

SUVISESHA DHWANI

Suvisesha Dhvani Reg. No. RN 29475/78

1 August 2009

Dangers in Assembly Leadership

Continuation from last issue

Timidity

In the beginning of 1 Samuel 10, Saul is privately anointed by Samuel to be the King of Israel. Later in that same chapter Samuel calls the people together to publicly present Saul to the nation. After Samuel works his way through the tribes and families Saul is selected, but when the time came for him to be set before the people "he could not be found" (1 Sam 10:21). How sad that after the Lord had clearly marked him out that Saul would hide him 'among the stuff'.

At first glance one might mistakenly see this as humility but in reality it was fear – timidity. In a similar way it is possible for one who the Holy Spirit has clearly marked out as an overseer (Acts 20:28) and only the Holy Spirit can do so to hide himself "Among the stuff".

Could it be that many in oversight who are failing to do the work lack conviction that the Lord has raised them up to do this important work? Such a lack of conviction will surely lead to bring fearful and ineffective. If one believes he has

been raised up for this valuable work then he should move forward with a holy boldness to act accordingly.

When the apostle Paul was called to be an apostle there was no hesitancy. He clearly identifies himself as "an apostle by the will of God". He clearly understands his calling to be the apostle to the Gentiles. Peter likewise understands himself as an elder (1 Peter 5:1). He in turn exhorts other shepherds to "feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by

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General Y M E F General Committee

If it be the will of the Lord the general Committee of the Y M E F General will be held on August 15, 2009 at 10.30am in the Kottayam Brethren Assembly Hall. All General Committee members are requested to attend it with prayer.

Sabu Mathew General Secretary, Phone: 9847707257

Y M E F (ND) Punjab Campaign Restarts

The Punjab Campaign which was suspended temporarily because of the extreme heat will begin on August 1, 2009. A group of brothers left on 27th July from Angamaly with the new vehicle. The team consists of P. V. Johny, Baby, Samji, Varghese, Munir and Sam Manohar. According to the plan the team wish to work in Roopnagar August, Navashahar September, Patiala October. Those who wish to join the team may kindly contact brother C P Poulouse, Chennattu House, Mamalasserry 686663 or Telephone 0485 227321571797. Those who wish to give financial support may draw their cheques and drafts on Y M E F ND Trust which can be cashed in SBI /UBI Angamaly Branch and Kindly send it to C J Philip, Chakalackal House, Manjummal 683501, Udyogmandal.

Kindly pray for the safe journey of the dear brethren and also continue to pray for the ministry. We take this opportunity to thank all those who do pray for this ministry. For more information **A D James, Secretary, Tel. 9446814115.**

Thomas Itty who Passed Away

Our dear brother Thomas Itty went to be with the Lord on 19.07.09. Thus the voice which rose from the Brethren Community of the central Travancore for Christ became silent for ever. The light which burnt bright and shed light had gone. At a good old age he joined the Lord whom he loved most. The pen which was used as a corrective one among the Brethren will not move or write a word anymore.

Though he was not an orator he was good writer. I had close acquaintance with him for a long period. In the late sixties (1968) he was employed in the forest department and I was employed in the central government. In those days he used to go home Kavungumprayar on all weekends. So we did not get much time to be together. Though there was lot of chance to have illegal wealth he kept his hand clean in it. I met him at his home a few months before. I was wondered at the sight of his small old house. He was living in an old building which has no touch of modernity. I asked him how he travelled every week end to such a remote village

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CAN I FORGET GOVINDAPALAYA?

When the YMEF team of South Division proceeded to Karnataka with gospel 10 years ago all the obstacles were not clearly known. But God knows the beginning and end. He does everything for good. In 2002 during the Onam holidays team was campaigning in Belgam district. It was in Kallooli village of Gagak taluk where all brothers were severely beaten up by the Hindu zealots. Except one brother everybody fell down. One healthy brother who was 55 years old was able to withstand three rounds of hittings. Finally they hit him on his head and he too fell down.

Same thing happened in Aryagunda of Kolar district. They burnt books and Bibles.

Then their plan was to burn the team members along with the vehicle. They filled fire woods and litters around us. But suddenly God worked and they couldn't burn. But 18 kilometers the terrorist followed the van. Thanks for the LORD.

But in 2009 July 23rd the team faced the cruelest act in Govindapalaya. Our brothers were hit very badly and were forced to lie down in front of the temple in the sun for hours. The religious fanatics were planning to shave off the hair of the head and pour petrol on them. But before that God sent the police there. They were taken to the police station. They were beaten very badly and their clothes were torn off. By 6 pm they came out of police station. Believers of

Methodist church helped these brothers. God's provision was very great. The lights and window screens of the vehicle were totally broken. One brother who was severely hit went back home for rest. All others were praising God and stayed back in the team. They are waiting and praying for starting the ministry once the vehicle got repaired. Now they are praying earnestly.

Dear children of God will you join us in prayer. Let us get ready to serve our Lord who saved us by giving his own life. Let us pray for all the soldiers of Christ who are in the field. Let us earnestly pray for that terrorist Ito know the love of God attain salvation.

Jacob P. Mathew

Editorial JIMMY CARTER AND WOMEN'S FREEDOM

Everybody knows about the former American President Jimmy Carter. He is the member of the society for the human rights called "The Elders". There was an article in the news paper Hindu with a heading to fight against the dealing of many religions against Women on 12/07/09. In the beginning he quoted Gal 3:28. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ".

He wrote the same idea in the article. He was a deacon and a Bible teacher in the Southern Baptist Convention in America. But he left them with great pain because they taught from the word of God that Eve was created after Adam and she was the reason for sin. Therefore the woman should be submissive towards her husband and the position like a deacon, pastor, and military chaplain should not be given to them. According to Carter all are same and he says that in the beginning women were appointed in the church in such positions, but it is not seen in the apostolic church history.

This article is written for the children of God to make them conscious on some important words of the Bible. Jimmy Carter is a world famous leader. He points out some Muslim countries were not allowing women to drive or travel freely. Bringing out such things are good. But his attitude against the Bible and its doctrine is totally wrong. Among the children of God also some people are thinking that woman should have more freedom in the church. Let me remind you some matter about this.

Even though somebody gets good world popularity and knowledge like Jimmy Carter it does not mean that they get Biblical knowledge. He agrees that he did not study theology. In that respect he should not say such blunders about doctrines. Apostle Paul very clearly comments about this matter. I Tim 2: 11- 15..."Let the woman learn in silence with all

subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety".

At the same time in his epistle he clearly says to respect the woman. The woman got their rights because of the Bible teachings. In the first century the Jews had a very bad opinion about woman. In their morning prayer there was a sentence like this "I praise God for not making me a gentile, slave or a woman". The respectful women should stay at home only. They are not supposed to go for any party or feast. But the Bible brought them up. The gospel taught them to respect woman. But what is the meaning of Gal 3:28 ? There was a special privilege to the Jews in Old Testament (Det 7:6) (14:1, 2). But in Christ there is no difference in the presence of God. We are one in Christ. But at the same time there are separate teachings for slaves, masters, husbands, and wives. Carter tried to establish a doctrine with one verse and that is his mistake. Let us rightly learn the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15) Divide the word with words only. Doctrine on single verse is like walking with one leg.

The first Women's College in Asia was started by missionaries in Luknow. The woman should be silent in church. They can speak in ladies meetings. The civilizations and modernizations cannot change the word of God. Let us live according to the word of God till He comes. May God help us to live according to the word of God..

E.J. Paily

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constraint but willingly not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind (1Peter 5:2). He encourages not hesitancy but definite action.

David the shepherd when coming upon the battle scene and beholding Goliath taunting God's people, did not exhibit timidity. As a true shepherd he moved forward knowing the battle was the Lord's.

It was Paul who exhorted Timothy to stir up his gifts and reminded him that "God hath not given us the Spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2Tim 1:7).

Now to have a definite conviction of one's call to shepherd the Lords people also requires humility. There is such a thing as holy boldness with humility. The same Paul who clearly knew his unique calling also referred to himself as the "chief of sinners", "the least of all the apostles" and "less than the least of all saints".

Certainly one danger for those in oversight is timidity – timidity that comes from a lack of a conviction that the Holy Spirit has raised them up to

shepherd the Lord's people. It may also be a lack of trust in the Lord to enable those who He calls.

Power

Amazingly the same one who was hiding "among the stuff" when he was to be introduced to the nation of Israel as its new king, is later found exercising the power of his position to the point of ignoring God's word. The prophet Samuel had clearly conveyed the message of the Lord to Saul. "Now go and smite Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have and spare them not but slay both man and sheep camel and ass. It could not more clearly stated.

When Saul failed to do as the Lord commanded the prophet Samuel reminds him "When thou wast little in thine own sight wast thou not made the head of the tries of Israel and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel?" The one who who was taken from among the smallest of tribes and least of the families was now taking things into his own hands and thereby rejecting the Word of the Lord.

Saul offered the explanation that the animals which were not killed were kept in order to offer them to the Lord. Samuel responds with those words that have

rung down through the centuries "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offering and sacrifice as an obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1Sam15:22). The great lesson here is that obedience to Gods Word is better than good intentions.

So while one danger is that of power. The overseer can perhaps with good intentions take things in to his own hands and neglect the Word of the Chief Shepherd. He may even act as a lord over "God's heritage". Many have failed when placed into position of leadership because they could not control their power and authority. Sadly, down through the years many saints have been driven rather than led. May the assemblies be spared the misuse of power by those who provide oversight.

Preeminence

Scripture clearly informs us that Diotrephes "loveth to have the preeminence" (3John 9). He left no room for others, even to the point of not receiving the apostle John. It is often true in leadership that there is one who seeks to have the chief seat among the brethren at times even to the point of shutting out all others.

Paul addresses this competitive spirit in

his Epistle to the P h i l i p p i a n s . Apparently there was a spirit of competition among the saints there and Paul writes "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves". Paul also states that the saints were not to concentrate on themselves. He writes "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Philipp 2:2-3).

Now it is in this context that Paul brings in the ultimate example of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus". What was the mind of the Lord Jesus? The one who was very God did not concentrate on Himself. He was others minded and being so He came from the heights of glory and took on humanity and the form of a servant. He took the low place even to the point of the cross with the good of others in view.

We see this clearly as we view Him in the upper room washing the feet of His disciples. It was a ministry that needed to be done and since none of the disciples had the mind t do it He did. How

beautiful that mind and how much we need to think upon it that it may in turn become ours.

We find in Scripture the overseeing the Lord's sheep to be done by "servant leaders". The Lord Himself said He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. May we seek the Lord to provide those godly overseers who lead by example and who serve in humility not seeking the preeminence.

Self confidence (Pride)

Too often men are recognized as elders because they are successful leaders in the secular world. If this is the sole or primary reason for their recognition it will most likely lead to failure in spiritual leadership. Success in the business world is not a qualification for spiritual leadership. This is not to say that one who is successful in worldly terms is not qualified to lead the assembly but he must be recognized only for his spiritual work in caring for the saints.

Success can lead to self confidence. It is after the victory that we are most open to the adversaries counter attack. Joshua and the

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Y M E F News

N D Trust Bible Camp

Nellikunnu: If it be the will of the Lord a Bible Camp will be held under the auspices of the Y M E F ND in association with the Thrissur unit Y M E F and the local assemblies there in at Nellikunnu Zion Prayer Hall during Onam Holidays from 2nd September to 5th. We request the saints to pray for it and encourage all the youngsters to come and partake in it from the first day itself. For more information

AD James

SBS News Kumbanadu Centre Camp

Venue: **SBS Camp Centre Puthencavu** Date: **2009 September 2- 5th**

Main Leaders: **Abraham Thomas Kochi, Abraham Thomas Pulladu, Reji K Thomas, Binu Samuel and Biju Varghese.** Kindly pray for it. **Thomas Mathew**

Gospel Meeting

Puliyoor: Gospel Meetings will be held under the auspices of the Puliyoor Brethren Assembly from August 7-9 from 6.30pm to 9pm. Speakers: **Aniyan Varghese and Chandapilla Philip.** **Abraham Mathew**

Assembly News

Thookupalam(Idukki): The evangelization of this place was started in 1996 and now we have 70 people in the assembly. Two people have separated themselves for the work of the Lord. Brothers Binu and Brother Aji in Aanapparra and Panikkankudy. Recently a baptism of the three new believers took place on 11.07.09. There are more people who are interested in this subject. Follow up and Bible classes are going on. Kindly remember this assembly and the the ministry here in your prayers.

Monthly Prayer Meeting of the Evangelists

Nellikunnu (Kottarakkara): The prayer meeting of the evangelists will be held on 4.8.09 at the Brethren Gospel Hall Kottarakkara. All the evangelists are requested to attend it with prayer.

Sam Zachariah

Sisters Meeting

Kumbanadu: If it be the will of the lord the sisters meeting of the Kumbanadu centre Sodhari Samajam will be held on 29.9.09 at the Vennikulam Brethren Assembly Hall from 10am to 1pm. All sisters are requested to attend the meeting with prayer.

Achamma Mathew (Secretary)

Gospel Work

A special gospel outreach is planned at Machiplavu under the auspices of the Sharjah Believers Brethren Assembly. House Visiting, Open Air Meetings, Night Meetings and Bible Classes are planned. Please pray for this ministry.

Thomas Cherian

Monthly Meeting and Monthly Outreach

r. By the grace of the Lord the monthly outreach and meeting of the month of

July was held under the auspices of the Paingattor Brethren Assembly. Around 55 brethren took part in it. House Visiting and Open Air Meetings were conducted. Bible Classes were taken by Brother P A Samuel. In the monthly meeting brother M A Paulose took the classes. The meeting and outreach of the month of August will be held in association with the Peechi Brethren Assembly from August 5 to 8. Kindly pray for it **K C Simon**

For Prayer and Thanksgiving

Christina 13 daughter of Joby john underwent treatment in C M C Vellore for anemia. The child has recovered from her illness and now she is back in Bahrain. It happened because of the prayer of the saints all over the world and we take this opportunity to thank all those who prayed for the child. The child is the grand daughter of Mr. Joy Samuel and P J Antony. Kindly continue to pray for her.

Evangelist T S John

Evangelist T S John Payyannor went to be with the Lord on Friday the 19th of June. The officiation of the Funeral ceremony took place on 22nd June by the Payyannur Brethren Assembly and the mortal remains was buried in the cemetery of the Kinarmukku Brethren Assembly. He was born on 11th July 1928 as the child of the couple Scaria and Saramma. He grew up in Chengara. He accepted the Lord at the age of 15 and got baptized.

He was interested in evangelization right from that age. He along with brother K P George set out for evangelization programmes in their early age without the knowledge and permission of their parents. They went out without much preparation. But that journey would have been a journey of preparation for their future task in Karnataka and many other parts of Kerala. They went up to Punalur and if their parents would not have got them there they would have gone farther.

In 1954 Mr John went to Karnataka. After six years he returned to Meenagadi in Wayanadu and later in 1962 he reached Kalikadavu. The Lord God used him to start the initial assemblies in Kasargod and Kannur. He stayed in different places The Lord used him in many places to propagate His message.

At the end he was sick and suffered a lot. He was involved in the ministries of the Payyannoor assembly even until the three weeks of his departure from this world. He was not much worried or anxious about his health problems. Some of his children are evangelists. He was faithful in financial matters also. God enabled him to have good fellowship with the saints of the assemblies around the whole are. He finished his race and went to the other world. He was a good example to follow.

K M John

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in those days. His reply Lot of candles were burnt for it. I consider it as a sign for his integrity.

He was involved in almost all the organizations of the Brethren in central Travancore. Where ever he involved himself or worked he remained as a corrective agent. He was disliked by many because of his open criticism. He was a not in the eyes of many. He was a member of the brethren conference which took years before under the effective leadership of Justus Samuel. He had an active relationship with the TMM Hospital Bethany Bible School Kumbanadu KEMF etc.

This Lord servant responded strongly against anything among us which is not according to the Word without considering the person behind it. So we can say that he was quite impartial in it. His great contribution to the Brethren Community is the books which written by him. He distributed it free of charge. Even at his bed he has number of books periodicals and Bible with him. There may not be many who wrote on bed this much. I have read all his books are and have kept them safe. This is a great asset for the future. Those who have not received them may try to get a copy of each of them. Some of the magazines are publishing his books. He will continue to talk to us through his books even after his death.

He used to call me and talk through the telephone for long time. He was aware of even the minor things of our community. Sometimes I have wondered about it. Likewise he used to read our periodicals and magazines and correct the mistakes if there is any. There are brothers who has expressed their impatience and intolerance towards his writing. But the meaning and reliability of his books are proved these days. He had strongly condemned our participation in the International Brethren Conference on Missions. Now a confession has come out from the mouth of an attendant. Their stand is not according to the Word of God. They do not give importance to values which we maintain as precious. A natural question Why this brother went to such a conference? The relevance of the writing of Br. Itty is very much clear now.

He was well wisher of the men of God like Mordecai. The parting or death of a person can be a loss but the death of Brother Itty is a great loss in the real sense. May God bring up some others in his place.

E J Pailey

Continued from Page 2 Dangers in Assembly Leadership

children of Israel are excellent examples of this truth. The Lord had instructed the children of children to march around Jerico once a day for six days and then seven times on the seventh day. At the completion of this march they were to shout at the sound of trumpets. Having done as the Lord commanded the mighty walls came crashing down. Victory had been gained.

The next obstacle to their occupying the land was the small city of Ai. So small that Joshua felt no need to consult with the Lord concerning it and with confidence gained from their victory at Jerico Joshua decided to send only a few to take the city of Ai.

The result was absolute failure. The men sent by Joshua were soundly defeated and sent running like rabbits. Scripture foretold this result. "Pride goeth before destruction" (Proverbs 16:18). Now there were several things which

lead to this failure. There was sin in the camp. There was the dividing of the Lords people with only a few felt to be necessary for the battle. There was self confidence and pride as a result of their victory at Jericho.

Frustration

Often those in leadership are the objects of the people's rage. Moses is an excellent example. The nation of Israel had come to a point where there was no water and so "they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aron. And the people chode with Moses and spake saying Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD".(Num 20:2-3). It is not uncommon that when things are going well those in leadership are appreciated but when hard times come the blame is immediately placed on those in leadership. So it was with Moses and Aaron.

No doubt Moses and Aaron were frustrated as a result of the people constant murmuring and they 'went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation and they fell upon their faces". The Lord instructed Moses to take the rod, and gather the people and to speak of the rock before his eyes and it would provide the needed water for the people.

How different is the Lord Jesus. Many times His disciples were dull in hearing and yet He continued to deal graciously with them as with us. In one case after just feeding the five thousand He desires to feed four thousand people and the disciples ask "Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness as to fill so great a multitude?" (Matt 15:33). We, like His disciples are so dull at times and yet He graciously leads us on.

May the Lord encourage the hearts of those in oversight

particularly when they are dealing with a murmuring people. May they be enabled to be gracious in situations which normally promote frustration.

Relatives

There are many accounts in Scripture where leaders failed because their relatives were involved. At the very beginning the adversary used Eve to bring about the downfall of Adam. This was a difficult situation for Adam. The only one of his kind on earth with whom he could communicate and enjoy a relationship had been deceived by Satan and now he must decide whether to follow her or to obey God. His choice may well exemplify the magnitude of the influence which relatives can have on those in leadership.

A great danger for leaders is to treat relatives differently than other saints. The failures of their children or other relatives are swept

under the carpet while others are openly rebuked or disciplined for the failure.

Those in assembly oversight must also be careful what information they share with loved ones. Most information known to those in leadership should be kept confidential. Often the failure to do so has brought relatives in to the situation. This puts great and unneeded pressure on family members to keep this information to themselves. If they should fail it can be disastrous.

May the Lord enable those in oversight to be faithful to His will and keep them from the influence of relatives that so easily brings failure in leadership.

Prayer Needed

These are but a few of the dangers which those in assembly oversight face. May we pray for them often and ask the Lord to keep them from falling as they serve Him and care for His sheep. May those in oversight be aware of such dangers and seek to serve the Chief Shepherd faithfully, avoiding the pitfalls of timidity, power preeminence, self confidence, popularity, frustration, relatives and the many other dangers that the adversary may place in their path.



The Importance of Witnessing

Whoso ever therefore shall confess me before men him will I confess also before My father which is in heaven (Matt 10:32)

Some are ashamed to declare their faith though they claim that they are Christians. Our God is not so happy about such believers who can be called as 'secret believers'. He hates their mode of living. Jesus Christ has taught about the importance of witnessing about Him among men. That will bring honour to His name and will strengthen our faith and increase our spiritual strength.

A young man accepted Christ as his personal savior and Lord during his military

service. He was much worried about the trials and temptations that he might have to face on his return to his home. He was advised to give a good testimony about the transformation which had come in his life. When he alighted at the station from the train he met the girl with whom he had very close contact. She met him gladly and started enquiring about his well being. He told her that was a Christian and when the girl heard it her smile vanished from her face and she disappeared from there immediately after a few words. He met many on his friends and his way and he shared about his new life to all. The news about his conversion spread far and wide. There was

no need on his part to worry about avoiding the acquaintance of the unbelievers. They themselves avoided him. But then those who wished for a spiritual fellowship came to him.

Dear saints you can prove that you are with Christ through your public witnessing. Thus you can proclaim to the world that you stand for truth. Moreover it is a means to become a fruitful Christian. So confess your faith publically that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour without any shame. If you are proud of your Christian faith then you will definitely do it.

Obliged

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Sathgamaya TV Talk Show Programme

People channel of Kairali's News Channel
All Fridays (Malayalam) 5.30-6.00 p.m.
Monday 6.00-6.30 a.m. Zee TV (Hindi)

Jeevamritham Television Program

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

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