

## **Catch The Vision!**

### **“... the harvest is come”**

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

The Bible gives an account of the healing of a blind man in Mark 8. When Jesus prayed for him to receive his sight, he saw men as trees. So Jesus prayed the second time and his sight was completely restored. Jesus took the time to ensure that the restoration of the man's vision was complete because he knew the importance of sight. Our vision of eye sight is very important.

The metaphor used in the Bible to depict the peoples of the world is that of a harvest. This is very appropriate. Like the grain to the farmer, so are we to God who is our Maker. The outside or the shell will be put away but the grain will be saved for better use. Our body will one day decay but our soul is for eternity. As the farmer is after the grain, so is God after our soul. All souls belong to Him and He wants to persevere them all however, He declares that the soul that sins will surely die.

We need to look at our world. We need to look with eyes that give the true and full picture. This will challenge us to do the work of the Lord of the Harvest has called us to.

Let me share this beautiful illustration found in Psalm 126:5, 6 with you. It shows us what we need to know. It teaches us how to be successful labourers in the Lord's harvest field. Three aspects relating to the work of sowing and reaping found therein.

## **The Soul Winner's Programme**

The first is the Programme – “He who goes out weeping, carrying seeds to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:6).

The work is to be done by people – people who are redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb and who are living lives that are living lives that are a testimony of God's saving grace. The Scripture says, “He who goes out...” This is our privilege. The Lord has not called the angels because angels cannot tell the gospel of God's saving grace as well as we can. God's programme to teach the sinful man is to use redeemed men like you and me. You are needed! Will you say “Yes”?

This programme calls for obedience and sacrifice. When you offer yourself be willing to fulfill your calling. You are to “go”! Go out to the Harvest Field and reap the harvest. When you go to fish, you go where the fishes are. When you want to find men who are lost in sin, you go out from your church. Leave the comforts of your church and find them in the streets and places where you work and in your community. They will not come to church. You must go to them. Sometimes going means sacrificing your time, using your car to bring them, and could even involve the sharing of your finances and personal comforts with them.

Jesus told the woman of Samaria. She left her water pot to go to the city to tell her friends that she had found Jesus the Messiah. The water pot was an essential utensil of the day. She left it, that she might go to the city to tell the good news. What about you?

## **The Soul Winner's Passion**

The second aspect is Passion – “Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy” (Psalm 126:5) and “Those who go out weeping” (v.6). This speaks of the passion for sinners to be redeemed by Blood of the Lamb. We are gripped with compassion for many things in life, such as when we see sickness, suffering and physical death. But do we fail to have compassion on the person who is a sinner? He can be forgiven yet he is not reached with the gospel. A sinner will die and he will not have a home in heaven, but in hell. Jesus tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:23). The rich man in hell was tormented. Therefore, we must have compassion on those who are living in sin. You have the answer. You have experienced the forgiveness of God. You must go with a passion for sinners.

Let me share a testimony with you: Sometime ago, a prison officer came asking to see me. As I was preaching in the morning service, he did not get to see me. He was told that I would be informed of his request.

As it happened, I was scheduled to leave for Kuantan after the service that day to preach at a church dedication service. So I asked my Associate Pastor Peter, to go to the prison and find out what the officer wanted. However, the Holy Spirit told me that I should go. I obeyed. So both Pastor Peter and I went to the prison.

At the prison, we found out that our visit was the last wish of a prisoner on death row. This man had been in Taiping prison and had read a Christian tract which had Calvary Church's name and address on it. The man consequently received Jesus Christ as Saviour and through a Prison Officer, he asked for me.

While this was being told to me, many thoughts raced through my mind. Uppermost was: How was I to approach this man, who was to be hanged next day? What words of comfort, what words of assurance could I choose?

But when I met him in his cell, with the bars between us, his first concern was not for himself. He said that he knew Jesus and was not afraid to die, but would me to pray with him that his mother would also know Jesus.

Here was a man sentenced to die the next day and still his greatest concern was his mother. He wanted her to experience God's saving grace. How about us?

## **The Soul Winner's Promise**

The programme is you, and you must have a passion. Finally there is a Promise – "he... will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him." (Psalm 126:6). There is guaranteed results. Some may see this take place immediately and others later, but all will return with their sheaves.

A good farmer expects a harvest, especially when he has done all that is needed for a harvest. Likewise, a soul winner can have the same expectation. If we sow, we will reap. This is the immutable law of the harvest. The gospel must be preached to all the nations (Mark 13:10). Therefore, we must pray, give, go and expect a harvest.

Jesus told us of signs that would indicate His Second Coming (Matt. 24) and many of these are of evidence today in the world. The Holy Spirit has witnessed a need to believe God for the harvest through many of God's servants. The Assemblies of God churches world-wide are believing God that the 90's be a "Decade of Harvest". I am challenged and excited to see Calvary Church make "Look on the Fields" (John 4:35) its theme this year. Therefore, let us all be encouraged to open our eyes and catch the vision of the white and ready harvest fields.