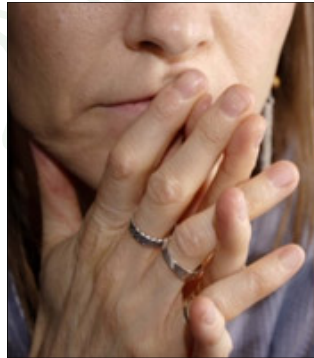


In Touch

Monthly Newsletter of Karnataka Congregation, Kuwait

I'll Be Happy When?



We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another. Then we are frustrated that the kids aren't old enough and we'll be more content when they are. After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage. We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our spouse gets his or her act together, when we get a nicer car, when we are able to go on a nice vacation or when we retire. The truth is there's no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when? Your life will always be filled with challenges. (My friend Jerrie sent me this. I thought I would expand on it a touch.)

When you talk to most of the folks my age, sooner or later, the

subject of retirement comes up as does talk of what they plan to do when they retire. The thought is that when they no longer have to worry about going to work, then things will be different, and then they will have time to do the things that really make them happy.

While thinking about this, I remembered what Jesus said, *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own"* (Matthew 6:34 NIV). I know we are not necessarily considering worry, but also being happy with your life. I believe the principle is basically the same. Also, notice what James wrote.

"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:13-14).



Perhaps the question we need to ask ourselves is, "What is keeping me from being happy?" Am I waiting for some future event that I think will change everything, make everything better, or make things different? Am I waiting for someone else to change their life, their attitudes, their likes or dislikes, believing that will make me happy?

The psalmist gives us some insight into finding happiness when he tells us, *"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God"* Ps. 146:5.

Where is your hope? Where do you try to find happiness? True hope and happiness is based on and found in our relationship with our Lord.

May God grant you true happiness this day and forever!

• **Russ Lawson**
(www.heartlight.org)

• IN TOUCH

WISHING YOU ALL A BLESSED AND GODLY 2010. MAY YOU GROW IN CHRISTLIKENESS AND IN HIS KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING. MAY ALL HIS 'YES' PROMISES BE AMEN TO YOU IN 2010.

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Priest outrages police! Advises congregation to shoplift!!

Poor people who are desperate for cash have been advised to go forth and shoplift from major stores - by an Anglican priest.

The Rev Tim Jones said in his Sunday sermon that stealing from successful shops was preferable to burglary, robbery or prostitution. He told parishioners it would not break the eighth commandment 'thou shalt not steal' because it 'is permissible for those who are in desperate situations to take food that they might not starve'.

'My advice, as a Christian priest, is to shoplift,' he told his stunned congregation at St Lawrence and St Hilda in York. 'I do not offer such advice because I think that stealing is a good thing, or because I think it is harmless, for it is neither.

I would ask them not to take any more than they need. I offer the advice with a heavy heart. Let my words not be misrepresented as a simplistic call for people to shoplift. But his advice was roundly condemned by police and the

local Tory MP.

A North Yorkshire Police spokesman said: 'First and foremost, shoplifting is a criminal offence and to justify this

course of action under any circumstances is highly irresponsible.

'Turning or returning to crime will only make matters worse, that is a guarantee.'



Football Grannies of South Africa

Vakhegula Vakhegula in South Africa's Limpopo Province is not your average soccer team - with the oldest member of the team aged 83, this team of grannies says soccer has given them their lives back. The team, with close to 40 members, meets twice a week for an hour's practice. During this time, they are not just grandmothers with families to feed, but local football stars.

Christian Traditions During Christmas Time

- By Prakash Gladstone

Most of us refer to the month of December as Christmas celebration month as we remember the birth of Christ as a human being, although being God and human at the same time.

One of the things we see during Christmas is the sightings of "**Christmas Fir trees**" around every nook and corner of the world. The tradition originates with Pagans representing fertile time of planting and bountiful harvests and the evergreen tree represents eternal life and the promise of bountiful returns for the New Year to come. The Bible talks about in Jeremiah 10:1-5 and describes about not giving importance to the heathen approach of cutting trees and giving the shape of a "Christmas tree" to worship and adore it.

Some "fundamental" Christians interpret it as a symbol for Christmas tree and should be forbidden. Some interpret it as idol worship representing the practice of making an object out of wood, and then worshipping it. The conclusion is that as the Christmas tree is not Biblically ordained, it should not be used. Some "traditional" Christians quote Isaiah 55:13 where the evergreen tree refers to as a joyful sign to the Lord in celebration of life everlasting and that it should not be cut off and the practice continuous year after year from pagan days till today.

During Christmas times we have another legendary figure called as **Santa Claus** or "Father Christmas" who brings gifts to the homes of good Christian children during Christmas. The traditional Santa Claus is portrayed as plump, jolly, white bearded man wearing a red coat with white collar and cuffs, white cuffed red trousers and black leather belts and boots.

As the above has no scriptural backing there has been opposition to the practice from "fundamental" Christians as they teach our children to follow traditions which detract from the religious origins and the purpose of real Christmas. Some say that it is misinterpretation of truth and unethical for parents to indulge in this practice to entertain their children during Christmas times. Still others interpret this as pure commercialization of religion.

For the present, let's forget about traditions and practices around the globe and concentrate on celebrating the birth of Jesus who is Emanuel – God with us, our savior, our redeemer, our provider, our everything. God bless you all - this Christmas season.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Beloved People of God,

Greetings to You all in the name of Almighty God and Saviour Jesus Christ .

Believer' sometimes find it difficult to determine God's will for their lives in certain situations. Times when you don't



find a clear direction can be very confusing and frustrating. God gave Moses the burning bush, he showed his will to Gideon with the fleece, and he spoke to Saul with thunder and lightening. When he does this for us, it's easy to understand God's guidance. But he seldom does it this way. To truly find God's will for our life we often must step out in faith. This can be scary, but we need to realize God is there beside us and he will not allow us to stray as long as we trust in him. Proverbs 3:6 promises us, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Psalm 37:23 tells us, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord..." And Isaiah 30:21 informs us, "Your ears shall hear a word ... 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left." God's word is assuring that he will help us find his direction. Initially, we may get a feeling of direction from God from different sources:

- 1. Prayer.** In order for God to speak to us, we need to be in his presence listening for his voice. As we spend time in prayer, we may sense God's leading in our lives.
- 2. His word.** God speaks to us through his written word as we study and meditate upon His Word.
- 3. Circumstances.** Many times God will cause doors to open, or others to close. If we are walking in obedience to him, we have to assume that events in our life are ordered by God.
- 4. Our heart.** Sometimes the Holy Spirit will minister to our spirit and reveal God's plan for us. We will have an assurance deep in our heart. We will feel God's voice guiding us.
- 5. Others.** God can use other believers to bring us his direction. God can reveal his direction to us through any of these five ways. But even when he does, it's sometimes difficult to discern that what we sense or feel is truly God's plan for our lives.

God will confirm his plan to you in the mouth of two or three witnesses. When you see this confirmation, then you will know it's time to step out in faith. You may sense God asking you to do this, but remember, God understands our human weakness. If we sincerely seek him and are willing to obey his word, he will usually affirm his will for us in other ways.

God takes our plans personally. He is involved in our lives. We need to trust Him rather than our plans. More than often, His plans are too intricate for us to understand. We need to patiently wait upon Him for their completion in our lives. **Our plans are not our own until we give them to the Lord, and He returns them to us.** He confirms his direction for us the same way he revealed it to us in the first place — through one of these five ways:

1. Prayer. We need to seek God in prayer. Luke 11:9-10 promises, "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." If we truly seek God's will, we will find it.
2. His word. Sometimes while we're struggling for God's guidance, a scripture that we are reading will seem to pop out at us confirming which way God wants us to go. Psalm 119:105 tells us, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Allow God's word to illumine your pathway.
3. Circumstances. Events will sometimes indicate God's direction for us. Read 2 Corinthians 2:12, "Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord." As you are seeking God's direction, events may establish what you have already felt God telling you to do.
4. Our heart. God will sometimes speak to our heart. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would help guide us in John 16:13. Just like Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-12, we need to be listening for God's still small voice speaking to our soul.
5. Others. Many times when we are struggling with indecision, God will use others to affirm his will. God uses his whole church body to minister to one another. Colossians 3:16 instructs us, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." God will speak to us whether it's the word of Christ, or wisdom, or teaching, or admonishing, or songs, or grace in our hearts. God will confirm his will in our lives.

Promise Word for KCK in 2010

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

- Pastor Shalom

Playing Second Fiddle

Many people in our world are motivated by praise of others; that is not a bad thing if dealt with properly. After all, the scripture repeatedly reminds us to encourage and exhort one another. Some folks though live their lives in search of, perhaps in pursuit of praise from the lips or pens of men and women. I have known people who have such an ego that they cannot function if there is someone who does not appreciate them. It may be of interest to know that the word "Ego" originated from the Latin word for "I". This can be understood by listening to the conversation of a person with an "ego problem." You will find that the word "I" is used repeatedly as if they are the center of all there is.

Leonard Bernstein, the celebrated orchestra conductor, was asked, "What is the hardest instrument to play?" He replied without hesitation: "Second fiddle. I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm or second French horn or second flute, now that's a problem. And yet if no one plays second, we have no harmony."

How are you at "playing second fiddle"? You see, God's church

only functions properly if people work "in the background" or "behind the scenes" playing "second fiddle" without recognition. I thank God for all of the men and women within His church who are not grasping for recognition, who are willing to work quietly in the background. They are happy to serve God for his recognition, not for the recognition of others.

The apostle Paul gives us this instruction from God:

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ... Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:3-10).

In other words, we are all equal in God's eyes and we should be happy just knowing that.

Pride is a terrible thing and has proven to be the downfall of many people. The common saying we here is "Pride goes before a fall." This is actually a bible principle. God warns us through the wise writer of Proverbs: "*Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall*" (Pr 16:18). Pride causes some to view others as less worth, less valuable to God and our world, than they themselves are. Pride causes some to abuse or misuse someone they should cherish as God's creation. Pride causes some to be lost because they won't submit themselves to God. Perhaps some just cannot make themselves serve God without the praise of men.



- By Russ Lawson

Only One is truly worthy of our praise, and it surely isn't us!

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being (Revelation 4:11).

You see, playing second fiddle is not a bad thing. It doesn't become a problem unless we do think of ourselves as being "just a little better" than someone else. We will understand that point if we keep our egos -- our desire to see "I" as being of first importance -- under control. James said it this way:

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).

God and His church need you to be the support and encouragement to others, not the one that gets his or her feelings hurt because you were not recognized (i.e. "They didn't speak to me today"). Are you willing to play second fiddle if that's what it takes to be a blessing to God and His church? It may just take that for your church to have and to produce the harmony God desires.

(www.heartlight.org)

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man.

Benjamin Franklin

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(See Luke 10:30-36)

09-10-1998

DON'T GET TOO EXCITED FELLA, I'M THE
MEDIocre SAMARITAN ... I ONLY GIVE YOU A
BANDAID AND THEN I'M OFF

The First Parent !

Whenever your kids are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to God's kids.

After creating Heaven and Earth, God created Adam and Eve, and the first thing He said to them was, "Don't."

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit," God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We've got forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve...we've got forbidden fruit!"

"No way!"

"Yes way!"

"Don't eat that fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

"Because I'm your Father and I said so!" said God, wondering why He hadn't stopped after making the elephants. A few minutes later God saw the kids having an apple break and was angry.

"Didn't I tell you not to eat that fruit?" the First Parent asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?"

"I dunno," Eve answered.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!"

"Did so!"

"Did not!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed. But there is a reassurance in this story. If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give them wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble handling children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

SEVEN STRANGE PREACHERS

- BY CECIL JENTLY

1. John the Baptist

A Strange preacher -His life style was different. John preached a strange message - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'

Wilderness was his pulpit - His clothes and his food was also strange.

John Preached - Prepare to welcome the Grace of Christ (Bride Groom).

2. NOAH'S DOVE

When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth.

Dove is the most faithful bird, and brought to Noah a message of God's faithfulness.

3. BALAAM'S DONKEY

God opened the mouth of Donkey and it preached - The donkey spared his life -Three times. WHY THE DONKEY HAD TO SPEAK??? The donkey brought a message of Rebuke because Balaam had disobeyed God.

4. ELIJAH'S RAVENS

The nation of Israel had abandoned God's law and turned to the worship of Baal- GOD was displeased with King Ahab, and sent His prophet, Elijah the Tishbite, to say unto him, "As the Lord God of Israel lives there shall not be

dew nor rain for years in all Israel." God knew that these words would make Ahab angry with Elijah, so He commanded Elijah to get out of Ahab's way. "Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shall drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there."

Ravens Provided Food for Elijah

5. THE RICH MAN'S DOGS

Poor man Lazarus always dependent on God.. (Seek first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, ever thing will be added onto you). The rich man was so busy in worldly desires, and had no much time to repent or to humble himself before the mighty hand of God.

The dogs brought a message - Humble yourself before your creator and depend on him always".

6. SIMON PETER'S ROOSTER

As Peter denied his master thrice, the rooster brought a message of repentance.

7. HEROD'S WORMS

King Herod exalted himself Like god... And because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

The worms brought a message of judgment.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !



Wedding Anniversaries In January

2 Wesley & Sheela Sones 7 Sumanth & Sangeetha Doddamani

10 Cecil & Anita Jently 10 Manohar & Shirley Kotian

11 Jayprakash & Roshni 12 Lawrence & Joyce Bottney

16 Lucas & Sangeetha P. 26 Samuel & Veena Amanna

The Deposit in YOU

• Laveena Shalom

The deposit in Us Determines what is Birthed through us... (read Matthew 12:33-37)

The nature of the tree determines the fruit it bears. The deposit that is in us will determine the fruit that we will bear. It will determine what we will give birth to in our lives. What is in us will determine what is released through our lives. What is in us will determine what is released through our lives. So also, God releases His works through us in conjunction with the deposit that is in us. Therefore what we have already deposited that is in us. Therefore, what we have already deposited is us and continue to deposit in us, are very important.

A good man, out of the good treasure in his heart brings forth good things. What is birthed from within us is dependent on the treasure or deposit that is in us. If we have a good deposit in our hearts, we will give birth to good things. If we have an evil deposit in us determines the nature of what is birthed through us.

1. How is the Deposit Made?

God deposits things in our lives...'John answered and said, a man receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven' John 3:27. The deposit or the good treasure, we have is put in us by God himself. He is the source of what we have. If God chooses to, he can deposit things in our life-gifts, anointing and other abilities that we do not possess at present.

2. Other People can deposit things in our lives

'As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend' Pr. 27:17. The people we are associated, with deposits either good or evil things in us. Good deposits can come into our life through other people. So, we can purposefully choose the kind of people we spend time with and allow them to deposit good things in our lives.

3. We can deposit things in our own life

'keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life' Proverbs 4:23.

Welcome

We welcome Pastor's wife Laveena Shalom and daughter Alethiya who arrived in Kuwait on Christmas day.



We can determine what we deposit in our own lives. We purposefully put the deposit in their by studying the word of God, spending time with certain people and receiving training in certain areas. When we have a good treasure in us, we are positioning ourselves or putting ourselves in a place where good things can be birthed through us.

As we continue to understand the work that God wants to release through us, we should deposit those very things in our lives and it will help birth the work of God. If we are believers, God desires in us to grow in to the maturity level, increase in winning soul, become stronger and be the kind of living witness as He wants it to be. Therefore, we must meditate the word of God, increasing in anointing and learn about to live according to his will and when we deposit all these things in us, then we can exhibit the one who lives in our life...that is JESUS.

Let together pray and seek God' plan and guidance in the year of 2010, and deposit the right things in our heart in order to bear good fruits to glorify JESUS in this world.