

# SUVISESHA DHWANI

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## Happy Birthday to You!

When the children stay with worldly people or when people migrate to some cosmopolitan cities, there arise a question, Is it right to celebrate the birthdays? This article is written as an answer to that question.

Can a child of the Living God celebrate his birthday?

Let us depend upon the word of God for the answer and follow it.

Even though there is no direct mention about the celebration of the birthday in the Bible, there are two incidents

in the scripture which warns the child of God, each in Old Testament and in New Testament.

It is the only one birthday celebration seen in Old Testament and that is in Gen 40:20. We can see some comments about that celebration of Pharaoh in this article.

Just like that we see another birthday celebration in New Testament which is of Herod and it is recorded in two places (Matt14:1-12, Mark 6:14-29). We can see two usages like birthday and birthday celebration. Here we see the birthday of Herod.

Let us examine some truths from these two incidents.

Some lessons from this celebration.

The birthday celebration is not a spiritual activity. It is clearly a worldly celebration. When these people celebrated, their contemporary children of God Joseph and John the Baptist never celebrated their birthdays. Joseph never observed his birthday either in the jail or in the Palace. There are no records in the Bible about the importance of

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## The Importance and Greatness of Evangelisation

P P George

One who totally acknowledges and accepts and follows the manifesto of the Christ of Nazareth is the real evangelist. Jesus Christ is one and the only for him to follow and He is the sole example for an evangelist. To an evangelist Jesus Christ is the message, a song to sing, a place to rest, a spring to drink and a companion in his and through his lonely path. In short Jesus is everything and every thing to him.

An evangelist will have the command from the Most High - the Great King and will have that vi-

sion that Isaiah once had. That is the sole reason that enables him to swim through the troubled waters. He will overcome all the unfavourable situations and unpredictable and unexpected problems. God has entrusted him this great occupation so if some one tries to stop the work of an evangelist it is in vain. It can be simply compared to the meaningless effort of a child to hold the flow of rain water. The live coal from the altar of Calvary will have to burn with flames on his tongue mind and thoughts. So this fire will bring changes in his

inner heart. From there he will get the strength to go forward.

An evangelist or a missionary will have the same zeal of Apostle Paul who expressed it as " ... that I might by all means save some". The principle of a missionary is that "And I will very gladly spend and be spend for your souls...". With this principle in mind he should be ready to spend his time wealth and health with this end in view. This is a big and large field. But there is no difference in this field. Nobody in a higher realm than the other. Lord the God has

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## Let us have a Self Examination

The Brethren Community of Kerala have attained a materialist prosperity beyond all their expectations during the last four decades. The number of millionaires are on the increase day by day. Along with this materialistic prosperity ministries and their number increased a lot. But it is very sorry to learn that the qualities that should develop along with our growth is lacking in the believers. Humility and humbleness are the two qualities which should have explicitly seen in us. Moreover it is our responsibility to reckon others as better than us. When God gives child as gifts according to our desire when they get good education and good jobs. When we better ourselves in our business ..When we good promotes in our jobs ... we should have the strong feeling that it is God who has given it to us. If we have this conviction then definitely we will humble ourselves before God and men. But ego and pride are the hevious sins in us. We can see equally see the spiritual pride. Let us humble ourselves so that the aroma of the spikenard oil may spread around us through us.

Obliged

## Preaching in Lords Supper?

The Lord our God Jesus Christ has instituted the Lords Supper to remember him. It is the time to remind us of our previous state. The exceeding greatness of the love of God that brought us from that state to this privilege to remember the unspeakable gift Jesus Christ, the sufferings that our Lord endured for us ... the present place and position of our Lord a name that is higher than all the other names and our hope of the future But this is not the time to prach not a platform to express the efficiency of the language and not at all for going in depth to the theological details of the issue instead we are supposed to fall prostrate at the feet of the Lord with all humility and humbleness, fear and reverence and commitment and offer hearty kisses on that wonderful feet. Eventhough we continuously worship Him day and night from eternity to eternity it will not be a substitute for His love and grace. If we have this attitude at the time of Lords supper ...Let us bid farewell to the preaching to the preaching ... preaching always ... .

# Let us Know Ourselves

We can see a new sticker in the KSRTC Buses. It is placed in such a position that it can easily be seen and read both by the driver and the passengers. The sticker reads like this The pride, intolerance ignorance etc of a driver can lead to accidents. The driver of a passenger has to ask the following questions to himself. Who am I? Where am I sitting? When the driver is conscious of the fact that the life of the passengers is in his hand then all his pride and adamant nature and intolerance will be vanished.

If we are not conscious of ourselves then our journey of life will be in danger. We have to remind ourselves very humbly. Who am I? I am a child of God. I am a Brethren and an evangelist am an elder, am a servant of the Lord. What do the people tell of me a question once raised by Jesus Christ. The people of each and every society has an opinion about a person. Likewise we have opinions about societies and nations. Our opinion about Africa is not the same of Australia. The people of different faith belief and creed will have different opinions about our nation society and people. We will definitely have different opinions about Episcopal churches and Pentecostal assemblies. Likewise others will have idea about the Brethren Community.

These views and opinions may not be correct to the core. But we should know ourselves and we should be conscious and aware about ourselves. When a virgin gets married she should be conscious and she should also remind her that she is no more a virgin maiden but a wife. So we have to remind ourselves of our status. Apostle Peter forgot of his position for a few moments. That caused him to forsake his **Guru** and curse and swear. But when he realized his real identity and personality he went out and cried bitterly.

An evangelist should remind himself on and off that he is an evangelist. He may travel from place to place for ministries he may have to visit many assemblies and may meet saints of differ-

ent calibre and attitudes. But he is not supposed to take one news from one place and share it in another place. He should not spread news from assembly to assembly. He should be confident that he is an evangelist a person who carries good news. He has to remind it to him again and again. Otherwise we may fall. We will fall in to the dirty hands of the devil and he will use us.

A member of Brethren assembly will be keeping on reminding to him that he is a brethren. I am quite different from others and cannot live like any ordinary people. We should be conscious of our identity and we should protect it.

This is the commendation for the Israelites who recognized their status and lived accordingly. We are a group of people who are and will not belittle even the smallest thing of the sound doctrine. Every local assembly has its own administration no rulers or rules or regulation. All are brothers. This wonderful status belongs to us and us only. How many Balaams came on the asses at the becoing of Balaks to curse but nothing happened. God did not curse them. So Balaam could not do that. A woman should be conscious of the fact that she is a woman and she should remain it to her. Otherwise she will be one who is carrying the seed of sin in the family and the society. When an editor does not realize his status and responsibility he is spoiling and ruining the whole society. He will be like the intolarable insolent and proud driver and he will destroy the whole society. So let us know ourselves. Let us remind ourselves of it. We should not do anything forgetting our status Who am I?.

**Samuel Thomas**

(The Importance and Greatness ...contd from page 1)

a same view of those who preach from the pulpit in the conventions those who distribute leaflets those who speak in open air meetings and those who go from house to house to be a personal witness. So we should be ready to do anything and everything related to this.

As the end times has drawn near it is the responsibility of every evangelist to raise up his head and look to the field which is ready for harvest. The conditions of our world is deplorable on all levels.

What all things do we see with our eyes in this present age. A missionary has to stand against it and should try to save at least some from the burning eternal hell. The missionary should have the vision to realize the writing on the wall. Through that he may be able to improve our society.

Only gospel can take a sinner from this earth to heaven. So God wants every one to be saved. Jesus Christ is the way for salvaton. Those who believe that the death of Jesus

Christ on the Calvary cross is for his sin then he will be saved. The most important duty of the evangelist is to preach this good news to the lost. An evangelist has to watch his steps in life. He has to be punctual in his ministry. Otherwise the gospel will be ashamed of him.

An evangelist or a missionary has nothing to lose in this world. Time is moving fast. Today or tomorrow we will also fall down and join the dust. Sometimes we will

be forgotten. But what we have done for the gospel will remain. So to increase the wealth in the eternity let us take our part and play our role in the field of evangelisation. A missionary or an apostle is very happy even in the midst of his myriads of problems. The day when he will be honoured by the Master with rewards is fast approaching. "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who brings glad tidings of good

things".

So let us go hand in hand and work for the extention of the kingdom of the Lord. Let us think about the words of the lepers in Samaria and do the same. Then they said to one another we do not well this day is a day of good tidings and we hold our peace if we tarry till the morning light some mischief will come upon us now therefore come that we may go and tell the king's house hold (2Kings 7:9). Let this words be a challenge to us

## Y M E F News

### YM E F (ND) Kasargod Campaign

The Lord enabled us to conduct gospel campaign from 31.01.09 to 14.02.09 in the Kasargod district. We were able to cover Panathur, Parappa, Odayanchal, Kurunchery in association with the evangelists who are working in these areas. Then the brethren conducted the follow up work there and found many who may interested in gospel. Brother Sajo is working in Panathur. Another week of work was planned in this area. Kindly pray for this ministry.

### One Day Meeting

A one day meeting was held on 23.05.09 in the Brethren Assembly Hall Muvattupuzha. Classes were taken by Brother Babu Thomas on the subject of Stewardship. The election of the office bearers was conducted at this meeting. P A Joseph President, Johnson Daniel Secretary, And the other committee members were also elected. Kindly continue to pray for the ministries of Y M E F ND

A D James

## Assembly News

**Kannattumodi (Mavelikkara):** Baptism of 6 people took place on 3.5.09. They are all new believers. Brother K C Johnson conducted the baptism. Kindly remember this assembly and its ministries.

Varkey Varghese

### Bison Valley

A work has been going on here since 2009 January with the view of establishing an assembly in the New Testament patterns. The place is notorious for the number suicides. But very few works of ours have taken place there so the real gospel is foreign to them. This is a fertile place for all rituals and superstitions. The inhabitants are mainly estate labours migrant workers. Muthuwan, Mannan and other tribals.

A camp was conducted on April 6,7 and 8. Many people could come to Jesus Christ. If the Lord carries his coming we wish to start an assembly here. Kindly continue to pray for the assembly ministries

V M Paul

### Fiba Conference

The conference which is known in America as Feba Conference will be held from 30th September 2009 to 2 August 2009 at the Renaissance Dallas Richardsons Hotel. Brother George Dozen, Ashly Kurian, Joe Michael, Babu Pimplaker and Babu K Varghese are the main speakers. All the saints are requested to attend the programme with prayer. For details [dallasfiba@gmail.com](mailto:dallasfiba@gmail.com)

## Monthly Meeting and Outreach

If it be the will of the Lord the meeting and outreach of the month of June will be held from 10-13 in association with the Mullaringadu Brethren Assembly. All the brothers are requested to attend this ministry with prayer

A M Prasad

## For Prayer

**Jhansi:** Brother P P Philipose is taking rest at home after his surgery for prostate gland and he is having problem of kidney stone too. Kindly pray for his recovery and also about the ministry back here.

## Our Patients

**Kuruppumpady:** Anitha (16) of this assembly is suffering from the fatal disease known as Transverse Melitis. Kindly pray for this dear child.

**California:** C K Kumar father of Preethi is suffering from tumour and is under treatment. Preethi is lonebeliever from her family. So kindly pray for the deliverance of her father.

**Mangodu:** Sister Kunjamma wife of one of the elders of this assembly is at home after the removal of a breast tumour. Kindly pray for her.

**Omaller:** Harshitha (9) is the daughter of our fellow brother Vijayan in the Manjanikkara Brethren Assembly. She is suffering from a very rare disease and is getting treatment from Trivandrum Medical College. Kindly pray for the child and those who wish to get more information may please contact George Samuel 0468 2350320.

## With the Lord

**Kadukuthy:** Brother Charles D Almeda (47) of this assembly went to be with the Lord on 22.5.09. The mortal remains of his body was buried on 23.5.09 under the auspices of the Kadukutty Brethren Assembly in their own cemetery in the presence of a large number of believers. Kindly remember the bereaved family in your prayers.

**Mylapra:** Brother Baby Zachariah (75) of Thompil went to be with the Lord on 28.05.09. The mortal remains of the dear brother was buried under the auspices of the Salem Brethren Assembly in their own cemetery on 30.05.09 in the presence of a gathering of a large number of people from all walks of life. Kindly pray for the bereaved family.

## Contd from Page 1 Happy Birthday to You

the birthdays. This is a practice adopted from the gentiles and the children of God have to get away from this observance.

It is only a time of worldly pleasure. Human enjoyments like dance (Mat14:6) and feast (Gen 40:20) were conducted.

All these celebrations ended in great disaster. Joseph was in the jail for another two years more (Gen 41-1). John the Baptist was beheaded (Matt 14-9-11). When we go through these verses of scripture we should understand that these incidents are recorded only as a warning. Any other such birthday celebrations are not given in the Bible and it shows that these types of celebrations are not important for the life of a believer. Then why we

should give importance for such things?

We should know our birth date but not for celebration: In the Bible the age of many God's people is mentioned. So we should know our birth date. There is a difference between remembering and celebrating. Remembering is only for calculation of age. If the celebration was required it would have been recorded in the Bible. Birthday celebration was not the practice of the children of God either in Old Testament or in New Testament. In a birthday celebration that person is exhorted, praised and blessed. But when a birthday is remembered these

types of flattery is not required. Gifts are not given. So there is noticeable difference in celebration and remembering. We strongly talk for the separation from this world, but accept all these type of worldly celebrations. As a result all these type of sinful practices get into the life of our young people and lead them to the eternal curse. So if the parents are careful they can save their next generation from the wrath of God. Dear one, let us know our birthdays but don't celebrate it. Is the birthday a time for praising God? Some years ago there was a debate about the birthday celebration. People

who defended the argument put forward a claim that, the birthday celebration can be used for praising God. They pointed the verse 1Cor 10:31. "Whether therefore you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God". When that brother explained skillfully this verse many thought that his claims are according to the word of God. But it is not. This verse is a typical verse through which much glory to be given to God. All our activities to be done for the glory of God according to the will of God. At a birthday celebration all the honor is given to the person, then how can we say that it is for the glory of God? Is not it against the will of God? God never pleases in

the bonus honor. Taking glory of God for our high position and it will cause only our destruction. In 5:44 says, 'How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and seek not the honor that comes from GOD ONLY'. Why the birthday celebration is not allowed? There is no record about it for a child of God in the scripture. God's will is that we should worship Him who gives us the birthdays in our life and not to honor each other and bless for the extension of life. In every birthday celebration the person is lifted up and he or she will be the star of attraction and receives gifts and everybody admires them. Let us be away from all these types of gentile performances. May God help us to live for the glory of God.



## Not Taught How to Walk or Live

We always like our children to have good education and should reach high positions in this world. There are others who wants their children to be like Samuel who as he grew in favour to God and men. This is a good desire. But for as the parents of Samuel they gave the necessary food - the law at the right time we should also train our children in the proper way ie, in accordance to scripture. Because of his teaching and training Samuel had a very close relationship with the temple of God and the ministries there in. His parents taught him how to live and where to live in this world. So they never had to worry about him.

Once a social worker reached a very uncivilized and uncultured village. She was supposed to work in that village. She met a small boy who could not walk because of the polio attack on him. She took him to the doctor who treated handicapped children. The doctor treated

him. The boy underwent a surgery and got recovered. He was trained to walk and so began to walk.

After a few years that social worker met that doctor who treated that by. She invited the doctor to her home for a tea. The doctor enquired about the boy. Where is that boy whom I treated earlier? The doctor asked 'He may have grown big'. She replied him that he was grown up. The curiosity of the doctor increased and asked several questions. What is he doing? Is he a doctor? Is he a scientist? Is he a social worker like you? She told him that he did not become any of these. Instead he is in jail. He is serving life term in jail for his involvement in a murder. She told the doctor with a heavy heart about time she wasted on him. She taught him to walk but did not teach how to walk. We did not give him the proper training.

Dear saints think for a moment about our

children. How far we are concerned about the life of our children. Are we training then with in the proper way on the basis of scripture. But the sad thing about the present is that we have started to give new meaning for scripture on the impact of the modern affulence and scientific growth. Now we are supposed to train in the way in which they walk or live. The parents are not courageous enough to discipline their children even if they come to know about their indiscipled life one way or the other. We are trying our level best to teach our children to be at the top in the society. But we do not think or consider the way they walk. We are reluctant to ask Are they growing up as a child of God? Think about it otherwise things can go wrong. Let us pray that our children should not fall in this pit of disobedience and indiscipline. May God help us.

TVS

### In TV Channels

#### Sathgamaya TV Talk Show Programme

People channel of Kairali's News Channel  
All Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30-5.00 p.m.  
Monday 6.00-6.30 a.m. Zee TV (Hindi)

#### Jeevamritham Television Program

Every Saturday 9 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. in Power vision channel by Evg Chandapilla Philip

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