



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.

General news

As you all know by now this year has been a tough year for the ministry. We have lost some few pastors whose heart after all was not with the vision of this ministry but we have gained many more and the ministry is certainly stronger than when we started this year. To God be the glory!

It has also been a year when I have been unable to travel and that for two reasons: one, the poor organizational skills of some pastors who have resulted in delays in getting things organized, not being able to get costs accurate and resulting in wrong budgets; and two, because of the very high costs of flights.

Next year I am planning to start booking flights early so that I can get discounted rates; but this means that I need to have confirmed dates of when you want me to be with you soonest. I will also make sure that we start organizing early for my missions so that any problems can be sorted in good time.

The Word of God

Be an imitator of God

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

(Eph 5:1-2, ESV)

Have you ever spent time with a small child or baby and had them mimic your every sound or action? To them it's a fun game, but internally, they are learning by watching and copying everything you do. They just observe and do the same thing. That's because we are all wired to be imitators. Even as adults, just like little children, we are all still imitators. So many people today end up imitating what they see in the world, on TV, and in the news and magazines.

But Scripture tells us that we are to be imitators of God and follow His example of love. Do you remember what the word "Christian" means? It means "Christ like!" In other words our very name tells us that we should be "like Christ" or in other words have the same attitudes, the same thinking, the same behaviour as that of Jesus Christ.

So here is the challenge. Many of us will need to make some changes to how we think, what we do and what we say. And if you need to make a change in your life today, change who/what you are imitating. You will need to change your focus. The more you focus on the Word, the more you will imitate God. When you do things God's way, you will get God's results: peace, joy and blessing all the days of your life!

School of leadership

The qualities of a spiritual leader

'Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honour.'

1 Tim 5:17

To be a spiritual leader worth following:

1. You must be accountable to someone

Someone who knows you well enough to pray with you, strengthen you in your vulnerable areas, and counsel you on important decisions. Authority without accountability inevitably leads to disaster.

2. Your personal priorities must be in order

Priorities have a way of slipping. Too many of us become successful at the cost of a broken home and failing health. Why? Because we allowed our priorities to slip.

3. Your walk with God must be consistent

David said, 'Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You' (Psalm 119:11). A disciplined daily walk with God is your best protection against sin. If instead of spending time with God you're spending it on things that have become more important, it should alarm you.

Pay particular attention to the word 'treasured'. It means to value and protect something, and let nothing threaten it. Take time to pray and read your Bible every day - and guard that time with your life. Give God your mind every morning when it's fresh. And if you're a pastor, your first calling isn't the building project, the board, or the budget, it's 'feed my sheep' (John 21:16).

If Saturday finds you searching for a sermon outline on the Internet, make some changes. Delegate secondary things and get back to putting first things first. 'Seek out from among you...men...whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and...ministry of the word' (Acts 6:3-4).

God bless you all!

Bishop Alex Tana

General Overseer