



VOICE OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM CHRISTIAN MISSION

CHRISTIAN REFLECTIONS

Be the Salt and Light to Others

Rev V V PAULOSE

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your Lord." (Isaiah 40:1)

Make life little more comfortable by doing little things here and there as you move on.

We are the light and salt of the earth. If light is not burnt, then it's not light at all and if salt is not given its due (taste), it's not salt at all.

John 1:9 - "That was the true light, which lights every man that comes into the world."

Mathew 5:13 - "If salt loses its taste, it's good for nothing, except to be thrown out and walked on."

We are born on earth to make this place better. Today, we are more comfortable and life is easier due to the work done by the people who had lived on this earth and by the people who are still here. Each human being is made in the image of the creator, so we should continue the creative process till we are called on to him. There is no need to do Himalayan wonders, we just need to open our eyes to our surroundings and make whatever little improvements possible. That will make others' life more easy and comfortable. God wants to restore his people from their filthy un-inhabitable conditions. The seeds of comfort may take root in the soil of willing minds. Appreciate the comfort and encouragement found in this world. The doers are the blessed, not the believers who don't do any work.

James 2:17 - "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

Spring is here, bushes and vines are luxuriously overgrown on the path. An aged couple are on their morning trail. The trail side stone benches are hidden by leaves and grasses. The old man periodically asks his wife to wait for a few minutes. He religiously stops to remove and pluck the grass and vines over each resting stones along their strolling path, then joins his wife with a smile of doing something good and is filled with immense joy and satisfaction.

PRAYER

Jesus, Let us be the salt and light to our neighborhood and surroundings. May each action of ours be comfortable to all the people/creatures around us. Each day, let us make our world a better place to be. All we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.



THEOLOGICA**THE MANY NAMES OF GOD** (*Source: www.agapebiblestudy.com*)

In the Bible there are many different names given to the One True God. The most frequently used names are YHWH, usually rendered as Yahweh (ca. 6,800 times); Elohim (ca. 2,600 times); Adonai (ca. 439 times); and El (ca. 238 times). Most of the other names are combinations of these names like El Shaddai, El Eloah, and Yahweh Elohim.

All Scripture quotations are from the New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) unless otherwise noted as from the New American Bible (NAB).

Elohim "God" (plural) as in the Creator: In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

El Elyon "God (singular) Most High": And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of [El Elyon] God the Most High. And He blessed him and said, "blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand (Genesis 14:18-20).

El Roi "God Who Sees": Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, 'You are a [El Roi] God who sees'; for she said, 'Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?' Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi [well of the living one who sees me. (Genesis 16:13-14).

El Shaddai "God Almighty" or "God the All-Sufficient One"; the etymology is so ancient that Biblical scholars do not agree on the meaning of this name: I AM El Shaddai. Live in my presence, be perfect, and I shall grant a covenant between myself and you, and make you very numerous. And Abram bowed to the ground (Genesis 17:2-3).

Yahweh found in Scripture as the consonants YHWH, known as the "Tetragramaton" is God's holy Covenant name. The letters form a word or words from the verb "to be" and most scholars translate it as "I AM who I AM" or "I will be who I will be", or "the Self-Existent One: Moses said to God, 'Look, if I go to the Israelites and say to them, The God of your ancestors has sent me to you, and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what am I to tell them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM He who is. Tell them that I AM who I am sent you (Exodus 3:13-14).

Adonai "Lord" (Note: LORD, all in capital letters is a substitution out of reverence for God's covenant name "Yahweh"): Then Moses said to the LORD, 'Please Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since you have spoken to your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue. And the LORD said to him, 'Who has made men's mouth? Or who make him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?' (Exodus 4:10-12, NAB).

To be continued in the next Edition.....

ARTICLE

Be Vigilant and Alert

Aristotle, the famous Greek philosopher wrote: Man is a social animal. If Aristotle were to live today, instead of calling man a social animal, he would have taken him for a wild animal.

It seems that the world today has people who do not understand or care about their fellow beings. They are influenced by false beliefs, values and teachings of their faith. No religion promotes violence or killings of any kind. The Bible warns "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword". People who promote violence and killings should understand that life is God given and only He has the right to take it away. However, it is a fact that in the so called cradle of these religions, violence happens in grotesque proportion everyday. Muslims and Christians in the Middle East and elsewhere kill each other and between themselves. Hindu fundamentalists in India or Buddhists in Sri Lanka are no exception to this violence.

The Bible says "Love your neighbor as yourself". If this is something too difficult to emulate, at least we must consider our neighbor as our neighbor and love him for who he is. He has every right to exist and live peacefully in the society as we do. Instead we now carry hatred towards our neighbors. We find it difficult to get along well with them. When we love our neighbors, there will be peace in our neighborhood, when there is peace in the neighborhood, there will be peace in the society, when there is peace in the society there is peace in the nation, and peace among nations will promote peace in the universe. Hatred and suspicion, on the other hand, beget more hatred and violence among humanity.

Historically, there have been evidences of persecutions of our church leaders and Christian missionaries. The church underwent difficult times not only in the past, but at present as well. The recent abduction of the two prominent archbishops by armed insurgents in Syria attests to this fact. These two church fathers had been on a trip to negotiate with rebel forces for the safe return of one of their clergy men who had been taken captive earlier. While returning from that meeting, they met with their own fate in the hands of the rebels and lost their driver who was a chaplain. The saddest part of it is that no militant group has claimed responsibility for this abduction, and no ransom was asked for their release. No one knows about the condition of the abductees, whether they are alive or not, though the peace loving people around the world hope and pray for their safe return. It gives some comfort that the bishops in Kerala have solicited help from the government of India to intervene and negotiate the release of the two Archbishops. It is our hope that their freedom from captivity will be imminent.

In spite of all these persecutions, past and present, the Church has grown tremendously in faith. The Bible says "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven".

The root cause of all these type of violence, to a certain extent, rests with the poor upbringing of our children. Unattended, it is easy for the children of today to fall into false teachings and beliefs promoted by fundamentalist groups or criminals for their personal gain. It is a fact that poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere. It is true that in majority of cases, for example in Somalia, poverty is the main driving force behind the violence and armed insurgency. On the other hand, we have the example of Bin-laden who was a rich Saudi national who advocated and promoted violence. No wonder that the rich and poor, educated and uneducated, young and old, man

ARTICLE

The only solution to put an end to these types of violence is to have a watchful eye on our children, teach them high moral values at an early age so that they may not depart from it in later years. The so-called criminals were born to parents, may have brothers and sisters, neighbors, friends, teachers, associates, colleagues and friends. We all have a duty to watch the activities of others around us without compromising their privacy.

Recently two people were arrested for masterminding a bomb blast on a VIA train from New York to Toronto. With the help and tip from the friends of the accused, the police managed to arrest the culprits and avoid a major catastrophe that would have resulted in the loss of many lives. We all read in the news that upon timely information received from neighbors, police in Kerala arrested a terrorist training group who were recruiting young men for terrorist activities. Recently it was reported that in Cleveland, Ohio with the bold intervention of a neighbor, three ladies who were held captive for over a decade, were rescued from captivity. The Boston marathon incident would have been avoided, had the assailants been intercepted by the friends and family or neighbors of the accused. Again, if the people at the bombing site were vigilant enough to identify the bags left by the criminals, the tragedy would not have happened. The Connecticut shooting of innocent children would not have taken place had the mother or the friends of the accused noticed unusual behavior of the teenager masterminding the plot.

It is a fact that no one is able to plan or organize these criminal activities in isolation and in short notice. Masterminding and eventual execution of these crimes would take weeks, months and even years of preparation and practice. Chances are that during the course of the planning process, the relatives or friends of the culprits might foresee the tragedy in the making.

We must all be vigilant and alert about what is happening in and around us. I hope someone somewhere would be vigilant enough and notice the location where our Archbishops are being held captive and come forward with the necessary information for their rescue. The responsibility of being a good citizen rests with such 'neighborhood watch' that would identify and eliminate the criminals from roaming our streets, and eventually guarantee peace in our neighborhood, in our society, in our country and on earth.

So be vigilant and alert, always.

Joy Mathen



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Digital Painting



GREETINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bincy Vijay	June 1
Neenu Manoj	June 23

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Fr. V V Paulose & Beena Paulose	June 18
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EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

Voice of Jerusalem is a monthly e-magazine published with the fundamental aim to promote spiritual living among people. After a brief stop, it is now being revived. Please utilize this platform to showcase your various God given talents in the form of stories, poems, art, articles. *Voice of Jerusalem* invites you to submit original and unpublished works in the fields mentioned above.

Warm regards,

Suraj Mathew, Editor

Reena George, Editor

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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

