
Upcoming Events

Special Convention sponsored by Church of God churches in Dallas
Speaker: Rev P.I. Abraham (Kanam Achen)
August 21 - 22 (Friday & Saturday) at 7 PM
Highland Oaks Church of Christ, 10805 Kingsley Rd, Dallas 75238

PYCD Annual Conference

September 11-12 (Fri & Sat), Highland Oaks Church of Christ, Dallas
September 13 (Sunday), Eisemann Center, Richardson

Weekly Schedule

Fri, Aug 14th (Mesquite) Fasting Prayer @ Parsonage (10 AM)

Fri, Aug 14th (Metro) PYCD Stage Competitions @ Metro (6:30 PM)

Sat, Aug 15th (Metro) PYCD Stage Competitions @ Metro (9 AM)

Sun, Aug 16th (Garland) PYCD Junior Choir and Group Song Competitions
IPC Hebron, 1751 Wall St, Garland 75041

Prayer for the Nations: Malawi (Africa)*

- Malawi is a landlocked country in central Africa.
- From 1964 to 1994 Malawi was ruled by one of the world's longest lasting dictatorships. Anyone opposed to the regime faced torture or imprisonment. It is estimated that some 250,000 people disappeared or were murdered during his reign.
- Malawi is heavily dependent on international aid to avoid famine. 80% of the population live in poverty, surviving on less than 1 US dollar a day.
- Catholic and Protestant leaders spoke out against the dictatorship of Banda - their courage played a vital part in bringing about democratic change.
- The people in Malawi are some of the most spiritually open in central Africa.
- The spread of AIDS in Malawi has reduced life expectancy to 43 and threatens to destroy families and villages. Pray that churches can be equipped to cope with the crisis.
- There is a huge demand for Bibles for locals in Malawi and for refugees from Mozambique, but there is not enough money to meet the need.
- Pray that Christians can share the gospel with the growing Islamic population in Malawi.

* http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country.php?country_id=85



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*Celebrating the Presence of God
Demonstrating the Love of God
Communicating the Word of God
Educating the People of God*

August 9, 2009

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Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. (Ps 86:4,5)

Welcome

“Our Negative experiences are God’s opportunities”

Welcome and Praise the Lord. We have great pleasure in welcoming you all to this day of praise and worship in the house of the Lord.

Have we ever thought why we have many negative experiences? Often we think about the same and wonder what went wrong. Who is to be blamed? Why it happens to me alone? What causes all these negative experiences? Have we ever thought of thinking through the negative experience from God’s perspective? Could these be opportunities that God has been bestowing for some valuable lessons of life.

I am reminded of a story in the Bible where one man’s negative experiences turns out to be a window of opportunity to meet his Creator. Jacob was leading a blessed life at his father in law Laban’s house for almost 20 years and became very wealthy. We are familiar with the circumstances of his arrival there and the insurmountable challenges that he faced while there. Everything changed when he noticed that his father in law’s attitude toward him has changed. It was the most dreadful of experiences that any one of us can have when we are dependent on somebody and their attitude towards us change. Sometimes the most negative experience we face is from people that we think love us and will stand up for us. How do we react to the situation?

Jacob had to make a choice and make it fast. He decided to leave the place of his temporary shelter and head back home where he knows that his brother is his bitter rival. Jacob’s situation is like caught between the devil and the sea. But then God appeared to him and said that he must take this journey because this is the opportunity for him to meet God in a very personal level. He embarked on a journey with so much confusion and turmoil and yet he had the beautiful experience of river Jabokk. He had his own Peniel- an encounter with the living God, the God of his fathers and now in a very special way his own God. He confronted his own fears and failures and now he is left all alone with God and he grapples with God. His desperation is evident in his pleading. I will not leave you until you bless me. What good is all my experiences if I do not have the ultimate experience of meeting my God. Have we turned desperate in our negative experiences? Then it is time for us to have a Peniel experience- an encounter which will guide us through the next phase of our lives.

Friends leave your negative experience in the hands of God and he can turn that it into a beautiful opportunity of knowing and worshipping Him as the Lord of your life. Next time, when you have a bad experience see the brighter side of things and you may have your own Peniel- an encounter with God which can change the course of your life. May the Lord bless us for the same.

In Christ Alone,
Pastor Satish Kumar

Sermon Notes