

September 2014 ISSUE : 7

VOICE OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM CHRISTIAN MISSION

CHRISTIAN REFLECTIONS

Love Heals

Rev. Fr. V.V. Paulose



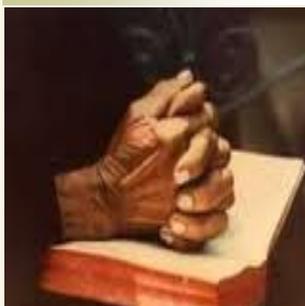
FAITH 'N' LIFE

Hebrews 11:1-3

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

² For by it the elders obtained a good report.

³ Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.



"I belong to my lover, and my lover belongs to me." (Song of Solomon 6:3)

A family of love with faithfulness literally and spiritually heals all the pain, hurt and sickness. Love is the cord knitting the family together. Love always has the constant communication to the hearts and minds of the members of the family where ever they are even if they are separated in space and time and in sickness and coma. "And over all those virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Col-3:14)

Love is the best doctor and the best medicine for any sicknesses and sins. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over multitude of sin." (1 Peter 4:8) The love of a lover for the beloved is an allegory of Jesus' love of all human beings. If I say the root cause of all the illness is absence of love, it won't be an exaggeration but the truth. Always remember the love of Jesus that is filled in the atmosphere of spirit as an oxygen to those who breath it in all their suffocations of life..

Bob woodruff, an award winning TV Journalist, was severely injured on January 29, 2006 while reporting in Iraq. Here are quotes from Lee, Bob's wife, and from Bob after 17 years of marriage about inspirational recovery and about the book they wrote about the experience of dealing with the crisis that hit their family.

BOB: " When I awoke and saw her face I loved her even more than before I had not thought of possible."

LEE asked Bob's neuro surgeon "I just want to know, will he still love me."

LEE: when Bob awoke after nearly 5 weeks of being in coma. I walked into his room, and parted the curtains. Bob was sitting up in bed and he looked to me and said, "SWEETIE." BOB asked how he had changed internally. "Well, I think. I've got a lot more love for my family, my kids(4), no question about it."

BOB when asked what his lowest moment was during his recovery. " I think waking up and the moment when I first saw my wife for all that time and seeing my children and realizing what I had done to my family. That I blamed my self for I put them through because I saw the kind of pain they went through all these days."

LEE and BOB: " And there are no perfect spouse either, just those who love each other enough to stand by " for better or worse." Don't be fooled; that kind of endurance is perhaps the greatest expression of love." They say, " stay by one another in sickness and health."

CHURCH HISTORY

<http://www.stbarsaumochurch.com/OurChurch/ChurchHistory/tabid/68/Default.aspx>

The Syrian Orthodox Church is the Church of Antioch, whose foundation goes back to the very dawn of Christianity, when Antioch was the capital of Syria¹ and one of the three capital cities in the Roman Empire.² The gospel was first preached in Antioch by some of Christ's own disciples who fled Jerusalem after the Jewish persecution. Following the martyrdom St. Stephen the deacon ca. 34 AD., Antioch was visited by Barnabas, one of the seventy preachers, as well as St. Paul the Apostle. Both stayed in Antioch for an entire year preaching the gospel after St. Peter who preached the gospel there and established his apostolic see ca. AD. 33.

According to some historians, the conversion of the city of Antioch itself was carried out by St. Peter the Apostle in two stages: the first was the conversion of the Jews from whose ranks the Christian Church was established;³ the second was the conversion of the pagans who included Aramaeans, Greeks and Arabs. This took place after the settling of the case of Cornelius and his acceptance in the church.⁴

As we go through the events recorded in the New Testament, we find that during St. Peter's second visit to Antioch, he refrained himself from mingling with the converted gentiles, even after their baptism because of his fear of the Christians in Jerusalem who had contended with him regarding the reception of Cornelius. However, St. Paul opposed him publicly.⁵ Further, some of the Jewish converts compelled the gentile converts to be circumcised so that they might become Jews before becoming Christians. In order to settle this problem, a council was held in Jerusalem in 51 A.D. and the following message was sent to Antioch through Paul and Barnabas accompanied by Judas, surnamed Barnabas, and Silas: "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and for unchastity" (Acts 15: 28-29). This event points out the importance of the Syrian Church of Antioch during the early days of Christianity.

The Book of Acts witnesses the earnest zeal of the members of the Church of Antioch and their care for their fellow Christians. They collected alms and sent them with Barnabas and Saul to the poor in Jerusalem. The book of Acts also testifies that it was in Antioch that the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians.⁶

When Peter and Paul had to leave Antioch on preaching missions, they appointed two bishops to take care of the faithful, Aphodius who was assigned for the Christians of pagan origin, and Ignatius the Illuminator for those of Jewish origin.⁷ In 68 A.D., Ignatius the Illuminator became the sole bishop of Antioch. It was he who called the Church of Antioch 'The Universal Church,' since it comprised both of the gentiles and the circumcised. Hence, Ignatius of Antioch was the first to apply the adjective 'universal' to the Christian Church.⁸

References

1. The Holy Bible: New Testament.
2. Dr. George Post: Dictionary of the Holy Bible, 2nd ed., Beirut 1971.
3. Constitution of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch Manuscript-Amended by the Synod of Damascus 1979.
4. Hidayat wa Quanin Al-Majame': A Syriac Manuscript
5. Eusebius of Caesarea: History of the Church.
6. Gregorios Yohanna Bar Habraeus: Summary of Nations, Beirut 1958.
7. Breasted: Earlier Ages.
8. Adai Ashir: History of Kaldo & Athur, Beirut 1913.

(To be continued.. Next Month "The Syriac Language in Antioch")

BIBLE QUIZ

- 1.) Who was John the Baptist's father?
 - a) Thaddeus
 - b) Joseph
 - c) Zechariah
 - d) Malachi
- 2.) Who was John the Baptist's mother?
 - a) Mary
 - b) Elizabeth
 - c) Martha
 - d) Rachel
- 3.) What kind of clothes did John the Baptist wear?
 - a) Camel's hair
 - b) Sheep skin
 - c) Buffalo hair
 - d) Woven cloth
- 4.) John the Baptist was how much older than Jesus?
 - a) 2 years
 - b) 1 year
 - c) 6 months
 - d) He was younger
- 5.) The relationship of Jesus to John the Baptist was:
 - a) Brother
 - b) Cousin
 - c) John was Jesus' Uncle
 - d) Jesus was John's Uncle
- 6.) What is the name of the river in which John the Baptist baptized people?
 - a) Euphrates
 - b) Nile
 - c) Jordan
 - d) Tigris
- 7.) John the Baptist was put in prison for declaring that Herod had broken what Law?
 - a) Lying
 - b) Murder
 - c) Violating the Sabbath
 - d) Adultery
- 8.) Who asked Herod for the head of John the Baptist?
 - a) Herodias
 - b) The daughter of Herodias
 - c) Sapphira
 - d) Candace
- 9.) When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been arrested, where did he go?
 - a) Jerusalem
 - b) Nazareth
 - c) Galilee
 - d) Bethany
- 10.) Which of these did Jesus say about John the Baptist?
 - a) This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face.
 - b) Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist.
 - c) From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.
 - d) All of the above.

Compiled by Vijay Joseph

THE PENITENT THIEF

When Jesus was crucified along with two thieves, according to our tradition the one on the right repented and Jesus promised him paradise.

The thief on the right? Does the bible really say that it was the thief on the right?

Well not really.

According to Mathew and Mark, both of them mocked Christ (Matthew 27:44, Mark 15:32) while Luke (Luke 23:39-43) talks about one of the thieves who repented his sins to whom Jesus said

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

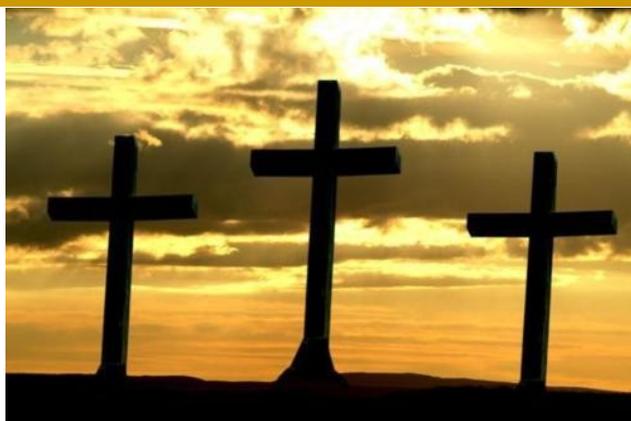
"One of the thieves" says Luke. Now why do our prayers on Good Friday

repeats that its the thief on the right? Most of us believe that its mentioned in the bible because we grew up hearing this story. However the Bible does not have any reference to which thief repented.

Our prayers and hymns talk elaborately about the dialogue between the thieves including the '*Kallanmarude samvadam*' on Good Friday. The tradition of right and left is only symbolic to represent good vs evil.

The choice of right thief was only natural given the fact that 'right' is always considered as the good side.

Now why do in our churches the gentlemen stand on the left side? May be we can ponder on it a bit until the next edition of the newsletter.



Taju Punnoose

GREETINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Richard Santosh | Sep 2 |
| Don Santosh | Sep 6 |
| Bindu Jacob | Sep 6 |
| Eldo P Mathew | Sep 25 |
| Suraj Mathew | Sep 28 |

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Vijay Joseph & Bincy Vijay Sep 12



EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

Best wishes to all our children who started a new year at school or university. Parents must be relieved to get an ounce of free time. Please contribute your articles to the newsletter. Let others be blessed by your talent.

Please mail articles for the next edition to editor4jcm@gmail.com.

Warm regards,

Suraj Mathew, Editor Reena George, Editor editor4jcm@gmail.com

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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMINGS

Morning Prayer at 8.15 am

Holy Mass at 8.30 am

Food and socialization 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Sunday School and Malayalam Classes 10:30 am to 11 am

Key to Bible Quiz

1. c, 2.b, 3.a, 4.c, 5.b, 6.c, 7.d, 8.b, 9.c, 10.d

