

HONEY DROPS FOR EVERY SOUL

AUGUST 2023



“The One
who breaks
open the
way will go
up before
them; ...”

(Micah 2:13)

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FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Dearly beloved,

Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Praise be to our Lord who gives His never-ending, all sufficient grace to walk through each day of this journey of life. Praise God that this year on August 15th our country is celebrating 77th Independence Day. May the Lord bless our country with peace, prosperity and unity.

Micah 2:13 says, "The One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their King will pass through before them, the Lord at their head." Here the Breaker the "One who breaks through" is none other than the Messiah. Just as He marched ahead of His people when they came out of Egypt, just as He went before them in the pillar of fire and the cloud through the wilderness, so will He go before us, His people, to guide us and lead us. With His mighty hand, He will break down those obstacles and difficulties that lie in our path which we ourselves cannot break by any wisdom or strength of our own. He will break the bondage of sin and the bars of death, and lead us to everlasting freedom. As Jeremiah 30:8 says, "He will break the enemy's yoke from off our neck and liberate us from his power." What strong spiritual adversary or temptation from this sinful world, or fiery missile from the evil one seems too overwhelming for you to overcome? First, recognize that it is too strong for you to overcome; however, it is not strong for the Breaker who has already broken down all obstacles that might seek to impede your spiritual journey to heaven. So do not rely on your strength, but trust in Christ your Breaker to defeat your foe, for if in your strength you confide, you will fail. But when the Great Warrior goes before you, you can safely march on; you may go joyously along your journey for all your enemies are conquered beforehand. Halleluiah, what a mighty God we serve!

God bless.

Yours in His service,

Samuel Premraj & Manjula Premraj

Tuesday, August 01

Read: Isaiah 41: 8-14

GOD ENCOURAGES NOT TO FEAR

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. ...” (Isaiah 41: 10)

Some say that the phrase “Fear not” is mentioned in the Bible 365 times, but we do not know for sure. This phrase reminds and teaches us not to fear on a daily basis. But quite frankly it is easier said than done. All of us are afraid of something or other and at some times or other. In Isaiah 41: 10, our Lord gives us a wonderful promise. In this short passage alone God gives us five reasons not to fear - first, “I am with you. So do not fear,” second, “I am your God.” third, “I will strengthen you,” fourth, “I will help you,” fifth, “I will uphold you with my right hand.” God does not say that we would not have trouble. He does not say that we would not face a crisis, or dangers or diseases or losses. On the other hand, He tells us that in this world we would have troubles. But He encourages us to take heart, for He has overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Dear friends, let us not allow fear and anxiety to overrule our lives. The next time fear arises, let us turn our attention to God’s promises. Let us ignite our faith by reading the Word of God and by prayer. Let us replace every fearful thought with Scripture because God is bigger than all our fears. He gives us power and strength when we are at our wit’s end and feel like giving up. As someone said, instead of asking “what if”, let us turn those thoughts into “even if”, because we are safe in the arms of Jesus.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, You want me to be filled with hope and trust and not fear, and You have given me hope through Your promises. When fear assaults me let me focus on Your promises. Heaven and earth will pass away but Your words will not. Let me find comfort and strength in Your promises. Amen.*

Wednesday, August 02

Read: Matthew 10: 40-42

REWARD FOR KINDNESS

"If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple ... he will never lose his reward."

(Matthew 10: 42)

Jesus declares here that a person will be rewarded for the smallest ministry he does for God's messenger. Just giving a cup of water to a servant of God is extremely significant to God. Christ calls His messengers "little ones," which is a term of endearment. To the world the servant of God may be a nobody, insignificant in fame and fortune. Nevertheless, anything that is given to such a person is regarded by Jesus as if it is given to Himself. The gift may be inexpensive as a cup of cold water. It is not the thing as such, but the motive matters. Hebrews 6: 10 says, "God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them." In Matthew 10:42, Jesus concludes His discourse saying, "I tell you the truth," or "Assuredly I say to you," which is the way He often stressed the deep truth and certainty of something He was about to say. He says that the reward would not be lost! He says that the reward would not only be given, it would not be lost! The person whom we had helped might forget about it, but the Son of God would never forget. What a great encouragement!

Dear friends, we pass through this world just once. Any good work, therefore, any kindness or any service we can render to any one, especially to God's servants, let us do it now. Let us not neglect it or postpone it for we shall not pass this way again. So let us support God's servants. When we do so, we are ministering someone who is very very dear to God.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, let me be alert for opportunities to help others. Give me eyes to see and ears to hear today so that I can serve, even in a small way, someone especially Your messengers who cross my path because those who are Your disciples really represent You. Amen.*

Thursday, August 03

Read: Ephesians 2: 1-8

WE ARE HEAVENLY PEOPLE

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2: 6)

We, Christians are “heavenly” people. We live on earth, but our citizenship is in heaven. We live in the world, but the world has no claim on our affections. It is a foreign land. We are exiles and aliens. We are no longer of this present world or in its sphere of sinfulness and rebellion. Once we were in darkness, we were dead in our sins, living for selfish pleasure completely alienated from the living God. But when we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we have been rescued from spiritual death and given spiritual life. We are mercifully saved by God’s grace and God made us alive with Christ Jesus. He raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in heavenly places. That is what Paul says here, that God has raised us up together with Christ and made us sit in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6) “The heavenly places” is where our blessings are and where we have fellowship with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and with all the saints who have gone before us and will come after us.

Dear friends, we should therefore seek those things that are above. The king of a country has privileges and power because he sits on the throne. As believers, we too are seated on the throne with Christ. So we must constantly keep our affection and our attention fixed on the things of heaven, through the Word and prayer, as well as through worship and service.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, I am seated in the heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Though I live in this world, my citizenship is in heaven. So help me to seek those things that are above. Let me set my affection and attention on heavenly places through meditation of Your Word and prayer. Amen.*

Friday, August 04

Read: II Thessalonians 1: 1-4

LET LOVE FLOW LIKE A RIVER

“... the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.”

(II Thessalonians 1: 3)

Paul was happy with the Thessalonians that their love for one another was increasing. The Greek word for increase is pleothazo. This means that their love was that of a flood irrigating the land. It was continually increasing, overflowing its normal limits like a river. This overflowing love was being revealed by every one of them without exception. And that love was mutually expressed for each other. Every individual member was a radiating centre for love that extended itself to each other and throughout the church. There is an interesting article about the sequoia trees of California. They grow as much as 300 feet above the ground. Strangely, these giants have unusually shallow root systems that reach out in all directions to capture the greatest amount of surface moisture. Their intertwining roots also provide support for each other against storms. That is why they usually grow in clusters. We would never see a sequoia tree standing alone, because high winds would quickly uproot it.

Dear friends, how good it would be if our hearts are intertwined with God's love for each other! What kind of holy network our Christian love would make, intertwining every believer in Christ with every other believer! Let our prayer for all our family, friends and church members be like Paul's prayer - "May the Lord direct our hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance." (II Thessalonians 3:5)

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, the chief way to reflect Your heart is by displaying Your love to the world. Teach me to love others with the love of Christ. Let my love keep on increasing and be extended to everyone in my family, community and Church. Let there be brotherly love among us. Amen.*

Saturday, August 05

Read: II Peter 3: 10-14

KEEP WATCHING, BE LONGING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

"... You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God. ..."

(II Peter 3: 11,12)

There was once a duck who somehow had broken his wing on his way to south for the winter. A farmer picked him up and took him home. The children of the house petted him, fed him from the table and took him along as they did their daily chores. They were heartbroken that next fall as they watched him struggle to join the ducks who were flying south. His wings were not strong yet. Longingly he looked up every time a flock flew. The second year his wing was much stronger. But the children had fed him so well that as he attempted to take off he failed as he was too fat to get airborne. He then turned back to the children to play. The third winter as the other ducks were quacking as they were flying south, he never even looked up. He was so used to the comfortable life of his "earthly" friends.

Dear friends, when life is comfortable it is easy to disregard who we are and what we are destined to be. We fall into the fat-duck mentality, lazy and content, forgetting that the Lord wants us to be always watching and longing to "fly away" with Jesus when He comes in the mid air. Let us not be deceived. The Lord's coming is soon, it is near. Since He may come any day it is well to be ready everyday. Let us not continue to indulge in sin, thinking, "I have lots of time." The Judge is at the door. And the time remaining should be spent in constant prayer that we do not become hard by the cares and pleasures of this world.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, help me to have an expectant attitude towards Your return. Since Your return could be at any time, let me be ready always. Let me not settle down living in the comfort-zone, but let me have an upward look, watching and longing to meet You in the mid air. Amen.*

Sunday, August 06

Read: Genesis 41: 9-14

WAIT FOR GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

“Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.”

(Genesis 40: 23) (NKJV)

The butler and the baker had incurred the wrath of Pharaoh for some reasons. They were thrown in prison and were placed under Joseph, who had been put in charge of all the prisoners. The butler and the baker each had a dream, but could not interpret it. When Joseph knew about it, he revealed the meaning of the dreams. To the butler he said that in three days he would be released from prison and restored to his original position. He then asked the butler to remember him to Pharaoh and bring him out of prison. Then Joseph interpreted the baker's dream and said that within three days he will be hanged by Pharaoh. (Genesis 40:14-19) And it happened to the baker and butler just as Joseph had said to them. When the butler was released from prison to serve Pharaoh again, he forgot Joseph and he did not make mention of Joseph's name to Pharaoh for two whole years. (Genesis 41:1)

Were these two years wasted years for Joseph? No. God was teaching Joseph patience and He was building his character there in prison. Joseph learned that there was something far more satisfying than pleasing man - it was pleasing God and doing His will no matter what the circumstances may be. Dear friends, are you depressed that days, months and even years are passing and still you are not witnessing God's blessings in your life? Do not lose heart! God's plan is perfect and always on schedule. Live to please Him wherever you are. You will soon see His marvelous deeds.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, You had a great purpose for Joseph - that he should save Israelites from famine. Had he been released from prison two years earlier, Your plan would not have been fulfilled. Let me submit to Your perfect will and wait for Your time, no matter what the circumstances are. Amen.*

Monday, August 07

Read: Judges 7: 1-8

BE VIGILANT AND COURAGEOUS IN GOD'S SERVICE

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

(I Corinthians 16: 13)

When the Lord commanded Gideon to tell the Israelites that anyone who trembled with fear may turn back and go, twenty-two thousand men left, only ten thousand remained. Then the Lord put Gideon's surviving ten thousand men through a second test by asking them all to take a drink down at the river. The Lord told Gideon, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouth, while the rest bowed down to their knees to drink. The Lord said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you from the hands of Midianites." We may wonder what significance was there in the two different ways the men drank from the river. Most Bible scholars say the men who kneeled down to drink were making themselves vulnerable to the enemy, while the three hundred who lapped water from their hands stayed alert. They were vigilant, watchful always with their eyes on the enemy army which may yet have been a few miles to the north. Those who bowed down and drank from the river were more self-indulgent, less engrossed with their work and careless.

Dear friends, God cannot use fearful and trembling people. So let us be courageous. Let us also be cautious of the enemy's schemes, for our enemy the devil prowls like a roaring lion to devour us.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, I am reminded today that fear and faith cannot live together in the same heart. Let me drive away fear, trust You. Let me serve You courageously. Let me be alert and self controlled, and not become trapped in the enemy's wicked scheme. Amen.*

Tuesday, August 08

Read: Acts 3: 1-10

JESUS - NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

"... In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

(Acts 3: 6)

A name implies more than identification. It carries with it authority, reputation and power. When somebody in authority says, "You can use my name," we know that the name is worth using. If an order is given in the name of the President or Prime Minister of a country, those who receive the order know that they are obligated to obey. But there is a name above all names - Jesus. (Philippians 2:9-11) The name of the Lord Jesus has all authority behind it, for He is the Son of God. There is a great significance attached to the name of Jesus. The apostles performed many miracles in His name. For e.g. Peter and John commanded the man who was crippled for forty years to rise up and walk in the name of Jesus (Acts 3: 6-7) and he was healed instantaneously. They cast out demons in His name. (Luke 10: 17) The apostles spoke and taught in the name of Jesus. They baptized believers in the name of Jesus. (Acts 2: 38) Most importantly, they did not refuse to proclaim the name of Jesus even when they were persecuted, because they feared God more than they feared their persecutors.

Dear friends, these Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus in Acts fearlessly upheld the majesty and glory of the name of Jesus. How are we doing? Are we imitating the apostles, relying on the same Holy Spirit to enable our boldness? Are we proclaiming His name? Are we defending His name? Or are we cowering back for fear of what others might say? Let us be bold in our witness and give lost sinners God's Word, come what may!

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, Your name is the only name with power to transform. Let me proclaim Your name in word and in my deed to people in my neighborhood, workplace and even in my home. Let me not be ashamed or be afraid but defend it boldly even if I have to face ridicule and persecution. Amen.*

Wednesday, August 09

Read: Acts 17: 10-12

DO WE THIRST FOR GOD'S WORD EAGERLY?

"Now the Bereans ... received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day ..." (Acts 17: 11)

The Bereans readily and promptly accepted the Word. This is a great attitude of the Bereans, and should be the attitude of all God's children. We should, like newborn babies, long for milk - the Word of God so that we will grow in respect to salvation. Inconsistent intake of pure milk by a newborn baby will lead to a malnourished infant, predisposed to all manner of physical ailments. In the same way, this will be spiritually true for all God's children who fail to take pure milk of God's Word regularly. They will experience no growth, and like a bicycle that is not being pedaled, they will topple over and are prone to backsliding! Their family life, work decisions, and their spiritual growth will be negatively impacted. Not only that, they do not experience daily revival which comes about from daily reading of the Bible.

Dear friends, are we in the Word daily, not just on one day or certain days? And even more important, is the Word really in us or is it just entering in one ear and going out the other after the morning devotion? Let us imitate the ancient Bereans that we would read the Scripture daily and consistently. Let us make a strong decision to read a chapter in the morning, chew it and allow it to enter our heart so that our life will be truly influenced by the Word throughout the remainder of the day. If we do this, there is no doubt, we will certainly experience personal revival from our Bible reading discipline.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, let me long for Your Word more than my food. Let me read it daily, meditate on it, take it in my heart and be led by it every moment of the day. Help me to experience a revival in my spirit and let me grow spiritually forsaking everything that leads to sin. Amen.*

Thursday, August 10

Read: Deuteronomy 9: 22-29

TRUST AND OBEY

"... Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, ..." (Hebrews 3: 7)

The Lord commanded the Israelites at Kadesh Barnea, "Go up and possess the land which I have given you." The Israelites had continually witnessed God at work in their behalf day after day - He was guiding them with pillars of fire and cloud, feeding them with manna from heaven and providing water to drink from a rock! Now all they had to do was march from Kadesh Barnea to the Promised Land. They needed to believe in the Sovereignty of God and His faithfulness, and they had to move forward. They had to walk by faith not by sight. But when the ten spies sent to spy the land saw the giants and walled fortresses, they were afraid and brought a bad report which spread like leaven through the entire camp of the Israelites. Fear of great giants gripped them. Faith in the great God eluded them. The result was they refused to trust God and obey His command! They rebelled against Him.

Dear friends, every believer must trust God to meet their need a day at a time. If we complain along the way, we are only revealing that we do not trust God, but think we know more than He does about the best plans for us. So when we come to "Kadesh Barnea" places in our life, let us claim what God has planned for us and move forward by faith. Let us not rebel against Him and refuse to obey Him. If we do, we may find ourselves wandering through life, failing to inherit what God has in store for us.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, the Israelites' unbelief and disobedience at Kadesh Barnea resulted in their inability to enter the Promised Land. Help me to trust Your promise, walk by faith day by day, move forward and possess the great reward You have in store for me. Amen.*

Friday, August 11

Read: Luke 11: 1-4

LORD TEACH ME HOW TO PRAY

"... One of His disciples said to Him: "Lord, teach us to pray. ..."

(Luke 11: 1)

The disciples requested Jesus to teach them to pray. It was a wise and good request. Probably when the Lord was praying in a "certain place," His disciples heard Him and were deeply moved, as never man prayed like Him. What calmness of spirit, what assurance of faith, what power there was in these simple words of their Master! No wonder that they came to Him with eagerness saying, "Lord, teach us how to pray." We should note that Jesus, in the first instance, did not command His disciples to pray, but His constant habit of prayer made them eager to learn and practice this holy discipline. This is the best way of inculcating holy habits on those who are around us. Let us not begin by advising them, but by living before them a life so holy, so unselfish, so consecrated and devout that they would spontaneously approach us saying, "Tell us your secret; tell us how we may become as you are!" "It is a holy life which constitutes our best pulpit," says F.B. Meyer.

Dear friends, we do not know what to pray for and when to pray for it. We are not skilled in praying. We often ask the Lord for many things that we do not need. We are yet to learn what our gracious Father is willing to do for us and through us by His Holy Spirit. So, one thing we definitely need is to know how to pray better. It is one of the greatest needs of God's people. So whenever we kneel down to pray, let us ask humbly, "Lord, teach me how to pray."

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, I do not know what to pray. Sometimes I am unable to discern Your will. Lord, I humbly ask You to teach me how to pray. There is none other than You in heaven and earth who can assist me to pray. May Your name be magnified. Let Your will be done in my life. Amen.*

Saturday, August 12

Read: Mark 10: 11-16

JESUS IS THE LITTLE CHILD'S BEST FRIEND

"... Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, ..."

(Mark 10: 14)

It was customary for the Jews to bring little children to the rabbis to receive their special blessing. But we see here that the disciples stood in the way when parents brought their children to Jesus. However, this was not the first time the disciples had attempted to "get rid of" people. They wanted to send the crowd away hungry, but Jesus fed them, (Matthew 14:15) and they tried to stop the Canaanite woman from asking Jesus to heal her daughter, (Matthew 15:23) but Jesus answered her prayer. The Twelve did not have the compassion of their Master. They thought most probably that it was mere waste of their Master's time, and that children could derive no benefit from being brought to Christ. But when Jesus saw this He was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Matthew 10:14)

Dear friends, children are a picture of those whose simple trust illustrates what faith is all about. Jesus' remark illustrates how everyone is important to God, even the little children whom others regard as insignificant. Each child - whether he is a member of our family or not - each is precious to God. Each needs love. Each needs to learn about Jesus. So as parents, teachers and church workers, let us never overlook the children whom God puts into our lives.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord Jesus, when You said to let the children come to You, You gave a clear example for us all that we should open our hearts and arms to them and tell them of Your love. Give me a heart sympathetic and tender like You, and accept all children with compassion. Amen.*

Sunday, August 13

Read: Mark 14:32-41; Luke 22:39-46

DON'T PUT THE LORD TO DISTRESS!

"Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. ..."

(Matthew 26:40)

This is one of the most touching and heartrending passages in the whole Bible, where Jesus, the Son of God was left alone, His "soul overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." The gospel writers say, "He was deeply distressed and troubled." All this happened in the Garden of Gethsemane, the place in which the Son pleaded with the Father to take away the cup of suffering, yet He submitted to His Father's will. What an agonizing moment it would have been! As He was fully human, Jesus was greatly in need of prayer support and backup from His dear disciples. He requested them to watch and pray with Him at least for one hour. How He valued their prayer at that critical moment! But what happened? The disciples fell asleep instead of upholding their beloved Master in prayer. Jesus was so desperate that He came back thrice only to find them sleeping soundly. How lonely He must have felt! Seeing His unbearable agony, we read in Luke, that an angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. How sad it is to know that the disciples failed to be Jesus' prayer-partners at a most crucial period!

Dear friends, sometimes we fail to pray for those who earnestly request us to pray for them. We assure them that we would pray for them, but then forget them and get involved in other duties. Let us ask God to burden us with the spirit of prayer, let us earnestly resolve to pray for those who are in desperate situation and be their prayer partners.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, let me be a pleading voice for those who are suffering. I seek Your grace to be a prayer warrior who could share others' burdens and intercede for them before Your throne of grace. Let me not despise those in distress, but rather be a comfort to them. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Monday, August 14

Read: Matthew 15: 21-28

COMMENDABLE FAITH!

"... "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." ..."

(Matthew 15:28)

We all have problems. No one can deny this fact. And it is equally true that every one of us needs someone to understand us and help us. Yet, most of the times the one on whom we put our trust fails us and this adds frustration to our problems. But, there is One whom we can always rely upon and on whose bosom we can rest when we are weary. And that is the Lord Jesus Christ! Yet, in today's portion of the Scripture we see Him as though He is unconcerned about the plight of the Canaanite woman. He answered 'not a word' when she cried unto Him, about the hapless position of her daughter. The Lord showed Himself to be very casual in disposition, just to bring to the forefront the greatness of her faith. She was not asking for all the blessings that Jesus had in store, but just a crumb - healing of her daughter! She was persistent in her request, and the Lord said, "Woman, you have great faith!" and healed her daughter with His Word! Her petition and her perseverance paid her the reward she deserved.

Dear friends, what is your problem today? Is it concerning your son or daughter? Is it concerning your work situation? Or, is it regarding the health of your loved one? Whatever it be, you can also come to the Lord and ask for help. Anything is possible with Him and He will do it for you, if He could do it for the Canaanite woman. Will you come to Him with absolute faith and cry out? He is looking only at your faith level. If you can believe, you can have it. Amen.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, as I come before You with prayers and supplication, help me to come with absolute faith that would unlock the solutions that You have in store for my problems. You are bigger than all my problems. All things are possible with You. Thank You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Tuesday, August 15

Read: Galatians 5:13-25

FREE FROM ENSLAVEMENT!

"Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules."

(1 Peter 2:16)

Today we are celebrating 77th Independence Day. The word 'Freedom' portrays different meanings to different people. Many people think that freedom is the ease or facility of doing anything; to speak or act without constraint or control. In fact true freedom means deliverance from any type of enslavement. Today, people have misunderstood the concept of freedom. For example, if you can ask a habitual drunkard or drug addict, why he destroys himself with his deadly habit, he would invariably reply, "It is my freedom to drink. Who are you to exercise control over me?" The freedom we enjoy in the country has actually driven people to slavery - they have become slaves to drugs, pornography, liquor, liberalism and so on. Is there no way out of this enslavement? There seems to be only one way, as the Bible teaches. We read in John 8:32, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." What is that truth? It is: You should live in subjection to the law of God. You should live under it and obey it. Then you will enjoy true freedom. Peter categorically affirms that we should serve God, if we are to exercise our freedom.

Dear friends, it is of no use to live in a so called free society and yet fail to enjoy any freedom in our spirit. Today, if you and I want to enjoy true freedom, we are called upon to come to the Lord and His Word, and live a truly free life, by serving the Lord with all our heart and soul and strength.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, I thank You for enabling me to be born in a free democracy. Though politically I am free, I need Your grace to really enjoy a freedom in my spirit and in my soul. Help me to know Your Word in its truest sense that I may be set free. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen*

Wednesday, August 16

Read: II Chronicles 26:16-21

POWER AND PRIDE!

"After Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. ..."

(II Chronicles 26:16)

"Pride goes before a fall" is a well known proverb. In the Bible we read about many people who experienced great downfall because of their pride. Uzziah, the king of Judah sought the Lord during the earlier part of his reign. He built towers and towns. He had a very powerful army. His fame spread far and wide. But instead of being thankful to the Lord for his prosperity, day by day he became so proud that he daringly entered the temple of the Lord and burned incense on the altar of incense, even though he was fully aware that it was the duty of the consecrated priests and Levites. This wicked act of Uzziah was detestable in the eyes of the Lord, and He punished him instantly by afflicting him with leprosy.

Hezekiah, king of Judah feared the Lord and was obedient to Him in all things. Once he became ill and was at the point of death. When he cried to the Lord, He healed him miraculously. He then gained riches and honor, and he made treasures for his silver and gold and for his precious stones, spices. But when the envoys from Babylon came to his land on hearing his prosperity and miraculous healing, he became proud and showed all his riches, but failed to talk about the miracle the Lord did to him. As a result, the Lord handed his son over to the enemy king, who bound him with bronze shackles, put a hook on his nose and took him as a captive to their land. Dear friends, on any account let us not allow pride to enter into our hearts. Let us humble ourselves before God and men. Let us remember that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, I thank You for all the blessings I have received from You. There is nothing that I have which I have not received from You, O Lord. Help me to humble myself before You with a heart of thankfulness. Never let even a tinge of pride mar my character. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Thursday, August 17

Read: Daniel 6:10-24

THE LORD, OUR RESCUER!

"When the king ... was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him" (Daniel 6:14)

When king Darius knew that his own administrators had conspired against Daniel and planned to kill him, he somehow wanted to rescue him. He loved Daniel for his faithfulness and so tried to release Daniel before sunset. But, he had to hand over Daniel to the wish of his administrators who had him thrown into the lions' den. Even then he hoped with all his heart that the Lord whom Daniel served continually would definitely deliver him. After signing the decree with his own signet ring and after ordering the stone to be placed over the mouth of the den, the king's heart was greatly distressed. He passed the night fasting. No musical instruments were played. He could not sleep the whole night. He rose very early and went in haste to the den, and cried in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" What a confidence he had in the living God, even though he was an alien, a gentile! No one would talk to a dead man, but the king's faith was that Daniel would be alive and would surely answer him. When he heard Daniel's voice, his joy swelled. He issued a decree to kill all those who conspired against Daniel.

Dear friends, Proverbs 16:7 says, "When the Lord takes pleasure in anyone's way, He causes their enemies to make peace with them." So let us be faithful to the Lord in our work spot. He will be with us, and cause favor in the eyes of our higher authorities and rescue us from every harmful plot that is cunningly made against us.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, You alone are the only true and living God who cares for me like the apple of Your own eye. When people rise against me, remember me Your servant, and help me to abound in hope that Your hand will be with me and deliver me from all their cunning plots, In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Friday, August 18

Read : Isaiah 40:28-31

THE LORD KNOWS WHAT HE DOES!

"... He guarded him ..., like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, ..." (Deuteronomy 32:10,11)

The eagle is one of the largest and most powerful birds in the world. Some eagles weigh as much as 12 or 13 pounds and have a wingspan of about 7 feet. The nests of the eagles are built mainly of sticks and are often lined with fresh green leaves. Once a year, the female lays one or two eggs and they are carefully parented even by the male eagle until they hatch in about 40 days. In about 11 or 12 weeks, a curious thing happens. If the eaglets have not ventured forth by themselves, the parent eagle "stirs" or rocks the nest, pushing the eaglets out. The young eaglets flap about in panic, still novices at this flying lesson. The parent eagle hovers watchfully. Waiting for the critical moment, with wings spread wide, the eagle swoops down underneath those babies and delivers them back to the nest. In the Bible we read in a few places that our Lord also acts like an eagle. He is protective and caring. He is sensitive to all our needs. He knows when the nest becomes too comfortable and when it needs stirring. His timings are perfect. When He sees that we are about to fall down, He spreads His wings and takes hold of us and draws us close to Him.

Dear friends, let us be confident that the eyes of our Lord are always upon us. Sometimes, He allows us to face difficult situations only to train us to fly higher and higher. So, let us not become panicky when problems come, but learn to trust Him. When we do so, we will experience what it means to soar on eagle's wings.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, like a mother eagle cares for her young eaglets, You take care of me when panic strikes me in full force. Let me understand that nothing can destroy me, but only transform me and strengthen me, and help me soar higher and higher with You as my Trainer! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Saturday, August 19

Read: Philippians 2:5-11

CONDUCT MUST GLORIFY GOD!

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. ..." (Philippians 1:27)

Sometimes when we are treated unjustly by people, we retaliate in some way or other in order to prove our integrity. We either shout at those people, or put on a long face, or talk ill about those who exploit us. But by doing so, we lose our Christian witness. Let us at such times, think of our Lord Jesus who suffered silently without complaint. No matter how things looked, He remained the same in every situation. He was not patient just when things were smooth and easy-going, but even when they were hard and unjust. Joyce Meyer writes that when she and her husband Dave were busy, her daughter Sandra had to take her sick brother to the family doctor's clinic after fixing an appointment. After a forty minute drive she arrived at the doctor's office only to be told, "O, I am sorry. But it is our policy not to treat minors unaccompanied by a parent." Even though Sandra explained to the nurse that she had come only on appointment, she bluntly refused. Sandra became upset. She was already having an overloaded schedule and driving home in vain for another forty five minutes troubled her. Sandra controlled herself and remained calm and cool. Joyce concludes, "What if Sandra had lost her temper and been impatient. Her witness would have been damaged."

Dear friends, many people around us are trying to find God, and what we show them is much more important than what we tell them. So, let us learn how to handle ourselves in front of others (even our own family members) and maintain a Christian witness.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, fill me with an extraordinary measure of patience and self-control when I face upsetting circumstances in my life. Let me not lose my testimony by momentary outbursts and bring dishonor to Your name. Let people see Christ's shadow in me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Sunday, August 20

Read: Ephesians 1:1-14

DISPENSE TIME WITH SENSE!

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born."

(Luke 2:6)

The life of a civilized man is governed by time. A child tries to get accustomed to time right from the day it lands up in school. This practice continues even in the work spot. In spite of following time code in our business all through the week, we Christians act as if time has no control over us on Sundays. We go to our worship services casually at our own convenience without even realizing that we are dishonoring God by our careless attitude. All events foretold in the Bible have taken place, and also will be taking place exactly at the precise time. In Galatians 4:4 we read, "When the set time had fully come, God sent His Son." In Romans 5:6 we read, "At just the right time, ... Christ died for the ungodly." In the gospels we read that, "Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead just in time on the third day." In Ephesians 1:9 we read, "When the times reach their fulfillment," Jesus Christ will once again come to this earth. Thus the birth, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ have taken place exactly at the stroke of the hour, and so also His second coming will happen at an hour destined by the Father.

Dear friends, we, who are followers of Christ, should imitate Him in every single aspect. We who want to be punctual in worldly matters, should also practice punctuality in the work of the Lord. Let us not show any slackness in doing our King's work. Let us keep up time and be model Christians wherever we go.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, as the Bible teaches me to 'redeem' the time, make my conscience sharp with Your Spirit that I may value time. Help me to be punctual in all my work. At the same time, let me be aware and alert of the Lord's second coming and be ready to meet Him in time. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Monday, August 21

Read: Matthew 13:41,42, I Corinthians 6:2

BEWARE OF THE JUDGMENT DAY!

"... The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books."

(Revelation 20:12)

The Bible indicates that there are actually two kind of deaths. One is the physical death and the other eternal death. Jesus warned that we are to fear the second death more than the first death, because the second death takes us to hell which is eternal separation from God. How fortunate a person is, if he has confessed his sin and by faith received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior! His Soul has the assurance of being with the Lord forever in heaven. Mrs. Effie Jane Wheeler was a pious Christian, who taught English literature in college. Just two weeks before her death she wrote the following letter to the President of the college, her colleague and students: "My doctor at last has given what has been his real diagnosis of my illness for weeks – an inoperable case of cancer. If the Lord has chosen me to go to Him soon, I go gladly. Please do not give a moment grief for me. I do not say a cold good bye, but rather a warm "joyful anticipation" till I see you again in the blessed land." What a joyous hope!

Friends, do we have this great assurance of our eternity? The Bible tells us that our souls will live forever in one of two places – heaven or hell. If you have never been 'born again,' then the Bible warns that your soul goes to a place Jesus called Hades, where you will await for the judgment of God. On the other hand, if you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will go to heaven where it will be a time of joy, service, laughter, singing and praise to God. The choice is yours. Make a decision about your destiny today!

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, what a joy to have Jesus as Savior! But for His sacrifice on the Cross, my destiny would have been to a tormenting eternity. But, now I am in peace with God because of the blood of Jesus shed for me. Help me to bring many to this wonderful hope and peace. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Tuesday, August 22

Read: Acts 10:1-22

LET PRAYERS RISE UP TO GOD!

"... (He) prayed to God regularly."

(Acts 10:2)

"Of all the gifts of the early Church for which we should long, there is none more needed than the gift of prayer that brings down the Holy Ghost on believers," writes Andrew Murray. In today's text we read about the wonderful way in which things happened in accordance to prayer in two very different places. Cornelius was a centurion, and he was staying in Caesarea. Even though he was a Gentile, he and his family members feared the Lord. Most importantly Cornelius prayed to God always. While this happened in Caesarea, we read that Peter was praying in the roof of the house in a place called Joppa, which was quite away from Caesarea. The will of the Lord was revealed to Peter while he was praying. Guidance was given to him to go to Caesarea, where he was brought into contact with a pre-prepared group of men and women. In answer to all these prayers, a blessing came beyond all expectation and the Holy Spirit was poured upon the Gentiles. What a great joy it was!

Dear friends, each of us can also have the privilege of offering ourselves to God to prevail in prayer and bring down great blessings to this earth. Andrew Murray writes, "Prayer is the link between the King on the throne and the Church at His footstool, and has its divine strength in the power of the Holy Ghost who comes in answer to it." So let us devote ourselves to the prayer ministry. Let us pray with great burden for the lost souls, for the revival in our churches, and for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our church services. Let us start today and see wonderful things happening right in front of our own eyes.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, give me a burden for the unsaved souls in my own extended family and in my country. May my prayer bring a great revival in my Church, an outpouring of the Spirit of prayer on the believers and for manifestation of Your power among the Gentiles. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.*

Wednesday, August 23

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

HUMILITY BRINGS HONOR!

"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12)

George Washington Carver was a great botanist and researcher of agro products. As a child born to slave parents, he was very poor, but accepted Christ as his Savior when he was just a boy. He had to toil doing menial jobs to pay for his college fees. He studied intently about plants. Later, he set up a laboratory in the Tuskegee Institute and called it "God's Little Workshop." His personal trademark was his humility. He publicly and consistently attributed his ideas and his success to the Lord. God spoke to him clearly. He took pleasure in revealing His glory through the lowly peanut, sweet potato and cowpea. George Carver was instrumental in developing more than 300 agro products out of the lowly 'peanut.' He never patented them but one. He never sought glory to his name. He humbled himself before God and gave Him all glory for 'revealing' him the secrets of the peanut. In today's power and fame greedy world, we see people blowing big trumpets on even tiny achievements.

Dear friends, even if we have contributed anything worthwhile to the society, we must always give all glory and honor to God, who gave us life and wisdom, strength and opportunity to become achievers. Give God all the glory! He will bring you great honor!

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, Your Word teaches me that You love to exalt people who are humble in Spirit. Give me a humble Spirit that I may give every time all glory to You alone for every success I gain in my career and every other sphere of my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Thursday, August 24

Read : Jeremiah 35:1-19

PARENTS ARE PRECIOUS! HONOR THEM!!

"Honor your father and your mother, ..." (Exodus 20:12)

A story is told of Abraham Lincoln. One day the President summoned to the White House a surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland from the state of Ohio. The major assumed that he was to be commended for some exceptional work. During the conversation, Mr. Lincoln asked the major about his widowed mother. "She is doing fine," he responded. "How do you know?" asked Lincoln. "You haven't written her. But she has written me. She thinks that you are dead and she is asking that a special effort be made to return your body." At that the Commander in Chief placed a pen in the young doctor's hand and ordered him to write a letter letting his mother know that he was alive and well. Most of us get ourselves so engaged with our mundane work, and as a result we start neglecting our families, especially our elderly parents. The rest of us pursue our own interests at the cost of the welfare of the parents who spent their whole life for our sake. See how Abraham Lincoln gently rebuked his doctor. Yes, it is important to discharge our duties in our employment with sincerity and honesty, but it is equally important to discharge our duties towards our parents and families till the day of our death! There should not be any lame excuse on this count.

Dear friends, how do you treat your parents today? Do you pay heed to their advice for your life? Do you spend on them your time, money and love? God made it a commandment, not just an advice, that we must honor our parents and obey them in all things. Let us quit arguments and reasoning. But, simply obey what the Word of God instructs us to do.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, I am thankful to You for giving me wonderful parents. Give me a heart of thankfulness for all that they have done and are doing for me. Help me to reciprocate their love, show them my gratitude and give them due honor always. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Friday, August 25

Read: Luke 10:38-42

JOY OF HIS PRESENCE MATTERS MORE!

"... Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42)

We are all very familiar with the story of Martha and Mary. Both of them were unique in their own way even though they were sisters. Martha had the gift of hospitality. She opened her home for Jesus and cooked food for Him whenever He visited them. But Mary's role was different. She opened her heart to Him. She liked to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to every word that He spoke.

Dear friends, many times we too are distracted and worried by many things that need to be done - managing a prayer meeting, preparing sermons, visiting the sick and so on. But Jesus likes us to be in His presence, than to do many things for Him. In Psalm 27:4 David says, "One thing I ask from the Lord, ... to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple." He understood the importance of being with the Lord. "Being still does not require any activity on our part. Stillness is enjoying the presence of the Father without asking Him for anything. It is quieting our spirits, our minds and emotions and simply resting," writes Kim Butts. When we sit still in His presence, He fights for us. He does things for us. So let us learn to submit our spirits quietly at His feet amidst our busy schedule. Let us enjoy the fullness of His Presence by hearing His Words of love. Then we will be commended by the Lord: "She/He has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her/him." Amen.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, help me to stay still in Your sweet presence and enjoy the quietness it brings to my heart. Help me to learn to submit to You and earn fullness of joy that exists only in Your presence. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Saturday, August 26

Read: Exodus 40:36-38, Numbers 9:15-23

HAVE THE MOST CLEAR GUIDANCE!

"The cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, ..." (Exodus.40:38)

One of the greatest wonders in the Bible is to know how the Israelites traveled in the waterless, treeless, and roadless vast expanse of sandy desert, on their way to Canaan. There was only sand everywhere; they had no idea in which way to go, east or west or north or south. The only guidance was provided by the cloud of the Lord during the day and fire by night, which traveled with them and showed them the way all through their wilderness journey. Sometimes the cloud would settle down on the tabernacle for a long time, a month or even a year. Then the Israelites also would camp in that particular place during that whole period. Only when the cloud lifted up, would they begin their journey again. How strange and amazing it must have been! We read about one more amazing event in the New Testament. A star was there to guide the wise men from the east to Bethlehem to worship Christ, the Messiah. However, dependence on their own wisdom deviated them to Herod's palace instead of the house where baby Jesus was.

Dear friends, we are pilgrims in this journey of life. We pass through this way only once. Yesterday will not come again, and we do not know what tomorrow would bring. Unless we have a clear guidance we will be sidetracked from our eternal goal. This guidance is provided only by our Lord. He guides us through His Word when we are perplexed and confused, and shows us the exact way in which we have to go. Also, when we deviate to the right or left, the Holy Spirit counsels and corrects us. So, let us intently listen to Him and follow Him wherever He leads us.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, let Your Word speak to us every minute. When we are confused, let the Word counsel us to take the right decision. When afraid, let the Word give us the strength. Direct our steps. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Sunday, August 27

Read: Acts 9:20-30

A VERY SPECIAL PRIVILEGE!

"... I have called you friends, ..."

(John 15:15)

Among the most beautiful words Jesus ever spoke to His disciples was the captivating statement - "I have called you friends!" Having friends and being a friend are very much a part of our Bible story. Take for example of the friendship between Paul and Barnabas. Following Saul's conversion and his escape from the Jews in Damascus, Saul came to Jerusalem for getting some encouragement from the disciples. But, since they were afraid of him, having known his past, they did not allow him to join with them. At this critical moment, Barnabas befriended Saul and accepted him. Saul, later left Jerusalem, returned to Tarsus and remained out of sight for a while. (Acts 11:25, 26) But Barnabas did not just leave him off. He went to Tarsus and brought him back to Antioch, where they worked together in the church for a year. In his support and concern for Saul, Barnabas was a caring and nurturing friend following the model of Jesus.

Dear friends, Samuel Johnson, the English author, writes, "If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone. A man ... should keep his friendship in constant repair." Let us be a friend to others. A friend needs to be caring more for another person than for himself. So, if we have friends, we must work at being friendly. Let us pray for our friends, share together our burdens and enjoy each other's success. By doing so, we will help in the extension of the family of God. Let us try to establish one new friendship a year, for friendship is one of God's very special gifts.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord Jesus, I thank You for being my true Friend. Thank You also for giving me good friends. Help me to maintain healthy friendship, bearing one another's burdens and share Your love with them. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Monday, August 28

Read: I Corinthians 5:6, 7

LITTLE FOXES! GREAT DAMAGES!!

"As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly overweighs wisdom and honor." (Ecclesiastes 10:1)

The Bible speaks of many "little" things that cause a lot of ruin. Sin is harmful. There is no sin that is small enough to be neglected. Small sins, if not dealt with, can grow into bigger ones that cause great damage to one's soul. Telling a small lie, stealing a little stationery from the office, harboring a small resentment in our hearts - all those may seem insignificant, yet in reality they deviate us from the truth. Similarly, certain small duties neglected can also lead to lot of problems. For example, a man may feel he is showing love for his family by working throughout the day and bringing plenty of money to assure them financial security, but he is not at home most of the time. He may think that he is doing a big thing, but he has no time for the little things like talking and laughing with the family and playing with the children. This will ultimately end up in an unsatisfied, dull and tasteless marriage. Sometimes a little bad thing spoils the whole of the good stuff that we have done painstakingly.

Dear friends, let us be diligent in our secular job and also in our spiritual lives. Poison used for killing pests consists of 99% good food and 1% poison, and yet it is that 1% that kills! Likewise, even if our lives are filled with good virtuous characters, just a couple of "bad habits" or "weaknesses" or "compromises" can lead us to great destruction. The Bible tells us, "Only the little foxes ruin the vineyards that are in bloom." (Song of Songs 2:15) So let us not be deceived and yield to 'small' temptations. Let us weed off these unwanted characters from our lives, and live productive and fruitful lives for the glory of our Lord!

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, I take little notice of the small faults and weaknesses, and strike a compromise. Pardon me, Lord, and help me to avoid these 'little foxes' that would destroy the bloom of my relationships with you and others. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Tuesday, August 29

Read: II Corinthians 5:1-5

ASSIGNMENT - TEMPORARY & PERMANENT!

"... If the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, ..." (II Corinthians 5:1)

Life on earth is a temporary assignment. The Bible describes life on earth as "a mist, a fast runner, a breath, and wisp of smoke." Moses writes in Psalm 90:10, "The length of our days is seventy years, or eighty, if we have the strength; yet the span of them is trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away." So the next pertinent question is, "Where are we going to live eternally?" There are only two options for every human - heaven or hell! If we are born again and washed by the blood of Christ from all our iniquities, and if we are baptized by the Holy Spirit, then we can be sure to spend our eternity in heaven. Our identity becomes heaven and our homeland is heaven. Rick Warren, the author of the book, "The purpose driven life" writes, "We Christians should carry spiritual green cards to remind us that our citizenship is in heaven. God said, His children are to think differently about life from the way unbelievers do. Real believers understand that there is far more to life than just the few years we live on this planet earth."

So dear friends, let us not get attached to the world and its attractions. But let us fix our eyes on our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ, who sits on the right side of the throne of grace. Let us not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind, as Paul writes in Romans 12:2. "Let us say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age." (Titus 2:12) Let us not focus on "temporary crowns," but be ready to receive the everlasting crown in heaven, our eternal house.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, thank You for the spiritual green card given unto me that assures my heavenly abode when I complete my race here. Help me remember that my assignment here is temporary, and that I do not belong here. In Jesus' name I pray. . Amen.*

Wednesday, August 30

Read: Isaiah 43:9-13

LEAVE OFF THE WORTHLESS!

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"
(II Corinthians. 5:17)

A little child playing one day with a very valuable vase put his hand into it and could not withdraw it. His father too tried his level best, but all in vain. They were thinking of breaking the vase, when the father said, "Now my son, make one more try. Open your hand and hold your fingers out straight as you see me doing, and then pull out. To their astonishment the little boy said, "Oh no, father. I could not put my fingers out like that, because if I did, I would drop my penny."

Dear friends, many of us live in this world like this little boy. Once we accepted Jesus as our personal Savior, and we promised to renounce the world and its temptations. But as years pass by we lose our commitment, get trapped into the mesh of this world and we are unable to come out of it. And mostly, this is of our own making. The temptations of the world ensnare us so much that we place our foot into it initially very casually, and then we get entangled by it terribly and finally we lose our vision of our beloved Savior. Let us fix our eyes on our Lord and abide in Him always. Let us be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Let us catch hold of the eternal treasure and leave off the worthless penny. Let us be cautious. Let us never give a chance to be tempted even in the slightest way. Also, let us be assured of the fact that we can have victory through Jesus Christ in all areas of life, and overcome the devil.

PRAYER: *Father in heaven, I want to shirk of my hold on the material treasures of this mortal world, and lay hold of the greatest treasure You have for me in heaven. Give me victory over temptations through Christ Jesu. Amen.*

Thursday, August 31

Read: James 5:16-18

GOD IS NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL!

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."
(Jeremiah 33:3)

Shortly after his conversion, when he was just seventeen, Watchman Nee and six other enthusiastic young Christians sailed to a small island called Mzi-hwa, in an effort to convert the entire island for Christ. They worked hard, but saw no converts. Every year on January 11th a grand festival would be celebrated in that village to honor their god. "It would not rain on that day. In fact for the past 286 years, it hadn't rained on that day," the villagers declared proudly. On hearing this Kuo-Ching Lee, one young Christian of the team challenged the villagers, "I promise you, our God, who is the true God, will bring down rain on January 11th." When Watchman Nee heard what Kuo-Ching had done, he was troubled first. Then he remembered the challenge that Elijah had with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and he thought that may be God intended to do something in that little village. All of them prayed fervently each day. But, as foretold by the villagers, there was no rain on January 11th. Then Nee prayed with great fervor, "Father, please accept our prayer as a gentle reminder." Before they finished, there started a great downpour! In the following weeks, the youngsters spread the messages of Christ, gradually a Church was established, and the grip of the pagan religion was broken in that village.

Dear friends, our Lord listens to every sincere prayer that is offered by His children, for the salvation of the unsaved people. So let us ask Him to perform a miracle and turn the hearts of our unsaved friends towards Him. What may seem impossible is very much possible with Him. He will certainly do it in a supernatural way.

PRAYER : *Dear Lord, I pray that Your supernatural power be manifested in the ministry of Your servants that my people be drawn towards You and be saved. May the experience of the early Church return in our times! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER - AUGUST 2023
This month intercession will be on 17.08.2023
please send us your prayer requests before
16.08.2023

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PRAISE AND WORSHIP PRAYER MEET

DATE : 26.08.2023 (LAST SATURDAY)
TIME: 6:00 PM TO 8:30 PM
VENUE: EL-SHADDAI HOUSE OF PRAYER
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