

SUVISESHA DHWANI

Suvishesha Dhvani Reg. No. RN 29475/78

21 June 2008 Volume 2

LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

When the gospel was preached in Acts 2, it brought forth a tremendous response. About 3000 souls received the news with gladness and believed in a crucified, risen Saviour. So the work of the Holy Spirit of God through the "foolishness of preaching" (1Cor. 1:21) had commenced.

This first church at Jerusalem became the pattern to all the churches which would be planted in Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. Paul, writing to Thessalonica, says, "Ye brethren, became followers of the churches of God in Judea". So the principles and practices established were to be followed in every church until its witness on earth is finished at the coming of our Lord.

The pattern that was set at Jerusalem when they received the Word was to make their confession of faith public in baptism. Then they were committed to the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, the prayers. What joy marked these saints even in severe persecution as they allowed the truths of Scripture to enrich their hearts. One thing, however, became effective and grow, elders had to be appointed.

God in His wisdom has seen fit to put the leadership of His people into the care of a plurality of men. Let us consider a few things with regard to this very important role in the local church.

The Recognition of Elders

There are those who say that because there are no apostles in the Church today, elders cannot be recognized in a public way. Others affirm that it is up to each individual to recognize the elder that they think fulfills the part. However, while there are no apostles today, the authority for elders comes from their doctrine which is in the Word of God.

Paul establishes that elders had to be in every city and Acts 14:23, (contd.. to page 2..)

THE GATHERING OF THE ASSEMBLY AND WORSHIP

Y.Ezekiel

The gathering of saints reveals the church. And it is the main function of the church. If there is no gathering there is no church. In that respect the knowledge about a church should be correct.

In Acts 20:7 we see that the disciples came together to 'break bread'. But it does not mean that gatherings are only for breaking bread. If so, there is no mention about the cup. It is a short form usage for the gathering. Both bread and wine are included there. That is very important.

In 1 Cor 11:17,18 apostle Paul clearly clarifies the meaning of 'breaking of bread'. In chapter 12 to 14 he mentioned about the spiritual gifts and brethren fellowship. In chapter 13 he exhorts three things which are greater than the spiritual gifts, that is Faith, Hope and Love(charity). And, out of these greatest is charity.

In chapter 14 he dictates how to utilize the spiritual gifts, which was the practice of the church in the first century. But now a days people adulterated the word of God. But we should understand the order and submit each other as a true gathering. In other words the Lord's Table and word ministry are inseparable parts of worship. Lord's Table is the crown of the worship.

Worship:- What is worship and what is not worship? One should know this. According to some people all ministries are worship. They say, 'funeral-worship', 'baptism-worship', 'wedding-worship' etc.

(contd.. to page 4.)

Y. M. E. F. GENERAL CAMP

The ministries under the auspices of the General YMEF is going smoothly. A youth camp for the young brethren of our assemblies was conducted in 2007 at Kottarakkara. Many attended and was a blessing for the young.

The General Camp is conducted once in every two years. All the YMEF divisions join together to conduct the camp. This year it will take place, God willing, from 9th September 2008 to 13th September at the Holiday Home, Kumily. We are expecting six hundred or even more inmates for the camp. As per the previous decision of the General Committee no fixed fees is instituted. We want the economically backward also to attend the camp. The main speakers are Varghese Kurian, Sajeew Varghese, Jose Mankudy, Chandapilla Philip, K Biju. Different programme is planned for the general spiritual edification of those who attend the camp. Bible Classes, Character Studies, Missionary Meeting, Open Air etc. are the main programmes.

We request our brethren back in the various parts of the world to pray for this ministry and give a hand for its success. Would you like to send a gift? Then please send to the General YMEF, Catholic Syrian Bank Koor, Kozhikodu to Br. Paul P Skariah, A/9, Vrindavan Housing Colony, Chevayoor P O, Kozhikodu. **FOR MORE INFORMATION:-**

Sabu Mathew (Secretary) Telephone No. 04868 270281

(continuation)

JESUS THROUGH SAMARIA

When the samaritan woman realised that Jesus is Messiah, it occurred a great change in her. She left the waterpot without drawing water and shouted that she met a person who is Christ. She left the natural water which will be dried up and insufficient for quenching the thirst. But she became a stream of living water. She was justifying her sinful life before, but now she is depending since Messiah knows all about her.

Paul realised that he was first among the sinners. This knowledge made Paul to go to Arabia by counting all his belongings were unworthy. The history of many God's people who left their good jobs, bank deposits, property and position are acceptable examples to us. But now people are belittling the servants of Lord.

Now Gehazis are more respected in the church than Elisha who rejected the gifts of Naaman. Is it possible to change this attitude?. May be these are the signs of endtime. Dear children of God, don't be discouraged. The Samaritan woman had done a good job that Nicodemus couldn't do. Let us do our work which God had entrusted upon us before we depart from this world. (.....to be continued)

Y.M.E.F. South Division Kottarakkara

The annual General Body meeting and Executive of the YMEF (SD) will be held on 28th June 2008 at 10 a.m. in the TMM Chapel. All the executive committee members and general body members are requested to attend this very important meeting prayerfully at the right time.

P.T. Abraham
President

Jacob P. Mathew
Secretary

KARNATAKA CAMPAIGN

We are pleased to inform our prayer partners that the Karnataka Campaign at Kollegal is continuing by the Grace of the Lord and your prayers. But we are looking for young brothers who are committed to the work of the Lord to join the team and also looking for a person to drive the vehicle, but this person should have a real commitment to the Lord's service.

Those who wish to join may kindly contact **A.J.Oommen**, Iykkarethu, Pullad P.O. 689 548, Ph. 0469 2660478

“IS IT A TIME TO RECEIVE MONEY, OLIVE YARDS AND VINEYARDS”

The question quoted above is the one asked by the prophet Elisha to his servant Gehazi centuries ago. If the prophet were alive today, to whom all, shinning in the spiritual world, would have he asked this question. The world is facing the greatest economic crises that it has ever witnessed. If we analyse this global destructive crises we find that it has not happened overnight but it began years ago. The scientific and economic experts are of the opinion that the crash in share markets, rise in prices, increasing epidemics every year, suicides, starvation deaths etc. are the symptoms of the disaster into which the world is going to fall head down.

In other words, recent earth quakes, Iran's threats to Israel claiming that it has no right to exist on earth, India's hot debates over signing the nuclear deal with the U.S, and similar issues that are causing restless nights among the world nations. Where will this lead us to? All these proclaim that it is high time to believe that the world is paving the path for the arrival of a righteous king as our saviour.

Why say more? What is happening in the spiritual world? Shocking news are coming out about the corrupt practices in the name of spirituality and divine healing. In any religion, it is possible to befool people by covering up worldliness using spirituality, to a certain extent. But “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh” at the human Gods. In the front of God everything are naked and open. Money is necessary for the growth and development of

godly activities. But the Master will question us if we earn and spend it illegally. It has started right now. If it begins in God's home what will be the case of others? Today trust are mushrooming with the aim of earning foreign aid for selfish means. If the local authorities have begun enquiring in to their accounts what will be the condition when God enquires?

Therefore, Oh! The children of God, while the global socio-economic crash leads human lives to the path of eternal death, we those who are delivered from the dark hands of death must think whether it is right to spend crores to buy properties for our own comfort and pleasure. Though the words of the prophet were proclaimed centuries ago the day to day incidences prove that those words stand true even today. The prophet Elisha did not receive even a single pie as the reward for healing Naaman's leprosy. But today divine healing has turned to fund raising campaigns. The prophet asked Gehazi “Is it a time to receive money, olive yards and wine yards”. The spiritual leaders competing even Gehazi rule the spiritual world today. Let us have the attitude of zacchaeus, “If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold”. Lord's commandment is to follow Him leaving everything behind. Those who follow money have never returned. Let it not happen to us. These are the last days. Beware! Let us lead a careful life.

T.V.Simon

(LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF GOD....contd fm page 1)

Philippians 1:1, and Titus 1:5 show that they were evidently recognized. In 1Peter 5:3 we learn that they are not “lords over God's heritage”, indicating that is not a dictatorship rule but through those from among themselves, not someone who came in from the outside. How sad to see many assemblies of God's people move away from clear scriptural leadership by bringing in men to take over a “pastoral” position. There is nowhere in the New Testament where saints are subject to one man, but are in subjection to a body of elders who are identified and recognized.

The Requirements for Elders

When we turn to 1Timothy 3, we have a list of essential features that ought to mark every elder in an assembly. First there has to be a personal desire for the work! Peter makes it clear that it is a willingness for the task and not one borne out of necessity.

In Acts 20:28, Paul makes it clear that this work is energised by the Holy Spirit. The ideal situation is that when the Holy Spirit calls a Man, there should be a personal

willingness to fulfil this very important ministry. How many have been exercised but not willing? How many have been willing but not exercised? Here are some personal qualities: devotion: the husband of one wife; deportment : of good behaviour; disposition: friendly, hospitable; disciplined : ruling his own household well; doctrinally sound: apt to teach; diligent: watching for souls (Heb. 13:17); dedicated : whose faith follow (Heb. 13:7)

The Responsibility from the Elders

Having considered personal characteristics of the elders and what work they discharge in relation to the assembly, we now move from the personal and look at their collective work.

The Lord Jesus in John 10:27 as the Good Shepherds says, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me”. The work of the elders has been likened to shepherds in their care for the sheep. One of the most important aspects of their ministry is *to know the flock*--that is every member in the assembly. This is where true spiritual discernment

come in and elders should be able to observe the condition of the saints. There are many who have gone into ‘By-path Meadow’ who may have been spared from it . Shepherd care should see the commencement of departure and draw alongside to help. The need is great to “weep with those that weep and rejoice with those who rejoice”.

Secondly, the elder should *feed the flock!* David in psalm 23:2 says of his Shepherd that, “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters”. Dear elders, are you making sure the believers are getting good, wholesome, spiritual food to keep them strong and healthy? Are you substituting something in your assembly for “sound doctrine”?

Thirdly, the elder in the assembly should be diligent to *guard the flock* from false teachers (Titus 1:9) Also in Acts 20:29-30, where Paul warns that grievous wolves will come in “not sparing the flock”, and that men would arise up from among themselves, speaking perverse things. In the dark and difficult

days in which we live, elders need to be on guard to protect the saints from every cold wind of evil doctrine that is blowing.

Finally, the elder have to be an example to thee flock so that the saint have confidence in them. The true Shepherd leads the way and His sheep follow because they know His voice. What a calming and assuring effect He has because they have come to know and trust him.

The Respect to the Elders

There are four things the assembly is asked to do in relation to the elders who are over them in the Lord. In Hebrews 13:7; they have to be remembered for their rule, ministry, faith, and manner of life. The ultimate objective of life and service was “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday today and forever”.

In Hebrews 13:17, the saints are *exhorted to obey them*. You may not always agree with their decisions but remember they alone are responsible to give an account before the Lord. You may not know why they make the decisions they do because of confidentiality, but give them your support and leave the results with the Lord. In 1 Timothy 5:17,

they have to be *honoured*. Especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. Then in James 5:14, they have to be called in times of sickness for prayer. What tremendous support there is in times of extreme need when we can look to the elders of the assembly for intercession before The Throne of Grace.

The Reward for Elders

It is true that often the role of the elders from a human perspective can be a thankless task. When everything is going well, they receive very little thanks, but when things go wrong, well- you know what happens! However, the Lord, the righteous judge, will give a true assessment of the service rendered and will reward accordingly.

Many an elder has weathered the storm and remained faithful through trying assembly conditions, but what a day lies ahead when the faithful elders will hear the Saviour say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servantenter thou into the joy of thy Lord”.

(Obliged - Counsel)

LATEST NEWS IN OUR MIDST

IN THE VINEYARD

Y M E F NEWS

Malappuram

The Malappuram Y M E F unit has started a work in Pothuketty with the view of establishing a Local Assembly. On May 28, 2008 they conducted an outreach at Chokkad and held open air meeting at Pookottu Pada. Later on 20th June they conducted another outreach at Kaippiniyil. Please continue to pray for the ministry here.

SBS NEWS

Kochi

The SBS General desires to conduct a **Special Camp** for children who are abroad and are expected on vacation at the Charalkunnu Camp Centre from July 30-August 2 of 2008. The main speakers are Abraham Thomas Kochi, Abraham Thomas Pullad, Albert Sunil, Joy John, Dr. John Abraham, Dr. Johnson C Philip. The theme of the camp is "Seek first the Kingdom of God".

For more information Please contact :-

Abraham Thomas Telephone No. 91-9446554645

Trivandrum

By the grace of the Lord the SBS unit of Trivandrum is functioning smoothly. There were able to conduct 37 V B S. Continue to pray for this ministry.

C Sathyadas

NEW ASSEMBLY FORMED

Vellarada

The brethren of this assembly along with Br. Thomas Kurian of Peroorkada started a work at Amboori near Vellarada. By the grace of the Lord they were able to start a new assembly there. Kindly pray for this newly started assembly.

Evg. Baby George

UAE BROTHERS CONFERENCE 2008

God willing the 14th Bi Annual conference of the UAE Brethren Assemblies will be held on Dec 2, 2008 at the Union Church premises, Sharjah. The main speaker is Br. Varghese Kurian. The theme of the conference is "**But you, O man of God, flee these things ...**" (1 Timothy 6:11)

Convenor:- **C M Jacob**

UAE SISTERS MEETING

If it pleases the Lord, a special meeting of the sisters of the Brethren Assemblies of UAE will be held on October 11, 2008 at Union Church auditorium. Sis. Leni Jacob will lead the meeting.

BOOK REVIEW

Worship

A small book let by Bro. Sunny Thomas Trivandrum deals with the subject of worship is readily available. Twelve questions are being asked and answered in detail. Those who wish to get a copy please contact. E-Mail- info@sunnythomas.org.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF EVANGELISTS

Thomas Koshy, 22, Gandhipuram, Dharapuram, Periyar Dist., 638 656.

Varghese V.M., Plot No. 32, St. peter's nagar, Ashok nagar, Awadi, Chennai 600 062

Velayudhan P., Christian Brethren Assly, Thoppukadu, Kallopatti, Tiruchingodi 637 216.

Vincent J, Thettivilai, Arumana, K.K. Dist., 629 151

Williams V.K., P.B.No. 49, Theni, 625 531

Yohannan K., 79, VOC Nagar, Darapuram Road, Oddenchatram P.O. Dindigal, 624 619.

Following is a list of commended evangelists for prayer and support. On the left side the names of the assembly and the place is given and on the right side the addresses of the commended workers.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Kasargod Mouveni Brethren Assembly | Bintu A, Anchanicka House, Mouveni, Kottamala P O, Kasargod 671314 |
| 2. Malappuram Thrikkaikuth Assembly | George Thomas, Venchalil House, Thrikkaikuth, Kappil P O, Vandoor, Malappuram, 679328 |
| 3. Idukki Rajakumari Assembly | K P George, Kakkuzhiparambil House, Rajakumari South P O, Santhanpara, Idukki 685619 |
| 4. Kuruppumthara Brethren Assembly | Baby Isaac, Pazhamchirayil, Kuruppumthara, Manjoor P O, Kottayam, 686603 |
| 5. Idukki Marayur Brethren Assembly | R Titus, Brethren Assembly, Sahayagiri P O, Kovilkadavu 685620 |
| 6. Andhra Pradesh Visyanagaram Assembly | A Prasannakumar, C/o Evg P M Jaison, Carmel Brethren Church, 5th A P S P PO Inada Jn. Vizianagaram, AP, 535005 |
| 7. Wayanadu Mandadu Brethren Assembly | P K Varghese, C/o Mandad Brethren Assembly, Mandadu P O, Kalpetta, Wayanadu 673121 |
| 8. Kottarakkara Pulamon Brethren Assembly | <u>Presently in Durgapur</u>
Siji Varghese, Bible Bhavan, Subash Palli, Benachitty, Durgapur, W Bengal, 713213 |
| 9. Trissur Nellikunnu Brethren Assembly | Joshy John, Cheruvathoor, Nazareth Angadi, Nellikunnu, Trissur, 680005 |

WITH THE LORD



Evg. Narayan Paul
Hyderabad



Mathiri - 84
Trichur



Annamma Abraham
(Pennamma-91) -
Elanthoor Pariyaram

Ravikumar E, Bethesda, 20C East Off Street, Nagercoil, 629001.

Saji David, Christian Prayer Home, 5/145A, Nagamalai, Puthukottai P.O., 625 019.

Sam Thomas, Bethesda 7, G House Garden, Opp. Railway Yard, Puthumalpet, 642 146

Samuel K.V., Evergreen Villa, Alakapuram, Salem 636 016.

Samuel N.C., Berach, ITI Thottam, Thumichanpatti, Oddenchatram, 624 619.

Samuel S., 67 Jehovah Nissi Prayer House, N.P. Nagar, Akoshakulam, Madurai 625 017

Shaji J. Paul, Marikal-Pathy, Tribal village, Sethu madai P.O., Pollachi 642 133.

Stanly John, Ebenezer Prayer Hall, 15 Line, 4th Cross Street, Shanmugapuram, R.S. Palani 624 601.

Stephen P., 7-B-1, Nehru Nagar Extn., Behind CMS School, Ganapathi P.O., Coimbatore, 641 006.

Thomas P.P., Grace Home, Kolumam P.O., Coimbatore 642 204

These are not worship, but different services. There is worship in the services but they are not the worship.

Fellowship:- This is the interaction among the believers. This should be in different fields like co-operation, work together, financial sharing etc. (Ref. Gal. 2:9; 1Jn 1:3,6,7; Gal. 6:6-10; Phi. 1:5; 4:15; Rom. 12:13)

Lor's Table:- The usage 'break the bread' denotes, Lord's Table and Worship. (Ref. Acts 2:46; 20:7-11; 1 Cori. 10:16,17,21; 11:20,20-34.) In the beginning there was daily worship (Acts. 2:44-47). But further we see in Acts. 20:6,7 upon the first day of the week. The command and order about the Lord's

Table can be seen in the following ref. Matt.26:26-29; Mark. 14:22-25; Luke. 22:19,20; 1 Cori. 10:16,17; 11:23-31. We break a single bread. Not by a single man but by us. We drink from one cup not from many cups. These things we have to practice.

Prayer:- In the gathering there is prayer – A prayer of one accord. (Acts. 4:23-31; 12:5-17; Eph.6:18-20) A prayer meeting is not a time if preaching or not a time of exhibiting the gifts. It should be a group prayer with single mind. We can give a list of prayer matters. We can encourage each other through scripture for prayer but it should be a prayer meeting and not something else.

The Church:- Even if some members of the gathering are not present, the church is there. If somebody is absent for a longtime without any genuine reason, his membership perishes. Because the church is the gathering of the saints. So when a man gets out of this fellowship, he is out of the church.

1.Acts 11:26 we read, "And it came to pass that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church". In Greek the word 'Ecclesia' for church is also means the assembly of citizens.

2.In 1 Cori. 11:18 we read that " when you

IN TV CHANNELS

SATGAMAYA TALK SHOW PROGRAMME

In the People's channel of Kairali's News channel on all Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30 - 5.00 p.m.
On Mondays: 6.00 - 6.30 a.m. in C.TV (Hindi)

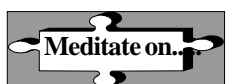
come together in the church" means when you gather together. 1 Cori. 14:34 we read "Let your women keep silence in the churches" - that is in the gathering of saints.

There are many evidences in the Bible which proves that the gathering of the saints is the Church. So if a man continuously get away from this gatherings then he is not a member the Church. If somebody is permanently sick, it is another matter. God will take care of it.

The gathering of the believers is the true church. Even they disperse from the place, the membership is there. This very idea teach us that they are the members of that local Church.

(From the book "Sabhasathyangal)

THE CHILDREN SHOULD LIVE ACCORDING TO THE GREATNESS OF THE FATHER



No one has understood the unsearchable greatness and glory of the Almighty God. But the God the Father was well pleased to reveal Himself through his son Jesus Christ. "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in Him; for God hath showed unto them for the invisible things".

As we realise the Father through His son He becomes our Father. So when a child understands the greatness of his Father then the child has to live a life according to the dignity of the father. If we will not do that we will dishonour him and we will be leading the life of a pauper.

Once there lived an old woman named Maria. She fed herself on the left over of others. Her clothes were torn and untidy. She lived like a beggar on the street. The neighbourhood thought that she was mad and they took her to a lunatic assylum. There they checked a bundle of clothes which Maria always carried with her. In the bundle of old clothes and other dirty things they found many valuable documents. The documents proved that she was the daughter of a billionaire of Illinois. The neighbourhood was startled. A wealthy woman led her life like a beggar. What a sad story ! Today, those who claim to be the children

of the great God do not understand the exceeding greatness of the creator. Most of us live like this woman. The sole difference is that we are not visiting the Psychartic Centers. The children of God are the citizens of heaven. They have nothing to do with the world and worldly things. But it is a sad sight to see that many go behind the world and its politics for the mere 'pennies' they may get. We often forget the fact that we have been blessed with all the heavenly blessings. Our God is the mighty man of wealth , wealthier than Boaz. He does not want His children to lead a life of poverty. To receive His blessings we have to bow our knees,instead we are labouring day and night for the temporal gains of this world. Our God will feel pain in His heart,when we go behind the world for the pennies regardless of all the heavenly rules and regulations. We shall be a shame to Him. Infact we are insulting the great God.

Dear brethren, Our God is a great God. He is the only one who is great. Let us understand his greatness like Apostle Paul. We should not be mere paupers. Let us live according to His greatness and glorify Him through our life, service, words and deeds. May His name be glorified . " Do not forget the fact that christian life is not a playground but a battlefield"

TVS

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