



“They are trees planted by streams of water; they bear fruit; their leaves do not wither; in all that they do they prosper.” Ps 1:3

VOL X – ISSUE 27

JUL – AUG 2016

The Theme for 2016: “Seek and Serve the Merciful LORD” Josh:24:15

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Are you ready to touch HIM?

How wonderful it would be to hear the words – “Daughter (son), your faith has made you well, go in peace and be healed of your disease” – Mk 5:34.

We all go through various kinds of pains in life- physical, emotional and pains in almost every area of our life. In some areas the pain may be bearable but in some it may be too difficult to bear. In this incident we have a woman who had been suffering from a haemorrhage for twelve years, spending all she had on doctors. At this time she came to the Lord, expecting to touch the hem of his garment and be healed. She didn't expect the Lord to touch her nor speak to her. She wanted to do it quietly without the knowledge of anyone. Yes, true to her faith, the miracle happened as she expected and we know the rest of the story.

Recently during the talk on the miracles in connection with the canonization of Mother Theresa I heard about an Indian politician who reportedly said – “Do you expect miracles to happen in this age?” Perhaps

this person is justified in raising such a question, maybe he didn't hear much of miracles in his life. But as a Christian do I also raise such doubts? In the above-referred scripture text we see the main ingredient attributed to the woman's healing was her **faith**. – (your faith has made you well...). Though, Jesus was the main instrument – of healing, he gives all credit to this woman's faith which brought about this miracle. Here, I would like to ponder on couple of points which are worth-studying.

1. How did this woman come to develop that type of faith in Jesus? Surely, she must have heard about the miracles of Jesus which created in her the thirst to see him and hear him first hand. This seed of faith in her grew to such a level that she was ready to follow him and touch him.

As we read “Faith comes from hearing what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ” – Rm 10:17

Question: Has my hearing of the Lord all these years led me to touch him? If no, what may be the blocks?

2. What made her trust the Lord so deeply?

Perhaps the reports she heard of Jesus strengthened her faith. But that was not all. She spent all her money on various doctors. She was left with nothing but to trust this physician who does not charge any money. May be she came to Jesus as a last resort, because she had no more money left, it was easy for her to put her 100% trust in the Lord. Perhaps she came filled with desperation and emptiness but full of FAITH.

Often it is far more easy for the poor to trust the Lord than for those who have money. Those who don't have anything, accept the gospel of the Lord relatively faster and trust him, because they don't have anything else to trust on.

Question: Do I come to the Lord in all my nothingness, emptiness yet in complete trust?

3. She had the picture of herself as a healed person even before being healed. This shows how strong her faith was. She said to herself “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well”- Mk 5:28. This is a very

powerful proclamation of faith which came from her deep trust in the Lord. In faith, she visualized herself a new person (fully healed) after touching the hem of his garment.

For this woman, her faith was the assurance of things she hoped for, it was the conviction of the things not seen – Heb 11:1

Question: Do I expect to be a new being every time I touch the Lord?

I know of a brother who missed the Holy Mass one week due to illness but was very keen to receive Holy Communion because in his heart and mind he pictured himself fit to attend the Holy Mass after receiving Holy Communion brought to his bed by the Eucharistic Minister. Rightly so, he was fit enough to go to Church that week. Truly, the Lord is more than willing to touch us, provided we show our sincere desire to be touched by him.

How blessed we are! Today we don't have to wait for our chance to touch the Lord, just as this woman had to wait for an appropriate moment to go forward and touch the clothes of Jesus. We have the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist which is the best Healer....It is the best Healing Service. We don't have to hesitate to touch this Healer, rather, He makes himself available to us in the form of the Sacred Bread. He comes into us to touch and heals us.

With the lesson that we learn from this woman who was healed by the Lord, we can approach the Table of the Lord with the deep desire :

1. *To be touched by his Word* – “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free”- Jn 8:31-32 (The Word, we hear in the first part of the Eucharist prepares us)
2. *To be healed by his touch* – Jesus, our greatest healer we could ever have, comes to our heart through Holy Communion to touch, heal and to dwell in us.

The good news for us is that our Lord is still interested in working miracles in our lives. All he wants us to have, is simple faith which he calls “mustard seed size” – Mt 17:20. With this faith we can come to touch not only the hem of his garment but his hands, feet and body. When we worthily receive him in the Holy Eucharist this desire of touching him is fulfilled.

Let us pray that we are conscious of all the above discussed, next time we approach the Lord, so that we become strong, healthy and live by the power of His Presence in us.

- *Core Team*

Is my soul satisfied?

Continued from the last issue...

C.S. Lewis quotes "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.... Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in.... God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there".

Imagine we living in a house and God wants to renovate this house – Perhaps we will understand, what He would be doing... yes He will break the unwanted existing things in the house and re-do according to His glorious and perfect plan. This process may cause inconvenience for a while. What we call the pruning process. How soon will the renovation be completed? (*2 Pet 3:8*). The essential aspects of Seeking God, is humility, discipline and determination. *Prov 8:17* says "**I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.**"

We face trials everyday of our lives, but the way we respond to them will determine our lives. NOBODY is exempted from problems and difficulties. But during those moments do we choose God to be our anchor? In the Bible, we read about Daniel's friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who, because of their faith in God, refused to worship the statue of the king of Babylon. On this account the king was furious that he ordered them to be thrown into a fiery furnace that was heated seven times hotter than usual. The furnace was so hot, it burned up the men who threw them inside. We know the rest of the incident...

GOD IS ALWAYS SEEKING TO EXPRESS HIMSELF THROUGH YOU

Now God has given to all of us three tangible ways to seek and find Him:

I. Finding God in His Creation - Our five senses experience His creation every day.

II. Finding God through His Word - Fr. Augustine, during the parish missions demonstrated how God reveals Himself to His flock, if sought diligently – God manifests Himself through His **WORD** and through the Sacraments.

III. A Third Way to Seek & Know God - Wait on the Lord and not just pray – I must confess that I often fail to wait on the lord, although I pray a lot, Praising and Thanking Him and not only asking for favours. A tremendous Spiritual gratification is experienced, if we wait on the Lord **Is 40:31** – I cannot explain, how awesome it is, when we wait on the lord – this should be experienced by one and all, if our thirst has to be quenched.

How Do We Know When We Have Come To Know God? - When we obey Him! When we not only read the Bible but also start to do what it says. When we listen to our conscience and do what it's prompting us to do. When we start to obey, we are no longer like an unruly son that defiantly does what he wants. We live knowing that we have a Father in Heaven that loves us, communicates with us and has only good things planned for us. We will KNOW when you have come to know God.

He's waiting for US - No one can tell us how we are to love our wife or husband or friend or child. Similarly, we have to find out ways to SEEK GOD. Creation, God's Word and God's Spirit are always there for us ready to help us. DO IT NOW – BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

- *Henry Sanjivi*

Testimony

I surrendered my anguish and anger, in return He blessed me with His Peace.

It was Feb 2010 when I had to go for my follow up with regard to my surgery for my femur fracture that happened a month before, after which all seemed well. When I visited the doctor he had a disturbed look that told me something was wrong. Then I was told that two of the three screws that were holding the fracture were coming off and another surgery was needed immediately. The news came to us as a shock. Friends and relatives suggested we go down to India for the treatment where we can be assured

of the right treatment. I was asked to rest and not travel as the fracture could collapse and that would be worse. This increased my anxiety. I remember keeping my eyes fixed on the Lord when I got home and I cried out to him “Lord, what should I do?” And the scripture in the form of a hymn came to me.....

- **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

I did just that, I told my mum and husband that even if the previous surgery was not done perfectly, I trust the doctor and submit him into God’s hands and God would take care of the situation. From that moment, I felt no anger towards that doctor who had made a mistake but kept praying to God to bless him and He did. The second surgery was a success because I believed God was in control. I realized my faith in his word made this possible for me. All glory to God!

- *Revathi Torres*

A write-up on Forgiveness

by Fr. Ian Doulton sdb

Much pain due to unresolved anger, unforgiveness, guilt and shame torments us as we struggle to put the past behind us! This Year of Mercy is a time for reconciliation; to heal old wounds that will bring us the much longed-for peace. Reflecting on this, a story from Second World War France comes to mind and I share it with you:

Pierre-Marie Theas was bishop of a small diocese in the south of France during the Second World War. France at the time was dominated by Nazi Germany, and the Jews there suffered the same brutal persecution that they did in Germany itself. They were rounded up like animals, herded into trucks and trains, and sent to forced-labour camps, where few of them survived. Aware of what was going on, Bishop Theas felt called to denounce this barbarous and inhuman treatment of his fellow human beings. He called on people to assist in whatever way they could in rescuing the Jews, and insisted that this message be read at every Mass in

his diocese. Not surprisingly, he was targeted by the authorities, and eventually they imprisoned him for his outspoken opposition to their murderous policies.

In prison, he found himself sharing a cell with members of the French Resistance, the underground movement devoted to bringing down the enemy occupation by whatever means it could. It must have been strange for those tough activists to find a Catholic bishop in their midst: many of them had lost their faith and were deeply suspicious of the Church and its leaders. But there was something about Bishop Theas that touched their hearts, and after some time a group of them asked him to lead them in prayer.

Since most of them could still remember the Our Father, he suggested that they recite that prayer slowly together, pausing briefly after each phrase, reflecting on its meaning and making it their own. And so they started, 'Our Father' they began, and paused briefly to let the words sink in. 'Who art in heaven...Hallowed be thy name...Thy kingdom come...' Calmly, reverently, they recited the prayer together, taking their time over each phrase, holding it in their hearts for a few moments. All went well until they came to the end of the prayer, the part about forgiveness. At that point the mood changed, and an unease came over the group. They started to stumble over the words, and their voices began to choke. 'Forgive us our trespasses,' they managed to say; but their voices faded completely at the next phrase: 'as we forgive.....' There was a long, embarrassed pause as the sentence hung in the air, unfinished,....'Germans'. Nobody dared to speak for a long time after that, for there was something strange in the air: pain, certainly, but also healing.

Smile a while - A Child's point of view:

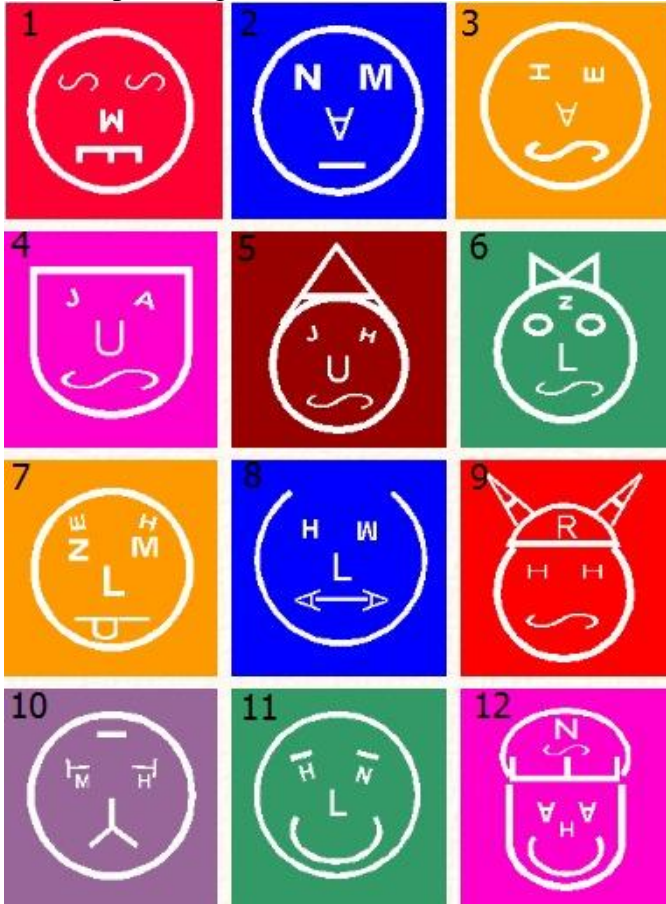
The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby was most interested and drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat, behind the wheel was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman.

The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of

Adam and Eve. But little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

BIBLE QUIZ

Find the names from the bible hidden in the following squares. All letters are in capital. Eg. No. 1 is MOSES.



Answers for the Quiz on Sts Peter and Paul:

1. b. Casting a net into the sea. 2. b. Joel 3. c. At the gate of the temple called Beautiful 4. a. Caesarea Philippi 5. a. Aeneas 6. d. Rhoda 7. b. Tarsus 8. The Gentiles 9. b. Jupiter and Mercurius 10. d. For casting out an evil spirit 11. b. Athens 12. c. Eutyclus

Hearty congratulations to Yohan Yesudas Chettiar, Susan Pinto, Renato Gomes and Juliet D'Souza for correct quiz responses. We also appreciate Ethel Fernandes and Raymond Louis for participating. We urge all brothers and sisters to participate in the quiz.

MIPC Prayer Meeting: Every Thursday at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall

General Intercessory Meeting: third Monday of every month at 8:00 pm