



RIVERS of JOY MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER
30 September 2017

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 apologies

I want to apologise with everyone for the lateness of this Pastoral letter. As you know this has been caused by the fact that back in June my wife and I were put in the situation of having to find a new home and office for the ministry. That took many weeks and praise God we are now in a lovely new home.

The second thing that over the past couple of weeks a great part of my time was taken by assisting my eldest daughter (and the secretary to the ministry) who was due to give birth to her third child and there were some medical and practical complications to attend to. The baby is now born and so my time is more or less back to normal.

But all these problems have also meant that I have been unable to travel for most of this year, though I am hoping (and working on!) to at least be able to visit our churches in Liberia, West Africa and Hyderabad in India and possibly Nepal also before the end of this year.

The Word of God

A new heart and a new Spirit

When God created us He made us in His own image and put His Spirit within us. He shaped us as a potter with the clay to make us beautiful in all dimensions. We were perfect because God Himself had made us and nothing had been there to affect or corrupt the making process. However something happened to destroy all God's good work. God had also given us free will, in other words the ability to choose between good and evil. Sadly we chose evil thus damaging the masterpiece that God had created of each one of us. Now the story could have ended there; but God instead devised a plan to restore us to our former glory, a plan of salvation and redemption (or restoration) for all mankind. And God made a promise which is recorded in Ez 36: 26 where God says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh,"

What this means is that God, as a good repairer of broken and leaking pots, is going to remove the damaged and broken part of our being and our life and He is going to replace them with new parts! Hallelujah! In God's hands we will be made anew, a new creation once again shaped by the very hands of the master potter! And the new person will be even better than before! Because now we will have experienced what evil can do in our lives and we will know God more truthfully and experience an even greater dimension of His love. But that is not all! Because now with the Spirit of the Risen Lord living in us we will be able to live in the glory of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. Today my brother and my sister you are not just a new creation, you are also a powerful

vessel and instrument for God's Kingdom!

School of leadership

Know your calling (1)

'What is that in your hand?' (Exodus 4: 2)

When God called Moses, one of the first questions He asked him was: 'What is that in your hand?' Moses was holding his shepherd's staff - the one he used each day to lead and protect his sheep. But God had a different plan for it - a greater one! He used it to part the Red Sea and lead Israel into the Promised Land. When God asks you, 'What is that in your hand?' He wants you to think about your talents, experiences, relationships, education, resources, your mind and your temperament. Dr Martin Seligman talks about our 'signature strengths'. They fall into six categories:

1. Wisdom and knowledge

These include things like curiosity, love of learning, sound judgement, and social intelligence.

2. Courage

This includes perseverance and integrity.

3. Humanity

The capacity for kindness, and the ability to express mercy.

4. Justice

The ability to bring about fairness and leadership.

5. Temperance

Qualities like self-control, prudence, and humility.

6. Transcendence

An appreciation for beauty, the expression of gratitude, the ability to hope, and the capacity for joy.

We all have the capacity for each of these strengths, but the ones that resonate most deeply within you are your 'signature strengths'. Once you identify these you begin to understand your calling. But be careful; the enemy wants to convince you that God can't use you because of your weaknesses, when in fact the opposite is true. Who can speak to those who are grieving better than those who have suffered loss? Chuck Colson was the chief White House lawyer until Watergate. But only when he became a convict was he equipped to begin his ministry, Prison Fellowship. So, know your calling.

God bless you all!

Bishop Alex Tana

General Overseer