

Natuleya! Let's go!

Ukupitila mu Cipingo ku mikalile ya lelo – Through the *Scriptures to real life*

English

No. 09

K3.00

DISCIPLESHIP

POSTER INCLUDED!

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.
Isaiah 66:13

What if we fail?
David's Family Problems
Becoming a Disciple and making Disciples
Our Criminal Evangelical Silence
Youth Corner: Show it, don't blow it!
Marriage Corner: Abortion
Crossword, Talktime with God
... and more

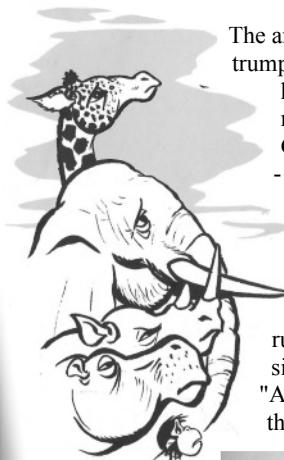
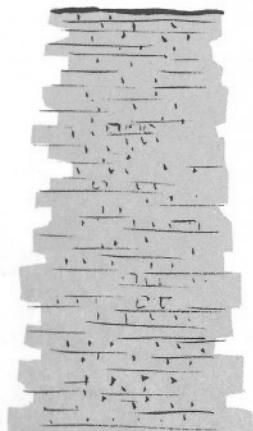


**Here is a riddle.
There's something very valuable in it for you.**

**It's easy to do,
but you can't undo it.**

It looks fun, but it's really dull.

The answer is in the story of what happened one day in the jungle.



"And the grass," groaned Zebra.
"And the coconuts," shouted Monkey.
"Come on!
Why doesn't somebody do something?"



Elephant flapped his huge ears and trumpeted, "What we need is a way *THROUGH that wall*."

"Of course," agreed Monkey, "A way *through that wall* - that's what we need. Come on, 'Hembo.' And all the animals shouted together, "Go on, Elephant! Go *through that wall!*"

"What you need is push," chattered Monkey.
Elephant's deep voice came down his trunk.
"You're right. What a wall like this needs is strong shoulders like mine."

He took a deep breath and ...



Six tons' weight of Elephant battered up against the wall.

WHOCK!

Again the great shoulder thumped against the wall.
WHOCK!

Every bit of strength pounded into the next wallop.
Ker-WHOCK!

KER-WHOCK! KER! WHOCK!

"Through it! **THROUGH IT! T H R O U G H I!**" urged the animals.

Elephant paused and looked at the blisters that had appeared on his shoulder.

"Push harder. Push harder!" yelled Monkey.

Natuleya! - Let's go!

ISSUE No. 9

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WELCOME!

Dear Readers!

"Make disciples!"

Our human race still exists because there are people who have children and train them for life. Those grow up, also have children and train them. So one generation passes on the gift of life to the next, making sure that the children learn what they need to find their way and become responsible contributors to the society they are part of.

The same way of multiplying and ensuring the future has been given to the Church. The Lord Jesus called it "making disciples". He told the men he had been training for three years to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28,19). That's how the Apostle Paul called and trained Timothy along with many other young men - and then expected them to do the same with yet others (2 Timothy 2,2). Older or more experienced Christians investing time and energy in the life of younger believers - this is God's way of building the Church and making it unified, mature and resilient (Ephesians 4,11-16).

On the front page you see a photo of a young girl who already takes care of her younger siblings. And you see a leader who shares time with a younger worker. This should encourage us to do what God has left us here on earth for - to invest our time in others, to bring them up, to make disciples!

Way forward

As slow as the work of making disciples goes in many of our churches, as slow has been the progress on "Natuleya!" during the past two years. Various factors have contributed to this. We now have shifted the production of the magazine to Luapula Province, closer to the bulk of churches who want to read it, and closer to the towns where we purchase our printing materials. With this ninth edition we hope to have returned to what we set out to be: a quarterly which will be read regularly by an ever increasing circle of readers. Please do pray for everyone involved in the various teams working in editorial, production, and sales, including the authors and translators. We all have a lot to learn, and we all have many competing commitments in other areas of life. We need God's wisdom and energy for this work!

We found a nice little paper called SOON where you can read testimonies from people all over the world. We got a copy for each one of our readers, you'll find it inside this magazine.

God bless you wherever you are!

Marco Vedder,
Editor-in-Chief

CONTENT

Feature Articles

- 10 David's Family Problems
- 12 Our Criminal Evangelical Silence
- 14 Sacrificing for Missions: Who?
- 18 Characteristics of a Growing Church
- 26 The Pastor and his Son
- 27 Quiz
- 28 The Pilot and his Daughter

Focus: Discipleship

- 4 Discipleship in the Local Church
- 6 Becoming a Disciple and Making Disciples
- 8 And what if we fail?
- 16 Poster

Departments

- 2 Cartoon: The Great Wall
- 21 Youth Corner:
Show it, don't blow it!
- 24 Marriage Corner:
Abortion in Christian Married Couples
- 29 Talktime with God

DISCIPLESHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



Discipleship training is one of the most important ministry functions of the local church at any given location. The immediate results are that of church growth, multiplication, leadership development and warm fellowship among members in the church.

We see its importance in Jesus' words in Matthew 28 verse 19 where he says: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you". This obviously implies ethnic groups where they are located as an assembly, and beyond. The principle therefore in church discipleship is that every member of the church is consistent in prayer, witnessing, fellowship, bible study, worship and his personal spiritual growth.

We notice that there is not much happening in many assemblies in relation to Church discipleship. Because Church discipleship goes beyond attending prayer meeting, Bible Study, witnessing, worship and other church programs. As a result we have missed the mark of the Great Commission. As much as we may evangelize without discipleship -

the great commission is about discipleship and without it, it cannot be accomplished.

It is important therefore to ensure that church leaders and preachers are in the forefront in conducting discipleship classes in our local assemblies. The success of this work largely depends on the support by the church leadership. Elders, Deacons and preachers need to see its importance first and start doing it.

In discipleship classes we can make use of the available literature which has been written for such work. Examples of useful books include the following: Billy Graham books (e.g. Living in Christ); Campus Crusade for Christ (The Four Spiritual Laws); ACC or CCP books; Sowers (How to please God and Grow Spiritually). These books will help our disciples to share their faith and live abundant lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. They can then clearly communicate the gospel and can train others also. This can happen if they are reading these books to improve their understanding of God and his will.

Wherever there is nothing or little happening with respect to the work of discipling younger believers in our

assemblies, we would propose that discipleship should be designed around the following areas: salvation, leadership, evangelism, prayer, making disciples, Christian witness, principles of preaching, supporting the Lord's work, the Great Commission, Church growth, individual growth and a good understanding of God and our culture.

2. Definition of the Word Discipleship

Before we proceed, let us look at this Word and define it and have an idea what we are really talking about. According to Kuhn in his book "The dynamics of personal follow-up" he defines discipleship in the following way:-

a) A Disciple: Is a Christian who is growing in conformity to Christ, is achieving fruit in evangelism, and is working in follow-up to conserve his fruit. This can be broken into:-

- One who follows Jesus and witnesses in the spirit
- One who keeps his commandments
- One who is becoming Christ like
- One who is becoming a learner
- One who denies self
- One who is available to God
- One who loves Jesus above all others
- One who sacrifices his time materials for Jesus Sake
- Willing to lose his life for the sake of Jesus Christ

b) Follow-up: The spiritual work of grounding a new believer in the faith.

c) Multiplier: A disciple who is training his spiritual children to reproduce themselves.

3. Assurance of Salvation

This is the first level of Discipleship. This teaching helps the leaders in the church to ensure that all the converts in the church are sure of their salvation without doubting whether they are saved or not. To make sure that those that are being trained are genuinely saved. In turn those who are being trained will also make sure that their converts are also receiving the teaching in a similar way. Important sessions in teaching discipleship will include: Eternal Life (1 John 5:11-13); Sonship (Romans 8:14-17); Forgiven sin (1 John 1:9); Facts not feeling (Colossians 2:6); Witness of the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:13); Changed life (2 Peter 2:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17).

It is sad many of our converts in our churches are not grounded and so we have many people who are not sure of their salvation as to whether they are going to heaven or to hell. We need to teach about what it means to be saved. We need to speak about fear of sickness and death to give them hope and trust in God (Psalms 91, Psalms 23, Ephesians 6). Many people are haunted by fear of demons; sound teaching on these will help them to know that they are the servants of Satan and that he has been defeated. They should not fear.

4. Consistency in Bible Study and Devotion

The goal here is to help the Christian to see the importance of a time alone with God and how he can develop such a time. The following scriptures would be very helpful to see its importance: Psalm 1:2; 119:147f; 1 Pe-

ter 2:2). Help the new believer to plan for the time with God, to find a good place and a suitable time. Help him or her to know some useful questions, i.e. "What should I do about these things I have read today?" or "What does it teach me about the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit?" The elders should help him to pray about what God has taught him in this passage and also encourage him or her to pray for other people's needs as well.

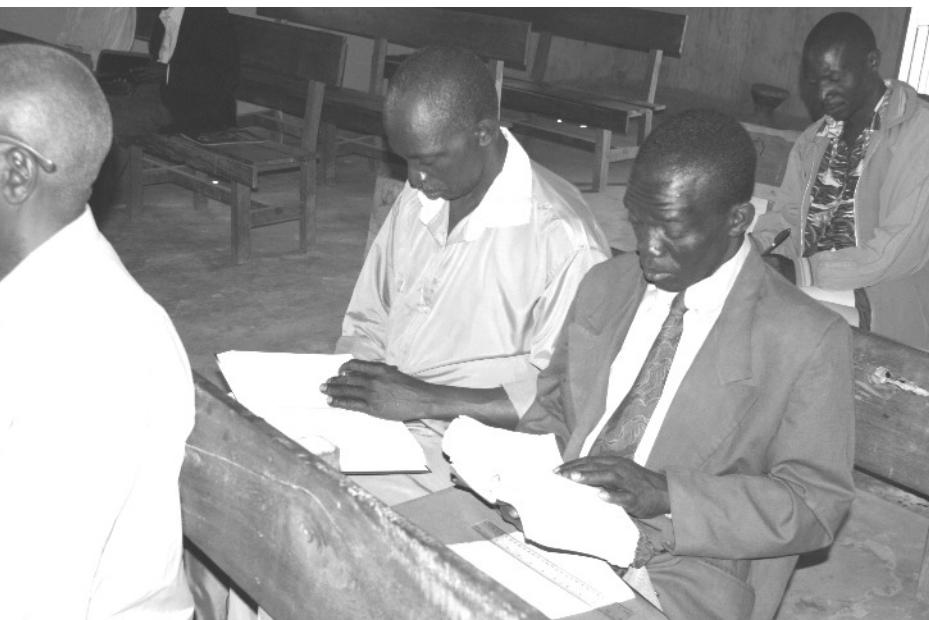
5. The Cost of Discipleship

The elders must teach new Christians the cost of discipleship: it is not easy. To be a disciple it takes deeper commitment, it is a new lifestyle, it takes time, prayer and perseverance. Therefore:

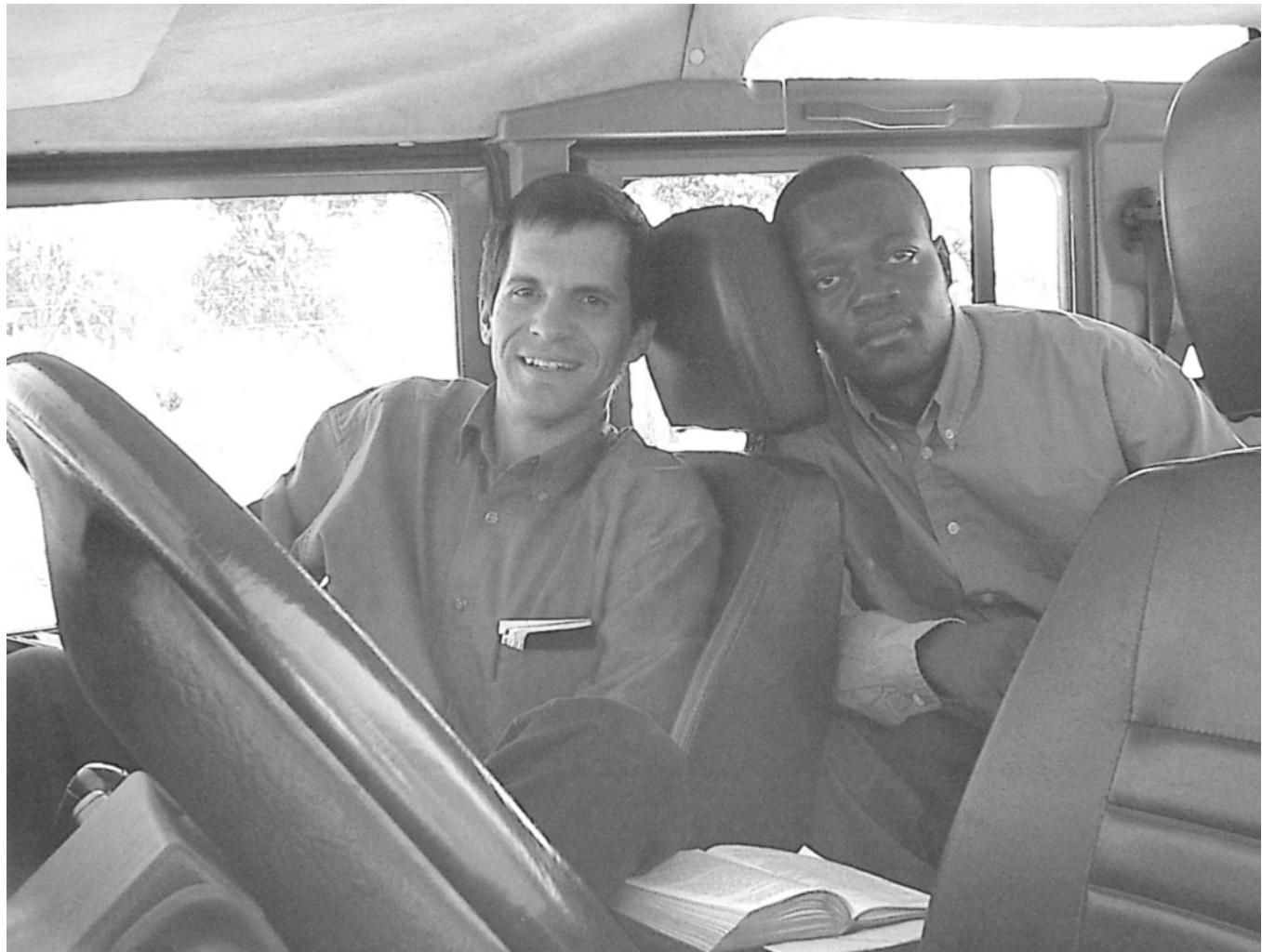
- Discipleship is obedience to Jesus – Matthew 28:19-20
- Discipleship is total commitment to the Lord's course – Luke 14:25-35, 9:23.
- Discipleship means to count the costs – Luke 14:28-32, 9:57-62.
- Discipleship means to give-up possessions, and being the salt of the world - Matthew 5:13-16, 28:19-20.
- Discipleship is commitment to give unreserved love to God.

In the next edition we will look at some more lessons which will be useful to teach our disciples.

PK, Lusaka



BECOMING A DISCIPLE AND MAKING DISCIPLES



The grace of having godly parents

I grew up with parents who followed Jesus Christ in their daily activities. They taught me and my sibblings to pray, they read the Bible with us and we went with them to the meetings in our church. We worked together, and we also played football or other games together. We talked a lot, I could ask them anything - and I did. And they would ask and correct me, whenever they observed a problem in my behaviour or plans. When I was maybe 12 years old, my mother me to come with her as she distributed tracts from house to house in a nearby town. So I went with her. With 14 years or so my parents advised me to visit once a week a very old sister from our church after school hours. I was able to help her with small jobs and in return enjoyed some reading time in her library. It was at that same age that I wanted to be baptized - it was my father who had led me to the Lord eight years earlier and baptized me now. That's how God used my parents to start making me a disciple, like Paul said to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:10-11 "You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings..."

How "Aquila and Priscilla" look like today

When I became 16 years old I participated in a Summer Missions camp in the Northern part of Germany. There we helped a local Church planter to invite people for gospel meetings, we talked to whoever we met in town, distributed tracts, sold books, performed as choir and did whatever else was useful to reach men and women for Christ. Since I was the youngest of all and keen to learn, our leader took time to show me how to work and we talked from time to time. I liked him and his young family. After the Missions camp he invited me to come with him to the New Year camp six months later. Again I learned a lot from him, I helped him with some simple tasks and enjoyed fellowship with that godly couple. From then on I would spend each year time with them during such camps, and sometimes was invited to visit them inbetween. We shared ideas, started a Mission Information Service, discussed the work in our churches. He helped me to learn preparing and leading Bible studies - actually we did it together many times. First I observed him, then I helped him. Later he would observe me how I did it and tell me afterwards what was

good and what I could improve on. This fellowship between a modern "Paul" and his "Timothy" went on for many years. I asked for his advice many times - when choosing a profession to learn, when moving to a new church planting area myself, when getting married, when moving into missions in the D.R.Congo lateron. We never lived in the same town, but we were close in our hearts and prayers.

He also brought me into contact with other brothers I had to learn from. For example he took me to a seminar which was led by a missionary who had planted several churches in a neighbouring country. That brother became very helpful to me as I needed to learn how to work for God in a crosscultural setup. He taught me how to think biblical and strategic at the same time, much like the Apostle Paul did.

I could name others who have invested time and energy into my life. That's how God made me a disciple. But with that happening, I had a responsibility: I now was to make disciples myself.

Starting to make disciples

Obviously, I was not the Lord Jesus - I never handled twelve disciples at a time. I was also not the Apostle Paul. So I just could and had to serve others at the level to which God had brought myself. When I was a youth leader at the age of 18 I helped other young people in the youth group to get to know God's Word better. When I was twenty years old I moved to another area in Germany and helped a group of Christians there to plant a church. A number of students came to know the Lord. I moved in with one of the young men, and staying in the same house gave us a lot of opportunities to pray together and to share progress and difficulties in our lives. We tried to do what the Apostle Paul had done with the Thessalonians. He writes in 1Thes 2,8: "*We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.*" We would do a lot of things together with the young believers: reading the Bible, praying, discussing problems, fighting sin, laughing, eating, singing, evangelizing and many more.

We need our ladies in this work!

We had one problem though: there was no sister on our team who would be able to work with the female students who started to follow Christ. You can not really disciple closely somebody from the opposite sex. So we asked God for help. Then we got to know a sister in a nearby town whom we asked whether she could help us. She agreed and started to work together with us, looking especially after these young lady students. (Lateron things developed in a way that today she is looking after me and our four children - but that is another story ... ☺) This shows us an important lesson: we seriously need to have our sisters involved in this ministry of making disciples. Yes, some responsibilities in the area of public leading and teaching have been given to men alone, but there are lots of other activities where we urgently need capable and devoted ladies - and making disciples by loving and training younger Christians is a responsibility for all of us! Still today my wife meets regularly with women in private, reading the Bible, praying, discussing the problems of life and encouraging each other. Making disciples does not require big budgets, a car or a pulpit - one can do it wherever one is with whatever means one has at one's disposal.

Taking young men along

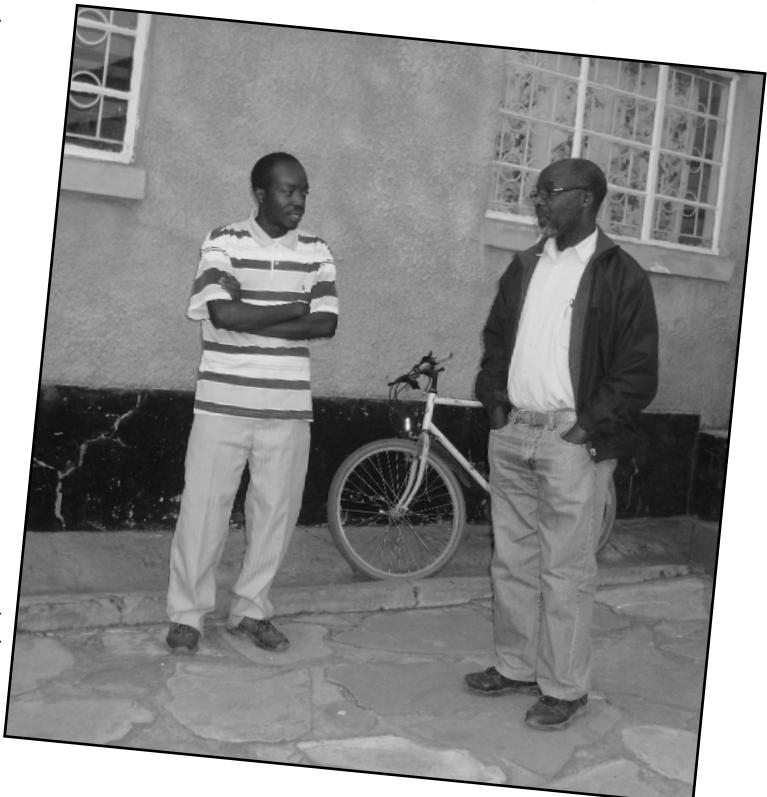
When I stayed in Northern Province I travelled a lot to visit churches that would invite me for teaching or training their members. This was a God-given opportunity for me to take along young men who had shown interest to learn more and make progress in their Christian lives. We would sleep in the same house, eat the same food, prepare Bible studies together, visit Christians, meet with Church leaders, sell literature, fix the car, show the Jesus film, laugh about jokes, develop training materials, make mistakes, correct them and do lots of other things together. They taught me Bemba language and culture. I helped them to study the Scriptures and to lead Bible studies in a way that the participants would discover God's thoughts for themselves. I taught them how to ask questions to make people think. I helped them to think through their own challenges in order to take good decisions. I showed them how a leader deals with frustration or how he handles conflict.

No time? - Not true!

Sometimes we feel we do not have time to share with younger Christians, we are too busy. That was true for me, too. But I realized that I could do my own work and just take one or two young men along. So I was doing what I had to do anyway, and gave them the opportunity at the same time to observe me and learn from me. It is not as good as what Jesus did with his twelve disciples, spending day and night with them for three years - but then, I am not Jesus.

This is a short report of how others have taken time to help me become who I am today, and how I have been trying to do the same with others. I hope this testimony will encourage many readers to do the same - there are many "Timothys" out there who are looking for their "Paul".

MV, Germany



Mark 4:36-41

And what if we fail?

The true God-Man continues with his disciples



Danger! - Or not?

Following a day full of teaching activity we see Jesus and His disciples get in a boat to sail across the Sea of Galilee (verses 35-36). Some distance along the way, a windstorm, (a furious squall, NIV) arose, beating waves into the boat such that the disciples, many of whom were fishermen, knew they were in great danger of drowning. They desperately sought the help of their Master, who at this stage, was sleeping in the stern of the boat. "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" - one feels the desperation in the way they talked to Jesus. Jesus, in responding to his disciples' cry, rebuked the wind and calmed the sea. He then reproached His disciples for their fear and lack of faith. Filled with great fear, they expressed their awe of Jesus to one another. They said. "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him", verse 41.

Jesus Christ – true Man

When describing the Lord Jesus in this story, Mark in verse 38 records that Jesus was asleep in the stern while the disciples were struggling with the great storm. He must have been very tired, exhausted after a day of teaching a huge crowd. Asleep - the question which comes to mind as we reflect on the attributes of God is „Can God really sleep?” The Bible clearly states that God does not slumber. In Psalms, we read, "Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4) ESV.

But, how can Jesus Christ who is God sleep in the midst of the storm which caused the disciples to panic? The explanation is to acknowledge the truth that Christ is not only fully God but also fully human. Jesus' sleeping in this passage is a clear demonstration of his true humanity.

Jesus Christ – true God

The divine nature of Christ is shown in the way he responds to the frightened disciples and the rebuking of the storm. When the disciples saw that they were almost drowning, as the boat which they were in was already filling, they went to Jesus and said, "Teacher do you not care that we are perishing?" When Jesus woke up from the sleep, he rebuked the wind and commanded it to be still. Mark records the very words which Jesus used "Peace! Be still" v. 39b. Immediately the wind stopped and there was calmness on the sea.

This is a demonstration of the Sovereignty of Christ over creation. In the Gospel of John, we read that "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God ... All things were made through him and without Him was not anything made that was made ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...*" (John 1:1-3 ESV). Christ as God the Creator has power over the sea, the wind and has authority to command them and they in turn obey Him.

The apostle Paul alludes to this same truth in Colossians, where he writes concerning Christ, "For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth....." (Colossians 1:16 ESV). The writer of the book of Hebrews also point to Christ as the one through whom the world was created. (Hebrews 1:2 c.)

So Christ as Creator of all things has power over all things created and hence His rebuking of the wind and sea and they obeyed.

Failing to trust this God-Man

After rebuking the wind, Jesus turned to His disciples and said to them, "Why are you so afraid. Have you still no faith?" v. 40. In other words, Jesus was telling the disciples that they needed not to be worried as they were with Him. They were with the creator, the Sovereign Master - and yet they panicked when the storm came.

So with Jesus in the boat, we are very safe – even if at times it looks quite different.

This is a lesson for us today. We need to continue to trust God no matter what the circumstances may be. In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus has

promised to be with us always

until the end of the age (Matthew 28,20). So with Jesus in the boat, we are very safe – even if at times it looks quite different.

The failure motif is widely highlighted in the Gospel of Mark. In fact, just in this same chapter, we see the disciple's failure to understand the parables Jesus told them, 4:13. When we read on we come across a few more instances of failure in the disciples' life, for example in 8:31–33 the failure to accept the way of the Cross, or in 9:30–37 the failure to accept servant leadership.

Do not be worried!

The question is: "Is failure the end of discipleship?" The answer is obvious: „No, not at all!" It rather depends on how we respond to it. We can either be crushed by its awful feeling or it can actually be the stepping stone to progress in our life with the Lord. HE is not surprised nor chased by our failures, HE is ready to continue with us. The question is how we go about it. Those who take

and

Those who take their failures to Jesus and ask for forgiveness and strength to overcome it will definitely emerge as victors.

their failures to Jesus ask for forgiveness and strength to overcome it will definitely emerge as victors. Those who allow the lies of the devil to control their attitude towards failure will definitely be crushed.

Yes, in the life of being disciples of Christ there will be moments when we will fail. Yet the Scriptures encourage us to take our failure to Jesus and He will take care of us.

In 1 John 2:1-2, the apostle John writes, "My little children. I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Also in 1 John 1:9, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness...."

Are we then saying that since by grace we have Christ as our advocate, we then should continue to sin deliberately? No, by no means! In Romans, the apostle Paul warns us against this kind of attitude toward sin. "What shall we say then, are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:1-2) ESV.

Yes, in our following of Christ, we may fail, yet we have Him as our advocate, He comes along side to take us up and give us the strength to follow Him. It is interesting to note that the word 'advocate' used in 1 John is the same word used of the Holy Spirit (Greek: 'paraclete'), which means the One who comes along side us, who speaks on our behalf.

Therefore, we should always take failure as a stepping stone from where we would confess our sins and determine in our hearts, by God's grace, to continue to follow our Lord and Master. Let us remember that He is the true God, but also true Man. The Hebrews in their struggles were encouraged with these words: „Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4,14-16)

LCK, Samfya



Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4,14-16)



2Samuel ch 13-14

David's Family Problems

After David's sin with Bathsheba, we find that things did not go well with David's family. Firstly the child which Bathsheba conceived died, 2Sam 12:15. This was then followed by members of David's own family committing incest and murder. From this we see a rule in life, "We reap what we sow" Gal 6:7. David had committed immorality and murder and now this happened to him. God forgave David for his sin, but there were still consequences. Sin can sometimes carry a double punishment, sometimes in this life and always in eternity. God will forgive us when we repent, but sometimes we have to live with the consequences of our actions. For example somebody who has sex with a person suffering from some disease will catch that disease even though they repent of what they have done. A thief who steals something may repent but he will still be punished by the laws of the land. Remember: sin always has its consequences.

God will forgive us when we repent, but sometimes we have to live with the consequences of our actions.

Ch 13: Amnon and Tamar.

Amnon was tormented by lust for his sister Tamar. As the king's son he could have had many concubines, but his mind was on one woman only. We often find that what is forbidden to be more appealing, like Adam and Eve who could not even manage to keep one rule even though they had many trees in the garden. They were told not to eat from one tree, they had many others from which they could eat. The devil made Eve focus on the one tree with the forbidden fruit.

Jonadab, Amnon's friend saw that Amnon was desperate to have relations with his half sister, so he suggested a plan which would give him the opportunity. We should be careful whose advice we take. Some people by their selfish and wicked plans are only going to make us worse. We see that neither Jonadab nor Amnon give any thought to the consequences of Amnon's actions. What we do affects others, some for good and some for bad. Only bad could result from this wrong relationship.

Amnon pretended to be sick, he asked David to send him Tamar to make him some food. Then when she prepared the food, he sent everybody else away and forced her to have sex with him. Tamar pleaded with Amnon to wait and ask permission to marry her, but Amnon did not want to wait. Like David his father who sinned with Bathsheba, Amnon ruined the life of Tamar because he only thought of himself. He did not love his half sister, what he felt for her was lust. Love seeks the good of others, and Amnon was not thinking about what was good for her.

After they had sex, Amnon discovered that he now hated his sister, in fact he hated her more than he thought he had loved her before. This is a sure sign that he was being guided by lust not love.

David was grieved by what happened to Tamar, 13:21, but he took no action. I wonder if he was afraid to discipline his son because he would be seen as a hypocrite himself? Sin in the life of a ruler always takes his authority away. This is also true in the church, so it is important that those who rule are seen as blameless, 1Tim 3:2,10; Titus 1:6-7.

When Absalom heard about what had happened to his sister he was very angry, but he did nothing for two years, 2Sam 13:23, as he was waiting for the opportunity to take revenge. His plan was to invite the family to join him during the time of sheep shearing. Then when all his brothers came to join him, he had his young men fall upon Amnon and kill him. Here we see one of the things that David had done himself being repeated in his own family. David had used others to kill his "enemy" Uriah, 2Sam 11:14-22. However David's sin seems to be even worse because Bathsheba's husband had done no wrong at all, and was in fact a man of valour and honour.

After Amnon's murder, Absalom fled from King David. Absalom's exile brought grief to King David, 13:37-39. So he was grieved by Tamar's rape, Amnon's death and Absalom running away.

Absalom killed his brother out of hatred. We remember that what Amnon did was wrong, and some punishment should have been taken out on Amnon. However, Absalom took the law into his own hands and by doing this brought

grief to the whole family. Discipline is sometimes necessary, but it should not be done in hatred. God disciplines us for our benefit to make us change our ways, Hebrews 12:10. Even in the church we should discipline out of love so that the wrongdoer can be restored to God, 2Cor 2:6-7.

After the passing of time, David was no longer grieving for Amnon but for Absalom, 2Sam 14:1. We see here the love of a father for a wayward son, just like the father in Luke 15:20. God is grieved by sin, and he never gives up waiting for his loved ones to repent and return to Him, 2Peter 3:9. Have you done something of which you are ashamed of? Has this meant that you have "Run away from God" and you no longer have a relationship with Him?

Remember that God is waiting for you to repent and with him is plenty of forgiveness, Psalms 130:7.

God disciplines us for our benefit to make us change our ways. Even in the church we should discipline out of love so that the wrongdoer can be restored to God.

God our Father has received us into His presence because of the work of Jesus as the reconciler. 2 Cor 5:19; Col 1:21-22. Our deliverance has been paid for by His blood, 1Peter 1:18-19. Our sins have been covered over, Rom 4:7. He separates our sins from us and treats us as if we have never sinned at all, Psalm 103:12. We now have no case to answer, Romans 8:1, and God has accepted us in Christ, Eph 1:6.

As well as our need to be forgiven by God, we also have to show that forgiveness to one another. The Bible teaches that we must "*Forgive one another even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.*" Eph 4:32, cf Col 3:13. It is hypocritical to expect forgiveness for all our sins from God and for us not to be prepared to forgive other people. There is a parable of the debtor who was forgiven his very large debt and then cruelly treated the man who owed him a small amount. This reminds us of the need to forgive others in the light of how God has forgiven us, Matthew 18:23-35. Jesus taught his disciples that if we do not forgive others then we ourselves should not expect to be forgiven by God, Matt 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26. Some Christians can go for many years with an unforgiving heart, not realising that their wrong attitude is affecting their relationship with their Father in Heaven who delights to forgive His children.

Joseph was able to forgive his brothers for all they had done, even though they had wanted to kill him, and then sold him for money as a slave, and allowed their father to grieve for him even though they knew he was still alive, Joseph forgave them, Gen 50:17-18. He came to understand that God in His mercy had made good come from the bad, Gen 50:20. As a result of what happened to Joseph, many people were saved from the famine that affected that whole area.

Joseph came to understand that God in His mercy had made good come from the bad, Gen 50:20.

Ch 14: Absalom returns to Jerusalem.

Joab saw that the king was in a dilemma. He loved Absalom but he could not accept him back to Jerusalem. A woman was sent to David with a made up story which was like what had happened to Absalom. When the king heard the story he was very quick to cast a judgement on the matter so that the woman's son in the story would be kept safe, 14:4-8. David shows again that he sees other people's wrongs more easily than he sees his own. Previously after the sin with Bathsheba he was very angry when he heard about the rich man who had killed the poor man's lamb so that he could feed his visitor, 2Sam 12:7.

Having been faced with his own hypocrisy David gave Joab instructions that Absalom should be allowed to return to Jerusalem. Unfortunately David's desire to have his son back did not mean that there was true reconciliation, 14:24. He was to live apart in his own house and not come into the king's presence.

Here we see that David had a real problem with forgiveness. Was it because he wanted to be seen to be punishing Absalom? Whatever the real reason for David refusing to see Absalom, we can see that there was no evidence of any forgiveness, or of reconciliation. Forgiveness means that whatever wrong has been committed, the wrong will not be taken into account. Reconciliation takes place when relationships between two people have been restored. This normally means that one has to forgive the other person. How glad we should be that when God forgives a sinner, he makes him completely acceptable in His sight, Eph 1:3-9.

Two years were spent in Jerusalem before Absalom managed to get Joab to get permission from the king to go and see him, 14:33. Joab acted as the go-between. He stood between the king and the banished prince and did the work of reconciliation. This is a very important work, and Paul was very conscious that we have been committed to the ministry of reconciliation, 2Cor 5:18. This is more than preaching the Gospel so that sinners can be reconciled to God, this includes the ministry of restoring the backslider to fellowship with God and to fellowship with other Christians, 2Cor 5:20. It is important to remember that when a sinner is reconciled to God, there is true forgiveness.

In conclusion.

Let us learn these lessons from the life of David:

- David found that sin has its consequences. We reap what we sow.
- Amnon found that fleshly lust is not true love. He should have waited.
- Absalom found that revenge only made matters worse for everybody.
- David failed to forgive Absalom and this brought more problems to the nation.

AP / Scotland





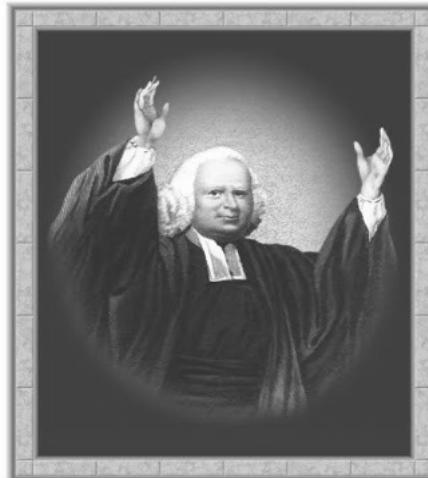
Our Criminal Evangelical Silence

Dark days

We all know that the dark ages are upon us again here in Africa. It is almost like a dark blanket that is slowly surrounding the land. People who know absolutely nothing of the core values of evangelical Christianity—the new birth, repentance and saving faith, justification and holiness, etc.—have hijacked evangelical Christianity in Africa. Even the term "born again" is being peddled without an iota of the meaning that Jesus had in mind when he used the phrase in his talk with Nicodemus. These are dark days indeed.

Where we come from

Once upon a time in Zambia, in the 1970s and early 1980s, you could go to very much any English-speaking evangelical church on Sunday and expect to attend a Bible study and hear faithful preaching of God's word. You may have been a little uncomfortable with some aspects of their worship. You may have also disagreed with some doctrinal assumptions during the preaching. However, you could not miss the fact that here was a sincere effort at arriving at the meaning of the text of Scripture and applying it to the hearers both in the Bible studies and the sermons. You also heard an appeal for repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. They may not have dotted your "i"s and crossed your "t"s as you do, but you still went home edified.



George Whitefield preached "You must be born again" during the Great Evangelical Awakening of the 18th Century

..and where we have arrived at

That is now very rare. In most so-called evangelical churches in Zambia today, there are no Bible studies and you cannot last to the end of their worship service if what you went for was spiritual edification. How many of our people are being drawn to churches primarily because they have been falsely promised to be cured of AIDS, get promotion at work, get more money, etc.? How many of our people are giving stashes of cash to so-called servants of God who are in fact nothing more than religious fraudsters? How many of our people now think that worship is dancing to very loud music that competes favourably with the rhumba maestros of the Congo? How many of our preachers think that preaching is shouting nice sounding platitudes through a microphone at the top of their voice with an American or Nigerian accent? This is what church has become.

I liken this delusion to the days prior to the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. People flooded the churches but it was all for the wrong reasons. They were



Such "dancing queens" are now the height of "worship" in churches

deceived and spellbound by a priest craft that claimed abilities they did not have but which the people craved after. Superstition reigned supreme in the church. The people were poor but they were promised various blessings if they could only give their remaining money to the church. Out of these funds majestic church edifices were built and the church's top leadership lived like kings and princes. Is this not what is happening in the name of evangelical Christianity today? Or am I the only one who is seeing these things?

The result of all this is that we have "Protestant" churches on literally every street but the evangelical faith is totally absent. In fact these churches have become dens of iniquity. Church pastors are impregnating young girls in their churches, getting them to abort, agreeing with their parents not to spill the beans for some undisclosed huge amounts of hush-money, and their spouses and church leaders know about all this. As the pulpit has gone, so has gone the pew. Hardly anyone is thirsting and hungering after righteousness. Immoral living is rife. Church discipline is rare. Those who know about this rotteness are looking at the church from outside and pinching their nostrils in disgust. We have the numbers

alright but the salt has lost its saltiness and we know it.

Those who know about this rotteness are looking at the church from outside and pinching their nostrils in disgust. We have the numbers alright but the salt has lost its saltiness—and we know it.

Come on: let us be honest.

We all know that the so-called prosperity gospel, which is in vogue in evangelicalism today, is heresy. We all know that the only guys becoming stinking rich are the preachers to whom the blind followers are giving their money. The followers themselves are still in abject poverty. It is nothing but religious fraud. We also all know that 99% of the claims to physical healing by our faith healers are false. We all have relatives who would be alive today if they had not been told they were cured and so should not take medication for their sickness. These men are murderers. This is not Conrad Mbewe being malicious and making up stories. These are all well-known facts.

The tragedy is not that all this is happening. The disaster is the silence about all this from those who are supposed to provide spiritual guidance to the masses.

and in Africa at large, evangelical leaders who have worked their way up the ecclesiastical ladder are holding hands with religious fraudsters and thus they cannot speak about this engulfing evil. They would rather throw stones at political leaders out there than address the Trojan horse within evangelicalism. They would rather tell the world to stop being worldly than tell those who are raping the church from within to stop it. And yet in the light of this spiritual tsunami, the silence is criminal.

Misleading the younger generation

The problem with this current silence is that the younger generation who are coming into evangelical circles now think that what they are seeing is a viable and alternative form of evangelical Christianity when it is not. They have no clue that only recently believers got together in church for serious Bible study, that worship had dignity and awe, and that sermons were Bible-based, Christ-centred, and aimed at spiritual conversion. Due to our silence, our upcoming preachers are seeing filling your church membership roll with goats rather than sheep and driving expensive cars at the expense of poor parishioners as the sign of pastoral success. They have no clue that it was only recently when pastors stood out in society for their true godly servanthood. Today's evangelical leaders are misleading a whole generation of innocent souls by their silence.

Silent priests in Israel

In the days of the prophet Malachi, religion in Israel had reached its lowest ebb. The Temple was still full of activity with all kinds of sacrifices being offered at the altar. Yet, the true worship of God was dying. Those who came to the place of worship were defrauding God and the priests

The lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. But you have turned aside from the way." (Malachi 2:7-8)

were allowing this. Men were unfaithful to their wives and divorcing at will, and the priests kept quiet about it. God finally put the blame where it ought to have been: at the feet of the priests. He said, "The lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. But you have turned aside from the way" (Malachi 2:7-8). God finally wanted them to just shut the Temple doors and send everyone away! Their silence misrepresented him. They did not care that his greatness was obscured.

And we?

Once upon a time, a generation of God's people saw spiritual decay and said, "Enough is enough!" and out of this protest was born **the Protestant Reformation**. In yet another generation, when liberalism had invaded the Protestant church and was killing its very life, a generation of God's people again said, "Enough is enough!" and out of that protest was born the **Evangelical movement** of the 18th century. In the light of the darkness that is once again upon us, with churches becoming no more than witchdoctors' dens, is it not time for today's evangelicals to say, "Enough is enough"? How can we be silent in the light of this engulfing darkness? Surely, our evangelical silence must be criminal.



Martin Luther who said "Enough is enough" in the 16th Century

CM / Lusaka

In the light of the darkness that is once again upon us, with churches becoming no more than witchdoctors' dens, is it not time for today's evangelicals to say, "Enough is enough"?

The author of this article has made a strong point.

Do you agree with him?

Or do you think he missed it?

Write us your comments on Facebook, by email or letter.

We look forward to a fruitful discussion!

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Sacrificing for Missions: Who?

Kasama Christian Resource Centre tries to bridge the gap



For many years now, the church in the developing world had regarded the missions department as a preserve of the foreign white missionaries from the so-called developed world. As a result, any suggestion of an African Christian to work as a missionary would sound rather outlandish.

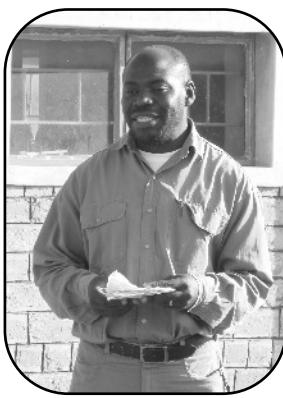
Sadly, this emanates from lack of understanding of the biblical concept of mission work. But the bible exemplifies all the aspects of mission work by heroes of faith such as the Apostle Paul and Barnabas among others.

Against that background, Christian Brethren workers established Kasama Christian Resource Centre (KCRC), a Faith Based Organisation aiming at developing the vision for missions in the Northern Province of Zambia.

KCRC is born

Speaking in an interview with Natuleya, KCRC Manager Felix Chiwela said: 'This vision has been with us since the late 1980s, and this organisation was founded in order to provide training and resource facility for local Brethren Assemblies and evangelical churches in general.'

Mr Chiwela who is also an elder at Kasama Gilgal Church, an assembly under the auspices of the Christian Brethren, further explained that his organisation was the brain child of Mark Davies, a British Christian worker from „Christian Missions in Many Lands“ (CMLL), who had served both in Luapula and in Northern Province of Zambia. The objectives which he and a number of Zambian leaders had in mind when they started KCRC, included: managing the property and premises of „Mission Fellowship Team“ (MFT) and „Kasama Child Crisis Centre“ (KCCC, later „Kasama Christian Community Care“), youth work, skills training, discipleship courses, trainings for Church leaders, to name just a few. The training centre is governed by a Board whose main functions are to uphold and safeguard KCRC interest, property and assets through guidance and policy making. Its members, who have been drawn partly from KCCC as well as MFT, also seek to provide leadership and supervision to KCRC management and staff.



A mission work having to run along business lines

When talking about the startup of KCRC, Mr Chiwela pointed out that the founder (Mark Davies) sourced initial funding from the Brethren churches abroad. And later on, his successor, Marco Vedder, a German missionary, once went with believers from different churches in Northern Province to his home country with a view to mobilise financial support for the same purpose.

'Ideally, we are supposed to run the organisation as a business to support KCCC and MFT in their work but it has not been easy due to limited capital,' observed Mr Chiwela. He lamented that for well over two years KCRC had not received any funding thereby hampering the business side due to high operation costs and maintenance of the infrastructure. He explained that the business aspects which involved typing, poultry, and piggery had been restricted from growing due to limited working capital. At the time of the interview the situation was so bad that the staff who consisted of the manager, sales officer, administrative officer and a general worker had not been receiving their monthly wages for the past seven (months). This, he added, had drastically demotivated the work force.

Failures and success

He however said despite all such challenges, a lot had been achieved including provision of office and storage space as well as the logistics to run various trainings for KCRC and MFT, not to speak about providing security, running water and electricity at the premises.

Meanwhile, Pastor Isaiah Chalwe, a board member of KCRC, said although the board's role among other things was to monitor, evaluate, direct and approve programs of KCRC, working in the board had not been easy due to numerous challenges - including financial limitations and inconstistency in attending meetings by board members.

Pastor Chalwe who is also a leader at Kasama Gilgal Church (a Brethren assembly) and a Church Development expert, noted that the situation was such that it was just as if there was literally no management at all.

'For instance, we no longer meet as a Board. Whenever meetings are called, key people don't turn up and we don't receive reports from KCRC management,' said Pastor Chalwe.

The Pastor also added that consequently, the Board is underrated and disparaged by management.

And when asked about the business, Pastor Chalwe pointed out that the working capital had not been enough adding that in the initial stages some well-wishers from abroad financed to erect the infrastructure but the working capital had been inadequate.

He also explained that management had not been aggressive in looking for business, adding that even Natuleya publication had not been produced for a long time now due to lack of proper organisation by the Literature Team.

Pastor Chalwe however stated that Board members were reluctant to assist management to find business due to lack of motivation in monitory terms.

But he was quick to point out that the only solution would be to reorganise the institution before bringing new capital investment in. One possibility would be to develop the chicken layer project with say 2,000 birds, and it would be necessary to revive the printing section - even the Riso machine (a copyprinter) has been underutilised but could bring in a lot of money to support not only mission work but also the work of the Lord in general.

Even when Paul and Banabas went on their missionary journey to Cyprus, they were sent out with support from the believers at Antioch (Acts 13:1-3). Financial support is inevitable in the ministry. It is not necessarily the material in hand but the blessing that rests upon it.

Ultimately, we shall realise that what counts really is not the state of our treasury or the number of our gifts but rather the blessing of the Lord alone from which humanity derives sustenance. For unless we are prepared to sacrifice for missions and evangelism our vision will remain a preserve of foreign missionaries.

FM / Kasama

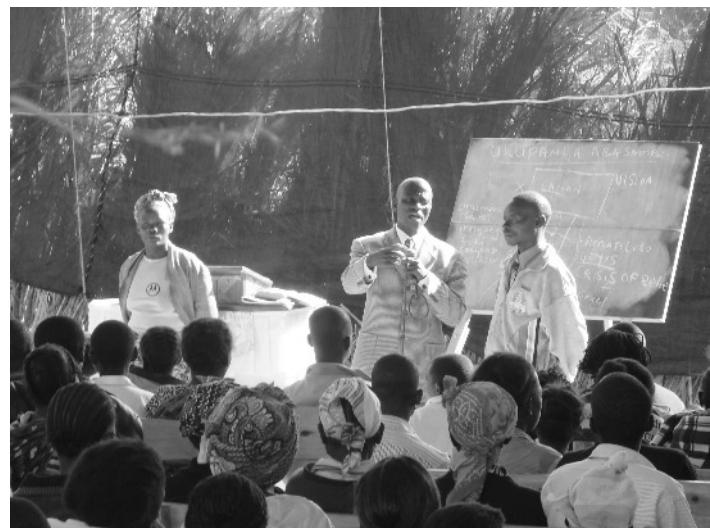
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Youth leaders on training at KCRC



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Natuleya! Let's go!

Ukupitila mu Cipingo ku mikalile ya lelo - Through the *Scriptures to real life*

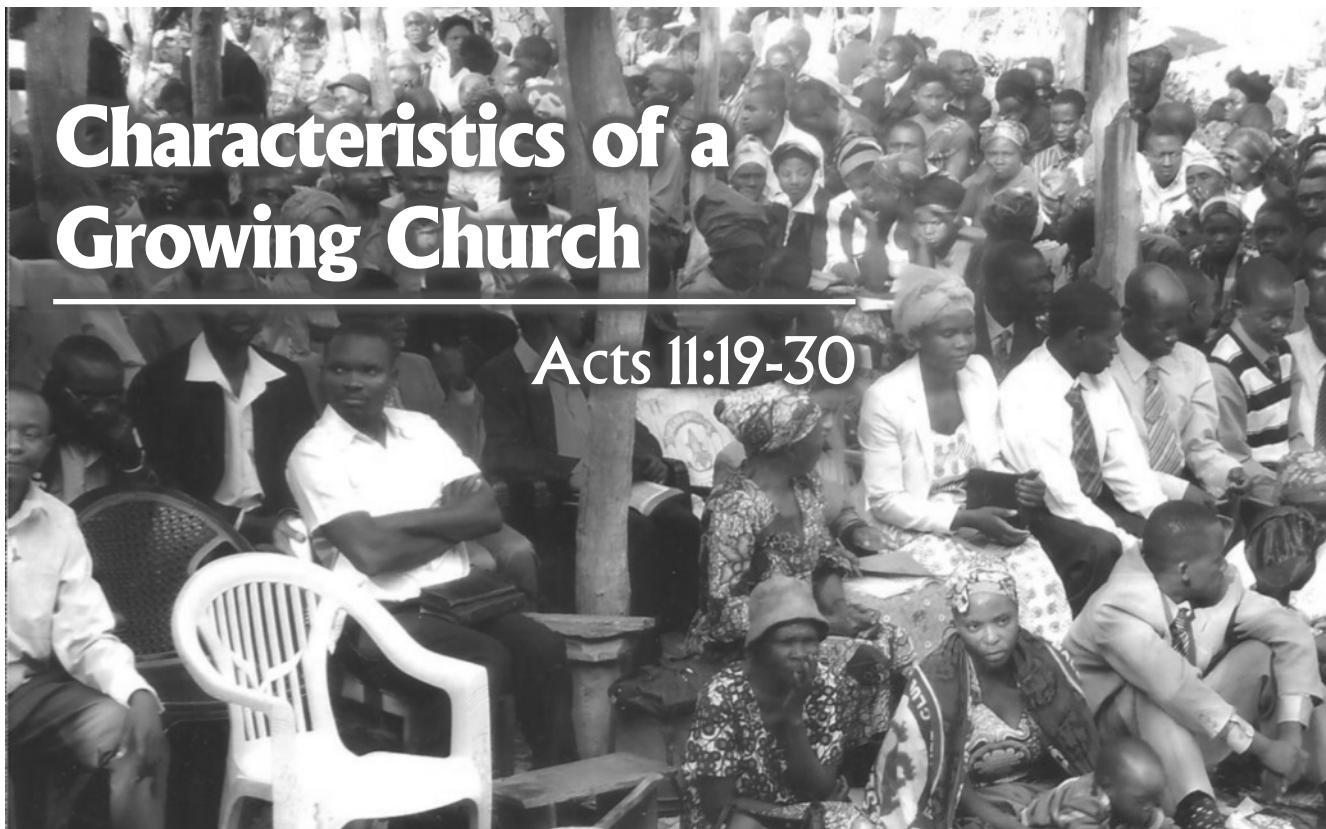




*As a mother
comforts her child,
so will I comfort you.*

Isaiah 66:13

MAMBILIMA CHRISTIAN BRETHREN CONFERENCE (20–26 August 2012)
Theme: The Mission of the Church



Characteristics of a Growing Church

Acts 11:19-30

Well the church is Growing; it is fulfilling the call of Christ to move from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria and then to the ends of the earth. In the verse before this passage we see the breaking down of the barrier in reaching Gentiles. Peter was called to make no distinction as he went with three Gentiles to Cornelius's house in Caesarea. There he preached the gospel to a room filled with Gentiles who all believed - the Gentile church was born. God shows no partiality - He loves all people!

Well in today's passage we find the Gentile church that has been established not just in Jewish territory, but now in Gentile land, in the grand city of Antioch. Now, Antioch was a very important city, ranking behind Rome and Alexandria in the Roman Empire. It had a population of at least 500,000 and was a centre of trade and commercial activity and the pathway of many trade routes. It was around 30kms from the coast on the Orontes River. But it was also an immoral city, full of pagan worship with the grossly immoral temple of Daphne not far from the city itself. But here was a city from where much outreach to the surrounding lands could be promoted from, and as we progress through Acts we find that it becomes a real missionary hub to the world.

So we are seeing this spreading church and in this passage we want us to see six characteristics of this spreading church, characteristics that we need to emulate if we are to grow and fulfill God's calling on our lives individually and corporately as a church - (Read 11:19-30).

Twelve verses, but six characteristics of the growing church, spreading following the persecution and killing of Stephen as verse 19 tells us to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. So what we have is these Greek speaking Jews that have fled from the persecution - and they have gone

back to these areas that have significant Jewish populations. They go and they preach and speak only to Jews.

However there are some from Cyprus and Cyrene (North Africa) who went to Antioch and they preached to the Gentiles as well - these men were not just going to Jews, but they were going to Greek speaking non-Jews! These men were preaching the Lord Jesus and according to verse 21 "*the hand of the Lord was with them and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.*" This brings us to our first characteristic of the growing church.

1. They Preached the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Calling for Faith and Repentance vv. 20-21

God's son given for the forgiveness of sin, and at the same time they turned, that is they repented of their old way of life and turned to Jesus.

Fellow Christians, salvation is always a recognition that our sin separates us from a Holy God and that He paid the price for our sin in giving Jesus. It is faith that brings with it turning from sin. Some people will try and tell you that salvation is just turning to God and that there is no need to repent and turn from sin.

The result can be wrong evangelism where people try and get others to believe in God as a ticket to heaven, where there has been no recognition that God is offended by a person's sin and that his wrath will judge sin and sinners. Remember Peter after preaching the first sermon at the start of the church and the people said "*what shall we do?*" He replied "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

Fellow Christians as a church and as individuals we all need to be committed to the preaching of the gospel

of Jesus Christ calling for faith and repentance in Him! We must know what the true gospel is, if we are to see people challenged and saved and then we need to speak it!

Well our passage continues and we find that the Jerusalem church has become aware of events at Antioch – (read vv. 22-24). Well this leads us to another characteristic of the growing church:

2. They Sent Out Those Best Gifted vv. 22-24

We find here that the growing church sent out those best gifted for the task. Barnabas is chosen to go to Antioch. He was a Cyprian Jew - he knew this kind of culture well at Antioch.

He was a pivotal link in the Jerusalem church between the Jews and the Hellenists, the Greek speaking Jews. He was loved and valued for his role - the son of encouragement. To send someone with a more legalistic tendency could have been disastrous.

As Barnabas comes to them, he sees the grace of God that has worked in them to bring them to faith, he was glad - here is faith among Gentiles - and remember, Barnabas had taken in Paul in back at Jerusalem when no one wanted him, and he would have heard first hand information from Paul how God had called him to preach to Gentiles! No wonder Barnabas is glad - he is seeing God's plan working out. Now look at what Barnabas told them in v. 23 - he exhorted them to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose!

In summary he said to them: - be faithful to Jesus - keep your goals before you, steadfast in purpose in reaching out with the Love of Jesus to others! Well Luke summarizes Barnabas words in v. 24 - he was a good man - here is his quality revealing the goodness of God in his life - and he was full of the Holy Spirit and faith. He was the obvious man for this work and the Jerusalem church obviously knew who was best to go. Very few churches are willing to say yes. Many would say no because he is the only one we have. Let us learn from the response of the early church.

The needs in Zambia are great to see people sent out into the mission field. But who do we send?

We send instead the best gifted for the work.

best gifted for the work.

Do we send the problem person just to get rid of Him – no way, he will be a problem wherever he goes. Lets take this prayerfully before our God. We send instead the

Well the result of Barnabas being sent and coming alongside these new believers was more believers being added to the Lord - see v. 24b "And a great many people were added to the Lord." Notice they were added to the Lord - not to Barnabas - all the glory goes to Him!

Well in v. 25 we find that after Barnabas had assessed the situation, he decides that he needs Paul. The word for 'look' here implies it was no easy process finding Paul, but when he does he takes him back to Antioch. Now look at the rest of v. 26 "For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people."

3. They Focused On Teaching the Flock, v. 26a

This is our third characteristic of the growing church - they focused on teaching the flock. Barnabas needed Paul to come to help him in teaching these new Christians so they would grow and mature in the faith. Any church that wants to grow needs to ground its people in the Word of God. With all these ones coming to faith it was vitally

important to see them established and rooted in the truth.

What an exciting and foundational twelve months this must have been. Here is the church that becomes a ministry hub for the world and these believers have been moulded and grown and established by Barnabas and Paul in this focused teaching. Dear reader what is your hearts attitude to the Word of God and learning God's word. For you to be effective in God's church you need equipping and you need to avail yourself of the opportunities to be equipped in the Scriptures. Sunday is a vital part of that, but so too are section groups which are neglected by many churches. Christians must be interested in studying, Emmaus Correspondence, discipleship classes, relationships and Bible Schools.

Any church that wants to grow needs to ground its people in the Word of God. With all these ones coming to faith it was vitally important to see them established and rooted in the truth.

Antioch became an outward focused church, blessing the nations and its own community. Our growth in God's Word is seen when we are actively serving as God's Word exhorts us.

4. They Were Known As Christians v. 26b

Well the next characteristic of the growing church was that they were known as Christians, Christ's Ones, aligning themselves to Christ, to be like Christ, Belonging to Christ or Like Christ. Now this was probably a term of derision by the local population aimed at the church just as Agrippa would say to Paul in Acts 26:28 "*In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?*"

The early believers identified themselves as brothers or disciples or believers or saints - but this term Christian introduced at Antioch soon stuck. While it was a term of derision, it really is an apt title - Christ's Ones, those belonging to Christ. It was soon to become a badge of honour for our Christian forefathers.

Today, the name Christian is often used with contempt and scorn for various reasons. But is it not a noble thing to be known as a Christian by those that know us? When you look at your life, do you think that you might be able to be charged with the accusation of being a Christian, one belonging to Christ?

As a Christian, Does the way that you live among your workmates, neighbours, school friends - does it say clearly to people that you are different?

Dear reader, people should know that we are Christians because we love one another - "*by this will all men know that you are my disciples if you love one another*" (John 13:35). People should know that we are Christians because we "*love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and we love our neighbour as our selves*" (Matt 22:37)! Here is the path way to impacting Zambia - loving God and loving people like he has loved us!

Are you prepared to make this year of making no distinction between people - here is how we can do that - loving people. Are we known as Christians in this commun-

People should know that we are Christians because we "love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and we love our neighbour as our selves" !

ty because we love people? Or are we known as Christians because we are judgmental and legalistic and have our own little holy club? Let's make sure we are doing what Hebrews 10:24 exhorts us to do: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works..."

Let's face it - all of us need stirring up! Love and good works does not just happen by itself - we need to stir each other, prompt each other, work together in loving people. In our churches evangelism should be a team effort - it needs to be all of us working together to live out the love of the Lord Jesus!

Well as we come to verse 27, we understand that there is some time between v. 26 & v. 27. No doubt in the intervening period, Barnabas has sent a report back to Jerusalem about the work that has happened at Antioch - with much rejoicing! Well the ongoing relationship with the Jerusalem church is significant, and they send prophets to Antioch – (read vv. 27-30).

So Agabus foretells of a famine, during the reign of the Roman emperor Claudius (We see Agabus again in chapter 21 predicting Paul's imprisonment). Well Claudius reigned from A.D. 41-54 and history shows that there was a great famine in Judea in A.D. 45-46 as well as many areas throughout the Roman Empire during Claudius's reign. Well the response of the Antioch church was to assist with financial help - look at verse 29 again - the disciples determined - that is the people of the church, they decided to give what each one could afford for the people in Judea.

5. They Were Marked By Inter-Dependence, v.27-30

Leaders must promote inter-dependence. That brings us to another characteristic of the growing church - they were marked by inter-dependence. They needed each other - Jerusalem sends Barnabas, he then gets Paul from the church in Tarsus, the Antioch church has prophets come, and they send gifts back to help brothers and sisters in need.

That is the beauty of the church and God's design - we do need each other. At times we do not have all the giftedness required - so we have people come in and help. But then we also have the opportunity to help others, both here and in local churches and then other towns as well. Now that kind of inter-dependence comes at a cost. When people have to go to minister to others, they are not here for us! But we should rejoice that God gives us the privilege and opportunity to love others in this kind of way.

We should not be so selfish as to think that our teachers, evangelists, pastors and elders and other church members and our gifts and money are all our possessions - they are God's and sometimes He needs to send us to Antioch or the village or DRC or other lands.

What a privilege to follow the pattern of inter-dependence that we see in the early church - but we must make sure that we have a right heart in being prepared to give to others, not try and hold it all back for ourselves. We are autonomous churches but we need each other, that is the way God has designed the church to function. We need each other!

Well look at the final verse with me again "and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul."

6. They Were Led By Qualified Elders, v.30

The final characteristic of the growing church is that they were led by qualified elders. The church at Jerusalem had been founded by the apostles, but as we see in this verse a transition of leadership has happened where the church there is now led by elders. To be sure, some of them may have been the apostles, but they also would have had ministry assignments in other places that took them away from Jerusalem. So elders have obviously been appointed.

As we continue to study in Acts, we are going to see that Paul and missionary teams establish churches and then later, when the maturity of believers is seen, elders are appointed to lead these churches. We find in the book of Titus that Paul tells him in his epistle to Titus 1:5 to "put what remains in order and appoint elders in every town as I directed you." As a help he then gives a list of qualifications of elders to help in that task. Paul gives a similar list to Timothy in 1 Timothy as he battles with leaders in the church at Ephesus that are not qualified to lead.

It is essential that local churches follow the pattern of the early church in seeing the church shepherded and cared for by qualified elders. 1 Timothy 3:1 says this: "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task."

It is a good thing to aspire to the office of being an elder - notice that it is not the position that is important "he desires a noble task" - it is the work that is noble, that is important - and it is work, it is actively living for the benefit of others. Keep aspiring to do the work of an elder - in fact do it - care for people, shepherd people, love them and God in His time may raise you up to lead in the office of overseer!

So as we conclude we are encouraged by the example of the growing and spreading early church, they were characterized by:

- Preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Calling for Faith and Repentance
- Sending Out Those Best Gifted
- Focusing On Teaching the Flock
- Being Known As Christians
- Being Marked By Inter-Dependence
- Being Led By Qualified Elders

Therefore elders should work towards promoting these characteristics of a growing church in our assemblies. May God richly bless you as we focus on God and seeing His church grow in Zambia.

LCK / Samfya



SHOW IT - DON'T BLOW IT!

The story of a young man who found Christ but lost his parents



The enthusiasm of youth often clashes with the caution of older people. When the young person is a brand new Christian, and on fire for Christ, and when the older people feel their own religion is threatened, the testimony can be rendered ineffective. When the older people are the parents of the young person, the results can be disastrous. Greg's experience is a case in point. But the disaster can be turned to victory if Greg learns to moderate his zeal with love and wisdom. - First, let's have Greg tell his own story:

"How I chased my parents away from the Gospel

After I was saved, I went home and tried to ram the gospel down the throats of my family. They opposed me fiercely and I responded with hostility. That's why I say I blew it.

Let me give you a little background. I was brought up in a fairly religious home. We kids learned the catechism, went to confessions, attended church regularly. In time, I became an altar boy. As far as I can tell now, our religion consisted of going through ceremonies, but none of us was really born again. In high school, I started to steal in order to support my drug habit. My father had to bail me out of the can three times. But even after that it was easier to get the money by stealing than by working. But this time, of course, I was deeply into sex. There was no trouble finding girls. I looked on myself as Mr. Macho.

For some time I rode the crest of the wave. I enjoyed the acceptance of my friends, and my wild life gave me a real high. The first thing that

sobered me was when my closest friend was killed in a crash. Shortly after that I was jailed on a drug charge. When I got out on bail, I landed in the hospital with what was suspected to be leukemia. In the hospital, for the first time I can remember, I prayed. "O God, if there is a God, show Yourself to me." An hour later, a friend from high school days came to visit the guy in

the next bed. After he recovered from surprise at seeing me, he told me that he was a Christian now, that he had turned his life over to Jesus Christ. Then he carefully explained how I too could start a new life in Christ. I was ready. We prayed. The best way I knew how, I trusted Christ as my Substitute, my Lord and my Savior.



My life changed radically. God gave me a new tongue, no longer spilling out filth and profanity. I turned away from drugs and booze and the immoral lifestyle I had known. My old friends began to desert me. One of them said, "Man, you're dead!"

Well, I expected my parents to be ecstatic over the change in my life. I thought that when I shared the gospel with them, they would all want to be saved right away. Sure, they hadn't been as bad as I, but they still needed to be saved. So I started witnessing to them rather vigorously. But I got a shock! They didn't admit any enthusiasm for the change in my life. Rather they seemed to say that they would rather have drugs in the family than belief in religious life. My mother wept that I had deserted her religion, calling me a traitor and a renegade. They resented my suggestion that they needed to be "born again." They wanted me to know that they were "born again" when they

were baptized as infants. Now I had gone and broken the family unity.

The more I pressed the gospel on them, the more hostile they became. There were incidents of shouting, threats and insults. I felt a widening gap between my family and myself. I was increasingly resentful of their attitudes and behavior, and became more and more withdrawn. Finally after one particular loud shouting brawl, I moved out of the house in a rage.

That's why I say I blew it. Instead of winning them to Christ, I only succeeded in driving them away. I really love them, and that is why I wanted them to be saved. That's why I kept hammering away with the gospel. But I guess it was zeal without knowledge. Now I'm alienated from them and depressed in my spirit. Is there anything I can do to make right the wrongs of the past?"

Greg's experience is a familiar scenario. Many young converts have tried to be faithful to Christ and to their relatives, yet they have acted in such a way as to negate their testimony. What shall we tell them?

Do not suffer due to your own unkindness!

Jesus stated quite frankly that His coming would mean alienation and division within families. For instance, He said, "*I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be the members of his household*" - (Mt. 10:35-36, NASB). The Lord did not mean that the direct purpose of His coming was to produce hostility in families, but rather that this would sometimes be the inevitable result. Whenever people follow Him, they can expect bitter opposition from relatives and friends. In that sense, He "*did not come to bring peace but a sword*" (v. 34).

But none of that justifies Greg's anger and resentment toward his family. It is pleasing to God if we are ridiculed, persecuted and abused because of our connection with Christ. There is no merit when we suffer because of our own stupidity, carnality, and acts of unkindness.

Show God's love in action

Greg need not feel that all is lost. What he needs to do now is demonstrate to his relatives that Christ makes a difference in his life. The first way he can do that is by going back and apologizing to them for his anger and bitterness. It is hard to eat humble pie, but he must do it. And he must not try to soften the impact on himself by saying, "If I have done anything wrong, I am sorry." Instead, he must be frank and say, "I was wrong. I am sorry. Please forgive me." This will speak loudly to his parents and his brothers and sisters. They will think, "Greg never apologized like this before, and we never do it either when we're wrong."



Then instead of ramming the gospel down their throats, Greg should adopt a low-key stance, waiting for them to bring up the subject. They will, almost invariably. This will give him a chance to answer them graciously and without pressure. If invited, it might be good for Greg to move back into the house. Once there he should help with the work, see things to be done, and do them without being asked. He should keep his room neat and clean instead of the bombed-out disaster area it used to be. Greg should show acts of kindness that are completely out of character with what he has been in the past. This would include remembering birthdays, anniversaries and other special days, and gift giving with no other purpose than to express his love. He should pray for ways to be original and innovative in being kind. Greg should respect his parents' authority, obeying them up to the point where their advice would mean disobeying the Lord. Then he must quietly refuse, without provoking a scene.

It is always in order to express appreciation to parents, because they never do get thanked adequately for what they have done. Some parents might even appreciate a handwritten letter like the one below, which they can read and meditate upon. His words or such a letter will mean more to his parents than anything else. They will try hard to keep their eyes from bubbling, but the letter will affect them deeply.

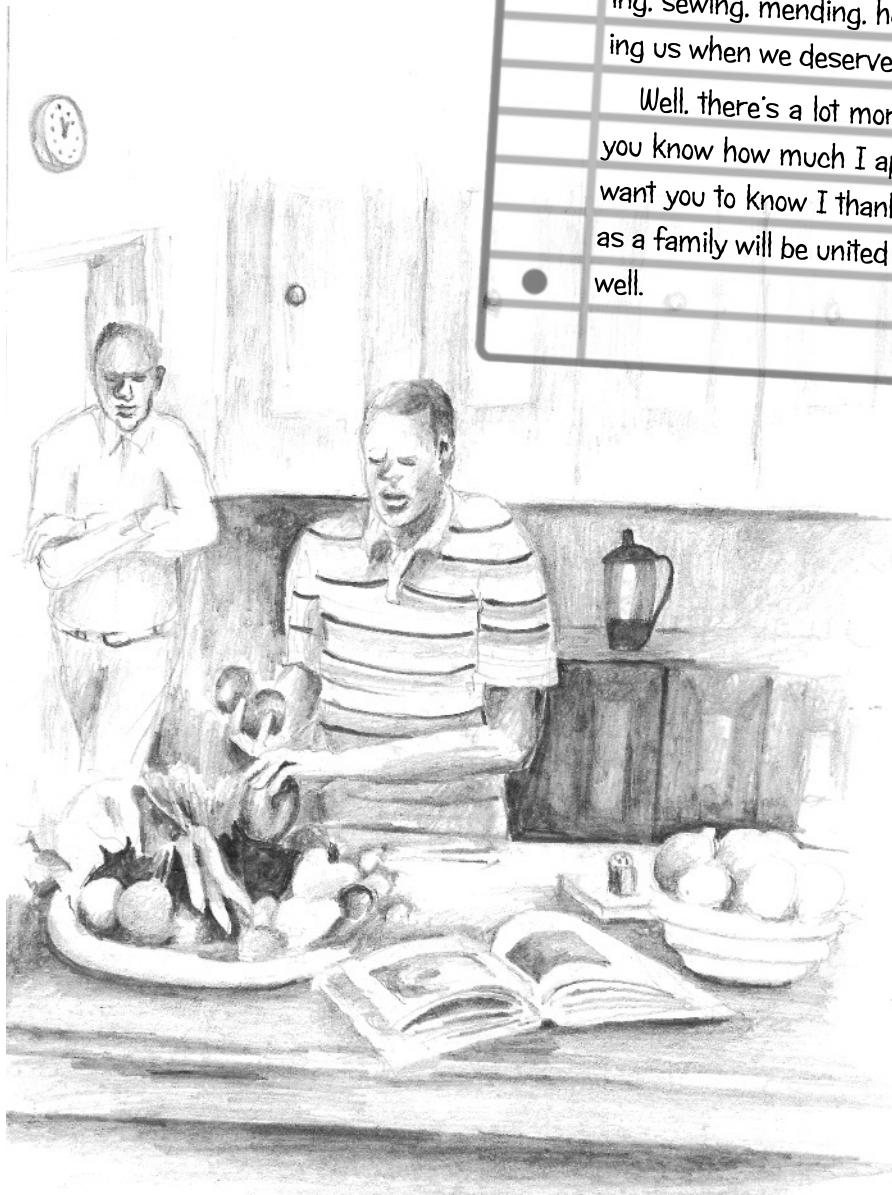
Parents like to be consulted for advice, even when their children are grown up. It is just another way in which Greg can honor and respect them. Hopefully these radical changes in Greg's life will not cause his parents to have cardiac arrest. But if they produce another kind of heart attack, they will be worth it—namely, a heart overcome by the love of Jesus.

Give Jesus the credit!

One final word, Greg. When your parents ask questions or express appreciation for the change that has come in your life, use it as an opportunity to give credit to the Saviour. Make them realize that it is not you, but Jesus in you.

God loves to save families, Greg. You can cooperate with Him by demonstrating the life of Christ before them day by day. You can win them by prayer and good works, without nagging or pressuring them. God bless!

WMD, US (f)



To my Parents.

today I would like to express something of the thanks I feel for all you have meant in my life.

It was you who brought me into the world—and I understand today that it meant pain and suffering to you. But you quickly and unselfishly forgot about all that for joy that a son had been born to you.

As I have grown older, I realize better the days, and months, and years you devoted to my upbringing. I often think of the times when I was sick or in accidents, and all it cost you by way of sleepless night when anxiously waiting for me. I don't think I could ever thank you enough for your lonely vigil when it seemed that death would snatch away one of us kids.

Thanks Father and Mother, for all the care, cooking, washing, sewing, mending, housecleaning. Thanks too for disciplining us when we deserved it; we knew you were doing it in love.

Well, there's a lot more I could say, but I think this will let you know how much I appreciate all you have done for me. I want you to know I thank the Lord for you, and pray that we as a family will be united not only in this life, but in eternity as well.

Your son, Greg





MARRIAGE CORNER

Abortion in Christian Married Couples

Do we have abortions in married couples? One may scream. Strange – but yes, that is true! No one would expect that such immoral acts can be done among people who are born again Christians or better still say who call themselves Christians. Some readers may say, well this article is not for me, it is for non Christians who are having abortions. Well in this article I am going to show you three real stories within the church that abortions are really happening. We cannot address this issue outside the church if we cannot confront it among Christian couples in our churches first .

The Predicament – and two possible answers

Now lets look at the first couple. In the year 1990 a newly married couple in one of the provinces of Zambia in the rural area had a second pregnancy when the first born child was only 10 months old. In the traditional society it is generally believed that the two children should not suck from the same breasts because the first or the second child can die. Also when that happens there is a lot of ridicule in the society for such a couple. This couple was confronted with these issues and opted for an abortion to avoid being laughed at by the community. The Husband therefore insisted that they should opt for an abortion as the easiest way out of the predicament. "Abortion is the answer," they agreed together. Sometimes decisions are made out of fear like in the case of this couple. They had received a lot of mixed teaching on the subject from people who believe so much in traditions of child upbringing. They believe that when the second child comes earlier before weaning the first child, then the first child would die since she would suck the breast milk of the second child. This is still a taboo.

After much prayers, this couple sought medical advice from one of the missionaries at Mansa Mission, the late Mr Kennedy. The most important message they received was that there wasn't anything wrong by both children sucking from the breasts of the mother. First and foremost they were advised to give their children a balanced diet and that they should be taken to the hospital for check ups to monitor the body temperature. This couple was advised to continue breastfeeding the child at intervals. And inbetween, they were to feed the child with well prepared porridge mixed with groundnuts which was nutritious. Prayerfully, this couple was helped and educated on the upbringing of the baby in the Christian manner.

Consequently, many people and relatives came for their help later. Because this couple heeded to the advice and instructions of other Christians and medical officers, an abortion was not carried out. It was rather seen clearly that it would be a sin in the eyes of God. The first child really grew very healthy and the second child was born as a healthy bouncing baby. According to the advice given by their traditional counselors, the first child was to be weaned off one month before giving birth to the second child. In spite of the belief system people have on child birth, this never happened in the life of these babies. Today they are big girls and have completed their Grade

12 and are now doing college level. Not only this: today they are all active members of the assembly and saved to the glory of God.

From this story we learn that it is important to seek advice from wise, older and respected members of our assemblies to help us when faced with this dilemma. Think of what would have happened if the abortion was carried out?

The second couple lived along the line of railway in one of our big towns. The lady is a Christian while the husband is not and does not even attend the Church Assembly anywhere. The Lord has blessed them with more than ten children most of whom are boys. Something went wrong in their planning. It happened again that the woman became pregnant some years ago. Here is a lady who even was serving as a deaconess in that assembly. The husband accepted the status quo. But the woman couldn't accept that she was pregnant. Her only solution was to do away with the pregnancy. The husband pleaded with her to accept it but she strongly objected. In the end she took what ever concoction and aborted the pregnancy. Following this treatment she almost died in her house. She was found fainted in a pool of blood in her own house. The husband had just gone to work while her children were attending school. However, the neighbors came to her rescue and rushed her to the hospital where she was attended to, cleaned and was given more blood since she was at the point of death due to losing too much blood. This was a shame in the eyes of God because she killed an innocent child. Who knows he or she would have served the Lord. The woman is there but living a guilty life after what she did, unless she has repented of the bad action of killing a human being.

When does Life start?

What does the Bible say when life starts? The Bible, held in esteem by all Evangelical Christians, makes it clear in Psalm 139:16: "You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breath. Every day was recorded in your book". Further in verse 13 the Bible says, "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in my mother's womb." - (Ps.139:13). There are those who may not believe the Bible and are lovers of science. Professor Micheline Mathews of Harvard University, School of

Medicine said, "It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception." (Senate Committee – S-58, Report 97 Cong. 1981).

There are many examples that show that Science and the Bible agree that life starts at conception. From this point on the development of human life starts. It is from this point on that we have an unborn living child, a growing human being, the production of its mother and father.

The Bible places the highest value on human life. Life in all its forms, be it at conception, as child, youth, adult or in old age, is sacred and worth to God who created and formed it „in his own image” (Gen. 1:26-27). Job said that it is God who sustains it (Job. 12:10). Therefore it is wrong for any one of us to terminate life at any stage of development because God is working hard to sustain and maintain it.

Why Abortion among Christian Couples is wrong

As we have seen, abortion is wrong because the Bible says: "Thou shall not kill." (Deut.5:17 KJV). Life begins at conception hence termination is killing and killing is disobedience to God's word. It is wrong because every fetus has the potential of becoming a fully developed person.

Ultimately we see that no person or medical officer should take the place of God in terminating human life through abortion or any other means that will induce death. Billy Graham said: "No woman has the right over her own body to destroy her unborn child. The embryo growing inside her body is more than just another part of her. It has a separate existence. It is another life." (Christian Workers Handbook, page 15).

Just to be clear: abortion is not only wrong among married Christians; it would be sin for anybody. It extends to the non Christian as well. But it is a worse sin among believers because they know what God requires of them.

Can God forgive the sin of abortion?

The answer is definitely yes. God can forgive abortion. There is no sin so great that God can fail to forgive. In Isaiah 1 verses 15 to 17 the Bible says: "Come and let us reason together though your sins may be red as crimson, they shall be as white as snow." In 1 John 1 verses 8 and 9 the bible again says that if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is the God we serve. All we have to do is to be sorry of our actions and repent and turn to him with a repentant attitude. And he will forgive us, forget about our past and we will again be in fellowship with him.

Listen to advice!

My wife and me, we have gone through this very difficult experience described in the beginning, and we learned some valuable lessons out of this scenario. We conclude by saying that we avoided a death sentence for our child by listening to the advice given to us by our counselor and a brother who was a missionary at that time. It has to be strongly recommended, that we need to listen to the advice of mature Christians if we are in the same trap to avoid a catastrophe. Secondly, if you have already committed the sin of abortion, you should confide in one of your elders or pastors and explain the sin that you have committed. Then ask God in a repentant spirit. Together with the elder or pastor, pray together and our loving father will surely forgive you if it is done from your heart (1 John 1:8-9).



5.Month: The baby starts to suck his thumb

Let us help each other!

Finally, we must be ambassadors of the unborn children in our churches and communities. We have to do something to ensure that more sensitization is done to curb this vice. We must do everything to help those who are involved in this sin. We must help them, support them and encourage them to accept the responsibility. After all we are all members of one family supporting and caring for one another instead of condemning those who have been overtaken by this sin (Galatians 6:1). No one lives to himself. As Christians, our job is to bring back the fallen ones to the Lord. And this we shall do as we were helped. We have also to help others and build them up. Because of Christ's work on the cross on our behalf, God freely offers us forgiveness (Psalms 103:10, 12-13).

P+PK, Lusaka

Let's talk and teach about it!

The truth is that we have too many couples in our churches who have undergone this experience of carrying out an abortion or are contemplating this step at the moment. Many are suffering under the guilt of having aborted a child in the past. But there is help. We recommend that in each church leaders should find a way of teaching about this subject, thus creating opportunities for couples to evaluate their thinking and actions. Make sure you include the following topics:

- *The effects of abortion*
- *God can and does forgive the sin of abortion*
- *The necessity of openness and repentance*
- *How a christian counsellor can help*

The Pastor and his son

Every Sunday afternoon, after the morning service at the church, the Pastor and his eleven year old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel Tracts.

This particular Sunday afternoon, as it came time for the Pastor and his son to go to the streets with their tracts, it was very cold outside, as well as pouring rain. The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said, 'OK, dad, I'm ready.'

His Pastor dad asked, 'Ready for what?'

'Dad, it's time we gather our tracts together and go out.'

Dad responds, 'Son, it's very cold outside and it's pouring rain.'

The boy gives his dad a surprised look, asking, 'But Dad, aren't people still going to Hell, even though it's raining?'

Dad answers, 'Son, I am not going out in this weather.'

Despondently, the boy asks, 'Dad, can I go? Please?'

His father hesitated for a moment then said, 'Son, you can go. Here are the tracts, be careful son.'

'Thanks Dad!'

And with that, he was off and out into the rain. This eleven year old boy walked the streets of the town going door to door and handing everybody he met in the street a Gospel Tract.

After two hours of walking in the rain, he was soaking, bone-chilled wet and down to his VERY LAST TRACT. He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand a tract to, but the streets were totally deserted. Then he turned toward the first home he saw and started up the sidewalk to the front door and rang the door bell. He rang the bell, but nobody answered. He rang it again and again, but still no one answered. He waited but still no answer.

Finally, this eleven year old trooper turned to leave, but something stopped him. Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked loudly on the door with his fist. He waited, something holding him there on the front porch! He rang again and this time the door slowly opened.

Standing in the doorway was a very sad-looking elderly lady. She softly asked, 'What can I do for you, son?' With radiant eyes and a smile that lit up her world, this little boy said, 'Ma'am, I'm sorry if I disturbed you, but I just want to tell you that * JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU * and I came to give you my very last Gospel Tract which will tell you all about JESUS and His great LOVE.'

With that, he handed her his last tract and turned to leave.

She called to him as he departed. 'Thank you, son! And God Bless You!'

Well, the following Sunday morning in church Pastor Dad was in the pulpit. As the service began, he asked, 'Does anybody have testimony or want to say anything?'

Slowly, in the back row of the church, an elderly lady stood to her feet. As she began to speak, a look of glorious radiance came from her face, 'No one in this church knows me. I've never been here before. You see, before last Sunday I was not a Christian. My husband passed on some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world. Last Sunday, being a particularly cold and rainy day, it was even more so in my heart that I came to the end of the line where I no longer had any hope or will to live.'

So I took a rope and a chair and ascended the stairway into the attic of my home. I fastened the rope securely to a rafter in the roof, then stood on the chair and fastened the other end of the rope around my neck. Standing on that chair, so lonely and broken-hearted I was about to leap off, when suddenly the loud ringing of my doorbell downstairs startled me. I thought, 'I'll wait a minute, and whoever it is will go away.' I waited and waited, but the ringing doorbell seemed to get louder and more insistent, and then the person ringing also started knocking loudly...

I thought to myself again, 'Who on earth could this be? Nobody ever rings my bell or comes to see me.' I loosened the rope from my neck and started for the front door, all the while the bell rang louder and louder.

When I opened the door and looked I could hardly believe my eyes, for there on my front porch was the most radiant and angelic little boy I had ever seen in my life. His SMILE, oh, I could never describe it to you!

The words that came from his mouth caused my heart that had long been dead, TO LEAP TO LIFE as he

exclaimed with a cherub-like voice, 'Ma'am, I just came to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU.' Then he gave me this Gospel Tract that I now hold in my hand.

As the little angel disappeared back out into the cold and rain, I closed my door and read slowly every word of this Gospel Tract. Then I went up to my attic to get my rope and chair. I wouldn't be needing them any more.

You see-- -I am now a Happy Child of the KING. Since the address of your church was on the back of this Gospel Tract, I have come here to personally say THANK YOU to God's little angel who came just in the nick of time and by so doing, spared my soul from an eternity in hell.'

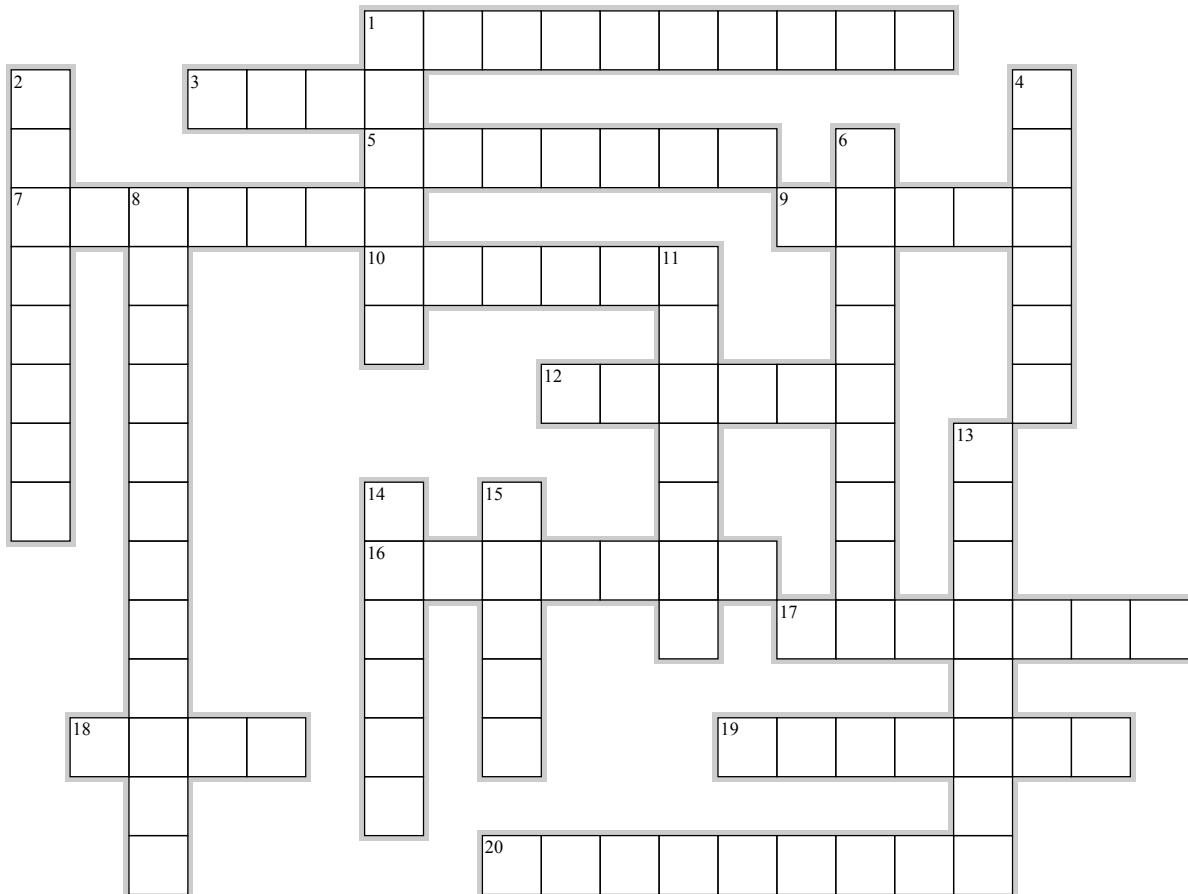
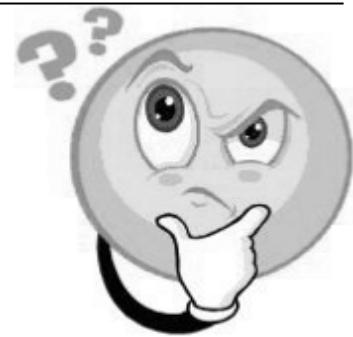
There was not a dry eye in the church. And as shouts of praise and honour to THE KING resounded off the very rafters of the building, Pastor Dad descended from the pulpit to the front pew where the little angel was seated....

He took his son in his arms and sobbed uncontrollably.

Probably no church has had a more glorious moment, and probably this universe has never seen a Father that was more filled with love and honour for his son.... Except for One.



Quiz



Across

1. A disciple at Joppa did ... deeds (Acts 9:36)
3. Whoever wants to save his life will ... it (Mat 16:25)
5. The disciples of John were fasting and ... (Lk 5:33)
7. In this town the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:26)
9. When Jesus washed His disciples' feet He gave them an example that a leader should ... others (Jh 13:15-17; Mt 23:11)
10. A disciple will bear much fruit, if he ... in Jesus (Jh 15:5)
12. Who came to Philip wanting to see Jesus? (Jh 12:21)
16. Jesus' disciples will be known by having love for one ... (Jh 13:35)
17. The Great Commission is found in the book of ...
18. The disciple Jesus loved
19. When people see the good works of Jesus' disciples they will ... God (Mt 5:16)
20. Disciples are ... of Jesus (cf Mk 1:17)

Down

1. Another name for Peter
2. Listeners to God's Word in Berea were better than those in Thessalonica, why? They ... the Scriptures. (Acts 17:11)
4. How many disciples did Jesus have?
6. The home city of Peter, Andrew and Philip (Jh 1:44)
8. Paul and Barnabas strengthened the disciples, teaching them that 'we must enter the Kingdom of God through many ... ' (Acts 14:22)
11. Who was stoned when the witnesses laid down their clothes at Saul's feet?
13. He was chosen to replace Judas
14. You cannot serve God and ... (Mat 6:24)
15. When Jesus sent his 12 disciples out He gave them ... (Mt 10:1)

The Pilot and his daughter



A priest was on a long flight home after a Church Conference.

The first warning of approaching problems came when the 'Fasten Your Seat Belts' sign flashed on. After a while a calm voice said, "We shall not be serving beverages at this time as we are expecting a little turbulence. Please make sure your seat belt is fastened."

The priest looked around the aircraft and saw that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice on the intercom said, "We are so sorry that we are unable to serve meals at this time... The turbulence is still ahead of us."

And then the storm broke. The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightning lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was tossed around like a

cork in a celestial ocean. One moment it was lifted on terrific currents of air, the next it fell as if about to crash.

As the priest looked around he could see that nearly all the passengers were alarmed - except one little girl! She sat calmly, feet tucked under her, looking at pictures in a book, oblivious of the turbulence around her. Sometimes she would close her eyes, and then she would go back to her book.

The storm blew over. When the plane landed and the passengers were disembarking, the priest approached the little girl and asked her why she was not afraid like the other passengers.

The little girl replied, "Cause my Daddy's the pilot and he's taking me home."

There are many storms that buffet us... Physical, mental, financial, domestic and other storms that can darken our skies and throw us into turmoil.

Like the little girl, let us always remember: Our Father is the Pilot. He is in control... He will take us Home... Don't worry! Trust in God at all times and in every situation. Jesus said, "*Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me!*" (John 14,1)

Yes!

Let me come along!



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TALKTIME with God!

1. 1 Corinthians 1:1-17:

What are the essential marks of Christians as given in verses 1 to 9? How is a Christian life different from that of a non-Christian?

2. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31:

Pick out the work of God the father, Son and the Holy Spirit in man's salvation. Is Jesus Christ true in your life? 1:30.

3. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16:

What wisdom did Paul teach among Christians? How did he receive that wisdom? How can we receive it too?

4. 1 Corinthians 3:1-23:

What is God's part in church growth? What is the responsibility of the Christian Bible Teachers?

5. 1 Corinthians 4:1-21:

What is the true relationship of Apostles to Christ? What is their responsibility in the world? Verses: 8-13.

6. 1 Corinthians 5:1-13:

What should be the attitudes of the church when serious sin finds its way into the church? How did Paul help to solve this problem into the church?

7. 1 Corinthians 6:1-20:

Paul does not agree with Christians taking one another to courts of law. What reason does he give? What does this show about the conduct of Christians one to another? What reasons does he give for his perseverance? Verses 24-25.

8. 1 Corinthians 7:12-24:

What rules does Paul lay down for Christians who appears three times

in verses 17-24? Can this be applied in present day condition?

9. 1 Corinthians 7:25-40:

A Christian is free to choose to marry or to remain single depending on his calling in life. What counsel does Paul give to the widows?

10. 1 Corinthians 8:1-13:

How does a Christian live to exercise his liberty in Love to the weaker brother/sister for the sake of the Gospel in this passage?

11. 1 Corinthians 9:1-14:

What warning is contained for us in these verses? Make it your prayer.

12. 1 Corinthians 9:15-27:

Where is the Christian life compared to? How did Paul discipline himself in this matter and to what extent or end?

13. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13:

What two principles can we draw in this passage to guide Christians in eating meals offered to idols and eating meals in an idol church or temple?

14. 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1:

Which feast does Paul approve in verses 14 to 22? What should be our conduct?

15. 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 11:17-34:

Which two irregularities does Paul deal with in the Corinthian church? Any similarities in our present church. How can we deal with them too?

16. 1 Corinthians 12:1-13:

List different types of gifts mentioned in this chapter that can build the body of Christ if it is appropriately used.

17. 1 Corinthians 12:14-31:

What lessons can we draw from the fact that as Christians we are the body of Christ. Meditate upon this picture.

18. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13:

Why is love so important? Ask yourself if the 15 clauses describing love is found in your life. Tick them as you go ahead and pray for those things lacking in your life.

19. 1 Corinthians 14:1-12:

Try to form a mental picture of the church's worship in Corinth. How is it different from the worship today in our churches?

20. 1 Corinthians 14:13-25:

Which gift does Paul give a higher place for the teaching and for the salvation of non-Christians? Verses 20-25

21. 1 Corinthians 14:26-40:

What two principles should govern the conduct of our public worship v. 20. How did Paul apply them in the church in Corinth?

22. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11:

Where should we place emphasise in our preaching? And what does the gospel bring to men? Cf Matt 1:21; 1 Tim. 1:15

23. 1 Corinthians 15:12-28:

If Christ did not rise from the dead, what five negative evidence do Christians have?

24. 1 Corinthians 15:29-41:

What light does the resurrection of Christ throw upon the future of a Christian.

25. 1 Corinthians 15:42-58:

How will our bodies be when Christ comes to take the church. Meditate upon this passage.

26. 1 Corinthians 16:1-9:

What lessons can we learn from the practical wisdom of Paul on how he guided the Corinthian Church on offering.

27. 1 Corinthians 16:10-24:

What traits in Paul's Christian character shine out in this chapter and in the whole book? Use it as your mirror where can you improve in your life.

28. Ruth 1:1-23:

Put yourself in Ruth's place. Consider the cost of the decision to follow Naomi in the land of Israel. What lessons may Ruth teach us in regard to our following of Christ?

29. Ruth 2:1-22:

What qualities are outstanding in Boaz and in Ruth. Are there any lessons that we can learn from them?

30. Ruth 3:1-18:

How does this chapter show us the Lord's loving-kindness to those who trust in him? Cf. Rom 8:28

31. Ruth 4:1-22:

Is there any lesson we can learn in regard to matters which affect the rights of others? How is Boaz a type of Christ? Cf. Leviticus 25:25; 47-49; Gal. 3:13-14

32. 2 Corinthians 1:1-11:

How does Paul describe the church in Corinth in spite of its defects? What blessings does he ask for the members? Are these blessings real to you?

33. 2 Corinthians 1:12-24:

What three functions of the holy Spirit are referred to in verses 21, 22?

How can this help us in our Christian life? Cf. 1 John 2:20 and Eph 1:13-14.

34. 2 Corinthians 2:1-17:

What can we learn from the manner in which Paul administers discipline in the church? How does he define his relations to Christians at Corinth?

35. 2 Corinthians 3:1-18:

What is the most important thing in the Christian life: The letter of recommendation or the written word in our hearts? Examine your own life and see who you are in the eyes of God.

36. 2 Corinthians 4:1-18:

How far is verse 4 true today in people's response to the Gospel of Christ today? How can we manifest the treasures of God deposited in us in our weaker vessels?

37. 2 Corinthians 5:1-10:

If the earthly temple is destroyed, what awaits the true Christian? How can this motivate Christians to day?

38. 2 Corinthians 5:11-21:

What great motive dominated Paul's life? And to what conclusion did it lead him? Verses 14-17. How far are we like Paul in this matter?

39. 2 Corinthians 6:1-13:

In these verses Paul describes the hardships and experiences he had gone through in accepting Christ and Christ's commission. Are any of these points true of you?

40. 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1:

In which five ways does Paul show in those verses that Christians must be separated people from the world? How does he show that this is possible in our lives to day? See 16-18; 7:1

41. 2 Corinthians 7:2-16:

What two kinds of sorrow are being distinguished here? Where does true repentance come from? Verses Ps 1:6.

42. 2 Corinthians 8:1-15:

What is the main point in the appeal which Paul makes in verses 7-15? Gather many points and see how we can apply it in our own giving?

43. 2 Corinthians 8:16-24:

Meditate upon the following questions:

- 1) What can we learn from Paul's example of praising where praise is due? Verses 18, 19, 22; 2) What blessing is being taught here on stewardship? Verse 23; 3) What kind of giving does God value?

44. 2 Corinthians 9:1-15:

What is the spring and pattern of our giving? Verse 18. Comment. Please pay attention to the word: "unspeakable gift"

45. 2 Corinthians 10:1-18:

Paul likens his ministry to warfare. How can we be victorious in our Christian walk to day?

46. 2 Corinthian 11:1-15:

Why was Paul so concerned about the church in Corinth? What did he fear? Verses 1-4; Gal. 1:6-10. Paul was amazed that the Corinthians had tolerated false teachers. Why?

47. 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

How did Paul justify his boasting about himself and his ministry? Cf. 30, 11, and 16

48. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10:

What lessons did Paul learn that changed his whole attitude to trial about the thorn in the flesh? How can we apply this concept in our lives today? Romans 5:3-5; 1 Peter 4:14

49. 2 Corinthian 12:11-21:

Summarise the points that impress you most in the following verses and apply: 11-15; 16-18; and 19-21. How are you going to help others?

50. 2 Corinthians 13:1-14:

Consider how the prayer of verse 14 sums up our Christian heritage, and gives the complete solution to our three Fold Need mentioned here: SIN-SORROW-and WEAKNESS?

51. Job 1:1-22:

Describe any four qualities of Job in verses 1- 5 and chapter 29.

52. Job 2:1-13:

Satan contending that Job serves God because God had given him the wealth. Job was indeed tested and lost his good health. Did Satan succeed in his plan? What was the result?

53. Job 3:1-26:

How does Job respond to this test? What can we learn from this test?

54. Job 4:1-21:

How does Eliphaz try to help Job in his current situation? Cf 12-16 Was this kind of advice helpful to Job?

55. Job 5:1-27:

Eliphaz concludes that Job must turn from sin, resentment and turn to God. Was Job comforted in Eliphaz's counsel?

56. Job 6:1-13:

What was Job's attitude towards God, himself, sin and suffering as seen in this passage?

57. Job 6:14-30:

He directed these message to his friends who seemed to be giving good counsel. How does Job look at their advice? How can we find the right words to help others in problems instead of condemning them?

58. Job 7:1-21:

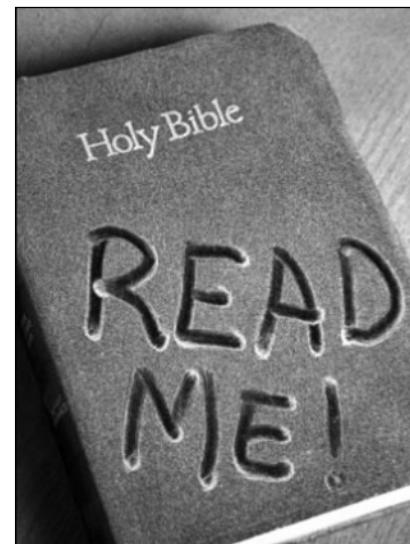
Job's reaction to his friends is a mixed one. At one time he claims that he was righteous. At another point he says he was a sinner. And that he cannot understand why God cannot forgive him. What should be the Christian attitude towards suffering?

59. Job 8:1-22:

Bildad makes it clear that Job is suffering because of sin. Do Christians suffer because of sin? What is your comment?

60. Job 9:1-35:

Note the inconsistencies of Job in this passage. In knowing God's will in our lives, what should be our attitude when we pass through trials? Cf James 1:2-3



Recharge Instructions:

1. Pepeni / Pray!
2. Belengeni / Read!
3. Tontonkanyeni / Think!
4. Lembeni / Write!
5. Asukeni / Answer!

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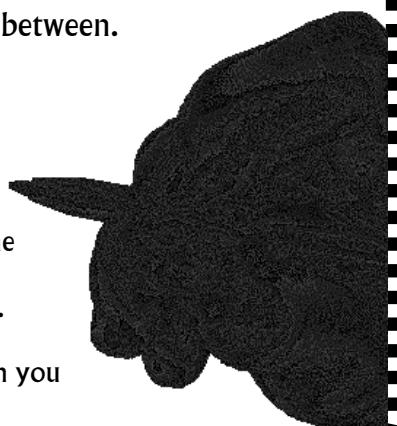
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(Start reading on page 2)



Slowly Elephant turned.
Hippo's voice came, "I think - um - he'll push *through* this time."
"Come on!" shouted Monkey. "Together now."
Again Elephant threw his weight against the wall.
WHOOCK and again WHOOCK
and again WHOOCK
and again WHOOCK
Little puffs of elephant breath came out of his trunk as
WHOOCK!
KER-WHOOCK!

KER-WHOOCK!

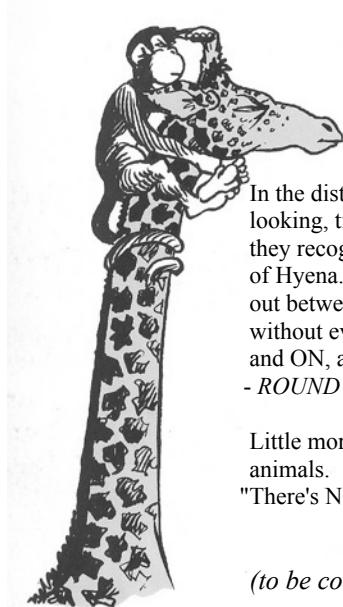
Suddenly Elephant's trunk sagged, his ears dropped, and his legs slowly collapsed.
In a muffled voice he puffed out, "There's - NO - WAY -
THROUGH - that - wall."
And sadly the animals echoed, "There's NO WAY THROUGH
THAT WALL."



Harshly Hyena laughed his horrid laugh. "Maybe for big ones that wall is a problem, but for cunning ones like me it's different. I'll find a way *ROUND* the wall."

He trotted off laughing creepily.
Monkey chattered, "Round the wall, eh? ROUND the wall. Now that's an idea."
They waited.

The sun set and there was no sign of Hyena.
They waited and waited.
The sun rose and set and rose again still no sign of Hyena.
But in the heat haze of mid-day ...



In the distance they saw a slow-moving, weary-looking, tired-tailed creature. As it came closer they recognised the slinky, slouchy shoulders of Hyena. His ears drooped, the tongue trailed out between his jaws, his legs limped, and without even a giggle he panted, "It goes ON, and ON, and ON, and ON. There's - NO - WAY - *ROUND* - that - wall."

Little more than a murmur came from the animals.

"There's NO WAY ROUND THAT WALL.



(to be continued in Natuleya! No. 10)