

MIKTAV BETH *(Letter 2)*

Blessed is the one who takes the time to read this newsletter. Thanks to Rev. Motsamai Manong, Martin Louw, Dualaneo Prins, Sandra Vorster who have made suggestions, assisted with information, triggered thoughts so that this edition can see the light.

Feel free to do the same as we all benefit with collective ownership and input.

1. WALKING IN THE LIGHT.

Raw deal or lead (the) war...it's in the eye of the beholder

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground and righteousness will look down from the sky (Ps.85: 10-11).

Dear Friends,

Last time I wrote about faithfulness even in the small ventures, in fact *crucial* was the small ventures so that the bigger picture can be achieved! It is then fitting to bring in the twin companion this time and focus on *righteousness* and her entourage.

Are these within our means or are we again just fooling ourselves with idle words?

The complaint is that faithfulness and the striving for righteousness is useless, it just leads to more exploitation as this lifestyle is interpreted as weakness and thus I only end up with getting a raw deal!

I hope this is not your position that you are not tempted to change sides and to side with the enemy. It is a reality that your input does not always match your reward, but then we are not striving for rewards this side of the grave. We need to continuously realize that we have a task to disperse the darkness by not participating, to push back the frontiers and to form cracks in solid barriers of depravation with our presence and hearts. Perseverance is needed to undo the destructive and to undermine the onslaught against peace and fullness of life.

As our theme suggests, I do not wish to undermine your analysis of your position, but many times our vision is so blurred when we focus on the self and my immediate situation. It is only when we raise our eyes that we see further and be able to compare the plight of others with mine.

Righteousness is a gift born of inability, weakness; destruction of the self, but it enacts actions and works that consistently progress and triumph over the wrong.

May we be a part of this quest and hereto *I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what He will say to me and what He will answer concerning my complaint Hab.2:1*

2. WHAT SHALL WE SAY ABOUT ALL THESE?

{Reflections on the current national and international news events will be mirrored by/in the Word of God to console, direct and challenge (where needed).}

So, our sitting rooms are visited with disturbing scenes on TV reminiscent of the 70's again. So, the Escom price hike is making many see red. And with 2010 around the corner the coach had to pack his bags and make way for another. The list can go on and on.

Who is responsible? Who/what is to blame? This question was raised so many times in various spheres and forums as people are running around for answers and to calm the shod nerves. Words like capacity, resources, skills or the lack thereof are underpinning our judgments, conversations and discussions. Unable to go into the merits and demerits of each situation –sometimes these issues are far deeper than we can understand or the media can fish out and make public-maybe it better to consider some guidelines for *ourselves*- the most crucial is that honesty is the best policy.

The blaming game is as old as the first chapters of Genesis and relatively easy to understand. I must never be caught with the ball or pants down; the buck must always be passed as soon as possible to another culprit! Splinters/specks must be exposed, irrespective of the plank in my own eye (Matt.7:1ff.).

It is one thing to adhere to Theodore Roosevelt's advice: *Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell them "Certainly I can!" Then get busy and find out how to do it.* It is good to have a positive attitude and self image, but that does not eliminate the reality of our capabilities and skills. There are many things that I *want* to do, however the reality might be that I am limited due to circumstances to what I *actually* can achieve. Hiding a lack of talent under a bushel, will just escalate the darkness and ultimately destroy me under the search light. Rather, be frank and upfront with your capabilities. Get help timorously before being exposed with grave consequences. It is time to own up according to your job description irrespective of your sphere of influence.

Confession, forgiveness and honesty are friends that usher in eternal peace, the opposite you do not want to burden yourself with to fathom as it will destroy you long before they drown you in misery.

May we take control for our own decisions and actions and pray that others can benefit from our example.

3. JOYS AND SORROWS.

{Birthdays; Anniversaries; Baptisms; Special Announcements and New Members' info is waiting to be published here. It's all up to you!!!!}

The Elections for new deans have thus far been declared free and fair by all participants.

Pastor Newton Brandt was elected Dean of the Free State Circuit on Saturday 10 October 2009.

His deputy is Rev. Victor Tshipe, parish leader of the Thaba Nchu parish. Br Mokoena (Deputy President of the COD Synod) was elected Chairperson of the Circuit Council, whilst Br Lukas Sebeela was elected his deputy.

Last week (17 October) the very Rev. J. Bezuidenhout was elected Dean of the Kalahari Circuit with Rev. Britz as his deputy.

They will be supported by Br Abraham Vosloo as the elected Chairperson of the Circuit Council and Sr. Sofia Coetzee as the deputy. We plead with you to continuously intercede for these Circuits and the other leaders in our Church.

We congratulate **Rev. Wilfred Baxter** on the anniversary of his ordination which took place in his home parish 20 October 1985. By his side that day making the same vows was Rev. N. Brandt. May God's servants go from strength to strength under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We asked the readers to intercede for your Shepherds.

We are likewise calling upon you to intercede for Emeritus **Rev. Zeekoei** (residing in Thaba Nchu) currently recovering at Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein, after an accident where he hurt his hip. An operation was performed after a painful few days where it was first necessary to stabilize him for the operation. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope that God will comfort his family who is missing his presence and who are unable due to the distant to be by his side.

4. CHESS (NEE CHURCH) MOVES: BISHOP TO...

{All the movements of the Bishop (and deans), where they sow, plant, water will be made known so you can pray to God for these ventures at your Prayer groups and during Worship services}

The very Rev. Bishop William Bowles, ably assisted by Revs Manong and Standaar, has been clocking the kilometers to the Centre and North of our

country in the very important and much needed venture to facilitate with the elections in the Free State and Kalahari Circuits. We hope they will squeeze in some time with their families after these travels, as the Moria circuit is also eagerly waiting for these three members to complete the elections for this round. We wish them traveling mercies and wisdom and insight for the last leg of this venture.

Please intercede for this process and the tasks of the Dean in the coming months. May God guide the outcome and shepherd the leader and the entrusted flock that will be under his care. We also pray for blessings of rain over these areas as the region is currently grip by a severe water shortage that is affecting everyone.

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We likewise call upon to COD to start to intercede for the Bishop's trip to Sweden (3-17 November). May the planning and preparation and his endeavors there be of benefit to the Church of Sweden and the COD. We eagerly await a report on this trip in the future.

5. WHAT ABOUT....?

So it's always the same people praying in Church or at the Prayer meetings. Furthermore these prayers are always predictable causing people to shut down, instead of interceding with the person in their minds. At worst people are making fun of these "known" prayers and of the person. This must be strongly discouraged, but...

What about....?

In Church, just before the intercessory prayer time asking for special prayer requests. These can be made verbally on the spot or written down on (specially prepared) sheets of paper beforehand (do provide these at the entrance) and read at the appropriate moment. Do make it clear that this is not the occasion to come forward for laying on of hands. Unless you have a sense that the Spirit moves you in that direction. Occasions for laying on of hands must be created at convenient times to address the needs of your congregants.

In prayer cells, ward prayer sessions, etc. go around the room and ask each individual present if there is someone or something you can pray for. This is much more person and alerts all present to real current needs. Besides getting more compassion and empathy amongst the members, the prayer requests, even if you do not get to all of them, are now in the group psyche and they will reach out to one another and next time enquire about the progress, outcome of the prayer request. This is what our Master expects of us to really care about others and their needs and not just concentrate on my own selfish world or cocoon.

6. SPOTLIGHT ON....

The Circle of Prayer is up and running on our website. This can be a very useful tool to inform the COD of challenges in our personal, family, church or community life. Prayer partners, irrespective of the fact that they know the person, can now get alongside you because the love of God guides the intercessor to share your burden.

It should be noted that prayer is something very special that is entrusted to us. We must never underestimate the power of prayer. If we sincerely call upon God by day or night, we draw God's Almighty power to earthly realms to work healing, restoration, forgiveness, comfort and the like. Prayer of a believer can usher in transformation that was considered impossible on a human level. Let us use this Blessed gift and draw near to the mercy throne on God's invitation (Matt.11:28-30).

7. WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

The spiritual books that were up for grabs will go to the following readers:

To be a possible winner next time, simply register to receive the **Newsletter** regularly answer a simple question (Dualaneo this is your Call plus the names from the hat) and who knows your name can appear here next time! Happy surfing!!

WISHFUL THINKING

It is still my wish to inform, stimulate, to involve and to grow the visitors to our site. It is still my wish to hear from you. Please volunteer to contribute to any of these regular features. You also need to tell us your needs and whether these regulars are sufficient and cater for your expectations. Any other brilliant ideas will be gladly accommodated. Eagerly waiting to hear from you!!

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