



RIVERS of JOY MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER
1 August 2015

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.

Please remember that we now have a separate newsletter of news from the ministry and prayers needs. This will be sent to all of you next week.

The Word of God

Work in progress

There is a wonderful sign of God's eternal love and commitment to us in a great promise that the Apostle Paul reminds us of in Phil 1: 6 where we read, "I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Hallelujah! You see when we came to Jesus and accepted Him as our Lord and Saviour God began a work of complete and total renovation inside and outside of us. That's why we call ourselves "born again!" God is re-creating us in a way. Not because He got it wrong the first time, far from it! God had made us perfect but.... we spoiled His beautiful creation and so the master potter needs to "re-create" us afresh to make us even more beautiful! And God can do that because now, at last, we have accepted His Lordship over us and to be part of His Kingdom.

But just as any artist or musician would know God has not finished his work yet! We are "Work in progress"; this is what the Apostle Paul calls the process of sanctification or in other words the process by which we will become more and more and more like Jesus. We need to grow and develop to the perfect stature of Christ; in other words be like Jesus. And this will take time because God needs to peel away all the layers of sin, all the incrustations of iniquity and make us ready, a bright shining bride for the glorious return of Jesus. So if you see some pruning or polishing going on in your life don't worry; it's only the Master still working on you!

School of leadership

You Were Made for Ministry

I want to tell you how my Aunt Eva got my goat. Once upon a time I owned a goat. Buck, believe it or not, was so big that I could ride him, which I often did. I grew to really love my pretty white goat. Aunt Eva, on the other hand, never really got attached to Buck like I did. One day when our azalea bushes and magnificent bridal wreath spirea were in full bloom, both prized by Aunt Eva almost as much as she prized me, Buck had a hunger pang. He proceeded to eat all of those azaleas along with the spirea next to them. Once discovered, Buck was history. The last time I saw Buck, he was in the back of a trailer headed to who-knows-where. Buck was a fine animal other than that episode, and I thought he was a pretty good goat. But on that fateful day, Aunt Eva declared that Buck was "good for nothing."

Christians are to be good for something. But we can also appear to be "good for nothing". In fact, Jesus said that when we stand before Him on Judgment Day, some will be like sheep and others like goats. The sheep in Matthew 25, who will be on Jesus' right hand at the place of sonship, are true believers who manifested their Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. in tangible expressions of love to others. Jesus says that these sheep will have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, provided hospitality to the homeless, clothing to the naked and visited the sick and those imprisoned.

God bless you all!

Bishop Alex Tana

General Overseer