



# TUVIA

JANUARY- MARCH 2020

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## SHELTER HOUSE CONFERENCE-2020

Shelter House Conference 2020 took place in the beautiful Ecumenical Christian centre, Whitefield from the 13th to 15th of February 2020. The wheels of preparation starting rolling months ahead with Pastor Ashley and Sister Sheba leading from the forefront. The church got all excited especially with regard to this year's theme-" Ye shall receive power-Acts 1:8" The conference was declared open by our pastor with the introduction to the theme- 'Dunamis' where he expounded that its a continuous source of unlimited power to win the world for the Lord Jesus. Dunamis is in every believer and the issue is we are not utilising it to win the world for the Lord.

Every morning began with early morning devotions. Every session was conducted smoothly with the various session leads taking charge. Rev Jechoniah Swarnaraj our keynote speaker spoke on "the power of the tongue." 'the power of words', the power to increase, and power for a healthy family life.

We were led into beautiful sessions of worship by Bro. Ebenezer Premkumar and he also took a seminar on worship that was an eye opener for many. It was a great blessing to have Rev Dr Jebaraj Samuel who expounded with his rich experience and grace on the power principles of life.

We also had a separate session for men and women as we launched HESed Men's Fellowship and Something Beautiful women's fellowship for the coming year. The sharing of meals and fellowship discussions with one another in the serene campus brought the church closer together indeed. After some thoughtful sessions, we had various breaks to help us meditate and think upon the Word we received. The camp fire was a beautiful time to relax and worship the Lord around the fire. The delegates were led to a time of repentance and revival.

Last day of the conference was the jewel on the crown. The anointing session led by Dr Jebaraj Samuel was a once in a lifetime experience for all the delegates who were part of this year's conference.

Many testified of hearing the call of God to serve Him, others spoke of new spiritual experiences and seeing visions. All who were eager were filled with the Holy Ghost.

The conference closed on a high note as Dr. Samuel led us in taking part in the glorious Eucharist. Heavens were opened and the Lord placed the cross in every home and in every heart for sure. Testimonies continued to pour in even after the conference, with the church witnessing so much burden for prayer, hunger for God's word and willingness to serve. We were able to receive from some of the wonderful men and women of God that being full of power is meant for everyone in the body of Christ, that we can change the world for Jesus. All glory to the Lord and thanks to our pastoral family who made this year's conference a grand success and a fruitful one

- Reported by Sharon Angel.





### *"A Post -CoVID World"*

Praise the Lord! I write this editorial note at one of the most important seasons in our life. The global pandemic of Corona Virus has essentially brought our lives to a standstill. With almost all of us working from home and managing multiple things, we should take some moments and ponder on what this season teaches us. Pope Francis in his Urbi et Orbi ('to the city [of Rome] and to the world') message on March 27th stressed on the many ways we should respond to this situation. He remarked "It is not the time of your(God's) judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others."



As we have moved into online mode for our operations, we frankly do not know when we will get back to our routine life. If and when we get back am sure it will be a new ecosystem. An ecosystem where social distancing and hand washing will be the new normal. An ecosystem where we are going to be more virtual than real. I foresee online services and small group settings to thrive than the bigger congregations. The education would be predominantly online. Online exams,,online tutoring. We also would see a more localised world than globalised. Every community will be protective so that no deadly virus enters their zone. Work from home will be the new normal and we would see robotics and AI at the center of it all. Marriages and funerals would no more be a big gathering but only those who are needed would be there. More folks will take up farming as their primary occupation. Democracy would thrive only by online voting and electronic parliamentary procedures.

Cash system could be completely eradicated as it would be more electronic cash with more ecurrencies coming into the picture. Restaurants could shut down as people would be more concerned about where the food comes from rather than the taste and hospitality. E trade would be the business proposition. People would prefer to stay in their own houses than community systems like big apartments and realty. So that would also take a big hit. Aviation and tourism will be severely hit as we wait for the vaccine to be developed. A new normal is being practised around the world and those who adapt to it would live on to see it. We as children of God know for sure that everything see around would be dissolved in fire.

Harken to the words of St Peter "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."( 2 Peter 3:10-1). Paul's triad is relevant to us as we face these uncertain situations. In fact it was central to His message and its relevant to us today. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."(1 Cor 13:13)

*In His Vineyard,  
Pastor Ashley Benjamin*

 pastorashley

 ashleysheba

**"OUR PRAYERS MAY BE AWKWARD. OUR ATTEMPTS MAY BE FEEBLE. BUT SINCE THE POWER OF PRAYER IS IN THE ONE WHO BEARS IT AND NOT IN THE ONE WHO SAYS IT, OUR PAYERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."**

**-MAX LUCADO**



## Sufferings: To desire for in a post Covid-19 era!

If we never understood what suffering was - no better season to have a grasp about it than these unprecedented times we are living in. Over a million infected by the epidemic, thousands mourning the loss of their loved ones, innumerable stranded on the road & unfamiliar territories, many going through mental stress & anguish, the poor pushed to further poverty, lacking food & basic necessities of life, economy crashing, world leaders fighting against time to mitigate loss of precious lives. Not just individuals/families but nations and the world on the whole is suffering. Even in times such as these, it's pertinent to know that the Word categorises sufferings into 2 categories at a high level: One that we have been given authority to claim victory over. Unfortunately, most people spend their entire life battling these sufferings failing to understand the criterion to leading a victorious life. On the other hand, the second category is suffering that's inevitable in the life of a true Christian. Romans 8:17 reminds us that if we are the children of God, then we would indeed share in His suffering.

So the first question is - Am I truly a child of God? We can answer that question in the light of John 1:12, Galatians 3:26 and 1 John 3:1. For those of us who would answer it as Yes, the natural consequence of it is that our hearts would be so aligned with what the heart of God beats for - to the point that we would consider it the greatest privilege to be found worthy of sharing in His suffering. All of us have our share of suffering in our lives. But the more relevant question is: Your sufferings are - for the sake of? The Word tells us in: 2 Timothy 1:8 - So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel (for the sake of the Good News), by the power of God.

2 Corinthians 12:10 - That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. Therefore as we learn some important lessons through these testing times, it's my prayer that we will come out of it - in a post Covid-19 era - longing to share in His sufferings (For Christ's sake and for the sake of the Gospel/Good News). Over every other suffering that may come about in our lives, God equips a born-again child of God to have victory by: Confessing our sins, turning from wicked ways and returning back to God. Psalms 32:5, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9 Seeking His face and be drawn close to Him in prayer. Hebrews 11:6, Mathew 6:33, Psalm 9:10, 1 John 5:14-15, Jer 29:12 Surrendering your life and choosing to live in obedience to God's Word. Deut 28:1, Deut 5:33, Luke 9:23, Phil 2:5-8, 1 Peter 5:6-10

Meditating on the Word and claiming the promises in them. Joshua 1:8, Phil 4:8, 2 Peter 1:4, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Mathew 28:20, 1 John 5:4 Understanding the power in the blood of Jesus Christ and invoke deliverance through it. Col 1:20, Ephesians 1:7, Rev 7:14, Rev 12:11 Those that long to share in His suffering, to them God gives the promise of also sharing in His glory. To study what's in store for a believer as part of sharing in His glory - is the most exciting bible study one can ever take up. What a joyful day that would be when my Lord & my Savior, the King of kings and the Lord of lords - with the shout of the archangel and sound from the trumpet of God - would come to take me home. May we be encouraged today that the Lord provides us protection & victory over every pestilence & danger just as the Israelites found safety even as the angel of death passed over their homes in the land of Egypt. Covid-19 too shall pass. However in a post Covid-19 era, would we be like the Israelites who continued to grumble, complain and doubt God - failing to learn their lessons, even after experiencing supernatural deliverance from Egypt and supernatural providence through the wilderness? May we be encouraged today that the Lord provides us protection & victory over every pestilence & danger just as the Israelites found safety even as the angel of death passed over their homes in the land of Egypt. Covid-19 too shall pass. However in a post Covid-19 era, would we be like the Israelites who continued to grumble, complain and doubt God - failing to learn their lessons, even after experiencing supernatural deliverance from Egypt and supernatural providence through the wilderness?

If we truly understand this mystery - we would be able to vehemently echo apostle Paul in saying - For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. God Bless!



Bro. -Dilu Daniel



'Oh Lord God of all the nations of the Earth, You are the Ruler of them all. We Lift our voices in prayer to you. There is nothing too hard for you. Send forth your healing. Remember your people, Remember the works of your Hands, and Remember Your promise Oh God!

-Art by

**Vinamratha**



## AGENG AND THE COMMUNITY

In India as well as across many other countries, the population above 60 years of age is fast growing. It was usual in the past to characterize the later years as periods of gloom and despondency. However, in the West today the perspective has altered considerably. The golden years are now regarded as the "third age" when older persons can pursue an active lifestyle. There is no denying that aging does bring about changes in bodily systems and psychological aspects. Hearing and visual deficits, slowing of motor processes, changes in memory and reduced communication network are common problems in older adults. However, with the advent of technological advances and improved health care systems, they can hope to lead productive and independent lives.

The late UN Secretary, Kofi, while referring to the aging population had observed: "Trees grow stronger over the years, rivers wider and likewise with age, human beings gain immeasurable depth, breadth of experience and wisdom. That is why older persons should not only be respected and revered but they should be utilized as the rich resource to society that they are". Long life is a reward for obedience to the statutes laid down by the Lord (1 Kings 3:14; Deutro. 5:33, 11:21). In Psalm 91:16, the promise is that He would satisfy His people with long life and show them His salvation. Abraham was assured that he would go to the grave at a good old age (Gen. 15:15). Indeed the fear of the Lord adds length to life (Prov. 10:27). The Lord also promises to sustain the faithful even to their old age and gray hairs (Isa.46:4).

The Biblical depiction of Moses and his call to lead a huge number of Israelites across hostile territory and wastelands -to the promised land- stands as a lasting testimony. He was over 70 years when he began the daunting journey with the unfaithful, complaining mass of Israelites who were ready to stone him even for small issues. He stood tall and strong, soaring under the wings of the Lord, till his end at 120 years of age (Deutro. 34:7) even as the destination came into sight.

Today, as ever before, it is expedient to ensure the wellbeing of older persons in the family and community. Providing a supportive environment contributes to better psychological health of older adults. With aging there is difficulty in hearing in noisy environments; problems in understanding and responding quickly; difficulty in remembering names and in retaining information besides a host of other issues. Family members often misunderstand the lapses and confusion of older persons, resulting in conflicts in the home. On the contrary, the kin should show empathy towards the physical, social and emotional difficulties that older persons may be experiencing. It is vital to include them in family activities and to motivate them to engage themselves; such measures could forestall deterioration in memory, cognition and other skills. Appropriate aids and devices to cope with their health care needs may also be warranted.

In the community, efforts should be expended to optimize opportunities for the physical, social and mental health of the older adults; this would enable their active participation and improve their quality of life. Though aging individuals are vulnerable as a group, it must be kept in mind that "grey hair is a crown of splendor, attained by a righteous life"(Prov. 20:29).



Sis. Geetha M

### THE STORY OF GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE FOR US AND THE WORLD

Once upon a time, there was a woman who had lost her job and by now she was a beggar on the streets. Now this lady was very hungry and no one came to help her. All - except one, went away, not bothering about her. This man's name was pronounced as ' Jontrie sixteen' ( For now, let's call him John.) But his real name was ' John Three Sixteen'. John went to her and asked" Are you hungry?" She said" Yes, sir. I am very hungry." John said "Listen carefully to what I say. Deep in the woods nearby, There is a small hut with one light. Go to that house and knock on the door. The couple inside will ask you who you are. Then, tell them your name and also tell them why you are here. Then they will ask you by whose authority you came here. You are to say" By the authority of John 3:16." Then they will give you food." The lady thanked John and ran to the woods. In no time, John's words came true. She was very grateful. Then in a few days, she got a job in the hospital, in which one day was going to be her lucky day. One day, John fell very ill and was taken to hospital. As he was lying down on his bed in the ICU, a nurse ran forward to him with sad news. She said that his condition was very bad and he would have to get a surgery. Before the surgery started, he told John 3;16 , 10 times. Then he saw someone familiar rushing towards him. It was the woman who he had helped. She gave him a tablet, and, without a word, she ran back to her office room. When the surgeon checked him, he told John that his temperature went back to normal. John thanked God for that woman he helped, and for the verse JOHN 3:16: " FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT DIE,BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE "

-Tirzah Ann Ashley



## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Which New Testament book has Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?
2. Why were Paul and Silas thrown into the prison at Philippi?
3. Which disciple found a coin in the mouth of a fish?
4. Who was Bernice?
5. Whose prayer was hindered by the Prince of Persia?
6. Who said this: "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."
7. What was Paul's occupation?
8. Which group of people were called "always liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons."?
9. Which book in the New Testament talks about the perseverance of Job?
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns.
11. Name the battle in which Joshua was defeated. Who was responsible for the defeat?
12. Name the person who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.
13. In how many days the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt?
14. Who said this - "Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet."
15. Name the festival that is celebrated on the fourteenth and fifteenth day of the month of Adar.


Correct answers to previous edition crossword given by:


**Abigail Samuel, Sharon Angel**


Send in answers to the Bible Quiz to 8971705050 before 26th April

Send your articles, testimonies, art to [info@shelterhouse.in](mailto:info@shelterhouse.in) to feature in TUVIA.

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