

Trinity Bible Church

The Carpenter's House

June 8, 2008

FIRST SERVICE MESSAGE:

Genesis 1:27-31

Day 6 of Restoration

Please join us for refreshments between services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday	9 June	Arkansas Youth Camp.
Wednesday	10 June	Gospel Presentations.
Thursday	11 June	Ladies' Prayer Meeting.
Sunday	15 June	Father's Day.
Monday	16 June	Deacons' Meeting.
Wednesday	17 June	Gospel Presentations.

** The Arkansas Youth Camp is coming up in June. Camp fees are \$160. Several scholarships are needed. If you would like to help please designate your offering as "camp fees."

** Starting June 10 we will look at different ways to present the gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Hymns

*The Keys to Life:
Canonicity*

VILLAGE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
Bob Thompson CEO
June 2008

A REPORT FROM MASILAMANY ABRAHAM, SRI LANKA: I am sending some News about what is happening against Christians in our country. We need your prayers. One of our new churches also closed down because of Buddhists people. Increased incidents of violence against Christians: During the past month, incidents of violence and intimidation of Churches and Christians reported a dramatic increase. The most brutal of these attacks was the killing of Pastor Neil Edirisinghe on the night of 17th February 2008. The attackers also shot and wounded his wife, who is still in a critical condition.

Jeevanaloka Sabhawa (Independent Church), Weeraketiya, Hambanthota District, 14th February 2008. The Pastor, his wife and two children were visiting the house of a sick parishioner to pray for him. While they were there, the house was stoned. The Pastor made a complaint to the Weeraketiya Police at approximately 10 pm. The Police questioned one suspect who admitted to the crime but refused to name the persons who had incited the attack. The Pastor has been receiving anonymous threatening phone calls. The Church members face verbal abuse from villagers while on their way to the Sunday service.

Mob attacks worshippers returning from Sunday service; child of 10 assaulted : King's Revival Church, Mathugama, Kaluthara District , 17th February 2008: In January 2008, the Pastor received information of a petition against the Church's existence. On the morning of 17th February, the *Gramasevaka* (local government official) visited the Pastor and queried some of the accusations made in the petition such as excessive noise from the service. The Pastor explained that his Church did not use any sound amplification for his services. The Gramasevaka stated that the Church could continue services and left.

The Sunday worship service was held as usual. During the service the Pastor became aware that there was a mob of about 50 persons gathered on the road leading to the Church, putting up anti-Christian posters. They were armed with rods. Fearing for the safety of the congregation, the Pastor instructed the congregation to leave in small batches. The mob hurled verbal abuse and threats at the passing congregation members. Some barred their way, pushing and pulling them. One man and a child of 10 years were assaulted and 2 women were manhandled and pulled by their hair. Some members of the congregation who belonged to the Tamil ethnic community were threatened that if they returned to the Church, they would be arrested and imprisoned.

The incident was reported to the Mathugama Police. The response was slow and the Pastor was asked to come for an inquiry on the 18th of February. The Pastor requested for protection for the following Sunday service, both verbally and in writing. However, the request was not granted. No arrests have been made.

24th February 2008: The Pastor informed the Gramasevaka that he would proceed with the worship service. Around the time when the congregation was due to arrive, a crowd had gathered on the road, armed with various tools and implements on the pretext of cutting the grass on the roadside (*shramadhana*). They threatened the congregation members and prevented them from attending the Sunday service. The Police was informed and arrived at the scene after a while. They advised the mob to disperse. No further inquiry has been made in to the incident.

In a previous attack on the 26th of January 2004, a mob broke in to the Pastor's house, beat him and tied him up. His wife and children were locked in a room and the house set on fire. The family escaped the fire. (Reported by NCEASL in 2004).

10 Bible School students attacked by masked gang; 9 treated for injuries: Believers' Church Bible College, Lunuwila, Putlam District, 2nd March 2008. 10 students of the Believers Church Bible College were walking from the Lunuwila Railway station at approximately 7 pm when they were met by a member of the Wennappuwa *Pradeshiya Sabhawa* (Provincial Council) who inquired as to their destination. The students continued on their way to the Bible

College. They were accosted by a group of about 10 men on motorcycles, wearing masks who assaulted the students. They were beaten with fists and rods and kicked. More attackers arrived in a van and dragged one of the students in to the van where he was beaten very badly and kicked by a person wearing boots. The attackers left the injured students on the road and left. One of the students ran to the Bible College. He was followed by one motorcyclist who assaulted the security guard at the College and escaped.

It is reported that the Provincial Council member had later arrived at the gate of the College and threatened that the Bible College will not be allowed to function for more than a week. A complaint was made to the Koswatte Police on the same day. 2 of the attackers were identified. 9 students were treated for injuries at the Lunuwila Government Hospital. 3 of these were transferred to the Marawila hospital for additional treatment.

Mob threatens Pastor with death: HBI Ministries Lanka, Udugama, Galle District, 2nd March 2008. A crowd of about 200 persons arrived at the Pastor's house on the night of 2nd March 2008 and threatened the Pastor to leave the village or face death. The mob made references to the ethnicity of the Pastor's wife who is a Tamil lady, commenting that the Church could be accused of complicity in terrorist activity. His wife and 11 month old baby were in the house with him. A complaint was made to the Udugama Police. The Pastor and his family evacuated to a safe location as they feared for their lives. Because of Buddhists opposition I closed the church work.

K.P. Yohannan, founder of Gospel for Asia says violence and persecution against Christians has increased in Sri Lanka. He believes the violence is a result of the number of Christian conversions. Lal Vanderwall, a GFA leader in Sri Lanka, says that "accusing Christians" are more common as Sri Lankans are choosing to follow Jesus. "Despite the ongoing tensions there are more Bible college students than ever, and our churches are growing faster than ever before," says Vanderwall. "I am convinced this is all spiritual warfare. But we know the Lord is on our side."

THE FOLLOWING IS AN URGENT PRAYER REQUEST FROM SOLO PHILIP, KERALA STATE, INDIA DATED 22 MAY 2008.

I'm writing this letter with a lot of troubles – please do ask the many prayer partners to pray for me and the ministries in Kerala state. As I told you earlier in Kerala the Communist Government are ruling. In the beginning they were so co operative with Christians and were attacked with Hindu Government and showed that they are supporting the Christians but by yesterday onwards they were behaving like Anti Christ – changed their ruling style and started to persecute Christians, Hindu's and Muslims.

The first step is they have announced that they are going to check all the people who are getting foreign supports whether they are doing any charitable or religious activities??? If they find anything such as they have given the order to the Local Police to arrest the person – don't look whether he is Pastor or Priest!!!

This morning in Kottayam few Churches were attacked and almost all the Christian activities places they are sending the vigilance and examining all the papers. So, this may affect us also, we all are ready with our proper accounts but still they can create any issue on us and arrest me!!! (IF THEY COME). So I request you all to please PASS this humble request to every one and ask them to pray for every Christian activates in Kerala.

Please do pray for us, my wife is little worried and all our Church members; all are praying - hope God will not allow those officials to come to our house neither our Training Centre. By hearing all this news our Trust Secretary said "I do not want to continue," so he and his wife resigned by today. Things are getting worse and worse so do pray. Solo Philip

Genesis 1:27-31
Day 6 of Restoration

1:26 C.T. = Then Elohim said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them wisely rule over the fish of the sea and over *each* bird of the heavens and over *each* domestic animal and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Gen 1:27 = The Creation of Mankind.

1:27 C.T. = And Elohim created the man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them.

Summary:

1. The plan was a unanimous decision of the Trinity.
2. God's "image" included His self-consciousness and ability to decide,
3. His "likeness" refers to how the self-consciousness and volition are used.
4. These two things are what distinguish mankind from animals.

5. God created out of nothing the living part of mankind. Gen 2:7
6. He created them ready for sex so that they could fulfill the command.
7. They were created physically and intellectually mature but not spiritually mature.
8. Spiritual maturity requires information, understanding and making wise decisions.
9. There exists a male and female soul that are designed to complement each other. Gen 2:18
10. Chapter 2 will give some of the details.

Gen 1:28 = The Blessing and Commands to Mankind.

1:28 C.T. = And Elohim blessed them; and Elohim said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and wisely rule over the fish of the sea and over *each* bird of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Summary:

1. God communicates His plan to the man and woman.
2. The first three commands are like the ones given to the fish concerning the seas and involve reproduction.
3. The first part of blessing to the man and woman involved their sex life and reproduction of their own kind.
 - A. Notice that if God told mankind to fill the earth He would see that there is provision for its inhabitants.
 - B. Man's attempts at population control counter God's Divine Design.
 - C. They had no children prior to the Fall, so the indication is that the Fall did not take long.
4. To "subdue" the earth is a word used exclusively in a military sense in the Old Testament, so there is a clear inference that there is a battle for rulership of the earth.

5. Therefore, it was known from the beginning that man would be involved in a battle, which is identified as the Angelic Conflict.
6. The battle would already be going on.
7. "Subdue" is a call to victory.
8. Mankind was also given authority over all aquatic life, birds and land animals, which he was to use wisely.
9. This is the call to stewardship over God's resources.
10. These created things are not to be worshipped. Rom 1

Gen 1:29 = Provision for Mankind.

1:29 C.T. = Then Elohim said, "Behold, I have given you all every herb yielding seed that is on the faces of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you all;

Summary:

1. At this point God established fruits and vegetables for man's physical sustenance.
2. God had provided for man 3 days earlier.

Gen 1:30 = Provision for Animals.

1:30 C.T. = and to every wild beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has in it a soul of life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it became so.

Summary:

1. At this point in time there were no carnivores on the earth.
2. All land animals and birds were herbivorous.
3. After the Fall of man, the indication is that mankind was permitted to eat the flesh of "clean" animals; for the designation of a "clean" animal indicates a dietary standard is in place. Gen 7:2,8
4. The Lord changed the vegetarian status of man after the Flood. Gen 9:3
5. In the Millennial Kingdom all land animals will again be vegetarian. Isa 11:6-10; 65:25

Gen 1:31 = The Proclamation of Good on the Sixth Day.

1:31 C.T. = And Elohim saw all that He had made, and behold-very good. And it became evening and it became morning, the sixth day.

Summary:

1. God places everything in perfect working order.
2. He has solved the problems of TOHU and BOHU.
3. It is supremely organized with everything designed for perfect harmony.
4. It does recognize that there is already a battle raging.
5. God saw:
 - A. The Light and Darkness. D1
 - B. The different locations and functions of the waters. D2
 - C. The dry land and vegetation. D3
 - D. The sun, moon and stars, set for signs, seasons, days and years. D4

- E. The aquatic life and birds. D5
- F. Animals and man. D6
- 6. Taken all together it was "very good."
- 7. This indicates that the woman was made on the 6th day, for man without her was "not good."
- 8. The earth has a perfect environment, so "environmental determinism" is put to the test.
 - A. Perfect environment should continue to be perfect.
 - B. One thing was left with the potential for imperfection.
 - C. That is the decisions of the man and woman that are to be in the "likeness" of God, the DEMUTH.
- 9. The Biblical description of this process was 7 literal days.
- 10. To take it as figurative or mythical greatly affects one's worldview for God very carefully laid out the literal design.

The Keys to Life: Canonicity

- 5. Did the Creator have a written record? Yes or No? Is there a Canon of Scripture? The word "canon" is from a Greek word meaning a "ruler."
 - A. The Question of Inspiration.
 - B. The Question of Canonicity. How was it determined what books would be in the Bible?
 - 1. Preparation of the Scriptures:
 - a. Papyrus.
 - b. Parchment.
 - c. Vellum.
 - d. Ostraca.
 - e. Clay Tablets.
 - f. Wax tablets.
 - 2. Forms of ancient books:
 - a. Rolls or scrolls.
 - b. Codex or book form.
 - 3. Types of writing:
 - a. Uncial.
 - b. Miniscules.
 - 4. Chapters:
 - 5. Tests of a book for inclusion in the Canon:
 - a. Is it authoritative? "Thus saith the Lord!"
 - b. Is it prophetic? Was it written by a man of God and also authenticated by the prophets?
 - c. Is it authentic? The ancient church fathers motto was "if in doubt, throw it out."
 - d. Is it dynamic? Did it come with the life-transforming power of God?
 - e. Was it received, collected, read and used? How did the people of God view it? Peter acknowledged Paul (2 Pet 3:16).
 - f. Other Principles:

1. Did the writers know they were writing scripture? Deut 31:24-26; Josh 1:8; Jdg 3:4; Jer 36; Neb 8:1-8; Dan 9:2,5,6; Zech 7:12; 2 Pet 1:21
 2. Public official action. Was there ever an assembly of believers who acknowledged it?
6. In canonizing certain writings the church was not conferring authority on the books; rather it was acknowledging them to possess authority. Jesus Christ witnessed to the OT Canon: Luke 11:49-51; Luke 24:44
 - a. Josephus.
 - b. The Septuagint.
 - c. The Talmud:
 7. The early church had the ability to spiritually analyze the validity and accuracy of the writings through the gifts of Prophecy and Discerning of Spirits, given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 14:32
 8. No book of Scripture was initially rejected by the Church and later accepted into the Canon.
 9. The Patristic Analysis of Old Testament Canonicity:
 - a. The Homologoumena, the "things confessed."
 - b. The Antilogoumena, "the things spoken against."
 - c. The Pseudepigrapha, "the lying/false writings."
 - d. The Apocrypha, "the writings apart from."
 10. Scripture was attested to by the writings of the early church fathers.
 11. The Scriptures are unique:
 - a. Their Continuity.
 - b. Their circulation:
 - c. Their translation:
 - d. Their survival:
 - e. Their teachings:
 12. An interesting observation concerning both inspiration and canonicity is that those who try to discredit the Scriptures view them as "inspired" in that they view Biblical assertions as being credible enough to warrant attack. Notice that they always attack the Literal rendering and try to assert those who believe the Bible are uninformed or naive.