



RIVERS of JOY MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER
24 April 2024

Rivers of Joy Ministries

Pastoral letter " April 2024

Dear Pastor

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. I thank God for your life and commitment to Rivers of Joy Ministries and above all to God's service. Here is my latest Pastoral letter for you all. Please share it with your church people as it is very important to regularly share the vision of this ministry of which you carry the name as well as the responsibility to equip your people with great teachings.

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1. " " " " General news

" a) " " " An update from Bishop

As I communicated via Facebook and emails to many of our members, the last few months have been extremely difficult and challenging for most of us. One effect of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine is that all prices of goods, food, travel etc have shot up all over the world and so it has become a real challenge not just for our pastors in the developing countries but even here at home in the UK. There is real struggle even in the western countries, not just in your country.

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Though we are a growing and large ministry worldwide, we are financially small and resources are still very limited, mostly through personal contributions from myself and my wife and some small donations. As you know, differently from the majority of international ministry, we do not ask you to send us any tithes of tithes for being part of Rojm; but rather under God's guidance we encourage you to save whatever money you should send to us for any special project of your church and for supporting my accommodation expenses when I visit you.

" b) The ministry is growing

I shared last time the exciting news of how our ministry keeps on growing. This is clearly the sign of God's grace and blessing upon us; but God does not want us to be complacent or lazy. So it is important that everyone continues spreading the message of our ministry as you spread the Word of God and tell fellow pastors that they are welcome to join us, provided they accept our terms and conditions, starting from changing the name of the church they lead to Rivers of Joy.

" c) Our ongoing support

A reminder to all our pastors to connect with your Regional Overseer or National Overseer or directly with me as appropriate. If there is a Regional/National Overseer in your area/country you would have been notified as we welcomed you in Rojm. If no mention was given that means that you will need to report directly to me. The main reason is to make sure that you are supported in your church, we get regular updates on what is happening in your church and stand with you for any

prayer needs you may have.

Â d) Rojlm training

As a ministry, it is part of our God-given vision and our commitment to you all, to train your people and especially you, our pastors and leaders, in both pastoral and biblical issues as well as in business principles if interested. Come and join us on our dedicated and access restricted Facebook page "Rojlm training" as well as, if you can, on our Zoom broadcast meetings. From our Rojlm Training page you will also be able to ask questions about ministry and/or Rojlm issues as well as requesting copies of my growing series of Joy Notes, short teachings on various subjects that can be easily emailed to you as PDF files. You can also find my training videos on our website or on YouTube.

Â e) Bishop's travels

As many of you know, I wanted to travel to see as many of you as possible. Sadly this past February our landlord gave us notice to quit the house we were staying at. To find an alternative accommodation here at a price we can afford is almost impossible; but with God's help we have; praise God. Having said this there are still matters unresolved and our personal finances have dwindled to almost nothing. So I am hoping that I will be able to come and see some of you in the second half of this year. In the meantime please remember that you can always meet with me via Zoom; I am available to speak to your church via Zoom at any time.

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2. Leadership training

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3 challenges for today's church

Â 'God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety.'

Eph 3:10 NLT

Â Many who know me well know that I am passionate about growing the Church (with the big C) so that local churches (with the small c) could grow and develop. That is why I am equally passionate about growing and developing pastors and leaders who have been called by God to lead "churches."

Â But I am also aware that this is not an easy task. There are many challenges facing the Church and there are many obstacles in developing pastors and leaders to the fulness they could be. The result is that at present the Church is weak and corrupt and as a consequences churches are not doing all that they should and could to expand the Kingdom of God. Here are three of the main challenges the church faces today:Â

Â 1)Â Â Â We can't experience a new move of God if we insist on clinging to an old one

Â 'God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety.' The wordÂ revivalÂ doesn't simply mean awakening something that's asleep. It also means resurrecting that which is dead or dying and causing it to come to life again.Â

Â 2)Â Â Â We fear excess, so we embrace mediocrity and call it balance

People aren't drawn to us because of our similarities, but because of the things that make us unique. When it comes to our faith and our testimony, we mustn't downplay, soft-pedal or sidestep the very things that God has given us that make us distinctive. If we do, people will be disappointed and go elsewhere. The disciples didn't blend in with the crowd; their message and the demonstration of its power made them stand out.Â

3) We need to make room in the church for risk takers and faith walkers

In the first miracle that Jesus worked on, changing water into wine, Mary told the servants, 'Whatsoever he says to you, do it' (John 2:5 NKJV). Our need to be liked and to be popular can lead to a religious spirit that cripples risk taking and faith walking. Jesus promised: 'You shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me' (Acts 1:8 NKJV). So when God tells us to 'do church' differently, let's not be afraid to step out and obey Him.

God bless you all.

Bishop Alex Tana

General Overseer