was full of criticism for the world around him. We too may be like Isaiah, filled with self-righteousness and being critical of everything around us. But an amazing thing took place in Isaiah's life when the Lord opened his eyes; he first saw his own state and after that he was ready for his ministry. We also must have our eyes opened to see our own state. The revival must begin in us first. We may be hearing and not understanding. We may be seeing but not perceiving. We may be blind to the vision God has for us - there are so many mysteries the Lord wants us

to open our eyes to. We need to cry to the Lord for our eyes to be opened. Our hearts must be emptied of worldly things and our ears must be opened to hear the Word of God.

After the Saturday evening meeting, God gave us the opportunity to join together to pray for different burdens.

Sunday morning's message was based on 2 Corinthians 4:13,14. *"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you."* This chapter speaks about the glorious gospel of Christ which is able to present us perfect before Him. On our part, we must believe and surrender to Him and then we will have the work of righteousness which is peace, and the effect of righteousness which is quietness and assurance forever. We were exhorted about different paths we may have to go through. We may have to go through trouble, but in the midst of trouble, God will revive us. The meetings ended with a note of rejoicing in the presence of God.

We thank God for the revival. May it continue until Jesus comes. Maranatha!

Testimony

A LIFE WITH A PASSION, VICTORY TO WIN

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy" (Psa. 107:1,2).

Emile Diakabana was a vessel of mercy, whom the Lord had redeemed from the hand of the enemy and used for His glory. Emile was born in Congo, in Africa. Everything was going wrong in his life and he came to a point where he did not know what to do or where to go. But God in His mercy sent an old friend of his, who spoke to him about Jesus. The friend told him that Jesus would answer all his prayers and meet all his needs. Emile thought, this is the kind of Person I need. He received Jesus as his personal Saviour in 1988. God in His mercy started to work in his life since then. A few months later, he also received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In 1993 God opened a way for him to go to France. In France, he met Pastor K.G. George who loved him very much. Pastor pointed out

to Emile something he was lacking in and told him that he needed to obey the truth of Water Baptism. But Emile refused to obey Pastor, and even argued with him, telling him that he was wrong. Yet, Pastor took much time and effort to expound the truths to him though he continued to take no heed to them. One day Emile prayed and asked the Lord to speak to him personally concerning Water Baptism. In answer to this prayer, God showed him a dream. In that dream he saw himself standing in a river and crying out to the Lord, not knowing how to come out from that river. Then he heard a voice saying, "Just follow this way." The following day he got a deep conviction that he needed to take Water Baptism. He went to the Faith Home and told Pastor that he wanted to take Water Baptism immediately. Pastor could not believe what he was saying. Accordingly, he was baptised. Emile remained grateful to God for leading him into this wonderful truth which he had not known before coming to France.

Emile did not have the proper papers to stay in France. The serv-

ant of God prayerfully counselled him, through the word of God, to do the right thing. This was a hard decision as he had come to France to look for a better life, and also being the eldest of nine children, had the responsibility to look after his family. Emile's love for God and the deep desire to keep his life clean, made him take that hard decision to go back to his country. The Lord was with him. On his return, he applied again and told the officer how he had stayed in France without the necessary papers and that God had told him to go back to Congo and get the right papers and come back to France. The officer himself was taken by surprise at such a strange request but God worked wonderfully and enabled Emile to return to France with the right papers.

Emile was a blessed husband to his wife and helped her draw close to God. He taught her to pray, to praise God for who He is and what He had done. He made her understand the importance of referring to the Bible when portions of Scripture were mentioned during a message. His faith encouraged her to seek God and strive to grow to that standard.

He diligently sought the Lord and attended all the meetings. Coming to the house of God was a joy to him because he loved God

truly with all his heart and soul and mind and strength. He was always on time and never complained that it was all too much. He had a passion for the word of God and applied it in his life. He was hungry for the truth and spent many hours with the servants of God, studying the teachings of the Church.

He was a man of faith who loved God, loved the servants of God and loved to work in the House of God. The work of God was never a burden to him. He had a passion for the work of God; both spiritual and physical. He was a skilled worker, very good in many fields of work. He also helped with spiritual ministries like Open Air meetings, European Outreaches, Youth Camp, Old People's Home ministries etc. When he shared a thought or testimony, he walked up and down, spoke with zeal, looking personally at each one. He knew what he had been saved from and spoke with a burden for perishing souls. When he testified, he was very honest. He was not embarrassed to share the wrong things he had done and to speak of the work God was doing in him.

He went the second mile to help others, and always did it with a smile. Making no difference, he mixed freely with people of different nationalities, languages and ages. He helped the old and cheered

them up. He counselled the young with great concern for them. He was a great encouragement to many believers and servants of God too.

He was always happy and cheerful. Being full of joy he always said, "We have a beautiful life and we must always rejoice because we are a privileged people." He was very open and did not like to hide anything and spoke freely to the servants of God. He was honest and spoke from the heart and had no pretence. If he could not understand anything, he would clarify it with the servants of God. He took correction happily when there was something wrong in his life. He kept his life clean and free from all the defilements of this world.

He loved to sing and was a very active member of the Young Adults class, willing to take on responsibility. Through the teachings he received and his personal application of the truths he understood, he confessed, "I must DIE EVERY DAY if I am to get ready to see the Lord." God was doing a beautiful work within him. He would often pray that God should change his character, remove self and fill him with love - for he said, "There is nothing that we will take out with us when we go, except our character." A Scripture that

Emile liked was, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*" (Psa. 139:23,24). God always mercifully showed him all the wrong things that were still lingering in his heart and mind and helped him to walk in the way of holiness. There was a visible change in his character. It was observed how in the latter days, he did not react to certain situations as before. He always woke up with a song. He would discuss the day's Bible Reading and claim a word for the day and share how the word of God had helped him to be an overcomer that day. For the past year or two he always spoke with a hope concerning heaven saying, "One day I am going to be with Jesus forever!" He would say, "When we get to heaven, we will have many surprises!" He also said that we should not judge people, for we do not know the work that God is doing within them. He was very excited about the Bible Studies on "How to be perfect." God was faithful to him and granted him the desires of his heart.

Emile and his wife were able to attend the Chennai Convention in March 2008. While sharing his testimony in the Convention, he boldly confessed, "The work the Lord has started in my life, He is able

also to finish. I want to give Him all the praise and glory forever and ever." He was getting to know God and was pressing forward to win the prize. When God called him, he was ready.

On a one to one chat with a servant of God few days before he passed away, Emile said that the only concern he had was that he should not become a burden to his wife. He gave his worry to the Lord and the Lord sustained him. This is a testimony of what God can do in

anyone who desires a "life with a passion, victory to win."

Emile was only forty six when he went to be with the Lord. But in this short space of time, he loved God, obeyed and honoured Him. God was faithful to him too. Yes, truly the Lord would have welcomed him with the words, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."*

Would You Hesitate to Ask?

In a certain place, a roomful of doctors were eating together. One doctor got up from the table, left the room, and in minutes he was dead. A morsel of food had lodged in his windpipe, and so he choked to death.

The tragedy of this incident is heightened by the fact that probably any one of those doctors could have performed the Heimlich Maneuver or, if need be, a tracheotomy to restore his breathing. But they did not know anything was wrong with him, as he did not tell them. He just got up and left. And so he died.

Have you been keeping a problem to yourself that is about to get you down? Why not share it with someone spiritually mature? Do not let false pride keep you from saying, "I need help." We all do.

Money Defined

A London newspaper offered a prize for the best definition of money. One young man gave the following definition, "Money is an article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except heaven and as a universal provider of everything except happiness." He was awarded the prize. Remember the Bible says, "The love of money is the root of all evil."

REVIVAL MEETINGS

February 20th to 22nd - NORTH LONDON

March 20th to 22nd - LIVERPOOL

EASTER WEEK

April 6th to 11th - EASTER WEEK FASTING PRAYERS

April 12th - EASTER SUNDAY

Solutions to last issue's puzzle



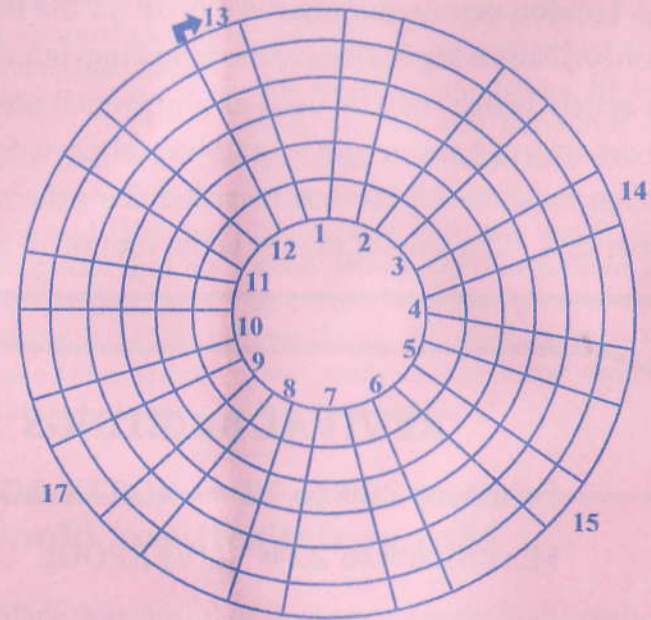
A ₄	-	B ₁	+	C ₇
x		+		-
D ₂	x	E ₆	-	F ₂
+		+		+
G ₂	+	H ₃	+	I ₅



- Job
- Moses
- Lot
- Paul
- Timothy
- Jacob
- Samuel

WORD WHEEL

Solutions 1 to 12 are all six-letter words which go out from the centre of the wheel. Solutions 13 to 17 go around the outer ring (insert missing letters in the remaining spaces using the given clues).



1. The first Epistle in the New Testament.
2. In which book does it say that the glory of this latter house shall be greater than that of the former.
3. Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on this mount.
4. He was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen.
5. A Jew born in Pontus and tentmaker by profession.
6. A man of the family of the house of Saul who cursed David.
7. Rachel's firstborn son.
8. Joseph bound this brother of his until Benjamin was brought.
9. Speaking to yourselves in _____ and hymns and spiritual songs.
10. Simon, from _____, was compelled to bear the cross.
11. Who was the Ammonite who came up and encamped against Jabeshgilead?
12. Where was David anointed king over the house of Judah?
13. Amoz's son and a prophet.
14. He went against Sisera.
15. Elijah slew the prophets of Baal at this brook.
16. The good ground are they, which in an _____ and good heart ... bring forth fruit with patience.
17. The first New Testament martyr.