

SUVISESHA DHWANI

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20 December 2008 Volume 30

Federation of Brethren Assemblies - Right or Wrong ?

THOMAS CHACKO

William McDonald, author of Believers Bible Commentary once said "Never employ human devices to achieve spiritual goals". When the disciples were faced with persecution, we read "... they lifted up their voice to God with one accord" Acts 4:24. Down through the ages, millions faced torture and death because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They rejoiced

because, as the Apostles, "they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" Acts 5:41. Organised resistance against religious oppression is contrary to the teaching of the Bible.

Spiritual fellowship between local assemblies to promote a spiritual goal is acceptable. But, a formal organisational relationship will be detrimental to the autonomy of the local church. Smaller as-

semblies will be in danger of being dictated by larger and stronger ones. This will be a step towards episcopacy.

Formation of a federation will create a committee with office bearers with various titles. If the purpose of such a body is to fight against political and social enemies, it will become unavoidable to join

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Y M E F (ND) Bible Camp

Venue: Athmadarshan Camp Centre, Aluva
Date: 2008 Dec 24 Wednesday 6Pm to 27th Saturday 1PM

Camp Theme: **Be an Example 1Timothy 4:12**
Bible Classes: **Be an Example - Jose Mankudy, Youth and the Assembly - V P Poulouse, Character Study - Joseph Rajan**

By the grace of the Lord many spiritual programmes are going on under the auspices of the Y M E F (ND). If the local assemblies have to be revived and achieved then the youth should rise shine. To rescue the young from the evil clutches of false doctrine and spiritual deterioration. Kindly send all the young of age from 15 to 35 to the Bible Camp organised by Y M E F North Division.

Financial assistance may kindly be forwarded to **C J Philip, Chakalakkal House, Manjummal, Udyogmandal, Kalamassery, 683501**

Route: Marvey Engineering Workshop is little ahead on the Perumbavoor road from the Pump Junction. Monastery have is just opposite to this workshop, a little further is this auditorium Athmadharshan (S H College auditorium). For more information **A D James Secretary 9446814115.**

Who will Bring Water for Me to Drink

George C Varghese

Contd ...

When we think of David, we do not see a David who gives command or compel his men to bring water from the Bethlehem well. Understanding the mere longing of his heart they set out immediately. I remember a story once I read. General Lee was leading the war on one

part of America when the civil war was going on. General Stone Wold Jackson was serving under him. Once Lee sent a message to Jackson "Jackson I wish to see you". When he got the message, General Jackson rode on his horse in the night through the heavy snow even risking his life. He reached General Lee's home. Gen-

eral Lee said "I did not ask you to come, simply expressed my desire to see you". "Jackson's reply was great. "My general's desire is his command." Think of our Lord even if He hasn't said if it is His will are we or am I ready to consider it as a command as general Jackson did. What should be the

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Attention Please

Some publications earlier reported that a novel idea of confederation of independent assemblies has come up with the 17th Annual conference of the G F T I. But this subject was not in the official agenda of the GFTI and none of the officials of the GFTI did present this subject even in the group discussion. This is an official information for the saints to know.

Spokes Person

Kottayam Convention Came to a Close

The Kottayam convention of this year ended with blessings. After the worship meeting in the morning of the first day of the week Word of God was ministered by Brother M M Zachariah. He spoke on the spiritual revival of believers. He mainly spoke from the verses of Isaiah 58:12 and 60:1,2. But he spoke elaborately on the subject basing on many verses from the different parts of scrip-

ture. His presentation was great and inspiring.

Once Jacob dug many wells. Later all of them were covered with mud and soil. But again they were dug by his future generations. The wells of Jacob are filled with the modernism and materialism of the present. We discard it and turn back to the Word and Lord, we cannot have spiritual revivals. There are no short cuts for spiritual revivals. The modern

techniques or our knowledge and our methods of the present remains skin deep and it will not touch the heart. All such revivals are superficial. "And they that shall be of there shall build the old waste places thou shall raise up the foundations of many generations and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in (Isaiah 58:12). But the real problem is that the

younger generation of today even does not like to hear of the past. They have left the ways, styles and attitudes of their grand parents and travelled long in to the world of materialism.

He exhorted the audience to examine themselves "Are we not a fallen group now, lost our testimony, fallen from the grace of the

Lord; what a spiritual deterioration in our midst! Repent and come back to the Word of God and its simplicity and originality. Don't mix up the Word of God with your view, attitudes and vision. Unless we do that there will be no revival. Come back to Him ... there will be spiritual revival.

Editorial Terrorism - a Universal Issue or Problem

Never ever before this period the world has seen the differences and uncompromises in culture, hatred between nations, conflicts among religions and hostility among different castes. The great and ideal slogans like humanitarianism and universal brotherhood should have brought total reformation and revolution. Instead, because of the intolerance and lack of perseverance people are turning to terrorism. The advocates of universal brotherhood views this dangerous situation helplessly. Explosion after explosion with a short lap of time, the terrorists are challenging the quiet life of the citizens and threatening them of their life. Politician as usual come out with condolences shock, anxiety and even offers financial assistance to the martyrs and the blood stained innocent ones. The terrorists are exploding high intensive explosions with the simplicity of fire crackers. It happens intermittently and takes many lives. India is in the clutches of these terrorists. Religious terrorism is more dreadful than the political terrorism. Whatever the reasons for these provocations these religious fanatics organisations are assuming monstrous brutality and with an never ending vengeance and tearing the precious life of their own compatriots into pices. They create such a fearful atmosphere and are hindering the normal daily life of the ordinary people of India. Then these arrested culprits are presented to the public without their face. These culprits are never like the monstrous giants of mythology or like the villains of the action movies. They are just ordinary people with a face that expresses their high qualification and standards. It is a disturbing fact it is the youngsters who are prone to become terrorists and suicide bomb attackers or chaver. It is not clear that these terrorists who have sold themselves to kill others and at the same time endangers their own lives are living in a myth and in a false belief that they will never be caught. But the most dangerous thing about the terrorists and their way of attacks

is that they do not have any sympathy on these brutal and heinous acts they commit. Most of them are well versed in information technology and computer. They really do not know their real enemies but kill the innocent people in cold blood and for that they have no feeling at all. One of the terrorists reply to a question is an eye opener to the ideology which they believe and to which they are wedded to. Though their ideology is too heinous and monstrous in shape, their adherence to it is immense.

If we try to find out the root of the terrorism we can easily find out some basic reasons for it. The leaders of religious fundamentalism promises these young terrorists a world which is unreal, imaginary and attractive for their outrageous attacks against men of other religions and groups. On this journey to this imaginary world, killing of the people of other religions are idealised. Many young people are trapped in to it in their world of spiritualism. This is one of the worst thing of the present world that youngsters are thrown in to the devilish trap and strategies. Another reason is the anarchy and anxiety caused by poverty. Number of religious fundamentalists groups are funded by various international agencies. Huge amounts are offered to the terrorists and their families.

After the Mumbai war the whole country has joined hands together to fight against it. The urgency of the period is that religion and politics should free themselves from the evil of fundamentalism. The darkness of the mind of people can be removed only by the true light that is Jesus Christ. Only this spiritual and psychological approach can turn back people from their adherence to terrorism. How it is possible ...? We cannot go into their camps and present the real saviour to them. But we can fervently pray for them. We can shed our tears for that. Our God can transfer stony heart to fleshy and soft. Let us join our hands in prayer to save this world from the evil attacks of the terrorists and also to maintain the unity of our nation.

JOSE PHILIP

(Federation of Brethren ...contd from page 1)

hands with other denominations. I am afraid that such a relationship will eventually lead us to the ecumenical fold!

Power corrupts. Even in the spiritual realm this saying is true. Officials of the federation with a mandate to represent such a large number of churches and institutions could become autocratic and corrupt. When Chekoslovokia was under communist rule, the majority of the assemblies formed a federation. The purpose was to deal with the government. Initially the assemblies gained some concessions but, it cost them dearly. When elec-

tions were held to fill various positions in the governing body, communist sympathisers, pretending to be believers got elected and took control. Assemblies who refused to join the federation were isolated and persecuted. Even after the country got rid of the communist government, the assemblies are still under the iron grip of an autocratic governing body. Could this ever happen to us?

The very fact that such a proposal as the formation of a federation of Brethren Assemblies has come to surface, makes you wonder where we

went wrong. It will do us good to examine ourselves to see how far have we drifted away from the simple doctrine of gathering unto His name? How much traditions and human ingenuity have we added to the solemn command "do this in remembrance of me"?

H R Ironside once said "I am proud to be known as a brethren as long as the letter 'b' in the word brethren is not in capital letter. Sometimes it looks like we are more proud to be known as 'Brethren' than be known simply as a believer. We are recognized as another

denomination because so many local churches and institutions are named after the word "Brethren".

In many assemblies our worship meetings are programmed and humanly managed by a group of very sincere but over zealous brethren. They do not realize that they are usurping the authority of the Holy Spirit. Except for the priestly garments how are we different from the clergy system prac-

ticed in other denominations.

My conclusion is that except in matters of doctrine assemblies can no longer claim to be distinct from the orthodox churches our forefathers rejected. Pages of church history books are full of accounts of saints who were executed for defending the right to worship without the oppressive control of organized church hierarchy. We should not allow anybody from within the assembly or from outside to deny us the freedom to worship as the spirit leads. "Stand fast ... yoke of bondage Galatians 5:1

Y M E F News

High Range Division - Gospel Camp

Kakkattukada: A gospel camp was conducted from November 19-21 at Kakkattukada, a place between Kanchiyar and Kattappana. Open Air Meetings, Bible Classes and House visitings were the main programmes. The following brothers spoke in the open air meetings. Brother V M Paul, M K James, K Biju, Lalu V Abraham and the Bible Classes were taken by K P George, P J Thomaskutty and Baiju Mathew. Follow up work is in progress under the leadership of Brother E S Regi. We work there with the hope of establishing a local assembly testimony. Kindly pray and support this ministry.

The proposed work of Y M E F High Range in the days to come:

Gospel Camps: Kambammettu 2008 December 18, 19, 20

Passuppara: 2009 February 4,5,6, Kulamavu: 2009 May 21,22,23, Suryanelli: 2009 August 26, 27,28, Panikkankudy: 2009 November 18,19,20.

Tamilnadu Grama Suvisheshikaranam 2009 January 14,15,16, July 22,23,24, September 28,29,30, One day Outreach: Chakkinali 2009 March 9, Mannakudy 2009 October 28

M K Joel. Financial assistance may be forwarded to M K Joel, Mecheril, Kattappana (S) P O, Idukki 685515.

SBS News

Kumbanadu: If it be the will of the Lord one day meeting of the Kumbanadu centre SBS will be held on December 24 from 9AM to 3.30PM. Johny Thomas will be the main speaker on the occasion. Awards will be given to those who got high marks in the last year. All the SBS workers and parents are invited for the meeting.

Gospel Meetings

Manjalummoodu: A gospel meeting under the auspices of the Bethel Brethren Assembly God willing, will be held near the Thettivila Brethren Hall from December 26-28. Evening meetings will be from 6-9.30. Brothers K S Thomas, Mumbai and P M Georgekutty will speak from the Word of God. Kindly pray for the spiritual blessings of these meetings.

Mannarakulanji: If it be the will of the Lord, gospel meetings will be held at the pandal in Mannarakulanji Market under the auspices of the Mannarakulanji Assembly from 19th January 2009 to 25th January. Evening meetings are arranged from 6.30 to 8.30. Main speakers are **Brothers Aby K George, P G James, Chandapilla Philip, George Chacko and Jose Mankudy.** On 23rd January 2009 sisters meeting will be held from 10 to 1PM and on 24th SBS Pathanamthitta Centre will be from 9 AM to 3.30 PM. Kindly pray for the blessings of these meetings.

Kuriachikkara: If it be the will of the Lord gospel meetings will be held under the auspices of the Mattapuram Brethren Assembly from 2009 February 13-15. Evening meetings will be from 6.30 to 8.30. Along with this meetings Sunday School Anniversary and baptism of some too are planned. Kindly pray for the blessings of these meetings.

If it be the will of the Lord, gospel meetings will be held under the auspices of the Pongamukku Brethren Assembly in the assembly premises from 2009 January 22-25. Evening meetings will be from 6.30 to 8.30. Main speaker is brother Reji K Thomas Nelliadi.

Kannara: If it be the will of the Lord gospel meetings will be held under the auspices of the Kannara Brethren Assembly in the assembly premises from 2009 January 9-10. Evening meetings will be from

6.30 to 8.30. Main speakers are M N Sasi, K P Haridas. Please pray for the blessings of this meetings.

In the Vineyard

Marottichal: Brother V P Kuriakose of this assembly has committed himself for the work of the Lord and is actively engaged in the evangelisation programme of the assembly. He also take part in the Y M E F (ND) and (SD) gospel campaign. His call to the field is realised and recognised by the assembly and hence is hereby introduced for the prayer and support of the saints. His address V P Kuriakose, Veenamaliyil House, Marottichal P O, Thrissur, 680014

A L Jose

Kozhikode: Brother Vasu D Paul is engaged in the gospel work of the Kozhikode Brethren Assembly. He deserves the prayer of the saints so introduces him for the prayer. His address: Vasu D Paul, A P Apartments, 7/11C, Eranikkal P O, Kozhikode 673303

Prof. P P Skariah

Y M E F (N D) Malabar Campaign

By the grace of the Lord the Y M E F (ND) was able to conduct a week long campaign at Malappuram District. The team comprising of five members joined hands with P G Babukutty conducted home visits, open air etc. Lot of literature too was given. After the work in Malappuram they moved to Agampadam and along with Brother V V Paulose. There too they visited houses in many places conducted open air and distributed leaf lets. The following brothers took part in the campaign. M C George, P K Joy, Johnson Daniel, T K John and Sam Manohar. Kindly continue to pray for this ministry.

GOSPEL MEETING

Kumbanadu:

Venue: Near to Kumbanadu Noel Memmorial Higher Secondary School

Date: 28-12-08 Sunday to 4-1-09 Sunday

Night Meetings: Every Evenings 6.00 to 8.45PM

Main Speakers: M M Zachariah, Dr. O M Samuel, Varghese K Kurian, Chandapilla Philip, Jose Mathew, V P Poullose, Sunny Thomas

Special Programmes During Day time:

30/12/08 - 10AM to 1.30PM Evangelists Meeting

31-12-08 - 10AM to 1.30PM Sisters Meeting

01-01-09 - 10AM to 1.30PM Common Meeting

2PM to 4PM Childrens Special Programme

02-01-09 - 10AM to 3.30PM Missionary Meeting

03-01-08 - 10AM to 1.30PM Family Conference

WHO WILL BRING WATER ... Contd from Page 1

the response of the born again christians who are purchased by the blood of His heart. Let us look to the words of William Mc Donald Must we have high pressure missionary appeals and altar calls? Is it not enough to hear Him ask 'whom shall I send and who will go for us' Can we be like the valiant three of David "Your slightest longing is my command" At this juncture let me quote from Hudson Taylor the great Chinese missionary before putting the last full stop to this article "It will not be good to say that you have no special call to go to China and preach the gospel to every creature. You need rather to ascertain whether you have a special call to stay at home." Today we wish to be in the house assembly if at all there is an assembly (otherwise we will form an assembly). Let this be a challenge to all not to evangelists alone but to all the saints. If so the Lord will show us suitable fields for each and every one of us.

Today there are many young men like Timothy who joined hands with Apostle Paul to work for the extension of His kingdom, who work in the different parts of India. It does not mean that every one of them have no next of kin and family relations or they have any dreams about their life but they give priority to the Lord and His command. It is not that everyone will be called an evangelist but every one can become a part of this ministry. The Lord is truly great but the labourers are few". "The love of the world constraineth me". "Who will bring water for me to drink" Let the Lord make us industrious hardworking servants. May His name be glorified.

Y. M E F (SD) Tamilnadu Campaign Will the doors of Tamilnadu be open for ever

Erode: By the grace of the Lord the gospel campaign started in Tamilnadu is continuing without much hindrance. In the second week of December ie, 8th December 2008 to 12th December some of our fellow brethren of Abudhabi Brethren Christian Assembly also took part in this campaign. That was a great encouragement for those who are in the team for the last so many years. They are brothers who love gospel and who support this ministry but they availed themselves a few days to be with the team to go to the villages as the ambassadors of their redeemer. They adjusted themselves with the busy schedule of the team. Day time in the villages, evening bible meditation and family prayer and then the meagre scheduled food of the team and they enjoyed their sleep on a

mat without a pillow. At 5 in the every morning gets up for their family prayer and then the daily routine in the limited facility. We set out for the campaign at 8.30 sharp. At parting after a weeks campaign they sung the song Ethra Subham, Ethra Mohanam Soderere" embraced their fellow brethren and left with the hope to see again. The bidding farewell was really heart breaking.

Some of the special incidents that we witnessed during the above said week; We met a Malayalee family there. A widow living with her son and family. The son is deaf and dumb. This sister has another son. He lives in Orissa with his family. His legs are weak because of the early childhood polio attack. This sister once decided to commit suicide because of the adverse situations in her life. Her husband was away in Haryana at that time. God did not allow it. Later she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour and Lord. Her

children also followed Christ. But their father passed away leaving them in the hands of the Lord. Though they are not in the Brethren field they wish to learn more and have a desire to understand the real Word. But who will take up this challenge?

There is a high rising hill. It looks like a peak. On the top of it there is a big temple. Around this big hill there are number of villages and hundreds of houses. A thick forest separate the villagers from the peak. It may seem to us that the inhabitants of the huts in the village are totally ignorant and illiterate. But there are many from those huts who are in universities doing their BCA, MCA, MSC, MSC Bio technology and the like. With an artist we were able to share the gospel for more than one hour. Kindly pray that these educated kids may find the Lord through the words that they heard and through the scrip-

ture which they bought.

We met a bank employee who was serving their family god for thirty two years. An idol that cannot see, hear and walk. A few days back he adorned this god with a gift of 106 gms of gold. But he was restless. He saw us on the road and invited us to his home and listened to the gospel with an open heart. He is a seeker of the truth who wish to find out the real truth Jesus Christ. In another village we met an old man in his late seventies. A tall handsome man with a grand personality. He took his BSc Degree from the Presidency College Madras. He retired as a Head Master. He listened to the gospel sitting on his coat in his family home. He allowed us to pray for him.

As you are reading this report you may think that there is no opposition in Tamilnadu. It is not like that. There are opposition but not that brutal and cruel and moreover not in a general trend but few when we compare with Karnataka.

One of these days the young brethren from Abudhabi was sharing gospel along with a fellow brother from Tamilnadu. They were driven away from there and they left the dust of their feet in that village. In another village too the same group was questioned by a lady sub Inspector. Understanding this situation I rushed to the scene. She took all the details and asked us to report to the police station before visiting villages.

Two incidents are scribbled to remind the saints two important things. The situation in India is changing as a whole. So it is our responsibility to work for our redeemer till the day light is there. Let us abstain from the world and wordly things. Kindly continue to pray for this wonderful ministry. **For more information please contact Jacop P Mathew, Ebenezer, Thrikkannamangal, Kottarakkara. Telephone No. 09847000691, 0474 2457707.**

VSM



Those who do not Understand the Depth of Temptations

The world has never given perfect happiness and peace to anyone till date. The world can give only temporary and momentary things. It can give lot of things that can attract human life. This had happened in Eden too. God had asked Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of the tree in the middle. But Satan showed the same fruit and tempted Eve's heart to eat the same and earn death as the wages of sin. When she fell into the temptations doors for eternal death were being opened. Today too this same is being happened in the world.

Once a group of tourists were enjoying the glorious beauty of the Iruva waterfall. But they enjoyed the fall of water with great sound and the rainbow that came through the water when sunlight shined through it. As they were enjoying this beautiful sight they heard a warning and helpless they looked to the

place from where the cry came. They saw a vulture on the carcass of dead animal. The vulture was trying to fly away from using its full strength. But it could not do it. The alarming sound came from the vulture from its fight for life. The vulture was devouring the flesh of the dead animal as much as it could. But at the same time its claws went deep into its flesh and looked it in the ribs of the animal body. The vulture forgot it at the temptation of its prey. It has reached the mouth of danger and death. But the vulture did not realize it at the time it has to realize. Its desire to fly away before danger vanished into the air. The vulture with the carcass went deep in to the waters forever.

Those who lead their life enjoying the lust of the world may think that they may save themselves after a while. But by that time they will lose their health, wealth and everything. Those who enjoy the pleasures, will not realise the dan-

gers it has in it. Thus the momentary pleasures of the world led them to dangers and finally to eternal death and hell. Though such a person have a will to escape the sin will not deliver him from its clutches. He will be like the vulture and the carcass. This is a warning to the born again child of God. A child of God has to give importance to his spiritual life in this world then to the wordly life. They should grow in spirit. Then only he can chose the suffering with his people like Moses who decided to give importance to his men rather than to the pleasures of Egypt. Then we can reckon the insults and ingratitude for Christ more important than any of the worldly things. Let us run away from the temptations of the world like Joseph through self control. Let us finish the race. Let us not love the temptations. They will run away from you

TVS

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People channel of Kairali's News Channel

All Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30-5.00 p.m.

Monday 6.00-6.30 a.m. Zee TV (Hindi)

Jeevamritham Television Program

Every Saturday 9 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. in Power vision channel by Evg Chandapilla Philip

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Chief Editor

V.S.Mathew

Suvishesha Dhvani
Elim Thompil Vadakethil
Elanthoor East P.O.,
Pathanamthitta
Kerala 689 643
Tel: 0468- 2361498
Mob. 9447354998

Associate Editor

A.J. Oommen

Iykkarethu,
Pullad P.O. 689 548
Ph. 0469 2660478

Send your drafts &
moneyorders to:

Managing Editor

Jose Philip

Iyrookuzhiyil,
Vettoor P.O.
Pathanamthitta-689 653
Tel : 0468-2333938
mob. 9447257038
joseayroo@rediffmail.com

Circulation Manager

Thomas John

3320 DARCEY COURT
s#mFLOWER MOUND.
TX 750 22, USA
Ph. 001 469 293 6235

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SUVISHESHA DHWANI

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