

# The VINE & BRANCHES

The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, INC.

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Charter 01552809-01

Post Office Box 4217 Brownsville, Texas, USA 78523-4217

Office Telephone (956) 574-9475

NEW E-Mail: workerstogether@rgv.rr.com

Web Site: www.workerstogetherwithhim.org



*Jesus said, "For without Me, ye can do nothing."*

I salute you in the glorious name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I trust that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Welcome 2005!

In the last newsletter, I wrote that Rev. Pyle and I had been invited to travel to Tanzania in December to present the Weapons Of Our Warfare seminar to a congregation of Maasai Christians. At the time, we were not sure if this trip would take place, but as you may already know from my e-mails, that event came to pass in a marvelous way. Much of this newsletter will be devoted to reporting to you about it.

Permit me to express my profound thanksgiving to God for the opportunity to serve Him on this mission. Without the Lord's full participation, such things could not be possible. I thank God that He not only commissioned us on this African mission, but also worked with us while we were there, confirming His Word as promised.

The entire mission lasted only ten days. It is hard to fathom that so much could occur in such a short time. I can testify that lives were changed – I daresay, mostly mine and Evan's. The Lord worked with us powerfully to bridge the chasm of our divergent life experience and cultural background to present the living Word of God to His people. I believe that Rev. Pyle set the stage for this when he presented his opening statement in the Swahili language.

All in all, the seminar was presented with such clarity that it seemed that the Bible was written especially for the Maasais. I was thrilled as the Lord led me to incorporate things the elders had told us about the training of their tribal warriors (called 'Morans') into our lessons on spiritual warfare. For example, as the young men prepare for training, they eat an exclusive diet of red meat. That made it very easy for them to understand this passage from the book of Hebrews about spiritual training:

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of

righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Hebrews 5:13-14)

The culmination of the Moran training is the young man's confrontation with a lion. You can imagine how the following verse resonated deep within their souls in a way that few Westerners could ever appreciate:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

When the seminar began, the women far outnumbered the men, but by the time it ended, the proportions were virtually equal. It was the elders of the tribe who pointed this out to us as evidence of the impact the teachings of the Word of God had on the village.

Though I boast of our mission to the Maasai, be sure that I do not boast for myself or for Evan. These things could not have happened of our own accord. This was the Lord's work. He alone deserves to be praised and glorified.

It was a wonderful way to close out the year. However, we are not inclined to rest on our laurels, and the new year hints of great adventures ahead. Already in 2005 I have presented my seminar here in Brownsville, and very shortly, Evan and I will return to East Africa, to the country of Kenya, where we will each present this seminar, he to a church congregation (with the assistance of Rev. Steve Monahan) and I to a group of ministers. Then, in early April, I will travel to England to again present this seminar, this time assisted by Revs. Jerome Lucas and Carl Roberts.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support that help make these events possible. I trust you know the sincerity of our efforts for the Kingdom of God, and that your financial gifts are being used to this end.

*Rev. Tim Sullivan*



## Better Than We Deserve

By Rev. Tim Sullivan

The Bible makes known the heart of God to man. The Word of God bears witness to the pure and holy reasoning which governs His actions toward man. But the Bible is not entirely devoted to divulging the nature of God. The Bible also testifies of man's nature, and man's heart to God. These words, though they be God-inspired, betray feelings that are not born in heaven but in the nether regions of the human heart. Man's deepest secrets, his frustrations and fears are all laid bare.

The Bible testifies of the enmity between the nature of God and the nature of sinful man.

Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (Romans 8:7)

Jesus Christ resolved this conflict on the cross.

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: (Ephesians 2:16)

The contradiction between divinity and humanity was resolved by the greatest "contradiction" of all: Jesus, Who is God "manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16), and Jesus, Who is the Word "made flesh" (Jn. 1:14).

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:9)

Now, all that is true about God could never be contained in a book so small as the Bible. Consider the last verse of the gospel of John:

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen. (John 21:25)

If there is not enough room on this planet to house a complete volume of books describing the things that Jesus did in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years, imagine the futility of trying to record all that God has done *throughout eternity*. Just the same, Jesus did not make manifest *everything* about God (for example, God is omnipresent and Jesus could only be in one place at a time). All that could be revealed about God *in bodily form* was made known by Jesus, the divine contradiction of flesh and spirit.

There is no greater example of this "holy contradiction" than when the Son of God struggled against the weakness of the flesh in the garden called Gethsemane.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. (Matthew 26:39-42)

Through His Son Jesus, God made known His compassion towards man.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

In Jesus, we see the triumph of the Spirit over the weakness of the flesh. Is this not the story of the Bible? Is this not the struggle that consumes so much of life?

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (Romans 7:23)

One of the things I love most about the Bible is God's unwavering honesty with His creation. God has no interest in standing approved before men, therefore He makes no attempt to win our hearts with flattery. He loves His children because of who He is, not because of who we are. This truth is evidenced by the fact that Christ laid down His life for us when we were yet the enemies of God.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (Romans 5:10)

God's honesty with us should compel us to be honest with Him. But as the Scriptures say, "all men are liars" (Ps. 116:11). Our dishonesty with God is rooted in our dishonesty with ourselves. We refuse to see ourselves as we really are.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (Revelations 3:17)

If religion is an opiate, then money must be a hallucinogen. It is so easy to think that all is well between you and God so long as you have a healthy bank account.

But tribulation is a “truth-serum” without equal. Tribulation will tell you far more about yourself than you may want to know! Just as it takes fearful times to reveal men of courage, it takes troubled times to reveal men of faith.

There is a common complaint voiced by the children of men, whether verbalized openly or in the muted undertones of the heart: “LIFE IS NOT FAIR!” Now, I will be the first to recognize the truth of this saying, as testified to in the Scriptures:

I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. (Ecclesiastes 9:11)

But it seems to me that when people complain that “life is not fair,” what they are *really* saying is “if life *were* fair, then my life would be better, because I *deserve better!*” And this is where I have a problem. You deserve what you’ve *earned*. What is the judicious reward for your behavior?

The soul that sinneth, it shall die... (Ezekiel 18:20A)

For the wages of sin *is* death... (Romans 6:23A)

Do you still want life to be fair? Do you *really* want to get what you deserve?

When the prophet Ezra led the Israelites back to Jerusalem after the days of the Babylonian captivity, he led the people in a heartfelt prayer of repentance. The reason for the captivity, he concluded, was not a heartless God or an unbeatable enemy. Ezra said:

And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*, and hast given us *such* deliverance as this; (Ezra 9:13)

Ezra thanked God that life was *not* fair, and that he did *not* get what he deserved. “Our God,” he said, “hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*.”

You and I should thank God every waking moment that life is *not* fair, and that we are daily spared from getting what we truly deserve.

If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But *there is* forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. (Psalm 130:3-4)

Life is *not* fair. God’s graciousness towards us is a gift. That is the essence of His grace and mercy.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is

high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him. (Psalm 103:10,11)

For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

On my office bulletin board, I wrote this reminder to myself: “People say ‘life is unfair’ and I certainly agree. God is much better to us than we deserve and that is entirely unfair.”

What shall I render unto the LORD *for* all his benefits toward me? (Psalm 116:12)

You’ve probably heard it said that two people will look at the same glass of water and one will call it half-full and the other half-empty. But I’ve also met the kind of person who looks at that same glass with anger and resentment that it is not filled to overflowing! This kind of person is like a spoiled child on Christmas Day who peeks out from under a mountain of opened boxes and torn wrapping paper to protest, “IS THAT ALL?”

Thinking that you “deserve better” will blind your eyes to all you have and turn your attention to those things you lack. Before you know it, you’ll start making “deals” with God: I’ll start serving you as soon as You start serving me.”

Thinking that you “deserve better” will infuse your soul with ingratitude and eat out your heart like a cancer.

A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones. (Proverbs 14:30)

But once your eyes have been opened to see that the good things in life are *not* deserved but rather are gifts from your gracious heavenly Father, your heart will abound in thanksgiving for all that you have been given.

If life were fair, all the love that God has shown us would be returned to Him. If life were fair, we would get what we deserve for our iniquities. Thank God life is not fair! You and I get far better than we deserve.

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## Mtumishi wa Mungu

(Swahili for "Servant of God")

By Ans Mwambepo  
Tukuyu, Mbeya, Tanzania

To all saints who are able and highly committed to do God's will, able to stand in the evil day for Jesus' Victory, I salute you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Hallelujah.

I take this opportunity to glorify the mighty Name of Jesus who made this Word come to life in my heart and my people's hearts during a wonderful time we had at the Weapons Of Our Warfare class in Mbeya, Tanzania:

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:14-15)

This was possible due to the faithfulness and reliability of His servants, Rev. Tim Sullivan and Rev. Evan Pyle, who together with the board of Workers Together With Him, recognized the still, small voice of God leading them to come to Tanzania under rare invitation.

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. (1 Kings 19:11-12).

Truly it was the voice of Jesus leading them to come to my country; for God has great works for Tanzanians. As the Lord spoke to Paul in Acts 18:9-10: "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city."

The amazing grace to my country began at 1:20 AM at the airport of Dar Es Salaam when my face was suddenly met by the lovely smiling faces of Lord's servants, Revs. Sullivan and Pyle. This joyful atmosphere was

already introduced in my heart by another servant of God, Brother Henry Musana, who had arrived only six hours earlier from Uganda after a bus ride of many days. They were tired after such a long journey, but their faces and hearts were looking forward to being with the Lord's people, the flock of God, to give them pasture and water.

Once we left the airport and checked into our lodging for the night, we had five hours to sleep. Then at 6:15 AM on December 2, 2004, we began the long journey to Mbeya, an 11-hour bus ride.

We reached Mbeya town at 6:20 PM that evening. The next day, December 3rd, was intended to be a day of rest but our plans were changed by some important things that had to be taken care of in town. That evening, we drove about one hour to meet with some of the Pastors concerning the class preparations, including the district Pastor. [*Editor's note: In Tanzania, a ministry that is not registered with the government cannot hold public meetings unless those meetings are sponsored by a church that is registered. When Workers Together With Him first came to Tanzania in 2003, the event was under the jurisdiction of the Moravian Church. In December 2004, the Lutheran Church oversaw the event. Soon, Workers Together With Him will be a registered church in Tanzania and finding sponsors will no longer be a concern.*]

Glory be to God Who enabled us to begin the seminar on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. I am very sorry for the inconveniences that occurred in the first two days of class, which caused the sessions to begin several hours later than scheduled. When previous arrangements I made were not honored, we were forced to find alternate transportation to and from town to the Maasai village. [*We are all very grateful to the Catholic priest who not only served as our host but drove us to the village that first day, and to a policeman named Hamisi Mkadimbah who, in the days following, also gave us transport.*]

But all in all, I thank God who was with us and made the class very successful. I came to realize that the key of our success was the shepherd's heart found in the servants of God. This happened when they accepted an invitation to reside at the Maasai village for the duration of the class. They spent three days (day and night) teaching and sharing the love of God to my people. In so doing they fulfilled Paul's concept on how to reach the hearts of men:

To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.  
(1 Corinthians 9:22-23)

Also this is the truth of Christ, for He descended from heaven to save us. Glory be to God! Amen!!

I was blessed to see how these servants of God humbled themselves in order to bring honor to their Master. They traveled the great distance from the USA to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania, then from Dar Es Salaam to Mbeya and from Mbeya to the innermost part of the district of Chimala, where the Maasai have their dwelling; then they happily stayed in the village, and taught the truth of God under a tree. They were eating and sleeping in highly different situations from their own, just to show the love of Christ to people who are in need of Christ. I know they did this only to bring honor to the mighty name of Jesus. It is my prayer that the Lord will remember and think about them for good, according to the words of the prophet.

Think upon me, my God, for good, *according* to all that I have done for this people. (Nehemiah 5:19)

For me, theirs was a precious example to be followed by Servants of God in Jesus Christ. Hallelujah and Amen.

I also thank God who sent Henry from Uganda who became a catalyst (stimulus) of the class due to his lovely heart for the Maasai. His heart of love for the Maasai attracted them and made them become one in Christ. To the very end he made a concrete message in the hearts of the ministers when he preached the Word of God from Jeremiah 9.

Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.  
(Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Our goal was to train 70 ministers, but the Lord was so merciful such that the class attendance was from 80 to 115 participants. The teachings were a great blessing due to the holy anointing of God on His servants of God. The Holy Spirit ministered in the hearts of the participants. There was a very significant blessing in that some of the students began to speak in new tongues for the first time. Also the Lord showed His mercy and

compassion to His people through the gift of Healing. The teaching enlightened the eyes of ministers especially when they were taught about the revelation gifts. Their understanding had been confused by their cultural beliefs and traditions. They came to know that the true God can communicate with us through visions and dreams.

The testimonies of those who received the gift of tongues for the first time, (one of the first group of 9 gifts); others who learned that God can give us information through visions and dreams (gifts of revelation); and those who, by receiving the mercy and compassion of God, received healing (gift of power), prove the success of the class. Praise, blessing, glory and honor be to God for ever – Amen!!

I am so thankful to His servants, Tim and Evan and to all the members of Workers Together With Him worldwide and other Saints who contributed to the success of the Class. I pray that this Word from Hebrews come to pass to you all in Jesus name – Amen!

But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.  
(Hebrews 6:9-12)



Ans Mwambepo with Rev. Sullivan



These photos were taken on our mission to the Maasai Christians of Chimala in Mbeya, Tanzania during the Weapons Of Our Warfare seminar in December 2004.





## He Is Our Hope

By Jerelyn Pearson  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

Recently I began babysitting my 9 month old granddaughter one day a week. The first time Danielle left Brooklyn with me, I noticed that Brooklyn kept watching the door through which Danielle had gone. I was holding her and no matter which way we turned, she squirmed around in my arms until she was facing the door where she last saw her Mother. I told her, "Momma's coming back to get you after work," and began to offer toys and play with her. Soon she got interested in other things and no longer kept looking toward the door. Throughout the day she went about the business of being a nine month old baby: eating, sleeping, playing, etc. I was glad that I was able to comfort her and make her feel secure enough to relax and be herself even though her mother had gone to work. That afternoon when Danielle returned, Brooklyn was overjoyed to see her. She stretched out her arms toward her mom and gave her lots of hugs and kisses.

That very morning before Brooklyn arrived, I had read the following scripture concerning our Lord's ascension.

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. (Acts 1:9-12)

After receiving this reassurance of Jesus' return, they went back to Jerusalem where Jesus Himself had previously instructed them to wait for the promise of the Holy Ghost through whom they would receive power to become witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth. The apostles were obedient to His command and waited in the assurance of the Hope of His return.

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James. These all

continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. (Acts 1:13-14)

Just as Brooklyn was able to spend her day growing and learning in the comfort of being her mother's daughter while hoping for her return; so we should spend our lives being the obedient children of our heavenly Father, who has given us the Hope of the Lord's return and the gift of the Holy Spirit to teach us and fill us with power to do His will until then. Brooklyn's great joy at her mother's return is a very tiny picture of the rejoicing we will experience at the fulfillment of our Hope in the Lord's return.

# WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM

**The Following Events are Currently Scheduled:**

## The Weapons Of Our Warfare

February 14-18, 2005: Kakamega, Kenya, East Africa

(Two classes will be presented simultaneously)

April 1-3 & 8-10, 2005: South Harrow, England, UK

August 2005: Tanzania, East Africa

*For more information about these events, or to request a class in your area,  
please write or call our office.*

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P.O. Box 4217

Brownsville, Texas USA 78523-4217

Phone/Fax: 956-574-9475 e-mail: [workerstogether@rgv.rr.com](mailto:workerstogether@rgv.rr.com)

Visit our web site at [www.workerstogetherwithhim.org](http://www.workerstogetherwithhim.org)

WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM is an international Christian ministry dedicated to the furtherance of the message of Salvation and the education of Christians to the end that they be a living testimony of God's love, power and glory. Teachings are distributed via congregational meetings, seminars and various publications. This ministry is financed entirely by the tithes and offerings of its supporters.

All Scripture referenced in this publication is from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible, as quoted in BibleWorks for Windows, Version 4.0

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