

Trinity Bible Church
The Carpenter's House
December 10, 2006

**The Message:
The Chosen and the Hardened
Romans 11:7-10**

Wed	13 Dec	1 Corinthians.
Thu	14 Dec	Greek Class.
Fri	15 Dec	Ladies' Class.
Sat	16 Dec	Christmas Party.
Mon	18 Dec	Deacons' Meeting.
Wed	20 Dec	1 Corinthians.
Thu	21 Dec	Greek.

- ** Remember the Christmas party this coming Saturday.
- ** Looks like December 31st is the day for the first Sunday in the new building. Please pray that all the inspections are done in a timely manner and go well. We will need to have one more work crew to do a final cleaning and to move chairs.
- ** Contributions for Glenhaven and for Sri Lanka Christmas are still being taken. Please try to get them in today.
- ** Please check your name and information in the sample of the new church directory located in the kitchen. If all is correct put a check mark to show you have looked at it. If not, please make the necessary corrections. We will close it out next Sunday.
- ** Be in prayer for someone to minister in the nursery.
- ** Remember that contributions to the building fund will be matched up to 75,000. We will finalize our new loan by the end of the year.

Offering

Hymns

**The Message:
Understanding The Times**

GENE AND DAWN WHITEHURST
East West Ministries
Condensed Report December 2006

Dear Friends and Family: John Wood and I were sitting next to each other on the plane in MM (Burma) and I happened to look down at his feet. He was wearing flimsy flip-flop sandals. We were going to visit his home church where his father, Halifa, is the pastor. I would be teaching a group of Lisu women at the orphanage compound (run by Anna and Titus - John's sister and brother-in-law) and John was supposed to be my "tour guide". He was going to stay at the same hotel and pretend to take me on tours during the day to divert the attention of the authorities from what I was actually going to be doing - teaching the women. This is illegal and from past experience we knew that I would be carefully scrutinized and followed since this is an area where Westerners are not common and highly noticeable. John would be staying to be an interpreter for Charlie and Frank from Village Ministries. As I looked at his shoes a thought occurred to me and I said, "John, are those the only shoes that you have?" He nodded. I knew that the Border School area is in the mountains and by Christmas time it gets below freezing and snow on the ground. There is no heat in any of the buildings. I said, "John, I'm giving you money to buy shoes and socks. I want you to buy very good ones. How much will you need?" He said, "They are very expensive, I will need at least 35,000 Kyats." (This is about \$30 and is a good month's wage over there) I told him we had some money donated to be used for things like this and to please buy at least two pair of socks. Then he said, "Could I also buy a towel?" The only towel he had was about the size of a small hand towel. Of course I said yes. Then I looked across the aisle at Moses and Timothy who were traveling with us and I said, "Do they have good shoes?" He talked back and forth with them for a minute and said no, I gave them all money for shoes, and socks and towels and they were thrilled. Neither Timothy nor John had ever had good shoes before and none of them had ever had a nice towel. I was thinking how much we take for granted in this country and that these faithful servants of God were willing to go to spread His Word - without even the proper shoes to protect their feet and keep them somewhat warm.

Regarding the Border School: We decided that we would have five sessions of 4-5 weeks each for this upcoming season. We now have three guys who will be able to spend several months each up there because someone has provided full-time support for them. Their names are Moliyet, Joseph and Ahdee. They said that before they were farmers and they used to spend time in the fields and not be able to get time for the Lord, because they had to think of their livelihood. But now, instead of going to the farms, they go up hills and plain areas, with gospel news and preaching, teaching, conducting various programs, etc. and actively involving the Border School ministry. They do not have to think about their families living as they did before and now, they are free to go anywhere God wants. So, dear [friend], you did a good thing for the Lord and many will come to know Jesus from their efforts! The others who will teach up there are already working with us full time - Timothy, John Wood, Moses and John Wolay. Another 175 will be able to be trained in the next six months. Moses spent some time in China to check on the men who have come to the Border School. He was overwhelmed by what he found. Eight new churches have been planted and literally thousands have come to know Christ through their personal evangelism and distribution of literature. Almost everyone who has been trained has started more than one "second generation" class with leaders from their house churches. So the 250 men trained by our guys are now teaching thousands of leaders in China the same courses they were taught at the Border

School. Moses told us that he was disappointed at first that we had only been able to teach 250 men so far but when he saw the results of their efforts in China, he was "very satisfied".

We visited all of the orphanages in the Yangon area. We were thrilled with the progress that has been made at Bethel. This was the orphanage that was just started in May with 12 children who came from many parts of the country and spoke several different languages. The difference in these children was remarkable. We increased the amount we were giving the five orphanages in the capitol city for food because of inflation since our last trip. The price of rice had gone up by over 50% and they were running out of money before the month was over. We left money that was donated for the agriculture project. Johnson (over the House of Joy and Mimi's brother) is in charge and he will be overseeing three of the other orphanages in their planting trees, vegetables, raising chickens and pigs, etc. We also left money for more land so they can produce enough to really supplement the children's diet and become more self-sufficient. We brought with us coats and sweatshirts that had been donated and Kathy went to market to buy enough extra coats so all of the children received a warm garment. Each child was given their own blanket since most of them were sharing one blanket between two or three children.

In addition, each child received at least one pair of long pants and some received two because they had none at all. They all received new shirts and underwear as well. The older girls also received material to make a long skirt and blouse. Most of them had never had a whole new outfit before and they were very excited. Eric (the firefighter/paramedic from Seattle) brought all of the orphans in the capitol city each a bright red t-shirt with his engine company logo and number embroidered on it. They also each got a paper helmet and fireman's badge. He did a program for them about firefighting and told them that they too could rescue people who were facing death. But their rescue would be from eternal death, not physical death. So they all became "rescuers for Christ". Mimi enjoyed his program so much she had him do it for the college students at her Bible school. I also visited the two orphanages in the northern city that we help but do not provide full support. There are a total of 150 children and each child received a shirt or lightweight jacket and a pair of pants. The boys received a matchbox car and the girls received a baby doll. Even the older teenage girls were absolutely thrilled with the dolls - the first one they had ever had in their life. There are three more orphanages in another NW city that we help with monthly support and we also sent them many boxes each of warm clothes.

This was a difficult trip for me. After the two surgeries right before I left, I was probably in a weakened condition because I had some form of "Montezuma's Revenge" most of the time I was there and two of the days was so sick I had to stay in bed. Kathy, Frank and Becky also had some intestinal disorder as well. We're not sure what we had but it has been hard getting back to normal for us so we'd appreciate your prayers. Also, I went to the eye doctor. I have to have cataract surgery on December 12th. There is some question as to whether the implanted lens will stay in place with my eye muscles being weakened. Gene also has some health concerns. The ringing in his left ear is getting worse and is affecting his hearing. His blood pressure has been elevated since he returned also. We so appreciate your prayer and financial support. God is doing mighty things over there and we are so thankful to be a part of it. I'll write about the Bible distribution, publication ministry, BEE classes and prison ministry in the next report.

- V. **Vindication: The Scope of God's Righteousness. (9:1–11:36)**
- A. **Israel's Past: Election of God (9:1-29)**
 - B. **Israel's Present: Rejection of God (9:30–10:21)**
 - C. **Israel's Future: Restoration by God (11:1-36)**
 - 1. **The Remnant Of Israel. 11:1-10**

Rom 11:7 = The Chosen And The Hardened.

C.T. = What then? What Israel is intensely seeking, it has not landed upon, but the called out one has landed upon it, and the rest were scar-tissued.

Summary:

1. **Israel intensely sought to walk a path that paid for sins and thus arrive at the destination of salvation.**
2. **They had not arrived at the desired location.**
3. **When they heard the message of grace they constantly sought for a sign to verify the offer. Matt 12:39**
4. **They often sought worldly things the Gentiles also sought. Matt 6:32-33**
5. **They should have sought profit for others and loved one another. Phil 4:17**
6. **They should have followed their heritage of faith and set their minds on things above. Heb 11:14; 13:14**
7. **The "called out one" refers to the one who has left the legalistic trap and pursued the grace of God, thus obtaining salvation.**
8. **The faithful obtain the promises:**
 - A. **Abraham. Heb 6:13-16**
 - B. **Others. Heb 11:32-34**
9. **The lustful and envious do not obtain their desires. James 4:2-4**
10. **Hardening or scar-tissue occurs when:**
 - A. **We do not consider His past faithfulness in our present situation. Mark 6:49-52**
 - B. **We fail to believe He cares for us. Mark 8:14-21**
 - C. **We refuse to see the "signs" of His working. John 12:36-43**
 - D. **We don't walk in liberty. 2 Cor 3:12-18**

Principle: Those who don't accept His offer become hardened to it.

Rom 11:8 = The Spirit Of Stupor. (Isa 29:10)

C.T. = just as it is written, "The God gave them a spirit of slumber, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day."

Summary:

1. **Paul quotes from Isaiah 29:10 to describe his people. Isa 29:1-13**
2. **This event first took place early in the time of Isaiah as a warning to the Northern Kingdom. Isa 6:8-13**
3. **Jeremiah repeated this to the Southern Kingdom and pointed out that their decisions were the reason for their spiritual blindness and deafness. Jer 5:20-29**
4. **It was not that God would not let them believe, for many in Israel did, but that most refused to believe and He wanted to save them all.**
5. **In a secondary sense God gave them this spirit of slumber.**

6. The point is that Israel has rejected God but God has not rejected Israel as a group.

Principle: Continued rejection of the Lord puts one spiritually to sleep.

Rom 11:9 = The Royal Plea For Discipline. (Ps 69:22)

C.T. = And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, and a stumbling block and a retribution to them.

Rom 11:10 = David Gave Up. (Ps 69:23)

C.T. = "Let their eyes be darkened to see not, and bend their backs forever."

Summary:

1. Both their prophets and kings called for divine discipline on Israel.
2. David writes this in a Messianic Psalm that is a picture of the cross.
3. David loved his nation but did not love the rejection of the Lord.
4. David, like Isaiah, Jeremiah and Paul would want to see all Israel saved.
5. God's goodness through blessing had not brought them to accept and obey Him, so the other option is massive discipline.
6. In the midst of the condemnation is the solution. Ps 69:20-28

Principle: At times discipline must be quite intense to wake people up.

Issue	Christianity	Post-Modernism
Theology	Trinitarian	Atheism
Philosophy	Supernaturalism (Faith and Reason)	Anti-Realism
Ethics	Moral Absolutes	Cultural Relativism
Biology	Creationism	Punctuated Evolution
Psychology	Mind/Body Dualism	Socially-Constructed Selves
Sociology	Traditional, Church	Sexual Egalitarianism
Law	Divine/Natural Law	Critical Legal Studies
Politics	Justice, Freedom, Order	Leftism
Economics	Stewardship of property	Interventionism
History	Creation, Fall, Redemption	Historicism