

Direction

AUGUST 2007

Dedication

**OF LBC CENTRE FOR
GRADUATE STUDIES**

C O L O M B O



28th
August
2007

Tuesday

6 pm

A Worship
Experience
to Know
and Do
the Will
of God

EXPERIENCING GOD

T H E M U S I C A L

Created by GARY RHODES and CLAIRE CLONINGER, with HENRY BLACKABY

Come ! Join ! Worship and Experience

The Awesome Presence of The

Living God

Come face to face with Christ of the Cross, THE TRUTH

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

at
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Presented by: The choir of the
Church of St. Francis of Assisi,
Mt. Lavinia
with the choir of
St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died... Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

ALL ARE WELCOME !

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The setting is 2 Kings, chapter six, where we read of Syria once again waging war against Israel (2 Kings 6:8). But from the outset of their campaign the Syrians realize something is seriously wrong. No matter what they do, it seems Israel knows about it beforehand.

Convinced that a spy has infiltrated his ranks, the Syrian king calls for a conference on the battlefield. Angrily he questions his men, "Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" A soldier quickly replies, "None, my lord, O King: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the King of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber" (2 Kings 6:11, 12).

Word was out. Israel's secret weapon was a man of prayer named Elisha. God was telling Elisha the Syrian army's every move. Then the Syrian king hastily sent his army to Dothan where Elisha was reportedly dwelling. According to Scripture: "Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about" (2 Kings 6:14).

We are not surprised by the reaction of Elisha's servant as he rises in the morning and gazes across the surrounding hillsides. "Alas, my master! How shall we do?" (2 Kings 6:16) was the servants anxious question.

Possibility Praying

How to Pray for Fellow Believers

By Dr. Dick Eastman

Hidden in the narrative of the ancient kings of Israel is quite possibly the most remarkable prayer uttered in all the Old Testament. When answered, this prayer opens untapped vistas of God's supernatural power.

Elisha's response was "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them" (2 Kings 6:16). What a remarkable statement, considering the number of enemy troops gathered on the hillsides! Elisha's servant no doubt took on a look of total bewilderment, for the prophet immediately offered a prayer. It was a brief prayer, only eleven words: "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see" (2 Kings 6:17). God's answer was immediate. The Bible says, "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (2 Kings 6:17).

No prayer we could ever offer on behalf of fellow believers leads to greater possibilities than, "God, open their eyes. "It is a prayer for a new perspective and a new faith. Specifically, we might focus this prayer in three ways:

1. Pray that God will open the eyes of fellow believers to see the reality of His unlimited forgiveness and unmerited favour.

Having received written comments and questions on prayer from over 70,000 Christians who have attended EHC's Schools of Prayer, we have become accustomed to questions related to themes of personal unworthiness. Pray that fellow believers will recognize the full power of Hebrews 7:25:

"Wherefore he (Jesus) is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

2. Pray that God will open the eyes of fellow believers to see the reality of the urgency of the hour in which we live.

The cry of Christ's heart almost 20 centuries ago must be the cry of our hearts in these urgent days,

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). Ask God daily to remind Christians that world evangelism must be the highest priority of the Church.

Pray that God will open the eyes of fellow believers to see the reality of the incredible power available to Christians who give themselves to prayer.

Pray much that God will awaken His Church to a new conviction about the need for prayer. It is the only hope for removing the formidable barriers now hindering the progress of total world evangelization. Praise God for our current growing prayer movements. Pray that pastors will preach more on prayer. Pray that teachers will teach more on prayer. Pray for an accelerated mighty prayer awakening. Together let us ask God to call His Church to a greater experience of prayer.



Dick Eastman is the international president of Every Home for Christ. He also serves as president of America's National Prayer Committee and chairman of Mission America's Light Your Street Network. Dick's passion for prayer and world evangelism has prompted him to write a dozen books on the subjects, including his latest "Delight" trilogy, devoted to intercessory worship and praise.

Editorial

KINGDOM RELATED DREAMS

It was at the Democratic Convention held in 1980 that Ted Kennedy (one of the famous Kennedys) said: 'The Dream Shall Never Die'. Before him people like the late Rev. Martin Luther King had spoken about their dreams for their people. Jose Ramos-Horta, the second president of the tiny nation of East Timor speaking about his dream for his nation said: "When you have ideas, convictions and dreams, do not give up on them. Work on them and they can be realized. We should take note of political leaders when they talk about their dreams for their nations. Today, in Sri Lanka, our former Foreign Minister – Hon. Mangala Samaraweera M.P., talks about his dream for this nation. He is a capable and dynamic visionary.

The Bible clearly says: "When there is no dream (vision) the people perish". We are fully aware of nations, to name a few, Zimbabwe, Somalia and Sudan where reckless and hard-hearted leaders, due to zero tolerance towards their opponents and the national print and electronic media personnel have brought their nations virtually to destruction and stand still.

Our Lord Jesus too was a visionary and had Kingdom Related Dreams? While on earth in his flesh and blood, going place to place, spoke in no uncertain manner about

His Kingdom. People who saw him were touched by him and followed him very closely, eventually becoming Kingdom Related Dreamers and Preachers. Jesus emphatically assured his listeners and followers saying: "my Kingdom is not of this world". Unfortunately, some among them who had political aspiration with a hidden agenda were terribly disheartened, discouraged and became very angry. As for them, all what they could think about was replacing the Roman government with their own Jewish temporal government.

It is sad but true that some who identify themselves as Kingdom Dreamers have fallen prey to the enemy of our souls and are going about having a form of religion but denying the power of God. Unfortunately their sole purpose in life is to become builders of their own Kingdoms. With this purpose in mind they go about as wolves in sheep's clothing (Sheepskin) to devour unsuspecting innocent people.

Those who are mindful of God's Kingdom want to do everything possible to propagate the Gospel through whatever means - literature distribution, broadcasting, electronic web pages, rallies, and other special ministries to reach the armed forces, hospital patients, prison inmates and



so on. In the early 50s, a group of four young men in Tamil Nadu began to meet regularly to pray for India. Soon these four men, namely: Bro. P. Samuel, Rev. Dr. Sam Kamalesan, Rev. Dr. Theodore Williams and Dr. Emil Jebasingh became outstanding Christian leaders of India.

As others joined this prayer group, it began to grow and later became the "Friends Missionary Prayer Band" (FMPB). And the Lord gave them a vision and they became Kingdom Dreamers. In 1957 this small prayer band sent out their first cross cultural missionary from Tamil Nadu to Bihar State in North India. As this group kept praying, the Lord widened their vision and slowly but steadily they were able to send many others into more difficult territories such as Maharashtra, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa in the North. Year 2008 will mark the 50th Year of FMPB which currently has 900 cross cultural missionaries from South India serving in the Northern India. These cross cultural missionaries have raised and mentored 900 plus local missionaries in the North who have crossed their borders to reach others. Apart from this these missionaries from S. India

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Direction

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CEYLON EVERY HOME CRUSADE

is a non denominational incorporated national organisation which exists to serve, motivate and mobilise the Church to participate actively in the systematic personal presentation of a printed or repeatable message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every home in Sri Lanka, helping new believers to become responsible members of the Body of Christ

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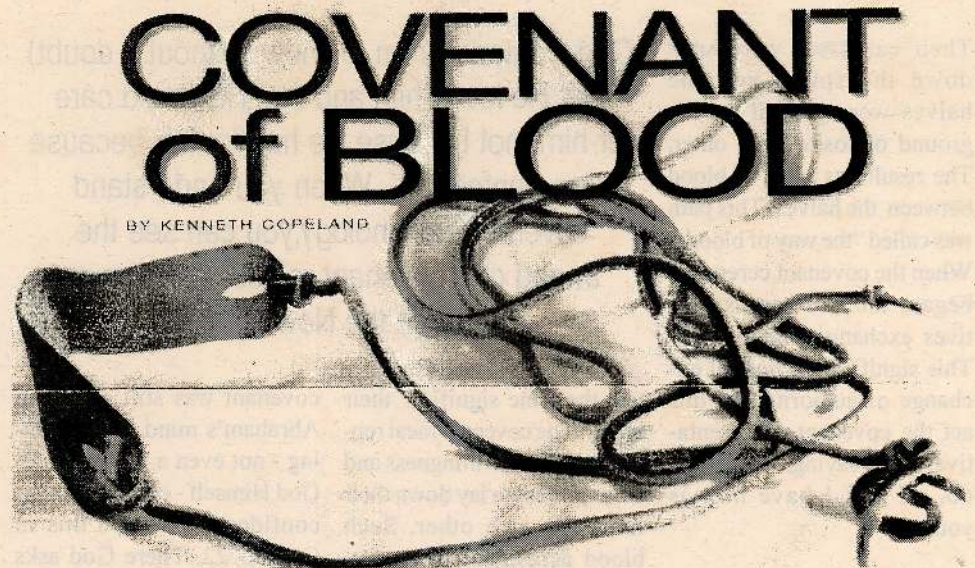
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Israel was a nation that lived by and relied on their covenant with God. Those who knew their God and the integrity of their covenant with Him were mighty and did exploits in His Name.

David was a prime example. He credited his covenant with God as the power behind his ability to kill the lion, the bear and the giant. In 1 Samuel 17:34-47, we find David assuring King Saul that he was well able to slay Goliath. "who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?.....The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine" (verse 26,27).

Circumcision was the sign of the covenant. By calling Goliath uncircumcised, David was making this very pointed statement: He may be a giant; he may be strong; but he has no covenant with God, and that's why I can kill him. Of course, you know the rest of the story. David bravely slew Goliath in the Name of the Lord - because of his covenant. The book of Hebrews promises that we have an even better covenant than David had. Our covenant has better promises. But to know exactly how much better they are, we must understand what the promises of the Old Covenant were.

The covenant David stood on was made long before he ever faced the giant. God estab-



Circumcision was the sign of the covenant. By calling Goliath uncircumcised, David was making this very pointed statement: He may be a giant; he may be strong; but he has no covenant with God, and that's why I can kill him.

lished it with a man called Abram. He promised to make Abram the father of many nations. He promised to give him a great deal of land as an inheritance so that his descendants could live peacefully on it. And in Deuteronomy 28, you will find more very specific promises that God made to Abram's descendants - promises of health, well-being, blessing and victory.

These were very awesome promises. It was hard for Abram to believe that God actually wanted to do these things for him. In Genesis 15, we read how God made a blood agreement with Abram in order to convince Abram once and for all that He meant what he said. Abram asked, "How shall I know that I will inherit this land?" The Lord answered by telling him to

prepare for a blood covenant. He said, "Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not" (Genesis 15:9-10).

In Abram's day, the blood covenant signified an absolute and unbreakable guarantee of a man's word. Nothing short of a blood agreement could have convinced Abram of God's desire to bless him. By cutting the covenant with him, Almighty God communicated His unfailing love and fidelity on a level Abram could understand. God was establishing a love relationship with him that could not be broken without the penalty of

death. In order to see just how that covenant compares to the one we have with the Father today, we need to see what the covenant God cut with Abram involved. That way we can begin to see clearly why ours is even better.

In Abram's society, when two families made covenant together, they gave to one another everything they had and all they represented. They were no longer two, but one. Families bond themselves together in blood agreements in order to fill in the gaps created by each other's weaknesses and needs. Where the first tribe was strong, the second was weak. Where the second tribe was strong, the first was weak. Together, they were both strong. These two families drew up the terms of their agreement and discussed them until each article was fully and mutually agreeable. Then they chose representatives and a place to cut the covenant.

As they prepared for the solemn ceremony, at least three large animals were sacrificed.

Their carcasses were split down the spine, and the halves were placed on the ground opposite each other. The result was a trail of blood between the halves. This path was called "the way of blood." When the covenant ceremony began, the two representatives exchanged their coats. This signified the mutual exchange of authority. By this act the covenant representatives were saying, "All that I do, all that I have now is yours."

Next the covenant representatives exchanged their weapons. Through this they were saying, "My strength is now your strength. Your enemies are now my enemies." After the coats and weapons were exchanged, then came the walk of blood. Twice the representatives walked through "the way of blood," stepping in the centre. There they pronounced their pledges of loyalty, making promises to each other that could never be broken. This pronouncement was called "the blessing of the covenant."

A curse was also pronounced. The curse was the penalty for breaking the terms of the agreement. They swore by their god, thereby making him third party to the covenant. Next came the cut of the covenant. The representatives cut their hands and wrists and bound their wrists together so that their blood would intermingle. After their loyalty was sworn to each other, the families joined their names together as a permanent sign that they had become one. Finally, they ate a covenant meal of bread and wine together. The bread signified their flesh,

God wanted Abram to know (without a doubt) that He loved him and that He would care for him, not because He had to, but because he wanted to.....When you understand covenant terminology, you can see the thread of a covenant relationship woven all through the New Testament

and the wine signified their blood. The covenant meal represented their willingness and commitment to lay down their lives for each other. Such blood agreement were very serious in Abram's day. That is why God chose to make a covenant with him. He wanted to convince Abram that His promises were true. He wanted him to understand that the great El Shaddai desired an unbreakable relationship with him and with his children after him. God wanted Abram to know (without a doubt) that He loved him and that He would care for him, not because He had to, but because he wanted to. By making blood covenant with him, Almighty God proved that He wanted to exchange His strength, His weapons and His authority with Abram. He proved that He wanted to bless man for a thousand generations.

Romans 4:21 tells us that Abram got the message. He became fully persuaded that God was able to perform that which He had promised and his life was never the same again. Even his very name was changed to Abraham, meaning "father of many nations." And eventually Isaac, the long-awaited son of promise, was born to Abraham and his wife, Sarah. Years after Isaac's birth, that

covenant was still strong in Abraham's mind. And nothing - not even a request from God Himself - could shake his confidence. We see this in Genesis 22. There God asks Abraham to place his only son on the altar and sacrifice him. How could He do this after promising Abraham that he would become the father of many nations through this son?

We would expect Abraham to be distraught over such a request. We would expect him to wring his hands and pace the floor all night in grief and anguish. But we're not as covenant minded as Abraham was. Abraham was confident in his covenant. He went to sleep that night and rose up early the next morning ready to go. And when he took Isaac up on the mountain of sacrifice, he turned to his servant and said, "Wait here - the boy and I will be back." He had a covenant! Hebrews 11:17-19 says that Abraham, by faith, had already received Isaac raised from the dead. God had promised him Isaac would make him the Father of many nations, and he knew God could not possibly break that promise. Even though he'd never seen or heard of such a thing, Abraham reasoned that God would just raise Isaac back up from the dead if He had

to. He knew that God would do whatever it took to keep their covenant. And when Abraham laid his son down on the altar of sacrifice, he opened the way for God - his covenant partner - to do the same thing with His only Son, Jesus, on the cross years later. But here's an important point for you to realize. Jess didn't just appear on the scene at that time. He'd been involved in that covenant from the beginning.

According to Galatians 3:16, while God was binding Himself in covenant to Abraham on earth, He was also making covenant with Jesus in heaven. "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many but as of one. And to thy seed, which is Christ." Abraham was the earthly representative. Jesus was the heavenly representative. The covenant was not only between God and Abraham, but between God the Father and God the Son. By making covenant with Jesus, He was making covenant with someone He knew would never break it and thereby removing the need for a curse.

How does all this apply to you and me? Galatians 3:29 is the binding tie. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." We are the unborn generations who looked on as God cut the covenant with Abraham, the father of our covenant faith. Romans 8:17 calls us joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Through the new covenant, God has promised to

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Preserved for a Purpose

Part one

By Rev. David Wilkerson

David prayed, "Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust" (Psalm 16:1). The Hebrew word that David uses for "preserve" in this verse is packed with meaning. It says, in essence, "Put a hedge around me, a wall of protective thorns. Guard me and keep me. Observe my every move, all my comings and goings."

David fully believed that God preserved the righteous. And scripture says David was helped and preserved in all his ways. This blessed man declared, "He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper... thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul". (Psalm 121:4-7).

The same hebrew word for preserve appears in this passage also. Once again, David is speaking of God's divine hedge, the supernatural wall of protection. He's assuring us, "God keeps His eye on you everywhere you go."

Indeed, the Lord is with us in all places: at work, at church, while we're shopping. He's with us in our cars, on buses, on subways. And all the while, David says, God is preserving us from evil. He's keeping us safe from thieves, gangs, murderers, rapists, terrorists. He's protecting us from anthrax, smallpox, every conceivable kind of germ warfare. In short, our God has every base covered. He has promised to thwart every possible weapon formed against His children.

Every Christian who has walked with the Lord for just a few years could write a book on the wilderness he's been through. What testings he endured? How many times he faced disaster, perhaps even death? In this Two - Part series we will see that the Lord preserved the Israelites and put a wall around them for a specific purpose: to bring them to a place of usefulness. He was leading them to the Promised Land, a place of destiny where they could lie down at night knowing their battles counted for something.

May be you've been worried in recent weeks, about a surprise terrorist attack or the spread of a deadly disease. God's Word gives us sure promises even for these things:

"De liver me, O Lord, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man...continually are they gathered together for war. They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent: adders, poison is under their lips...Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked...who have purposed to overthrow my goings. The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me..."

"Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the wicked...as for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them. Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast

into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not again. Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth: evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him."

"I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence" (Psalm 140:1-13).

At the beginning of this Psalm, David calls on God to preserve him against violent men. The word that David uses for preserve here is different. It means to protect from what is concealed, hidden, secret. God is telling us, "I've got every area of your life covered, even things you can't see. You can surely rest in me."

Do you believe you are being preserved by the Lord? Do you accept that He's

protecting you from the schemes of the proud, violent, evil men? Such men may be bent on destroying you. They may devise piosonous plans against you. But you don't have to fear any evil. As David prays, "Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not again" (Psalm 140:10).

If you have trouble accepting God's desire to preserve you, read Psalm 37:

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in His way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful ...and his seed is blessedfor the Lord loveth judgement, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever ... the Lord will not leave him ...nor condemn him when he is judged..."

"When the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them ... he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust

in Him” (Psalm 37: 23-28, 33-40).

Even Job in his agony testified of God’s preserving power. I have never known any person who faced everything Job endured. This man lost his family, his possessions, his health, his good name. Who could argue with such a battered man’s experience? Yet Job addressed God as “thou preserver of men” (Job 7:20).

Time after time, our God has proved himself a preserver to his people. Yet, for what purpose? Why is the Lord so intent on preserving us? We find a clue in Moses’ words: “The Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day” (Deuteronomy 6:24). Moses says God gave them commandments for one reason: to preserve and keep them. But for what? For the same reason God wants to save and protect us. Think of all the ways God preserved his chosen people, Israel. He protected them from the ten plagues in Egypt. He delivered them from Pharaoh’s army at the Red Sea. He healed them from deadly snakebites in the desert. And the people testified of God’s preserving power, to their children and grandchildren: “The Lord delivered us from all our enemies. He gave us food and water, and kept our clothes from wearing out. He has preserved Israel through everything.”

But is that all there was to Israel’s testimony? Where these people preserved and

protected just to end up dying in the wilderness? Were God’s deliverance’s mean only to keep them safe and well-fed throughout their lives? Surely there had to be a reason God preserved them.

Israel was preserved to fulfill God’s plan for their lives

Moses stated, “He brought us out from thence, That he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers” (Deuteronomy 6:23). Moses was telling Israel, “look at all the miraculous ways God has brought you out of bondage. What do you think that was all about? Why do you think he chose you and marked you as special from the foundation of the world? Why did he deliver you from slavery? Why did he bless you when you deserved to be abandoned?”

“He didn’t do it just so you could say, ‘God supplied all my needs.’ He didn’t do it so you could sit around the camp fire and tell your grandchildren stories of past miracles. Those are all wonderful things. But they’re not the limit of “God’s plan for you. The Lord has preserved you so he can take you someplace. He wants to accomplish something in your lives beyond all the miracles.”

I believe every Christian who has walked with the Lord for just a few years could write a book on the wilderness he’s been through. In fact, our ministry has just published such a book, *Triumph Through Tragedy*. It’s filled with incredible testimonies from believers who have

endured excruciating trials. Yet, what about you? What testings have you endured? How many times have you faced disaster, perhaps even death? As you look back at those things, ask yourself: “What does all this mean? Why did God preserve me? Why am I not a drug addict or alcoholic? Why am I not living on the street, out of my senses and barely alive? And why do I have God’s peace instead? Why has the Lord been so good to me?” The Lord preserved the Israelites and put a wall around them for a specific purpose: to bring them into a place of usefulness. He was leading them to the Promised Land, a place of destiny where they could lie down at night knowing their battles counted for something.

God had already sworn to judge the wicked nations; living in Canaan. And when he preserved Israel, it was to prepare them for warfare with those nations. Even before Israel entered Canaan, God promised to send plagues of hornets ahead of them: “I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before thee” (Exodus 23:28). God wanted every Israelite to know, “You were preserved all these years to be warriors in a time of crisis. You’re meant to live as victors and die fulfilled. I have saved you to be useful, winning great battles to the end.”

Jesus also was preserved by the father for a purpose. Isaiah prophesied that Christ would be despised and threatened. But there was a

purpose behind it all: “Thus saith the Lord, in an acceptable time have I heard thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages” (Isaiah 49:8). We know from the Gospel that God’s almighty, preserving Spirit watched over Christ every day of his life. And he faithfully delivered Jesus from harm, time after time. Think of how often the religious leaders tried to kill God’s Son. They once took him to a hill top to throw him over a cliff, but the Spirit intervened. Likewise, Satan tried luring Jesus to throw himself off a temple precipice. But the Spirit again preserved Christ, giving him strength to resist temptation and sending angels to minister to him.

And it was all for a purpose. Isaiah adds, “That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them” (49:9-10).

Jesus had answered the Father, I’ll reach those in darkness, and show the lost the way back to you.” All of Christ’s deliverances were meant for this very purpose: to break the power of Satan, set people free, deliver those in bondage, and bring light into darkness. By the Spirit’s preserving power, Jesus accomplished all of these things.

Rev. David Wilkerson of “Cross and the Switchblade” fame was used by God in early 70’s to reach street gangs in New York city. He is an active pastor today and writes extensively

Lanka's Labour

Response to exchange of views in these columns between "Path-breaker" (June issue) and "Path-seeker" (July issue), on the subject of "negotiations to end the ethnic" problem.

As a Christian I am not afraid of anybody except Jesus and the Heavenly Father. So I divulge my name at the end of this letter. There is no need for me to hide behind pseudonyms.

If, as I think, diversity in ethnicity is a fact, how can there be a problem? The diversity springs partly from biology, partly from anthropology and partly from culture fashioned by social interaction. While the roots in biology and anthropology seem facts immune from controversy, culture, as a product of social living can, as it appears, be the factor that gives rise to conflict or harmony. While harmony is always desirable and makes for social stability, conflict is pathetic, destabilizes society and ultimately destroys it. **The parties in conflict are the**

ultimate losers. The inheritors of harmony will remain victorious. This secular statement is, in fact, in a deeper spiritual sense, the central message of the Bible. While conflict is definitely the outcome of immaturity, harmony is the outcome of maturity. Here I converge in my view with a cardinal statement of T.S. Eliot who, in his notes on culture identified **maturity** as a distinguishing characteristic of culture.

There is a quaint anecdote of a meeting between a Hindu and an ex-Hindu who had accepted Christ. When one day they met after some years of separation, the Hindu accosted his Christian friend with the jovial remark: "Ah! friend we meet once again after a while. We still have something in common. Thank God for that." "What is

that?" asked the Christian. "Why, are we both not seeking God?" asked the Hindu. "You are wrong my friend" said the Christian. Then came the *coup de grace* from the Christian: "While you have been seeking God, Jesus has come to me and now I have found rest. I have no more conflicts with men." Shortly after my late-life capitulation to Jesus, my best friend, a Catholic, asked what he thought to be a challenging question. "After all what difference does your conversion make in your life?" I bluntly told him that now I have a **living Saviour** whereas formerly I was supposed to revere a dead philosopher, small change indeed when compared with Christ who befriends you when you open your heart to him.

What has all this got to do with the "ethnic problem"?

Everything. The ethnic problem is a clash between godless people, some of whom of course are professing to seek God but don't really find him. These people cannot hear the knock on the door and so do not open their doors to him who knocks. Knock, knock and they do not hear! Seek, seek and they do not find. The process of negotiation is largely and essentially between godless people. You can easily see that where God is sidelined, negotiation is a game of blind-man's buff!

Christians, through prayers and prayers unceasingly can help and hope to change the hearts of the negotiators. We may see Prabhakaran as an object of **dislike** but we must continue to **love** him for love as noun or verb is the imperative of the Second Commandment. Let the godless dislike and hate Prabhakaran but the Christian has no easy life in the midst of violence and conflict. Love, patience and endurance are the tools of the Christian. Mere negotiation, absent God, is a waste of time. We Christians through our prayerful support can hope to usher in harmony if that is possible. With God, nothing is impossible. My reminder to those who conceive of negotiation on the basis of godless presumptions is to close with the immortal lines taken from Charles Wesley's hymn "Love divine, all loves excelling":

*Jesu, thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.*

M.S.M.T. Samaratunga.

INTRODUCING THREE BOOKS

Paul a Critical Life – by Jerome Murphy (Oxford University Press – 400 Pages)

This book presents a vivid and dramatic account of the life of Paul, from his childhood and his years as a student in Jerusalem to the successes and failures of his ministry.

The Bible Cure for Diabetes – by Don Colbert (Siloam Press – 80 Pages)

Learn biblical secrets on health and the latest medical research on how to break free from the grip of diabetes.

**The Normal Church Life/An Exposition of the First Epistle of John
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This book gives you the tools to refute unbiblical teachings and live the life that God approves.



For details contact: The Librarian,
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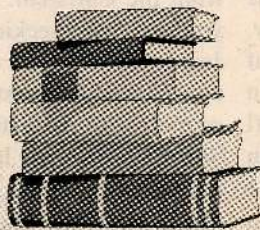
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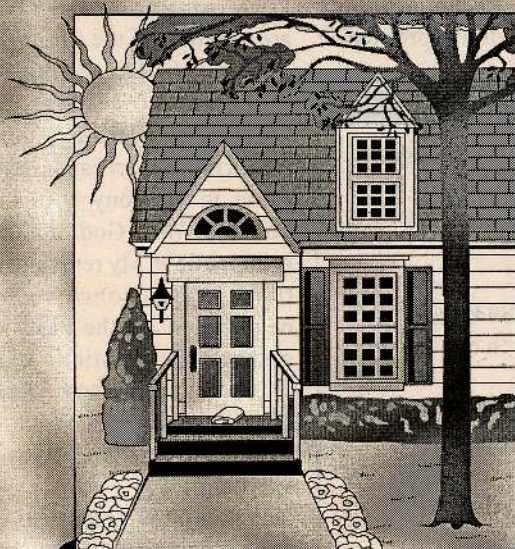
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God, in creating man, made him the crown of His creation. Man is distinctly superior to the rest of creation.

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing the moveth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

Man has the ability to "replenish, subdue and have dominion." this responsibility to maintain the beauty of the earth and manage all it's affairs is part and parcel of mans life, it runs in his veins. This special feature in man has brought about Politicians and Governments; Scientists and Research; Engineers and gigantic Construction projects; Doctors and Medical science; Workers and production of various Goods; Technicians and highly developed modes of Transportation; sophisticated Communications equipment etc., making the whole globe a neighbourhood. Technological advancement, more than ever before, has made man thoroughly skilled in the art of making life better and comfortable. However, shocking as it may seem, this planet is inevitably heading for sure disaster.

There was a kind and gentle businessman who was very tolerant towards his workers. His factory manager took advantage of this and cunningly steered his way through his work for self gain. He was up to much deceit, corrupt in his dealings and

inconsiderate towards the workers. His aim was to continue in his post as manager and achieve his own ends. The rate of production, the quality of goods were dropping and the company was heading for sure disaster. This beautiful world too is in a similar plight. Man continues to be in force but since he disobeyed God in the garden of Eden he is no more that same man, he sinned and came short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Therefore however genuine his efforts are to maintain order upon this planet, they are futile.

Heavy industrial development has severely damaged our environment resulting in changes in weather patterns, water and food shortage and other natural disasters. There is ample evidence of moral decay, increase of ethnic and religious disharmony leading to violence, terrorism, war and man-made disasters. Refugee camps are a common sight. Spread of disease, drug addiction and crime are on the increase. Injustice, bribery and corruption in all spheres of leadership are the order of the day.

...and David Prevailed

By Christopher Arulanandam

Can Christians effectively be of help at a time of National Crisis. Can their antagonistic attitude towards the world keep them from being concerned about daily affairs of the nation they belong to?

Man in his fallen state is unregenerate and desperately needs to be restored to his former state of godliness. Someone has correctly said: "God formed man, sin deformed him and Christ reforms him." Man must consciously and deliberately accept the finished work of redemption on the cross by Jesus Christ. He then becomes a true and worthy custodian of his place of habitation and a proper steward of his responsibilities.

David in the old testament of the Bible is an example of a good Christian citizen. In his day and time he responded positively when his country was in the throes of a national crisis. The dreaded enemies, the Philistines had set their armies in array against his country Israel (1 Sam 17:1). The situation was very tense, the King and all Israel were dismayed and greatly afraid when they heard the challenge of the Philistine giant Goliath (1 Sam 17:10). There was no one suitable who would dare to meet this challenge. When young David visited the battle field the people panicked with terror with no hope of

survival. The Bible says: "David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone and smote and killed him (1 Sam: 17:50). He not only brought glory to God but great victory to his home land Israel. David was yielded to God, he knew the purpose of his existence and firmly took his stand as God's "method" of victory for the hour. He stood tall in great spiritual stature and splendour, and with confidence, very meaningfully paraded his remarkable Christian virtues and qualities.

A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

When his father asked him to visit his three soldier brothers in the battle front, David acted in a very responsible manner. The feeling of excitement was great, his heart was thrilled yet he was careful not to leave things high and dry before leaving. He showed his sense of responsibility in thinking well to leave the sheep in the hands of a keeper (1 Sam. 17:20). Later arriving at the war front he left his carriage in safe custody (1 Sam 17:22). As peace loving Christian citizens, we must be conscious of our accountability to God and man of matters relating to us, the public and to God. Our prayerful involvement in, and concern for public and national issues is not an optional commitment but a requirement of our Christian faith. We are also called to keep God's beautiful garden (the earth). Nature is God's gift to man and it certainly is not a waste of time to be environment friendly. Nature reveals the invisible things of

God and even His eternal power and Godhead (Rom. 1:20). One inspired hymn writer wrote: "O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder consider all the works Thy hand hath made." Yet another says: "Summer and winter, springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness, to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love." Accountability not only applies to public administration, it comes into forced powerfully into all spheres of Christian activity. Christians must be people of character, integrity and commitment.

A SENSE OF HUMOUR

To be cheerful when things turn topsy turvy is another challenge the Christians face. When David entered the Israeli camp the atmosphere was intensely charged with fear and hopelessness. Cracking a joke is the last thing one would do in such a situation. David said: 'what shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach of Israel?' (1 Sam. 17:26b). Perhaps it was common to expect the Kings daughter for such a deed but David was not in any way bargaining for such a reward. His first reaction was to break the gloom that hung over God's chosen people. The weapon of "good cheer" David used may be considered even more important than the one he used to kill Goliath. In creating faith and a feeling of joyful expectation among the people, he set the stage for God to do the impossible. "The joy of the Lord is our strength ...in His presence is

Our prayerful involvement in, and concern for public and national issues is not an optional commitment but a requirement of our Christian faith.

fullness of joy" (Neh. 8:10, Ps. 16:11).

DAVID DEFENDED THE NAME OF GOD

David always endeavoured to exalt the name of God, it was automatic almost reflex action. Hearing the Giant's words of insult he reacted sharply and roared aloud: "who is this uncircumscised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Sam. 17:26b). David loved God so dearly that he was known as: 'the man after God's own heart'. The deep yearning he had for God is described as the "hart that panteth after the waters" (Ps. 42:1). He delighted in meditating on God's word, singing songs of worship, praise and thanksgiving which are now known as the well loved psalms of David. The psalms reflect the different situations we face in our lives: joy and sorrow, difficulty and danger, failure and sin, also deliverance and victory, sickness and fear of death, as well as wonder at God's goodness, love and saving power.

Some psalms are intercessions of the whole people of Israel in times of defeat or crisis (like 44, 74 and 79), while in others, we see national thanksgiving recalling what God has done in past years and generations. Some psalms concern the king and pray for God's blessings on his rule (like 2 and 72). The name of God energized every pace of David's life. "Then said David to the Philistine: "Thou

comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts" (1 Sam 17:45).

A DYNAMIC TESTIMONY

Many of us Christians have come through a rough path. Failures, disappointments, frustrations and hardships have all been there but when we look back our hearts are filled with thanksgiving. They all worked for our good, we are stronger now and even able to encourage others who go through similar experiences. "Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he is a man of war from his youth (1 Sam. 17:33). David was only able to convince King Saul of his guarantee of victory with his personal testimony. He talked of how he delivered his father's sheep out of a lion and a bear. "David said moreover, the Lord hath delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam. 17:37). God's past blessings are always a guarantee for future blessings.

NOT AN EARTHLY SYSTEM OF DEFENCE

When David was geared up in army uniform he looked rather comic. His walk was so clumsy that the people perhaps were provoked to laughter. David was fantastic, it was just what the people needed, the exercise was worth going through. The

people were so strung up and uptight but now felt more at ease and comfortable.... And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these: for I have not proved them. And David put them all off." (1 Sam. 17:39 B).

ABSOLUTE TRUST IN GOD

David had learnt to rely on God and in this instance rejected human security. He had absolute trust in God and went out to meet his opponent in the name of the Lord God of Israel. "So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with stone, and smote the Philistine and slew him" (1 Sam. 17:50). David, no doubt, was a national hero and for this he is a favourite old testament character among many. What really stands out in his life is the fact that he fought all his life to establish peace in Israel. It is still amazing to discover that all this hard work was in pursuit of a greater goal. A higher purpose, the **temple of God**. He often stretched his imagination to see God's people worship in this edifice of splendour. It is sad however, to note that when peace ultimately came, David was too old and unfit to pursue his task (1 Chronicles. 22:10 & 18). Do we desire peace in order to lie down in complacency and relax? God forbid, he only gives us calm so that we build His Kingdom unhindered.

In the context of the current national issue of peace in Sri Lanka, let us not be indifferent but intelligently be involved. Like David, with his remarkable characteristics, let us prevail in prayer and God sure will bless our land.

Tips for Healthy living

Recent research confirms that one of the worst practices you can develop may be avoiding breakfast.

Importance of having Breakfast

Breakfast can help prevent strokes, heart attack and sudden death. Advice on not to skip breakfast! Healthy living For those who always skip breakfast, you should stop that habit now! You've heard many times that "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day." Now, recent research confirms that one of the worst practices you can develop may be avoiding breakfast. Because the frequency of heart attack, sudden death, and stroke peaks between 6:00a.m. and noon, with the highest incidence being between 8:00a.m. and 10:00a.m. What mechanism within the body could account for this significant jump in sudden death in the early morning hours? We may have an Answer. Platelet, tiny elements in the blood that keep us from bleeding to Death if we get a cut, can clump together inside our arteries due to cholesterol or plaque build up in the artery lining. It is in the morning hours that platelets become the most activated and tend to form these internal blood clots at the greatest frequency. However, eating even a very light breakfast prevents the morning platelet activation that is associated with heart attacks and strokes. Studies performed at Memorial University in St. Johns, Newfoundland found that eating a light, very low-

fat breakfast was critical in modifying the morning platelet activation. Subjects in the study consumed either low-fat or fat-free yogurt, orange juice, fruit, and a source of protein coming from yogurt or fat-free milk. So if you skip breakfast, it's

important that you change this practice immediately in light of this research. Develop a simple plan to eat cereal, such as oatmeal or Bran Flakes, along with six ounces of grape juice or orange juice, and perhaps a piece of fruit. This simple plan

will keep your platelets from sticking together, keep blood clots from forming, and perhaps head off a potential Heart Attack or stroke. So never ever skip breakfast Hope after reading this, you will not skip BREAK FAST!!!

Sent by
Terrance A. Fuard
U.K.

5 Ways to Improve Your Diet

Did you know that four of the 10 leading causes of death and disease are directly associated with diet? Heart disease, diabetes, and atherosclerosis are all linked to diet. Several of these diseases tend to strike men in their early forties. Take a close look at your nutrition.

1. Eat moderate amounts of a variety of foods. No one food has all of the nutrients you need.

2. Choose a diet low in fat, especially saturated in fat and cholesterol. Focus on lower-fat foods.

3. Eat plenty of whole grains, vegetables and fruits. These supply complex carbohydrates and dietary fiber.

4. Be cautious about sweet deals. Sweets offer few nutrients for the number of calories consumed.

5. Go easy on sodium and salt. Watch for "hidden" high-sodium foods such as processed meats, canned soups, and chips.

From Home Life June 02.

Heat Treat Your aching Back

If you have chronic back pain that hasn't responded to conventional treatments, ask your doctor about a new treatment called intradiscal electrothermal therapy (IDET). IDET involves the insertion of a miniature catheter with a heating element into the damaged spinal disk that's causing back

pain. Tests show this method relieves pain, improves physical functioning for up to two years and improves overall quality of life. It's performed under local anesthesia and requires no hospitalization.

Taken from Christian Single Nov. 02

Did You have a Headache and how Big was it?

A common bug that causes gut ulcers may also be behind some migraine headaches. Italian scientists tested two groups of migraine patients infected with the germ. One group received a course of antibiotics; the other, a course of antibiotics plus Lactobacillus, a friendly bacteria available in supplement form and in yoghurt. The Lactobacillus group continued to supplement for a year. Within a month of treatment, headache relief was greater in the group tested with antibiotics and Lactobacillus, and some were headache-free for a year. Lactobacillus also lessened the severity of headaches in other migraine sufferers.

From Christian Single Sept. 02

The information in this page is intended for reference and health education only, not as a substitute for appropriate diagnosis from a qualified health-care practitioner. Please consult your personal physician for your specific health-care concerns.

If you heard Bishop Alexis of Rwanda speak?
 .. if you are interested in Peace and Reconciliation?
 .. looking to find an interesting and inspiring read?

THEN..... READ HIS STORY

Rescued by Angels

The story of miracles during the Rwandan genocide

Alexis Bilindabagabo is the Anglican Bishop of the Gahini diocese in Rwanda. He pioneered the Barakabaho Foundation, which now cares for over 8000 children in foster families and has pioneered trauma counselling in the country. The book, 'Rescued by Angels' is authored by Alan Nichols, a Melbourne-based author and priest who is also the Canon of St. John's Cathedral Gahini and Bishop Alexis. It speaks of Bishop Alexis' experience as a refugee three times; as a five-year-old with his parents, as a schoolboy with his brother, and as a father with his own four children. He survived the 1994 genocide with his wife and children through a series of miracles. He believes God saved him for a purpose; to become 'father of the fatherless' in Rwanda



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BY WHOM?
 Staff of ECRE Centre,
 Who are well trained by
 Bro. Abraham
 and Sis. Mercy Ponniah

"I never thought that I would get a chance to spend two days with Sinhala girls here in Trincomalee. I don't know Sinhala and they don't know Tamil but we were able to communicate very well. Now I can even speak a little bit of Sinhala!" said a young Tamil woman from Trincomalee.



"GIVE PEACE A CHANCE" - PEACE EXPEDITION 2007

As part of the "Give Peace a Chance" programme, organised and implemented by Alliance Development Trust - the relief and development arm of the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL), 40 Sinhala youth from the South and 40 Tamil youth met in the North Eastern town of Trincomalee. The programme ran from the 14th to the 17th of May. The purpose of the programme was to build bridges of friendship and understanding between Sinhala youth and Tamil youth.

The Sinhala youth hailed from the towns of Galle, Hambantota, Avissawella and Katharagama. They were all introduced to their Tamil counterparts in Trincomalee. A young Sinhala man from Galle said "Even though Trincomalee is part of my country, this is the first time I have been here. I never thought that I could come and see this beautiful place and make Tamil friends."

The youth, both Sinhala and Tamil, went to an elders' home where they got together and held a "shramadhanaya" - cleaning and



clearing the premises. They also visited a school for deaf children. Later on, they went to see some historical sites of the area like the Koneshver Temple and Kinniya, where the seven springs of hot water are situated. The Sinhala youth were given a chance to experience the Tamil culture and they also had a chance to witness the current situation in Trincomalee.

The youth were given a time to seek forgiveness for their mistakes and pray

together for reconciliation amongst communities. Just like Jesus humbled himself and washed the feet of his disciples, the youth washed each other's feet as a symbolic gesture.

During their stay, the Sinhala youth had an unexpected first hand experience on what the Tamils in the war affected areas go through. On the first night, the sky was ablaze with heavy artillery fire directed at a light aircraft in the skies over Trincomalee. The youth were caught by surprise and this caused much agitation amongst them, however, they prayed and overcame their fears. Throughout the programme, the Sinhala and Tamil youth stood side by side and worked together to achieve the same goals. They fellowshiped and prayed together like brothers and sisters.

The peace expedition broke through mental barriers and brought understanding, forgiveness, repentance and peace into the hearts of these young people from the two ethnic communities. They will become beacons of hope, spreading the message of peace in their respective communities, by drawing on their experience of the peace expedition. The next peace expedition will take youth from Trincomalee to visit the South.

Local News

GLOMOS HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY:

Global Action Sri Lanka held its Graduation Ceremony and Thanksgiving Service on July 14th at St. Luke's Church, Borella. At this graduation ceremony the 6th batch of GLOMOS students received their certificates of award. Global Action Sri Lanka under the dynamic leadership of Bro. Lal Withanage is providing Bible based theological education and training for rural Christian pastors and workers. These courses are conducted in Colombo. For further information: 8 ½, Melbourne Ave, Colombo-4.

AGBC HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MISSION'S CONVENTION:

The 13th Mission's Convention sponsored by the Assemblies of God Bible College, was held from July 10-13 at AGBC Campus, Jaela. This Missions' Seminar was arranged for the benefit of Pastors and Christian workers. Rev. David Steward was the Guest Speaker at this 3 day Seminar and Gospel rally in the evenings.

OVERSEAS COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MEET IN SRI LANKA:

The five-yearly meeting of the international presidents of OC was held in Sri Lanka this May. The Colombo Theological College was blessed to have four of these presidents from OC-

Australia, Canada, Europe and New Zealand visit their Campus and new facility at Kohuwela. Overseas Council mobilizes prayer and financial support for National Theological Colleges and Seminaries in developing and third world countries.

LOVE KEGALLE CHURCH LEADERS MEET:

Pastors, Christian workers and leaders of churches met for a special meeting on 7th July at Christ Church, Kegalle. At this meeting plans were drawn and finalized to conduct this systematic house-to-house distribution of the printed gospel message from August 24-31. Most pastors if not all expressed their joy regarding this campaign and vouched their fullest cooperation. This meeting was followed by a fellowship lunch.

GOSPEL LITERATURE AVAILABLE:

A large stock of gospel and evangelistic booklets in Sinhala and Tamil languages (2300 boxes) from World Missionary Press, New Paris-Indiana USA received by Every Home Crusade are available to all churches and evangelistic organizations. These boxes of Christian literature are stored at South Asia Institute of Theology, Norton Bridge. Those who would like to obtain these gospel literature may contact: Bro. Noel Ambrose (011-2587189) or Pastor Devasagayam at SAIT (051-2232225).

GODFREY YOGARAJAH APPOINTED TO THE SOUTH ASIA COUNCIL OF THE LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP TRUST



and to empower preachers with adequate skills.

The Programmes of Langham Partnership are motivated by the challenge to raise the standards of Biblical preaching. For this, the Langham partnership implements programmes in the areas of Scholarship, Literature and Preaching. Under the Scholarship programme, evangelical teachers who will have a strategic influence in their home country are provided scholarships to study for a Ph.D. in theology. Under the Literature programme, the Langham Partnership provides quality theological publications and also facilitates writing, translating and publishing of material in local languages. The Langham Partnership is also engaged in building a movement of Biblical preachers. The South Asian Regional Council at an installation service held on the 16th of May 2007 in India. The vision of the South Asian Council is to strengthen the rapidly growing South Asian Church in its mission and witness of making Jesus Christ known, with three pronged focus: to train and equip scholars who will provide leadership and train leaders for the South Asian Church, to update libraries with adequate literature,

The Langham partnership was established by the great missionary John Stott, with the vision of equipping Churches for mission. The Langham Partnership has 10 Councils in various geographic locations of the world. The South Asian Chapter was formed in May 2005, to meet the growing needs in South Asia. The present membership comprises of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

Mr. Godfrey Yogarajah was appointed as a Council member of the Langham Partnership South Asia Council at the South Asian Regional Council at an installation service held on the 16th of May 2007 in India. The vision of the South Asian Council is to strengthen the rapidly growing South Asian Church in its mission and witness of making Jesus Christ known, with three pronged focus: to train and equip scholars who will provide leadership and train leaders for the South Asian Church, to update libraries with adequate literature,

Mr. Godfrey Yogarajah is also the General Secretary of the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka and the Evangelical Fellowship of Asia. He also serves on the Leadership Team of the World Evangelical Alliance.

DIRECTION READERS! Please pay up your SUBSCRIPTION - New rate Rs. 500/- thank you

JDCS CUTS OFF LINK WITH CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA:

Jaffna Diocese of Church of South India has cut off links with the Church of South India from July 3 and reverted to the original American Ceylon Mission which was founded by Congregational American missionaries in 1816 in Jaffna. It was late Bishop S. Kulendiran who was instrumental in making this as an Episcopal diocese of the CSI. When the American Missionaries established this church, their original intention was that this church remained a Congregational Church and not an Episcopal Church.

YOUTH LEADERS TRAINING CAMP:

The Level II of this training programme is to be held at Korean Church Wattala from August 6th to 11th this year. Three trainers from the GYM net work-Philippines will be conducting the Training. The first batch that completed the level I would follow level II training while level I Training would be repeated for a fresh batch of 50 youth from rural areas. The venue has been shifted to Wattala to reduce expenses. The cost per trainee would be Rs 2000/- and the organizers hope to charge Rs.1000/- per person and a little less from those who are from far off places.

IMPROVE YOUR PREACHING:

A two day special seminar and workshop on the theme: 'Improve your preaching' will be held from August 27-29 at SAIT, Norton Bridge. This seminar and workshop is jointly sponsored by

Ambassadors For Christ International and SAIT. Dr. John Paul from India will be the resource person.

NEW TAMIL MINISTRIES.....

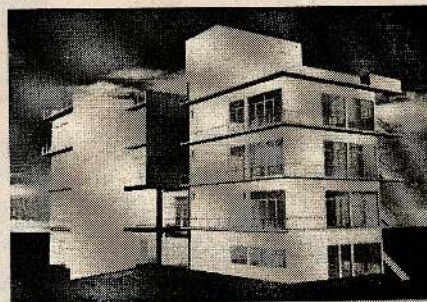
Christian Reformed Church of Sri Lanka (formerly Dutch Reformed Church)

The Christian Reformed Church of Sri Lanka has begun two new Tamil ministries at its churches in Maligahakande and Wellawatte. The Maligahakande ministry is spearheaded by Assoc. Pastor Suresh Karmegam and is held at 4:45 every Sunday evening. Whilst, the Wellawatte service is overlooked by Bro. Ajendran and held every Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP CONFERENCE 2007

The Christian Arts Foundation conducted the 'Nehemiah II Project Praise and Worship Conference 2007' in Kandy and Colombo July 16 - 28. Sponsored by the Lighthouse Church, Kuwait, the programme was held on the theme: 'Learn how to hear the voice of God' which was well attended both in Kandy and Colombo. The Christian Arts Foundation was founded by Shane Pillai who now works with Lighthouse Church, Kuwait as a worship leader and musician. This programme was sphere-headed by him along with Calvary Church Colombo 5. The core team members who ministered were Mr. & Mrs. Willie Harry, Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hull, Mr. & Mrs. Rick Kerr and Shane Pillai.

CTS DEDICATES THEIR NEW FACILITY:



Colombo Theological College dedicated their new facility at Kohuwela on July 23rd. The Chief Guests were Mr. Eran & Kushi Wickramaratne. Eran (son of Rev. Dr. Colton & Susan Wickramaratne) is Deputy CEO of NDB Bank and former Council member of CTS.

CHANGE OF NAME



The Dutch Reformed Church in Sri Lanka will in future be known as:

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH of Sri Lanka.

The change is in effect as per Act No. 08 of 2007.

REV. G. J. CLAREANTON - 30 YEARS OF MINISTRY



Rev. G. J. Clareanton, Coordinator for Living Light Assembly of Holland and Senior Pastor of New Wine Harvest Church in Sri Lanka completed 30 years of ministry. To celebrate this important event and anniversary a special service was held in Malasiya on 13.06.2007. Also a service of Thanksgiving held in Wattala on June 30th, 2007. The Editor and the staff of DIRECTION magazine wishes Rev. Clareanton many more years of blessed and fruitful ministry.

The opening & dedication of the 1st phase of the Centre for Graduate Studies in Colombo was witnessed by representatives of all denominations and church organisations. It was indeed a time of great joy and encouragement. Rev Stuart Brooking - Executive Director of Overseas Council Australia, was the Chief Guest at this very special event in the life of Lanka Bible College & Seminary.

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- MA in Organisational Development
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For further details:

LBC Centre for Graduate Studies

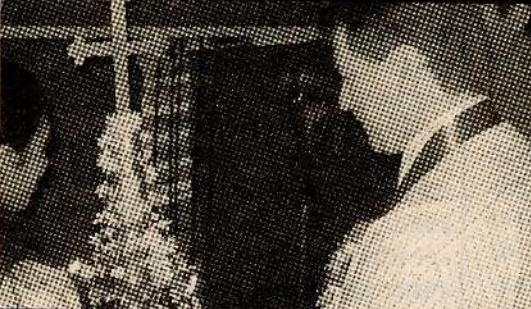
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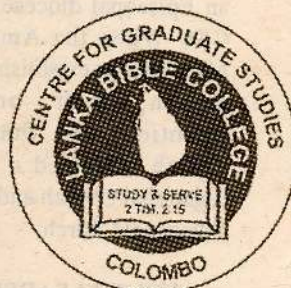


Rev. Roshan Mendis President Christian Reformed Church (formerly DRC) leading in Prayer

Welcoming Rev. Stuart Brooking Executive Director - OCA

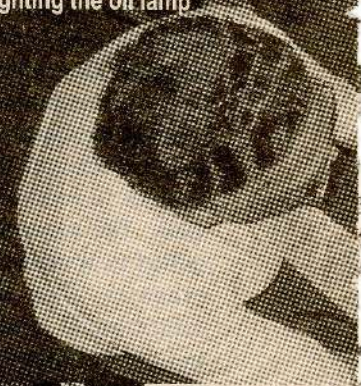


Our Chief Guest at the opening- Rev. Stuart Brooking Executive Director OCA



Rev. Stuart Brooking Executive Director OCA -addressing the gathering

Dr. Sam Thevabalasingham Director of CEHC - lighting the oil lamp



Mr. Godfrey Yogarajah General - Secretary of the NCEASL lighting the oil lamp



Rev. Chandy -Founding principal of LBC leading in Prayer



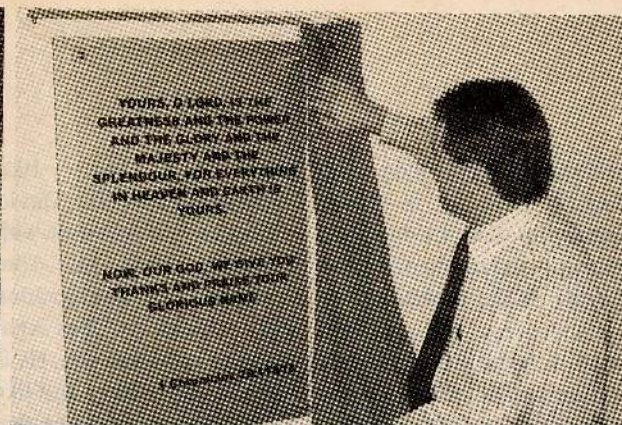
Pastor Krishnaraja Chairman of the LBC Board - lighting the oil lamp



A section



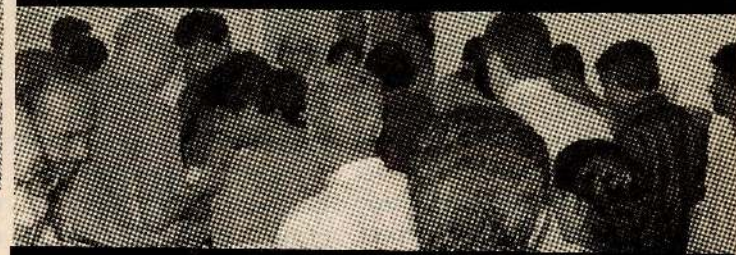
Rev. Stuart Brooking,
(Chief Guest)



Rev. Stuart Brooking while opening the plaque
on the wall



A section of the crowd



A section of the gathering

DEDICATION OF LBC CENTRE FOR GRADUATE STUDIES COLOMBO



Rev. Rophile Blom, Pastor Calvary Church leading in Prayer



Rev. Michael Dissanayake
- President of NCEASL



Chairman of LBC Board with Rev. Stuart Brooking



A section of the crowd during a time of fellowship



Rev. Stuart Brooking during the fellowship time

Covenant of Blood

Contd. from Page 4

care for us the same way He would love and care for Jesus. This new covenant is better than the old. If you'll read Deuteronomy 28, you'll find the blessings that are promised to those who keep the terms of the agreement. They're wonderful promises - it's hard to imagine any better. But keep reading and you'll also find the curse that will fall on those who break the agreement. That's where our covenant differs. Although we ourselves have been guilty of breaking the terms of the covenant, we've been freed from the penalty of it.

From the time Jesus was born until He died at Calvary, He never broke the terms of the covenant. Yet when He went to the Cross, He bore the curse, or penalty, for breaking it. Why? so that you and I would never have to bear it. "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:13,14).

Every demonic and diabolical thing that could ever come against you during this lifetime was placed on Jesus when He went to the cross. He bore the penalty for your sin. He bore all of your sicknesses and carried all your diseases. He totally stripped

the devil of his power to harm you. He bore the curse for you so that you could receive the blessing of Abraham through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb that established your covenant with God. His blood was shed. The book of Hebrews says, that we have a new and living way to approach God. Remember "the way of blood"? Well, the blood of Jesus has made the way for us to have a covenant relationship with the Father. Jesus was not only the blood sacrifice, but He also became our representative - the one Mediator between God and man!

"We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). He not only sees our forgiveness when we confess our sins, He cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Jesus was not only the blood sacrifice and the representative, He was also the covenant meal. "I am the living bread which came down from Heaven.: If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6:51).

When you understand covenant terminology, then you can see the thread of a covenant relationship woven all through the New Testament. Read Eph. 6:10-11 and 13-17 in this new light: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to

withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God".

Jesus has exchanged His weapons and armour with you and made you strong in the power of His might. He exchanged your weakness for His strength. Through a covenant relationship, you are now one with Him. Jesus took your sin and gave you His robe of righteousness and right-standing with God. He has become so totally one with you that He has given you the authority to use His Name. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils" (Mark 16:17). The devil has no right to be interfering in your affairs.

The new covenant does not depend on your ability to

keep it. Just like Abraham....Just like Davidyou have a covenant with almighty God. Just like Abraham, you can become fully persuaded that what God has promised you, He is able also to perform. Just like David, you can stand on that covenant and whip any uncircumcised circumstance that stands in your way - no matter how big it looks.

But your covenant is better. It doesn't carry a curse anymore. Right now read Deuteronomy 28:16-68 in your Bible. That's a list of the curses Christ has freed you from. They include every diabolical thing the devil could ever use to destroy you. Read them and rejoice! Those are the things God has healed you of and delivered you from. Receive your deliverance. Jesus paid the price for it. He bore the curse. He became the covenant sacrifice for you, proving once and for all just how intensely He desires to love and to bless you. Let him do it now. You'll love Him all the more in return!

By Kenneth Copeland

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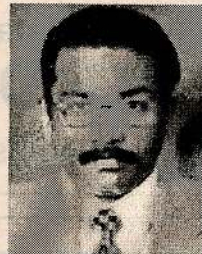
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EHC's literature distribution project in Kegalle

Elephants are a common sight in the Kegalle district. Appropriately, where our literature distribution project in Kegalle is concerned, the elephant suggests the size of the task. With this well in mind EHC Director Sam Thevabalasingham visited Kegalle on Saturday 7th July to initiate preparations. He met with Pastors and church leaders at St. John's Church and spent an entire morning for this purpose. Brothers Noel, Yohan and Roy Roberts (National Distribution Co-ordinator) were present to assist in the discussions.



According to Bro. Roy, the turn up of Pastors and Christian leaders was encouraging and the cordial discussions held helped to finalise all arrangements for this systematic house to house distribution from August 24th to 31st. As planned,

the entire volunteers totalling 120 including student Pastors from SAIT and Baldaeus Theological College divided into groups of ten (Twelve groups), will be stationed in twelve areas and housed in local Churches. Each team will have a leader assisted by a local volunteer to visit every single home in each area. The task is herculian but our roll is a great challenge.

Roy further says that such a task cannot be accomplished by our own strenght but through the prayer and encouragement of God's people. The Lord being our helper, we can "dare to go where we never dreamed possible". A 20 ft. container with Gospel booklets from World Missionary Press, New Paris, Indiana, USA arrived at SAIT premises on the morning of 22nd June. The literature was unloaded into the basement by the students themselves. Hard work indeed! Nevertheless, they were delighted to see such a large stock of literature arrive right where they were. In no time the unloading and stacking (as you see in the picture) was finished.



Meeting with Pastors and church leaders at St.John's Church, Kegalle



Arrival of
container,
unloading and
stacking

For Reflection:

"...that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things".

In our last study we touched on the warning Paul gave to Titus about those whose influence would harm the witness of God's people. In this study we shall look at Paul's warning in greater detail. There were dangerous people in Paul's day whom he warns against. He describes such people as "savage wolves", not sparing the flock. (Acts 20:29).

Jesus told His disciples to "watch and pray" (Matt. 26:41) and over and over again, scripture warns us of the dangers and snares that the devil cunningly tries to place in our pathway. Paul says, "...we are not unaware of his schemes". (2Cor. 2:11).

It is essential that Christ Group Leaders be made aware of the spiritual battle they are engaged in. Like Paul we need to be watchful and study the Scriptures so that we too can say, "we are not unaware" of the devil's schemes.

Such dangers are to be found both within and outside the Church. For further study on this read Romans 16:17-19; 2 Cor. 2: 10-11; 11:26; Gal. 1:6-7; Eph. 4:14-17; Philippians 3:18-19; Col. 2:4,8; 1 Tim. 1:3, 19-20; 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:14.

There are 2 ways in particular in which people can become a danger to the ongoing life and witness of God's people. The first is by false teaching; the second by undisciplined living. We have already noted that what we believe we become therefore it is of major importance that we understand correctly the teaching found in the Bible. At first, a person may have no intention of deliberately causing disharmony but godly and experienced oversight should detect the entry of a wrong spirit and seek God's directions to deal with it.

Our focus must now turn to the people in the Christ Groups on Crete. Remember, they had been converted out

of an evil and wicked environment, sin was all around them and they were having to learn how to live godly lives. But amongst them were "many" (1:10) whose evil habits and false teaching had not changed and they had to be recognized and rebuked.

1. Recognizing Danger!

Paul lists some of the characteristics of those who are a danger to the ongoing life and witness of God's people:

i. Disobedient. (1:10). "rebellious". They refused to submit to authority and this included the authority of the Scriptures. Often, trouble in a fellowship can be traced to someone refusing to obey what God says in His Word. Rebelliousness leads to disobedience and this affects both lip and life. The authorized version uses the word "unruly" which means "undisciplined" in actions. "Mere talkers and deceivers" are indeed serious accusations.

ii. Bad Influence. (1:11). "ruining whole households". See also 2 Tim. 3:6. Their influence goes beyond just one or two - that would be bad enough! But whole households are affected. How sad this is. Not only may an erring father lead his wife and children astray but his influence may also affect future generations. Surely this is sufficient reason to make us want to study God's Word, the Bible, to ensure we are living according to His will. In this way God's Spirit will be at work seeing that the blessing of the Lord is passed from generation to generation. (Psm. 78:6-7).

iii. Impure Motives. (1:11). "for the sake of unworthy gain". When there is behaviour that causes trouble ask, "What is the motive?". Often "unworthy gain" will be seen as the cause whether this be gain of position as was the case with a man named Diotrophes (3 John 9), or gain of money or just gain of control over others. There are many unworthy motives that can take hold of our hearts and we need to be praying the Psalmist's prayer in Psalm 139:23,24.

Handfuls Of Purpose for everyone

"...Boaz commanded...Let her glean even among the sheaves...And let fall some of the handfuls of purpose for her..." Ruth 2:15-16

Series 6: Study 5

Christ Groups that Beautify the Gospel

Christ Group Leaders – Beware!

Titus 1:10-16

(Messages of H.O.P.E. for everyday living)

Titus 2:10

(All Scripture references are taken from the New King James Bible unless otherwise indicated.)

Introduction to the book of Titus

iv. Bound to past traditions. (1:12-13). These people were evidently professing to be Christians but they were not free from past influences. In their old life they were known to be drunkards and wicked. They had a very bad reputation.

For some people their old habits are like chains that bind them. Others find immediate freedom in Christ but because they are susceptible and they are only new to the faith, there is a danger their old appetites will be stirred and they will be tempted to sin again.

Then there were those who stayed committed to past religious beliefs and so prevented them from giving themselves wholeheartedly to the sufficiency of Christ as taught in the

Gospel. On Crete these are referred to as "the circumcision group" (1:10) who stayed bound in their old beliefs. This danger can also apply to those who may have been involved in the past with a cult and are still learning how to be free from the false teaching they were subjected to.

2. Reaffirming Believers

Notice carefully how Paul instructed Titus to deal with those whose teaching and lifestyle threatened the ongoing harmony of the Church.

i. "Rebuke and Restore". There was to be no cover up. But the purpose of rebuking such people "sharply" (1:13) was so that they would become "sound in the faith". See also Galatians 6:1. Of course, if those who err refuse the gentle but firm pleading of their leaders then further action will be necessary in order to keep the fellowship together in harmony and purity but let every transgressor know that the rebuke is given with the desire to bring about a restoration in fellowship and godly living.

ii. Preach Purity. (1:15). Notice in verse 15 the two words "corrupted" ("defiled" in the A.V.) and "pure". These are opposites. How we all need to pray constantly the Psalmist's prayer in Psalm 51:10,

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me".

Purity/holiness is a powerful weapon in spiritual conflict. King Herod feared John the Baptist, "knowing him to be a righteous and holy man". (Mark 6:20). A Christ Group or Church, living in holiness in the midst of an evil environment may be despised but deep in the heart of many protestors will be a secret admiration and respect for the stand they take. Such "good works" glorify God (Matt. 5:16) and many a holy wife has eventually brought her unbelieving husband to the Lord through her constant and holy manner of life. (1 Peter 3:1)

iii. Preach Enlightenment. (1:15) Notice the reference to the mind being corrupted. How will we help those whose minds are defiled? The answer must surely be to preach and teach the Word of God and exalt our Lord Jesus "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge". (Col. 2:3).

Psalm 119:9 tells us the way to purity and enlightenment. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word".

iv. Possess an Uncorrupted Conscience. (1:15). Verse 15 refers to those who have a corrupt conscience and goes on to say,

"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good".

Paul highlights the need for having a "clear" conscience – Acts 24:16. "So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man". An accusing conscience is a heavy weight to drag around! Another way of saying this is found in Romans 14:22, "Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves".

Paul's "striving" is also seen in 2 Cor. 4:2. He was careful to see that whether in word or by deed, he did nothing that would in any way bring discredit to the name of Christ. He counted having a good conscience of such worth that he was willing to go "the second mile" and put up with whatever inconvenience that might bring to him rather than through his actions he might cause another brother or sister to stumble. This even extended to the food he ate. See Romans 14:21; 1 Cor. 8:13.

He sums up his stay in Ephesus in the moving passage found in Acts 20:33-36: "I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did,

I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. When he had said this, he knelt down and prayed".

Peter also refers to "keeping a clear conscience" in 1 Peter 3:16. It may be costly in that self will have to be denied but he says, "It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil". God is able to use such suffering to glorify his name and proclaim the truth. Peter then illustrates how that God can overrule a situation in which evil may appear to be triumphant but in fact becomes a platform on which God displays His saving grace, by reminding his readers of the blessings received through the sufferings of Christ.

Unity and harmony amongst the gathered companies of God's people are essential if we are to know the ongoing blessing of God. (Psalm 133:1). "There the Lord bestows his blessing". We are told to keep the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3). God is already at perfect peace in Himself and by abiding in Christ and walking in the Spirit, that peace of God fills our hearts and the gathered company of His people.

Christian, remember! There are dangers to be avoided, spiritual attacks to be repulsed, and a triumphant life to be lived in the power of God's Spirit. In our next study we shall look at living such a life in our homes.



Fred Creighton,
EHC International
Pastoral Consultant.

together with natives have planted churches among the most backward tribal communities and many villages have become Christian villages. FMBP in India has a strict financial policy not to accept any foreign donations or gift to support their missionaries. It is amazing how five or six Christian families can join together to support a missionary. It is now a major people movement - a Kingdom Dreamers Prayer Band in India. No wonder! the Lord is blessing India today.

Is there a lesson for us to learn from the Indian Church? There are several Missionary Movements based mainly in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra and Mysore States that are sending out cross cultural missionaries not only to other states in North India but also to other countries around the world.

Oh Holy Spirit revive your Church in Sri Lanka so that numerous men and women will be raised as Kingdom Dreamers burning with passion for souls in their hearts among un-reached and unsaved people. How long Oh Lord, how long should we wait?

Sam Thevabalasingham

43RD ANNUAL ALL-ISLAND BIBLE QUIZ

The 43rd All-Island Bible Quiz was successfully concluded at Wesley College, Colombo, on Saturday 02 June. The zonal contests, organized by committed volunteers in each area, were held on May 19 in 12 zones around the country, including the North and East. 295 teams entered this year in two age groups, under 12 and under 16. Of these, 28 teams qualified for the All-Island Contests. A significant feature of this year's Quiz was the all time high entries from Batticaloa (which had the most entries this year), Hatton and Uva.

The All-Island grand final was held in the Wesley College Chapel under the patronage of Mrs. Vasanthi Rajaratnam, President of the Ceylon Bible Society. Kollupitiya Methodist Church emerged champions in the Under 12 category, with St. Michael's National College, Batticaloa emerging as runners-up. In the Under 16 category the first place was won by Christ Church, Galle Face, with the second place going to Methodist Church, Verpankulam (Vavuniya).

The Bible Quiz was started in 1963 by Sam Williams (then of the Evangelical Library - now resident in the USA). It is aimed at instilling a love for God's word in the hearts of the children of Sri Lanka, in order that they may grow in a personal relationship with the Lord and live for Him in the future. The organisers have been greatly encouraged by the testimonies of many for whom Bible Quiz has been instrumental in beginning a relationship with the Lord, strengthening their walk with Him, and in some cases giving them the first sign of their call to ministry. It is unique in its providing a meeting place for Christians from the entire spectrum of the church in Sri Lanka.

The All-Island Bible Quiz is organized and conducted by the National Bible Quiz Board, a band of volunteers drawn from different denominational backgrounds, and is co-sponsored by CAVALS, the Ceylon Bible Society and the National Council of YMCAs. From this year two leading seminaries in Sri Lanka - Colombo Theological Seminary and Lanka Bible College and Seminary - have joined to partner Bible Quiz in their endeavour to spread God's word among the young people of our land.

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Luke 4:18

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M.DIV COURSE AT LBC CENTRE FOR GRADUATE STUDIES - COLOMBO



Dr. Terry Powell – lecturer at the Columbia International University was here in Sri Lanka to lead the June module for the M.Div degree program at the LBC Centre for Graduate Studies in Colombo.

Dr Powell (Ph.D) is a senior lecturer at Columbia International University in South Carolina. He has authored 16 books and has travelled widely. His passion in ministry is to equip leaders and church members to fulfil their ministries.

Dr Powell is part of the distinguished panel of overseas lecturers visiting the LBC Centre for Graduate Studies.

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Resource Person: Dhanan Senathirajah (FCMA, Attorney at Law)

Dhanan is the Assistant Vice President – Finance, National Development Bank Ltd., and has many years of experience as an expository Bible teacher and preacher. He is member of the international faculty of the Haggai Institute. He also serves on the boards of Back to the Bible Broadcast and Campus Crusade for Christ.

For further details please contact:

LBC Centre for Graduate Studies,

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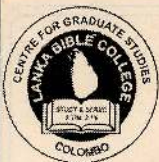
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In conclusion, "Experiencing God", is not an ending but a beginning of a lifelong pilgrimage of Experiencing God everyday and in every way by everyone who have had the life transforming encounter.

Program details appear in the Front Inner Cover.

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RESOURCE PERSON - REV ROSHAN MENDIS



Rev Roshan Mendis has been in ministry with the Christian Reformed Church of Sri Lanka (Formerly Dutch Reformed Church) since 1985. He completed his Theological studies in Australia and was ordained in 1990. In 2004 he proceeded to the Philippines to specialize in Marriage & Family counselling at the Alliance Biblical Seminary (ABS) where he received the Academic Excellence award for his outstanding performance on the programme. Since his return, he has launched the family ministry programme for CRC with great success.

He and his wife Rebecca have spoken at several family conferences and seminars and are engaged in family counselling as well. Roshan & Rebecca have two children Rachel & Yohan. Currently Rev Mendis serves as Moderator of the Christian Reformed Church and is Vice principal of the CRC Seminary, Colombo.

For further details:

Dutch Reformed Church:

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... Where leaders come for further equipping ...

Prayer Focus

EHC Anglo Africa's vision AFRICAs HOUR

EHC Anglo Africa's vision and goal is first and foremost **frontline evangelism**, taking the Gospel to every home and this will always remain our primary focus. **Complimentary to our evangelism thrust is our humanitarian focus** as we feel a deep call within our hearts to come to the table and do all we can to proactively participate in **showing the love of Jesus Christ in a practical way**. And in so doing, we continue to see people being able to live their lives out with dignity in both nations where we have been blessed to have established sustainable Food Security Projects (Zambia and Malawi). We continue to receive exciting reports and testimonies from both these nations where windows of opportunity are opening for the spread of the Gospel.

For your interest:

* Overall objective: to decrease poverty in many villages in the eastern province in the Katete district through making the area food secure.

Water - with water being the main determinant to the success of the project,

we ask that you pray into this, for the development of water sources as it is a rain-dependant project.

Mobility - Richard Kakuwa is in desperate need of a reliable vehicle that would serve him well to visit the FSP on a more regular basis as well as being a much needed ministry 'tool' for his EHC National Leader activities.

Malaria - this remains a challenge, contributing to high morality rates in the community. It is a startling fact that a child dies approximately every 30 seconds of malaria, with 90% of the 500 million cases occurring in Africa. Clearly this is a remarkable problem and is in need of prayer.

Praise:

This is indeed a God-project and we trust the Lord that it will move forward in leaps and bounds to continue touching thousands of lives in this region of Zambia. This has indeed become a 'model' Christian humanitarian activity in Zambia which the Government through the Deputy Permanent Secretary for the eastern region where

President Bush, Publishers Honour Ruth Bell Graham

President George W. Bush and Christian publishers were among those honoring the late Bell Graham. Calling her "an encouraging friend,—the



She was 87. Her books included *A Legacy of Love* (2005, Zondervan), *One Wintry Night* (1995, Baker Books), *Prodigals and Those Who Love Them* (1999, Baker Books),

Footprints of a Pilgrim (2001, Thomas Nelson) and several poetry collections. Ruth was married to the popular evangelist for more than 60 years. Together with her husband, she founded The Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Center in Asheville, N.C., in 1966. Thirty years later, the couple was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal for "outstanding and lasting contributions to morality, racial equality, family, philanthropy, and religion." A crowd of 2,000 people gathered in Montreat, for a public memorial while a private family interment also was held. Ruth was buried at the foot of a cross-shaped walkway in the Prayer Gardens of the recently dedicated Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C. following a lengthy illness.

president said in a statement following Ruth's death that she was —a remarkable woman of faith whose life was defined by her belief in a personal, loving and gracious God." The American Bible Society gave tribute to Ruth as "an accomplished and prolific author" and whose "writings extolling the virtues of living a Christ-centered life encouraged millions and changed lives." Zondervan President and CEO Bruce Ryskamp said that Ruth had "expressed her faith openly and encouraged the most downhearted among us to enjoy life even during the darkest of times."

Ruth, the wife of evangelist Billy Graham and mother of speakers and authors Franklin Graham and Anne Graham Lotz, died June 14 at her home in Montreat, N.C., following a lengthy illness.

A crowd of 2,000 people gathered in Montreat, for a public memorial while a private family interment also was held. Ruth was buried at the foot of a cross-shaped walkway in the Prayer Gardens of the recently dedicated Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C.

the project is established has praised our efforts. 16 Pioneer Missionaries were commissioned in April 2007 as a result, who are now working with our zonal leader to distribute Gospel literature and birth EHC Christ Groups

in this targeted area as well.

"Finally brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you" 2 Thess. 3:1

BANGLADESH

Paving the way with Prayer

Bangladesh is a nation grounded in prayer. Five times a day, the nation's 119 million Muslims bow toward Mecca and pray to Allah. Islam is not only the state religion of Bangladesh, but is also the dominate force in Bangladeshi life and culture. Although Islam is the state religion in Bangladesh, religious freedom is protected, allowing followers of all faiths to practice and share their beliefs. In 1973, a handful of Christians in Bangladesh embraced the EHC vision and set out on a challenging campaign to reach every home with the Gospel, and like their Muslim counterparts, they paved the way with prayer.

As EHC workers mobilize churches to share the Gospel, they also got help form prayer groups that not only focus on praying for the spread of the Gospel, but also for the Muslim leaders of their land. Taking the words of the Apostle Paul to heart, EHC prayer partners throughout Bangladesh pray "for kings and all those in authority" (1 Timothy 2:2).

Through the years, Muslim leaders have been impressed by the sincerity of those prayers and have come to respect the honesty and integrity of EHC leaders. Today, more than 6,000 EHC interces-

sors are praying for the nation from at least 225 prayer groups throughout Bangladesh. EHC has also gained favour with government leaders because of its humanitarian efforts. EHC has established schools in poor areas that include a daily meal for hungry children and vocational training in tailoring, weaving, printing and other trades for working-age adults, regardless of their faith.

In 2005 EHC completed reaching every home in Bangladesh with the Gospel, and launched a second coverage in January 2006. To date, more

than 237,000 people have responded to the Gospel through EHC's efforts. Small fellowships of believers called Christ Groups have also been established in 404 locations. In his most recent ministry update from Bangladesh, EHC National Director Daniel Sarkar once again asked for prayer for his nation's leaders. "Pray for Bangladesh," he wrote. "Please pray for our government." Let's join Daniel in praying that God's guiding hand will be upon the nation and its leaders.

Source: From EHC Intl News Bulletin March '07



MYANMAR

"The Whole Family Accepted God with joy."

EHC workers in Myanmar never know what to expect when they enter distant villages to share the Gospel. But that's what makes each adventure a unique step of faith. In one village, leaders may bar EHC workers from setting foot in the village. In the next village, Buddhist monks may offer to help distribute gospel booklets home to home.

Knock on the door post of one home, and a demon-possessed man may answer the door. Visit another home and you may discover the only Christian family for miles around. A recent four-page

field report from EHC Director U Zin Hl captured some of the unusual flavour of the EHC experience in Myanmar.

When EHC workers in Shan State visited the village of Ywar Thit, they met an old man who was intrigued by their message. He quickly gathered his family together and asked the workers to share the Good News. "The old man invited us to his house and allowed us to preach the Gospel to his family, reported pioneer missionary U San Aung. "the whole family accepted out God" with joy. Praise the Lord!"



A man who was tormented by demons tracked down a team of EHC workers who had come to his village, not to attack them, but to plead for prayer and deliverance. Team leader U Aung Aye reported that the man asked for forgiveness for his sins, and "after a prayer for deliverance, he was healed."

On a road between villages, another team of EHC pioneer missionaries came upon a boy who was having seizure and

being rushed to the hospital. when the evangelist laid hands on the child and prayed, the boy was healed.

When EHC workers entered the village of Kawt Kyait, they discovered the people were Indians who had never heard the Gospel. The workers shared Christ and prayed for the sick. "We had a chance to pray for many sick people," shared EHC worker Saw Hay Thaw. "God healed all their diseases. Praise the Lord!" More than 27,000 people have responded to EHC outreaches in Myanmar, with 43 home churches called Christ Groups formed in distance villages.

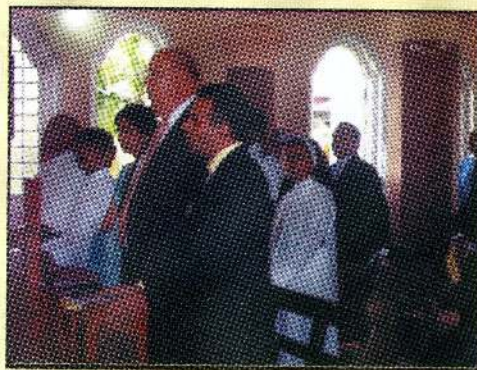
Source: From EHC Intl. News Bulletin. Oct. 06

GLOMOS GRADUATION 2007

JULY 14, 2007
St. Luke's Church, Borella.



The Service begins with prayer.



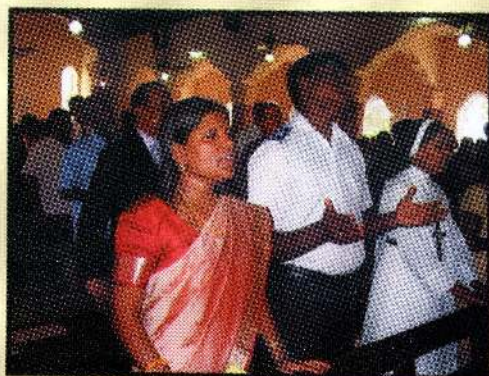
Dr Lars Dunberg, Intl President, Global Action
with Mr Lal Withanage, SL National Director



Reading from the Bible



The Graduates in prayer



Praise and Worship



A ministry of  **Global Action**

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GLOMOS GRADUATION 2007

JULY 14, 2007
St. Luke's Church, Borella.



Dr. Lars Dunberg
Intl. President-Global Action



The Graduates receive their
Certificates from Dr. Dunberg



Best Student Melina Silva



Most Supportive Student Gamini Wijayasinghe



Clergy of all denominations bless the Graduates

A ministry of  **Global Action**

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