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PROPHETIC VOICE



*Merry
Christmas*



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The Savior is born!!*

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 100 INR • Rs. 10 Per Copy

• DECEMBER 2011

• ISSUE # 8

VOLUME VI

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From editor's desk



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Dearly beloved of God,

It is a great joy and privilege to come into your house via this magazine in these special and important days. We come with a big smile and heartfelt, warm Christmas greetings. It seems like yesterday that we celebrated the New Year 2011, and it is almost gone like a fleeting cloud. Our hearts tremble to see how time flees away.

Time is the most precious gift that we have ever received from our Creator. Many times, we just lavishly waste it as though it would never run out. No matter what we do, we can never get time back.

NOW is the time to search our hearts and repent and decide to use each and every second as a very special, precious gift from God. Only He can restore the wasted days and years. Satan has to give back sevenfold whatever he has stolen from us, the years that the cankerworm and caterpillar have wasted (Joel 2:25).

NOW is the time to rejoice and thank God for the victories He has wrought for us in this year. Your adversary did everything he could to kill, destroy and steal from you throughout the year. God who is always for you stood by your side and fought all your battles. You share in His victory at the verge of this coming New Year.

The next year will be a most thrilling year for you with many new beginnings God has planned for you. By God's clear guidance, we have planned our first ever School of the Holy Spirit exclusively for ladies! Don't miss your opportunity at any cost! Don't allow the devil to stop you. The One Who created the desire in you will also fulfill it by bringing you to this school.

In February, we will celebrate both of our birthdays with a glorious, mighty School for Apostles and Prophets. If you are called in to one of these special ministries, make your plans and reservations now to attend this life-changing seminar.

Our yearly Fasting Prayer will be held at Pastor Caleb Jebakumar's church near Nagercoil because of urgent repair works in Yesu Pannai, Theni. Enter the New Year in fasting and prayer with anointed servants of God and thousands of saints!

We are eagerly waiting to see you all and greet you for a happy and fruitful New Year 2012.

Loving Christmas greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Ezekiah Francis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Classes on Christmas

- Dr. Ezekiah Francis

I bring greetings to you in this special Christmas season. May your hearts and homes be filled with abundant joy. There is no news which is good news for everyone. Christmas alone is the good news for all mankind. The greatest good news is that the great and awesome God came in human form to unite Himself with mankind. Why was the glorious God, who walked in the golden streets of heaven, born in a poor manger? Is it to make you sad? Is it to let you live in series of struggles? Is it to make you confused with baffling questions and repeated failures? Is it to bear all the arrows of the enemy? No! Not at all.

The Lord of Lords came to this world so that you may inherit all the heavenly blessings. He came to multiply your blessings, not to machinate them. The foolish Herod trembled without realizing this fact. He imagined the king of Jews was born to capture his throne. But the amazing truth is Jesus was born to make you His very throne.

Jesus Himself became your Christmas gift. New clothes, delicious food, mouth watering Christmas cake are not your real gifts. Right from Genesis to Malachi, the blessings of God came as different gift packages. In Christ, all the heavenly blessings reached us as a single, magnificent and marvelous gift parcel. This is why we celebrate Christmas. Jesus, in you, is an embodiment of all the gifts of God.

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things (Rom. 8:32)?

Christmas life is an abundant life, lacking nothing. It's a life where your depression disappears and your chaos changes.

Good news for one need not be good news for another. But this is the good news for all. It's

good news for the old couple Zechariah and Elizabeth and also for the young girl, Mary. It's good news for Saint Simon and also for the simple Shepherds. It's good news for the wise men and also for the 84 year old Anna.

The Christmas news: 1. News about heaven kissing the earth. 2. Closed doors and windows of heaven are wide open and a new relationship is born.

When war is declared between two nations, all means of transportation will be closed. Once the war ceases, the closed doors will be opened again. Many doors between heaven and earth were closed as a result of Adam's fall. At times, they were slightly opened. But only on Christmas day, the doors were swung open. This is why the saints exclaimed "Oh! Is it heaven or earth? Awesome God became ordinary man"!

The heavenly hosts are descending in large numbers. Transportation between heaven and earth has begun. Heavenly goods are being exported to the earth and earthly goods are in turn exported to heaven. There is no wall of separation any more. The border is no longer a barrier. His abundance of blessings, authority to rule, anointing, recognition, everything has become yours now.

Now, it is up to you to receive these Christmas blessings. Let us delve on five most important Christmas lessons today.

1. Obeying
2. Seeking
3. Giving
4. Praising
5. Greeting

Obeying

Just imagine how Virgin Mary would have felt when she heard that she was going to be

pregnant. She had no previous track record of such an incident in the scriptures. She had heard how God miraculously opened the barren wombs of Sarah and Elizabeth. Never in human history had a virgin ever conceived. She very well knew the shame and reproach she had to bear in order to obey God's command. She also knew that she would be stoned to death or killed according to the book of law. But she risked her life to obey God. She dared to die for the Savior's birth. She decided to obey the Lord even if she was stoned to death. She understood obeying God was the way for her exaltation. This is not an ordinary but supernatural obedience!

Just think! Many hesitate to obey God due to fear of men. Many set aside God's word for their own reputation and honor. Because of this, they forego a lot of blessings. This Christmas season, God beckons you to a blessed life. Determine and dare to die in order to obey God.

My friends and relatives made fun of me thinking I was crazy, I was good for nothing. How pathetic would my state be today, if I had obliged them! How many would have lost their blessings! I stood firm in my faith that Christ in me is greater than my parents, friends and relatives. The greatest one who is in me, made me great too. The Most High God has called me for the most high work. Heaven observed my audacity as I dared to live and die for Jesus' sake. That is why His blessings are flowing in and through me.

What happened to Mary who boldly stood for Christ? Her name and fame was not spoiled. Famous men came in search of her and greeted her. They offered gold, myrrh and frankincense. Not only Mary, Joseph also dared to make a big sacrifice.

Put yourself in Joseph's shoes. How bad he would have felt when he knew that Mary, who was engaged to him, was pregnant. His parents and friends would have been shocked and agitated. Many would have sympathized with him, saying, "You are a righteous man, why should you face such a reproach? The girl has lost her virginity" and so on.

Righteous Joseph had to choose between two options only. One was to publicly expose her sin and have her stoned to death. The other was to divorce her quietly, without public disgrace. Yes!

The ways of man are limited. But God knows millions of options. Dearly beloved, when God expects something from you, do not lean on your natural understanding. Do not trust the choices that you know. If you know two options, he knows 2000 options. An angel of God appeared in his dream. He revealed the heavenly plan to Joseph, which was entirely different from the two options he had in mind.

Joseph immediately took Mary as his wife. He decided to obey the wonder working God even if the whole world accused him. Had Joseph merely paid heed to his Bible knowledge and his own thoughts, he would have lost the privilege of being the supposed father of the world's Savior.

Dearly beloved, God will restore a million fold all that you have lost, just for obeying Christ. If you were despised for His sake, He will exalt you before everyone. If you accept anyone in obedience to God, they will be a blessing to you. Do not look at your problems and circumstances with natural eyes. Do not decide anything based on your intelligence. The Word of God alone is the truth.

Obey His Word alone. Christmas life is a life totally dedicated for the Word of God. Kick aside all your traditions and stand boldly for Christ. Decide to follow him alone. This obedience will change every single day of your life into days of celebration.

Seeking

Another important lesson Christmas teaches us is to seek Him. Once they heard about his birth, many came in search of the baby Jesus. Shepherds sought him. Simeon longed to see him. Wise men journeyed from the east, but the religious leaders did not seek him. They lost the unique and incomparable blessings of Christmas. Jerusalem was five km away from Bethlehem. The temple was there. Priests, worship, everyday sacrifice still existed. But they neither took any effort to seek Christ nor desired to see Him. The wise men traveled thousands of miles seeking Christ. They did not come to get something from Him. Instead they worshipped Him and offered Him the best gifts they ever had.

Christmas life is a life of seeking Christ. Those who seek Him with all their heart will see

Him. Their hearts will prosper. They shall lack nothing. Make up your mind to seek Him. When you seek Him alone, all His blessings will be added unto you.

All those who are used by God today, have the habit of seeking God. It thrills me when I think of how I sought the Lord in my youth days. I spent many nights on mountain tops. The very thought thrills me now. I repeatedly sang, "Lord! You are enough" with tears. I sought him and found him. That is why God enables many to come in search of me even today.

Dearly beloved, let seeking God be the main goal of your life. Don't forsake His wonderful blessings while searching for worldly things. Greedy people who hunt for money finally lose everything. Those who long for man's love are disappointed and break down. If you seek Him, riches, wealth and honor will seek after you.

When you decide to seek Him, entire heaven will back you up. Heavenly angelic hosts will lead you to Christ just as they lead the Shepherds. The Star of wonder will lead you just as it led the wise men. The same Holy Spirit who brought Simeon to Christ at the right time will guide you too. It is enough if you long to seek Him. When you desire to seek the Lord, the Holy Spirit, heavenly angels, nature and your own circumstances will lead you to Him. Learn this special lesson of Christmas.

Giving

We saw how the wise men traveled so long only to give. Yes! Multitudes followed Him after he started His miracle ministry. They expected something from Him. They came seeking for their healing, miracles, food, blessings, fame, recognition and the like. All these things are necessary. But, we should come to Him to give to Him. *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

I believe those who brought precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense to baby Jesus, would have become very rich. When you give to God, you will lack nothing. I have experienced that the best way to receive is to give. I can boldly say that the one who gives is wise. He knows the tactics of catching a big fish by hooking a small worm. Give and you will see the reward.

If you give your tithes regularly, all your needs shall be met. You will live a satisfied life without debt. If you add your offerings to your tithe, you will witness plenty in your life. In short, tithe meets all your needs, whereas your offerings added to the tithe will make you rich. Woe unto the one who does not pay his tithe. He will continue to live in lack, though millions pray for him.

Try giving to God whatever you have. Learn to give generously to the poor. Let it pinch you when you give others. The heavenly Father will reward you in a manifold way. The joy of Christmas is attained by giving to others. Give to the poor. Give to the orphans and widows. Buy new clothes for the poor and needy. Honor the servants of God. Send gifts to each other. Christian life is a life of generous giving. What a blessed life!

Praising

Christmas time was filled with praise. Mary recognized the greatness of the One who was in her. That is why she sang,

"He has seen the humble state of His servant. Now all generations will call me blessed" (Lk. 1:46)

Yes beloved, Christmas is to be mindful of the lowly. You are no longer an orphan, nor a slave. You are more blessed among all generations. Do you know how you will respond if you have this revelation? You will join Mary and sing,

"My soul glorifies the Lord, my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior"

The Shepherds worshipped Him. Wise men worshipped Him. Simeon and Anna worshipped Him. Angels sang praises. Elizabeth and Zachariah sang praises. No one cried. They came to worship Him. In this Christmas season, let the waves of praise flow abundantly from you.

Almighty God is born in me to make me a blessed one. The very knowledge that you lack nothing, will fan the flame of praise within you. You will sing on and on.

If you receive the revelation of this Christmas message, many of your prayers will be turned into praises. Your worries will be changed to worship. Your complaints will become celebrations. Wiles of the enemy will be your worship points. Come on! Start praising God.

Greetings

One of the most important lessons that we learn from Christmas is greeting each other. The Biblical principles such as, “honor one another, regard others higher than you” were practically fulfilled on Christmas Day. Mary obeyed God. She surrendered herself completely to God’s will. Do you know what thought first flashed across her mind? She wanted to greet Elizabeth. She hurried to greet her. Christmas teaches us to hurry to greet others. Have you seen anyone hurrying to encourage others? Mary is a good example for us.

Elizabeth whole heartedly greeted Mary who came to greet her. Send Christmas greetings to as many as possible. Greet your family. Encourage everyone enthusiastically. Bestow the blessing promises of God upon your beloved ones.

Pay attention to the order of greetings during Christmas. The angel Gabriel greeted Mary. Mary, meditated upon this greetings and greeted Elizabeth. Elizabeth was excited on hearing Mary’s greetings and in turn greeted her. Yes! Greetings should unite the hearts like a never ending chain.

Start greeting everyone from now on. Say aloud, “Beloved, I wish that you prosper in all

things just as your soul prospers.” (III Jn 2) Tell others about the blessings of the Bible.

Now look to Jesus and say, “Lord! I lack nothing because you are in me. I will no longer be anxious about me, my family or my future. I live for others alone. I will begin to greet and bless others whole heartedly.”

I, the servant of the Most High God extend my special Christmas greetings to you. May the Lord exalt you from the lowly and humble state! May your territories expand! Let your life of slavery change into a reigning life. May the Lord change your captivity! May God’s glorious light shine in the dark areas of your life! May nations come to the light that is in you! May the Lord exalt your head!

May the Lord exalt you and honor you more than what you think or imagine! May the Lord transform you into an obedient disciple, ardent searcher, generous giver, persistent praising and gracious greeting person.

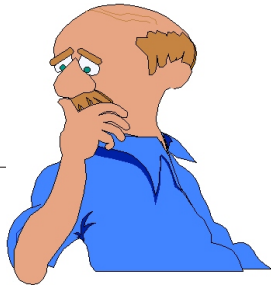
My heartfelt Christmas and New Year wishes.



THE WEIGHT OF A PRAYER

Many years ago, just after World War I, it is said that a woman walked into a grocery store. She asked the grocer for food to make a Christmas dinner for her children. He asked her how much she had to spend. She answered, “My husband was killed in the war and I have nothing to offer but a prayer”. The grocer gruffly asked her to write it down and went about his business. To his surprise, the woman took out a piece of paper from her purse and said, “I did that during the night when I was watching over my sick baby.” The grocer took that chit of paper and callously placed it on the weight side of his old fashioned scales. He said, “I will give you the weight of food equal to the weight of this prayer”. To his great astonishment, when he put a loaf of bread on the other side of the scale, it did not budge. He added a brick of cheese and then a turkey, but it still didn't move. Finally, he had loaded so much food on the scale that it couldn't hold anymore. He helped the woman put the things into her basket and turned away bewildered. The woman left with tears streaming down her face, rejoicing at what God had done! The grocer turned back and looked at the scale. He discovered his scale had broken at the precise moment he placed her prayer on it! For the first time, he looked down and read what the woman had written. It read, “Please Lord, *give us this day our daily bread!*”

Beloved, trust God - *the Author and Finisher of your faith* to accomplish His will in your difficult situation. Believe in Him who *is able to do far more abundantly than what you can ask or imagine!* Believe with all your heart and prophesy the Spirit given word into your situation. His word will accomplish what it was sent to do! God bless you!



Worries of Old Age

Rev. Benita Francis

Mental decline

Another fear and frustration in old age is the loss of memory power. Old people tend to remember in vivid detail what happened fifty years ago, but struggle to remember what they did just five minutes ago. You don't need to suffer mental decline! Modern brain science has found out that there are many ways to keep your brain running to top performance until your last day on this earth. In my book "How to maximize your brain" I explore just a few of them. You can actually have much fun while you recharge your brain and expand its capacity! Play with your grandchildren. Don't just sit in a dark room, move! Get some fresh air and sunlight! Ball games can be played at any age and are powerful brain enhancers. Balancing games like dancing or standing with a partner on a soft surface and softly pushing and pulling each other not only strengthen your muscles, enhance your balance and maximize your brain, they even protect you from developing osteoporosis!

Physical decline

This is another very painful and traumatizing thing about old age. If you are not very much watchful and actively prevent any physical decline, you will one day regret. The old saying "Use it or lose it" applies very strongly here. Physical exercise profits little, not nothing (1. Ti.4:8)! So use and preserve your muscles, joints and bone strength!

Other things that destroy specifically your bone health are slander and envy, as Pr.12:4 and 14:30 teach us. They cause rottenness in the bones, and even the great David confesses, "When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long" (Ps.32:3). What a wonderful escape, however, the Lord has given us! If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1.Jn.1:9). You don't need to suffer even physical decline. Ask your wonderful Counselor, God's mighty Holy Spirit, for His prescription for your health, and He will faithfully guide you into all truth, even in this area of your life (Jn.16:13).

Loved ones

Some parents really seem to be addicted to

worries about their children, grandchildren, even about the grandchildren's pets! You need to learn how to relax and enjoy your life, no matter the circumstances. Don't make the mistake of wasting your precious life time with worries! If you do that, you idolize your children! This is a serious sin in God's eyes and will bring a curse on you and on them. It actually killed both Eli the high priest of Israel and his two beloved sons (1.Sa.2:29-30). Jacob wasted precious years of life because his soul was bound to Joseph's. All he could expect out of life was fear, calamity, sorrow and grave (Ge.42:38; 44:29; 44:31).

So please make sure you love and practice God's Word, and you will be able to watch Him taking care of your children (Hos.4:6). You will find out that He is able to do it so much better than you could ever do it!

Practice the law of release which is a powerful tool to experiencing God's miracles. Whatever you release into the Hands of *Jesus* will come back to you with a blessing of multiplication on it! Those five breads and two fishes given to *Jesus* released a mighty miracle for everybody present (Mt.14:16-22; Mk.6:38-44). Release your finances! Release your dreams and expectations! Release your loved ones! Only if you release your children into God's Hands, He can freely mold and shape them and bring them back to you transformed into His image!

Low self-esteem

Another stressor in old age is low self-esteem. People don't feel useful any more. They may feel they are a burden to their loved ones who take care of them. The often discussed "generation gap" contributes to these ill feelings by creating misunderstandings and different opinions. The young generation insists in doing things their way, and the older generation feels rejected and dishonored. Fashion adds to this drama by dictating that "young is beautiful" and makes old people feel ugly, unattractive and worthless. In many cultures, finding a job is almost impossible if you are above forty years of age. In God's eyes, however, you can go from glory to glory, from strength to strength and from victory to victory!

Don't waste your precious time sitting around and just waiting for death. Help your children! Enjoy

your grandchildren! Find new friends! Walk! Talk to friends! Make phone calls and interact with others! Take care of your spiritual, mental and emotional health! The greatest gift you can give to your children is taking good care of yourself and staying happy and healthy. This will release them to concentrate on their calling and their families and live their lives in mental peace.

Insecurity

Maybe you have noticed how ageing people seem to change even in their character. Very simple questions that would never have bothered them before suddenly seem to shatter their whole universe. You might have heard answers like, “If you don't want me, ok, I'm not going to bother you”, “Nobody listens to my anymore. I know, I have become old and am nothing but a burden to you”, or “What to do. This is my fate. I will have to accept it”. The very same person would have reacted very differently just a few years earlier.

Remember how sad you felt when your elders suddenly didn't trust your love toward them anymore. Now you may feel the younger generation doesn't really love and appreciate you, but please understand, this is just a wrong notion, it is NOT the truth. The enemy of your soul is trying to discourage you and abort the plan of God for families to live in love and harmony because that would really hurt his kingdom. Yet, praise the Lord! You are NOT ignorant of the tricks, schemes and devices of the enemy! You will therefore quickly forgive whoever hurts or disrespects you, and live in righteousness, peace and joy all the days of your life (2.Co.2:11; Ro.14:17).

Fear and worry

Actually, fear and worry are sins in your loving Father's eyes! Imagine how much it will hurt His loving heart if you don't trust His care and provision and always want to take your life into your own hands! Perfect love casts out all fear! If you struggle with fears and worries,

meditate more on His Calvary love. How clearly your God says that fear has torment (1.Jn.4:18). Don't allow any fear, worry and anxiety! Actively resist and reject any such thoughts. You have authority to rebuke them! Don't let your unbelief make your *Jesus* ask, “How long shall I be with you and bear you?” (Mk.9:19; Lk.9:41)! Make *Him* happy by fully trusting Him (Lk.10:17-21; Mt.6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; Lk.12:28)!

If you just open your eyes, you will find millions of things to thank God for, and as you offer praise and glorify Him, He will make a way where there is no way, and He will show you His salvation (Ps.50:23; 100:4-5; Isa.43:16; 1.Co.10:13)!

God's solution

God spoke through His prophet Isaiah to His people Israel about the glorious future He had in store for them. Here again, they had to lift up their eyes and look (Isa.49:18; 60:4)!

All over the Bible, you will always see God telling His people to look at the positive, at the solution, not at the problem (Nu.21:5-9; Jn.3:14; Jn.4:35; Phil.4:4,8)! After a very tragic situation where Abraham had to part with his beloved nephew Lot, God told Abraham in his old age to lift up his eyes and look around him to see all the blessings God wanted to give him. He not only had to look, he was even commanded to rise up and walk into his blessings (Ge.13:14-17).

Think about it! Abraham could have stayed at home and wallowed in his pain over the separation from Lot and Lot's selfishness and greediness. His close relationship with God, however, saved him from committing this dangerous mistake that would have cost him his joy, his health, his calling and ultimately his very life! Abraham obeyed God, lifted up his eyes, looked around and started walking into his blessings. What will YOU do???



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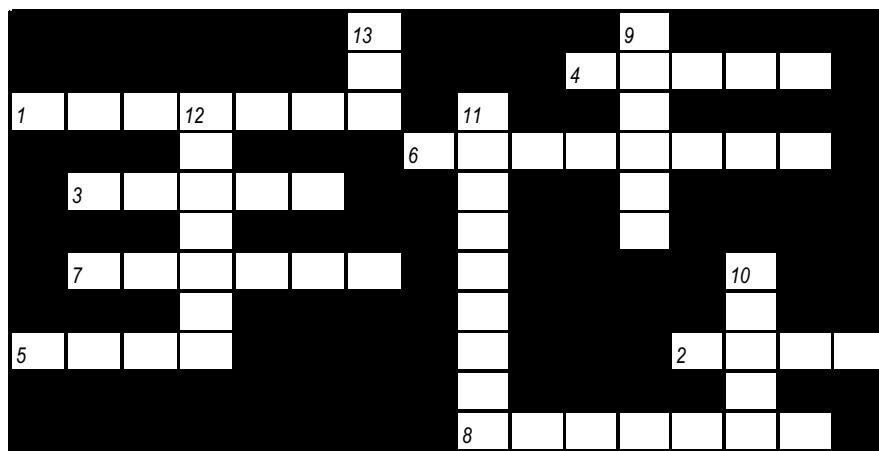
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ONE ANOTHER - Crossword puzzle

The Bible is a wonderful book of “One anothers”. The theme of relationships weaves through the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. It starts off with the unique God and man relationship in the Garden of Eden in Genesis and goes on to human relationships. Six of the Ten Commandments emphasize the need for correctness in our human relationships. The first four talk about our relationship with God. When you set right your relationship with God, then you can easily live out the man to man relationship pleasing to God. Out of the richness of our relationship with God, rivers of living water flow to those around us. Though we are many, we are all one body in Christ. We are the Bride of Christ. Every part of the Body flows in unison to become the Bride. Paul warns us in Galatians 5:15, “*If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other*”.

This Christmas season, may there be a drastic change in the grey areas of our lives in regard to the One anothers. We celebrate Christmas as a token remembrance of when God sent His Son to reconcile sinful man to the Holy God!!! May there be true reconciliation in husband/wife relationship, parent/child relationship, sibling relationship, relationships in our larger family (in laws!) and in the body of Christ! Enjoy solving this puzzle as a family. Let the children help out with reading the verses. May the “One anothers” in the Word be yours this season! (Try memorizing the verses)



CLUES

Across:

1. _____ one another. Eph.4:32 (root word)
2. _____ for one another. Jas.5:16
3. Speaking the _____ to one another. Eph. 4:15
4. Live in _____ with one another. I Ths. 5:13
5. _____ one another I Jhn.4:7
6. _____ the other better than yourselves. Phi.2:3
7. _____ to one another out of reverence for Christ. Eph. 5:21
8. Do not _____ one another. Jas. 4:11

Down:

9. _____ to one another. I Ths. 5:15
10. _____ one another in love. Gal.5:13
11. Spur one another to love & _____. Heb 10:24
12. Do not _____ against each other. Jas. 5:9
13. _____ not to one another. Col 3: 9

THE DIFFERENCE

- Bro.David

Genesis, chapter five gives us a written account of Adam's line. It is not a favorite for most people as it is pretty monotonous and repetitive! But this contains a vital truth that can make a big difference in our lives. This chapter repeatedly mentions three things that ten men did, between Adam and Noah.

They lived ... They became They had.

Typically the whole world is pursuing this. People *live* life constantly striving to *become* someone prominent and they *have* some possessions and then they die.

Another perspective is the A+B=C equation of most people's lives.

- ♦A- they live a certain number of years
- ♦B - they get married and live for some more years
- ♦C - their life is a sum total of the years lived *before marriage & after*

This is the way the world lives. We as God's people are called to live differently. Enoch stands out as one person who lived differently.

Thank God for Mrs Enoch. When she came into Enoch's life something different happened. After Enoch got married, life was not the same. There was a drastic change. The Bible says (Ge.5:21) that Enoch lived 65 years and became the father of Methuselah. It also says that *after he became the father of Methuselah, he walked with God 300 years*(Ge.5:22). God's plan is this kind of fullness after marriage. God's people are called to live this way.

Thank God Chapter five in Genesis ends with Noah. Noah seemed to have learned the secret from Enoch. That is why we see Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives saved from the flood that followed.

Many people of God think that once they get married, it is not possible to have a close walk with God. Enoch proves such people wrong. Walking with God is the real thing. Walking with God, along with your wife and children is real success in life. Joshua understood this when he said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"(Jo. 25:15) Will you?

JUMBLLED LETTERS for the little ones in the family

Unravel the jumbled letters and find out some of the different characters of the first Christmas

HOJPES

Christmas and our Christian life has Him as the centre

RYAM

DHHEERPSS

MISEENW

LAEIBGR

LASGNE



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☺ Just keep smiling, as it may be nature's way of giving you a youthful appearance, scientists say. Researchers at Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Germany found that when people looked at photos of happy faces, they guessed the person's age as younger than in photos of the same person with a neutral or angry look.

➔ India on Tuesday successfully tested a new-generation Agni missile with a strike range of 3,500 km and souped-up "kill efficiency", prompting excited defence scientists to proclaim it would add "fantastic deterrence" to the country's nuclear weapons programme.

☹ The Secret Service says a bullet hit an exterior window of the White House and was stopped by ballistic glass. An additional round of ammunition was also found on the exterior of the White House. The bullets were found on Tuesday. The discovery follows reports of gunfire near the White House on Friday. Witnesses heard shots and saw two speeding vehicles in the area. An AK-47 rifle was also recovered. The Secret Service says it has not conclusively connected Friday's incident with the bullets found on the White House grounds. U.S. Park Police have an arrest warrant for Oscar Ortega-Hernandez, who is believed to be connected to the earlier incident.

👉 All the signals in Chennai city will be fitted with automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras that will stream live videos to a control room. The footage will be analysed by software that can detect violations like stoplight jumping, overspeeding and helmetless driving. Though cameras will be streaming videos non-stop, the detection rates would be the highest when the signal is red and the vehicles are idle. The software can also identify congestions and emergency situations at junctions. And the software is pretty good at maths. "It can calculate the time you took to cross two junctions and work out the speed and book you for overspeeding," said the additional commissioner of police (traffic), Sanjay Arora.

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Tips to enjoy this season as a family

Word Game

Give each one a piece of paper and write down the word CHRISTMAS on top. Set the stop watch at 2 minutes and at the word go, each one should write as many words as possible from the word Christmas. One point for every letter in each word.

Crossword

Do the 'One another' Crossword puzzle in this magazine together.

Good seeds

There are good seeds and bad seeds that we sow in our lifetime. At the start of this month, give each member of the family a shallow dish with mud sprinkled with water. Throughout the month, try to do the One Anothers from the puzzle or anything else from the Bible and reflect the character of Christ. When you (A) show kindness to another member (B) in your family, B should take a mustard seed from mom and sow it in your dish. The point? When you sow a seed of Christ likeness in the other person's life, that person should notice it and value it and as a token of appreciation, sow a seed in your dish. Sprinkle a glass of water on the mud every day. On Christmas day you will find the seeds have sprouted into a pretty green field! Kiddies don't demand extra seeds from mommy and mom mustard seeds sprout real fast!

Family Get together

When the larger family meets together this season, enact the Christmas story. Dress the little ones as Mary, Joseph, wise men, shepherds, angels.. One person should be the narrator and read the whole story from Luke chapter two . Wherever possible, sing the old fashioned carols. Eg: verse 8 “And there were in the same country shepherds.....” Sing ' While shepherds watched their flocks by night.' Just one or two verses!!

Sharing a meal

On Christmas day, invite the less fortunate and share a meal with them. When I was 16, I vividly remember Christmas day. My mom and dad cooked delicious biryani and dad invited a few poor people from the village. We kids served them food and dad gave them the gospel and explained the reason for the season.

Giving

Encourage your kids to take a couple of their good toys and clothes and pack it up and give it to a less fortunate child who does not have any. Also encourage your kids to take some of their pocket money if not all and give it to a fulltime worker or pastor's kid as a gift. Parents if your little ones are reluctant please don't force them because it is not the act but the attitude that counts!! Don't lose heart. You have sown the seed. Maybe next year you could prepare the child from October itself about giving and the child will cheerfully give.

End of the year Thanksgiving list

As a family, sit down together and take a few sheets of blank paper. At least half a page should be allotted per person- big or small! Mom or dad should be the scribe. Start from the youngest and write down all the wonderful things that God did in each one of your lives right from January. Go month by month with each person. Praise God together. Sing songs of worship as you go along. God dwells in the praises of His people!! He will be present there and enjoy His time at your place. God loves a grateful heart. Join together and say thank you and conclude in prayer.

Enjoy this season with Christ as the Centre! Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2012!

Owned and published by V.Johnson from Plot.No.81, 4th Cross st, Senthil nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 99 and printed by Augustine David at Kalos Prints Offset Division, 9A, Jeevan nagar, Adambakkam, Chennai - 88. Ph: +91 - 44 - 22670 808. Editor. V. Ezekiah Francis

RNI NO. TNENG/2006/17827. REGD. NO. TN/TBM/94/2010-12. Posted at Patrika channel Egmore
Posted on 25th of every month. Posting date: 25.11.2011



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