



RIVERS of JOY MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER
1 April 2017

Dear Pastor

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. I thank God for your life and commitment to this ministry and above all to God's service. Here is my latest Pastoral letter for you all. Please share it with your people. It is very important that your people can be blessed with these great teachings.

Important notice

Despite writing individually to many of you about my possible vitiating to your church this year many have not replied to me yet. What this means is that you are not interested in me visiting you and your people and encouraging you and blessing your people and helping you to build a strong church that will reach to your community better and further. And unless you are in regular communication with us two things will happen: we will not be able to pray for you and your needs and we will not be able to support you and help you.

Even more important, if you are not responding to my email and keeping in touch with us it shows that you are no longer interested in being part of our ministry and therefore you risk to be expelled. As a consequence all the documents we issued to you will no longer be valid and we will inform the relevant authorities of your nation that you are no longer part of Rivers of Joy Ministries.

The Word of God

Abundant life today

"...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."
(John 10:10)

Are you living the abundant life Jesus came to give? I'm not talking about living in the fanciest house or driving the newest car. No, His promise of abundant life goes way beyond material things that this world offers. Abundant life means "life to the full". That means no matter what is going on around you, you can partake of the full blessings of God. You can have peace in the midst of a storm. You can have joy when things are uncertain. You can have hope when circumstances seem hopeless.

As believers, a lot of times it's easy to look at that verse and think, "God is going to give me abundant life someday". But the truth is that God wants you to have abundant life TODAY! Don't waste another second living in mediocrity or settling for less than God's best. Receive His blessings by faith today. Receive His hope, joy, strength and favor. Declare that you are living the abundant life today and every day!

School of leadership

Increase your pastor's effectiveness (1)

[Pastors] who do their work well... should be paid well.

1 Tim 5: 17

Your attitude and actions affect your pastor and your church. When you bless your pastor you bless your church, and when you hinder your pastor you hinder your church. Let's look at some ways in which you can increase your pastor's effectiveness:

1. Provide a good salary

Once in the Old Testament and twice in the New Testament, God holds church members responsible to provide generously for their pastor. The old saying, 'Lord, You keep him humble and we'll keep him poor!' is no joking matter, and is contrary to the teaching of Scripture. Many a pastor is hampered by inadequate income, causing them stress and worry over their family's financial needs and to share their spiritual responsibility with a secular job to make ends meet. God established the law of compensation for those who provide for our bodies and souls - from oxen to pastors. An ox's strength and capacity to do its job effectively required that it ate as much as it needed from the grain it was threshing. 'But was God concerned only about an ox? No, he wasn't! He was talking about [his servants]' (1 Corinthians 9:9-10 CEV). And Paul applies the same principle when it comes to compensating those who minister to us: '[Pastors] with a gift of leadership should be considered worthy of respect, and... adequate salary, particularly if they work hard at their preaching and teaching. Remember the scriptural principle: "Thou shall not muzzle an ox when he treadeth out the corn", and the labourer is worthy of his hire' (1 Timothy 5:17-18 PHPS). When possible, free your pastor from financial worry. Allow them to focus on developing the potential God sees in you, your church, and His kingdom in your community.

God bless you all!

Bishop Alex Tana

General Overseer