

SUVISESHA DHWANI

Suvisesha Dhvani Reg. No. RN 29475/78

11 July 2009

Dangers in Assembly Leadership

Stephen Hulshizer

In my travel among the assemblies it is evident that the general spiritual condition of many of them is poor. Attendance is often a small portion of those who would claim to be in fellowship. Worldliness has made inroads and it is manifested in a lack of commitment to the logical assembly and by a strong commitment to careers, hobbies, sports, and recreation. Another

very evident need is for godly oversight. Men who are committed to caring for the Lord's people even thought means great personal sacrifice. In many assemblies there is no identifiable leadership and the Lord's people go from week to week like sheep without a shepherd. In other gatherings there are those who have been identified as elders, but who do little or none of the work involved in

shepherding the Lord's people. "Thankfully, there are those assemblies with identifiable and godly overseers who with personal sacrifice care for the saints.

Self-Neglect

When he was about to leave the Ephesian elders for the last time Paul exhorted them, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his

Contd in Page 3

BELIEVERS AND COURT CASES

George C Varghese

God has given solid instructions in the scripture to follow.

1 Cori 6:1-11 Do any of you dare, when you have a matter against another, to go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels, not to mention the things of this life? If, then, you truly have

judgments of the things of this life, set those who are least esteemed in the church to judge. For I speak to your shame. Is it so that there is not a wise one among you, not even one in your midst who shall be able to judge between his brother? But brother goes to law with brother and that before the unbelievers. Indeed then there is already on the whole a failure

among you, that you have lawsuits with yourselves. Why not instead be wronged? Why not instead be defrauded? But you do wrong and defraud, and these things to brothers. Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor abusers, nor homosexuals, nor

Y M E F (ND) Trust – Office Bearers for the Year 2009-2010

The general body meeting of the Y M E F (ND) Trust was held on 27th Saturday 2009 at 10am. The meeting took an evaluation of the previous years work and also the account of the past year. The office bearers were also elected. The meeting was presided over by the President Mr. Joy Samuel.

President – P T John, Secretary-A D James, Treasurer- C J Philip, Joint Secretary-C P Poulouse, Committee Members –V V Poulouse, Scariah Varghese, Joy Samuel, James William, P P George, M C George, Ramesh S Nair. Office Bearers of the Thrissur Unit –V K James-President, P C Reji-Secretary, Valakom Unit P A Joseph President, Johnson David-Secretary

Following the election detailed discussion of the Punjab Campaign took place. A blue print was prepared for the future campaign in Punjab. If it be the will of the Lord the team wish to conduct the campaign from August to November. Roopnagar, Navashahar, Fathaghat, Patiala are the districts where we wish to work in those days. A team of five members will leave on July 27.

The co-ordinator for the North India campaign is brother C P Poulouse. So those who wish to join the team may kindly contact him. C P Poulouse, Chennattu House, Mamalasserry, Ramamangalam 686 663 or Telephone 0485 2273215, 09744471797. Those who wish to provide financial assistance send their cheques and drafts drawn in favour of Y M E F (ND) to C J Philip, Chackalakkal House, Manjummal 683 501, Udyogmandal, Ernakulam. We thank all those who prayed and supported this ministry. Kindly continue to pray and those who wish to join the team may please contact brother C P Poulouse.

A D James Secretary

We do not learn the Bible to increase our knowledge in scripture. It should be to know more and more of our Lord God will examine this motto behind all our ministries. He will examine the desire of our heart too but in His wish that He should be glorified through our life and ministries. It is His sole wish.

MODERN MODE OF EVANGELIZATION

We see lethargy again in the evangelization of India. On side we see the anger against the minority and bad publicity against the gospel. On the other side the lethargy of the churches and the desire for the luxuries of the people of God. Kerala which was the foundation of gospel work in India is also facing this problem and in other states more than Kerala. Last few years there are no active and strong activities of gospel work. Even though some organizations showed some revivals, we know that they all went after money and failed. They flew around the world for money just like the vulture that flies round the carcasses.

It has become inevitable to use the modern technology for evangelization in the modern world. So the cyber and cinema methods are used for that. Many think that gospel can be reached to the utmost part of the world by means of internet, cell phone and television. But we should know the dangers behind these media by which the devil is working. The people who use these media for evangelization work with a good intention usually ends up in certain traps.

The modern technologies are the devils last chances against the gospel. If we do not identify it properly, we will fall in to great traps from which the assemblies and families cannot get out. Those who are using serials and

cinemas for spreading out good news are not aware of the fatal consequences. If we are not aware of the devils work, we will loose our weapons. We may think that it is a great victory, when we use devils own weapons against him. But a child of God has to use the armor of God. We can not use a sword other than the sword of Spirit. If we do not correct ourselves by seeing the previous mistakes, it shows that we are not gaining any spiritual knowledge. Many spiritual warriors who were stronger than us failed in this field. Those incidents should awake us.

The apostolic method is the proper means of evangelization. The gospel should be shared personally. Then every body will become the warriors.

The Israelite slave girl did her best. She told about God to Naaman and then Naaman to many people. When the people of the Roman Empire served the country the country grew up very well. **When they gave the services to the slaves and enjoyed their life the country was destroyed. In the same way when the spiritual warriors look for short cuts and sleep at the lap of luxury of the world imagine what will happen.**

It is natural to think that the own ministries are good. And it is good for the satisfaction and confidence of its propritors. Let us pray earnestly for differentiating power and knowledge, when we use the modern media for evangelization. These methods should be used with great wisdom and care. God will help even in this corrupted world, those who work hard and sincerely by obeying His command. **GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALLNATIONS.**

Samuel Thomas

Contd from Page 1

thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit *the* kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Even though today believers of the same assembly do not go to the court, but they bring their personnel disputes to the assembly and make unhealthy practices. Do not mix the wordly matters with the assembly matters. Because of these some people loose their happiness and good atmosphere and try to go to other assemblies. In 1Cor 3:3 apostle ask like this, Are you not carnal? Apostle Paul's question to the

Corinthians is very appropriate today also. The husband and wife agreed to live together till the death is looking for a divorce. The Lord's servant K V Samuel's article 'He hates Divorce' (Mal 2:16) which came in *S u v i s h e k s h a n* magazine is very informative and appropriate.

We are not pointing out the good and bad of the cases between the believers, brothers and the gentiles. 1 Cor ch. 6 says that those believers who go to the court are doing against the will of God. I want to bring this matter in to the believers notice. God the father is not doing any legal fight against the world. God is sitting on the mercy seat and not on the judgment seat. That is why He is

giving blessings only even to the sinners. Those who take the people to the court are not showing the perfectness of God. In New Testament we can see the perfectness in 4 different meanings. Mat 5:48 says 'Therefore you shall be perfect just as your father in heaven is perfect. This is in regards to our day to day dealings. In vs. 44&45 we read that love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Therefore the perfectness in vs. 48 should be shown to every body. If so what should be our attitude towards our fellow brethren? Are we ready to obey our God's command in our practical life by loosing, by lowering ourselves and forsaking some things? We may loose our position by humbling ourselves or may cause some financial loss on

obedience. Give importance to the spiritual fellowship than money. These things are very hard for many believers. The believers who change assemblies for this reason will have much mental tensions. The act of forgiveness is the correct remedy for this. We have to deal with them in all forgiveness. When some body go to court for his right, he is not following God's perfectness. Because God deals with mercy, but man in court deals with human rights.

to be continued ...

North India Bible Institute

God has enabled us to function this Bible school in the past because of His grace. It is the prayer and support of the saints that enable us to go ahead like this smoothly. Thus we wish to start classes in Diploma for those who have completed 10th and BTh for those who passed Higher Secondary. We solicit the prayers of the saints for this ministry here.

T J Joseph

For Prayer

Kottayam: Brother Chandapilla Philip had a spontaneous bleeding on last Sunday and he was admitted to the Intensive care unit of the Lakeshore Hospital, Ernakulam in a critical condition. Kindly uphold him to the throne of grace.

Update: Dear brother had a miraculous recovery and is getting better in the hospital. Please continue to pray for him.

Omaller: Harshita (8) is the daughter of brother Vijayan and family of the Manjanikkara Brethren Assembly. The news of the child's sickness and physical condition was reported in an earlier volume. Now the child is taken to CMC Vellore for further investigation. Kindly continue to pray for this dear child.

A word about the baby. A family that has come to faith from a different background. Harshita is a very smart and intelligent girl. She too attended the classes for baptism conducted in the assembly for her family. Even then her mother was not ready to take off her ornaments. This small child of 5 one day after the class told her mother she did not need the small necklace which she was wearing. This evoked a double thought in her mother. She too readily took off her ornaments and witnessed the Lord in the waters of baptism. They as a family are in active fellowship with the Manjanikkara Assembly and worship the Lord in the Spirit and truth. Kindly uphold this child in your prayers.

Check Your Attitude

A music professor with a well-trained voice usually sang the major male solo parts in the choir of a large church. A young man named Bob with no training sometimes took a few shorter solos. As the choir director prepared for the Christmas cantata, she felt that Bob's voice and style made him a natural for the lead role. However, she didn't know how she could give it to him without offending the older man.

Her anxiety was unnecessary. The professor had the same thoughts as she did, and he told her that Bob should take the part. He continued to sing faithfully in the chorus and was a source of much encouragement to Bob.

People who can set aside selfish ambition and genuinely seek the good of others have an attitude that pleases God. Do you remember how John the Baptist reacted when the crowds left him and began following Jesus? He said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

What did John the Baptist and the music professor have in common? They were able to set aside "selfish ambition." They were happy to see others elevated above themselves when it was for the common good. Can the same be said about us.

Christian life ... This is a disciplined life ... it is a life of punctuality ... it is a life of holiness ... integrity is the symbol of it ... it is our duty to keep our words. It is not a life of deception, lies, hypocrisy, celebrations and entertainments. Some one on the pulpit is not expected to ignore the time limit ... "Let all things be done decently and in order."

Continuation from Page 1 Dangers in Assembly Leadership

own blood (Acts 20:28). One danger that a shepherd faces is that of neglecting himself. While expending himself for the Lord's people he neglects his own spiritual condition. In a similar way one can get so involved in the Lord's work, that the Lord Himself is set aside. Like those at Ephesus, one's works, labour, and patience may be commendable, but he has left his *first love*" (Rev. 2:1-4).

In addition to taking heed to him-self, the Shepherd must be on guard for those grievous wolves, Who come from without with the desire to de-destroy the local testimony (Acts 20:29). This requires discernment as they will often come in sheep's clothing, speaking softly and sitting graciously (Rom. 16:18). Shepherds must also be on the alert for those who arise from within the local fellowship who would desire to gain a following. It is evident that those in oversight are subject to many dangers. The adversary of the sheep and of the Chief Shepherd is constantly on the prowl using his many methods in an attempt to have the shepherds fall leaving the sheep unguarded.

We will take a brief look at some of the dangers those in oversight are subject to by looking at the experience of leaders in the scriptures. We should always learn from experience and if possible from the experience of others – it is far less expensive

to be Continued ...

With the Lord

Naraganam: John Joseph (Pappachen 74) of the Thekkethil family Elanthoor went to be with the Lord on 2.7.09. The mortal remains of the dear brother was buried on 8.7.09 under the auspices of the Pariyaram Brethren Assembly in their own cemetery in the presence of a large gathering of saints and relatives. Kindly pray for the bereaved. Brother Joseph T Joseph (Atlanta) is his youngest brother.

Umayattukara: Vazhuvelil V T Varghese wife Shaly Varghese went to be with the Lord. The mortal remains of the dear sister was buried on 7.7.09 under the auspices of the Umayattukara Brethren Assembly in their own cemetery in the presence of a large gathering of saints and relatives. Kindly pray for the bereaved.

Church and Worship

What is worship? From Genesis 22 we can understand that worship is something that we give to the Lord for His satisfaction at the Mount Moriah. In the first two verses of Psalms 29 we are being encouraged and exhorted to give. "Give unto the Lord ...". What is to be given? It is a thing to be understood from the Word. As we read in the book of Revelation Chapter 5:12.; Saying with loud voice Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing. Seven things are offered to the Lord. The slain lamb Jesus Christ is the centre of worship. Praising and thanking the slain lamb who is worthy to receive all honour can be deemed to worthy for worship on the basis of the mentioned two portions of the scripture. So it is very much clear that we cannot worship Him where there is no importance for the crucifixion of Christ. This can be understood

even from even the first revelation of worship itself in Genesis 22.

Whom should we worship?

Abraham worshiped Elohim who appeared to him. It is clear that Abram worshipped Elohim (God). Elohim is the integrated noun form in singular. The triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the assumption here. The meaning of Elohim is Omnipotent. Jesus revealed that true worshippers worship the Father in Spirit and Truth. Jesus answered and said to her. If you knew the gifts of God and who it is who says to you Give me a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.

The gift is given by the Lord.

The gift is the son of God (2Cor 9:15). The one that quenches thirst is the Holy Spirit. In other words Father, truth Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit the three are worthy to receive worship. We are able to worship the Lord because we have become His children trusting in the death of Jesus Christ on the Calvary cross. Not only that the Holy Spirit abides in us. That also enables us to worship. Phippians 3:3. The triune God has a definite role and participation in prayer. We offer our worship to the Triune God and is accepted by the triune God. But the Son always

glorifies the Father and the Holy Spirit glorifies the Father and son. It is because of this that it is written that we worship the Father.

Who can worship? The concept that we can worship anywhere with anyone is not at all correct. This is the attitude of the Samaritans. They worship without knowing exactly what is real worship. You worship what you do not know ... We should worship after knowing what is the real worship. Those who obeyed the Word of God can worship that means only born again Christians are allowed to worship the true living God. The sovereign God will not accept the adoration and prayer of those who are not saved. (Psalms 50:16; John 9). Abraham was

asked to worship because he was justified by faith. The Israelites in Egypt did not worship their Lord but they worshipped Him after crossing the Red Sea. In the age of law the priests, who were redeemed, conducted the worship. The Lord has taught that children has to worship. Only the children of God has the right to worship the heavenly father. The redeemed worship the Redeemer in heaven. **Those who are separated should worship.**

God the Almighty asked Abraham to go to Moriah and to worship Him there. Even the servants and the donkeys were not allowed to worship in Misraim (Egypt). It was His desire that Israel should travel three days from Egypt to worship Him. The redeemed worshipped the Lord after crossing the Red Sea. Red Sea is a symbol of baptism (2Cor 10:1-4). There is no compromise in worship as far as the Word of God is concerned (2Cor 6:14-17).



Are we worried?

Worries are a part of human life. When we loose our faith in God and when our heart thinks about tomorrow then our worries will come forth immediately. Then our thoughts and hope will waiver and our faith in God can shatter. Circumstances play a great role in it. He may walk steadily and slowly to a sphere in which he cannot trust Gods plans and promises and even God Himself. At last he may reach such a situation that he may not be able to control himself.

One day an old villager decided to go and meet his relative. He set off his journey. He used to think twice before he did anything. He started his journey to the town late in the evening. He had to walk a long way to the bus stand. On his way he had to cross a river. He took all the necessary precautions to reach the town even if night falls before the expected destination. He had palm leaves and a match box ready to use. Then he thought the palm leaves may not be give light during

rain. So he thought he will carry a torch. Then he thought if he will misplace the torch, he took an old lantern as a double precaution. Then he has another thought. The lantern will be put off at the wind. So his mind reminded him something else. So he took two candles. He set off his journey with all these precautions. But there is neither rest nor end for his thoughts. His thought travelled through another channel. If there is no boat what will be done? How could he reach the other side of the river. Just imagine that he reached the other shore one way or other then comes another. If the bus might have gone ... what will be done? These thoughts was a part of his whole life.

Dear saints we should think and we should have thoughts. But our cares and anxieties were a danger. It is dangerous. It will not take us to anywhere. We also shall be of little faith. The Lord once called his

disciples in this name. One of the main problems that faces today is this worry. While He was on this earth our Lord had warned against it. Man always think about tomorrow. What shall eat, What shall I wear, What shall I drink. The gravity of this has increased much in Africa. Jesus Christ tried to teach the people of His generation a lesson about food. He advised them to look at the birds and learn a lesson. He tried to teach a lesson about clothing by advising them to learn a lesson from the water lilies and plants. There is no need to care about tomorrow or worry about the future. Our heavenly Father knows all our requirements. So let us seek His kingdom and righteousness first. Then He will give everything that we need according to His will. This is His promise.

So let us cast all our cares on Him

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