



# RIVERS of JOY MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER  
1 December 2015

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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.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year to all!**

Please note that the ministry's office will be closed from Wednesday 23 December to Sunday 3 January 2016. You can still write to us but we will not reply to you until the office reopens on Monday 4 January 2016

**Important notice!**

Please let me know soonest when I can come and visit you next year so that I can put it in the calendar and we can start planning for it. Remember that I always need time to buy the air ticket and get the visa organized and that may take some time.

## The Word of God

### Who controls your thoughts?

In a well known verse in 2 Cor 10: 5 the Apostle Paul makes a very important statement when he says, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." You see our thoughts are what determines our feelings and our actions, they are the driver of your life. When your life is in a mess or you are going through hard times and difficulties most probably your thoughts are the ones responsible for that situation. It's a law of nature that what ever we think about and focus on that is what is going to happen. So for example if you are focusing on sickness or poverty.... well that is exactly what you are going to experience!

That is why Paul encourages us to make every thought captive to Christ; or in other words submitted to Christ. That does not mean giving up our free will or being forced into anything. But it does mean that we "choose", we "decide" to make our thoughts be controlled by God rather than our earthly passions and fleshly desires. Just imagine how different would your life be if you allowed Jesus to do the driving whilst you just enjoy the ride! And remember that if you don't let God take control; of your thoughts the enemy surely will and destroy your life!

## School of leadership

### How should biblical theology inform pastoral counselling?

1) A pastor should apply all of Scripture to his people's lives in light of the gospel. Biblical theology teaches a pastor how to do this. And this enables Christians to draw comfort,

encouragement, and hope from all of Scripture, even parts of it that seem more distant from our lives.

2) A pastor should help his people understand their stories in light of God's story. In order to rightly interpret our lives, we need to set our personal story within the context of the Bible's one great story of redemption. Good biblical theology will enable a pastor to personally teach his people how the whole story of redemptive history illumines our own lives as they fit into that story.

3) A pastor should inspire a struggling sheep with the greatness of God's power and plans as displayed in the whole history of redemption. This will encourage the discouraged, comfort the struggling, and inspire the weak.

God bless you all!

***Bishop Alex Tana***

General Overseer