



Live in the Spirit

# Seed For Living

BRO. MANUEL MINISTRIES MONTHLY BULLETIN JANUARY 2016

## KEEPING SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY BLAMELESS

*"Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again."*  
1 Thessalonians 5:23

### BODY

God created us as triune beings. And the first thing He created was the 'body' to house the soul and spirit.

First of all, let us understand our bodies and view them with the right perspective. Let us look at Romans 12:1-3 which says *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

Out of our own free will, we are required to offer our bodies as "living sacrifices" to God. My dear friend, once we present our bodies to God it is not ours any more. We cannot take back what we put on the altar.

This calls for identification and crucifying of the flesh. Where can the body go? It has to walk in sanctification. Once you move in your body, it needs to move under the protection of the Blood of Jesus so that the devil cannot enter the flesh when he sees the mark of the blood on you. "Blood of Jesus" is not a magic word, but meditating on the Lord's passion and the shedding of His blood in different stages, it is applied.

At the same time, the body cannot move wherever it pleases. It has to be within the *"good, pleasing and perfect will of God"*. To stay within that will, we need to be set apart from the world and not live like the world lives, according to its own pattern. This calls for sacrifice. We have potentials in our bodies and yet not full because our bodies are sick. How much time

do we spend in taking care of the body in baths, using best of soaps, moisturizers, visiting the doctors, beauticians etc.

Dedicate your bodies to the Lord. Youth must understand this. It is up to each one of us to work on our bodies and be fitting in the body of Christ.

Let us view our bodies and understand what our bodies are for. They need to be disciplined and committed which cannot be lost because of anything, either studies or work or marriage. I must be perfect in not sinning against God, against my body. Enjoy the 'off-time' (your own space) in holiness, as much as in your 'on-time' (when seen by others).

What is your body for? We have the best of bodies with best potentials in them. Look at Psalm 139:13-16 *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."*

The psalmist understood perfectly how intricately God has paid attention to the forming of our bodies. We cannot even understand how an image is formed in our eyes and how many millions of intricate issues are involved in it. But without giving it a thought, we abuse our bodies by making them idols. We use the best of things to idolize them forgetting that, one day these bodies will die. We drag these bodies in fear, the way we walk, rebel, nurturing hurts of the past, taking hasty decisions of marriage, job etc. outside His will. To sacrifice today might cause some pain, but the pain of regret later on is worse.

Our bodies have a place in redemption.

TO BE CONTINUED....

—Bro. Manuel Mergulhao



*December 2015!! Believers celebrate Jesus everyday of their lives, remembering Christ's birth (God's incarnation), His life (miracles), His death (salvation) and Resurrection (new life)!!! So perhaps culminating the year with a great mass celebration is in place, though there are many controversies about the date, the festivities etc.*

## **25th December**

The first Christmas was planned by God Himself with this announcement; "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10, 11).

We don't know for sure in what year Jesus came. Yet we mark our calendars according to Anno Domini (AD). What if Jesus was born in January, March, April or October? We may not be sure of the date, but we are sure and sure that HE WAS BORN!! And that is what we celebrate! Seeing in that birth, a triumph of light over darkness, spring over winter and life over death. We celebrate the birth of the Man whose life, teachings and death were to change the trends of history, cause light to shine out of darkness and offer light to those who dwell in the valley of death!

The word "Christmas" (Christ Mass)

The English term 'mass' evolved from the Anglo-Saxon word 'maesse', which was derived from the Latin 'missa', which is a form of the verb 'mittere', which means "to send."

Consequently, the root meaning of Christ-mass is "to send Christ," or "Christ is sent."

Immanuel's incarnation is the sending of Christ. "When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman..." (Galatians 4:4). Jesus Himself spoke often of "Him Who sent me." Therefore we celebrate this holiday which term represents—the sending of Christ.

## **Christmas IS commercialized!**

Yes. Christmas IS commercialized and abused by the world. Let us look at some of the things that are abused or misused and yet we cannot give them up.

**Corn** - misused for making whiskey!

**Fire** - abused by criminals for arson!

**Knives** - misused by murderers!

Some birthday parties become drinking bouts, yet there are those who

celebrate them devoutly giving praise and thanks to God.

Some even misuse the Bible for false cults. But millions are being set free by its truth.

Though Christmas is commercialized by the world, millions of believers still celebrate Christmas reverently.

## **The Christmas Tree**

Is there anything basically immoral or unrighteous about a decorated tree? Are lights on a fir tree more evil than candles on a birthday cake? Is a tree in the house more improper than having plants and cut flowers indoors?

"Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen....For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers, that it move not." (Jeremiah 10:2-4)

Wait a minute don't let that kill your little joy of decorating a tree.

This was written to idolaters of the time! Jeremiah writes to Jews about to go into captivity in Babylon. The circumstance dictating his rebuke was the widespread environment of idolatry, to give guidance on how to avoid involvement in rites and orgies indulged in by their eventual neighbors.

The warnings relate to the practice of carving idols! While the rich could afford idols made of molten metals, the poor had to content themselves with gods of wood (cf. Isaiah 40:19, 20). In Jeremiah 10 we have a wooden idol plated with precious metals. The prophet outlines the steps in the "creation" of such gods: First, the log is felled—"one cutteth a tree out of the forest;" second, the trunk is carved—"the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe;" and third, the idol is plated—"then deck it with silver and with gold."

The name of the material (tree) is used to denote the product (idol) made of it. Likewise the Bible refers to Jesus' cross as a tree because its materials came from such a source.

May every day of your life be a celebration of God's love manifested in His Son Jesus Christ our Lord! Making us a new creation and preparing us in body, soul and spirit, to dwell with Him in Eternity!!

—**Sis. Lynette Mergulhao**





# EVENTS 2015

# KOLHAPUR & BELGAVI OUTREACH



## WOMENS CONFERENCE



## YOUTH MEETING







# TESTIMONIES

T E S T I M O N I E S



I was suffering from breast cancer. During the Chemotherapy the nurse administered the medication on the wrong hand due to which my hand was swollen and I was unable to lift my right hand for nearly 3 to 4 months. During today's prayer session, suddenly I started lifting up my hand. I was also operated for the same and it was successful just because of Bro. Manuel & the prayer warrior's prayed for me. I am healed and blessed after coming here.

– SEBASTINA FERREIRA



About a month and a half ago, I met with an accident on the Pune express Highway at 6:30 am after dropping off a client. I didn't know when the accident took place, but I saw my nose bleeding in the car mirror, and realized I had broken my bones. While still in the car, I held onto the red ribbon given to us over here and that gave me the grace to go through. I had 17 fractures at various places. I called up the recorded prayer line number and prayed. After that the ambulance came and I left. My chances of survival were slim. The doctors have not yet permitted me to remove my plaster or to walk. There is a rod in my leg, a plate in my hand, and a minor fracture in my nose. But now there is no sign of pain in my hands or legs. I would go out with my friends late at night and come back at 3 or 4 am. Bro. Manuel told me to stop going out late in the night. We must take whatever Bro. Manuel says seriously, otherwise there will be a place for evil to enter our lives.

– SUMEET PARDESHI



I come from Gujarat every Wednesday for the prayer service. Two Wednesdays ago I was late in leaving from office and since I didn't want to miss the train I went by bike at great speed. I met with an accident and fell headlong from the bike. I survived with a few injuries. I applied the blessed oil on my wounds and received miraculous healing. I didn't visit any doctor but came here directly to the biggest doctor to receive my complete healing through Bro. Manuel. I have also received deliverance from drinking alcohol and tobacco chewing. Each week I come here to get myself recharged for the following week. I thank the Lord for Bro. Manuel and Sr. Lynette and salute them for their selfless service.

– REYNOLD PARAMPATIL

Women's Conference January 27, 2016

## EVENTS & OUTREACHES

Goa Outreach 2016

February 13-14

March 12-13

April 9-10

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### Wednesday Prayer Meetings:

For details contact us on +91 22 6500 9701 / 02



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