Sober Reflections for Year 2014

Introduction

Time moves on relentlessly and as someone said, Time and Tide Waits for no Man. We will come to the end of yet another year in 2014 in 3 days time. It is time for serious contemplation of our lives before the Lord. I am soberly reminded of Amos 4:12 which says, ‘Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.’

Here are some sobering questions to ponder and consider as we appreciate the Word, the will and the work of the Lord vis a vis our lives over this year.

1. Have I conscientiously honoured and put the Lord first in my life this year?
2. Have I been diligent to keep away from sin and to confess and repent of them (if there is any) and to watch over my soul by the strength of the Lord?
3. Have I been consistent in my daily quiet time and prayers with the Lord?
4. Have I deepened in the fear and the knowledge of God in the meditation of His Holy Word and through the means of grace?
5. Have I obeyed and kept to the commands of the Lord as the Spirit of God prompts me or have I quenched the Spirit?
6. Have I done my best to nurture and develop the fruit of the Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance (Galatians 5: 22-23) in my life?
7. Have I been disciplined to read, study, meditate, apply and memorise God's Word systematically and regularly?
8. Have I been caring and concerned for the spiritual well-being of my children and the brethren of the church?
9. Have I made a conscious effort to minister to the believers, visitors, children in our midst and be an encouragement, example or comfort to them?
10. Have I used my God-given resources and my body to serve and glorify God and to edify and bless others?
11. Have I employed my time judiciously for eternity, being mindful that I am to redeem the time for my days on earth are limited?
12. Have I been used of the Lord to be a channel of blessing to others in any way I possibly can?
13. Does my life reflect good fidelity and faithful stewardship in all things entrusted to me?
14. Am I constantly expectant and looking for the soon coming of the Lord, and watching and working while waiting for the Master's imminent return?
15. Have I a burden for souls and do I witness for the Lord in sharing the gospel with my unsaved friends and loved ones?
16. Have I read any edifying Christian book to build up my self spiritually in the Lord?
17. Have I been coming faithfully and on time in worshipping God on the Sabbath in spirit and in truth in the beauty of holiness?
18. Have I kept the Sabbath holy and honour Him on His Holy Day or have I desecrated it with worldly activities, work and excessive sleep?
19. Have I been caught up with worldly cares, pleasure and the deceitfulness of riches and neglected God in prayer and faithful service?
20. Have I obeyed the will of the Lord and be concerned for souls and to advance His kingdom by inviting someone to church or to give out a tract as the Lord leads us?
21. Do I come for the Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and intercede from the brethren?

Conclusion

Psalm 139:23-24 says, ‘Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.’ Such soul-searching enquiries urgently demand our immediate prayerful attention. Let us confess and repent of our sins if we have fallen short in one area or another. Our failings should stir our hearts to greater action. Get right with God and reach out to our fellow men, especially our family or the brethren in the Lord.

Take some time to humbly and fervently seek the Lord and consider what action is needed for year 2015. Ask the Lord for wisdom and strength to work on it, determine in our hearts to truly end the year with a clear conscience before God and men.

Let us continue steadfast in the work of the Lord in the last days till He comes. Paul in Colossians 1:28 says (which is the MBPC motto), ‘Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.’

Do not deprive and forfeit yourselves of spiritual blessings found in sound edifying Christian Sabbath worship, service, fellowship. God will reward and spiritually enrich our lives as we seek to put Him first (Colossians 3:1) and not neglect the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:24, 25) for the purpose of Sabbath worship and Christian fellowship.

Let us resolve to prepare our hearts to start afresh this coming New Year in 2015! Psalm 90:12 says, ‘So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.’

Let us make amends if necessary and honour, fear and love the Lord, and serve Him with greater zest and devotion in the new year till He comes.

Jack Sin

+++++++++++++
Thank God for a fruitful 2 day mission trip to minister at Evangel BP Church Malaysia with Calvin Chan and Fong Jing Heng. We had a fruitful meeting with the YF on *Victorious Christian Living* on a Saturday night and worship service chaired by Elder Dr Lim Yew Cheng in the new premises at Damansara followed by a seminar on Errors and Dangers of the Prosperity Gospel. The new sanctuary can house about 150 worshippers and have rooms for Sunday School, office, fellowship and the theological training of the lay people by the will of God. Pray for the spiritual growth and vitality of Evangel BP Church as they reach out to save souls and to build up the flock in the fear of God.
Australian Overseas Students Orientation Meeting 2015

Every year a good number of our students/families migrate to Australia for studies, work or retirement. Temptations and challenges abound. Students and migrants need good Christian friends and spiritual advisors too for their spiritual wellbeing. Our best help is to offer them a place to worship with likeminded brethren, a place where they can spiritually feel at home, away from home. We understand that there will be much uncertainty and fear with any re-location. As such, we would like to organize an Orientation/Fellowship Meeting to help ease any worry and answer any question for those who are coming over to Australia.

Please note there will be an Australian Orientation Programme organised by Ebenezer BP Church (EBPC) based in Melbourne for all students who are planning to study in Australian cities like Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane or Melbourne. Rev Jack Sin, who recently returned from EBPC will share and give us the latest
update on Churches and Youth ministries in Australia. Some students back here on their school break will share their testimonies and many helpful tips that will be beneficial to both parents and students. There will be also an introduction of the various BPCs in Australia and some meaningful interaction with refreshments. Parents of students are also welcome.

Details of the meeting are as follows:

Venue: Maranatha BP Church
Date : 17 January 2015 (Sat)
Time : 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Those who are interested to come, please inform Pastor Jack by 10 January 2015.

++++++++++

Email from Myanmar

By God’s grace, we had four days camp in Myauh-Chhaung village, where more than 100 villagers attended. God brought 13 new believers who profess their faith in Jesus, and were baptized by me. I was so much thankful to the Lord for His guidance. In fact one of our local missionary has been working very hard for this village, and finally he can organized to have such camp. We were firstly to conduct this camp to another village where there is no single Christians yet, but just before we get there, some problem arose against Christian activities in this very village and our missionary quickly move the programme to Myauh-Chhaung village (about 20 villagers are already Christians), though some of the village men are not happy to see Christians' teaching comes into their village, God gave us wonderful four days of sharing Gospel to the villagers.

Please do pray with us that those newly professed their faith in Christ may be stand firm in the midst those villagers who protest Christian faith.

Yes, It is correct Kyat 425,000 (S$550) for the printing of the Gospel tract written by Dr Jack. This tract will be used in Yangon, as well as to such remote area in Myanmar.
By the way, our Orphanage home accepted one baby, whose father was killed by a snake, and the mother died after she delivered that baby. The hospital contacted Rev Pual Pelan and requested to take care of the baby boy. The baby was brought to our Home on the day he was born, before I went to Rakhine State he was sick severely, but now he is in good health. We thank the Lord for this, his parents are Buddhists.

Rev Salai Tha Luai  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Myanmar

++++++++++
Theme for the Quarter:

*Finishing the Final Lap of Life*

(Studies on the book of 2 Timothy)

Rev Nathan

speaks on

*Sacred Admonitions to all Saints* (Jude 20-25)

[End of MM]