



# RIVERS of JOY MINISTRIES

**NEWSLETTER**  
**1 December 2016**

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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.

## **Important notices**

1. Christmas will be a few days away now and I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a blessed Merry Christmas and a really joyful New Year.
2. Because of the Christmas holidays the HQ office will be closed from Friday 23 December 2016 and Monday 2 January 2017. You are still welcome to email us but you may not receive a reply until the office re-opens.
3. I am now planning my travels for next year and so it is important, and urgent, that you let me know when you would like me to visit you (at least the month) and any ideas of the programme. I want to try and see as many of you as possible next year! But it takes time to organize programmes, arrange flights and sort out visas; so the sooner we move the better.

## **The Word of God**

### **A new year is dawning!**

An old year is almost finished and a new year is about to begin. And although time is a continuous flow of moments with no interruptions it is good to consider that 2016 is about to finish and 2017 is about to start. It's time therefore to consider what has this year meant for you, what challenges God helped you to overcome and what you are planning to do in 2017. And whatever difficulties and challenges you may still be facing, however uncertain 2017 may look to you at the moment remember the words that David spoke when he found himself in a similar situation. These are the words of a king but contain a mighty series of promises from the King!

Ps 23 says. "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

Let us start the new year with a greater level of faith, with a confident and joyful attitude that God will be with us every step of the way and above all with a greater readiness to do what ever God asks us

to do trusting that He will equip us for the calling and make a way where ever He calls us to go or what ever He calls us to do.

## **School of leadership**

### **Should church services primarily be for evangelizing non-Christians?**

First Corinthians 14 provides us with some of the most detailed instruction about the corporate gatherings of Christians in all of the New Testament. In this chapter, Paul explains that church services should primarily be for building up Christians.

#### **1. Church services should be intelligible to non-Christians**

Paul argues that what is done Christian gatherings should be intelligible to non-Christians so that they may hear the gospel, be convicted of sin, and come to faith in Christ. Verses 24-25: "But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

#### **2. Fundamentally, church services are for building up Christians**

Throughout the chapter, Paul's dominant concern is that everything in the gatherings build up Christians. Verse 12: "So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church." Verse 26: "What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up."

#### **3. Bottom line**

While churches should certainly view evangelism as one purpose of their gatherings, the primary purpose is to equip the believers.

God bless you all!

***Bishop Alex Tana***

General Overseer