



SHEKINAH

(Heavenly Glory)

CHAPLAIN OF THE WORLD

June 2008

*Thoughts
from
my heart...*

Pastor

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I am sure, you may all have seen the video clip of the "hit and run accident" on TV. In Hartford Connecticut, a car struck a pedestrian, and fled the scene without stopping. That is just one part of the story. The other part of that story is that nobody stopped to help that man! Where is our soul? Where is our heart? What happened to the feeling of sensitivity? Are we sleep walking? Through this article I would like to open our eyes to the role of a chaplain so that each one of us can be a compassionate chaplain when such tragedies occur around us. Many people have different ideas about Chaplaincy ministry, but the right understanding of it will teach us a whole lot about "crisis intervention". Once we understand the Biblical perspective of a chaplain, we will consciously push ourselves to be a great chaplain of the world! For chaplaincy training, we do not have to look too far. It can be found in the Bible itself! Let me bring couple of passages from the Bible to illustrate this point.

The first story is from 1 Samuel 30: 11, and 12. I have already written about this story in my previous article – Ziklag. (Please visit our website:

www.churchofindia.org. to read the whole article "Ziklag" – part 1 and 2) David was pursuing the Amalekites who had stolen his wives and children. On his way, he comes across an Egyptian in the desert. The man had not eaten or drank anything for 3 days in the wilderness, and he was too sick to move also. David provided him the best food and drink, and brought him back to life. David played a chaplaincy role in that story. His help was unconditional, and it transcended beyond race, color, and religion. Lesson number 1. It is imperative that we are not biased by class, race, and religion in order to be a good chaplain! Secondly, we as chaplains must intervene, no matter how busy we are. David was in a hurry to catch up with his enemies. Yet, he took the time to show his loving kindness to a stranger! Thirdly, the victim cannot even know what is going on around him, and cannot manipulate his helper.

The second story is a very familiar story: the good Samaritan story! Here not only the good Samaritan helps, but he also carries the victim to an inn, and instructs the inn keeper to take care of the victim. The innkeeper represents the pastor of a church.

The pastor provides more stable, long term care. But the chaplain's duty is short term, and it is mostly crisis intervention. The pastor's role is more relational, but the chaplain's position is purely need based and task oriented. The pastor brings the presence of God, but the chaplain brings God Himself in person, when he ministers during crisis! The role of the pastor and chaplain are often confused by many. (This problem is compounded when we try to examine the role of a counselor also, and compare it with chaplain and pastor. A counselor deals more with one's emotional upheavals, direction, and decision making process in one's life. We confuse the roles of chaplains, pastors, and counselors, and expect them to be what they are not!). Chaplain's role is so fuzzy, nowadays we can see that in park chaplains, mall chaplains, and Amusement park chaplains! This is nothing but trivialization of chaplaincy.

Let us be the chaplains of the world. It is very simple! Many of us are already practicing it. Let us be like the good Samaritan. Spot the need of those who cannot help

PRAYER—PRAYING FOR EVERYONE

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. Timothy 2:1-6,8

Through Paul's letters to Timothy, we can learn few reasons why we need to pray for others, the leaders and for the nation. He writes these letters to warn young pastor Timothy of false teachers and to instruct him on leading the believers in the church. First of all he urges to fight the good fight - meaning being a leader is not only to protect those under us but to also keep away those who could harm.

Now, how do we fight for those we care about, where do we start? Our primary weapon is prayer. Paul very simply explains to us the way we should pray. First step is request-supplication: what is in our mind, who are the people in our heart, whom we want saved. Once we have our list, then we are ready to communicate with the Lord. The next step is intercession- asking,

begging, pleading with God to intervene on behalf of those that concern us. It pleases God when we pray for others, We see this in the life of Abraham, Moses, Nehemiah and many others. Final step of the prayer is thanksgiving-grateful to God for responding to our prayers. Be specific in your gratitude. God does not want us to just pray for loved ones who have needs, but to pray for all the people. This includes the ones we can't stand and the ones we hardly know. We do not know who is going to be saved.

Why do we pray for those in authority? Is it to see our favorite party to come to power and accomplish the agenda? Paul clearly writes that we pray for the good and the bad leaders so that we can live a Christian life, have freedom to accomplish what God's will for us. Christians were persecuted very much when Paul was writing these letters. He did not pray for the death of Nero instead he asked God to change the heart of Nero. When God steps in then you know the result. The very existence of Paul is clear evidence to all-how great the grace of God is. Lack of prayer on our part as Christians is one of the reasons why persecution still exists throughout the world. So we need to pray for the good and bad leaders of all nations ,so that Christians can live a godly life and lead others into salvation.

Paul goes on to say" all men to be saved". Not just our friends, family and neighbors. This in-

cludes the ones we hate, ones we want to throw in jail, even those we consider the scum of society. Everyone should be given the opportunity to repent and ask God's forgiveness. John3:16 says, God so loved the world – He does not say He loves only those who accepted Jesus. He loved all and so he wants all men to be saved .So we need to pray for all men.

Paul gives us few instruction about the way we come to the presence of the Lord, specially he wants men to pray with their holy hands-this is position of the body as one prays. Throughout the Bible we see different positions in which the people came before God. David pleaded for his son's life lying flat on his face, 3 times a day Daniel got down on his knees and prayed, Hezekiah was in his death bed and prayed, and David went and sat before the Lord and prayed. The key aspect is our attitude of prayer. We come to the presence of the Lord without anger and dispute. When we are angry at others, it gets our focus off of God. One should approach God by having clean conscious thoughts, confessing one's sins.

This personal letter gives young pastor Timothy some trustworthy guidelines that we too can follow to keep on the right path in faith and godliness.



Schedule for the month

Sunday Worship Service

Communion - 10:30 a.m. followed by worship @ 11 am

Children's Sunday School - During the service

Prayer Session every Friday @ 7:30 p.m.

Women's Fellowship - May 17 @ 2:30pm

Kidz Club - May 17 @ 4:30 p.m.

VBS 2008

Dates : July 14—July 18, 2008

Time : 8:30am—4:00 pm

Place : Church of India, 3229 Corporate Ct., Ellicott City, MD

Ages : 4 –12 years (call 410 418 4500 for registration info)

Closing Program : July 18, 6:00pm, followed by dinner.

Parents & Friends welcome



Dates to remember

Church Picnic - July 25

EASTERN CONFERENCE 2008



When : August 22– 24

Where : Mensch Mill Conference and Retreat Center, PA

Rooms : 16, 4 persons / room

Deposit: \$50

Guest Speaker : Bro. John Jeyaseelan

Vision of our Church

- ✠ To reach out to all people for Christ .
- ✠ To reach out to all children and lead them to CHRIST.
- ✠ To help out the mission work in the Indian subcontinent.
- ✠ To be a light to this country and be a blessing to the needy people in the USA.

Contact Us

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