

1. I was asked to curse, but I blessed people instead? Who am I?

Hint i: I tried to lead astray the Israelites directly by introducing idol worship.

Hint ii: I asked God twice about a subject even though He clearly told me not to go in the first prayer.

2. The prophet of God, Jeremiah brought our entire family into the house of God and gave us wine to drink. Who are we?

Hint i: We did not drink the wine as our father had commanded us not to drink wine forever.

Hint ii: Our father also commanded us not to build a house, sow seeds or plant a vineyard or have any of these, so we obeyed our father and lived in tents.

3. We are too many in number to give an exact count. Who are we?

Hint i: But one person calls each of us by our names.

Hint ii: We have fought wars.

4. I am not a prophet, but sometimes I was found among the prophets prophesying. Who am I?

Hint i: I was the answer God gave his people when they rejected him as their King.

Hint ii: I am one of the Kings in the Bible who committed suicide.

5. The meaning of my name is "sorrow" as my mother said she bore me in pain. Who am I?

Hint i: My prayer to God nullified the meaning of my name as He blessed me according to my request.

Hint ii: I was considered to be more honourable than my brothers.

6. I am not mentioned in the Bible as a great leader or someone of great skills, but God chose my grandson as one of the workman for building the tabernacle of God. Who am I?

Hint i: God had given my grandson wisdom and understanding in designing artistic work.

Hint ii: I supported one of the greatest leaders of Israel in prayer.

7. I am the friend of one of the doctors mentioned in the Bible. Who am I?

Hint i: My friend felt the need to write a properly researched chronologically ordered historical document.

Hint ii: My friend wrote one of the Gospels in order to make me understand the certainty of things I have been taught.

8. I have a habit of apologising for my deeds to God and His servants but I also have a habit of not keeping my word. Who am I?

Hint i: I have one of the finest horse drawn chariots (600 in number).

Hint ii: I am called by my title rather than my name.

9. The account of my father's family line begins with me even though I was the youngest son. Who am I?

Hint i: My mother died while giving birth to my brother.

Hint ii: I have been blessed as a fruitful vine and as a prince among my brothers by my father.

10. I must be kept in proper containers according to my age. Who am I?

Hint i: I can make people forget their misery.

Hint ii: Too much of me is considered bad.

(Note: Please send in your answers to ablazeyof@gmail.com by April 30th, 2016)

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youth on fire

ABLAZE

Volume No – 3

Issue – 2

Jan - Mar 2016

Quarterly newsletter from the Youth Wing of The Pentecostal Church of God, Ahmedabad – Affiliated to Sharon Fellowship Church

"...Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame." Psalms 34:5

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our God is an unchanging God and so His purposes do not change too. He has been the same yesterday, today and will be forever. As human beings, we often view things particularly in terms of days, months and years; our God definitely has no such limits. He only looks at His purposes through the perspective of eternity. If we have had battles and victories over the last year, we will definitely have it this year as well. However, our faith and hope should not die. We need to look at Him, our God - the Rock of Ages, who does not move, does not change. If we cling to Him, His strength will sustain us.

God has been good and faithful to Ablaze over the last couple of years, directing our efforts and guiding our steps in establishing His kingdom on this earth through our newsletter. And because of your earnest prayers and support, we have been able to heed the call to go and spread the Light of Jesus.

With this issue of Ablaze, we bring to you enriched articles on relationship, on how to overcome troubled hearts and minds with caring words and peace. A beautiful note on God's calling and how important it is to keep meditating on His word and to keep singing come what may, that His love endures for ever and ever. We hope that these articles will be a blessing and provide you the strength required to stand firm in His faith.

May the Lord our God, whose power, grace, and love have no end, richly bless all our readers during this year and grant everyone a deep and abiding awareness of His constant presence and His great favour.

.....Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. Psalms 23:6

*Editorial Team,
(Annie Royson, Winny Mathews, Bejini Sajjan)*



CARING WORDS TO THE TROUBLED HEART

PASTOR BENSON ABRAHAM

We are living in disturbing and draining days – days that distress our minds and hearts. Discouragement is almost at epidemic levels in these days of economic hardship and political turmoil. Everywhere we look, we see troubled hearts and troubled minds, sick with worry and distress. And to those of us who find ourselves with troubled hearts, the Lord Jesus says. "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). Those are holy words, sacred words, and not to be used superficially or taken out of context. The sentence is not to be

separated from the second. If we take the first sentence by itself, we will lose the real thrust of the saying.

We are told constantly that we should not be troubled, depressed, or give in to worry. But why shouldn't we give into worry? Why shouldn't our hearts be troubled? There has to be reason for our hearts not to be troubled. The Lord Jesus had a reason why he told disciples and us, "Let not your hearts be troubled." He went on to say, "You believe in God, believe also in me." That's the answer or reason we can think of why our hearts should never be controlled by fear. The truth is, when the events and circumstances spinning around us seem out of control, they are actually under control. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are in complete control of the events taking place in our life, in the life of our family, and in the life of the entire world. In fact, apart from Him, there would be no life in the universe at this moment.

There is the reason for an untroubled heart. This is the medicine for whatever might be troubling your heart right now. No matter how hopeless our immediate circumstances, no matter how depressing our future may look, we are to believe in God the Father and His Son. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to turn our troubled hearts to focus on and think about the greatness of the Lord Jesus (John 16:14).

Daniel was one of the Jews in Babylon who had suffered incredible losses. To Daniel and his friends a message came through Jeremiah: "There is hope for your future, declares the Lord...." (Jeremiah 31:17). Daniel knew that even when days look their darkest, God has a good plan. That was true not only in Daniel's day; it is also true for us today.

Yes, we are certainly living in difficult and frightening times. Financial debts, unemployment, terrorism, ill-health, relationship-breakups, insecurity, loneliness, depression, immorality, corruption, political instability and so on continues in and around the world. In the midst of it all, remember that He has not forgotten about you and your family. So give the Lord first place in your heart and in your life. His eye is upon you, and He will sustain you. He will make a way where there is no way. Don't be sick with worry. Look to Him! Look to His promises, and know that He is working out His great plan for the ages, and that He will supply every penny you need until your dying breath. Things aren't out of control - they are under control. So do not let your hearts be troubled; believe in God and also in Lord Jesus Christ.

THREE LEGGED RACE

ANNIE RACHEL ROYSON

We have all seen a three-legged race before. Chances are, we have even participated in one, considering it is such a popular game at community picnics and school events. It involves two participants running to complete a short race with the left leg of one runner strapped to the right leg of another runner. The aim is for the partners to run together without falling over, and beat the other contestants to the finish line. I once knew a couple who always won these three legged races. When I asked them the secret of their winning, they said, "Once you have made sure that your legs are tied comfortably together, all you need to do is put one hand around your partner, and use the two free hands to fly!" Well, they make it sound easy. If you have been in one of these races, you would know that it is not easy as it sounds.

Marriage is one such three-legged race. At the outset, it would be good to remember that it is anything but easy. In a Christian marriage, when a man leaves his father and mother and joins his wife in matrimony, they become "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). After this, they are expected to run every part of the race together. There is no provision for changing your partner in the middle of the race. Neither are you allowed to keep your partner away and run the race alone. It has to be done together. If at some point in the race, one partner stumbles, the other has to pick him/her up and continue the race.

Many young, Christian families today are struggling to keep their marriages going. And it is not just families who are struggling to make ends meet or lacking in the faith that are going through these troubles. Even financially stable marriages, professionally successful people who are active in church life and love the Lord (and each other) go through these problems at one time or the other in their marriage. It is true that young people are under enormous strain in today's society. One way or the other, sometimes even without realizing it, they become part of the rat-race. Every day becomes a minor battle to get through work successfully, attend to the needs of children, fulfill social obligations, stay in contact with extended friends and family, and if any time remains after all this, make our marriages work. Whether one partner in a marriage is working or both are working (or even if both are not), the moment we forget that all the other things that we do are part of our three-legged race, that they have to be done while being with the one the Lord has tied us with, the race begins to suffer.

The Trio also trained these men and women to become evangelists so that they could move on to a new area, assured that the gospel would continue to spread in the area they had left.

By the end of 1924, the Trio had moved up the Silk Road and settled in Jiuquan for the winter. They brought with them a group of men and women, students from the Bible school in Zhangye. Mildred sent them out in the afternoons to preach on the streets or visit women in their homes. They also began a children's service in the evenings.

At the end of the summer, the Trio set out on a two month journey to visit all the towns in Gansu between Jiuquan and the border. During their journey, they talked to other travelers and visited inns, sharing the Gospel with everyone they met and scouting the whole area. The Trio returned to Jiuquan for the winter and to continue their Bible school. The next summer, they followed the Silk Road northwest across the Gobi desert. They communicated the Gospel with everyone they met in the inns. They would gather around the campfires in the courtyard, sharing food and talking.

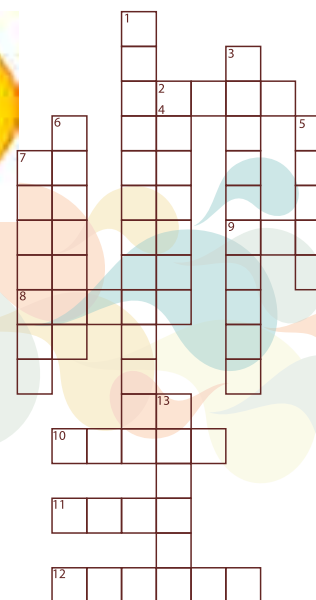
The Trio left Britain to return to China after a brief furlough in March of 1928. Getting back was difficult, as China was in the midst of civil war. In the following months, they took another journey to the borders of Tibet and Mongolia to spread the gospel to new areas. Everywhere they went, crowds gathered to listen to them talk. When traveling in Muslim areas, the Trio conformed to Muslim food restrictions, so as not to put any barriers between them and those they were trying to reach. They organized a women's mission, and the numbers of women in the church grew steadily. When the political situation was worsening and the war was inevitable, they prepared for their journey home. They trained their successors, and left for Britain.

Retirement

During her retirement, Mildred spent her time building up the Bible Society's women's support groups and speaking at mission meetings. In 1943, Mildred and Francesca produced a book on the Gobi desert which is still recommended in guidebooks today. They received the Livingstone Medal and the Lawrence of Arabia Memorial Medal for their travels. Mildred and Francesca wrote a number of books together. Mildred Cable served as a vice president for the **British and Foreign Bible Society** until her death in London in 1952.



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD – ANGEL MARY ALEX

ACROSS:

- Who is the cousin of Barnabas?
- "Now show me your glory". Who said this?
- Which is the lamp of the body?
- Who killed the whole of Baasha's family?
- What does character produce?
- Where was Paul stoned and dragged out of the city, thinking he was dead?

DOWNWARDS:

- What is the other name of Baalah?
- What is not to be treated with contempt?
- Who stir up a city?
- Name the grandfather of Saul.
- Which country is said to be the jewels of kingdoms?
- What was the other name of Thomas?
- What was the occupation of Ezekial?

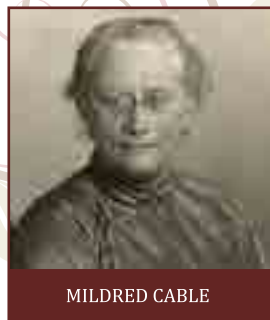
(Note: Please send in your answers to ablazeyof@gmail.com by Arpril 30th, 2016)

year could be difficult, could be easy. There could be ups and downs. We can all tell one thing for sure – His Love Endures Forever. Oh! What an amazing feeling this small four-word sentence can give? Try saying it to yourself. Keep chanting it all the time. No matter where you go, no matter what your troubles are, no matter what you are terrified about – just say this – “His Love Endures Forever”. Our God is a Big God. We might change, He will certainly NOT. Think of all His promises for us. Ponder on his mighty power.

Come what may – Fix your mind on Jesus and sing – His Love Endures Forever.

HEROES OF FAITH

COMPILED BY WINNY MATHEWS



MILDRED CABLE

Mildred Cable was born in Guildford, England in 1878. She grew up with three brothers and two sisters. Her upbringing was strict. One night, she had a dream about Jesus playing with her and some other children, and she began to recognize God's love and his fatherhood. At the age of 12, Mildred was able to attend a children's mission meeting where she accepted Christ and also later met Emily Whitchurch of the China Inland Mission (CIM). Mildred then realized God was calling her to serve in China.

Mildred moved to London, where she studied science and was trained as a pharmacist. On Friday evenings, she attended a Bible school. In 1900, she was planning to marry a young man who also intended to be a missionary. After the

outbreak of the Boxer Rebellion, however, the young man told Mildred that he no longer planned to head to China, and she could choose to stay in Britain and marry him or go to China alone. Although Mildred was bitterly disappointed, she was not willing to give up China, and she set sail without him in the fall of 1901.

After a year, Mildred met Eva French, who became her senior missionary. This partnership lasted for the remainder of their time in China. Eva took Mildred to the Huozhou area to work with the church community and encourage the women there. Mildred and Eva wanted to train Chinese women to be evangelists and take their place. In 1904, Mildred and Eva opened a girls' school in Huozhou with twenty-four students. Within a year, they had seventy women and girls attending. Mildred designed a curriculum that taught literacy, Christianity, science, and Chinese classics.

In 1908, Mildred and Eva returned to Britain, where they met up with Eva's sister, Francesca, who decided to join them in China. The three women became known as “The Trio” and worked together for the rest of their lives. The Trio was independent, strong-willed, and bold women.

Their school grew to 100, and their first class of teachers graduated in 1913. Mildred's school produced Bible women and teachers, and, over a period of twenty years, she and her fellow teachers taught an estimated 1,000 girls.

When the Trio asked themselves what China needed next, they felt led to leave their settled mission station for areas which were more remote and un-evangelized. Inspired by a report on the absence of Christian witness for 1000 miles along the Silk Road from Gansu province to Xinjiang province, on 11 June 1923, the Trio set out for Gansu. When they arrived in Zhangye, their first destination, their church pastor rejoiced over what he saw as God's answer to their prayer for experienced women missionaries. The Trio began conducting a Bible school in Zhangye for both men and women. By the end of the summer, fifty men and women were baptized, doubling the size of the congregation. That autumn, the Trio and their helpers traveled to neighboring towns where they participated in fairs. Farmers would attend the fairs to purchase necessities, and while they were there, they would stop into the tent to listen to the gospel message and often buy Christian literature. When the fairs ended, the Trio traveled to villages to hold teaching missions.

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It becomes very painful and tiring for one partner if the other is determined to run his/her race on his/her own terms and leaves the other partner to keep up if s/he can. The lagging partners then spend all of their time and strength trying to keep up with the running partner (which is not what God has meant for us to do in marriage) leaving no time or will to actually be a help mate and support (which is what God has meant for us to do in marriage). While doing this they are drained, physically, mentally and spiritually, while at the same time compromising their own place in the race that the Lord has kept for them. Now, the ‘running’ partners may say that they are only doing what is expected of them – running families, making careers, doing charity, building the church and its ministry – all necessary and noble activities. (Sometimes, both partners are ‘running’, although in different directions, wondering why the husband or the wife is not keeping up). Is this not what is expected from us? To succeed? Be victorious Christians? Be socially active? To provide for our families?

By the time they realize that something is wrong and look back, the partner has either fallen by the wayside or is left too far behind to be reached. This does not always imply a physical distance. A married couple may come to this stage even while living in the same house and while bringing up children together. Added to this is the idea of ‘personal space’. Every individual needs some personal space to grow. We only need to be careful that this space does not extend so much that the bond with which we are tied breaks. There cannot be a victory for one partner in a three-legged race if their God-given partner falls by the wayside or is unable to grow up to the spiritual potential that God requires of him/her. If we win, we win together. If one loses, the other is out of the race too.

We could have won with such a lifestyle, where we ran our own race on our own terms, if we were in a race where people ran alone. But since we have signed up for a three legged race, we have to run together. If done correctly, like the winning couple I introduced at the beginning, it can be a glorious journey; Like flying, soaring through the air together. No other institution on earth has such power and comfort as the institution of marriage. It is the basis for building healthy families, and families are the basic units of the Church and of nations. Young, successful Christians today need to stop and consider – whether they are running their race with the partner God has meant for them, whether they are helping each other along in the race, or pulling each other back. Or is one partner looking on helplessly and trying to catch up while the other runs. As families we need to spend time in prayer and evaluate whether we are yoked together in love. Are we on the way to winning our three-legged race?

CALLING

SHELDON JONES

Greetings, beloved.

One of the greatest privileges after your salvation, that is after accepting the Lord Jesus as your personal Saviour, is to know what He has called you for. You were called even before you were formed in your mother's womb, just as He spoke to Jeremiah “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5).

Just like Jeremiah every believer is called by God. Each and every one of you has a calling and this calling is irrevocable (Rom 11:29). Whatever God has called you to be will never change.

If you have read through the Gospels you will see Jesus operated in all the callings - an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. When Jesus ascended to heaven he needed us (His Body) to continue His ministry here on this earth. So He gave each and every one of us a specific calling which we are to fulfil. That is the reason why the apostle Paul wrote, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:14) Let me ask you a question, do you know what your calling is?? If no, why don't you ask Him right now what is your calling? If you have asked, I know that God will reveal His calling and also confirm it time and time again. Do not be disappointed if it takes time for you to know it. For me, it took me 5 months to know my calling, but once God revealed it to me, He confirmed it time and time again.

How would you feel if the President or Prime Minister of this nation calls you and assigns a task to you and asks you to do it? Don't you think he will provide all the things needed to complete the task and also make sure you are well protected and provided for? Now imagine the Creator of this entire universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords has called you for His purpose, how much more will he provide for you. My dearly beloved, if there is something that is hindering you from stepping into your calling, do not worry about it just take a step of faith and walk into your calling and see the things that were hindering you being taken care of by Him.

Once you start walking in your calling your needs will be met, you will lack nothing. Just like the disciples when they were sent out by Jesus; they lacked nothing (Luke 22:35). Your calling originated in heaven, your calling is heavenly. As you walk in your calling you are an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). In everything you do, you represent the Kingdom of God on this earth.

There are Major callings (Eph 4:11) and Minor callings (1Cor 12:28, Rom12:8). In a school you cannot go to the 7th standard without passing the 6th standard. In the same way, you might have a major calling, but you need to be faithful with the minor callings that the Lord will take you through to fulfill your major calling.

Dear beloved, you need not struggle to walk in your calling because I am confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; (Phil 1:6)

And I pray that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess 1:11, 12)

I bless you in the name of Jesus.

RULE OF PEACE

SAMUEL THUMATY

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. Col 3:15 (NLT)

Whenever we read this statement from the Bible, a few questions emerge: How can we let the peace of Christ or the peace that comes from Christ Jesus, rule in our lives? What is “peace”?

In worldly terms Peace means lack of conflict. Let us see a few meanings from Google: Freedom from disturbance; tranquility. Peace can also be translated as unity, lack of conflict, completeness, success, God's gift of wholeness and many more good and pleasing meanings. Peace means “Shalom”, which translates as completeness or abundance of every resource. How can we let this abundance and completeness rule in our lives?

Jesus said in John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (NIV)

Jesus said, His Peace! That is

- The Unity Jesus enjoys with the Father God and the Holy Spirit,
- The lack of conflict between Jesus, Father God and Holy Spirit,
- The Victory the Holy Trinity enjoys.
- The Wholeness of Jesus.

Does this mean that Jesus made us to be one with God? We know that Angels cannot be one with God! Jesus said, I and My Father are one. Dear friends, Jesus gave us His Unity! The Unity Jesus shared with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave us the right to enter into this Holy Unity by redeeming us from our sin.

Let us see what the Father God says about this Unity!

John 1:12,13 “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.” So, we now know that Father God gave us the authority to become His Children.

To achieve unity we need to learn to accept the truth. The fact is that we are all sinners and we are not perfect. The desire of God and of every human heart is to ultimately imitate Christ, or adorn Christ-likeness. However, the fact of the matter is that we are not Jesus and we cannot be perfect with all our weaknesses and shortcomings. We need to start accepting each other as children of God and always remember that in our weaknesses and shortcom

ings, the presence of Jesus Christ makes us complete and perfect.

This brings Unity and when 2 or 3 are united in the name of Christ, Jesus said, “I will be there.” We can let the Peace of God rule in our lives when we have Unity. We need to forgive one another and accept one another in love and by grace. Remember the blessing, “Grace and Peace to you from the Father God in heaven.” We all need Grace, for we all need forgiveness!

Let us then approach the Throne of Grace with confidence, for the mercies of God are new every morning, nothing can separate us from the Love of Christ and His grace abounds even more. Pray that God will give us wisdom and understanding to learn to accept one another and remain united to experience the Peace of God that Jesus left us with!

Always remember that Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy that which Jesus gave us, His peace, joy and Holy Spirit! Do not lose the gifts of Jesus by giving foot hold for satan in your life. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and God of Peace will soon crush Satan underneath your feet. So, Humble yourself under the might arm of God and He (Jesus) will lift you up in due time. God bless you!



HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

BENCY BENJAMIN GINU

I read Psalms 136 the other day in our family prayer. Although I had read the chapter times before, it made more sense that evening than before. Every time I had read it in the past, it was like reading a chapter for the sake of reading. But reading it this time was a different experience altogether.

You and I read a lot of messages on Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and other social media of people dealing with exceptionally difficult phases of life. There are people who lose their loved ones, many who lose their jobs, are financially challenged, some with serious deadly illness and many more. Reading all this hurts. How helpless we find ourselves to be. We are all imperfect, mortal human beings. There is something really special about this Psalm, though. It speaks to me of our Eternal God. How big our God is! He is the centre of our History, our Present and our Future. Our problems can never be too BIG. Our situations and the troubles we are in are not a challenge for God.

This Psalm has taught me three things:

1. Our problems are SMALL – We have a BIG God.

King David faced a lot of difficult situations in life. There were times when he immediately looked to God for help. Several times he trusted in his own strength in the beginning until he reached a dead end. Same is the case with us. Often it is not until we reach the very end of the tunnel that we finally, very reluctantly, take refuge in the Lord. History shows that God has worked great things in the lives of people who believed and trusted him. God's plans are greater than ours. It is important to see his hand at work, to believe in the darkest moments.

2. Have Faith – We have our weapon, the BIBLE

It becomes very easy for us to lose faith in difficult times. In such cases, I have seen my ancestors gain faith and comfort through his WORD - the BIBLE. The word of God is our weapon, the comfort in times of trouble. King David says, “I shall meditate on your word day and night”. It is highly important as Christians, as children of God, to meditate and rely on the Word of God. Keep Reading it. Keep meditating on it. It will give you the courage and strength to keep going and not lose grip.

3. His Love endures forever – The BIG Picture

We have just entered a new year. We do not know what we have in store for ourselves. The twelve months of this