

# *The Bridge 91*

TLM Daily Devotions

June 2023

## Intro to the month of June

Each time I am putting The Bridge together it is an amazement for me how this Globe is small... This is the same powerful feeling of the international meetings where we are gathering from all ends and at the end splitting into almost as many directions as many we are...

Now after Pentecost this amazement is even stronger. As this is the miracle of the first Church born in Jerusalem, and of the Church of anytime in history. It is the same call, the same founder, the same Spirit, the same Lord, the same understanding, the same learnings, the same faith-experiences that are binding us together.

Taking this edition into your “hands” – more accurately: opening it on your screen, be please amazed of this miracle! One piece reaches you from the UK, next one from Nigeria, big jump up to The Netherlands, far away from there a learning from Timor Leste, huge jumps again to Scotland, then with a brave slide to Niger, continuing to Papua New-Guinea, and with an extravagant decision through Scotland to India, and through Srí Lanka to Hungary, then to the Congo and South Africa, to end in a rest in The United Kingdom via Israel...

*This is all the Church. This is all The Leprosy Mission. This is all the Spirit at work.*

*Be amazed!...*

Marta Risko

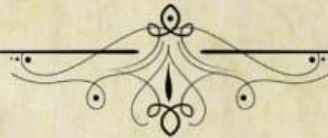


## The Few

*Luke 13:23-24*

Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.”

### The Few



**T**he easy roads are crowded  
And the level roads are jammed;  
The pleasant little rivers  
with drifting folks are crammed.  
But off yonder where it's rocky,  
Where you get a better view,  
You will find the ranks are thinning  
And the travelers are few.

Where the going's smooth and pleasant  
You will always find the throng,  
For the many, more's the pity,  
Seem to like to drift along.  
But the steps that call for courage,  
And the task that's hard to do  
In the end result in glory  
For the never-wavering few

*Edgar Albert Guest*



**...the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,  
which is of great worth in God's sight."**

*1 Peter 3:4*

The dog was taking me for a morning walk. It was autumn and a powerful wind was gusting through the trees. Ogden Nash, the American humorist, said that winds are caused by trees waving their branches - there's always another way of looking at things.

At the end of the road are three old oak trees. They'd looked wonderful, covered in autumn gold, but the wind had blown most of their leaves away and was now tidying them up. Piling them in heaps against garden walls. There were deep drifts of colour. Subtle golds and browns. Strong bright yellows, a few rich crimson highlights and, mixed in, some glossy greens from the ivy. The leaves were wonderful to walk through, dry and rustling. It was a whole palette of colour, random, extravagant, uplifting.

The promise of spring had long passed, the richness of deep summer already a memory, but nature was still offering me this great bank of beauty to take into the winter. As though the leaves were saying, "We're going now but here's something good to remember us by."

And it would be good to think that as some of us grow older and life begins to slow down, our lives too will offer a natural richness, something of beauty to be savoured and remembered.

*Lord, help me to reflect the beauty of your world in my life today.*

**Eddie Askew** (1927-2007) devoted half a century to leprosy and its consequences. In 1950 he and his wife Barbara set sail for India. Eddie's first placement was in Purulia, West Bengal. In 1965 Eddie took up the post of executive secretary at TLM's office in London. His first overseas visit in this new role was to Ethiopia, where he learned of plans to set up a leprosy training centre that would benefit patients and medics throughout Africa. He offered to become a founding member and signed TLM up to support what was to become ALERT (All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre). The following year, the organisation now known as the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) was set up. In 1974 Eddie became general director of TLM. He was keen to develop TLM's work elsewhere, and took a team into the closed land of Bhutan in response to a request from its government. - Inspired by his travels and his Christian faith, Eddie found an outlet for his creativity in painting and poetry. He retired in 1987. From 1998 until his death he was TLM- vice-president, and in 2000 he was awarded an OBE. (Fiona Spence)



## Psalm 144

### Of David.

<sup>1</sup> Praise be to the LORD my Rock,  
who trains my hands for war,  
my fingers for battle.

<sup>2</sup> He is my loving God and my fortress,  
my stronghold and my deliverer,  
my shield, in whom I take refuge,  
who subdues peoples under me.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, what are human beings that you care for them,  
mere mortals that you think of them?

<sup>4</sup> They are like a breath;  
their days are like a fleeting shadow.

<sup>5</sup> Part your heavens, LORD, and come down;  
touch the mountains, so that they smoke.

<sup>6</sup> Send forth lightning and scatter the enemy;  
shoot your arrows and rout them.

<sup>7</sup> Reach down your hand from on high;  
deliver me and rescue me  
from the mighty waters,  
from the hands of foreigners

<sup>8</sup> whose mouths are full of lies,  
whose right hands are deceitful.

<sup>9</sup> I will sing a new song to you, my God;  
on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you,

<sup>10</sup> to the One who gives victory to kings,  
who delivers his servant David.

From the deadly sword <sup>11</sup> deliver me;  
rescue me from the hands of foreigners  
whose mouths are full of lies,  
whose right hands are deceitful.

<sup>12</sup> Then our sons in their youth  
will be like well-nurtured plants,  
and our daughters will be like pillars  
carved to adorn a palace.

<sup>13</sup> Our barns will be filled  
with every kind of provision.

Our sheep will increase by thousands,  
by tens of thousands in our fields;

<sup>14</sup> our oxen will draw heavy loads.

There will be no breaching of walls,  
no going into captivity,  
no cry of distress in our streets.

<sup>15</sup> Blessed is the people of whom this is true;  
blessed is the people whose God is the LORD.



## Psalm 145

**A psalm of praise. Of David.**

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God the King;  
I will praise your name for ever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> Every day I will praise you  
and extol your name for ever and ever.

<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.

<sup>4</sup> One generation commends your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—  
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

<sup>6</sup> They tell of the power of your awesome works—  
and I will proclaim your great deeds.

<sup>7</sup> They celebrate your abundant goodness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All your works praise you, LORD;  
your faithful people extol you.

<sup>11</sup> They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might,

<sup>12</sup> so that all people may know of your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures through all generations.  
The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises  
and faithful in all he does.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who fall  
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.

<sup>16</sup> You open your hand  
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD is righteous in all his ways  
and faithful in all he does.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;

*he hears their cry and saves them.*

<sup>20</sup> *The LORD watches over all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.*

<sup>21</sup> *My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.  
Let every creature praise his holy name  
for ever and ever.*





## God at the Centre of our Work

*And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17 NLT*

Yesterday we learnt what difference pastoral care brings to people supporting our work in Hungary and England & Wales. We heard from our colleagues in Hungary, New Zealand, England and Wales how caring for people prompted them to give to us. But more than just giving, they experienced the love of God through our work.

Small practical acts to put God first and making Him the center of what we do, may not seem like a big deal, but they are making a difference. Putting God first with our work with people affected by leprosy can also be the catalyst others need to want to get to know our God.

I'll like to share with you a practical example of the impact this could have on people with Isiyaku:



Mallam Isiyaku was a 47 years old man affected by leprosy. He was a muslim from a small town in Niger State. Isiyaku was being treated at Chanchaga hospital in the year 2020 (the Covid year).

The impact of Covid lock down brought a lot of hardship to already vulnerable persons affected by leprosy, and being a government hospital, priority was given to Covid19, and leprosy patients were a best forgotten.

TLM staff and volunteers mobilized people from partner churches to support leprosy patients on admission, with food item, prayers and acts of service; they would usually visit to clean the hospital wards, toilets and surrounding since most of the staff at the hired by the government were either on strike, or unavailable to do perform their duties.

On one of such visits to the hospital, Isiyaku walked to my colleague, Habila and asked to speak with me. At first, Habila thought he wanted to ask for money. As my colleague listened to him, Isiyaku said to him "I want to become a Christian". Shocked by the statement and knowing the implication of that. Habila took Isiyaku on a walk, away the hospital environment towards TLMN Workshop guest house.

Habila asked to know who had preached Christ to Isiyaku, and he said "Nobody" but that since he came to the hospital, he observed that only Christians kept visiting with gifts and praying for them. He added that he learnt that The Leprosy Mission is a Christian organization, but despite being a Christian organization, the staff and volunteers cared for them without considering their religion.

So Habila held his hands and led him in praying the sinner's prayer, and Isiyaku became born again. Of course, he suffered persecution thereafter from other muslim patients and from the hospital staff who were muslims, but he wasn't bothered. Isiyaku's ulcers become infected due to lack of care and he eventually died, sadly. But we are convinced that he is with Christ right now.



The Lesson for us, is that we must keep God continuously at the Centre of what we do as The Leprosy Mission.

### Reflection Questions:

- ☐ *How is our work leading people to Jesus?*
- ☐ *How else might we put Him at the Centre of our work?*

### Prayer

1. Father God, thank you for giving us the opportunity to minister to the needs of others through our work. Thank you especially for making us agents of your love to vulnerable people. We ask for your wisdom and courage consciously reflect your love to the people you bring our way in our daily walk.

2. LORD help us to put you at the Centre of all we do.

3. Father, we pray for the rest of this conference, that you speak to us clearly, that you give us understanding and insights into new initiatives so that we can be more effective in the work you have committed to our hands. And as we each travel back to our respective destinations that you take us all safely and help us to practice what we have learnt so that you alone will be honored and glorified.

4. LORD we ask for your wisdom for TLM and all members of the GPZL coalition as we seek to develop and implement tools to lead us to zero leprosy transmission.

5. We pray for the situation in Sudan and all other countries experiencing conflicts, that you intervene with your peace. We ask that you protect our staff and the vulnerable people affected by leprosy even in the face of danger resulting from the war.

6. Thank you, LORD, for hearing our prayer, because we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Terver Anyor** – Head, Resource Mobilisation, TLM Nigeria

*Morning devotion on the Fundraising Conference of The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship, 17th May 2023,  
Brentford, UK*



## Ellipse

*He is the visible image of the invisible God. He is supreme over all creation, because in connection with him were created all things — in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, lordships, rulers or authorities — they have all been created through him and for him. He existed before all things, and he holds everything together. (Colossians 1:15-17, CJB)*

Intercession is like an ellipse, which revolves around two focal points: Christ and our needs. The work of the Holy Spirit is to show us both of these. He does not want that to be theoretical knowledge only. He wants to make this so real to us that we deeply feel the needs of others.

Fortunately, we do not need to do this all by ourselves. It is the Spirit who works these things in our hearts day by day. We do not have to struggle in our own strength so that we keep our eyes fixed as well as we can both on the Lord Jesus Christ and on the needs of the world. All we have to do is this: Listen to the spirit, who speaks to us daily about Christ and about what we and those around us need. As we do that, we will soon notice a new dynamic entering into our prayers for ourselves and in our intercessions for others.

Take time to adore and worship Jesus. He is our Savior and Lord. He has brought us salvation and has made known to us the Father. Through him we may freely come into God's presence and lay down our burdens before him. He is well able to answer our prayers – even our prayers for the needs of the people around us.

These thoughts come from Ole Hallesby, a Norwegian Lutheran theologian, from his book entitled *Prayer* published in 1931. I read a Dutch translation, then revised the text to be more tuned to modern ears, then translated into English and added a prayer item and a Bible verse. So it is not literally what he wrote, but it does faithfully reflect what Hallesby wanted us to understand.

**Johan Velema** (The Netherlands) is an epidemiologist and a theologian. He worked with TLM International from 1999 to 2011.



## “...take up the shield of faith...”

*“...take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”*

*Ephesians 6:16*

Accident of circumstances took me, as a teenager in the 1960s, to a Church with Scottish roots and Irish connections. It was somewhat dull -‘dour’ as the Scots say- and so were the hymns they sang! One was a very long and dreary version of ‘St. Patrick’s Breastplate’, a prayer attributed to the 5<sup>th</sup> Century patron saint of Ireland. (The original title is St. Patrick’s *Lorica*, -a Latin word meaning a soldier’s body-armour.)

The poem is a lengthy ‘incantation’, and as the title suggests it is a prayer for God’s protection against all the temptations and attacks the writer must have been facing. He ‘binds’ to himself the power of God like armour. It is, of course, set in old-fashioned English, but a modern version, or in the form of a hymn, it is more easy to follow. Years ago I printed off a couple of the verses to keep with me:

*... I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, His might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to me need.  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, His shield to ward;  
The Word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard.*

*Against the demon snares of sin,  
The vice that gives temptation force,  
The natural lusts that war within,  
The hostile men that mar my course;  
Or few or many, far or nigh,  
In every place and in all hours,  
Against their fierce hostility  
I bind to me these holy powers, ...*

Perhaps St. Patrick had in mind the protective parts of St. Paul’s ‘Whole Armour of God’ (Ephesians 6): breastplate, helmet, belt, shield. They are still necessary protection in our increasingly threatening, God-averse world. To pick just one of those protective items, I’m interested by what Paul said about “*the shield of faith*”. He says it “*can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one*”. The hard curved shield that Roman soldiers used in some circumstances would not extinguish flaming arrows. One theory is that they also had a thicker, lighter shield, perhaps made of leather or soft wood, hard-packed with cloth or other material. A flaming arrow penetrating such a shield would not go right through, but would be extinguished.

Paul equates that with faith. Our Christian faith cannot merely bat away the challenges of our secular world, as if they can be bounced off with easy answers. We read the news, we are affected by the issues, we struggle, we hurt, we feel the challenges and tragedies of the leprosy world, we ask unanswerable questions, we face temptations in our individual lives. They are all like “*the flaming arrows of the evil one*”. But the shield of faith absorbs and extinguishes them as we trust God, especially for things beyond our capacity and comprehension.

St. Patrick knew a thing or two! He knew our need daily to bind to ourselves the person and work of Christ, the victory He has won, the Spirit with which He fills us, the hope and peace He has given us. These are the armour of God; they -*He*- will shield us, for today, for tomorrow, - and daily as we bind ourselves to Him.

*May you be blessed today with God-given protection.*

**David Beazley** began involvement with The Leprosy Mission in 1992 when he came as Minister to a Church near the International Office in Brentford. He acted as an informal ‘chaplain’ to the Office, and served on the International General Council for some years. At the same time he became a member of TLM England and Wales Board, serving as Chairman for six years and on various committees. He chaired the Spiritual Ministry MAWG, and is also able to serve TLMI by leading retreat days and other such things as opportunity allows. He has recently retired from the pastorate but continues as a volunteer speaker for TLM



## Obedience and Love

### *Ephesus: 6:1-3*

- 1. Children, obey your parents in God, for this is right.*
- 2. Honor your father and your mother. This is an important commandment, as is evident from this promise.*
- 3. So that you will be happy and live long on earth.*

It's a life story I have experienced from my own uncle's family who lived in the village. He has a beautiful family, wife, a daughter, and a son. I lived with them so I know how they loved each other and especially the mother to the daughter relationship.

One day, the mother went to the city and the family knew nothing about why she went to the city. After a few weeks she returned to the village, and she became a different person to her family. Started being angry at small things, no smile or laugh like before, they kids were forced by their own mother to do the housework which is unusual for them; it's a sudden change; and everything becomes silence and anger.

3 years later and the mother passed away, the young daughter was already teen age, she was not sad at all, she still held anger for her mom because her mom had totally changed and had not loved her as before she went to the city. They have the usual ceremony for funeral and life continued until she finished her college and was going to the university. It was time for the father to hand a box left by the mother to her daughter, inside was sum of money and a letter that explained what happened when her mother went to the city, she did checkup had ovarium cancer stadium 4. She tried to make the daughter hate her so when she died, the daughter won't be sad and taught the daughter to do all the household work so she could be independent when the mother is gone.



## A question that will be faced until the King returns.

*Matthew 2<sup>1-2</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi<sup>l</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'*

Recently, I spent an enjoyable day with friends, rambling around the countryside.

As we walked, I let my imagination go and began to wonder.

What if we all go home from this walk and say to our wives?

"The guys and I were thinking of going on a road trip starting Monday?"

"Where are you going?"

"Don't know. We are just going to pack the cars and head off."

"How long will you be away?"

"Not sure. It depends how far we have to go."

"And when will you be back?"

"Can't say exactly, because there are a lot of variables."

*"You know nothing about this venture, do you? So why are you heading off, who knows where for who knows how long?"*

"Well, you know that bright star we have seen these last two weeks, the star that has puzzled and excited all the experts? We think it is a sign that something incredible has happened. So, we are off to find out what it is."

I don't know if that is how the Magi broke it to their wives about their imminent camel-back road trip to follow a star. But they must have said something roughly similar.

They would have taken everything with them, food, water, wine, wood for cooking and tents when they couldn't find towns or caravanserais.

They possibly travelled the Royal Road an ancient 'superhighway' rebuilt by Darius the Great in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC and which linked to the 'Silk Route'.

They came looking for and found the one who was born a king. When they found Jesus, they were overjoyed and the first thing they did was kneel in deferential respect and worship.

There are a few stories going on in this passage.

The Magi's story is one of seeking, finding, joy and adoration.

Herod's dark story is one of rejection by a threatened king and a massacre of innocents.

The religious leader's story is one of indifference, despite being in possession of all God's promises and prophecies. Ultimately, too, a rejection of Jesus.

The magi passage confronts us with a personal decision.

What do I do with Jesus?

Do I accept and worship or do I ignore and reject.

*A question that will be faced until the King returns.*

**John Twynam – Perkins** - Formerly chair of TLM Scotland





## Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

*Praise the LORD, my soul.*

<sup>2</sup> *I will praise the LORD all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

<sup>3</sup> *Do not put your trust in princes,  
in human beings, who cannot save.*

<sup>4</sup> *When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing.*

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.*

<sup>6</sup> *He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.*

<sup>7</sup> *He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.*

*The LORD sets prisoners free,*

<sup>8</sup> *the LORD gives sight to the blind,  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.*

<sup>9</sup> *The LORD watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.*

<sup>10</sup> *The LORD reigns forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.*

*Praise the LORD.*



## Psalm 147

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

*How good it is to sing praises to our God,  
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!*

<sup>2</sup> The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars  
and calls them each by name.

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD sustains the humble  
but casts the wicked to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;  
make music to our God on the harp.

<sup>8</sup> He covers the sky with clouds;  
he supplies the earth with rain  
and makes grass grow on the hills.

<sup>9</sup> He provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they call.

<sup>10</sup> His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;

<sup>11</sup> the LORD delights in those who fear him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

<sup>12</sup> Extol the LORD, Jerusalem;  
praise your God, Zion.

<sup>13</sup> He strengthens the bars of your gates  
and blesses your people within you.

<sup>14</sup> He grants peace to your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

<sup>15</sup> He sends his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.

<sup>16</sup> He spreads the snow like wool  
and scatters the frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> He hurls down his hail like pebbles.  
Who can withstand his icy blast?

<sup>18</sup> He sends his word and melts them;  
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> He has revealed his word to Jacob,  
his laws and decrees to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> He has done this for no other nation;  
they do not know his laws.

Praise the LORD.



## God uses life of Joseph – Part 1

**Genesis 45 1-11:** *Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. <sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup>And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, **because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.** <sup>6</sup>For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup>**But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.** <sup>8</sup>“So then, **it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise, you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’*

### **Joseph’s life in summary: From Pit to the Palace**

- *Enjoy the Love and security of his father Jacob (father’s favorite) for 17 years;*
- *Hated and Persecuted by his brother because of his dream (in fact they plan to kill him), and he always report their bad deeds to their father;*
- *Thrown into the pit (shallow well with no water);*
- *Sold as a slave to the Midianite and brought to Egypt (20 shekels of silver);*
- *Sold as a slave to Potiphar (The Lord was with Joseph);*
- *Wrongly accused of sexual assault/harassment (by his boss wife);*
- *Abandoned or forgotten in prison by butler whom he helped interpret his dream;*
- *Brought out from prison to palace of Pharaoh;*
- *Became the Prime Minister or Vice President of Egypt.*

*His brothers couldn’t recognize him and never imagined he could be in the position they found him; terrified at his presence because he was 17 years old when they bound him and sold him off and after 13 years of enduring betrayal, slavery and prison and 9 years of being on the throne as a Prime Minister, now a 39 year old guy, whom they never imagined could still be alive.*

### **What Helped Joseph forgive his brothers.**

- *Joseph was able to forgive His brothers for their wickedness because he discovered the way of God in the affairs of men. **Like Christ. He saw the hand of God all through his life.***

*Psalm 105 vs 17-22 and he sent a man before them—Joseph, sold as a slave.*

*<sup>18</sup>They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, <sup>19</sup>till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true.*

*<sup>20</sup> The king sent and released him, the ruler of peoples set him free. <sup>21</sup> He made him master of his household, ruler over all he possessed,*

*<sup>22</sup> to instruct his princes as he pleased and teach his elders wisdom.*

- *His brothers have suffered 22 years of living in guilt, regret, and fear!*

**Bunmi Oluloto** - A Brother and Servant of Christ planted in Niger Republic as TLM Country Leader for Niger and Chad



## God uses life of Joseph – Part 2

**Genesis 45 1-11:** *Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. <sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup>And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, **because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.** <sup>6</sup>For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup>**But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.** <sup>8</sup>“So then, **it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise, you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’*

### What we can learn from Joseph’s story

- God use suffering, trials or difficulties, betrayal, and disappointments to achieve His purpose; plans or goal. *James 1:2-4 <sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*
- Joseph’s trials helped him to grow in wisdom and become mature in mind and character such that he was able to forgive his brothers and become a blessing to his family and the entire nation.
- Joseph never blames God but rather he trusts God and submits to His will; therefore, God’s grace was able to see him through every stage of trial and temptation he passed through before he got to the palace. God was with Joseph; God showed him kindness and granted him favour and success in all that he did.
- Life is a war zone, and the war starts from the beginning of our existence; we came into this world by winning the war in our mother’s womb, we survive each day fighting; there are physical, emotional, and spiritual wars going on and we are all trap in them. But with God on our side, we shall overcome. *Romans 8: <sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup>And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*
- Joseph never fails God and did not even go through therapy before he could forgive his brothers and is now part of the cloud of witness for us.

May God help us to put into the right perspective whatever disappointment, failure, frustration, betrayal, or any unfortunate situation that may come our way or that we have pass through in course of our faithful service to God. May God use those trials to grow our faith, build our character and grant us wisdom to navigate life and still stand strong for God and for His church.

Let us be assured of this truth in every situation, 'the Lord is with us, the Lord is for us, He will never leave us nor forsake us and He will never allow us to be swallowed up by our challenges. He will prosper us and give us success even during trials and inconveniences.

*2 Corinthians 1:3-10 <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God... But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.*

Shalom!

**Bunmi Oluloto** - A Brother and Servant of Christ planted in Niger Republic as TLM Country Leader for Niger and Chad



## Focused, Purposeful and Bold - Part 1

### Take New Ground!

Let me start by asking a question 'How do you approach the start of a new year or a season?' Some people make resolutions, and some people set goals and create detailed plans. Some people just wing it, having been disappointed by previous failures. But if you are a person with a strong desire to live a purpose-driven life, you can't afford to wing it. You must set goals, make plans, and try again because it's not just about you. There are others who will be blessed because of what you do. You desire to be a change agent, problem-solver, healer, peacemaker, leader, creator, giver, and overall do-gooder. Your heart is to glorify God, help others, and make the world a better place.

In *Numbers 13*, God was preparing the Israelites to possess the land of Canaan. Twelve people were sent to examine the lay of the land. As they explored the land, they saw both the bountiful resources and the potential obstacles to possessing the land. When they returned from seeing the same set of facts, they arrived with two different conclusions: Caleb and Joshua concluded, "We should go up and take the land, for we can certainly do it." The other ten concluded, "We can't attack these people: they are stronger than we are." (Numbers 13:31). They observed, "we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." (Numbers 13:33) One group focused on the power of God and other group focused on their own limitations.

This devotional series is written to encourage us to keep moving forward in the power of God, living with purpose. Yes, you and I will face obstacles along the way that tempt each of us to view ourselves as a grasshopper. But do not underestimate the significance of God's power. The desire in our heart is there for a reason. The ideas you and I have are there for a reason. I encourage all of us to do what's in our hearts to do. We must keep praying for each other to be focused, purposeful, and bold in the season. When we step out with the bold faith of Caleb and Joshua, God is faithful to show up and help us.

### Questions for Reflection

- *What's holding you back from living out your purpose in bold, new ways?*
- *What purposeful ideas have you had in the past that you should reconsider?*
- *Are you more focused on your own limited ability or God's unlimited power?*





## Focused, Purposeful and Bold - Part 2

### Live on Purpose!

Question to begin with, Are you clear about your purpose? There have been many seasons when I struggled to clearly understand mine. I thought defining your purpose was a one-and-done event, and once you defined it, you never needed to question it again. I expected to fulfill my purpose in a predictable, logical sequence of events. When that didn't happen, I felt confused, frustrated, and stuck.

It's been said that defining your purpose is a matter of answering the question: why do I exist? What is my purpose? Why am I here? But that's a weighty question for a finite human being. The truth is that GOD does not reveal the entirety of His plans and purpose for us at any one point in time. God is multilayered and complex, and He designs us that way as well. To narrow purpose to our own understanding based on one point in time can be way too limiting. Instead, the best way to understand purpose is in seasons. I now have a simplified definition of purpose: It's how do I make a life better for others. While there are common threads throughout my life, my expressions of purpose have looked very different in various seasons and situations.

You may be in a season where you work full-time for an admirable cause, or you may be dreaming about something you would like to do. You may even be in a vocation that doesn't seem meaningful, or you may be in a season as a full-time parent or caregiver. As long as you are serving others by applying your God-given mix of gifts, skills, and experiences to a situation, you are living purposefully and bringing glory to God. As you simplify the concept of purpose, you will be able to see the wide variety of ways God shows Himself to others through you.

Live with purpose daily, but don't over complicate the matter. God has created you to do good works, and He will continue to reveal the next chapter to you. Identify how you can make a difference in the season you are in and leave the rest to God.

### Questions for Reflection

- *In what ways have you struggled to define your purpose?*
- *In what simple ways can you make life better in your current season?*



## Please come here & sit along with me...

*“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” Mark 9,37*

I can still remember that day and those words, ‘Please go away & sit there.’, and she pointed to a dirty corner in the room. This was my classmate, my very good friend since grade one. I was terribly hurt and confused - why? Then I learned it was because I am a person affected by leprosy.

I am Abitha, 13 years old, and I live with my parents and a younger brother in Chulipuram, Sri Lanka. I am thirteen years old and studying in grade eight. My father is a casual labourer, and we are very poor. We live in a mud house, with no electricity or running water. Every evening, after school, I go to my aunt’s house to do my homework and study, as they have electricity.

KKM has been working in this area for 25 years, bringing healing and hope to the community in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, they still come across children like Abitha, whose lives are filled with sadness due to poverty and leprosy.

Sometime ago I noticed white patches on my face. My mother and I thought it was a usual teenage skin pigmentation and was not worried, as it was not causing any trouble. Gradually, it started to spread and became visible to neighbours and friends. I was embarrassed and developed self-stigma. I started wearing a facemask to cover the patches when I was in school and in public.

One day, I was sitting beside my friends at school and removed my facemask at lunchtime. My friend suddenly shouted, “Please go away & sit there.” She pointed to a dirty corner. I was shocked and embarrassed. I looked around and noticed that even my other friends were looking at me and whispering to each other. I do not know what they discussed, but they all agreed that I should sit away from them.

I went home, I cried to my mother, asking her why this had happened. She said, not just your friends, all surrounding communities ask us to go away, because we are people affected by leprosy & low caste community. I was full of hurt and cried loudly in front of picture of Jesus: Why should I have to go away from them?

Abitha’s tearful prayer touched heart of our Lord Jesus, The very next day after this incident, a community children’s forum had been organized in Abitha’s village by Shahana, a KKM worker. “Please come here and sit along with me”, Shahana invited Abitha.

I could not believe what I heard. I had been standing on my own, away from the others, feeling sad and tearful. It was as if the voice has not come from Shahana, but from Jesus. I continued to remain standing where I was. Shahana sister repeated – “Please come here and sit along with us.” I then sat beside her, anxious about the others and at the same time excited about the forum. Later my mother told Shahana about my sad experience in school. Then Shahana sister hugged me and visited my home with her team.

I was diagnosed with leprosy and put on strict medication. The KKM team visited and explained all about leprosy very clearly to my family, they told us with proper treatment it can be cured. This gave us hope. Unfortunately, the news about my leprosy spread. The neighbours, friends and my school friends shunned us, worrying they would be infected by us. We suffered sleepless nights, living in fear of the world. I refused to go to school and isolated myself. We moved to another village, so my father could earn a living.

In all this, KKM supported us - visiting us, supplying monthly rations of nutritious food during my treatment and gave us assurance. They encouraged me to return to school and supported the costs. I could still remember Shahana's voice – ‘ Please come and sit along with me.’ In time, I completed my treatment.

Sometime later KKM visited my school and started drama and awareness activities with us. We have now organised a wonderful play about leprosy. I am acting in the play too. – It is titled “ *Please come and sit along with us.*” It has changed the attitude of my friends towards me.

Our lives have changed. I thank TLMEW and KKM staff for all their prayers and compassionate love, which made all the difference. My constant prayer to God is for my healing and recovery; and that no child should suffer from leprosy. I am working hard towards my ambition - to become a community schoolteacher, and support any children affected by leprosy or other diseases to be included and valued in school and in society.

Through the support from TLM E&W and KKM, Abitha now lives in a new home, with electricity, a toilet and a well.

*The voice of Jesus is always calling children like Abitha- Please come here and sit along with me,*

*Then Abitha's heart blooming full of joy of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

TLM Srí Lanka



## Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

*Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights above.*

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the skies.

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for at his command they were created,

<sup>6</sup> and he established them for ever and ever—  
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

<sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
stormy winds that do his bidding,

<sup>9</sup> you mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars,

<sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle,  
small creatures and flying birds,

<sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all nations,  
you princes and all rulers on earth,

<sup>12</sup> young men and women,  
old men and children.

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;

*his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.*

<sup>14</sup> And he has raised up for his people a horn,  
the praise of all his faithful servants,  
of Israel, the people close to his heart.



## Psalm 149

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;

let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name with dancing  
and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD takes delight in his people;  
he crowns the humble with victory.

<sup>5</sup> Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor  
and sing for joy on their beds.

<sup>6</sup> May the praise of God be in their mouths  
and a double-edged sword in their hands,

<sup>7</sup> to inflict vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples,

<sup>8</sup> to bind their kings with fetters,  
their nobles with shackles of iron,

<sup>9</sup> to carry out the sentence written against them—  
this is the glory of all his faithful people.

Praise the LORD.



## Our God is Faithful

Do your thoughts wander away from the topic, from the study, or even from the sermon? Recently at a Bible Study Group the thoughts of all of us wandered away from the passage and topic for that particular study. We found ourselves discussing the fact that although we don't always keep the promises we make, God always keeps His promises. We sang part of the hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness before we returned the passage and the study for that evening.

This morning as I came to prayer, thinking of those who are surrounded by war and danger, my thoughts strayed to other situations: natural disaster and devastation, homeless families whether here in UK or elsewhere, refugees and those who find it difficult to maintain dignity and privacy, those who feel that no one loves them.... I soon turned to the Psalms to be reminded of God's love and His faithfulness. For example, *Psalm 89* reminding us "Who is like our God?"

Recently I read a lovely song – a psalm of praise for God's faithfulness. I have copied the story here: *"Several years ago, a school for missionary children in Senegal, West Africa, had to move to the north of the country because of rebel activity in the area of the school. Some of the children at the school had parents working in other countries of West Africa where there is also unrest. For them, soldiers with guns are for real and not just something seen on TV. Some will have been stopped at roadblocks by such soldiers and they will also know what it is like to be woken in the night by gunfire. God's presence and protection is a reality too. Four of the children – Samuel, Ruth, Joel and Zoe – wrote the following psalm.*

*Give praise to the King of kings, His love is eternal.*

*Give praise to our protector, He keeps us safe even though we're small.*

*He makes us feel special, His love for us continues for ever,*

*Glorify His mighty name. He's our father and our friend.*

*We want to be like Him, Love Him as He loves us,*

*His power is awesome, He deserves all the thanks we can give. "*

(this story is from the Bourofaye Bugle)

*As you start your day today, let these words remind you of our faithful God and make the words of these children your song of praise to our faithful God.*

**Christine Osman** – Scotland - formerly Treasurer of The Leprosy Mission International



## Christian Purpose: Revitalized in Resurrection

### How do I live a purpose filled joyful life?

Joy filled life is anchored in our personal relationship with Jesus and consequently what we do in our relationship with people. True joy in life is found in being immersed in 5 aspects of serving God.

#### Part 1 - Intimacy with God

I am created by God for His fellowship, to be in His presence, for His pleasure. God is pleased when I long for His fellowship and walk in step with Him (Genesis 3: 8-9, Exodus 25:8). God's purpose for a Christian calls for spiritual growth through a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ. God comes first in all my relationships because of His unconditional love, mercy and grace which saved my soul. I respond to God's love by my voluntary submission; not by compulsion, not by coercion, not by material allurements. It is a one-to-one relationship, very personal and very precious to me.

God is jealous of His people, so am I for Him (Deuteronomy 5:7). No human relationship shall hinder my walk with my Lord, my God. Closer am I to God, farther am I from worldly bondages, trappings, carnal pleasures. God is worthy of my worship for He has created me and also redeemed me by the blood of Jesus Christ, whilst I was yet a sinner. The Bible tells us that we can enter into the very presence and have a personal relationship with God through faith in the person of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus said, "It is finished", I had regained my access to the mercy seat of God. Jesus' all sufficient, substitutionary and sacrificial offering of Himself on the cross for my sins had opened that door. All my sins were washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ. My relationship with God was restored at an exceedingly high price, the blood of Jesus Christ.

With all my heart, mind and soul I love Him for His faithfulness, love and mercy (*Matthew 22:37*). In gratitude for His saving grace, I give Him my heart and soul. I respond to His love with a grateful heart. I have a compelling love for God that flows out of a soul that has experienced salvation. It is a love relationship; I love Him because He first loved me. It is an ever growing intimate personal relationship. It is a relationship where I know that I will be convicted of my sins when I repent and not be condemned. I have the assurance that I will be forgiven when I repent and return to God.

I surrender myself to Him totally. This body, mind and soul belong to God. My spirit and existence are subsumed in Almighty God (Galatians 2:20). The Holy Spirit indwelling in me encourages and enables my intimate relationship with God. He draws me close to Himself because I have surrendered my soul to His grace and mercy. It is a relationship between my human spirit and the Spirit of God. This relationship is at the very foundation of my physical and spiritual life.

Personal intimacy is my umbilical cord with God. Through it flows His spiritual sustenance into me (John 15:5). He is the fountainhead from which His living waters of grace flow to me and through me to others. Without such a relationship, I will have no meaningful purpose in this life. I can fulfil His command of love



only when I am intimately related to God, He knowing me and I knowing Him. It is a mutual bond, a personal love relationship between two spirits – my spirit and God’s Spirit.

Because of God’s mercy, my relationship with Him is one of a friend and not a servant. I reverentially fear the Almighty God. The love, wisdom, promises, fellowship, revelation of His Will through the personal relationship provide the sustenance to serve Him joyfully in this world. Satan has no dominion over my spirit as long as I am in an intimate relationship with God. I commit my life into God’s loving arms. He is my sole soul keeper. All fear is dispelled. I am at rest in a turbulent world!

*The source of my joy is my intimacy with my loving and merciful God.*

In gratitude for His grace

**Dr PLN Raju** - Former Director (Resource Mobilization) The Leprosy Mission Trust India New Delhi



## Shaming or not shaming...

*“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.” 2 Tim 1,8*

Returning last week from the Fundraising Conference and Safeguarding Workshop of The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship the great delay of the BA flight gifted me besides fatigue with a very memorable and impressionable experience. Landing in Budapest at 2.30 am!! instead of 00.15 am all the passengers had trouble to remain awake. Calling a taxi, waiting in the lounge I noticed a large black group of similar looking Jewish men. A group of more than 35 (I counted until that). Old and young, all in their orthodox dress of black kaftans, black shoes, some of them stockings and no trousers, black hats, sideburns. The eldest ones with long beards, the youngest ones just around 12-13 without. They came on the same plane as me, from London. But what really drew attention on them of the many passengers was that they at a moment formed a fellowship and started praying. There, in the lounge of Budapest Airport, with their characteristic gestures, bowing, moving, etc. they prayed. Older men and young boys... (Just imagine our Western teenagers praying in the lounge at 2 30 am...) It took maybe 10 minutes. Some passengers with serious expression, others smiling, I felt a great respect and gratitude.

Soon I was reminded of another similar, for me radiant, situation from a few years ago. In Golders Green, the Jewish district of London... I visited the Jewish cemetery there. Waiting for the bus in the bus station when it rolled in, but we could not immediately get on. The driver closed the doors, took off his yellow visibility vest, laid it down the floor and started praying. He was a young Muslim. In the middle of the Jewish area of London he completed the actual prayer for that hour. There, on the floor, on his visibility vest as prayer carpet... A group of us passengers standing and waiting – among them Jews, foreigners, blacks and whites, no problem – he simply obeyed God. After a while he, with a large smile, put on the vest, opened the doors, and we were welcome to get on.

*“Do not be ashamed...”* neither the group of Jews nor the Muslim driver are believers in Christ Jesus. No need to dispute in this context about redemption and questions of salvation. They obeyed faithfully, shamelessly the Lord they follow, love and serve. And they gave an example of transmitting this faithfulness from generation to generation, testifying and proclaiming Him in favourable and non-favourable situations, too. Publicly, not minding smiles, or just simple astonishment.

There on that yellow visibility vest laid down on the floor of the bus, and there in the airport lounge the Holy was really present. He was adored, witnessed to, and proclaimed. If His followers feel shame and are embarrassed, He has power to raise others. To demonstrate that it is possible! Even in our days, even in our societies, even in our decadent Western Christianity: it is possible!

He will complete His desire and promise: *“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* Philippians 2, 9-11

*To us the question is just one: are we shaming, or not shaming Him?*



## God show me the way

*“Commend your works to the lord, and your plans will be realized” Proverbs 16.3*

If I am a follower of Christ, then my path must be pointed out by God and confirmed by people, not the other way around. The Bible says, "The disposition is with man, but the decision is with the Lord." All the ways of man are pure in his eyes; but he who weighs spirits is the Eternal. Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will come true. The Lord has done everything for a purpose" (v.1-4). In all acts, I can probably do as well or even better than another, but does God call me to do so? Before following people's advice, there are three things to do.

1) Check the source of their wisdom. The Bible says, "The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and reason; he holds in store resources for the upright, a shield for those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of righteousness and guarding the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand justice, equity, righteousness, all the roads that lead to good" (Pr 2.6-9).

2) Check their motivations. John writes: "I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. Books were opened" (Rev 20:12). Will there be a "book of motivations"? Will the reasons and actions of these people pass divine scrutiny?

3) Check their goals. If these people yearn for power, prestige, or comfort, they are going against the Word of God. Because if we are blessed, it is in order to be a blessing for others!

## Dieu me montre le chemin

*« Recommande à l'éternel tes œuvres, et tes projets se réaliseront » Proverbes 16.3*

Si je suis disciple de Christ, mon chemin doit alors être indiqué par Dieu et être confirmé par les gens, et non l'inverse. La Bible dit : « Les dispositions appartiennent à l'homme, mais la décision vient de l'Éternel. Toutes les voies de l'homme sont pures à ses yeux ; mais celui qui pèse les esprits, c'est l'Éternel. Recommande à l'Éternel tes œuvres, et tes projets se réaliseront. L'Éternel a tout fait pour un but » (v.1-4). Dans tous les actes, je peux sans doute faire aussi bien voire mieux qu'un(e) autre, mais Dieu m'appelle-t-il à agir ainsi ? Avant de suivre les conseils des gens, il y a trois choses à faire.

**1)** Vérifier la source de leur sagesse. La Bible dit : « L'Éternel donne la sagesse ; de sa bouche sortent la connaissance et la raison ; il tient en réserve des ressources pour les hommes droits, un bouclier pour ceux qui marchent dans l'intégrité, en protégeant les sentiers de l'équité et en gardant la voie de ses fidèles. Alors tu comprendras la justice, l'équité, la droiture, toutes les routes qui mènent au bien » (Pr 2.6-9).

**2) Vérifier leurs motivations.** Jean écrit : « Je vis les morts, les grands et les petits, debout devant le trône. Des livres furent ouverts » (Ap 20.12). Y aura-t-il un « livre des motivations » ? Les raisons et les actions de ces personnes passeront-elles l'examen divin ?

**3) Vérifier leurs objectifs.** Si ces gens aspirent au pouvoir, au prestige ou au confort, ils vont à l'encontre de la Parole de Dieu. Car si on est béni, c'est afin d'être une bénédiction pour les autres !

**Reverend Elie FOFOLO** - Born on August 5, 1964, son of a Baptist Pastor, both parents died. I am a pastor of vocation and formation, in 2001 I had my degree in Theology at the Protestant University in Congo (U.P.C). After working as a Pastor in the local Church of Kingabwa 1 from 2004 to 2011, I had a meeting with Angelika Piefer who headed the Coordination of the Mission against Leprosy in the Democratic Republic of Congo, from where I had this passion for people affected by Leprosy and I invited Angelika to come to World Leprosy Day in our church on Sunday 29/01/2012, in Kingabwa. This work led us to discover two girls from the same family with signs of leprosy, and their brother ended up being infected, but all three were treated and in good health. This sparked this passion to work as a volunteer in raising awareness, mobilization and the relationship with the local churches of the platform "Church of Christ in Congo" (E.C.C in acronym). - In July 2019, I obtained the Master in Psychotrauma, at the University of Kinshasa, at the Faculty of Medicine. Training that allows me to better listen to and accompany people who suffer trauma and stress for biopsychosocial care. - I am married to only one woman, Madame Espérance since 16/10/1988. From this union God gave us five children including two girls and three boys. Just like Abraham and Sarah, my wife and I, are willing to give up everything and go where the need for the Mission is felt. - Elie Fofolo is currently pastor at the local church of Masina 3, the 15th Congo Baptist Community in Kinshasa



## Leaders eat last

I wonder if you agree with following statement by Simon Sinek, a leadership consultant: “We have entire sections in the bookshop called self-help; we have no sections called help others.” Is this true?

He made the remark during a talk about sacrificial leadership to a group of people at Microsoft about six years ago. It’s a great presentation, with some fascinating insights, and it is certainly worth watching, but I don’t agree with him on the matter of the missing ‘help-others’ books. If you shuffle [why are bookshops so cramped?] over to the Christian section of the bookstore, you’ll find at least some biographies of church and missionary leaders, and the theme of each book will be that the person devoted their life to helping others. Indeed, if this were not the theme of the biography, we’d suspect very strongly that the person had not been a Christian.

And the Bible, which is after all a library, contains numerous passages dealing with servant leadership. You certainly don’t need me to highlight the passages which show our Lord as the Servant-Leader. The books aren’t missing – the World simply looks for them in the wrong place. [As an aside, should we think about “re-branding” our biographies, so that they reach the people who need them the most? People love “rags to riches” stories. My story and the story of every believer is just that. The stories of many missionary organisations follow the same pattern.]

I imagine that it is His example of service that played a large role, probably even the largest role, in bringing you to where you are in your life of service today. [By the way, we sometimes talk about people who work for missionary organisations as being in “full-time” service. The fact is, at that moment when you jumped from the deck of the Titanic into the lifeboat, you become a full-time servant. Your source of income and your organisational identity have no bearing on this status. We may have arrived on different ships, but we’re all in the same boat now].

In what ways has the example of Jesus shaped your view of how you should behave as a leader? How has His standard influenced what you expect from and of the people who lead you? How has His example affected your behaviour as a follower? Now, put those three pictures side by side – do they mesh like the gears on a Silver Shadow, or do they grate like chalk on a 1950s blackboard?

Imagine that the local TEDx committee phones you this morning to ask you to speak to them about leadership. You have eighteen minutes. Spend the next few moments jotting down some ideas about what you would include in your speech. If there is someone else with you, why not compare notes?

Here’s a verse to get you started: *“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* (Matthew 20:25-28)

*The floor is yours.*

**Peter Laubscher** - Country Leader, Southern Africa. Peter and Elizabeth Laubscher have worked with the Leprosy Mission since 1981. They are blessed with three children. Peter cruises the waters of False Bay when he’s not trying to polish scratches out of telescope mirrors.



## Psalm 150

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his acts of power;  
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,  
praise him with the harp and lyre,

<sup>4</sup> praise him with timbrel and dancing,  
praise him with the strings and pipe,

<sup>5</sup> praise him with the clash of cymbals,  
praise him with resounding cymbals.

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.  
Praise the LORD.



## **Purpose and Theme**

**1** *The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:*

<sup>2</sup> *for gaining wisdom and instruction;  
for understanding words of insight;*

<sup>3</sup> *for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,  
doing what is right and just and fair;*

<sup>4</sup> *for giving prudence to those who are simple,  
knowledge and discretion to the young—*

<sup>5</sup> *let the wise listen and add to their learning,  
and let the discerning get guidance—*

<sup>6</sup> *for understanding proverbs and parables,  
the sayings and riddles of the wise.*

<sup>7</sup> *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

### **Prologue: Exhortations to Embrace Wisdom**

#### **Warning Against the Invitation of Sinful Men**

<sup>8</sup> *Listen, my son, to your father's instruction  
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.*

<sup>9</sup> *They are a garland to grace your head  
and a chain to adorn your neck.*

<sup>10</sup> *My son, if sinful men entice you,  
do not give in to them.*

<sup>11</sup> *If they say, "Come along with us;  
let's lie in wait for innocent blood,  
let's ambush some harmless soul;*

<sup>12</sup> *let's swallow them alive, like the grave,  
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;*

<sup>13</sup> *we will get all sorts of valuable things  
and fill our houses with plunder;*

<sup>14</sup> *cast lots with us;  
we will all share the loot"—*

<sup>15</sup> *my son, do not go along with them,  
do not set foot on their paths;*

<sup>16</sup> *for their feet rush into evil,  
they are swift to shed blood.*

<sup>17</sup> *How useless to spread a net  
where every bird can see it!*

<sup>18</sup> *These men lie in wait for their own blood;  
they ambush only themselves!*

<sup>19</sup> *Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain;  
it takes away the life of those who get it.*

### **Wisdom's Rebuke**

<sup>20</sup> *Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,  
she raises her voice in the public square;  
<sup>21</sup> on top of the wall she cries out,  
at the city gate she makes her speech:  
<sup>22</sup> "How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?  
How long will mockers delight in mockery  
and fools hate knowledge?  
<sup>23</sup> Repent at my rebuke!  
Then I will pour out my thoughts to you,  
I will make known to you my teachings.  
<sup>24</sup> But since you refuse to listen when I call  
and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,  
<sup>25</sup> since you disregard all my advice  
and do not accept my rebuke,  
<sup>26</sup> I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;  
I will mock when calamity overtakes you—  
<sup>27</sup> when calamity overtakes you like a storm,  
when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,  
when distress and trouble overwhelm you.  
<sup>28</sup> "Then they will call to me but I will not answer;  
they will look for me but will not find me,  
<sup>29</sup> since they hated knowledge  
and did not choose to fear the LORD.  
<sup>30</sup> Since they would not accept my advice  
and spurned my rebuke,  
<sup>31</sup> they will eat the fruit of their ways  
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.  
<sup>32</sup> For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,  
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;  
<sup>33</sup> but whoever listens to me will live in safety  
and be at ease, without fear of harm."*





## Prayer - Part 1

*Scripture quotes are from the English Standard Version, ESV*

For some time now I've been feeling that Holy Spirit is stirring in my heart about the subject of prayer and praying. Often prayer and fasting go together. With this in mind can I lead you through some basics on prayer. Revision often refocuses us, reminds us and revives us into action. This is not a definitive teaching on prayer!

*Genesis 4:26 "To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord."*

That was a long time ago!

### Jesus and instruction for us.

*Luke 11:2 "And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come."*

*Matthew 6:7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words."*

*Matthew 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

Remember that our private practice will become our public performance.

### Paul

*Ephesians 3:14-15 New Living Translation "When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth."*

### What is prayer?

Prayer can be defined as: (Prayer is one of the most difficult practices to define.)

- "The nerve that moves the muscle of Omnipotence." Charles Spurgeon
- "The opening of a channel from my emptiness and needs to God's fullness."

### Key purpose:

*Matthew 6:9-10 "Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

- It's a call that includes Almighty God in any given situation.
- It's a call to the creator and sustainer of everything to fulfil His plans on earth.
- It's a call that demonstrates our need for divine intervention.
  - "Not getting my will done in Heaven, but getting God's will done on earth." Selwyn Hughes

### 1. Who do we pray to?

## 1.1 To - God our Heavenly Father

1.1.1 Jesus' example when He prayed:

*John 17:1 "When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,"*

1.1.2 When we pray:

*Matthew 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your room and **shut the door** and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

*John 16:23 "In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you."*

## 1.2. Through - Jesus Christ The Son

*John 14:13 "Whatever you **ask in my name**, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."*

*Hebrews 7:25 "Consequently, He (Jesus) is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

## 1.3. How do we pray? - In and by the Holy Spirit.

*Ephesians 6:18 "...**praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"*

*Romans 8:26-27 ESV Likewise **the Spirit helps us in our weakness**. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes** for the saints according to the will of God."*

## 1.4 Who do we pray for?

*1 Timothy 2:1-3 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour...*

Family, friends, colleagues, the city where you live, local & national, church, mission outreach's...

*In other words: Who ever and whatever situation that needs prayer!*

**Dan Izzett** - Zimbabwe. Retired pastor. I was diagnosed with lepromatous leprosy in 1972. Served on TLMI board for eight years and on the Zimbabwe board for 15 years. I now serve on the ALM board and do advocacy for ALM and TLM. We have relocated to the UK to live with our children.



## Prayer - Part 2

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For some time now I've been feeling that Holy Spirit is stirring in my heart about the subject of prayer and praying. Often prayer and fasting go together. With this in mind can I lead you through some basics on prayer.

- Revision often **refocuses** us, **reminds** us and **revives** us into action. This is not a definitive teaching on prayer!

*Genesis 4:26 "To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord."*

That was a long time ago!

### 2. What is prayer?

It's been said that it's an alibi for laziness or even indecisiveness or even a weak alternative to action or even only for old sick people. But...

**✂ " ...it's God's weapon against which the devil has no defence!"**

2.1 **Conversation** with God a two-way conversation.

2.2 **Communication** with God in awe and wonder.

2.3 **Co-operation** with God in surrender to his will and direction.

2.4 **Communion** with God. That means stopping and listening for his response.

2.5 **Creative prayer** leads to action. Faith without works is dead! Add legs or action to what you've been praying about.

2.6 **Transforming**

It re-charges, revitalises life and pruning off of:

- wrong attitudes
- harboured grudges
- foolish thoughts
- bad habits/dependence

2.7 **Creates** an atmosphere, attitude of life & living.

This is attributed to the Archbishop of Canterbury:

*"Prayer is like sun (Son) bathing. it's being in the place where the light can get at you. All He asks is that you stay there with Him for a bit."*

### 3. Why do we pray?

3.1 For **power**

For example if a light bulb is not connected to a source of electricity it will not work. Similarly if we're not connected to Our Heavenly Father we can't expect His will to be accomplished on earth through us.

3.2 To **know** God better

In order to understand His plans and purposes for all situations.

### 3.3 **Function** better

*Acts 1:8*

*“But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”*

### 3.4 To find the **will** of God

If we don't spend time with God it will be difficult to know and understand the whole point and purpose of prayer and why His will should be done on earth.

### 3.5 Because **Jesus prayed**

*Mark 14:37-38*

*“And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? **Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray** that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

### 3.6 Because there's **no other** effective substitute to accomplish God's will on the earth.

Prayer should always precede practice because there is no other more effective method to accomplishing heavens plans for us. Not even visiting, teaching, preaching is really effective until it's covered in prayer. Before and after action!

### 3.7 Because we need to **acknowledge our dependence on God** for everything.

*Psalm 145:18*

*“The Lord is near to all who **call on him**, to all who call on him in truth.”*

*Psalm 50:15*

*“and **call upon me in the day of trouble**; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.*

### 3.8 **Opens Heaven's doors** for us to go in and His blessings to come out!

*Jeremiah 29:12*

*“Then you will **call upon me and come and pray to me**, and I will hear you.”*

*Take some time and reflect on the above and make plans or even changes to your prayer life.*

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## Prayer Part - 3

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- Revision often **refocuses** us, **reminds** us and **revives** us into action. This is not a definitive teaching on prayer!

*Genesis 4:26 "To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. **At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.**"*

That was a long time ago!

### 4. Where should we pray?

#### 4.1 In private.

*Matthew 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your room and **shut** the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

A gentle reminder:

*Matthew 6:7 "And when you pray, **do not heap up empty phrases** as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words."*

Even if the prayers we prayed were good and answered it does not mean that they pertain to today!

When you pray be careful not to get into an **evangelical treadmill**.

- Repetitive prayers that are not heart felt or that don't emanate from your spirit because prayer should be a spirit inspired activity inspired by the Holy Spirit.

*Mark 1:35 "And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, **he departed** and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed."*

#### 4.2 With **others**. (Acts 2.- one prayer meeting after another!)

*Acts 2:1 "When the day of Pentecost arrived, **they were all together** in one place."*

*Luke 1:10 "And the **whole multitude of the people were praying** outside at the hour of incense."*

*Acts 12:12 "When he realised this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, **where many were gathered together and were praying.**"*

#### 4.3. On the streets, at the base before, during and after patrols.

## 5. When should we pray?

### 5.1 Early morning

*Psalm 88:13 "But I, O Lord, cry to you; **in the morning** my prayer comes before you."*

*Mark 1:35 "And rising **very early in the morning, while it was still dark**, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed."*

### 5.2 During the night

*Psalm 92:1-2 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and **your faithfulness by night,**"*

*Psalm 63:5-6 "My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you **in the watches of the night;**"*

When you can't sleep, don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd! One of the very best sleeping aids you can get.

- Prayer produces peace!
- It downloads the day's troubles and concerns and reminds of the goodness of Our Heavenly Father to us.

### 5.3 At all times.

*Luke 18:1 "And he (Jesus) told them a parable to the effect that **they ought always to pray and not lose heart.**"*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 "...**pray without ceasing,**"*

*Ephesians 6:18 "...**praying at all times** in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"*

**PUSH** - Pray Until Something Happens!

### 5.4 Especially when we don't feel like it!

Joyce Huggett says this: "Can't pray? Pray as you can!"

Prayer should activate our faith!

*Hebrews 11:1-2 "Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation.**"*

*Mark 11:22 "And Jesus answered them, "**Have faith in God.**"*

*There are times when we just have to pray through a subject and trust in faith that Our Heavenly Father hears us.*

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## Prayer – Part 4

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For some time now I've been feeling that Holy Spirit is stirring in my heart about the subject of prayer and praying. Often prayer and fasting go together. With this in mind can I lead you through **some basics on prayer**. Revision often refocuses us, reminds us and revives us into action. This is not a definitive teaching on prayer!

*Genesis 4:26 "To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. **At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.**"*

That was a long time ago!

### 6. How should we pray?

6.1 This is a pattern we can use in prayer found in Matthew 6 and Luke 11. Generally called the Lord's Prayer.

*Matthew 6:9 NKJV "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."*

I don't know if Jesus just wanted us to pray what He said, but He said pray "**In this manner**". Should the Lord's Prayer be a guide to what and how we should pray, and not as it is often used as a mental repetitive exercise?

6.2 Another suggested framework to use when we pray.

Joyce Huggett: "There are as many ways of praying as there are people to pray!"

Here is an acronym to use: A.C.T.S.

A - Adoration - of Who God is.

C - Confession - no blockage in communication.

T - Thanksgiving - for what God has done, is doing, will do.

S - Supplication - intercession - praying for others.

Praying involves:

- **Sacrifice**, physical, spiritual, even financial and intellect.
- **Authority** in the Name of Jesus
- Praying in **faith** and then letting go and trusting that our Heavenly Father will answer our prayers.
- Praying that **wisdom** for decisions will be given to us and if needs be forgiveness, restoration and peace will follow our praying.

Jesus gave us a wonderful example in John 17

- Firstly He prayed for **Himself**, then secondly for **His disciples** and then into the **future for us**.

*John 17:20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,"*

The prayers He prayed were for the warfare He was going to face and what the disciples and us would face.

- Jesus prayed for our victory over the temptations the world offers us and against the devils sneaky ways of trapping us.

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## Prayer – Part 5

Scripture quotes are from the English Standard Version, ESV

### 7. What should our response be?

#### 7.1 Just do it!!

Jill Briscoe: "The best way to begin, is to begin!"

The best way to begin is:

- Follow the **promptings** of your heart.

*John 2:5 "His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you.""*

This is very sound advice that Mary gave the servants and is still applicable to us today. This is reiterated by Paul: *1 Thessalonians 5:17 "...pray without ceasing,"*

Begin at the beginning with what you've got!

7.2 Prayer is **not a ritualised mumbling of repetitive words** but a strong out pouring of your heart, a song of thanksgiving, and a dance of praise until victory is accomplished.

If your prayer has no emotion, it has no power.

- God wants to know how you feel.
- God wants to hear what's in cries or pleas from a yearning heart, your heart.

*Hebrews 5:7 "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence."*

*Psalms 3:4 "I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah"*

*Isaiah 42:13 "The Lord goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes."*

Sometimes we have to voice our prayers and emotions with stern loud authority!

Do we need to learn from Hannah?

*1 Samuel 1:12-15 "As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." But Hannah answered, "No, my Lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord."*

### 8. Concluding words.

8.1 Never be ashamed to pray.

8.2 Pray often.

8.3 Pray with authority.

8.4 Pray in faith. We have a Heavenly Father who is longing to hear from us!

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**Authors in ABC Order****Country****Textuaries in Canonical Order**

<i>Bunmi Oluloto</i>	<i>12, 13 June</i>	<i>Niger</i>		Genesis 4,26	<i>26,27,28,29 June</i>
<i>Christine Osman</i>	<i>19 June</i>	<i>Scotland</i>		Genesis 45,1-11	<i>12,13 June</i>
<i>Dan Izzett</i>	<i>26, 27, 28, 29, 30 June</i>	<i>Zimbabwe/UK</i>		Numbers 13	<i>14 June</i>
<i>David Beazley</i>	<i>7 June</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalms 1	<i>25 June</i>
<i>David king of Israel</i>	<i>3, 4 June</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Psalms 89	<i>19 June</i>
<i>Dorothy Owen</i>	<i>14, 15 June</i>	<i>Papua New-Guinea</i>		Psalms 144	<i>3 June</i>
<i>+ Eddie Askew</i>	<i>2 June</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalms 145	<i>4 June</i>
<i>Edgar Albert Guest</i>	<i>1 June</i>	<i>UK/USA</i>		Psalms 146	<i>10 June</i>
<i>Élie Fofolo</i>	<i>22 June</i>	<i>DR Congo</i>		Psalms 147	<i>11 June</i>
<i>Johan Velema Dr</i>	<i>6 June</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>		Psalms 148	<i>17 June</i>
<i>John Twynam-Perkins</i>	<i>9 June</i>	<i>Scotland</i>		Psalms 149	<i>18 June</i>
<i>Marta Risko</i>	<i>21 June</i>	<i>Hungary</i>		Psalms 150	<i>24 June</i>
<i>Peter Laubscher</i>	<i>23 June</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		Proverbs 16,3	<i>22 June</i>
<i>Raju PLN Dr</i>	<i>20 June</i>	<i>India</i>		Matthew 2,1-2	<i>9 June</i>
<i>Salomon, king of Israel</i>	<i>25 June</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Matthew 20,25-28	<i>23 June</i>
<i>Sebastiao Soares</i>	<i>8 June</i>	<i>Timor Leste</i>		Matthew 22,37	<i>20 June</i>
<i>Terver Anyor</i>	<i>5 June</i>	<i>Nigeria</i>		Mark 9,37	<i>16 June</i>
				Luke 13,23-24	<i>1 June</i>
				John 2,5	<i>30 June</i>
				Ephesians 6,1-3	<i>8 June</i>
				Ephesians 6,16	<i>7 June</i>
				Colossians 1,15-17	<i>6 June</i>
				Colossians 3,17	<i>5 June</i>
				2 Timothy 1,8	<i>21 June</i>
				1 Peter 3,4	<i>2 June</i>