

SUVISESHA DHWANI

Suvishesha Dhvani Reg. No. RN 29475/78

10 October 2009

Being Involved in the Work

The Lord announced, "I will build My church." He began construction on the day of Pentecost and it has been continuing till now. Notice the word 'build' because it indicates a very systematic and a precise action, therefore, construction is not a haphazard act. It lacks an orderly and progressive growth. It requires patience, keeping one brick over the other, to steadily bring the building to the desired level of completion. The word 'build' speaks of this process. This very word tells us that God has a very clear program and purpose in the creation of the church. We must know this purpose clearly in order to function as we ought to. In this article, we will look at God's Word to

discover the church's intended task and our part in it in the accomplishment of it.

Twofold Purpose of the Church

God has created all things for His glory. That is His ultimate purpose of creation. So what is the purpose of

the church? It is the same - 'His glory' The church exists for the glory of God. Apostle Paul says, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Eph. 3.20,21). God receives the glory due to Him through His church. This becomes possible through worship and witnessing.

Thompson B Thomas

Worship is our duty towards God. It is a loving response of the redeemed in remembering the Person and work of the Lord. Apostle Peter says, "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1Pt. 2.4,5). As God's redeemed people, we should glorify Him in worship. This should be in our individual lives and also the collective life of the church. This worship can take the form of anything that brings glory to God. This is the primary purpose of the church.

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Facts and Figures

We read that the Savior, during His three years of public ministry, "... went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel..." (Mt 9:35). We read that Philip "preached in all the cities" (Acts 8:40) along the coast from Ashdod to Caesarea just as he travelled back home from his encounter with the Ethiopian. And Paul and his team "went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order" (Acts 18:23) as they did the work of God.

How many cities, towns and villages are there in the whole United States? The answer may surprise you.

According to the official U.S. Census (2000), here is the complete count:

cities	101016
municipalities	1
Towns	4,431
villages	3,770
Total	18,218

This emphasizes again how within reach the gospel project is. Think of the three-year ministry period of our Lord. Suppose we left the 218 largest cities for a moment. If we divided the other 18,000 places by 3, it would leave us about 6,000 places per year. Divide that by 50 weeks = 120. So within three years 120 assemblies or evangelistic teams could cover all 18,000 places, if they preached once a week in each place. Thinking a little more regionally, an article in USA Today (Apr 2001) stated the number of counties in the USA as being 3141. There are 51 cities, 115 towns, and 116 villages (total 312) in the whole of Ontario, Canada's most populous province. Preaching the gospel once a week, an evangelist could cover every one in six years all by himself!

Not, of course, that we need to preach only once in each location, but you see the point: we can preach the gospel to every creature.

After a week's work Bro; P S Sunny, Evg. Rothak, Venus Rothak, Deepak Kumar and Hemaraj went home. Praise God for sending servants at the right time who are familiar with the local languages. Let us also be the partners of this mighty work. In 2007 Bro Larson Lazar a software engineer left his job and came to this place for Lord's work from Ambala at the call of the Lord. His wife Naomi was a teacher and she is under treatment. They have a baby of 11 months old. He actively joined us for the work. Let us pray that a new testamental assembly should start there. Please continue to pray for the work at Punjab. The harvest is more but the servants are very less. So let us pray to the Master of harvest to send more servants. Let the Name of our Lord only be glorified

PUNJAB CAMPAIGN - Y.M.E.F (ND)

Samuel P Abraham

Rup Nagar - Nangal Township

By the grace of God we completed the work in the Navashahar district and moved to Rup Nagar on 09-09-09 and the work is in progress at Nangal Township.

Rup Nagar district is very close to Himachal Pradesh. In 2007 when congress party was ruling they passed the anti-conversion law there. Any activists of other religions engaged in conversion can be sentenced up to 50 years of hard imprisonment. And many areas of this district are surrounded by Himachal Pradesh. By mistake the team had distributed few tracts and booklets in some of that area. Another part of Himachal Pradesh is Devannumiya. The temple of ninadevi is very close to this district. There are many anti-Christians in these areas. This place has the

historical importance because of the Bhakda-Nangal dam which is the highest dam in India. Nangal is a cosmopolitan city. The life is very expensive here. There are 300 villages in this district and the population is 6.5 lakhs. This is an advanced city for education. The Sikh religion started at Anandapur-Sahib in 1689. Here the team is staying in a new building of an advocate by name Induraj. It was very difficult to get an accommodation here. So the work was delayed for a while. When he came to know that we came all the way from Kerala to evangelize, he was very happy and told us to pray for him. His wife is suffering from a tumor in the uterus. When we inquired about the rent they told us "we don't want any rent from you people". The minimum rent of such a building can be above Rs 5000/-. Let us pray for their salvation and relief. This week Lord enabled us to evangelize 80 villages.

Even though there were slight objections in two villages Lord protected us in His mighty arms. Including one Bible we sold the books for Rs 7,252/-. Many people contacted us with great interest and we introduced them to the evangelist of that area. Let us pray for a good harvest from the seeds which are sown in that area. This week we worshiped the Lord with the saints of this place. For the last two Fridays we were conducting classes about the Holy Spirit at the house of Bro. Harichand. At present we have Bros; Samuel P Abraham & Baiju from Palakad, Baby Ulahannan from Kuthattukulam, Varghese Kattilapurvam, Munir Abdulkader from Kasragod, Barsh Francis, Shri Ganganagar, Richardkharu and Abhhar with us. All of them are doing fine by the grace of God.

Editorial**LET MY MORTAL REMAINS BE MINE ALONE**

When we look at the scenes around us we are convinced the lost blessings of the past. Our discerning power should be integrated to the word of God. Then we can understand that the things we thought to be innocent is not so and it make us know that these things have more meaning in it.

The brethren community has changed themselves their all strategies to make everything a celebrations and a show. So even the funeral service is also has become a show and festival. The wisdom of the new leadership which is running for chances and opportunities always encouraged such unscriptural deeds and gives path and light for it. The aristocratic brethren community who are proud in their biblical and theological scholarship are set to receive all kinds of flattery irrespective of their meaninglessness. They enjoy it and so creates situations to listen to it.

Money, position and fame hide even in a regenerated hearts as bombs which are not made powerless. By creating untimely opportunities at unwanted places they derive praises and through that positions and financial gains. They make use of every opportunity with out any shame. But they are not worried about the forth coming calamity. 'Lack of time' is only an outward hypocritical expression for us. But at any time for public programme of importance, lack of time is not all a barrier.

If there is no time, why the funeral services are extended for hours? The people who failed in their public life, lost their testimony and became a stumbling block to others, when they are dead will be exalted to a higher level, so that we may doubt that the dead body belongs to the same person or not. This is done because of their financial position and status. The sad part of this is, that the flattery is done in front of the people who had witnessed the failure of that person dead person in spiritual and many other areas of his life. And they do it without any shame in front of others even though they have no connection or fellowship with the person who had passed away. If there is no chance for them for commemoration, some people will leave the place immediately. Some of them wait till the last and go away as a group in great disappointment if there is no chance for them. How many of us go to the mourning houses to comfort and share the sorrow with them even in the time of sudden demise, other than for the chance of a ministry? How many of us can remember them in our prayers and extend a helping hand for them? But remember that before Lazar was resurrected, our Lord who is the life and resurrection, wept with Mary and the Jews with a broken heart, when He saw their great sorrow. This a sincere act of our Lord recorded in the New Testament and we should follow the same.

The great thirst for the public ministry is dragging us towards other churches stages and pulpits. Death is sorrowful for every body. It is better to go to a house of mourning than to a house of feast. But what is the legality in taking leadership and doing the word ministry to legalize his deeds in a person's funeral service, who has left the Brethren assembly years ago and worked by the guidance and help of other churches with foreign aid? This type of ministry may be because of the tendency to change the attitude of Lord's servants according to the new age. When this person was lifted to a state of the original 'Brethren' by words, at least some of the audience might have thought like this "Is this the body of that same person?"

For every thing we have justification. In many cases the knowledge is used to cover the truth. It is a sad part of life to remember the lost straight forwardness and purity. Some may think these lines of unpleasant truths are out dated, fed up by reading and hearing repeatedly and rotten. What is the remedy to save the Brethren community from this precarious and shameful situation? The lust of the flesh like money, fame and position should be discerned with the help of the pure word of God and Holy Spirit. This can be done by only removing our overcoat of hypocrisy like a snake that leaves its scales during certain intervals. Then and then only we will be able to have a clear face of the truth.

Jose Philip

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If worship is our duty toward God, witnessing is our duty towards the world. Reverting to Peter's writings again, we read, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood a holy nation His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light" (1 Pt. 2.9). This means, proclaiming the saving grace of the Lord Jesus to the perishing world by holding forth the word of life that makes one wise unto salvation (Phil. 2.15; 2Tim. 3.15). This is the duty of all the members in the assembly, individually and collectively.

Twofold Existence of the Church

Every task we accomplish is through our existence. Similarly, the church through her existence fulfils her task on earth. We notice two forms of existence for the church which enables her to fulfil the job - church gathered and church scattered.

Without the institution of the gatherings of a church, its existence could not be experienced at all. Think of a church without any gathering. That is beyond imagination because it is in the gatherings we feel and express our oneness, and it is through this that we strengthen one another. It is here that we exercise our gifts for mutual edification. For this reason, our gathering together is commanded by the Lord. In the context of the increasing number of gatherings with various fancy titles and purposes, in place of the simple gatherings we see in the New Testament, it is necessary to understand what a gathering of the church is. A gathering of the church is that which is gathered by the Lord unto His name for His glory, wherein all the believers in the fellowship can gather together in one place at one time.

The church-gathered receives strength by coming together. However, if the power that is gained is not used as intended by God, it would result in implosion. When the power is used properly for the growth of the believers, in stature and number, it would result in an explosion which would show forth the excellence of the Lord. This is affected by the second form of existence which is church-scattered. This happened in Jerusalem. Due to persecution. the church at Jerusalem was scatterer and they spread to far corners of the region, even to Samaria. Luke the historian says, "They were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria," and Those who were scattered everywhere preaching the fiord (Acts. 8.1, 4). Their labour bore fruit. The news reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, from were they had spread out. Barnanas a responsible brother was set to Samaria. He sensed the grace of God there and encouraged, the believers to continue in the faith. Taken together, we can consider this as the outreach of Jerusalem church. They were scatterer i Ke seeds scattered in the field. This is the churchscattered, scattering the word of life.

There is a truth that needs to oe emphasised. An individual involved in Christian activities, should consider himself in relation to the local gathering to which he belongs. When he reaches far and wide with the gospel it is the local church to which he belongs that is reaching out, he being a member of it. One who loves the Lord cannot be involved in the work of the Lord without acknowledging his part in the church which the Lord loves. He should acknowledge what he does as part of the outreach of the local church. One labours along with the Spirit and the church. In the last chapter of the Bible John says. "And the Spirit and the bride say. Come! And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (v.17). We are a part of the 'bride' when we work.

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The Spirit and the bride must join together in the great task of reaching out

Getting Involved

It is very important that each member of the church contributes in the grand task of the church. The great question is, "How is it then brethren?" (1 Cor. 14.26) This means "What should you do, then, my fellow Christians?" (Amer. Trans.) How are we to get involved? The following points are suggested for our guidance. We must know the unity and the diversity that exists within the church.

Apostle Paul develops this truth in 1 Corinthians 12. He compares the church to a human body. It has various members, but all these together make one body. So is the church. If one member of the body is detached from the body, it becomes useless. The church suffers its loss. The article says, "But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased," indicating the diversity in the gatherings, and he further says, "God did temper the body together" (v.24-), indicating the unity that exists in the church. God has set us there with diversity and we are composed together as one body living in unison.

We must know our part in the diversity.

The diversity in the gatherings shows that each member has a different function. Unless we know and acknowledge this, we cannot function as we ought to. We must know what member we are in the body, where we belong. Without this knowledge we may keep ourselves busy our whole life doing what others should have been doing when our own task remains undone.

We must be equipped for the task.

This involves being equipped with God's word. It is the word of God that perfects us for every good work (Acts 20.32; Heb. 4.12; Col. 3.16; 2Tim. 3.16,17 etc.). Being well-founded on the word, one should exercise or "rekindle the gift of God" (2Tim. 1.6-Darby) This process will help one to realise his position in the body, the church. When one becomes skilled through exercise, he will be used by the Lord for His glory.

Commitment to the task.

This involves being available to God for His purposes. For this one should live a holy and exemplary life. The God whom we serve is a God who cannot use a dirty vessel. Thus our stewardship calls us for a commitment. This is what Peter meant when he said, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to...., as good stewards of the grace of God" (1 Pt. 4.10).

God has set the time for us to fulfill the task allotted to us. He has been showing mercy towards us -extending the time till now. Peter, says, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2Pt. 3.9). We need to be stirred up. We should rise from the support to finish the work. If this is happening in our lives we shall have firm hands in the day when we give our accounts to our Master. Peter, adds, "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen (Peter 4:12).

YMEF News

Palaghat: The Palakkadu unit Y M E F is planning to conduct a three day gospel camp on 17,18,19 of November 2009 at Kanmkayam, VRT Churupara Mannennakkayam, Palakuzhi, Uppumannu and Odumthodu. We request the saints to pray for the spiritual blessings.

Samuel P Abraham

SBS News

Pathanamthitta: The SBS General, God willing, will be conducting its monthly prayer meeting on 22.10.09 at Pathanamthitta Gospel Hall from 6pm. All SBS activists and workers are requested to participate in the prayer meeting with prayer.

C M Chacko

Gospel Meetings

Ranni: The yearly gospel meetings which we are taking place under the auspices of the local assemblies in and around Ranni will be held from 24.11.09 to 29.11.09 at the Brethren Auditorium Ranni. Main speakers are M. M Zachariah, Varghese Kurian, Charly Mathew, M. V. Thomas and P. G. James. Kindly pray for the spiritual blessings of this meetings.

Sam Philip

Mannarathara: If it be the will of the Lord a gospel meeting will be held under the auspices of the Mannarathara Brethren Assembly in its ground from 22.12.09 to 27.12.09. The main speakers are brother Charles John, Jose Mankudy and Chandapilla Philip. Kindly pray for the spiritual blessings of this ministry.

V K Mathew

For Prayer

Kurathikadu: Brother John Kurian of this assembly is suffering from cancer. He along with his family has left the episcopal church and joined us recently. He is spiritually very much active. This dear brother deserves our fervent prayer.

George Chacko

Thanksgiving

Omaloor: Harshita daughter of brother Vijayan who belongs to the Manjanikkara Brethren Assembly was under treatment in many hospitals. Now the baby girl is under the treatment of CMC Vellore. The child is much better. We take this opportunity to thank the Lord and thank the saints who raised the child to the throne of grace.

Can there be Flood in Karnataka?

When the YMEF (SD) people reached Gulberga one of the North Eastern districts of Karnataka to do the survey for starting the campaign one of the elders of the Gulberga Assembly made a comment. The things which are abundantly available here is the 'heat' of the sun. His name is brother Kallappa Mithra. That day the mercury on the thermometer soared to 44 degree Celsius. By bearing this heat the YMEF activists interested in evangelisation crisis crossed the boundaries of the three districts in Gulberga, Bidar and Raichur. God enabled us to take these gospel meetings in three districts. But the torrential rain and the sky is an incident that had never happened in the last hundred years or even more. The villages of Raichur and Gulberga were submerged in water. A bridge of 500mts was washed away. The team members had used

A year after the worst anti-Christian violence in India's democratic history, more than 4,000 Christians are reportedly still stuck in squalid refugee camps, too scared to return to their villages. If they return to their homes, these Christians risk death or forcible conversion by extremists. Termed as a "national shame" by the Prime Minister of India, the 2008 violence has crippled the Christian community, which now seeks refuge from religious persecution and growing impunity. In the midst of this crisis Bishop D.K. Sahu, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India, has urged Christians to continue in the path of forgiveness and reconciliation: "It is very beautiful when we forgive and repent. There is so much hurt and pain. Revenge is not the answer for this violence."

Christian Today.

Can there

this bridge several times to cross that river while they were in Raichur. We have an assembly in the village of **Kunjanahalli**. This assembly was formed through the follow up work done by brother A Joseph after the gospel campaign by the YMEF (SD) team. This village along with many other villagers were submerged by water. The government used helicopter to distribute food packets to the poor villages. All our dear brethren are safe in His hand so let us thank Him for that. Electricity was restored in Raichur town after five days. Shall we remember the saints here too.

The Shapur assembly gathers in the house of brother Gershom. The house is situated on a place which is bit then elevated. But even the foundation of that house was submerged in water and brother Gershom and family was shutdown in their home for three days. It was very difficult to believe on my part that area was submerged under water. As these words are scribbled the clouds started to withdraw and the sun began to pour its rays on the earth. Water level started to recede. But then wind was blowing at a high speed. Let us remember these assemblies and the saints in these villages. There is another assembly in Raichur where brother T J Mathew is working. Shall we uphold them also in our prayers. Let us pray that the religious fanatics shall understand that there is a living God. Let us uphold them in our prayer so that they may repent and come to the knowledge of the Lord. Also the doors of Karnataka may be opened for evangelisation.

Folded Napkin

So they ran both together; other disciple (John) did out run Peter and came first to the scpulcure. And he stooping down and looking in saw the linen cloths lying. Yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him and went in to the sepulchre and the linen clothes lie. And the napkin that was about His head not lying with the linen clothes but wraped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple which came first to the sepulchre and he saw and believed (John 20:4-8).

We have been given a first hand information about the resurrection of Jesus Christ by this beloved disciples Peter and John. That is what we read in the above given passage. A clear cut picture of the inside of the scpulcure of Jesus Christ is given to us. The author of this article was able to see a model of this scpulcure in Canada at Drumgeller in Calgary while he was there in 2008. It was constructed at the valley of a big hill. The door was insuch a way that one has to bend his knees to enter in to it. The sepulchre of Jesus might have been made like this at the side of some hills. The door was fashioned in the shape of a coin. There would have been the necessary arrangements to move it easily. In Matthew 28 we read that Mary found the stone rolled away from the door of the sepulchre. Mary Magdalene's main concern was about rolling away of that stone. God often removes our difficulties out of the way long before we come to them. CH Spurgeon. Our God understand's our problems earlier enough to clear it for us. We have such a God who will solve the problem even before our facing it. Is it not our own experience? Here the stone from the sepulchre is taken away. Peter, who came running went in to the sepulchre without any fear or doubt. This action of Peter is thought provoking. He did it as if



The Last Desire of a Mother

Once upon a time there lived a family. They had a son. They brought him up in great love and affection. As their love increased, the disobedience also increased in the child. He started to disobey his parents. He started to neglect his father's words and began to behave as if he had full authority of that house. There was a big quarrel between the father and son. His father became so angry and told him, that "leave this house and go wherever you want; don't come back." The son left his house. He travelled many places. At last he got a small job. Days went by. The mother was having some informations about her son one way or the other. She became a patient because of her sons departure from their home. She sent many letters to him. But there was no reply. Her health condition became worse. That mother told her husband many times to send letters to him. But the father made his heart very hard. At last the doctor told him about her imminent end.

When he understood that his wife's condition was very bad, he asked his wife. "What is your last wish?" "I want to see my son." That was her last wish.

Those words hurt him a lot. "You should come very fast, your mother is very sick. She wants to see you". He wrote such a letter to his son. When he read the letter, the son became very sad. He started to home to see his mother. He came to the door of his house, opened it and saw that his father was sitting near the bed on which his mother was lying. When he saw his father, he went to the other room. After some time he came to her bedside. The son was on one side and the father on the other. The mother told like this "dear son! Ask pardon to your father, you speak out". The mother kissed on her son's hand. Then she kissed on her husband's hand. Then she joined together the

hands of the father and son. At this her eyes were closed for ever. The son looked into the eyes of the mother. In the same way, the father also looked at her eyes. The father's heart was broken. That father held his son very close to him and kissed him. The son also kissed him. At the time of that mother's death, they became one again.

Dear friends, here we see the story of a true love. A mother will not forget her baby. That's true. But the Lord says " Even if the mother forgets you, I wont". God brought us towards him when we were very far from His love through his sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. What a deep love is manifested on the Calvary cross. Do we live remembering it or are we simply ignoring the infinite love of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. Let us examine ourselves.

Obliged

In TV Channels

Sathgamagamaya TV Talk Show Programme

People channel of Kairali's News Channel

All Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30-5.00 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

Jesus is one of his blood relations. Peter got this great blessing though once he had forsaken his Guru.

John reached first but Peter was the one who went in to the sepulchre first. Sometimes the people may think that they can overtake the elderly but mind that our God is God of order and He will do everything in order.

Peter, who went in to the scpulcure saw the linen lying there. But the body of Jesus was not there. The napkin was not lying with the linen. It was kept separate. It depicts the idea that Jesus left the sepulchre slowly and without any haste. If his body has been stolen, definetely the robbers would not have taken time to keep the napkin separately. Will the thieves set ready everything in order in a house which has been robbed by them? Here we see the napkin is kept separately in a place. A whole verse is set apart to show this in the scripture. Is there any speciality in it? Definitely there is some speciality. In the words of William MacDonald "The detail about the handkerchief was addedto show that the Lords departure was orderly and unhurried. If someone had stolen the body, he would not have carefully folded the cloth".

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