

HA'SHEM

issue 38

Truth that Transforms

Autumn 2005

Rise and build

INSIDE:

The Dynamic Church Community
Rise and Build

The Disappearing Man; the Emerging Minister
Create-a-Caption Competition

HA'SHEM is the Hebrew word which means 'THE NAME' (of Yahweh)

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DIVINE NAMES AND TITLES

Throughout this magazine you will see the names YAHWEH and YAHSHUA. Yahweh is the original name for the heavenly Father and Yahshua is the original name of His Son, our Saviour. Also the term ELOHIM (or its shortened form El) may be used. This literally means 'Mighty One' and is usually translated 'God' in the King James Version of the Bible.

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We believe...

- That there is one true and holy God, Yahweh Elohim who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Gen. 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Ps 90:2; Matt. 28:19
- That the Bible is the inspired and infallible word of Yahweh
2 Tim 3:16
- That sin came into the world as a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience, and consequently 'all have sinned' and are in need of salvation
Gen. 2:17; 3:1-24; Rom. 5:12; 3:23
- That Yahweh sent his Son to pay the full penalty for sin and to rescue humankind from eternal punishment
John 1:29; 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:21
- That the personal name of the God of Israel, our Heavenly Father, is Yahweh and the name of his Son, our Saviour, is Yahshua
Ex. 3:14-15; Matt. 1:21; John 5:5:43
- That Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh, was born of a virgin; lived a sinless life; died a cruel death; was raised to life and ascended to heaven where he reigns with his Father
Matt. 1:18-23; 16:16; Heb. 4:14-15; Matt. 28:1-9; Acts 1:9-22
- That those who repent of their sin and believe on Yahshua are made heirs with him of eternal life
Rom. 8:15-17
- That after repentance and faith one must be baptised (immersed in water), in the name of Yahshua, for the remission of sins
Acts 2:38
- That believers should be baptised into the Holy Spirit, which is the promise of the Father
Acts 2:28-39
- In the demonstration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, and that these gifts play an essential part in the development of Yahshua's Congregation today
- That the Church is the Body of Messiah and that Yahweh imparts gifts of ministry and service to individuals for the growth and health of the Body
Eph. 4:11-14; Rom. 12:4-8
- That Yahshua will return to the earth for a millennial reign and will finally establish an eternal heavenly kingdom with those who have accepted his salvation
Acts 1:9-12; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Heb. 1:8; Rev. 21:1-7
- That the celebrations of Leviticus 23 were continued in the New Covenant era and are to be observed today – this includes the 7th day Sabbath

Editorial

Welcome to this long awaited issue of Ha'Shem, and thanks to all of you who prayed as we laboured to produce it.



Yahshua came into the world with a plan: to give himself as a ransom for the lost – those far away and estranged from His Father; and through that to establish a New Covenant community, made up of a new 'brand' of people. How exciting is that! In the 21st Century we ask the question, "What is that community like and how is it doing?"

In this issue of Ha'Shem we're looking at some essentials, you know, the things that are absolutely necessary for something to work properly, as was intended. In this case it's the essential functions of the local church that identifies it as belonging to Yahshua and connects it to the Acts 2 New Covenant Communities. Yes, of course the ongoing development of such dynamic communities requires diligent leadership, and we go to Nehemiah one of the finest leaders in the Bible to get a handle on this. Building dynamic communities requires good leadership, but also the participation of everybody, and lavish doses of love. The splendid variety of articles unwraps for us enduring principles of servanthood, prayer, development of ministry gifts and emerging ministers, building authentic community, and reconciling people to Yahweh.

As you walk through the pages of this issue I just hope the Holy Spirit will encourage and inspire you with the wonder of dynamic church communities; and after you've been sufficiently awed, to challenge you about the nature and mission of the Church resulting in you becoming more of an activist in your local Church.

Alcot Walker



ABOUT THE COVER:

The Church should be a place of activity with everybody involved. Am I ready to "Rise and Build" and do I have a mind to work? (see Feature Page 10)

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For more information on The Congregation of Yahweh visit our website: www.congyah.co.uk

The Dynamic Church Community

the blueprint for every local Church



by Richard Willetts

“Many years ago when I was praying about what kind of ministry Yahweh had called me to, He told me this:

‘Your ministry is what I want you to do today.’”

When Nehemiah received a commission from Yahweh to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem that had been laid to ruin for 70 years, he did not re-invent Jerusalem but rather he built on a foundation that had already been laid. We see in his building something of what it means to build and establish a new local Church. We should recognise that the foundation of the New Testament Church for and in all times has already been laid by the High Priest of our profession, Yahshua the Messiah - He is the Chief Cornerstone. The foundation of the Church was the revelation

given to Peter - on this rock (Yahshua as Messiah and Son of the living Elohim) I will build my Church.

In order to understand the blueprint to which we are working, there can be no finer example than the early Church at Jerusalem that was founded on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Although Jerusalem at the time of Yahshua's ministry was physically still intact, in the spiritual realm, its walls were broken down. Jerusalem was not only under the yoke of Roman occupation but it was also under the yoke of hypocritical and in

some cases corrupt religious leaders who laid a heavy bond of legalism on the people. Speaking figuratively of his resurrection Yahshua declared, to the amazement of his listeners, that on its destruction He would rebuild the temple in 3 days! (It took Nehemiah 52 days to restore the walls of Jerusalem in his day.) The Scriptures tell us that we are the temple of the living Elohim, made up of living stones. When we accept Yahshua as our Saviour, Yahweh seeks to bring us together and build us together to become an edifice from which His glory is revealed to the world - this is the purpose of the Church. I firmly believe that the Church is much more than a 'holy club' - it is the hope of the world. We submit to and are built on Yahshua and so we become the light of the world, a reflection of His glory and a testimony to all men.

Having come to and believed in Yahshua, what should we then be aiming to achieve? The answer to this can be found in a close study of the activity and lifestyle of the early Jerusalem Church: *“Those who accepted his (Peter's) message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising [Yahweh] and enjoying the favour of all the people. And [Yahweh] added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:41-47).

In the above passage, we recognise 5 core activities or purposes for which the Church existed. Let's look at each of them in turn.

1. Discipleship

The first thing that these followers devoted themselves to was the teaching of the apostles (Peter, James, John etc.). They preached the message of Yahshua and exhorted all to believe on Him, to turn from sin to Yahweh, to be baptised in Yahshua's name and to receive the Holy Spirit. Paul gives us insight into what this apostolic foundation was. *"By the grace [Yahweh] has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no-one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is [Yahshua the Messiah] (1 Cor. 3:10).*

Whilst many religious groups may

claim to be the true Church or part of it, we should look closely at what they teach about Yahshua. The Watch Tower Society, commonly known as the 'Jehovah's Witnesses', for example, preach that the resurrection of Yahshua was 'spiritual', rather than physical; they teach that He was raised as a life giving spirit, whereas His body is either preserved on earth or was dissolved into gases¹. This is a false teaching about Yahshua, that runs counter to the experience of the apostles, one of whom was able to put his hands into the physical holes of Yahshua's alive and resurrected body. The apostle Paul teaches that if Yahshua is not raised then we are still dead in our trespasses and sins and are of all men most miserable! Thus there can be no salvation through the message preached by this organisation and indeed any other that departs from the foundation which is Yahshua.

Discipleship however is about more than belief, it is about lifestyle. The true disciple of Yahshua not only believes in him but also models his own words and deeds after him, as well as helping and encouraging others to do the same. The apostles had to be like Yahshua in character and deeds so that they could encourage others to do and be the same. In the words of Paul: *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of [Messiah]" (1 Cor. 11:1).*

The teaching of the apostles filled Jerusalem (Acts 5:28), radically altering the spiritual environment of the city and bringing many into a new and living relationship with Yahweh, Yahshua and the Holy Spirit.

¹Truth Under Attack (volume 1): by Eryl Davies, published by The Evangelical Press copyright 2004. Page 313.

This is the effect that the teaching of Yahshua emanating from the Church should have on its local area. Notice that I use the word **local**, for the Church must always be in the first instance a local phenomenon. Only after affecting its immediate community does it then proceed beyond it, establishing itself in other geographical areas. The principle we see in the New Testament is that the discipling process always *begins* at Jerusalem before moving to Samaria and Judea and finally to the uttermost parts of the world (Acts 1:8).

2. Fellowship

A major hallmark of the early Church in Jerusalem was the depth of relationship between its members. They devoted themselves to meeting together and loving and serving each other. As a family they shared their possessions.

Yahshua's prayer for the Church on the eve of his crucifixion was that they should be brought into complete unity just as Yahshua was united and one with His Father (John 17:21-23). It is this quality of the Church that will truly convince the world that Yahshua is real. The unity that Yahshua prayed for was not uniformity, but rather a unity of purpose, with people from different walks of life coming together to serve Yahweh and share their gifts. This kind of love transcends racial and social barriers, it is a love that looks beyond people's faults and seeks to meet needs in practical ways. It is authentic and real, not phony or pretentious.

Whilst it is true that we are part of

a global Church, the real test of fellowship is at the local level, with the people that we interact with on a daily and weekly basis. Some mistakenly believe that you can serve Yahweh without regularly attending a local fellowship. Such people have completely missed the point of what the Church is all about; it is about getting along together, growing and learning from each other. In a sense Yahweh, who is in all ways perfect, is easy to love; loving my imperfect brother or sister in the faith is a much harder challenge and yet we are commanded to do so. A believer without a local fellowship is like a branch without a tree, eventually he will wither and die.

3. Worship

The number one priority of any believer, according to Yahshua, is to love Yahweh with all our heart, soul and mind (Matt. 22:37-38). This is the heart of worship - it is about expressing our love to the Father and His Son. I have to confess to being something of a worship 'junkie'. Like the psalmist I pant for Yahweh like a deer panting for water (Ps. 42:1). Connecting with Yahweh in worship is both a joy and a necessity for me - whether in my own daily devotions or in a corporate setting with my brothers and sisters. When you truly love someone, you want to be with them. The early Church devoted themselves to meeting together and praising Yahweh. Sometimes they met as a large group at the temple, other times they met in small house groups. Both types of gathering are important in the worship life of the local Church. Let us not forget however that

worship is more than what we do when we come together, our whole life every day should be given to Yahweh as an act of worship, as Paul exhorts us: *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of [Yahweh's] mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to [Yahweh] – this is your spiritual act of worship"* (Rom. 12:1).

"...worship is more than what we do when we come together, our whole life every day should be given to Yahweh as an act of worship..."

An important part of the worship of the Church of Jerusalem was the sacrament of breaking bread as modelled and encouraged by Yahshua (Luke 22:9-20). This activity has its roots in the fellowship offering of the old temple worship where the worshipper offered a portion of his sacrifice to Yahweh as well as participating in a communal meal with other worshippers. There is a huge depth and power in this activity when we approach it in holiness and faith. (See Lev. 7:11-15, 1 Cor 10:14-18, 1 Cor 11:17-30 and Deut 16:16-17).

4. Ministry

When we think of ministry many consider this to relate to those gifted few having positions of

leadership in the Church. Whilst we are not all called to lead, we are all called to minister or serve in some capacity. We all have Yah-given spiritual gifts as well as natural abilities. Our personalities and experiences in life equip us uniquely to serve and help others either in the Church or the wider community. Finding our unique role in the Body of Yahshua is an essential and exciting part of any believer's life. The health and growth of the local Church depends on every member functioning as Yahweh planned. Sitting back and just receiving from others is not what membership in the Church is about. Yahweh has set ministries in the Body to equip ALL Yahweh's people for works of service (Eph. 4:12) that He has prepared in advance for us to do. *"For we are [Yahweh's] workmanship, created in [Yahshua the Messiah] to do good works, which [Yahweh] prepared in advance for us to do"* (Eph. 2:10).

Many years ago when I was praying about what kind of ministry Yahweh had called me to, He told me this: "Your ministry is what I want you to do today." Over the years I have come to realise from this statement that my life's work is primarily a call to serve others. It might involve teaching, preaching, singing or exercising spiritual gifts, but it could equally involve more mundane activities such as cooking, cleaning, going out to work and picking people up for Church. What is important is that we know what we should be doing and we do it as unto Yahweh with all our hearts. It is vital that we discharge all the duties of our ministry, not just the parts that appeal to us, as Paul encouraged Timothy so to do (2 Tim. 4:5). Part of the ministry of the Church

is to remember and help the poor. Other key ministry activities are the ministry of the word and prayer. The apostles of the early Church were particularly called and gifted in this. To help them in this endeavour, seven men full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit were called out as deacons and were

“...New Testament Church life appears to have been one long prayer meeting interspersed with the preaching of the Word and miraculous signs following.”

delegated with practical responsibilities of food distribution to those too poor to feed themselves (Acts 6:1-7). The effect of this division of labour was that the word of Yahweh continued to spread rapidly with more disciples being added to the Church.

The ministry of prayer is key to the advancement of the kingdom of Yahweh on earth. As we read the

book of Acts it becomes apparent that prayer was at the heart of the effectiveness of the Church and its leaders - indeed New Testament Church life appears to have been just one long prayer meeting interspersed with the preaching of the word and miraculous signs following.

Yahweh has said from Old Testament times that His house (which is represented today by his Church) would be a house of prayer for all nations. We see from the Scriptures that when the Church becomes a house of prayer it also becomes a house of power - one indeed is a function of the other, specifically the apostle's capacity to preach with authority and work great signs and wonders was a function of their devotion to prayer. How important it is, therefore, for all members of the Church to fulfil their ministerial call to pray!

5. Mission

It is clear that the early Church was extremely effective at winning non-believers to Yahshua - Yahweh

was adding new members to the Church every day. This effectiveness was not solely due to the preaching of the apostles. We read that as the Church in Jerusalem was scattered abroad as a result of persecution, so the message of Yahshua spread. This was down to individual members sharing their experience of Yahshua with others. Yahshua told his disciples that they were the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Salt had two main purposes in Bible times: it was used as a fertilizer, to promote the spread of good and also as a disinfectant, to prevent the spread of bad. This is the role of the Church in society. Because of who we are and what we have, our lives should have an effect on our communities. The world at large has much to offer people in terms of recreation and entertainment, but there is one commodity that it is unable to provide - true inner peace. Only Yahshua can satisfy this need in the heart of man.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives” (John 14:27).

I have found that it is this



manifestation of Yahweh's presence that draws people of the world to the people of Yahweh. Where else can this be found but in the Church? Where else can the desires of man's heart be truly met but in Yahshua and amongst His followers?

“What joy there is in sharing the good news of Yahshua with others, and what greater joy can there be than leading such ones to Yahshua.”

We have a vital message, the gospel of Yahshua. Our mission is to spread that message far and wide, to win as many people from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light before the 'night' comes and it is too late.

There is a desperate need today for the Church to move out of its traditional boundaries and engage our communities in new and innovative ways. We need to serve our generation and find ways of presenting the powerful life-changing message of Yahshua in a way that people can receive and understand it. Yes, the world needs to see the miraculous at work in the Church but I am convinced that this is not the most important element in successful evangelism, though it is certainly important. The primary element is love. We need to love people, get involved in their world, be their friends, as Yahshua was a friend to sinners.

We need people to see and feel the love of Yahshua in us as we engage with them and help them. Our sharing of the good news of Yahshua under these circumstances, then, becomes so much more effective.

In my own local Church, the first line of our mission statement reads: *“Serving people to win people”*.

As Paul stated in his letter to the Corinthians: *“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (1 Cor. 9:22-23).*

When it comes to the mission of the Church in the world, there is an old chorus that springs to mind: *“Every time I talk about Yahshua, I feel good!”* What joy there is in sharing the good news of Yahshua with others, and what greater joy can there be than leading such ones to Yahshua.

Whatever the size or location of your Church, these 5 activities: discipleship, fellowship, worship, ministry and mission must be at the heart of all we do. A Church that devotes itself to these will grow both in quantity and quality. **H**

GIFTED to serve...

by Gale Langley

One thing I am realising, from my own experience, and from observation, is that people will serve Yahweh and serve people best if they are serving in the area where Yahweh has gifted them.

The following story is a great illustration of what I mean:

The School of Animals

Not too long after creation, the animals decided to get



together and form a school. They established a well-rounded curriculum of swimming, climbing, running, and flying. And all the



animals were required to take all the courses.

Now the duck was excellent at swimming.

The duck was better than the instructor. But after a while he only made passing grades at climbing, very poor in running.

In fact he was so slow he had to stay after school to practise his



running. This caused his webfeet to



become so badly worn that he ended up only being average in swimming, and got a grade C. Average was quite acceptable so nobody worried about it, except the duck.

Now the rabbit was at the top of her class for running. But after a while, developed a twitch in her leg from all the time spent in the water trying to improve her swimming.

And the squirrel was a peak performer in climbing class but was constantly frustrated in flying. His body became so worn from the hard landings that he did not do too well in climbing and ended up being pretty poor in running.

The eagle was a continual problem student. She was severely disciplined for being a non-conformist. For example, in climbing class she would always beat everyone to the top of the tree, but insisted on using her own way to get there.

Each animal has a particular design. *When they did what they were designed to do, they excelled.* When they tried to operate outside their area of expertise, they were not nearly so effective.

I need to ask you – can ducks run? Sure they can run. Is that what they do best? No!

Be Focused

Considering the limited time we have, it makes sense to serve where we are best equipped. Ducks can run, and they can run fast. But they slow down and get tired quickly. People in ministry can be like that. Many in our Church have run, but have got tired quickly. Like a duck out of water, we can serve outside our area of giftedness, but it is not what we do best. If we want to honour Yahweh in the most effective way, it might make sense

to understand how He wants us to do that, and respond, in obedience.



This is why knowing our gift is important. It enables us to do our best with enthusiasm and effectiveness. It's not that we can't do other things: just that they are not what we do best. It doesn't mean that we *shouldn't* do other things at the same time. Ducks need to get out of the water and walk around, but that is not the primary focus of their contribution.

Yahweh has given to each of us a special ability for the common good. Yahweh wants this to be a blessed, flourishing, vital, enriching kind of fellowship, so He gifted every single one in this fellowship and says:

"If you use your gifts you will be a blessing to all the Body in some way, but if you don't use your gifts, you rob this fellowship of something it ought not to be robbed of."

Spiritual gifts are divine enablers or special Yahweh- given abilities that He entrusts to each of His people, in order to involve them in the task of advancing His purposes.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering Yahweh's grace in its various forms (see 1 Peter 4:10).

Spiritual gifts are Yahweh's way of enabling us to serve one another better. How do we serve one another better? According to our gifts! **H**

Acknowledgements: "Network" Course written by Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins and Bill Hybels.



by David Hayes

Rise and build

Nehemiah was in captivity, far from his own country and working as a cupbearer (servant) to the king of Persia. One day his brother and some others arrived from Judah with news about the people who had remained behind there, and about the city of Jerusalem. The news was not good. The people were in great distress and the city walls had been broken down and the gates burned (Neh.1:3). This news made him very sad not only because it was the capital city of his homeland but also because it was the city where Yahweh had chosen to place His name (Neh.1:9). This meant that the city reflected the glory of Yahweh and seeing the city in such a poor state would suggest that Yahweh was not the powerful Elohim that Nehemiah knew Him to be.



The Western Wall, Jerusalem

Today the glory of Yahweh is not seen in great buildings or cities but in people: followers of His Son, Yahshua. If we have given our lives to Yahshua, and joined ourselves to a group of people who have done likewise then the result should be a Church, glorifying Yahweh. But some of us may feel that this is not the case. Perhaps we are even ashamed of our Church and wonder why it is not functioning as the Churches did that we read about in the book of Acts. This is a good reason to be sad.

Nehemiah's sadness motivated him to do something about the situation. He prayed, fasted and repented on behalf of the children of Israel (Neh. 1:4-11). Then he became bold enough to approach king Artaxerxes and ask to be sent to Judah to rebuild the city. He went knowing that the walls of the city had to be rebuilt and that Yahweh was with him. He arrived in Jerusalem, having had no training in leadership or building, with the authority of king Artaxerxes and with a determination to glorify Yahweh by taking away the reproach of His people (Neh. 2:17).

Work with the Leaders

If the state of your Church concerns you, then approach the King of Kings as Nehemiah did – pray! Try to understand how Yahweh feels about the situation and be prepared to do whatever needs to be

“It’s amazing what can be accomplished if you don’t worry about who gets the credit.”

Clarence W Jones

done. Nehemiah was a cupbearer, but when motivated by Yahweh to organise the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls, he was willing to do so. The Church needs leaders who are concerned about glorifying Yahweh and we read in Ephesians 4:11 about people whom Yahshua has put in the Church to lead: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers also elders, deacons (1 Tim. 3). These leaders need two qualifications: **to be chosen and empowered by Yahweh** and **to have a desire to see Yahweh glorified in the Church**. These people need to lead.



Gateway to the Old City of Jerusalem

“The greatest tragedy to befall a person is to have sight but lack vision.”

Helen Keller

Leaders cannot do anything if they do not have people to lead - people who will take on the vision of the leader and do whatever is necessary to make that vision a reality. Nehemiah called on the people to “*rise and build*”. He told them how Yahweh had blessed him and given him the job of rebuilding the walls. The people agreed and “*put their hands to the work*”.



These people were Jews, priests, nobles, officials and the rest (Neh. 2:16). It was a mixture of all types of people from all walks of life. When we read chapter 3 we see that there were perfumers, goldsmiths, priests, levites, governors and women all working together. Some worked in front of their own property while

others had come from far away towns to help in the work. Of course there were those who were not willing to help. The Tekoites worked in two places but their leaders did not help. As each one was working on their section of wall they would not be able to see the whole project but would have to trust that everybody was doing their part and the whole job was being completed. There was a job to be done and they were available. They followed the leadership of Nehemiah and they continued despite ridicule and opposition (Neh. 2:19).

To see our Churches grow and glorify Yahweh we all need to get involved and be active. The leader cannot do it alone. There will be activities in which we can all participate. It may not be the thing for which we were trained; it may involve giving time and energy, it may even involve learning new skills. But when we all have a “mind to work” and a desire to see the glory of Yahweh reflected in the Church great things can be done. When we are working in our area we may not see the overall picture for some time and it will take faith and determination to keep going. However, our work will never be in vain providing our aim is to glorify Yahweh.

There is nothing more glorifying to Yahweh than people worshipping Him with their whole heart, loving and helping each other, telling others of the great work that Yahweh is doing in them. The Church should be a place of activity with everybody involved. Am I involved, have I prayed, have I taken on the vision of the leader and am I ready to “rise and build”? As they rejoiced when the walls of Jerusalem were completed, even so every Church (large or small) will also be able to rejoice and glorify Yahweh if the people in it have “a mind to work” (Neh. 4:6 ^{KJV}). [H](#)

“Leadership is action, not position.”

Donald H McGannon

The JOSEPH Project

Introduction

Malawi - a landlocked country in southern East Africa, bordered by Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania, is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Approximately 90 per cent of its rapidly growing population live in rural areas and the majority of people work in the agricultural sector. There are over 40 different ethnic groups living in Malawi. Chichewa is the official language, while English has a semi-official status. The recent famine in Malawi is said to be the worst to hit the country in 50 years, and the resulting food shortages have created problems of severe malnutrition leading to a higher incidence of disease, particularly among children. 43% of the population do not have access to a sustainable water source.

Background

Since 1981 the Congregation of Yahweh has been operating in both rural and urban communities in Malawi, endeavouring to positively impact the lives of the people. Out of a desire to bring real life change to the poor of Malawi, the Joseph Project has been established as an independent charitable organisation.

The Project

The Joseph Project was founded to address the social economic needs of Malawian citizens. The core purpose is to provide food through establishing sustainable,

community food-based projects. This will also provide development opportunities through employment, training and education, and so improve the quality of life and health in Malawi.

The title, 'The Joseph Project', reminds us of "seven years of plenty and seven years of famine". We believe that through individual and corporate action Malawian citizens can move from famine to live in a state of plenty and prosperity.

Each year villagers experience hardship through lack of food because of the erratic rainfalls and limited production of non drought-resistant crops. Often villagers must re-locate to Mozambique in order to engage with 'food for work' projects. In addition to this, there is a serious lack of employment, training and education opportunities. The Joseph Project seeks to establish a sustainable system of crop production which will be facilitated through consistent access to water. It will also address key social issues such as employment, training, education and economical regeneration.

The Plan

A comprehensive business plan has been produced by the Trustees of The Joseph Project. This is currently being used to apply to trusts and other potential funders with a view to securing in the region of £200,000(sterling). It is the intention of the trustees to visit



Distribution of seed and fertilizer

Malawi in September 2005, when they hope to purchase land and begin to set the necessary structures in place to forward the aims of the project. We believe this is an extremely important venture and we ask for your prayers and support.

If you would like to have further information about The Joseph Project please contact:

Mr John Thornton
92-94 North Sherwood Street
Nottingham NG1 4EE
ENGLAND

Email: Africa-uk@congyah.co.uk

Mission Statement of The Joseph Project

Our mission is to reduce poverty and hardship; promote and enable healthy living through sustainable social enterprises; empower individuals and communities, in both Africa and UK, to achieve their full potential.

Yahweh's MORTAR MIX

by Valton Brown

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal" (1 Cor. 13:1).

"Except [Yahweh] build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Ps. 127:1).

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, [Yahshua the Messiah] himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in [Yahweh] (Eph. 2:20-21).

In our quest for the dynamic, the impressive and the new, it is all so easy to lose sight of the fundamental things that are required for spiritual growth and maturity. With this in mind I ask you to prayerfully consider the following thought that was dropped into my heart for Yahweh's people.

The Purpose of Mortar

In I Corinthians 13:13, three key ingredients are described, which are: faith, hope and love. In comparison, there are also three key ingredients in the mortar mix used every day in the building industry. These are: sand, cement and water.

Sand = Faith
Cement = Hope
Water = Love

Love me when I least deserve it, because that's when I really need it.

Swedish Proverb



Every experienced builder, designer, or member of a design team, will know that a modern building is usually constructed using sand, cement and water. Sand and cement, on their own, are useful, but in many applications become useless without the most important, most commonly used of all substances ... WATER! To omit this substance is to guarantee certain disaster.

Here are some examples of how water is used:





- ◆ In the concrete mix for foundations.
- ◆ As a vital ingredient in the plaster which lines the walls and ceilings of our homes.
- ◆ To cool down the glass and metals forged and formed in intense heat. Materials also used in our homes and places of worship.
- ◆ Between the building blocks and bricks, from below ground to the roof.

With our wonderful plans to establish grand and eye-catching buildings it would be a mammoth (if not impossible) task to complete the project without this all-important ingredient. The stability of the building and its protection from the elements rely upon the integrity of the mortar.

Mortar frequently goes unnoticed and quite often is neglected in its application.

The Strength of Mortar

We may think that the strength of the building relies solely on the strength of the bricks used. However, this is not completely

true, after all:

- ◆ What holds these frost and water resistant bricks together?
- ◆ What is it that passes the load from one brick to another without crumbling under pressure?
- ◆ What is it that prevents each brick from rubbing against the other, thus preventing a damaging level of friction or movement to occur?
- ◆ What is it that the 'chief master builder' renovates year after year?

Mortar! Mortar! And more mortar!

These same questions can also be asked of the Church:

- ◆ What holds us together as living stones?
- ◆ What passes the load from you to me and me to you without us crumbling under the pressure?
- ◆ What is it that prevents you and me from constantly falling out with each other when our Adamic natures rise to the surface?
- ◆ What is it that the Chief Master Builder insists we pursue year upon year?

Love! Love! And more love!

Some key points to remember:-

1. Our effect on others

If I can speak in tongues ... but have not love...I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal (Amplified Version).

In other words I become an annoyance. Loud yet empty.

2. Our quest for status/ recognition

If I have prophetic powers and understand all secret truths and mysteries ...etc. ... but have not love...I am nothing.

3. Our desire for praise/credit

Even if I dole out all that I have to the poor in providing food, and if I surrender my body to be burned in order that I may glory but have not love...I gain nothing.

It is interesting to note that these three areas cover most, if not all,





For example:

Love's purpose

"Love endures long and is patient ... is not boastful ... arrogant and inflated with pride; it is not rude... Love... does not insist on its own rights or its own way... It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail" (1 Cor. 13: 4-6 Amplified Version).

Love's strength

"Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, ... its hopes are fadeless under all

Consider the Scripture in the book of James *"...where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work"* (James 3:16 KJV). This can also be described as 'a building defect'. It is quite clear from this verse that such ingredients are cheap, dangerous substitutes. You see, envy and strife may mix well together, but they do not mix well with the Church (Yahweh's building). To encourage the use of envy and strife is as dangerous as using paper glue in place of real mortar.

The apostle Paul was made aware through the Holy Spirit, that spiritual gifts, without love, do not edify or make one holy. In fact the opposite effect can take place as the building of Yahweh creeps under the pressures placed upon it due to the lack or complete omission of the all-important ingredient.

It is important to consider these truths in the light of Yahweh's written word, because then it is possible for us to identify and remedy building defects before the all-important day of the 'Building Inspector'. Our Building Inspector will not allow shoddy workmanship to go unnoticed as His Name and reputation are at stake. Rather than risk the entire project, He will demand the removal of defective substances and instruct their replacement with the genuine article. So when tempted to cut corners, or maybe to use an inferior substitute, remember, *"...sand, cement and water abide but the greatest of these is...?"* **H**

of the natural ambition that resides in our human nature ...to be heard, to be seen and to be praised. Unfortunately, it is at the expense of the overall building that such motivation develops. The greatest of these is...? We now find ourselves being drawn to a single element of all the 3 ingredients referred to previously ...LOVE.

Sand = Faith
Cement = Hope
Water = Love

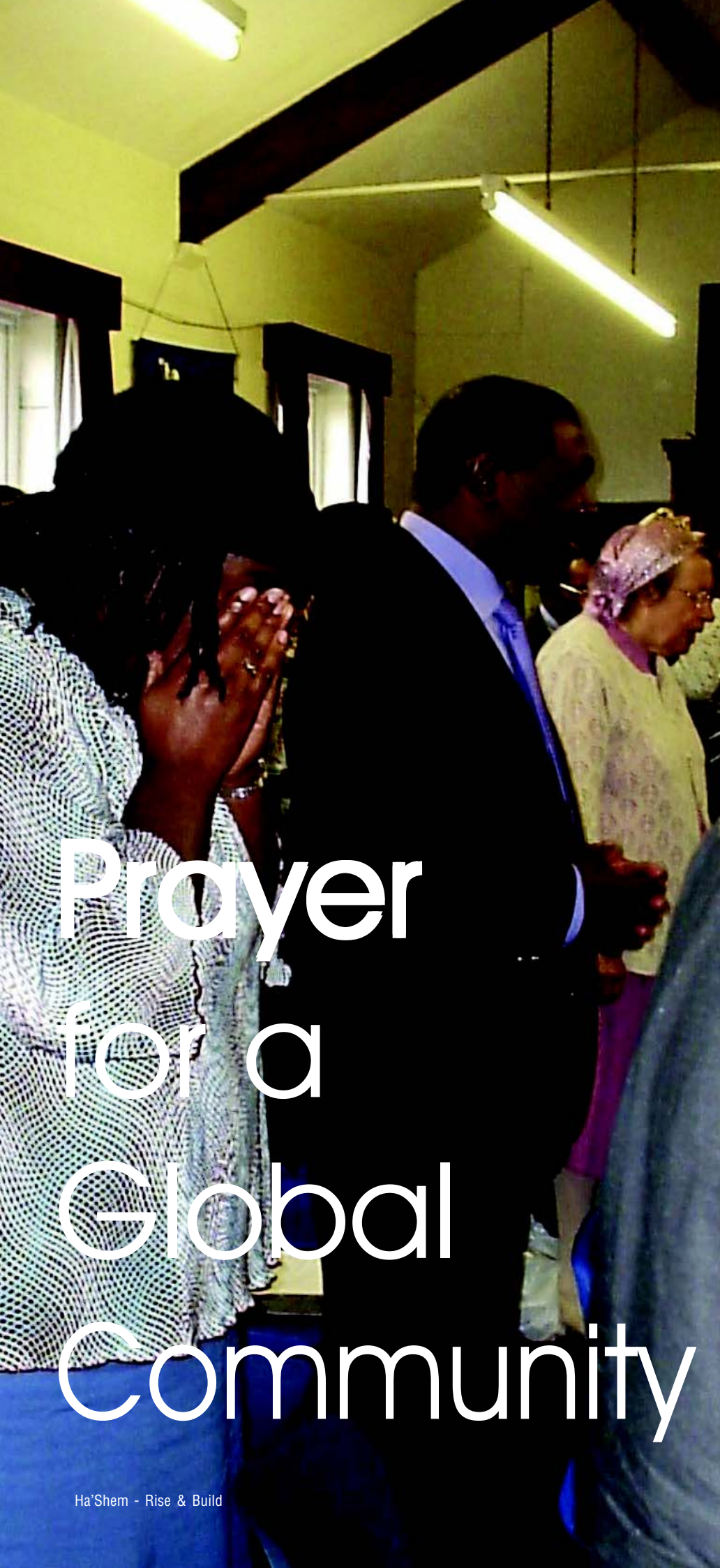
We have already established that water is a key substance in the natural building, therefore, we can conclude from the scriptures that love is a key element in Yahweh's spiritual building - 'The Church'.

circumstances and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never ... fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end" (1Cor. 13: 7-8 Amp.)

"And so faith, hope, love abide;... these three, but the greatest of these is love" (1Cor. 13:13 Amplified Version). We are also advised to pursue this vital ingredient in Chapter 14 verse 1: "Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love - make it your aim, and your great quest..." (Amplified Version).

Missing Mortar

Have you ever wondered why we, as the Church, (the lively stones) focus so much on ... who shall be the greatest? Or have you been thinking about the purpose of your role within the Church?



Prayer for a Global Community

Yahweh's people are found across the world in communities differing in size and culture; however these communities are all here to love and reach out to the world with the Good News of Yahshua.

The apostle Paul encourages the believing community to pray for each other, for the message, and for those who are on the frontline building Congregations. We do need to pray for one another especially when we recall Yahshua's words... "In this world you will have trouble!" (John 16:33)

Here's our BIG IDEA!

We're inviting Ha'Shem readers to compose and send to us a written prayer for the believing community. A prayer that believers around the world can take up and in which they can unite.

If you can open your heart to Yahweh concerning this, the Holy Spirit is able to inspire you to create 'the prayers' for followers of Yahshua across the world. We will select some and distribute them to Ha'Shem readers and Churches from around the world.

Send your prayer, along with your name, church and country to:

Ha'Shem Magazine
'Global Prayers'
92-94 North Sherwood Street
Nottingham NG1 4EE
ENGLAND
Or Email: admin@congyah.co.uk

**Entries must be
received by
5 December 2005**

The meaning of FELLOWSHIP

by Mike Taylor

As disciples of Yahshua we often hear the word 'fellowship' and I guess we then make assumptions about what the word means. This study, hopefully, will help us in this process.



I will be focusing on the New Testament, since the Greek New Testament holds many treasures to which we can have ready access. I would like to discuss the subject by firstly considering the New Testament understanding of the word fellowship and, secondly, the relevance of fellowship in the 21st Century, but is still based upon the biblical meaning of fellowship. I will not be considering any of the negative aspects of fellowship, such as with evil.

Word Study

The root word (this is the main word from which other words are built) *koinos* means *common, in mutual ownership, public*; the New Testament is written in Koine Greek, meaning the common language that is used by all. So this is our starting point. The word fellowship has a genuine right to our attention deriving from the very language that Yahweh allowed most of the New Testament to be written in. The Greek words that are built upon this root are of two forms: nouns and verbs. Nouns are basically the name of something, whereas verbs are action words, describing

Ha'Shem - Rise & Build



something being done. This is important, because not only is fellowship a state that is described but it is also something that is done, an action that takes place; so we have two sets of words to consider and we will take the nouns – the names – first.

Three words are used as nouns. The first ‘*koinonia*’ is described by Thayer as: *fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse*. In 1 Cor. 10:16 *koinonia* is translated as communion, but its most frequent translation is *fellowship* as in Rom. 15:26; 2 Cor. 8:4. In Gal. 2:9 *koinonia* is used by James, Peter, and John “*displaying a good spirit of Christian fellowship towards Paul and Barnabas*” (Earle). Here they decided that Paul and Barnabas would minister to the Gentiles and James, Peter and John would focus on the Jews. This was a joint participation of a combined project to minister Yahshua. A similar thought is expressed in the use of *koinonia* in Phil. 1:5. *Koinonia*, therefore, describes a double relationship, like the two sides of the same coin. Vincent, commenting on Acts 2:42 where “*they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers*”(NKJV), explains that *koinonia* means a relation between individuals who share a common interest and are actively

and mutually participating with each other.

The second main noun is ‘*metoche*’ which emphasises partnership. Thayer refers to this word as meaning, *partaking of, or sharing in*. It is a ‘having together’ or ‘having with’. In Heb. 3:1; 6:4 it is used in reference to our partaking or sharing in the heavenly calling (3:1) and tasting the heavenly gift (6:4).

The final noun is ‘*koinonos*’, which Vine denotes as referring to a *partaker* or *partner*. Thayer adds some further details describing this word as meaning: *to come into communion, or fellowship, to become a sharer, to be made a partner* (1 Cor. 10:20).

Now we come to the verbs, the action words. There are two; ‘*koinoneo*’ and ‘*sunkoinoneo*’. *Koinoneo* means ‘*to have fellowship with*’ and means this in Phil. 4:15, being a more accurate reading over the translation of “*communicated*” as in the authorised version (Vine). In 1 Tim. 5:22 it means, *to enter into fellowship, join one’s self as an associate; to make one’s self a sharer or partner*. *Sunkoinoneo* means ‘*to have fellowship with someone or in something*’. Thayer explains this as, *to become a partaker together with others or to have fellowship with a thing*.

This is not a definitive list of all the fellowship words, but it does give us the main understanding of the meanings the New Testament authors intended. Fellowship is, therefore, about mutually sharing; about partnership; partaking; joining or associating with; a common life. The verbs convert all of these concepts into action. They are what we do, and what is done for us by our Saviour who is the originator of our fellowship.

Fellowship Today

The word *fellowship* is about relationship. New Testament disciples had fellowship with one another because of their relationship with Yahshua. This is the context in which it was used by the apostle Paul (1 Cor. 1:9). The Amplified Bible renders 1 John. 1:3: “*What we have seen and [ourselves] heard we are also telling you, so that you too may realise and enjoy fellowship as partners and partakers with us. And [this] fellowship that we have (which is a distinguishing mark of Christians) is with the Father and with His Son [Yahshua the Messiah].*”

Here we see the reality of the word fellowship as an immensely important part of discipleship. Messiah is the cause of our being together, and our being together is about being partners and partakers one with another. As well as being together in Messiah and with one another, *koinonos* and *metoche* both emphasise the partnership element in our life – it is not biblical to remain a lone believer.

Some authors refer to a horizontal and vertical dimension to our fellowship, and these concepts will form a useful platform structure to

“Our membership in the Church is a corollary of our faith in [Yahshua]. We can no more be a Christian and have nothing to do with the Church than we can be a person and not be in a family. It is part of the fabric of redemption.”

Eugene Peterson

from the Mission Field

by Deborah Linton

When I was 27 years old my life had reached a point of crisis. I had no one to turn to, and nowhere to go. I came to the conclusion that life wasn't worth living. One day in desperation I called out to Yahweh for help. In His mercy and by His grace He reached down His loving hand and saved my soul. From that moment I promised Yahweh that I would serve Him in anyway He required, no matter what the cost.

Mission at Home

When the need arose for someone to clean the church I volunteered. One day the Pastor approached me and told me that there was a need for someone to work with the children in the Bible School on Sunday mornings, and with the young people on Monday evenings. He asked, "Would you be prepared to fulfil that role?" I had to give this much consideration because I had my own children to care for and I was working full time night duty. After much thought and prayer I decided that I would have to make some sacrifice.

Some years later there was a greater need in another part of the work and I was asked to leave Chelmsford where I was living and move to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. I tried to reason about the price I would have to pay, giving up my job, moving away from family and friends. How am I going to take care of my children? I asked this and many more questions. The words from a chorus provided part of the answer, "*Yahweh there's a call on our lives, we want to fulfil that call, we don't want to stand still, we don't want to fight your will, for the hour has come for us to move.*"

My children and I moved to Aylesbury where I worked in a community home as a house mother, and in the local church as an assistant pastor, for nine years. This was a big challenge for me. There were times of discouragement, heartaches, shedding of tears, and disappointments, but through it all I learnt to trust Yahweh. I found Yahshua to be my constant

companion. Having Yahshua as a Friend and allowing Him to work out His purpose in my life prepared me for the next move. This time I relocated to a community home in Birmingham and there I worked with more people. Attached to the home were a Coffee Shop and a Bible Shop. I began to work with the wider community, meeting people from different nationalities, different backgrounds and different walks of life, and learned how to interact with them.



There were times of joy, heartache, sorrow, and loneliness but Yahweh was faithful. At the same time He worked on my character and changed my attitude towards people and things. He has put me through His refining fire!

Mission Abroad

The Birmingham congregation adopted into its fellowship a congregation in Nairobi, Kenya. We were corresponding for some time when, one Sabbath, in May 1998

when I was recovering from a serious illness, I heard Yahweh speak to me, and say I should visit the people in Kenya. As I meditated on the words, I said, 'Yes' to Yahweh.

In January 2000 I visited Kenya for six weeks with Beverly Nembhard. Our visit wasn't easy, but through working in Birmingham in the wider community, I was able to adapt to the different culture and languages. When our visit to Kenya ended we both knew that we would have to return. In January 2001 we returned for one year. It wasn't a bed of roses! There were times of hardship, times of sickness, times of discomfort - but it was worth *all* the hardship to see Yahweh moving among His people.

When I returned to England in 2002 I knew that I had to go back to Kenya because there was much more work to be done. I had no money so I got a job to secure funds for my next trip. I am now on my third visit to Kenya, and it will last a further year. Yahweh is building His church, calling people from every tribe and nation, and it is a privilege to play a part.

Working on the mission field at home helped me learn how to handle hardship and loneliness, and taught me how to interact with people of different backgrounds. To be on the mission field, whether at home or overseas, requires dedication and total commitment. It is not easy, but it is worth it!

I do thank Yahweh that He gave me the grace to answer the call He has placed on my life. **H**

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."

John Keith Falconer



A PASSION for LOST SOULS

by Mark Vlad

If you were to go into any Church and ask the question, "How many want to be like Yahshua?" every hand would go up. How many, however, have thought it through? Of course, we all want to be like Yahshua, but what does that mean and, more importantly, what will it cost?

Above everything else that Yahshua was He was, foremost, committed to His greatest passion - people, especially lost people. In Luke 4:18-19 the Master declares His mission and His passion. It is the liberation, deliverance, and healing of people. Do we really want to be like Yahshua? Do we want to walk as He walked? Then we must have a passion for lost people that is born out of an understanding of three things.

First, we must recognise that the primary passion of Yahshua is lost people. You might say

that the primary passion of Yahshua is doing the Father's will and you would be right. However, the Saviour's passion for lost people is a result of seeing His Father's passion for lost people from before the beginning of creation. If we truly aspire to become more like Yahshua then we must truly aspire for a passion for the lost. We must strip away everything in our lives that would hinder a closer relationship with Yahshua so that His passion for people can become ours. I have spoken with a number of people who feel that the emphasis upon preaching, 'that



Mark, a senior pastor from Illinois, USA, with his wife, Alice.

it is all about people' takes away from the preaching of doctrine. This is merely an indication of just how far from the heart of Yahshua believers have strayed. The very essence of doctrine is the doctrine of salvation, redemption and reconciliation. To relegate it to a lower class of teaching is to diminish what Yahshua lived, served, died and rose for. It is only in a closer relationship with Yahshua that passion for people, especially lost people, becomes our passion. So if you feel you don't have a passion for lost people the first place to look is to your relationship with

the Lord of people, Yahshua.

In developing a passion for lost people the next place to look is to our own experience as lost people. Too many Christians have forgotten what being lost felt like. They have experienced forgiveness and healing for so long that the feelings of loneliness, despair, guilt and emptiness have long since dissipated. We are reminded in Scripture to remember the pit

No matter. If it is true of you, wear it as a badge of honour. If it cannot be said of you then make it become true. Intentionally schedule your time to meet and befriend lost people. If you are so busy working for the Church that you don't have time to build relationships with lost people then you are working for the Church but not necessarily for the Kingdom and a change in your lifestyle is needed. Take

let us be faithful to the greatest commandment of all, to love. If we can focus our energies upon that then we will have accomplished what others have failed to do - be perfect in the Law. You see, passion for the lost doesn't come through some ethereal understanding or a waving of the hand of Yahweh over us and suddenly we have this passion. It rises out of a love for Yahweh and all that He has done for us and from the deep recesses of our soul where Yahshua has established residency. A passion for lost people should be as easy as breathing. If it isn't, then perhaps you have stopped breathing. As indicated, early on in this article, the first step to a passion for souls is to evaluate your relationship with Yahshua. Years of service won't do it. Busyness for the Church won't do it. A passion for lost souls results from a passion for Yahshua and willingness to change lifestyles, to change mindsets, to pray the dangerous prayer that says, "I want to serve you and reach lost people no matter what it requires of me." In Matthew 9:36; 14:14 Yahshua was moved with **comPASSION** and people were changed. You, too, be moved with **comPASSION** and watch how Yahweh not only changes others but changes you forever. **H**

"His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations.

His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success.

And His presence with us leaves us no other choice."

John Stott

from which you were dug. Believers, in an effort to be separate, have forgotten to befriend the lost people that they know. We assume that they are there just because they are co-workers, family members, or just people we bump into on occasion. They are much more than that - they are the reason that Messiah died and they are in your life as a divine appointment for you. In Matthew 11:19 we read that one of the accusations brought against the Saviour was that He was "a friend of sinners". Meant as a rebuke or a slur on His character, Yahshua wore this title as a badge of honour. How about you? Can others say that you are a friend of sinners? This title will not be granted to you by lost people but by members of your own Church.

some time and remember what it was like when you were lost and what that felt like. Remember what it was like when someone took the time to befriend you and show you what the love of Yahshua really looked like. Then go out and do it!

Finally, for many there is a desire in their hearts to be faithful to the truths that have been revealed to us and to be a beacon for Yahweh's commandments. So be it! Then

Oh that I had a thousand lives, and a thousand bodies! All of them should be devoted to no other employment but to preach (Messiah)..."

Robert Moffatt

The Disappearing Man...



by Valerie Warsop

the Emerging Minister

When I was studying at Covenant College in the seventies there was one lecture which always left students feeling slightly stunned and seriously challenged. Without fail it was delivered to each new 'crop' of would-be ministers by the Principal, Elder Peter Warsop. It was entitled: ***The Disappearing Man and the Emerging Minister.***

Vibrant, lively young adults were startled by the direct call to personally 'disappear'; and by the forthright discussion of what could be expected from life in the ministry. There was no 'whitewashing' of the facts to make it sound more acceptable, no hint of glamour attached to the urgent demand of Yahshua, "Take up your cross and follow me." Only an unvarnished

presentation of the truth as detailed in Scripture, and it never failed to stir hearts and inspire commitment. John the Baptist took one look at Yahshua and said, "*He must increase, but I must decrease*" (John 3:30^{KJV}); whilst Paul the apostle wrote to the Galatians that it was "...no longer I that live..." (Gal. 2:20^{NKJV}).

A life-changing contact with Yahshua inevitably evokes the same responses that John had. It will relentlessly demand that one matures in that disappearance until one can truthfully echo the words of Paul. The effective disciple is one who has learned the art of disappearance! Yahshua ministers to His Body and to the world through those He has called to be His. They are eyes, ears, hands, feet, heart of the Messiah and they represent Him on the earth. In the same way that Yahshua was able to say that those who had seen Him had seen the Father, so should men and women who come in contact with His ministers be able to say that they have seen the Messiah. This is a high standard indeed and requires a total commitment of all that is persona, all that is of the self-life.

Lay down your life

There are endless references throughout the New Testament pointing to the need to give up our lives daily, to submit self, with all its plans and demands, to Yahweh. Elder Warsop used to say often, "The Holy Spirit works in us for the destruction of the 'I – ME – MINE.'" He encouraged students not to live for self, but to live for Messiah and His People; to lay down the *right* to choose to do whatever they wished, and to align their will alongside the will of Yahweh. To approach every difficulty, every circumstance, with the query, "What would Yahshua do if He were faced with this situation?" This attitude looks beyond living only for 'me and mine' and outward to living for 'Him and His' with the same intensity! His Family must become as important to us as our own family, must become like an extension of our own family. Their joys, sorrows, heartache, pain affect me as much as those of the

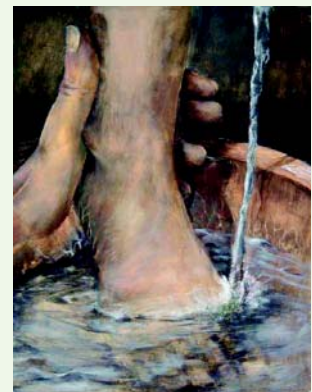
people who are closest to me. We are challenged to discover that this is a vibrant, exciting and satisfying way to live.

The emerging minister must begin to make way for the gift that has been planted in his or her heart. The gift was given because the people – Yahweh's Family - needed it. It is the 'called-out' one who is responsible to ensure that the gift becomes available *where* it is needed. The minister must be willing to 'move over' and make space for this call to become alive and demanding in his/her personal life; to allow it to mature and develop according to Yahweh's divine purpose. This often demands a yielding up of personal plans in order to give time to

heartache than the betrayal of confidences. Not only should the minister practise to be a good listener, but also he/she should recognise and explore the need for compassionate and empathetic listening. Try to understand the needs of the other person by non-judgemental attention and sympathetic concentration. Avoid jumping in with your 'preacher's advice' when the tale is scarcely told. Remember that talking something through with an attentive and sympathetic listener can often help the person to find their own answer. Ministers do not have to 'preach' on every occasion! Neither are we obliged to have an answer for every question. There are scores of questions that simply *do not have*

*"He who is
greatest among
you shall be your
servant."*

*Yahshua
Matthew 23:11 (NKJV)*



seeking Yahweh; a laying down of personal ambition that *His* plans might be fulfilled.

An emerging minister will discover that there are many sides to being a minister and that the demands of the 'job' reach far beyond the requirements of the pulpit! He/she will find that there is need to be a good listener. People need to talk, but it is essential that ministers preserve total confidentiality regarding the things that are shared with them. Nothing loses respect faster or creates more

answers; scores of circumstances that we cannot possibly hope to either understand or explain.

Show yourself approved

There are, of course, times when advice or direction is needed and requested. The emerging minister must be increasingly familiar with the teachings of the Word. Yahweh will *never* direct you to give advice that is contrary to Scripture! It is essential that the gifts of the Word of Wisdom and the Word of

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Knowledge are in operation. The emerging minister must cultivate a tender sensitive spirit. Do not be so emphatic so as to force your personal spirit and opinions onto others. Remember that the spirit of the ministerial gift is powerful and learn to work with that, submitting yourself to it. A minister must learn how to draw people to him/herself and how to behave as a representative of the King. Objectionable behaviour could actually turn people away from Yahshua. Good manners in ministers are a 'must-have'!

A minister is someone whom others follow. How we conduct ourselves is important. The apostle Paul said, "*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of [Messiah]*" (1 Cor. 11:1 ^{KJV}). In the same way must those of us who are called to be ministers follow after Yahshua, in order that others might follow us. Let us strive after holiness, without which none of us will see Yahweh. Let us allow the mind of Messiah to be developed in us, and let us take upon ourselves those standards that He set out when He was here on earth. His way was a way of love – James was pleased to pronounce it the '*royal law*' (James 2:8). What a standard He set for us. It demands the commitment of a lifetime. The words of a songwriter ring in my heart often and I pray they will always be my constant aim and prayer.

"Let the beauty of [Yahshua] be
seen in me,
All His wondrous compassion
and purity.
Oh, thou Spirit divine
All my nature refine
Till the beauty of [Yahshua] be
seen in me!" H

Working together in the ministry



by Grace Thompson

Growing up in a religious environment I noticed that ministers were often not only held in high esteem but also regarded as infallible. I carried this belief until one day the Holy Spirit challenged me by saying, "My ministers are to be prayed for, not worshipped!" It was many years later when, slowly, I began to realise that it was in believing ministers were infallible that I was making them an object of worship.

By this time I was a trainee minister myself and working closely with other ministers. During this period, which lasted for many years, Yahweh took me on a voyage of 'self-discovery'. Paul, the apostle, wrote to his 'children' that he wanted to, "...travail in birth again *until [Yahshua] be formed in you*" (see Galatians 4:19, KJV, italics mine). How I longed for Yahshua to be formed in me! I found, however, that for this to happen I had to empty myself of all the 'baggage' I had collected over the years. Our true character must be revealed, before Yahweh can

make us into the person He has planned we should be.

Many things had to be 'stripped away' from my life, including religious misconceptions from my early years. In the process of unveiling my true character Yahweh chose specific ministers to travail in prayer with and for me, and to minister to my deep needs. They encouraged me, counselled, helped and supported me during the entire time. Because of working closely with them Yahweh is helping me towards the 'renewing of my mind', and precious friendships have been forged. My fellow-ministers are now people for whom I pray!

Working with and relating to other ministers is not always easy. My life has been enriched as we have worked through our differences and allowed Yahshua to be formed in us. I look back with joy over my learning experience and believe that it has enabled me to be more effective in serving Yahweh's people, today. H

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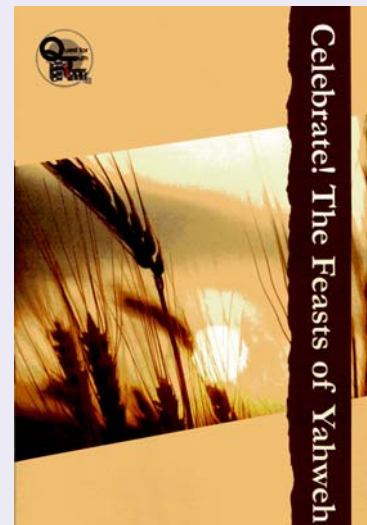
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