



THE VINE & BRANCHES

The Newsletter of Workers Together With Him

*Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches:
He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:
for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

It amazes me how the calendar pages seem to turn as if they were blown by the wind. Still, how glad I am that God has divided our earthly existence into manageable increments of time called days, each with a beginning and end. In that way, we are able to receive His mercies fresh each day, like the heavenly manna. "They are new every morning," says Lamentations 3:23; "great is thy faithfulness." With that in mind, I am glad to see 2007 come to a close and welcome the promise of a fresh start.

In retrospect, 2007 was, in large measure, a test for Workers Together With Him. Speaking on behalf of our missionary band, the heat of the battle exposed weaknesses in character that we had simply written off as personality flaws. We faced each failure with a resolve of rededication, and through the grace of God, we managed to accomplish some things that I believe will stand the test of eternity.

The urgent message of Ephesians 5:16 – "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" – has become increasingly real. In 2007, our work revolved around four mission trips to East Africa: Kenya in February, Tanzania in May, Uganda in September and back to Tanzania in November. We have been invited to return to these places in 2008 to continue our work. Nevertheless, the recent uprisings in Kenya and Pakistan are a clear reminder that we live in very volatile times. We have a message to present, and we have an audience that desires to hear it. However, as Paul said, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" (1 Cor. 16:9). There are ever-increasing dangers presented by missions to third-world countries. A few weeks ago, I happily accepted an invitation to teach my class at a seminary in Nairobi, Kenya, in March. Now I pray that this door remains open. I also pray that I will have the wisdom to differentiate between courage and bravado.

In October we held a very successful conference in Oxford, England. My presentation, called "Into the Land of Uprightness," was actually developed as a new part to my "Weapons of Our Warfare" seminar. The Lord was with us in Oxford, and I believe many people left with renewed commitment and vigor. Thanks to Rev. Jerome Lucas who organized the weekend.

Between missions, I continue to work on the revisions to my book, *The Weapons of Our Warfare*. This project has taken much longer than I imagined. I assumed it would be a simple task to turn notes into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, and paragraphs into chapters, especially since this is the second edition of a book I wrote almost seven years ago. But this edition has evolved into something quite new. Through many presentations of the class material, I have tested and revised not only the material, but also the presentation. In the first edition, I utilized illustrations from history, literature, and popular culture. The new edition uses examples mostly from my own experiences on the mission field. At this time, I estimate that I am about six months away from finishing the manuscript.

This newsletter contains an excerpt from the book, *Many Voices, One Song*, recently published by our friend, Rudi Illavksy. There is a very special message in this book that is sure to enrich your life, and I hope reading this excerpt encourages you to read the entire book.

As always, I thank my co-workers on our missions: my fellow missionaries, our interpreters, our wonderful hosts, and the congregations who attended. Special congratulations to our friend Henry Musana, recently ordained by Workers Together With Him in Kampala, Uganda.

I am sorry to report the death of a great man of God, Pastor Yohana Lewang'an N'gekee of Tanzania. Rev. N'gekee was a true friend of this ministry, and did much to ensure that we would be well received. Those of us who were there will never forget how he charged us to continue his mission to bring the gospel to his people.

Heartfelt thanks to you who have helped us financially. I know that there are increasing demands on your money, and that there is great temptation to simply attend to your own needs. Thank you for your investment in the efforts of eternity. It is an honor to serve the Lord, and I thank you for your contributions that help make this work possible.

In the service of His Majesty,
the King of kings,



The Sacrifice of Thanksgiving

by Rev. Tim Sullivan
President, WTHW



It seems that every day, I gather new evidence from my own life to support the declaration of Romans 7:24, "O wretched man that I am!" The human condition is truly vile. No matter how much God has blessed us, our recognition of that blessing is soon blotted out with fresh thoughts of desire. Our insatiability cries out like a raging fire, "It is not enough. Give me more."

The horseleach hath two daughters, *crying*, Give, give. There are three *things that* are never satisfied, *yea*, four *things say not*, *It is* enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth *that* is not filled with water; and the fire *that saith not*, *It is* enough. (Proverbs 30:15-16)

Even with careful watch over our thoughts, the best we can manage is to not forget *all* He's done for us.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: (Psalm 103:2)

No matter our situation in life, our natural tendency is to find cause for complaint. We complain about the summer heat and long for cooler weather. Once winter comes, we complain about the cold. We complain about loneliness, and then we complain about the people in our lives. Have you ever noticed that the more unthankful we are for others, the more thankful we expect them to be for us? Feeling unappreciated begins with being unappreciative of others. How wretched indeed!

To those who know God (even if they only know Him by His creation), there is no excuse for ingratitude.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Romans 1:20-21)

Ingratitude brews in our vain imagination, darkening our heart. The only cure for these vain thoughts is to cast them down.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Our worries and fears are high things that exalt themselves against our knowledge of God. When we submit to these wayward thoughts, we grow uneasy, and unthankful. Such thoughts must be brought down.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6)

The Word of God is, "Be ye thankful." This is not a request; this is a command. It is the will of God concerning you.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (Colossians 3:15)

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

You cannot turn on or turn off your emotions. The best you can do is to hide them from others. But thankfulness is not an emotion. It is a state of awareness and understanding. The commandment to be thankful is fulfilled when we bear certain truths in heart and mind. In the Old Testament, the Israelites pictured this by wearing "frontlets," small leather boxes containing quotations from the Scriptures, one of which is strapped to the forehead and the other to the left arm.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

New Testament believers are also to wear these truths etched upon their heart.

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. (2 Corinthians 3:3)

Inevitably, "the things which are seen" will deter our thanksgiving, and cause us to grow discouraged. Christian thankfulness stems from "the things which are not seen."

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Unlike our daily circumstance, the unseen things of God are eternal, unwavering and steadfast. Because of these things we have reason to be thankful regardless of our temporal situation. We are thankful because God is good.

And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. (Ezra 3:11A)

We are thankful because God made us able to share the inheritance of the saints.

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (Colossians 1:12)

In faith, we give thanks for all things, and for all men. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; (Ephesians 5:20)
I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; (1 Timothy 2:1)

We can give thanks for all things because we have assurance that, no matter what it looks like to us, all things shall work out for our good.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Living with thanksgiving in your heart brings you closer to God. We come before His presence with thanksgiving.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. (Psalm 95:2)

We enter into His gates with thanksgiving.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. (Psalm 100:4)

We magnify Him with thanksgiving.

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. (Psalm 69:30)

Thanksgiving and Giving of Thanks

Thanksgiving is more than a verbal expression of gratitude. True thanksgiving is made manifest by works. Thanksgiving is *giving because you are thankful*. We give because of what we have already received. Tithing is a response, not a catalyst.

Some Christians have been taught to “share of their abundance.” This is a very shallow interpretation of giving. Such a person will give only after he himself is satiated; and as we have already seen, the human condition is to always feel in need. Sharing is not giving. You share from your surplus, what you yourself do not need. Giving is a sacrifice, esteeming the other’s needs more needful than your own. True giving requires sacrifice. “In lowliness of mind,” says Philippians 2:3, “let each esteem other better than themselves.” That is why the Word of God speaks of the *sacrifice* of thanksgiving. If it costs you nothing, it is not a sacrifice.

And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing. (Psalm 107:22)

I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people, (Psalm 116:17-18)

There is an undeniable correlation between the sacrifice of thanksgiving and the paying of vows.

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: (Psalm 50:14)

But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD. (Jonah 2:9)

Still, the measure of your sacrifice must be dictated by your own conscience.

And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the LORD, offer it at your own will. (Leviticus 22:29)

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

James said that the profession of faith without works is like a lifeless corpse. “For as the body without the spirit is dead,” he said, “so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:26). “I will shew thee my faith by my works,” he said (vs 18). One can hardly call himself a believer if he is not thankful. Just the same, one can hardly be thankful if he does not make the sacrifice of giving.

When we are established in the faith, we will abound in thanksgiving.

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:7)

As Paul said, “See that ye abound in this grace also,” that you may “prove the sincerity of your love.”

Therefore, as ye abound in every *thing*, *in* faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and *in* all diligence, and *in* your love to us, *see* that ye abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (2 Corinthians 8:7-9)

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One Soldier Speaks Now What Do We Do?

By Jay Pearson
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)

In my previous article, "Where Do We Start?" I concluded that we start right where God calls us. Now I would like to explore the question, "Now what do we do?" Our life on earth is directly affected by our choices and the consequences of those choices. The consequences of our choices are never isolated to us alone. Natural man has family, friends, and acquaintances. We as Christians have all of these too, but more importantly we are the Body of Christ. The consequences of our choices affect the Body.

The commandment is clear and the instruction on how to walk is just as clear: Love one another and walk after His commandments. Our performance of the commandments of God often become weighted down by focus on ourselves and our own imperfections.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:1)

Have you ever taken a wrong turn while driving down the road? Did you stop and analyze your mistake? Did you stop for a week and tell yourself how stupid you were for making a wrong turn? A mistake requires another "take" to correct the "miss." Realizing a mistake is one thing, but wallowing in it is quite another. You'll reach your destination faster if you get back on the right road. Every turn, every choice in life, takes you somewhere. Let the peace of God rule your every turn.

If you are walking and find yourself on the wrong path in the wrong direction, you need only to turn, looking unto Jesus... He is the way. He is the way in which you are to go and He is the way back from a wrong turn. How far do you have to go if you have been walking in the wrong direction for a month, a week, a moment? You need only to turn and change direction. The Lord is forgiving when we repent. The moment you turn in repentance, you are looking unto Jesus and you are going the right way. It requires a U-turn, not a He-turns-you. Many intersections in America have signs that say, "No U Turn." But God allows U turns when you end up facing the Lord. God promises to hear from heaven when you turn to him in prayer.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble

themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God uses a variety of expressions to communicate His direction. They often are expressing the same truth. We are individuals and our experiences in life have tuned our ears differently. A simple word of truth might encourage you, but the same truth might convict me. In chapter 8 of Romans there are some different expressions reflecting the same truth. Walking after the Spirit, minding the Spirit, being spiritually minded, in the Spirit, and in Christ Jesus all mean being in compliance with or in obedience to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These expressions are all in one accord and agreement.

Walking after the Spirit is reflecting the Spirit in your behavior and daily tasks. It is making decisions that agree with the Spirit. I have often heard the expression, "She takes after their mother," or, "He takes after his father." In other words, they exhibit the traits of their parents. When we walk after the Spirit, we exhibit the traits of Jesus Christ. Walking is simply placing one foot in front of the other, one decision at a time. You enter a room doing just that. You had a direction and you proceeded in that direction. Walking requires decision and choice of movement in the way you want to go. Let us follow the Way, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Minding the Spirit is much the same. The Spirit has a set of rules to follow. Minding the Spirit is following the rules mandated by the Spirit. When I was young I was often told, "Mind your mother," or, "Mind your father. Your parents know what is best." Well, the Spirit knows best. Mind the Spirit.

Being spiritually minded is having the mind set to be ruled by the Spirit. Your decisions are based on the Spirit's instructions. You don't have to wait for the instructions. You have a book full of them, God's Holy Word. One aspect of waiting on the Lord is doing what He has already instructed you to do. In a restaurant, a good waiter brings what you ask for when you ask for it. If you ask for a cup of coffee the waiter should bring the coffee. He shouldn't say, "Oh but couldn't I make you a big steak? I know how I can do it, really I can do it all by myself, want to see?" He simply brings the coffee you requested. The child of God is Spirit minded and obedient to the instruction given in the Word. He is exercised thereby and prepared to do the bigger job when the Master calls.

Being in the Spirit and being in Christ Jesus are attainable only because of God's performance and not yours. You can walk in the Spirit only by God's grace because He has given you His Spirit.

Romans 8:1-9 are things you do. Romans 8:10-39 are things God did and is doing. Our proper response to God's

working and our work is written in Romans 12:1-2.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

The only way one can do this is by walking in obedience and compliance to the Holy Spirit. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, we are beholding His glory and not our own. We will be changed by His strength and not our own. We will be on the right road to glory.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even as* by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Being in obedience to and in compliance with the Spirit is walking in the Spirit and minding the Spirit. In so doing we will be spiritually minded. Walking in the Spirit of God is not a robotic walk, nor is it identical for each person. We are not clones; we are members in particular of the body. God has made us this way. We do not have identical minds nor do we mind exactly the same things. We mind the same one, Christ Jesus our Lord.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

It's our choice. Are we going to park on the side of the road and examine our faults, or are we going to walk in the newness of life and press toward the mark and run with patience the race that is set before us?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)

Let us exercise ourselves to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

A music student trusts his teacher to lead him into the right techniques. He recognizes that the teacher knows more than he does; he knows who is the teacher and who is the student. It is the fear of the Lord that frames our relationship with God.

Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding? (Isaiah 29:16)

One of the first lessons in music training is learning to hear. The student learns to sing or play in tune. Our ears must be tuned to the voice of our teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ. We must learn to hear His voice. If the musician does not give ear to the conductor, there will be no partnership, because without listening, there is no partnership. We cannot have a relationship with our Lord if we do not listen to Him. This is our responsibility as Christians.

The biblical account in 1 Samuel 3 gives us an example of how Samuel as a young boy learned to recognize the voice of the Lord. One night while he was lying in bed, he heard a voice calling out to him. Since the elderly priest Eli was the only other person around, Samuel ran to him and asked what he wanted. Eli told the boy that he had not called him and that he should go back to sleep. The same thing happened twice. Finally, after the third time, Eli perceived that it was the Lord calling Samuel. He told the boy that if he heard the voice again, to say, "Speak; for your servant hears." God works patiently with us too, until we are sensitive to His voice – His working in us. As Philippians 2:13 says, "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Even with an abundance of natural ability and the very best teacher, expertise does not come overnight. Natural ability is simply the potential for greatness. Without diligence and faithfulness it is nothing.

Some music teachers are best qualified to teach beginners. Other teachers are best at teaching advanced musicians. Generally, a student will take lessons from a teacher until he thinks he can learn no more from him. As Christians, we never outgrow our teacher Jesus Christ. He wants to be our teacher for life. Even in music, no teacher wants you taking lessons from other teachers at the same time he is training you. When I was sixteen, I was forced to change my double bass teacher, since the Academy of Music in Vienna did not renew his contract. While I was taking lessons from my new teacher, I quite innocently still sought lessons from the dismissed one. But as we say in Austria, "Wände haben Ohren" – "the walls have ears." My new teacher found out about it and dismissed me. Looking back, I understand his decision. Young students,



The Individual's Relationship with the Lord

by Rudolf Illavský
Vienna, Austria



There is a famous German proverb that I have known since I was a boy, "Es ist noch kein Meister vom Himmel gefallen," which is to say, "No master has ever fallen from the sky." Even the greatest soloist was not born knowing how to play his instrument. Every musician has a first lesson. The same is true in Christianity. The first lesson for the novice believer is to learn to walk in the fear of the Lord.

not yet rooted in their instrument, are likely to be confused by multiple teachers. Different teachers have different doctrines. In the same way, we need one source for truth, and one teacher for truth. The Word of God must be our only score, and the Lord our only teacher. "The LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exo. 34:14). We must separate ourselves to Him.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord ... and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)

By our lessons we will be transformed. We allow the Lord to change us into the vessels He wants us to be.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:2)

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Surely, part of our learning will be the lesson of chastisement. We only fulfill our calling to the extent that we allow ourselves to be broken by God. As a wild horse must learn to submit to its master, so we too must learn to submit to the Lord. A vivid memory from the start of my career as a double bass player in the orchestra comes to my mind. As a newcomer, I thought myself already a profound musician who knew all he needed to know. How wrong I was to think I did not need to be taught any more. My section leader was aware of my proud attitude and worked for years to temper me so that my playing would have a positive effect in the bass group. To this day I am thankful that he did that.

...My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chaste[n]eth not? ...Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. (Hebrews 12:5-7, 11)

Only now, knowing my place inside a bigger group, pulling on the same rope together, gives me the contentment, joy, and freedom which would have been denied me.

It is unfortunate that for many people, submission means giving up your identity. It is only the things that are of my own flesh that must be given up, so that the new creature in me, which is of God, can blossom. I know the fear we experience by exposing ourselves to this process, since we must cast off our old self in order to begin what is to us an unknown journey. Still, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"

(Lk. 9:62). But this fear is ungrounded, because we can have trust in the God who says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). This journey will take us into a freedom we have never known.

Truly the Lord knows each of us better than we know ourselves. Similarly, the best music teachers work individually with each student and do not use the same pattern with all. Not everyone has to practice the same things, since what is difficult to one might be easy to another.

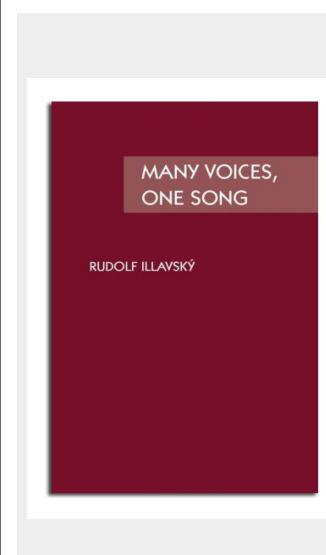
When I practice my instrument, I practice only my part of an opus, and therefore, I only see a glimpse of the entire composition. It is only in the full orchestra rehearsal where I understand how my part fits into the whole. Only there, in the full context, do I realize my impact and the composer's desired effect. Likewise, I cannot yet see the full impact of my service for God.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Since all the believers have a unique part in God's score, God gives gifts to individuals to fulfill their part for the benefit of all. Therefore, we should gladly accept His choice of gifts for our lives. We are all members of Christ's body and "those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary" (1 Cor. 12:22). Fingernails and toe nails may seem to be unnecessary parts of our body, but what problems we would have without them!

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (1 Peter 4:10)

In this life, we will only see a glimpse of our unique contribution to the Lord's eternal plan. As we walk with God, we will see more clearly how our unique ministry fits within His composition.



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Stir Up the Gift of God

By Rev. Jerome Lucas
President, WTHU-UK



In 2 Timothy 1:6, the apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to “stir up the gift of God” that was in him.

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. (2 Timothy 1:6)

Here, the gift of God is likened to a fire. If it is not constantly maintained and fed, it will die out. But notice this – was it Paul’s responsibility to stir up Timothy? No, Timothy was told to stir up the gift himself. We can encourage each other, pray for each other, and minister to one another, but it is an individual’s responsibility to keep his “spiritual fire” burning, stirred up. If I am lacklustre about my faith, whose fault is it? Can I blame my wife? My pastor? My spiritual elders? No – not if the scriptures are true.

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. (1 Timothy 4:13-14)

We must not neglect the gift of God in us. That means we must continue to walk in it. Neglect is the opposite of paying attention, or staying involved. It is my responsibility to feed myself physical food. If I neglect to feed myself for a long period of time, I will grow weak, and eventually die. The same truth applies spiritually. It is always a matter of choice. We keep the gift of God stirred up as we choose to continue in the things of God.

Continue in Well Doing

We must continue to do well – not just speak well or know well or promise to do well. We are to do well. That’s quite a difference!

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: (Romans 2:7)

Continue in His Love

We continue in the love of Christ as we keep His commandments.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. (John 15:9-10)

Continue in His Grace

In the book of Acts, the church thrived as they continued in the grace of God.

And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to

them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. (Acts 13:42-43)

We too must continue in the grace of God. Continually realise that God takes care of you, regardless of what is going on in your life. Hold on to the truth that God continues to shower His grace upon you. Grace is unmerited, and not something we deserve, but something that the Almighty has promised us.

Continue in the Faith

In order to keep the gift of God stirred up, we must continue in the faith.

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:21-22)

Paul encourages us to continue in the faith, or in other words, maintain a firm position in the faith.

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; (Colossians 1:23)

If you are grounded and settled in the faith, you won’t be moved away from it. It is like an anchor. If you are anchored, even if the seas around are ferocious, you are still secure because of the hold that the anchor has on you. You might get tossed about, but the anchor will not let you go adrift. Such knowledge brings great comfort.

Continue in Prayer

We must be courageously persistent in prayer. Hold it fast, and don’t let it go. We must also watch. Stay awake. Be focused and specific, not vague. We must also be “continuing instant in prayer.”

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; (Romans 12:12)

We are to continue earnestly in prayer.

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; (Colossians 4:2)

A steadfast person will remain faithful when others have given up. We must continue in prayer, and always with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving must have a part in all of our prayers. Truly we have so much to be thankful for always. I know we have lots to complain about (just listen to people’s conversations!) but we have much more to be thankful for.

Continue in the Word of God

It is not enough to learn what is good. We must also con-

tinue in it. We must persevere in the good doctrine of God.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. (1 Timothy 4:16)

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (2 Timothy 3:14)

Remember the words of Jesus to those who believed on Him. "If ye continue in my word," He said, "then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). True disciples are not only hearers but also faithful doers of the Word. We know the truth as we continue in the Word of Truth. Then, divine truth sets us free.

In Conclusion

How do we stir up this precious gift of God that is in us and not neglect it? As we have read, we must continue in well doing, in the love of Christ, in the grace of God, in faith, in prayer and in the Word. Then we will "continue in the Son, and in the Father."

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. (1 John 2:24)

This week, this month, I encourage you to continue. Don't stop, but continue. Amen.

Workers Together With Him UK is holding a weekend meeting at Standlake Ranch, Oxfordshire, England from March 21-24 2008. Speakers include Rev. Jerome Lucas, Rev. Suzanne Pillans, and Rev. Bryan Alexander. For details, write Jerome at WTOGETHERWITHHIM@sky.com. He will contact you with details of cost and accommodation.



2008 Youth Camp

By Rev. Carl Roberts
Pontardulais, Swansea,
Wales



After four successful years of our Workers Together With Him summer camp, we are in 2008 adding a youth camp in the spring with emphasis on building Christian character. We are putting together a time of fellowship for young people, with the purpose for them to be grounded and settled in the things of God.

Through the centuries God has raised people who have been strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. We

know from scripture that God is not a respecter of persons, and we also know He is not a respecter of age; we all need to grow in the things of the Lord. God wants to be involved and to be a part of youngsters' lives as much as adults. Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14). He has worked and will work with all ages from a sapling like Samuel to a fully mature oak like Moses.

But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod... And the child Samuel grew before the LORD. (1 Samuel 2:18, 21B)

When the Lord calls, it is important that we listen. We too can learn from an attentive heart like Samuel, who had to learn the voice of the Lord.

And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. (1 Samuel 3:10)

Samuel learned not only to hear what the Lord said but also to answer and to have the conviction to speak that which was revealed unto him. Because of this none of Samuel's words fell to the ground.

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. (1 Samuel 3:19)

And what about David, the shepherd boy? He was only a youth but he put his trust in the Lord. I Samuel 17 covers the record of David and Goliath. While Saul and all Israel were afraid and greatly dismayed, David took courage and trusted in the Lord and he defeated the giant from Gath, Goliath.

David remembered when he faced a lion and a bear while tending his father's sheep, and he slew them both. He said he would surely do the same to the uncircumcised Philistine. David encouraged himself in the Lord by remembering the victories that the Lord had given him. That is why he trusted in the Lord.

When Jesus was aged twelve, he stayed behind in Jerusalem after attending the feast. After a day's journey Joseph and Mary were unaware that he was not with them. When they realised he was not with them they turned back to look for Jesus. After three days of searching they found Him. There He was in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers both hearing them and asking them questions. When Mary said they had both been worried and concerned, Jesus replied, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). That is where we still find Jesus today – going about His Father's business and making intercession for the saints.

It is so easy to write off the youth of the day, but youth can be one of the most challenging times of life – too old to be treated as a small child and too young for the responsibility of adulthood.

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. (1 Timothy 4:12)

As Paul recognised when speaking to the Corinthians, man can plant and water but ultimately it is only God who can give the increase.

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

The Youth Camp will be taking place from 18 to 20 April at the St. Madoc Christian Youth Camp, Llanmadoc, Gower, South Wales. It is located near the beach with facilities for a variety of indoor and outdoor sports and activities.

If anyone would like their children (9+) to attend, or would like to assist please contact me, Rev. Carl Roberts. My e-mail address is: carlvivienne@talktalk.net.

MISSION REPORTS



The Weapons of Our Warfare classes in Uganda

By Rev. Henry Musana
Kampala, Uganda



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour. It has really been a busy year for us. The Lord opened such wonderful doors of ministry to us. In September we had a privilege to have two classes in my nation of Uganda. The first class was in western Uganda in the District of Isingiro from 22nd to 25th September. This was hosted by Isingiro Christian Centre, pastored by John Asiimwe and Florence Tumwesigye.

To me as the coordinator of this class, I felt this was the most organized class I have ever taken part in. We started on time each day, and the Spirit of the Lord blessed us with His presence as Rev. Tim was ministering. Many testified that Rev. Tim teaches with such simplicity that it is very easy to see the scriptures living. This reminds me of the Maasai lady that said that Tim is just like an African. Also there was such unity in the team of ministers: Jay Pearson from Baton Rouge, and Daniel Bucher and David Mantock of Switzerland. When these men come over, it is a time of great refreshment for me; they are such an encouragement.

Thank you Workers Together With Him for accepting to come to such places for the Lord. I believe that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

The five days we spent in Isingiro was a great investment in the lives of Pastors and church leaders who came. We had an audience of around fifty people. Some of them had to walk long distances from the mountains to come for

this class. Others could not go back to their homes, so they had to sleep in the church. I want to thank Pastors John and Florence for such great work and honesty in the Lord. That is the road to follow as we have more opportunities to work together.

We left Isingiro on September 26th for our 4 hour drive back to Kampala. Daniel flew back on this very day. On the 27th was a big day in my life. Rev. Tim and the ministers that remained ordained me in ministry. I had never attended an ordination occasion so I did not know what to expect, but the presence of the Lord was heavy on us. Many of the people who attended said they had never been in an ordination ceremony like that; in other ordinations it is more of a show off, but for this you would see that being an ordained minister means much more than the title and position. All in all, the occasion went well with the blessings of the Lord. I will ask you to pray for me as I carry out my duties as a minister of the Lord that I remain faithful to Him, that I may not be corrupted along the way.

On the 28th we drove to Mbale in Eastern Uganda for the second class organized by Rev. John Opio of Christian Life Teachings International. The class went well and those that came were changed, as they realized that the Lord has supplied all our needs and the weapons we need for our warfare are also supplied. Ever since I met the team of Workers Together With Him, some five years back in Tanzania, I have wished the whole world could hear this message.

So many people think the things of God like ministry are very hard, there are many responsibilities, and no one can do it. That is very true; you can't do it in your own strength. In John 15:5, Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." But Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." In us, there is no strength to do the things of God so we have to rely on God's strength. Someone may ask, "But why does the Bible tell me to serve God with all my strength?" He tells you to serve Him with the strength that He has supplied. He gives you strength, but you can use it for something other than serving Him. Haven't you heard people who say, "This is my life to do anything with"? But is that true? God has given them life, but they are not using it for Him. When God gives a responsibility, it means He has given the ability. I like playing with words, and in the word RESPONSIBILITY, we can hear two words, RESPONSE and ABILITY. When God gives you a responsibility, He wants you to respond with the ability that He has given you. The Lord is not a taskmaster who gives a task without the tools.

In this class, there were so many of these truths, and I believe everyone went back to their churches with a new

understanding of God's Word.

I thank John Opio for putting on the class in Mbale, and especially for the good working relationship we have had for all these years.

I am persuaded that Workers Together With Him cannot do all these trips without some people standing with them. I want to thank the families of Rev. Tim, Jay Pearson, David Mantock and Daniel Bucher for allowing these ministers to come to far places like Uganda. The Lord bless you. I also thank those who have supported the ministry in finances. You are touching lives, and the Lord will reveal this to you when you see Him face to face. God bless you all.



Madungulu Report

By Rev. Evan Pyle
Baton Rouge, LA



THE HEAVENS DECLARE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THE PEOPLE SEE HIS GLORY. (PSALM 97:6)

Our November-December mission to Tanzania found Tim and me returning to Madungulu (Matabete) village at the end of the long dry season. In fact, the first of the seasonal rains was overdue and this normally arid region was especially dry. The dryness afforded us the most spectacular night skies I have ever witnessed. Our Maasai friends must have been puzzled with our persistent fascination with the heavens, but the sights were so awesome that we could not help to gaze in wonder at such a manifestation of God's glory. The sky was so crowded with stars that ordinary constellations were difficult to distinguish and the Milky Way was impossible to pick out of the incredible mass of stars. Only with the rising of the moon on our parting morn could we discern the thick band we call the Milky Way. While we waited for our transport in the predawn hours of that final morning Tim and I found our eyes playing tricks on us and deceiving us into seeing a star bounce around the sky like a UFO. A bit of comparison with immovable objects helped to confirm that our eyes were deceiving us. You know, as people, we are easily deceived and do not see things as they really are. That is why we must seek wisdom from above and "with all our getting get understanding."

A deceptive situation arose in Tanzania that has the potential to damage our relationships and the work we have been doing there. One of our two aims for this mission was to shine light on the situation and bring restoration to the people involved. For this we needed God's wisdom since our own is so inadequate, especially when dealing with

another culture and language. Seeing the Lord's guiding hand gave me courage to forge ahead in uncomfortable waters. Please forgive me for being so vague but I must be vague out of consideration for the people involved. I tell you these things not only to inform, but to share my own struggle with the often difficult work of ministry. Although I cannot say that this problem has been resolved, I can say that new and greater doors have opened for our work among Tanzania's Maasai. Please pray for us.

Upon our arrival we were blessed to learn that instead of being under the authority of the local church (as is normally the case), we were ministering under HIMWA, a service organization to the Maasai founded by two Norwegian missionaries and, among others, Pastor N'gekee and Elyakim Kurupasi. This left us free to minister to all the people of Madungulu and for them to participate freely. Our thanks go to "Baba" ("Father," a term of respect) Elyakim for seeing the value of our ministry in his village and having the vision to make this important step. Without HIMWA, we have been at the mercy of local church authorities if we want to work in a place. Under HIMWA, we have an open door and can minister freely wherever we go without giving offense or needing to get permission for our work.

Speaking of Baba Elyakim, this great leader and man of God treated us to a brief history of the founding of Madungulu village. After securing a good place for a permanent settlement and beginning to replace the traditional bomas (Maasai mud-and-dung huts) with permanent houses, Baba Kurupasi invited churches into the village so his people could receive Christ. I am beginning to understand that Madungulu has been, and continues to be, an influential village among the Maasai of the southern highlands of Tanzania. It is my belief that our open door of ministry in this place will echo out to many other like places. Praise God.

The other purpose for this mission was teaching. I taught a series on The Church dealing with the problems experienced in congregations and offering biblical solutions. Rev. Tim followed by teaching his seminar, "If You Do These Things." This was the first time I heard this teaching. I found it biblically powerful and personally confronting. (I would like to host a retreat weekend in our area featuring this seminar. Details of this event will be forthcoming.) Though the teachings are filled with faith and encouragement, they also could be considered a "hard word," not the kind of thing you would expect to fill pews. The fact that so many attended faithfully bears testimony to their hunger for God and humbleness before Him.

We visited Pastor Yohana Ole N'gekee in his home on our last full day in the village as he was too weak to participate with us. Though sick and frail, Pastor N'gekee welcomed us warmly and spoke earnestly from his considerable spiri-

tual depth. He remained focused on feeding his people the true Bread of Life. He granted us permission to take his many drawings (which he had used to teach his people), and produce quality copies so they could be preserved for future generations. Sadly, the good pastor will never see this work, as he passed away within a week of our visit. To be honest, I have struggled with my grief over losing such a mentor and friend, but I praise God for this faithful man and the great work he did among his people.

Finally, in view of several financial commitments for WTHW that will come to end later this year, Workers Together has offered to help the people of Madungulu build a village worship and cultural center, a place where the gospel can go forth independent of denominational affiliation and where Maasai culture can be preserved and propagated for future generations.

I thank God for allowing me to participate in such a great and important work. Thanks to my family and friends of WTHW for the many prayers and the support to make this work possible.



Letters of Appreciation

We thank God for the ministry of Rev. Tim and his team from workers Together With Him. This team conducted a school from 22 to 25 September 2007.

We were much blessed through their teachings as Church leaders, especially in knowing that our God is the only supplier of our needs as ministers of the Gospel. Also to have God's wisdom and knowledge as ministers will help us to overcome many challenges as we serve in His kingdom.

The class was a blessing to us. It was attended by 55 students of which 15 were pastors from different churches and denominations. Those who completed all 24 sessions were awarded certificates of completion.

On behalf of myself and Pastor John Asiiimwe who hosted the seminar, may I say God bless Rev. Tim and his ministry partners for extending their ministerial work and resources to us in Isingiro, Uganda.

Pastor Florence Tumwesigye
Isingiro Christian Church, Uganda

Like a walking stick in the hands of an old man which makes his walk steady and sure, so are your teachings for the rural pastors in Africa!

The Mbale WTHW class was unique in a sense that God

used Rev. Tim to speak hard words which I believe were an eye-opener for many of us.

It is natural for a normal person to react whenever he or she faces conditions that do not favor him or her. During my youthful years, I was taught that to be a man one must at all costs defend himself against his opponents in this life. However, when I became a Christian I was then introduced to the opposite approach – Love them that hate or persecute you!

To me in my carnal mind, Christianity was the weakest thing one can embrace. I asked myself, How can I love those who mistreat me, hate me, or even want to harm me? But as I read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, I learnt my lesson.

Believers in Christ depend on the power of Christ; they no longer glorify in the flesh. Apostle Paul had a thorn in the flesh, and the only way this thorn could be endured was through dependence on the power of Christ. Like Apostle Paul, many of us might have gone through challenging situations in this life and ministry. I suffered from threats at my own family, infirmities, necessities, and persecutions of all sorts. Thank God! His Grace is sufficient at all times.

When Rev. Tim was sharing from this same passage of scripture I was encouraged and lifted in my spirit to continue in God's work knowing that God is in charge of all situations. God gives His undeserved strength and grace to all who depend on Him, not on the arm of flesh!

May the Grace of our Lord be sufficient and may His strength be made perfect in our weakness.

Rev. John Robert Opio, President
Christian Life Teachings International
Mbale, Uganda

SPRING SEMINAR IN BATON ROUGE

“IF YE DO THESE THINGS”

We will be hosting Rev. Tim Sullivan teaching this seminar March 28-30, 2008. We will open Friday evening and conclude Sunday noon. We are still working on the location and accommodations. If you are interested in attending from afar, please contact Evan Pyle at enpyle@cox.net or (225) 924-0166.

This will be a beautiful time of year and we look forward to our time together.



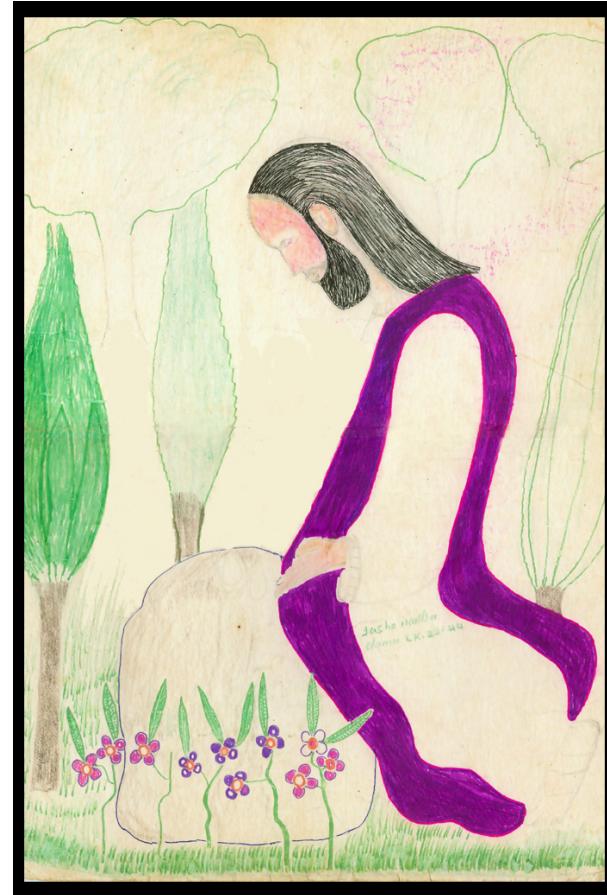
**Rev. Yohana
Lewang'an N'gekee
(1941 – 2007)**



The success of our mission work among the Maasai is largely due to the ministry of a man whom we were proud to call our friend. Pastor Yohana Lewang'an N'gekee of Tanzania was one of the first of the Maasai to be born again to Christ, and the first Evangelist and the first Pastor among the Maasai in the southern region of Tanzania.

Knowing that many of the Maasai could not read, Pastor Yohana Ole N'gekee taught using his own illustrations of Bible stories. This drawing is of Luke 22:44: "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

Before he died, Pastor N'gekee gave Workers Together With Him custody of his many drawings, which we intend to preserve by reproducing them before returning the originals to his family.



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