

The River of God

Psalm 65:9

A newsletter from the Little Flock – January 2010

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WHERE IS YOUR FAITH ?

Luke 8:25; Mark 4:40

It was as usual a busy day for the Lord. By the evening his body was tired, but he decided to go on to the other side of Lake Galilee (Luke 8:22). A busy schedule of ministry was waiting for him: among other things, a man with an unclean spirit was to be healed and turned to be an evangelist; at Decapolis, Jairus was in great sorrow as his daughter was lying in her death bed (Mark 5); a woman had faith to be healed and was looking forward to touching the hem of his garment (Luke 8:43). Many others needed him on the other side of the Lake. Some might have suggested to him to take rest that night and move on the next day. A good suggestion, but did not fit into his call and plan. He said to his disciples: Let us pass over unto the other side (Mark 4:35). He denied his own needs and moved forward in obedience to his call. Thus, though he were a Son yet he learned obedience by the things he suffered (Heb. 5:8).



Sometime late that evening, as the Lord and his disciples were sailing on the Sea of Galilee (*picture at left*), their boat was hit by a great storm and the waves got in (Luke 8:23). But, in the midst of all this he got his sleep that he needed – amazing! Luke writes: as they sailed, he fell asleep (Luke 8:23). What a fulfillment of the Word of God spoken centuries before the event – He giveth his beloved sleep (Psalm. 127:2). When we move on in the business of the Lord, he will certainly

take care of our physical and material needs. Two years ago I was a patient in a hospital. One night I could not sleep, both physical and mental disturbances were there. The doctor gave me some pills to help me fall asleep and I was thinking of taking them. Then this verse came to my attention and I went on saying in my heart: not the pills but Psalm 127:2; not the pills but Psalm 127:2. Very soon I fell asleep and got up in the morning. The Word of God is true. He knows how to take care of his people.

On Lake Galilee, as the storm continued, the disciples were terrified and woke up the Lord and said, Master, Master, we perish. It appears, what they said was that all of them, including the Lord, were going to perish. The Lord got up and rebuked the wind and the storm and there was a great calm. Then started the midnight teaching class on the subject of Faith. The class began with the question: *Where is your faith?* On November 6, 2009, my wife and I were on a boat ride on Lake Galilee along with 50 others from North America, New Zealand and Hong Kong. Besides us there was our Guide and two boat managers who were Jewish Christian believers. It was in the evening and the night was setting in and then came a storm and the winds brought some water into our boat. Of course we were not afraid and the whole group continued singing some Hebrew Christian songs led by the boat people with good background music. I could clearly see the lights of the town Tiberius on our right and the boat was moving on as the waves moved fast on that vast lake. My thoughts rested on the scene described both by Luke and Mark in their gospels. The Lord began to speak to me and I was moved by the Spirit. At that time the tour Guide asked me to say a few words. I knew it was the moment prepared by the Spirit of God. I took the microphone and spoke on the text: *Where is your faith?* I could feel the anointing of the Spirit. The Lord blessed that short word as some people testified later. These words of the Lord have come alive to *me!*

The Lord could have stopped the storm before it hit the boat. But he didn't, for he wanted them to learn something they needed for the rest of their lives in their ministries – FAITH. Also, he wanted us today to learn the same lesson. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Faith is needed for salvation, for we are saved by grace through faith

(Eph. 2:8); for Christian-walk we need faith. Scripture says, for by faith we walk and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7); and we live by faith (Gal. 3:11). For this reason, Satan often attacks our faith; he knows when our faith is misplaced we will fail to serve the Lord. The Lord taught the disciples that in the midst of storms; in daylight or in darkness of night, Christ is our sufficiency (2 Cor. 3:5). He taught this great lesson to his people throughout all the generations past. He taught this truth to the people of Israel by taking them through a vast and terrible desert for forty years. Their only source of support was the Lord. During those trying years they had learnt the lesson: *Man shall not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live*—Deut. 8:3.

You need to ask yourself, *where is my faith?* Many people today put all their faith in their jobs, wealth, and other material assets. We should know that nothing in the world can be trusted. Recently we have noticed how some big industries in the world have crumbled down. Many people known to us here in Michigan have lost their jobs. Through these events the Lord is reminding us that the most important thing in the world is to have faith in The Lord who loved us and gave himself for us on the cross. It is not enough that you know about Christ; you need to receive him into your heart and be led by him. It is sad to note that many go to churches, sing songs, and carefully follow various rituals, but remain without Christ in their hearts. There was a woman who was a great singer and she sang in her church every Sunday to the admiration of the congregation. One day she led the congregation in singing the song, *“I have room in my heart for you, Lord Jesus”*. She sang the hymn beautifully. After the service the Pastor went to her and gently said to her, your singing was beautiful; but is it true for you? Is there really room in your heart for Lord Jesus? The woman went home, but the question remained in her. Then she knelt down and prayed, *“Lord, I have been a hypocrite; though I sang the song all these years, I have not given room for you in my heart. Forgive me, and please come into my heart now, and take control of my entire life”*. From that time on till she went to be with the Lord, she remained a great witness for the Lord.

Where is your faith? Is it in Jesus who loved you and died for you on the Cross? He is alive; by faith open your heart to him today. The world may shake; the economy may fail; wars may hit the globe; and your own health may fail, but Jesus will never fail. The word of God tells us that Christ in us is our hope of glory – Col. 1:27.

They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever (Ps. 125:1).

FISHERS OF MEN



Brother Bakht Singh

Continued from last issue

(Taken from audio tapes containing his messages and testimony given in Europe and USA)

From Ballam we went to another village called Joishai. In the evening gospel meeting many people accepted the Lord. From there we went to another village called Chikarpal. There the Lord told me to send one of our brothers to a place called Jak Babar with one Urdu Bible. My friends said, since it is a Sindhi place we doubt if anyone would need an Urdu Bible. I said, I do not know that, but the Lord told me so, please take one Urdu Bible to that place. When they went to that place, they met one young Mohammadan by name Hussain. He asked them if they had an Urdu Bible. They gladly gave him the one they took with them. He was very happy and took them to a restaurant and treated them with some snacks and tea as a thanksgiving party. The same man later met me and said, he was a carpet merchant and had been to that village on business. He had been longing for an Urdu Bible. He stayed two days with us, was born again, and was later baptized at Allahabad city. Thus the Lord led me and my coworkers by His loving and skilful hands.

On another occasion, I was walking in the city of Karachi (Now in Pakistan) and saw one young man walking towards me. The Lord said to me go and talk to him. I went to him and said, please stop. He would not stop. I shouted: Please stop. Very angrily he said, Why are you stopping me? I don't have time for you. I said, please give me five minutes. He replied, Do you want to know the truth? I am on my way to the sea to commit suicide. I said, look here; I promise you; I won't stop you; you can commit suicide now or after 5 minutes, it won't make any difference. He agreed. We both went to a nearby park and sat down. I took my Bible and gave him a short message along with my testimony and prayed.

I said, now you may go. He said, No I am not going to die. He was fully changed by the Lord and went home a happy man. Later on he came to me; we talked more of the Lord Jesus. He was born again.

Once in Karachi, at about 1 O Clock in the morning, I heard a voice saying: Rise and go out. I was very much tired and sleepy at that time. The voice came to me again and said: Arise and go out. When I went out side, I saw two young men walking. I called them and said, please stop, I have something to tell you. When they stopped I told them how I was about to lie down to sleep when the voice of God told me to go out; and that I believe that God had sent me to them. They agreed and said that it must be God's voice because it was an unearthly hour to be out. Then they asked me to give them the message from God. I opened my Bible and read a few verses and told them of my conversion. One of the men by name Kulkarni said: I know God has sent you for my sake. I was very unhappy and longed for a Bible. Could you please give me a Bible? He bought a Bible from me and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. What a joy it was to find those seeking souls!

Once a big crowd – Hindus and Muslims - came to our meeting. I said, we Christians talk to God; we do not repeat our prayers like you people. I said, we go to God and talk to Him – we ask him questions and he answers. Then, one elderly man with a long beard got up and said: Look here, you said you know how to pray; we want rain; pray for rain; if it rains now, I will believe what you said is true. I said, alright, and knelt down and in prayer said: Lord this man wants rain, please send rain. As we finished the meeting, it started to rain– it simply poured. We walked to the next village in rain. Fully drenched we prayed again: Lord, we would like to have hot tea now, please help. As we finished our prayer, a boy came to me and said, my father heard about you and would like you to visit him at home and pray for him. So, all of us, about ten in all, went to his house. By the time we went to his house, he had already made hot tea for us. We gave the gospel and prayed for him. Thus the Lord provided hot tea for us as we prayed.

Thus the Lord gave us entrance into many villages and towns in Punjab (Now Pakistan). As we went from place to place, people used to stand on the road side for prayer. The Lord touched and healed many sick people all along the way.

To be continued in the next issue

FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ -2 Cor. 2:14.

Made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock—Psalm 78:52

These are the promises the Lord gave us at the beginning of 2009. With joy and thankfulness in our hearts we can say that these promises have been our experience in the past year. The Lord kept us under his wings during the economic crisis that began some time ago. Some brothers almost lost their jobs but the Lord protected them. Some of the Little Flock families were hit by health issues, but the Lord took care of them. We know now that the Lord used these trials to strengthen us in our walk of faith, and to deepen our burden to pray for one another as the household of God.

Special ministries in 2009:

Our annual **Family Retreat** was held at Faholo Conference center: April 9-12. The Lord brought to our attention the text: *The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me:* Gal. 2:20. On 11th some brothers and sisters testified in the waters of baptism. The presence of the Lord was with us in the retreat and was a blessing to all of us.

Children's Camp was held during 16-18 of July. The theme was: *In the beginning God created heaven and earth* (Genesis 1:1). We had over 35 children of different nationalities. The faith of our children is being shaken in schools through the teaching of Evolution. We need to strengthen their faith in the word of God which clearly declares that He created the heavens and the earth. Our Sunday school teachers and several parents took part in this ministry. The Lord is giving us an increasing burden to prayerfully prepare the children for serving Him in the next generation, if He tarries.

During 5-8 of August, we had a **Youth Camp** at Faholo Conference Center; about 30 international youth attended. The theme was: *Arise, Shine, for thy light is come* – Isaiah 60:1. We had two special teaching classes which focused on the subjects:

History of the Bible and Creation/Evolution. We are thankful to the Lord for His blessing on this ministry.

During August 27-30, we had a **Prayer Summit** dedicated for a season of prayer. The word that came to us was: *Come ye yourselves apart* – Mark 6:31. It was a wonderful time for us to be at the feet of the Lord as His people.

Gospel Meetings:

During the month of December 2009, we had special gospel meetings – two in Michigan and one in Canada. People were invited as to a Christmas celebration, but the purpose was to preach the gospel. In all these meetings we could see the hand of the Lord on us. Please pray that the Lord will continue to speak to the people who attended. In East Lansing we had about 125 people – mostly university students of different nationalities. There were two families from Iraq who are Chaldean Christians. They told us about the severe problems Christians are facing in that country. Please pray for them. As the time of our Lord's return is nearing, the enemy is escalating his war against God's people in every country. We need to pray much for the church as a whole in the world.

Please pray for the follow up work among the people, especially among the university students, to whom we were able to preach the gospel. Certainly all the ministries mentioned above have impacted our own lives as well, and the work which the Lord has given to us. In addition, these meetings serve as practical training opportunities for the young brothers and sisters whom the Lord is preparing for the next generation ministries. We are indeed thankful to the Lord for all that he has done in and through us in the year 2009.

Please pray for the ministry in **Canada**. In spite of many limitations, the believers at Antioch Christian fellowship are steadfast in the ministry which the Lord has given to them. Please pray in particular that the Lord may prepare and equip the local brothers for a greater ministry in the region in and around Toronto.

We are happy that in 2009 the Lord has added more children to the Little Flock. Please continue to pray for our **Sunday School Ministry**. The teachers are continuing to meet for prayer once a month.

Finally, please pray for a place for the Assembly in Detroit area, so that they can have Sunday Worship services in the mornings; currently they meet in the evenings. We see this as an urgent need and trust the Lord will answer our prayers according to his will and plan in this matter.

For the new year, the Lord has given us the following Scriptures:

- * *Ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people – Exodus 19:5.*
- * *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord. Isaiah 54:17*
- * *Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it – Colossians 4:17*

Please pray for us. If you desire to know more about us, please contact us by phone or through email service.

Praise the Lord!