



GIJAPA



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GOD Is Just a Prayer Away

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(1800 UTC) 7190 kHz on Dial

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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

March 2010

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Issue 3

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Hosanna, Hosanna Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel. Before the week was over the same crowd would be crying, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him." They wanted a King, but not the kind of King Jesus wanted to be. Pilate finally understood what the crowd had already found out when he said in John 18:37, "Art thou a King then?" Jesus said unto him, "My Kingdom is not of this world. If My Kingdom were of this world then would My servant's fight that I should not be delivered unto the Jews, but now is My Kingdom not from hence." Then He said, "To this end am I come into the world, and for this cause came I into the world."

So when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, He knew He was riding into a crucifixion, but Jesus rode on. He knew before the week was over He would be spit upon, but Jesus rode on. He knew before the week was over they would crown Him with a crown of thorns, but Jesus rode on. He knew before the week was over He would be scourged until His back looked like raw meat, but Jesus rode on. He knew before the week was over, nails would be driven through His hands, and feet, and a spear pierced his side, but Jesus rode on.

We can rejoice that Jesus rode on, for this battle at the cross. It was the greatest battle ever fought on this planet because it had the greatest victory, the victory over the grave. Hebrews 2:9 speaks of the scope of that victory; "But we behold Him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He should taste of death once for every man." Jesus died for us, not to give us a few more years of life in this world beyond threescore years and ten, but life in glory for endless eternity. The triumphal ride of Jesus began on Sunday and ended the next Sunday at the empty tomb when the voice of the angel proclaimed, "He is not here for He is risen even as He said."

Now this ride began when Jesus sent two of his disciples and said; "Go into the village that is over against you, and as ye enter you shall find a colt tied in a place where two ways meet, loose him and bring him unto Me." As soon as they entered the village they found the colt exactly where Jesus said, and they loosed the colt. Jesus had told the disciples if the owner objects, tell him the Lord hath need of him and straightway he will send him, and I will send him back again.

The Lord needs him; the owner may have wondered why does the Lord need my colt? There was a reason for it. The same reason that I heard one time many years ago as a preacher was shaking hands with the people at the close of the service, and called out to me over the heads of the people as I passed by from the side of the church: "What are you going to do with your life?" I said, "Nothing." He said; "The Lord needs you." That was news to me, and I wondered, why would He need me? The reason He needed me was the same reason He needed the colt. The Apostle John said of Jesus in John 2:25 "He himself knew what was in man." I did not know what was in that colt, and I did not know what was in me, but Jesus did.

There is something else about that colt that needs attention when we learn that they found the colt at a place where two ways met. It was a crossroads, a fork in the road. Many times we come to a fork in the road and the way we choose can have bearing on the rest of our lives. It may be in the choice of friends, or the choice in marriage and many other things, for the better, or worse. But the most important decision you can make is at the fork in the road of your decision of what will you do about Jesus.

I knew a man years ago that became a Christian, and really went all out for the Lord. He spoke of the Lord in no uncertain times to everyone. One man asked him, "Jack, where is this hell you are always telling me about?" Jack told him, "You have asked me a straight question, and I will give you a straight answer; if you want to know the location of hell, you just keep on going the way you are going, and you can't miss it."

Another thing about that colt is the fact that the two apostles found the colt exactly where Jesus said he would be, as ye enter into the city. 1st Kings 8:56 says, "There hath not failed one word of all His good promises." Then again in Ezekiel 12:25 "For I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass."

And then one more thing about that colt was why would Jesus feel free about asking for some ones colt? He felt free to ask for the colt because the colt really belonged to Him anyway. The scripture speaks of divine ownership. It is said in Psalms 50:10 "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." The prophet says in Haggai 2:8 "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine saith the Lord of hosts." Every thing we have is ours on loan from God. Jesus has a right to ask for what belonged to Him.

In 1st Kings 17:11-16, a poor widow in a time of drought had just enough meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a jug. She was gathering a few sticks, for a fire so she and her son might eat one last meal and die. Elijah the prophet said, "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said, but make me a little cake first. For thus saith the Lord. The barrel of meal shall not waste, nor the cruse of oil fail, unto the day the Lord sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said and the barrel of meal wasted not, nor the cruse of oil fail as the Lord had said until the drought was over. The message of God to us is always make me a little cake first.

Jesus had borrowed the colt. Actually Jesus borrowed a lot of things according to the famous writer anonymous to me: They borrowed a bed to lay His head when Christ the Lord came down-They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass when He rode into town-But the crown that He wore, and the cross that He bore were His own-the cross was His own. He borrowed the bread with which He fed on the grassy mountain side-He borrowed the dish of broken fish with which He satisfied-but the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore was His own, The cross was His own. He borrowed the ship in which to sit as He taught the multitude-He borrowed a nest in which to rest-He had never a home so crude-But the cross that He bore and the crown that He wore were His own-the cross was His own. They borrowed a room for Him a tomb-the Passover meal to eat-they borrowed a cave for Him a grave they borrowed a winding sheet-but the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore they were His own, the cross was His own.

So Jesus rode on into the city of Jerusalem, and wonder of wonders when the multitudes heard the shouts of praise some said, "Master rebuke thy disciples," and Jesus said, "If these held their peace the stones would cry out." It was true the stones did cry out. That great stone that weighed several hundred pounds was dropped into a slot, and sealed with the seal of Tiberius Caesar was rolled back by an angel, and has been crying out for the last two thousand years; "Christ is arisen from the dead." The tomb-stones cry out as you pass the cemetery as in Hebrews 9:27, "It is appointed once to die." The stones of the temple cried out in 70 A.D. that Jesus predicted in Matthew 24:2, "There shall not be left here one stone on another that shall not be throne down, as a testimony of the rejection of the Son of God."

In the crowd that day were some who asked a strange

question, "Who is this?" These were the ones mentioned in John 1:11, "He came unto His own and His own received him not." Ask Moses and he would say "The seed of the woman shall bruise the head of the serpent and the serpent shall bruise his heal." Ask John the Baptist and he would say, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Ask Thomas after the resurrection and he would say: "My Lord and my God." Ask God who is this? And He would declare "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him. Hosanna Hosanna, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

TWO SHORT ARTICLES

by Ed Bousman

Who Is Wearing Your Crown?

On the way to the cross they found a man named Simon. Him they compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. What a coincidence this is. The man who carried the cross for Jesus was named Simon. If it had not said that Simon was from Cyrene, we would have thought it must be Simon Peter. The Lord depends on Simon Peter the Apostle. It is only natural that he would be there to help the Lord carry the cross. But Simon Peter was not there, so the Lord used another Simon. Simon of Cyrene is on the pages of Holy Writ for the last 2000 years. What an honor was given unto him. Simon of Cyrene took the crown that should have been worn by Simon Peter. Simon Peter let Simon of Cyrene wear his crown.

Don't let someone else wear your crown. If you won't serve the Lord in your particular place, He will find someone else who will. In the Church of Christ and or Christian Church we make a big ado over the program to restore people to the Church of the New Testament. Among other things we speak of restoring the baptism of the New Testament namely immersion for the remission of sins and the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day. But most of our Churches have lost that vision. Be it remembered, God's plan will not be thwarted. If we are not faithful in the proclamation of this program, God will raise up someone else who will. He raised up some Presbyterians and Baptists to do it before. How ironic if He would do it again. Don't rule it out. He had done it before and He could do it again. God's plan will not be thwarted. If Simon Peter won't do it, Simon of Cyrene will. Don't let someone else wear your crown. Someone else may wear the crown that belongs to you in a hundred different places. Someone else will wear the crown that should go to you as a faithful elder if you fall away. Don't let someone else wear your crown. The crown that belongs to you as a faithful preacher of the word will be worn by someone else if you suffer what is commonly called burn out. Don't let someone else wear your crown. The crown of your witness in faithfulness in attendance and the giving of money may be given to someone else. Don't let that someone else wear your crown. God's will is never thwarted. If you don't wear your crown of service in talent, or earthly treasure, God will find someone else who will. If Simon Peter won't; Simon of Cyrene will. **DON'T LET SOMEONE ELSE WEAR YOUR CROWN!**

Pierced By Nails

Somewhere I remember reading these lines. The hands of Jesus seem so frail - For they were broken by a nail - But they will get to heaven at last - Who to those broken hands hold fast.

The piercing of His hands and feet was prophesied by David a thousand years before it happened in the twenty second Psalm, when he declared: "They pierced My hands and My feet." At a crucifixion the nails pierced no vital organ, neither, the heart, brain, artery, or any other vital organ to hasten death. This meant a person could live for days in the agony of crucifixion. However they did not take the life of Jesus; He gave it willingly. In John ten He Himself had said: "No one taketh My life from Me, I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." When the nails were driven through the hands of Jesus, there is a further dimension to the piercing of the nails that we need to consider.

Paul tells us in Colossians 2:12-14 "Having been buried with Him by baptism, wherein ye were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, you, I say did He make alive together with Him having forgiven us all our trespasses; having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and He hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross." When the hands of Jesus were nailed to the cross, my sins were nailed there also on the cross. This needs to be pondered and fervently considered during the Communion service. The hands that were pierced by nails were pierced for me. Now listen to the words of the gospel hymn that tells us: There was One who was willing to die in my stead - That a soul so unworthy might live - And the path to the cross He was willing to tread - All the sins of my life to forgive - They are nailed to the cross, they are nailed to the cross - Oh how much He was willing to bear - With what anguish and loss, Jesus went to the cross - But He carried my sins with Him there. This is what Jesus had in mind when He said, "This do in remembrance of Me."

LETTERS

Dear Sister Naomi,

Thanks so much, I am still waiting for those Bibles and used clothing you sent last week and also this latest one. Upon receiving any, I will write to you. We really need Bibles and used clothing for our numerous converts here. We started this year with eight baptisms in a day and since then we have got other converts. Some of our prospects and converts are refugees from various parts of Africa. The Muslim population of The Gambia here is over 94%. Upon my arrival here from Ghana things are changing rapidly and I give God the glory. I met only one small congregation here but we now have five to the Glory of God. Keep on praying for us especially for our numerous Muslim converts and we pray you will keep on assisting us here more and more with Bibles and used clothing.. We definitely

need more Bibles, used clothing and shoes of all sizes. This is a very hard soil and we have several refugees as well. We keep on praying for our beloved Brother Bousman and we do believe our Lord will heal him completely to do His work in Jesus Name, Amen. We thank all the workers there and we pray for peace for you all. We thank you so much, our kind and hardworking Sister Naomi. Our God is Great, Amen. To God be the Glory in your family through Christ our Savior, Amen. Thanks.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God from The Gambia, W. Africa

Madame Naomi:

Thanks so much for helping us with our request for two sets of communion trays. I am sure our brethren with the two new churches will be elated for putting our plea to the brethren there. Thanks too for giving me update on the health of Sir Ed Bousman. I am sure he might have some impatience with the doctor's request for him to stay home. We know the evangelistic fervor of your hearts & this really a welcome disappointment! However, I am confident you can keep on doing great things while in home. Please tell him we keep on praying for you all at GIJAPA! Continue to pray for us too. By the way, for lesser cost on the deliveries of incoming cps, you may send them via surface mail at the post office. They will be forwarded by ship & they will be received after three (3) months. On such delivery, you can cut more than a half of the postage you are having now thru the air freight, at least this is the information given me. (I, Naomi checked with PO and this is not possible any more, everything shipped outside of the US must go Airmail or first class.) Lately Sir Ed has given me some thought picture on how you are doing things at your house for the operation of GIJAPA, & I am thinking you all this way. Pray that Sir Ed keep on recuperating & that he is about to be released from house arrest sanctioned by his doctor. I understand the trouble he is taking of not going out. He is such a man of our generation & beyond to confine him that way. But alas, he is also a fragile man that needs rest for resumption, & we appreciate you so much Madame Naomi for taking good care to such a man!

Ed Domingo from the Sunset Beach Church of Christ in Philippines

Brother Bousman.

I have received 2 boxes of Bibles and 2 boxes of men's clothing you posted to my ministry. Thank you for the gift. I will carry this gift to the new Church of Christ congregations in Sierra Leone where it is most needed...God bless your work.

In Christ Mike Foday from Monrovia, Liberia, W. Africa

Dear Sister Naomi,

My sister, I must begin by telling you that I am very happy to inform you that we received one box of clothes. Thank you very much. How are you today and Brother Ed Bousman? My family and I are doing well and the church is fine. Yesterday, Sunday 25th January 2010, was very good for Messenger Church of Christ. Four brothers stood for repentance and mentioned their sins without feeling

shame of the people in the church. This doesn't happen most of the time. Send us more Bibles and other materials. I will visit all the churches that we started after graduation, Kyansange, Chafukuma and Messenger and the intend church we praying and planning to start. They all need Bibles and again send us clothes and shoes for my family and myself, shoes size 8 (42). Thank you and hoping to hearing more from you soon. May God continue to bless you and keep you? We love you very much.

Your brother and fellow servant of Jesus Christ. John Maseka, Evangelist, from Zambia, South Central, Africa

Dear Ed & Naomi Bousman,

Wishing you a very Happy and healthy New Year and pray this find you in good health and improving from your recent illness. Your lessons have been a great help to me in my spiritual life. I pray to God that your ministry flourishes even more and may God give you both good health physically to continue. Please send me the further lessons and any literature and books you can spare. Thank you for the OT Volume II sent last time. Please convey my best wishes to your staff who check our work and send our mail etc. Wishing you a Happy Healthy New Year.

Yours in Christ Ruby A. from India

PTL! 28 BAPTIZED IN JANUARY

Our work started in the New Year on January 15, 2010. We got to our first village 4pm Friday but the rain set in till about 6:30pm yet the program came on as planned at 7pm. We totaled 21 (6 men and 15 women) in an old school classroom with ten lanterns from the listeners (though we provided the kerosene). To trigger the lesson for them to love to listen to and listen more, I did a short introduction to the program and a short talk about the church and then ask them to bring out any question they may have and it was terrific! We had more questions on marriage, re-marriage and divorce, baptism (infant and sprinkling), tongue speaking, the church, and a lot more. By the grace of God, all the answers given were to the best of their understanding that some were even able to contribute trying to explain

things more further to their colleagues. It was fantastic! That night the weather became very okay for us because of the earlier rains that they were able to absolve the teaching that instead of 9pm, we closed at 11:30pm. We did not register any baptism that night but we were very glad with the teachings and questions.

On Saturday January 16, almost all of the 21 participants came over to say hi to me and the only brother I went with who reads the Bible for me with some bringing food-stuffs to us and also fetching water for us. There was a funeral in the village so we were also there to mourn with the people and made a public donation to the family of the deceased taking the opportunity to tell the gathering our mission in the village inviting others who were interested to study the Bible with us that evening. We had a number of 53 (21 men and 32 women) attending the class. Starting from where we got to the previous night, more questions were answered and had 21 baptisms that evening at 8:30pm and left for home for worship at Park Side Church of Christ the following morning because I was to teach the Sound Doctrine (our one hour Bible class prior to the worship proper). Eleven of them followed up to worship with us at Park Side wiles others went to Fianko. We have not yet been able to plant a church for them here. The 18th and 19th program too was very successful in the same village with 5 more souls baptized in the same village. 4 of those who baptized came from some other villages far off the village where they also do not have churches of Christ but they promised us that they will do well to go worship in the nearby towns where there are Churches of Christ. We thank God for His mercies and protection over us. Travelling in the woods on foot is very dangerous but He sees us through without problems. We are praying that we can plant a church here at Awutu Ofadaa. We will be working here this month, too to see what the Lord will do. Praise God we now have 2+21+5 = 28 baptisms in January 2010! †We need more Bibles, used clothing (men and women, children clothing, girls and boys and, touch lights.

Thank God! Ike and Lee from Ghana, W. Africa



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