

Issue 42 - Autumn 2007

HA'SHEM

Truth that transforms

Here I am, send me!



Editorial

Fishing for People

"For [Yahweh] loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not be lost, but should have eternal life (Jn. 3:16 PHS).

Yahweh released His Salvation into the world, yet people are still ignoring the BREAKING NEWS ... "The Kingdom of Heaven is near, repent and believe the Gospel!"

The Gospel must be proclaimed and in doing so men, women, boys and girls must be won. Those given the task of engaging people with the Gospel (yes, you're absolutely right in thinking it is the task of every believer) must learn the tricks of the trade; they must learn how to become 'fishers of men'. Yahshua, during His earthly ministry, took three years to coach His close followers in the basics of fishing for and catching people. After He left them they had another teacher, the Holy Spirit, who continued to direct and equip them for this work.

Evidently it's not an easy task as the writer of Proverbs indicates: "He who wins souls is wise". The task is not impossible; it simply requires us to be smart!

In this issue of Ha'Shem we explore the theme of evangelism. This topic is so diverse in its scope we couldn't possibly cover all the bases in one issue. However, I hope what has been shared will cause you firstly, to pray, and secondly, to be provoked into some action that you are not already engaged in.

Alcot

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Issue Features:

- 3 Winning - The Father's Way
John Thornton
- 9 Revival and Evangelism
Richard Willetts
- 18 Ministry and Souls
Elijah Ngugi

Regular Features:

Word Study:

- 6 Bearers of Shalom
Valerie Warsop

My Story:

- 16 More Than a Makeover
Shawn Spowart
- 24 My Search for Truth
Thomas Mahey

Youth and Children:

- 7 An Exciting Adventure
Jasmin Myles-Wilson

Hard Talk:

- 25 Being an Example
Estelle Taylor

Heart & Soul:

- 27 The Call to Ministry
Richard Leaper

Also Included:

- 14 An Ancient Fast
- 22 Equipped for Evangelism
- 23 Prayer For A Global Community

Ha'Shem 42:

Autumn Edition / October 2007

Editor: Alcot Walker
Design: Faith Hewitt
Miriam Bird



HA'SHEM is Hebrew for the 'THE NAME' (Yahweh)

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.

Unless otherwise stated, scripture quotations in this publication are from the Holy Bible, New International Version® Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Substitution of the Holy Names in all scripture quotations have been made at the discretion of the editor.

COPYRIGHT

All articles in this magazine are copyright of The Congregation of Yahweh unless otherwise stated.

SUBSCRIPTION

The Congregation of Yahweh has always sought to ensure that our literature is not only of high quality but also available to everyone. However, because of the cost involved in producing and distributing HA'SHEM we request a donation from those who are able to give. These donations also support our literature distribution overseas.

All donations are very much appreciated. Please make cheques payable to The Congregation of Yahweh and send your donations to the Literature Department at the address below.

The Congregation of Yahweh
92-94 North Sherwood Street
Nottingham NG1 4EE
ENGLAND

For more information about The Congregation of Yahweh visit our website: www.CongYah.co.uk

The desire for the winning nature of the Father will only be sparked in you when the nature of the Son, that of pure love, is paramount in your life. For love He came, for love He died, for love He saves and satisfies.

WINNING -THE FATHER'S WAY

John Thornton

It is in the Father's nature to win. Not in the sense that He needs to compete against another, as the term winning might imply. He simply does all things well and cannot be faulted, as He always and ultimately does what is best and right. There is not a challenger in the realm of spiritual things that can even get close to Him, if it is not willed by Him. The Father knows nothing about defeat or failure. Everything about Him is perfect, and nothing He originally created had defect. Had the first man and woman not secured a sinful future for mankind due to their disobedience, the whole human race would have continued to exist in a state of absolute perfection – without

knowledge of things that would inevitably usher in feelings of failure and loss and, ultimately, abject misery.

But this is not the Father's will, nor is it His way. He makes "...everything beautiful in its time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11). It cannot be said that there is one battle He has fought, that He has not won. It cannot be said that there is one life that He has sought, that has not been touched and healed, and brought back into the image of the perfect Son. This is His way – to make the imperfect perfect; restored to the original intent of the Father, making such a person 'fit' for communion with Elohim. The Scriptures and the testimonies of countless individuals declare

it to be so. Consider the havoc Yahweh wrought on the world's superpower, Egypt, when He decided it was time to bring His people out from under the bondage of the might of that country. He took off the wheels of the chariots, not only in the Red Sea, but figuratively, in the whole land of Egypt, with the calling into play of a few natural elements. But Goshen had light!

We can recall Joshua and his men, marching to the orders of the Father, stalking the people of Jericho as they marched around the city for one whole week – and at the time indicated by Yahweh, the walls of Jericho came crashing down!

We can remember also, the

exploits of other scriptural ‘greats’ – David, Samson, Daniel, Elijah – the list goes on and on. The Scriptures declare, for a purpose, the failings of such men when they went forward in their own strength and understanding. But the successes abounded when they partook of the winning nature of the Father, and went forward in His time, in His strength, at His word.

You see, Yahweh wishes to impart that winning streak to each of His children. It is not His desire that those, whom He loves, undergo torrential lashes of failure, intimidation, timidity. These things undermine the true nature of the Father. His utmost desire is to see His children walk on the ‘high places of the earth’ (Deut. 32:13, Isaiah 58:14 KJV). In the book of Habakkuk the writer records a journey which takes him from a place of questioning the chosen instrument of Yahweh’s dealing, in this case the Chaldeans, to a place of absolute trust in the Father, which enabled him to walk with “...hinds feet upon mine high



we must go into the towns and cities of our nation and with boldness declare the love and supremacy of the One True God



Souls need to be captured from a life of misery and spiritual meaningless ...then persuaded of the value of a ‘Good News’ gospel which changes lives and gives true purpose forever!

places...” (Hab. 3:19 KJV). It did not matter if the fig tree did not blossom, he would still rejoice! This is the behaviour and attitude of someone who has embraced that winning streak – nothing can deter him!

Is this your experience today? Do you know the winning nature of the Father in your life? Does He exceed all your expectations? Is He free to impart to you a dynamic, undeterred attitude that sees you walk on the high places of the earth; to sit with the princes of the earth; to be as a city set on a hill? Are you able to say in all circumstances, regardless of personal loss and misfortune, “I know my Redeemer lives?” If so, then you know something of what the scriptural ‘greats’ experienced.

That is not to say that we won’t have our trial and temptations. This is and always will be the plight of the children of Yahweh – for it is in the fire that pure gold is refined. But even in the heat of the battle there is a place of solidarity when we know the love

and the heart of the Father. In the desert, He is the oasis; in the storm, He provides the safety of the harbour; when the wind blows and the rain falls, the house built on the Rock will withstand the onslaught. Oh, if we can, today, but receive a glimpse into the heart of the Father, to understand His desire for His children, our hearts will be lifted up and our spirits will soar as the eagle.

It is with a personal conviction and experience of the Father’s winning nature that we must go into the towns and cities of our nation and with boldness declare the love and supremacy of the One True God. Into the sound of the many voices of our nation, must come a strong, clear trumpet call from the Mountain of Yahweh, such as, “For [Yahweh] so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16); “Awake to righteousness and sin not...” (1 Cor. 15:34 KJV); and, “rend your heart, and not your garments.

Return to [Yahweh] your [Elohim], for he is gracious and compassionate” (Joel 2:13).

Proverbs declares, “...he who wins souls is wise” (11:30). The Father knows that in the spiritual climate of today souls have to be ‘won’ for the Kingdom. One good interpretation of the word ‘won’ in this sense is ‘captured’. Souls need to be captured from a life of misery and spiritual meaningless, and from the paws of a ‘marauding lion’, then persuaded of the value of a ‘Good News’ gospel which changes lives and gives true purpose forever! Individuals come to the Father at the bidding of the Holy Spirit, but it is the Father’s children who are used as instruments to warm and challenge the heart of the seeker in spiritual matters. Nevertheless, to be used to see a soul ultimately cross the line of salvation and to work with such an individual takes the wisdom that comes from the Father.

Yahweh delights in saving those cast aside by society; equally He enjoys ‘interfering’ in the activities of humankind to bring out those whose hearts are searching and sensitive to spiritual matters. But often, He sends you and me to such ones. We must seek the heart and the nature of the Father as we venture out in obedience to the Great Commission. There is no room for pride or self-purpose and honour. After all, there is nothing we can do to save a soul from pending gloom and misery; we must simply open the door and beckon those who would listen to look to the Cross – where there are answers to all humanities dilemmas.

Yahshua was sent to a nation and to specific ones whom the Father had called. Yet, the impact of the Son of Yahweh was such that many ate ‘the bread that fell from the master’s table’ (see Matt.

“[Yahweh] uses people. [Yahweh] uses people to perform His work. He does not send angels. Angels weep over it, but [Yahweh] does not use angels to accomplish His purposes. He uses burdened, broken-hearted, weeping men and women.”

David Wilkerson

15:21-27). The Father’s call is both general and specific. It is His desire that all are saved, and with such an understanding, His children must go forward and declare the message of the gospel without partiality. And yet there are those who hear a specific call. Wisdom will teach us to recognise the difference, and wisdom will help us to win, accordingly, whoever it is that Yahweh brings across our path.

Friend, believer, the call to go out into the highways and byways is not for some chosen few, those who have been ordained for such a task. This attitude of mind should be the natural overflow of every heart that has been touched infinitely by the Father. Has He not done great things for you? Has He not satisfied the deep desires of your heart? Has He not touched you in a very special way? Does this not carve within you a longing to see those whom society has

cast aside taken up in the arms of a loving heavenly Father? If not, then you must go back to the foot of the Cross and receive a new glimpse of the One who once filled your heart with such love that nothing seemed too much to give.

The desire for the winning nature of the Father will only be sparked in you when the nature of the Son, that of pure love, is paramount in your life. For love He came, for love He died, for love He saves and satisfies. Let love be the motive that propels you forward today! Begin today, to experience the winning nature of the Father and see walls come crumbling down in peoples’ lives; see strongholds and superpowers in the hearts of mankind stripped bare; see lives touched and healed forever.

What joy and victory awaits all Yah’s children when they realise they are eternally part of a winning side.



John Thornton is director of CY Horizons, a charitable organisation dedicated to supporting under privileged young people and the poor; he also oversees New Hope Community Church in Northumberland UK.

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily."

Sally Koch



BEARERS OF SHALOM by Valerie Warsop

In 21st Century Israel the word 'shalom' is an ordinary, everyday form of greeting. Parents use it to their children, friends to friends, colleagues to colleagues and it is heard in the streets, the shops, the markets. In simple translation it means 'peace' and yet this most remarkable word actually has a wealth of meaning. Perhaps this is to be expected since both Father and Son each has the word in one of His many titles: the Father being Yahweh Shalom (see Judg. 6:24)¹ and the Son, our Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)!

According to Strong's² the primary root of the word 'shalom' means "to be safe (in mind, body or estate)." Locked into the word are ideas of health, happiness, prosperity, friendship, safety, rest and wholeness. William Wilson concurs with Strong's, stating that the word (depending on context) means 'to be whole, to be at peace, in friendship with anyone, health, concord, welfare, peace, friendship'³.

Yahweh is shalom to His people – what a wonderful thought! He will be to us all that we need Him to be; this is a promise that is revealed in His Name, so we can expect all the lovely benefits of shalom in our everyday lives.

I revel in the idea of being 'in friendship with' Yahweh! Such a state is so obviously not reserved just for giants of the Scripture like Abraham or Moses, but can be enjoyed by all those who reach out to the Father in trusting faith.

The night before He died Yahshua said to His disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you..." (Jn. 14:27). The word for 'peace' in this instant is the Greek word 'eirene' and implies prosperity, one, peace, quietness, rest and even 'to set at one again'⁴. W. E. Vine suggests that 'eirene' corresponds to the Hebrew 'shalom'⁵ which signifies wholeness. Yahshua is our Prince of Peace and so gifts His people with His own peace. In this troubled world we should be peace-bearers and, consequently, peace-makers.

This issue of Ha'Shem is focused on the needs of the communities around us, neighbours, workmates, friends and even relations! We can be so caught up in the bigger picture of a lost world that we forget that, in the ordinary everyday story of our ordinary everyday lives, the lost sit next to us in the bus and train; drink coffee with us at break times; go to the same

nurseries, schools, hospitals, day-care centres, libraries etc. and live ordinary, anxious lives. What does it mean to come in contact with you every day? Are you making a difference in the corner where you live? Are you a peace-bearer?

In our search to become more and more like Yahshua we should, easily and naturally, increase in personal 'shalom'. In effect this means that walking with Yahshua will bring each of us into a state of wellness, wholeness, security, prosperity, happiness and friendship – this is what the Father plans for His people and He gives it to us through His Son.

¹ The Word of Yahweh version

² Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible; Hebrew & Chaldee Dictionary ref: 7999

³ Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies

⁴ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible; Greek Dictionary ref: 1515

⁵ Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words ref: peace

Valerie Warsop has served over forty years as a minister of the Congregation of Yahweh. During that period she has held many distinguished posts. She lives in Nottingham and, although retired, she continues to serve in specific ministry areas.



AN EXCITING ADVENTURE!

by Jasmin Myles-Wilson

Has there ever been a time in your life when you have really been excited about the thought of doing something you've always dreamed of; or have you ever started reading a book and it's so gripping that you can't put it down?

From an early age I have been gripped by an all-pervading passion and that passion is for children. I love working with children! I love entering their world, sharing with them, and helping them both to discover who they are and to explore their divine potential.

Yahshua said, "Unless we become like a child we shall not enter the kingdom of heaven" (paraphrased Matt. 18:3). This gives us some idea of the importance of children or childlikeness in His eyes. Note also that when Yahshua commissioned us to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations this actually included children and young people (Matt. 28:19)!

As a young child I accepted Yahshua to be my Saviour and Friend and I was so excited about Him that I shared Him with my friends at school. At one stage most of my friends from class attended our church's Bible School,

some even asking Yahshua to become their Friend as well; it was great! I had begun (as I now realise) an exciting journey of impacting children's lives, as I shared Yahshua with them; He became the centre of focus.

I really believe that children are the future and as we reach them and impact their lives they will in turn reach out to their peers and impact their lives. Ultimately they will become the core of the church, and its future leaders.

The adventure of reaching out to children is very rewarding but equally challenging. Peer pressure and modern technology are among the challenges that face us when we reach out to the children and youth of today. What can we offer that will capture their attention? My answer is: practical and honest displays of Yahshua's love. You may ask, "How can I do this?" My suggestions include caring enough to spend significant time with them; getting to know them; share in the things they like to do; show concern for the things



that concern and trouble them.

There is a saying that children are born with a blank slate and as they go through life their slate is written on. Another saying is that they are like sponges and soak up everything. Working with children has made me realise just how true these statements actually are. The clear message is that *children are impressionable*. Adults have a huge influence upon them. What you imprint upon a young child for good or bad will shape the adult which that child will one day become. What we impart to our children is crucial.

In my secular work I have had the privilege of working with very young children whose lives have been marred by things they've seen or experienced and who, consequently, need lots of love and attention. After I had been working with such children for a period of time people could see a remarkable difference in them. I was able to hug them, give them time and attention when others refused to and in this way I was able to display the love of Yahshua. It is a great joy and honour to be able to share Yahshua, in some way, with such young children. They have so much faith and trust in those who they believe sincerely care for them. I wonder if this is why Yahshua wants us to be like little children.

Being a children's/youth worker is an important and exciting vocation. We have many opportunities to build relationships with them, impact their lives in positive ways and enable Yahshua to become a reality. I have been a children's worker since I was sixteen and have seen many children come to know Yahshua as their friend. It is one of my greatest joys to see a child make a decision to ask Yahshua to be his/her Saviour.

I have often found that children and young people respond positively to our approach when:

- we are honest and sincere
- involve them in what we do
- give them space to be or do something creative

No matter where we live, these ways of approach are dynamic in opening up children and youth to meaningful relationships; they will help to stir up their faith, paving the



What you imprint upon a young child for good or bad will shape the adult which that child will one day become.

way for us to guide them to Yahshua. Many times this is how children and young people experience the start of a life with Yahshua and then, when they fully accept Him, there's great rejoicing not only in heaven but among their friends, family and church members.

New life breeds excitement and excitement breeds new life! I love being involved in creating and sustaining new life, how about you? It's hard work, it takes commitment, you have to make a sacrifice; it brings challenges but it is equally exciting and rewarding. Why not join in the adventure of building our future church by working with the children in your local church and community?



Jasmin Myles-Wilson is currently residing in Nottingham UK, and works as a leader in The Congregation of Yahweh's Children's Ministry.

REVIVAL AND EVANGELISM

"WHOM SHALL I SEND?"

by Richard Willetts

Throughout the world countless millions of believers are involved in prayer initiatives, many crossing national, cultural and church denominational barriers with the purpose of laying before Yahweh the plight of the nations of our world and asking Him to move in His sovereign power and to send the fires of revival, that many will be saved and the Kingdom of Heaven will come in power.

Such commitment to prayer is both commendable and essential if we are to see all that Yahweh wants to do in our world before Yahshua returns. In a sense we can never pray too much, indeed we are commanded to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17 KJV). Prayer is essential to the fulfilment of Yahweh's plans for the world; to quote a prophecy by our late Elder Peter Warsop: "...It is true that men are saved by the foolishness of preaching, but without prayer, preaching is foolishness."

What concerns me, however, is that some use prayer as an alternative to simple obedience to the great commission. Yahshua did not commission us just to pray but to preach the gospel and make disciples. We can study many examples through history of revivals and awakenings that have begun as a result of earnest prayer. The result of such responses has always been effective evangelism, sometimes on a community transformation scale.

I fear, however, that there is



We need to reclaim Yahshua's passion for the crowd, but this should do more than drive us to pray (though it certainly should do this) it should galvanise us into action.

a premise that if we pray long enough and loud enough, Yahweh will respond with a queue of people outside our church asking us what they must do to be saved. This is not strictly what Yahweh is promising. When Yahshua saw the plight of the multitudes of people around Him, He was moved with compassion for they were like sheep without a shepherd, wandering aimlessly on the hills of life and heading into a lost eternity.

He identified the world as being ripe for harvest and His response

was, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will **send forth labourers** into his harvest" (Matt. 9:38 KJV, **emphasis mine**). Here we see the true purpose of prayer - it is to ensure that the work of reaping the harvest is effectively done. The natural result of prayer must therefore be effective evangelism (coupled with effective discipling of new believers). For this to be done we must become workers for Yahweh and we must be willing to be sent by Yahweh.

On the day of Pentecost, as



recorded in Acts 2, one hundred and twenty followers of Yahshua prayed and waited in an upper room. When the Spirit visited them, they were empowered and began to declare the praises of Yahweh and to share the breaking news of Yahshua with the crowds around the temple area. The result of this evangelistic activity was that many of the listeners were cut to the heart, and were powerfully transformed by faith in Yahshua, baptism in water in Yahshua's name and the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-41). Yahshua had explained that the primary purpose of the in-filling of the Spirit was that they should be effective witnesses (Acts 1:8) and this was their ultimate focus.

Not long after Pentecost, the Church began to experience significant persecution and opposition to the message of Yahshua. Their response was once again to enter that prayer closet – but for what purpose? This was

the substance of their prayers: “Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel...” ... “Now, [Yahweh], consider their threats and **enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness**. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant [Yahshua] (Acts 4:27-30 **emphasis mine**). The result of this prayer: “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit **and spoke the word of [Yahweh] boldly**” (v31, **emphasis mine**).

It is interesting to note that their experience on this day was similar to that on the first day of Pentecost - a single filling of the Spirit was not enough, there was a need for the Church to meet together and be empowered for service once again. As believers, we need times of refreshing - this is one of the main reasons Yahweh calls us to

meet together regularly. Many would call what happened on Pentecost and on this subsequent prayer event revival, yet really what we see here is ‘normal’ church life as Yahweh intended it. The result of ‘normal’ church life was and should be today boldness in sharing the Good News of Yahshua, with signs, wonders and miracles following. Such things will not happen, however, unless the Church involves itself with Yahweh in the business of making them happen.

I have come to the firm conclusion that it is not the world that needs revival but the Church. What the world needs is evangelism by a revived Church. The very word ‘revival’ denotes the bringing back to life of something that is dead or dying. It is the Church that has experienced the life of Yahshua and it is we who must go back to the Source of Life and be empowered once more to reach lost people. We need to

reclaim Yahshua's passion for the crowd, but this should do more than drive us to pray (though it certainly should do this) it should galvanise us into action.

I am sure that not one of us would disagree with this comment. The problem that many of us have is that we struggle to know where and how to start. Many of us are not altogether sure quite what to say and who to say it to. Some of us come to the conclusion that evangelism is probably best left to the minority of anointed and gifted specialists in the body of Messiah, whilst we busy ourselves with other important activities in the church. In thinking this way, we are in danger of completely missing the fullness of Yahweh's purpose of our life on earth, our call to mission and to be witnesses in the world.

We Need Personal Renewal

So what should we do? I believe that the first step has to be personal renewal - as the songwriter says: "Send a revival Yah, start the work in me..." When his many sins were revealed to him the psalmist recognised his need for personal renewal, before he could be used by Yahweh in any significant way. "Create in me a pure heart, O [Elohim], and renew a steadfast spirit within me" ... "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, ... **Then** I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you" (Ps. 51:10-13, **emphasis mine**).

In the late 70's our own national church began to pray fervently for revival, the result of which was what one might describe as an anointing for holiness. I remember becoming very dissatisfied with my own walk with Yahweh at this time and felt convicted about the many failures in my life to live according to Yahshua's high

"Evangelization is a process of bringing the gospel to people where they are, not where you would like them to be... When the gospel reaches a people where they are, their response to the gospel is the church in a new place."

Vincent Donovan

standard as revealed in His word. Our senior pastor had come into a new experience, having felt the same about his own life, which he began to preach about - a work of the Spirit he called 'sanctification'. Suddenly, through faith in Yahshua, he was able to walk the pathway of holiness. I knew this experience was for me, and I can remember being prayed for



to receive this gift. I can honestly say that my life has never been the same since. I experienced a great level of victory in my life and closeness to Yahweh that I had never known before. Yahweh lit a fire in my heart that day, and that fire is still burning.

The prophet Isaiah had a similar experience when he saw Yahweh. He was immediately convicted of his own sinful nature. "Woe to me! I cried. I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, [Yahweh] Almighty" (Isa. 6:5). Yahweh's response was to send His angel with a burning coal from the altar and to touch Isaiah's lips with that coal. "...See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for" (v7). Now he was ready to be Yahweh's mouthpiece to Israel: "...Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" "Here am I. Send me!" (v8)

We Need To Be Willing To Be Sent

Yahweh did not save us just to ensure that we would live a godly life and go to heaven at the end - His plans for the Church and the world are far more ambitious than this. He commissioned His disciples to go into the world and make disciples. If we want the fires of personal renewal and personal revival to have their intended effect in the wider

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed."

Hudson Taylor

world, we need to fully embrace Yahshua's call to go. Just recently we have completed a six week course with our church groups in Aylesbury and Hitchin; it was written by J. John, one of the UK's most anointed evangelists, and entitled 'Breaking News'. This helpful course has enabled individuals to identify practical ways that we can share the wonderful message of life with people around us, not just in word, but in actions and lifestyle. It has been a source of tremendous encouragement to me, to see longstanding believers begin to realise how presenting the message of Yahshua to their family, friends and work colleagues is not an insurmountable and fruitless task. One lady in our congregation, a care-worker who took to heart all the helpful teaching given, asked for prayer for one of her elderly clients who was very despondent. The following Monday Yahweh answered that prayer and she was able to identify and take the opportunity to offer to pray for that elderly woman and lead her to Yahshua. If we have the Spirit of Yahweh, we can rest assured that He has sent us. We do not need to go to the uttermost parts of the world (though Yahweh could call us to this at any time); we can start where we are in our 'Jerusalem'. We can trust Yahweh to give us the direction, wisdom and boldness we require in our every

day existence and contact with non-believers, IF we ask for it and wait for it.

We Need To Go

Asking for wisdom and boldness however is not enough. We must act upon it, as Yahweh commanded Gideon to "...Go in the strength you have and save Israel..." (Judg. 6:14).

Sometimes we are waiting and praying for 'another Pentecost', when what Yahweh is really saying to us is, "Go with what I have already given you." It was as Gideon went and was obedient to the instruction of the angel of Yahweh, engaging in social and spiritual reform by tearing down the altar of Baal and rebuilding an altar to Yahweh in its place (an act that could have cost him his life) that the Spirit of Yahweh later came upon him in a mighty way (Judg. 6:34). Yahweh said as much to our own senior pastor in the early sixties as he began to pray for revival in the tiny church of which Yahweh had just made him pastor. He began to realise that what was required was not another Pentecost but for him to move in the power of the anointing and apostolic commission that he had already received. It was as he began to preach in obedience to this commission that Yahweh began to anoint his words and hundreds were saved, healed and filled with the Spirit and a new church was born.

My point is this. If we want revival, then we need to embrace the call to go. It is obedience to

Yahweh that will be the catalyst for what we all so long to see, the healing of our nation. Yes, we need to be empowered, but this should be a regular occurrence in our church gatherings. For some of us, it is the church service itself that is the life. We feel great at church but on leaving the building we hide ourselves away, avoid as much contact with anything or anyone that might rob us of our joy or cause us to sin. We come back the following week as an empty vessel ready to receive another blessing and be coaxed back into life. (This was the general pattern of my life for many years!) Here is the problem: it is hard to be good when you're not doing anything.

The true Christian life is what we live every day of our life, not just once a week. The Gospel of Yahshua is not what we come to church to hear but what we go from church to tell. The meeting place should be a training place for the market place. The gifts that we exercise in church can and should find expression in the wider world. People need what the church has to offer. As I have begun to embrace mission as a lifestyle, I have found a greater source of blessing and power in living my life every day. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30). Being involved in winning others for Yahshua is a source of life in its own right; it is truly a recipe for revival!

Richard Willetts is a prophetic teacher and lead Pastor of the Congregation of Yahweh Open Door Community Church in Buckinghamshire; a prolific writer and former editor of Ha'Shem; he is married with three children and lives in Aylesbury.



Out Now!
NEW
BOOK

THE PRAYER WARRIOR



THE PRAYER WARRIOR is the real life story of Elden Shisler. Born in Hillbilly poverty, he was disadvantaged by a difficult education, and never had the chance of a good career. Elden nevertheless goes on to 'Move Mountains' with his persistent pleas to the Almighty. Whether it's a 'mouse' or a 'tornado', Elden moves the obstacle aside by faithfully praying to the God of heaven and earth.

If you are a believer and want more answers to your prayers, then THE PRAYER WARRIOR is the book for you. If you pray, but feel that you lack faith when you pray, once again THE PRAYER WARRIOR is the book for you. As the author, I can tell you that my own prayer life is far more effective because of what I have learned from praying with Elden. My purpose for writing 'THE PRAYER WARRIOR' is that others will benefit from Elden's amazing life story!

Persecution of Christians is increasing in the world. We all need to become prayer warriors like Elden if we are to experience the victory the Lord has prepared for us when the trials become more difficult.

Author of
THE PRAYER WARRIOR
Bryant Buck



What you can do to help?

THE PRAYER WARRIOR is being published by Xulon (pronounced Zulon) Press and will be available in Great Britain and the United States. You will be able to order a copy through your local bookstore or directly online from the publisher www.xulonpress.com/

On their main menu double click on home then click on search our bookstore. You can then search by ISBN 9781602665354 or by Book Title or Name of Author. For those in the UK you can order your copy directly from the Olive Tree Bookshop. Tel: (0115) 9857803.

AN ANCIENT FAST



Yahweh said some remarkable things and gave some very practical instructions, through the prophet Isaiah. One of the less recognised of these directives concerns meeting the social needs in our communities. He said:

*"Is not this the kind of fasting
I have chosen:
to loose the chains of
injustice
and untie the cords of
the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
Is it not to share your food
with the hungry
and to provide the poor
wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked,
to clothe him,
and not to turn away
from your own flesh and
blood?" (Isaiah 58:6-7)*

Over the years we have defined fasting as simply denying oneself food (and maybe drink) for specific periods of time. For various reasons many have difficulty with this – perhaps medically, for example. However we see here that there is another type of fasting that is not only acceptable to Yahweh but widely available to us all - that of helping those in need! The inference here is that we deny ourselves in order to help others. This denial could result in the offer of finance or

time – but it is recognised by Yahweh as an acceptable and chosen form of fasting.

The Congregation of Yahweh has always been actively involved in this very specialised form of 'fasting'. In recent years it has developed its own charity, *Horizons*, to implement this duty more effectively.

One of the charity's aims is:
*To **alleviate** poverty in whatever
manner it sees as appropriate to a
given situation.*

Horizons is developing this particular aim through a variety of projects, one of which is, 'Feed the Hungry'. This is a food-provision based project currently being rolled out in the city of Nottingham for the homeless and the destitute. It was initiated in November 2005 and the intention was to make food and friendship available to the many people who are forced to live on the streets, who are socially rejected or have nowhere to go during the cold winter months. Currently, it is estimated that over sixty homeless and destitute people have been fed, clothed and helped as a result, and the success of the scheme has meant that it has continued throughout the summer months, too.

Horizons is also working in Malawi, Africa, forwarding the *Joseph Project*, which aims to provide food for the hungry (and often starving) during times of severe food shortage and famine – a condition that frequently visits this small and very poor nation. Here the

Congregation of Yahweh owns more than six acres of land and this is being successfully developed and managed by *Horizons*. In 2006 a bore hole was drilled to provide water for irrigation – especially during periods of drought. Presently, *Horizons* is raising funds to install an electric pump, powered by solar panels and, also, an irrigation system. It is hoped that up to three hundred people living in extreme rural conditions, might be kept alive as a result.

On a recent trip, John Thornton identified a school in Malawi eager to engage in a correspondence exchange programme with a primary school in the UK. The children (approximately 200) each wrote letters and some even sent gifts to prospective school mates! *Horizons* is now working with a school in Stoke-on-Trent to bring about this 'twinning' of schools. The workers are in no doubt that what will emerge from this is an offer of material support to the most needy of children, although this was not the original intention.

Throughout the centuries Christian men and women, driven by biblical values, have given much to help and support those in need. Believers must not lose sight of this very important aspect of the Gospel message. Just consider the millions of people across the world suffering and dying from 'aids'. This disease not only kills, but it also alienates (particularly those who are already socially excluded) and fuels poverty. Communities of believers must endeavour to do more in actively bringing relief to the poor, the sick and diseased of

our world. Giving our finances, our time and energy to support charities to fulfill the directive of Isaiah's prophecy builds the Kingdom and is honouring to Yahweh.





I was a heroin addict in heaven! My dealer was in the same room and nodding drowsily; on the floor near him was his stash of supplies. I reached out stealthily, and blissfully prepared for the fix of a lifetime and the ultimate high – I woke up in the high dependency unit of our local hospital. All my life I had been on a one-man crime wave, with a mission to self-destruct and this time I almost succeeded. Fortunately, my cousin, finding me unconscious on the living room floor and a deathly shade of blue, had rung the emergency services. I had been taking drugs for eighteen years; I had received prison sentences for a total of eleven years (although I had only served five) and I had hit an emptiness and void that consumed me. I was in a very dark place where no one could come and no one could reach me. I had spent more than £20,000 on drugs and both my body and mind were wrecked.

In spite of my close brush with death, it was another twelve months before I finally cried out for help. I was

MORE THAN A MAKEOVER

Shaun Spowart



directed to a Christian rehabilitation centre and there was introduced to Yahshua, the One Person who could reach into my emptiness and fill it with His Presence and His words. The softening of my heart and the opening of my eyes and ears came as the love of Yahshua was shown to me through His people. My walls of defence had to come down somehow and it was through the love of Yahshua and with worship music in the background that this began to happen. I was like a pawn on a chess board, in the right hand of Yahshua, and was being steadily moved towards a divine appointment with my Creator. The prayers of people around me, the speaking of Yahweh's Word and the planting of His seed in my heart, together with its watering through love, brought me to a place of acceptance and to my salvation. Yahweh had heard my desperate cries and He spoke to me and said, "Get up and leave your life of sin; don't look back!" So I did and He has transformed me. About a year after this first encounter I cried out to Yahshua again and this time was set free from all drug dependency. It was a miracle!

The Word of Yahweh is challenging me every day to be more like Yahshua; it's changing me, transforming me, refining me, protecting me and strengthening me. I had a dream and it was of a book; when I looked into the open book the words jumped off the page and startled me because they were alive. Yahweh said to me, "This is My Word! The very words out of my mouth are alive; they are life-giving words. You can stand on these words, you can build every part of your life on them, and without them you can do nothing."

I have been walking with Yahshua for three

years and for the last two of these I have been on a recovery programme. I've had neither doctor nor medication, but a recovery programme that is based on the undiluted, living Word of Yahweh. Through His Word I am being cleansed and restored and I believe I am at the beginning of a great and wonderful adventure with my Saviour Yahshua. I know it won't be easy but I also know that my Redeemer is living and that His grace will be more than sufficient to help me through.

The apostle John says that Yahshua is the Word (John 1:1) and I am learning that if I want to be like Yahshua and be close to Him I have to stay 'in the Word'; reading it daily and letting it fill my heart and thoughts. It is through the power of His Word that I am being set free from my old ways of thinking and acting and being brought to understand what Yahweh wants me to do in His service and for His Kingdom.

This scripture perfectly describes my life today: *"I waited patiently for [Yahweh]; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand" (Psalm 40:1-2).*



Shaun Spowart is an active member of the Congregation of Yahweh in Nottingham.

MINISTRY AND SOULS

by Elijah Ngugi



“I will make you to become fishers of men”

The word ‘ministry’ means service and in the King James Version, it translates the Greek word ‘diakonia’ as serving like a servant, or deacon. The word ‘diakonos’, which means servant or deacon, comes from the same root. Yahshua did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mk. 10:45). Paul also served, as did Timothy and all the saints, (Rom. 15:16; 1Tim. 4:6). The greatest ministry they performed was to reach out to the lost with the gospel of the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Paul explains in Ephesians that Yahshua, “...gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare [Yahweh’s] people for works of service, so that the body of [Messiah] may be built up...” (4:11-12); “From him the whole

body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (v16). This reveals that those people we normally regard as ministers (such as pastors) are mainly there to equip, enable and train the saints (the members of the church) for the work of ministry. When the members are well trained, they will mature and begin to serve in the body which “builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”.

In Matthew 9:37-38, Yahshua said, “...The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Yahshua asked His disciples to pray for more people to serve/labour in the field. The answer to the prayer was that Yahshua appointed some of them to be apostles whom He sent into the ‘field’ to preach. They became

the labourers or servants. They were no longer spectators of what Yahshua was doing, but co-labourers with Him. After that He appointed seventy-two more to go and labour in the field. They had to report back because they were still in training (Lk. 10:1, 17).

Before Yahshua went back to heaven, He gave His last command to the disciples of all ages. This command is normally called ‘The Great Commission’, and it says, “...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them ... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20). Note that Yahshua promised to be with the disciples to the very end of the age. This promise was therefore for all disciples to the very end

and not for the first disciples only. This same command is repeated in Mk.16:15-18. The disciples were no longer in training. They were now to do the work He had been doing, seeking and saving what was lost, (Lk. 24:47-49, Acts 1:8, Lk. 19:10). These disciples had been in training for three and a half years; they had been equipped by the Master and now it was their turn to equip others.

After the Spirit came on the disciples on the day of Pentecost, three thousand souls were saved and remained in the apostles' teaching. Yahshua added to their number daily such as were being

"If we do not catch men we are in danger of losing even the desire to catch them."

John Henry Jowett

saved (Acts 2). Later on, "...the number of believers totalled about five thousand men, not counting women and children (Acts 4:4, NLT). Due to severe persecution, all the disciples, except the apostles, were scattered and they "... preached the word **wherever** they went" (Acts 8:1, 4, **emphasis mine**). Note that they preached the word **wherever** they went. Then the Scripture adds that Philip went to Samaria. Furthermore, some of those scattered travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch to preach to the Jews, but some began to speak to the Gentiles in Antioch, telling them the Good News about Yahshua (Acts 11:19-20). The church grew rapidly as each disciple ministered. The apostles had done such a good job of equipping the saints that they could remain in Jerusalem while the saints went everywhere spreading the gospel. They followed the pattern Yahshua the

Messiah had revealed to them.

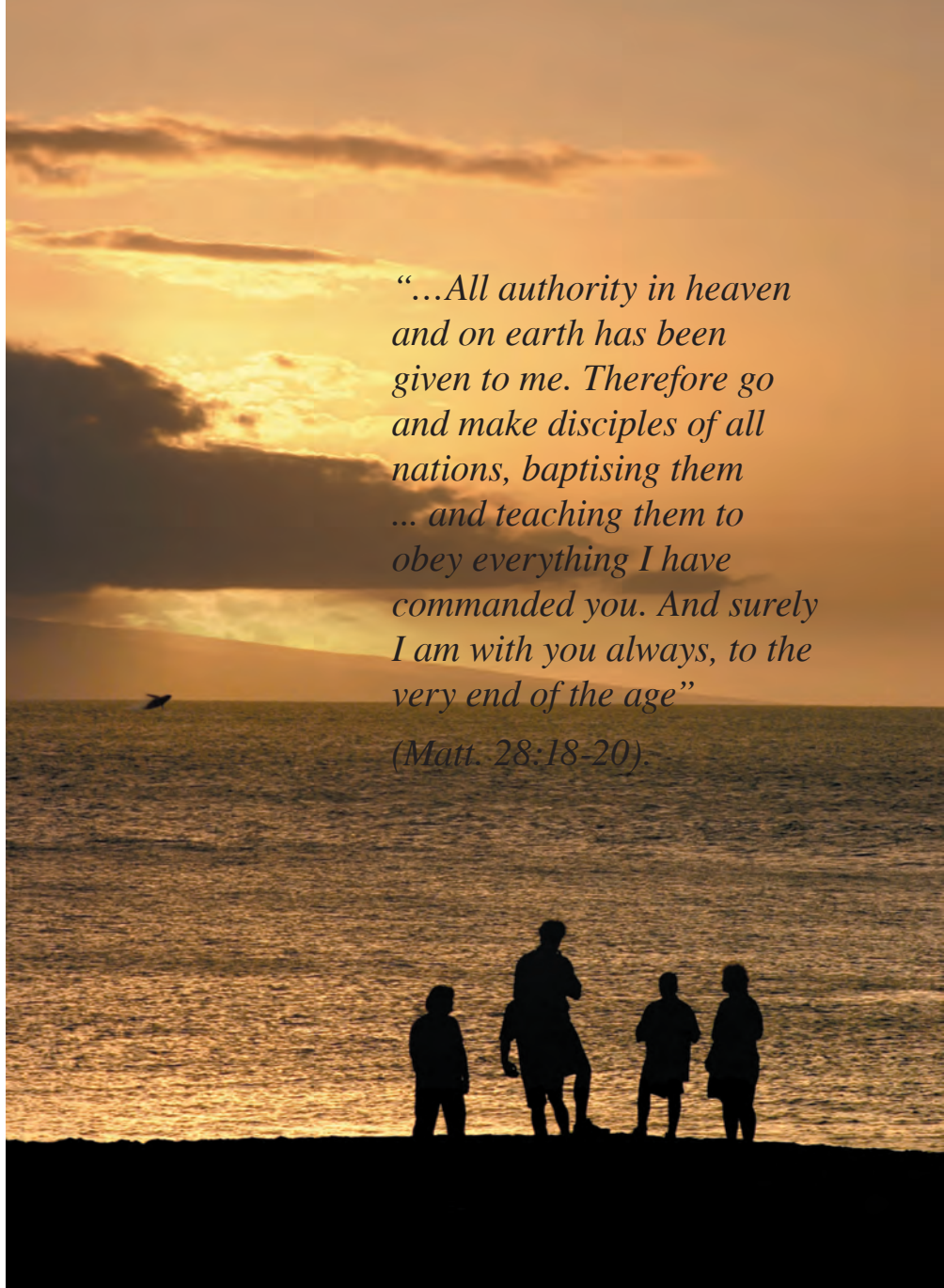
This same pattern was followed by Paul and Timothy. "And the things **you** have heard **me** say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to **reliable men who** will also be qualified to **teach others**" (2 Tim. 2:2, **emphasis mine**). Paul equipped Timothy who, in turn, equipped other reliable men until they were qualified to teach others. Here are four generations of believers. Paul, Timothy, reliable men and others reached by the qualified men. Everyone was working in the field and training others to labour like him/her. This was the pattern. Make disciples, teach them, train them and then

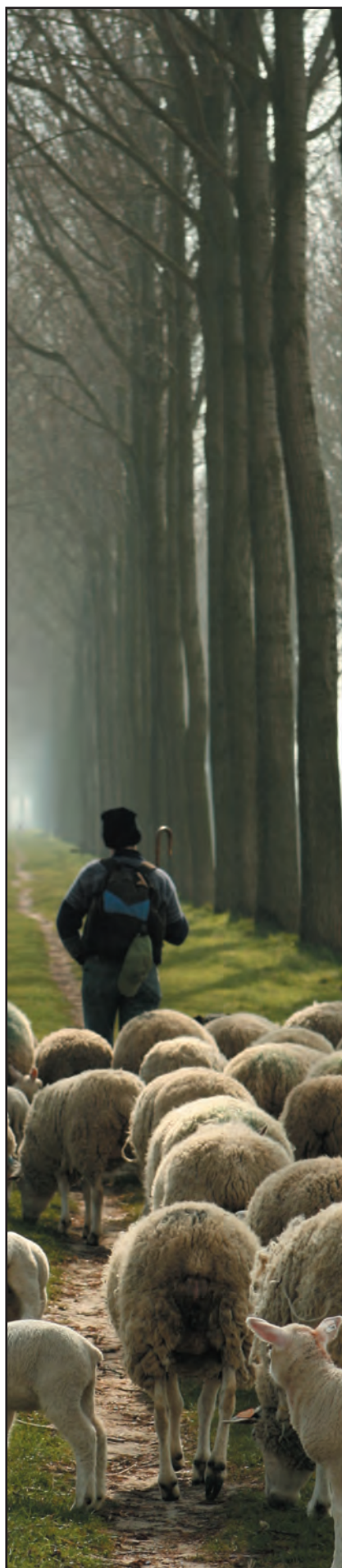
"...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them ... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"

(Matt. 28:18-20).

send them out into the field for the work of ministry. Those discipled in this way had to do the same also to others.

Presently, many members relax in the pews waiting for the pastors to do all the work. This should not be the case. Every one of us must be busy in the field, and I feel strongly that the members should be more active than the pastors in bringing many to Yahshua, just as it is a fact that it is the sheep that bear lambs, and not the shepherd. The shepherds should be busy feeding and training the sheep so that they may bear many lambs. Every member of the flock should be busy bearing lambs and rearing





them up.

The pastors must feed the sheep so that they are healthy and mature enough to bear lambs. If the members are not bearing new young ones, they are either too young to bear or too sick. Are we too young after a long time with Yahshua? Are we so sick that we cannot bear young ones? Don't we have a relationship with Yahshua which is close enough to bring forth fruit? Yahshua emphasises this more in John 15. He says He is the vine and His disciples are the branches. He shows that the purpose of the branches is to bear much fruit. The branch has to remain in close relationship with Yahshua to bear much fruit. What is the main purpose of the fruit? It is not to serve as food; it is to carry seeds which will propagate the tree. If a tree does not bear seeds it will eventually be extinct. Seeds propagate the particular tree/plant to which they belong. If a branch bears no fruit, hence no seed, it is useless and should be cut off. Similarly, if we are making no disciples who are like Yahshua, of what purpose are we? How else will Yahshua's body propagate itself?

Yahshua says, "Come follow me ... and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). This is Yahshua's promise – "Come, **follow me and I will (not I might) make you fishers of men**". If we are not catching men for Yahshua, whose followers are we? After giving this command to the disciples, He did not give any other command. These were the marching orders from the great Commander who has all authority in heaven and on earth. If He does not find us busy obeying this command when He comes, will He declare us good and faithful servants?

This is a dilemma that has dogged some of us for a long time.

Many times I have asked why we are not growing numerically. A common answer has been that our gospel is very difficult. But is it? As Paul says, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of [the Messiah] and are turning to **a different gospel - which is really NO GOSPEL AT ALL**. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and **are trying to pervert the gospel of [the Messiah]. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!** As we have already said, so now I say again: **If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!**" (Gal.1:6-9, **emphasis mine**).

Clearly **there is only one gospel**. It is a difficult gospel for, as the Scriptures suggest, it is a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles (1 Cor. 1:23). It cannot be watered down, made easier for people to accept Messiah and so increase members. The true gospel is "**the power of Yahweh for the salvation of everyone who believes**". The whole world is waiting to hear it! It is the message preached by Yahshua, Peter, Paul and all the early disciples. If we love those who are lost and desire to obey the second greatest commandment, "Love your neighbour as yourself," we shall not look passively on as they rush towards hell, while we idle around.

It is possible to have the desire to spread this good news but be at a loss as to how to present it. This will lead to thinking that the work is for a special category of people. Let us not forget that Yahshua said, "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be **my witnesses**

in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, **emphasis mine**). The purpose in receiving the Holy Spirit is that **we be Yahshua’s witnesses everywhere**. The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts sinners with the Gospel message. This means there are no disciples **who cannot and should not witness**. The Holy Spirit is the proof. Our main problem could be having little skills to communicate effectively with people. We, in Kenya, are learning that, to be effective, we need to be skilled in presenting the Gospel to the lost. We are thankful that Yahweh has provided the needed training. This helps in presenting the Gospel simply and clearly. We are learning that success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share the Messiah in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving the results to Yahweh. We have to avail ourselves of the training and then share the Messiah boldly since we have the message and the skill to deliver it. We do not need to be discouraged when some reject Yahshua. We must recognise that after we have planted a seed, Yahweh will make it grow, using as many people as needed. At the same time, there will be many others who will accept Yahshua. It is of great joy in heaven and on earth when one sinner accepts Yahshua. If we do not tell them that Yahweh loves them and is willing to forgive them and make them His children, who will?

In Kenya, pastors and members recently took part in a three-day seminar learning the basics of presenting Yahshua to the lost. The participants then went out to practise what they had learned. They reached twenty-seven souls and nine of them accepted Yahshua in about one hour. The following day they went out again and this time they reached sixty-



“It is of no use for any of you to try to be soul-winners if you are not bearing fruit in your own lives. How can you serve [Yahweh] with your lips if you do not serve Him with your lives? How can you preach His gospel with your tongues, when with hands, feet, and heart you are preaching the devil’s gospel, and setting up an antichrist by your practical unholiness?”

Charles Spurgeon

three souls, eighteen of whom accepted Yahshua in about two hours. In total, twenty-seven souls received Yahshua in about three hours of practical witnessing in two days. Truly, the harvest is great and the labourers are few.

Shepherds from the local church were left with a huge task of following up these ‘babies’ in Messiah. The new ‘babies’ will need spiritual milk before they die of starvation. Note that I have used the word ‘*shepherds*’. The members also need to know how

to follow up the new ‘babies’ and how to grow them up in Yahshua. In this way, the work will not be overwhelming for the shepherds.

A year ago I graduated in a training course on evangelism and discipleship; it has revolutionised my way of witnessing and I am seeing fruit. It is my sincere hope and prayer that the Holy Spirit will utilise all who are anxious and willing to be used effectively in the vineyard of the Father.



Elijah Ngugi is the national overseer of the Congregation of Yahweh Kenya; he is married with six children and lives in Nairobi.

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Incredible stories of the Gospel message reforming whole neighbourhoods, communities and districts across the world are taking place. Here are two such stories:



Evangelism in Liverpool

"When Phil and his family first moved to outer city estate Page Moss, he was faced with a huge challenge; Page Moss was an Urban Priority Area of high unemployment, poverty and crime and the local church had been dubbed the most vandalised Methodist church in Western Europe.

Wanting to meet the needs of locals in a way relevant to them, he set up Kidz Klub, a fresh club for the children on Page Moss.

Based at Trinity Church, the club puts over the Christian faith to young people in a fresh and exciting way that is closer to Saturday morning TV than traditional Sunday School and that is making a major difference to the lives of hundreds of families in inner-city Liverpool.

Over 350 children are registered on the books at Kidz Klub".¹

Revival in Russia

Sixteen years after helping a young pastor plant a church in Russia's Ural Mountains, the fruit is abundant.

¹ Information at: www.thegoodnews.co.uk/regionFeaturesstory.asp?id=1086®ion=reg0

Book of Hope attended the dedication of new facilities for this church in May 2007. The church has seen incredible growth and done much in its sixteen years. "In addition to the local church, which has between eight and ten thousand baptised believers, they have planted five hundred churches across the region of the Urals. They call it, 'The Church Book of Hope Built,' so it was an incredible moment for us to see a seed planted sixteen years ago and what the harvest is today," said Bob Hoskins of Book of Hope.

As well as planting churches in Russia, this group is moving throughout the world. "That's their main thrust. They have a Bible School, and they're turning out young people to be missionaries. They not only plant churches in Russia, but they're sending teams to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. They even have teams going into China," said Hoskins. "...it's becoming a Missions Centre for reaching out beyond Russia. Particularly, they are targeting the Muslim regions."

Hoskins continued, "The people [in Russia] are in such a desperate, hopeless situation that when we come with the Book of Hope and the Gospel, they respond. And so the goal of Pastor Edward and the other pastors in Russia is to keep reaching out until they've reached the hundred-thousand un-reached villages. They really believe God will help them to do it."²

Read the article in full at <http://mnnonline.org/article/9965> Mission Network News

² This link will take you to Book of Hope website. The Book of Hope is a chronological and harmonised version of the four Gospels telling the story of the life of Yahshua; it is an evangelistic tool used in accomplishing the mission of reaching children and youth around the world. <http://www.bookofhope.net>



GLOBAL PRAYER

When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy. Corrie Ten Boom

Let us unite together and bear one another up in prayer, "The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]." James 5:16 (Amplified Bible)

Norway

Pray...

- That Yahweh will give wisdom and strength to follow up the opportunities He gives; that these people will be guided by His Spirit in passing through the doors He opens; and that they be aware not to tread the wrong paths.
- For Torstein Nisi and his wife, Ann, that they may be blessed, and that their home may be a blessing to the people of Yahweh.
- For Osmund Knutson that Yahweh may continue to give him strength and discernment to do his work.
- For Brother Hans Arild Tangeraas who has recently returned to Norway from the USA where he lived for 25 years. Pray that Yahweh will enable him to settle down and find fellowship. (He lives far away from Torstein and Osmund).

Jamaica

Pray...

- For Jamaica's youth; they desperately need a visitation; horrendous crimes and violent acts are becoming the norm. The Congregation needs some form of effective outreach to contact these people.
- For more ministers to emerge in the Church to fill the gap that will be created in a few years as older ones become less active.
- That doors will open in the wider Caribbean islands.
- That the focus of the Jamaican Congregation and ministry will always be upon things of primary importance.

Aylesbury UK

Pray...

- That Yahweh will give this group wisdom to reap the harvest of souls that has been ripening over the summer months.
- That those who have already had some experience with Yahshua will be brought into a much deeper relationship with Him.

- That the group will continue to be effective in attracting new people to the drop-in community project and that they will have wisdom to stabilise, in Yahshua, those who are seeking.
- That Yahweh will confirm His word with signs following, and that the core Church will be available and led by the Holy Spirit in all forms of ministry.
- For more dedicated workers and musicians to help with the expansion that is happening.

Hitchin UK

Pray that Yahweh will...

- Constantly inspire the Congregation here and fill each one with knowledge, wisdom and understanding.
- Grant the ability to be effective mouth-pieces and vessels for His use, so that His Word will become real in the hearts of those who hear.
- Inspire those who do hear to commit themselves to Him.
- Help the committed hearers to become disciples who, in turn, will win others.

Derby UK

Pray...

- That Yahweh will open 'an effective door' over Sinfon, the place and community where the meetings are held.

Nigeria

Requests received from Stephen Aburu Orumisan

Please pray...

- That Yahweh will help the members of the local church to walk in obedience.
- For victory over sin.
- For the present generation.
- That the power of the Holy Spirit will be evident in the church.
- For an increase of church members.

Send your prayer requests, 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

MY SEARCH FOR TRUTH

by Thomas Mahey



The miracle of Yahweh's salvation through Yahshua began in my life when I was about sixteen years old and progressed steadily to a stage where I accepted Yahshua as my personal Saviour.

Being raised in a devout Hindu home in a Hindu community and with their time-honoured traditions, I was to follow my parents' upbringing and their gods and the gods of their forefathers. My parents had been raised and brought up in India before they moved to England, where I was raised and brought up. The regular routine of attending the temple (Gudwara) and listening to the priest (Sadhu) reciting the scriptures from the holy book (The holy Granth Sahib) became a part of my religious lifestyle.

When I was about thirteen years old, I used to attend a Bible School during the summer holidays; this was held at one of the Congregation of Yahweh's fellowship groups in Wolverhampton, UK. Here, along with other eager teens, I learnt Bible texts and heard Bible stories being told. However, my attendance dropped off as exams came up.

My search for spiritual truth began when I was seventeen years old. Some relatives of ours came to visit and they invited me to a service at their church. I remember feeling that these people had an inner peace that could be sensed.

Before reaching seventeen I had watched a film called, 'Jesus of Nazareth', the last part of which dramatised Yahshua's last days on the earth and showed Him as the Son of God who was to die for the sins of the world. Although, at that stage of my development I didn't fully understand that this was what was being depicted, I do remember clearly the scene in which Yahshua was hanging on the tree breathing His last. I was sitting in front of the television and I became aware of what I can only refer to as a 'warm feeling', which permeated into the centre of my being. I didn't appreciate what was happening to me at the time.

Growing up and viewing the world around me, I had many questions in my heart. What was life

about? And for what purpose was I born? These were questions for which I was trying to find answers. This search for truth led to me reading a variety of material about different religions, as I felt that the religion I was born into, Hinduism, was not providing the answers I was seeking. Reading material which was Bible orientated led me to see that many of life's questions were dealt with in the Scriptures. Some of what I read was from H.W. Armstrong (founder of the World-wide Church of God). With hindsight I can now see that reading such material was not giving me what I was seeking either, or making the reality of the person at the heart of the Bible come to the forefront.

In my search I regularly attended the local Buddhist temple, Krishna consciousness meetings and various Hindu functions. All of these failed to fill the void within me. Another so-called faith group I looked at was 'The Divine Light Mission' which tended to dwell on the idea that the Kingdom of God is within you and you find it through meditation. Even after all this I still felt unsettled in my heart about any of these paths being the right one for me.

I then began doing Bible studies with the Jehovah Witnesses which opened my mind to things to do with 'the end times' – all very interesting. However, the most provoking aspect of all the studies was looking at the Creator God's personal name. Studying the names of the heavenly Father brought back memories of my Bible School days, since the adults that organised and ran the Bible School used the names

continued on page 26



Thomas Mahey is an active member of the Congregation of Yahweh in Nottingham.

BEING AN EXAMPLE

by Estelle Taylor

As we see the things that are taking place in our society, we become aware of young people who are crying out for mentors. They are looking for those who believe in them and are willing to lead them into something meaningful, exciting and fruitful. They are in need of people who are willing to invest in them personally and are looking for those who are willing to be transparent and are actually modelling something worth following. They need an example and, as followers of Yahshua, we should be examples.

Regardless of your current occupation or profession, in spite of where you live - in a rural neighbourhood, or in a busy city - you are called to be an example. Whether you are single, married, divorced or widowed, if you are a true believer, you are called to be an example. We are given every opportunity to be examples and mentors in our society.

I Timothy 4:12 gives us a very special key to being examples. In this passage, Paul encourages Timothy saying, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (KJV). This suggests that we all should model what a believer should be.

How am I to be an Example?

• In Word

Being an example in word and in our conversation is a very serious charge. Very often people judge us by what we say. It is therefore necessary to weigh the thoughts that precede our words. Our speech and our conversation should be such that others can listen to us and be edified. The words of our mouths and our meditations and thoughts should always be 'acceptable' in the sight of Yahweh and in the ears of men. In addition, we are not to be gossipers or loose-tongued. Proverbs 21:23 says, "He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity." Very often our unwisely spoken words come out of an unguarded heart and mind. We are to speak cautiously, knowing that we are being both watched and followed. How will we be able to rebuke others if

our own word cannot be trusted?

Proverbs 4:23 charges, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (KJV). As believers, we should not allow our circumstances, and the emotions that arise, to dictate the words that come out of our mouths. Our hearts should be filled with words of wisdom and life for those who look to us for direction.

• In Conduct

I Timothy 4:12 goes on to tell us that we should be an example in our conduct. Our actions should be a reflection of our words. Our conduct, meaning our behaviour and our lifestyle, should be an example to others. Being an example in conduct may mean at times that what is considered the 'norm' for others may not be right for you. When you are called to a position of influence or example, you give up the right to say and do whatever you want to do, at any



time and in any way. As a believer, you may have to sacrifice some of your liberties for the sake of unbelievers or others of our brethren who are weak.

• In Love

There is a lack of love and compassion in this world. The absence of love has resulted in an unhappy and often violent world; a world filled with war and hatred. There is a love vacuum. The believer should strive to fill this void, by expressing Yahshua's unconditional love to one another and to the world. People should be able to come to us and know that they can receive love on a consistent, constant basis. Showing love to people means being genuinely interested in them and having a servant's heart toward them. Has someone left your presence feeling personally uplifted because he/she has felt and experienced the warmth of Yahshua's love in you?

• In Spirit

If we are to be examples in spirit, then we must be under the control of Yahweh's Holy Spirit at all times. The spirit of the world is wreaking havoc in the hearts of sinners and we are to effectively show the power and the effect of salvation on our lives by being exemplary in spirit. We demonstrate Yahshua and His righteousness to the world by living and walking in His Spirit. The influence of His Holy Spirit upon our lives will in turn influence others.

• In Faith

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that, "...without faith it is impossible to please [Yahweh]." The exemplary believer is one with whom Yahweh is pleased. Very often we are given to anxiety and worry. The true believer, should not only talk 'faith', but should possess faith. We should be constant in faith and full of conviction. People today are looking beyond words and are looking for those who truly possess what they profess to believe. They are looking for those who are genuine, joyful and at peace. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to [Yahweh], and the peace of [Yahweh], which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds

in [Yahshua the Messiah]" (Phil. 4:6-7).

• In Purity

Being chaste and pure is a challenge in this immoral and corrupt world. But Yahshua has equipped us with His Word and His Spirit and will enable us to be examples of purity. Purity suggests blameless lives, without blemish, sober and dignified. Moral purity in behaviour is a must for all believers. Your behaviour as a true, dedicated believer should never cause anyone to doubt your faithfulness in Yahshua.

Is it worth it?

There is a cost involved in being a true, dedicated, committed disciple – a person of influence. The cost may seem too great, but it will be for your blessing and for those who are following your example. Paul closes I Timothy 4:16 with the clear challenge: "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." Think of your reward!



Estelle Taylor is a distinguished prophetess and one of the national leaders of First Congregation of Yahweh International Jamaica.

continued from page 24

MY SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Yahweh and Yahshua.

With so much surfacing in my mind and feeling immensely confused, I went back to the fellowship in Wolverhampton where I had attended the children's Bible class. I spoke to the minister regarding the holy names and shared a little of my unsettled feelings. Through subsequent discussions I was helped with some of the issues that troubled me, and encouraged to do more personal research into the names, and the Bible. As a result I came to acknowledge my need for salvation and accepted Yahshua as my personal Saviour. My thirst for truth was quenched by the One who said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (Jn.14:6 NASB).

I am now a participating member of the Congregation of Yahweh in Nottingham and appreciate the spiritual growth that has taken place in my life over the years as I have been obedient to the things Yahshua has shown me in the Scriptures.



THE CALL TO MINISTRY

by Richard Leaper

I came into the ministry quite late in life, having spent twenty nine years in the Fire and Rescue Service. Most people outside the church community think they have a pretty good idea of what ministers of the Gospel do! We are there to baptise, marry and bury any in the community who might care to avail themselves of our services. I have left out of course our worship services which seem irrelevant to the world. All too often the Church seems to be answering questions that no one is asking. So let me try to dispel this myth and shine the light of Yahweh's word on this subject.

What is the Heart and Soul of the Ministry?

It is the consistent teaching of the New Testament that the work of ministers is "For the perfecting of the saints ... for the edifying of the body of [Messiah]" (Eph. 4:12 KJV). The minister is called of God to a position of responsibility rather than privilege as the Greek words for minister show. The first word is 'diakonos' which is a table waiter, the second word is 'hyperetes'. This word is particularly interesting as it means an under rower in a large ship. The last word is 'leytourgos', a servant of the state. Waiter, rower and servant describe wonderfully what we ministers should be in our fellowships. We are not to lord it over others, but are called to be the servants of all. The pattern of Christian ministry is provided by the life of Yeshua who came not to be served but to serve. The minister of Yeshua, following the example of his Master, renders a humble but loving service to the needs of humanity at large, in the same spirit as that in which the angels and the women had ministered to the Lord on earth. Yeshua is not only the pattern of the true servant but also the good shepherd.

The shepherd's first duty is to look after his flock; likewise as Christian ministers our first duty is pastoral. It seems to me our first call is to the fellowship that Yahweh has given us, and secondly to the greater community in which we live. Perhaps I could sum this aspect of ministry up by saying, first build up the saints and then make more disciples for Yeshua.

Many churches are sacramental in nature, placing great stress on the sacraments of the Church such as

Baptism and the Holy Communion. So let's briefly look at what the New Testament has to say about the ministers sacramental duties. Surprisingly, the New Testament has comparatively little to say on the subject of sacramental duties. The apostle Paul regarded the administration of baptism as a very subordinate activity (1 Cor. 1:14-17) which he was accustomed to delegating to his assistants.

Although it was natural for an apostle, if present, to preside at the breaking of bread (Acts 20:7) the celebration of the Lord's Supper is normally regarded as an activity of the entire fellowship. However a precedent must have been needed from the first as in the absence of an apostle, prophet or evangelist, this duty would have fallen to the minister. The one thing that has been laid on my heart is the vital need for sound biblical preaching that honours Yahweh. Let me ask a further question: Is preaching a duty for a Christian minister only? And the answer is of course NO! There are many in our congregations with the ability to preach. But it must be said that whilst all preachers are not ministers, all ministers must be preachers. It is our calling par excellence, that we who have been called by Yahweh to be under-shepherds of the flock, should in Paul's word be one who "...correctly handles the word of truth" (see 2 Tim. 2:15). We need to make the Scriptures understandable not only to those in our care, but also to the world. As always, our example is to go back and look at Yeshua's preaching. In His preaching and teaching Yeshua made His words understandable to the common man, hence His use of parables, earthly stories with a heavenly meaning.

We, too, as Yahweh's ministers, need to make our preaching and teaching relevant to the communities in which we live.

Perhaps I could sum up in a few succinct words. A dual view of ministry is that all believers are to exercise a ministry in accordance with their spiritual gifts, but that the authoritative teaching, leadership and discipline are limited to a recognised body of elders.



Richard Leaper is the Pastor of Bulwell Baptist Church in Nottingham. He has often teamed up with The Congregation of Yahweh Bulwell on various projects.



Get the Message

Keep up to date with recent Feast ministry and be reminded of classic sermons from the past by purchasing our CDs and DVDs.

Feast Ministry

The Things that Bind

Sermons from Tabernacles 2006

- The Planting of Yahweh
- Deliver us from Evil
- Letting Go of the Past
- The Failing Spirit
- Rebuilding the Waste Places

CD set of 5 £24.00
or £5 each

The Ordained Works

Sermons from Passover 2007

- Introduction
- Called and Chosen. What Now?
- Modified to be Glorified
- Fit and Ready to Work
- Three FAQs. Who? How? What?
- The Final Outcome



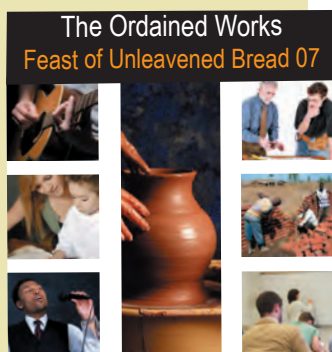
Each CD
£5

Be Glorified

Live music and worship from
Passover and Shavu'ot 2007

Unbelievable Love

Ministry from Shavu'ot 2007



To order please send your request along with a cheque made payable to "The Congregation of Yahweh" for the required amount plus an additional £1 for postage and packaging* to:

"Audio Visual Ministry"

The Congregation of Yahweh
Arboretum Gate
92-94 North Sherwood Street
Nottingham NG1 4EE

For online payments please e-mail
comms@congyah.co.uk for details.

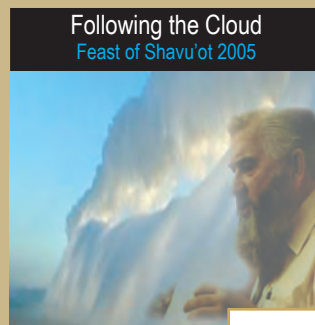
Truth revisited

Sermons by Peter Warsop

Volume 1

- Walking in Sanctification
- Alternative Community
- Place of a Skull

CD set of 3 sermons
£20.00



Following the Cloud

Shavu'ot 2005

*The final service at
Covenant College Chapel*

DVD
£10

*UK residents only. Overseas orders will be despatched and charged according to current postal rates. Please write or e-mail for a quote.