



RIVERS OF JOY MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER

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.

First of all an apology

Many of you I know have wondered what had happened to these pastoral letters and why I was not sending them out any more. This was actually due to three main reasons. First of all I was not feeling very well at the beginning of the year and this caused me to slow down on many activities apart from the urgent things.

Second, the ministry has experienced a time of growth, for which we praise the lord. But, in my role as General Overseer, this meant a lot of extra work at our end. This also explains why I have been so far this year been unable to travel and visit some of the national branches as I had wanted to.

Third, our email system broke down earlier in the year (a problem of software malfunctioning) and it took us a long time to find out what was happening and to put it right. But praise God all is well again apart from being very busy in reorganizing some of our national branches and arranging visitations for the rest of this year.

The Word of God

Fix your eyes on Jesus

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith"

(Heb 12:2, NIV)

Are your eyes fixed on Jesus today? It's so easy to let the distractions of the world and the cares of everyday life change your focus. Whatever you fix your eyes on, you open your spirit to. You can choose to fix your eyes on Jesus no matter what distractions of life are going on around you. You see, when you fix your eyes on Jesus, you are opening yourself to the Healer. You are opening yourself to the Deliverer. You are opening yourself to the Prince of Peace, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Provider, the Redeemer, the Strong Tower of refuge.

What do you need in your life today? Peace? Fix your eyes on Jesus. Do you need healing? Fix your eyes on Jesus. Do you need a safe retreat? Fix your eyes on Jesus. Now you may have to turn off other things that you've been watching so that you can fix your eyes on Him. But remember, He is your source of life and the Author and Perfecter of your faith. Fix your eyes on Him and allow Him to work in your life so that you can experience the victory He has in store for you!

School of leadership

Discover who you are called to reach

'How is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?

Acts 2: 8

On the day the church was birthed we read: 'All of [the apostles] were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?"... Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"' (vv. 4-8, 12).

The question 'What does this mean?' indicates that God loves and uses all kinds of people - gypsies and cowboys, bikers and academics, single parents and well-heeled executives. It also tells us that when we're filled with God's Spirit, He has equipped each of us to reach a specific kind of person. So here are some questions to help you identify who you are called to reach:

1. Who do you find it easy to talk to?

Teenagers? Drug addicts? The elderly? You may be tongue-tied around children but eloquent with executives. No problem; that's how God designed you.

2. Who do you feel the most compassion for?

God doesn't burden each of us equally. 'He fashions [our] hearts individually' (Psalm 33:15). What makes your heart break and your pulse race? When you see the homeless, or victims of the sex trade? The newly-bereaved or the divorced? Paul says, '[God] comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others' (2 Cor 1:4).

So today think about it, ask God and discover who you are called to reach.

God bless you all!

Bishop Alex Tana

General Overseer