



Dear Reader,

This second last newsletter of 2010 is a lament on behalf of all those whose lives were shattered this year whilst we listened and watched in shock, but did and said nothing. We start and finish with a prayer from Robert Louis Stevenson (search the Internet for more).

Thanks to Brenda Buys, Dan Alexander, and Japie Ontong for trigger thoughts and contributions that gave rise to some of the contributions.

Blessed is the one who takes the time to read this newsletter.

## 1. Walking in the light

We beseech Thee, Lord, to behold us with favor, folk of many families and nations gathered together in the peace of this roof, weak men and women subsisting under the covert of Thy patience. Be patient still; suffer us yet a while longer; with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavors against evil, suffer us a while longer to

endure, and (if it may be) help us to do better. Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day comes when these must be taken, brace us to play the man under affliction.

Be with our friends, be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns, return to us, our sun and comforter, and call us up with morning faces and with morning hearts-eager to labor--eager to be happy, if happiness shall be our portion--and if the day be marked for sorrow, strong to endure it.

## 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).}

I raise a laments for doctors and nurses who are raped whilst sacrificing to heal others;  
A lament for (single) mothers who are raped in the early mornings, during work and at night whilst striving to provide for their families;

A lament for young girls who are raped whilst strive to get an education;

A lament for girls who are kidnapped and forced into marriage, which is nothing else than sanctioned rape.

A lament for those who were abused in their families and now think themselves so dirty and of no worth, than to give their bodies over to be abused.

Let me lament those who have committed suicide, who has given up on life, who is in institutions, who cannot sleep, who cannot face the day ....

-0-

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that we may work for His justice, His freedom and His peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

Let us consider Jesus' words: *I tell you the truth one of you will betray me. This night you will deny me three times.*

### 3. Who is to blame she asks?

Am I to blame? Was it my fault?

Maybe, your parents are to blame for not providing for you,

No, our tradition and culture is to blame for the treatment of the sexes

No, the colonizers are to blame for destroying our value system,

No, the school is to blame for failing in their call

No, the government is to blame for allowing the discrimination amongst peoples,

No, the Church (the religious institutions) is to blame for poor guidance

No, God is....maybe He was not to give humans a free will (?)...

I am to blame.....for allowing a leaf to yellow, to dry and to fall to the ground whilst I remain secure, green and well, attached to the tree.

### 4. To those who mourn the loss of a loved one today

You may feel so lost and forsaken today. Nobody understands, you think. In your distress just focus and stay on the footprints of Jesus Christ. They might look dull and faded, but they are still the best guide. By faithfully following Him, you will ultimately realize that they will lead you straight through death to everlasting life. Did He not promise to go and prepare a place and to return to take us home? Your loved one is safe and so will you be if you follow in his tracks and Word. May the Holy Spirit comfort you!

### 5. 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}

**Better late than never....**

Congratulations to **Pastor Cyriacks** and his team for a job well done in Saldana by providing the congregation with their own place of worship. We wish Pastor Cyriacks and his family well for the future and pray that at the altars and beacons of hope he left

behind, intercession will also be made constantly for him and His endeavors in the Kingdom of God.

To the **Haarlem** congregation and parish on their 150 year celebration we bow our knees to the gracious God and thank Him for the providence all these years. For the faithful servants who labored under difficult and challenging times: we salute you! May God continue to bless the Shepherd, Pastor Bok and the flock and may they bring a new inspiration to the Moria Circuit.

Our Bishop and Pastor Manong have just returned from Norway and we are grateful for God's protection. We give them some much needed breathing space, before we request a few lines of summary about their experiences abroad.

## 6. What about....Saving a thought for the elderly (Take two)....

Strange how during the Festive Season some will miss their parents and grieve their empty seats, wish them back- if only for a little while, whilst those who are blessed with their loved ones, see them as a burden and spoiling their carefree lives.

## 7. Spotlight on.... *My Finger Prints!*

*"Lord, wherever I go, I leave my fingerprints.*

*On the hands that I touch, on the plates, walls and books.*

*There is no getting away from it*

*Wherever I touch I leave a sign of my identity.*

*"Help me Lord, to leave behind **heart prints***

***Wherever** I go today.*

*Heart prints of sincerity and compassion,*

*Of warmth, understanding and love,*

*Heart prints of warm friendliness and*

*Of sincere involvement.*

*May my heart touch another heart*

*And "leave an impression of Your love"*

*And if someone should say:*

*"Your touch has strengthened me today"*

Leave *them* behind with the knowledge that

*"It was Your love that they experienced"*

## 8. A prayer....

Give us grace and strength to preserve. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends and soften to us our enemies. Give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath and in all changes of fortune, and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving to one another. - **Robert Louis Stevenson**

## Conclusion:

Have I no reason to lament, what man (men) has made of man? (women) (*William Wordsworth*)

*Please Comment!*

The editor can be contacted at [newtonbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:newtonbrandt@gmail.com)