

Seed For Living

BRO. MANUEL MINISTRIES MONTHLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2009



THE ARMOUR OF GOD

God's angels and Satan's demons are constantly battling against each other for human souls in the unseen realm. Since it is ultimately our souls at stake, we must protect ourselves by wearing the spiritual armour of God.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground. (Ephesians 6:12-13)

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist. (Eph 6:14a)

You need to wear the belt of truth around your waist. And once you wear the belt of truth, there should be no compromise. The truth has to be complete...it must be comprehensive. Speak nothing but the truth. Never compromise; instead, stand for God—always!

With the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. (Eph 6:14b-15)

There is no such thing as a mortal sin or venial sin. Sin is sin, whether big or small. So avoid all those places, friends and occasions that cause you to sin. You must not allow the devil to touch your heart. He is waiting to send fiery darts against you; that is why the breastplate of righteousness is important.

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (Eph 6:16)

God can provide solutions to a problem beyond what you imagined possible. All you need to do is walk by faith and not by sight. This is not blind faith. It is based on trust. God simply wants us to trust His integrity, His compassion, love, wisdom and righteousness.

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:17)

Satan's favourite weapons against God's chosen people are discouragement and doubt. Since he cannot touch our souls, he attacks our minds. That is why we must never take off the helmet of salvation, because an assured hope of our final deliverance is vital to our victory.

The sword of the Spirit is the word of God (the Bible). We need the Spirit's help to open our eyes, to teach us about our God, and keep us from being deceived by Satan. The Spirit and the word go together. During the temptation of Jesus in the desert, Satan tried to quote Scripture. But Jesus countered Scripture with Scripture. Jesus knew the word very well, and when temptation came, his sword was sharp and ready—both to defend and attack.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. (Eph 6:18)

Learn to pray in the spirit, because the devil cannot understand what you are saying. The language of the spirit may be incomprehensible to man, but God understands it quite well. It will give you the strength to overcome your weaknesses.

– Bro. Manuel Mergulhao



For more on this teaching Audio CDs are available

The Ten Commandments

WHOM WILL YOU SERVE?

YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF AN IDOL

In today's world, people fancy all kinds of things...many also look up to film or sports personalities. These people, or things, then become their idols. Many people idolise money. Children idolise parents; businessmen idolise their business; husbands idolise their wives and vice versa. In retrospect, the earthly nature of human beings itself becomes an idol.

Let us see what Scripture has to say about these things. The book of Colossians says (in Chapter 3; Verse 2 onwards), *"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."*

When God gave Moses the Second Commandment, God knew that in the coming days people would worship idols that are dead and not living, putting their trust in images made of gold and so many manmade

things by which the devil gains an upper hand on humans who were created by God.

Since the devil cannot come against God, he comes against human beings, pushing them towards the things of this world and making them his slaves.

The Book of Genesis says the devil instigated Cain against his own brother, Abel. Genesis Chapter 4:7 says: *"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."*

Let us, therefore, not become slave to sin; instead, let us become slaves to righteousness. Let us not idolise anything, or make God an idol, thinking that there are gods of water, sea, stars, moon, etc.

God is the creator of all things and there is only one God in heaven, on earth, and under earth. And His name is Yahweh. The Bible says people are dying because of lack of knowledge. Finally, brothers and sisters in Christ, let the word of God richly dwell in you (*Colossians 3:16*). Amen.

— Editorial Desk

Events

BMM GOA OUTREACH



Goa - The Land of the S(o)n

Bro. Manuel Ministries recently organized an Outreach in the Goan city of Margao. The Lord displayed His power through the Word, touching lives, especially families, and bringing them closer to Christ.

Bro. Manuel spoke about being one in Christ, turning our hearts to Him, and being more responsible in our commitments to God and each other. The inundation of the Holy Spirit, Holy Laughter and the Word followed, changing the lives of all who attended.

"I have experienced the goodness of Christ and so should everyone else," said Aurita, a resident of Goa. "I urge all to come and be a part of the BMM outreaches because it can make a difference in your life and your family," she added.

In all, the GOA OUTREACH was a journey never to be forgotten. This article is not even a gist of what happened. You've got to be there to experience it...so hope to see you for the next outreach. God bless and Jesus loves you.



“Two Designs – Leah & Rachel”

Conflict is often seen between pairs in the Bible (e.g. Cain and Abel, Esau and Jacob, David and Goliath) with one of them ending as the victor. The victor is the one who has God's favour often against all odds. In most cases, the one having God's favour is the youngest, or the least regarded or has been unjustly treated.

Among women, the pairs of winners and losers are Sarah and Hagar, Ruth and Orpah, Esther and Vashti, and Rachel and Leah. The story of Rachel and Leah (Genesis 29 to 35) highlights the birth of their children, which is the beginnings of the twelve tribes of Israel and there is conflict between Leah and Rachel.

Rachel certainly looked "most likely to succeed." Her beauty was legendary, while Leah "had soft eyes" (*Gen 29:17*). Jacob met Rachel at a well and it was love at first sight! He was asked to work seven years to earn her hand in marriage. But her father tricked Jacob into marrying Leah first and defended himself by quoting the custom of 'first born first'. Leah won Round One. Her weak eyesight worked in her favour to be veiled from the prospective groom's sight, and perhaps reminded him of the trick he played on his blind father to gain a blessing in the place of his older brother, Esau. Jacob had to serve seven more years to get Rachel!

"And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb; but Rachel was barren." (*Genesis 29-31*)

In those days, bringing forth sons was the primary purpose of a woman. Though you may be despised and have troubles, God will hearken to you at your lowest time. Leah's fourth son marked a transition, both in her relationship to Jacob and to God – 'Judah' was named because "this time I will praise the Lord" (*Gen 29:35*). It seems that winning her husband's affection eventually became secondary to her own gratitude to God for the gift of motherhood. The love of a husband is an important thing, but the absence of it is not the end of the world, when praise fills our hearts and lips, there is no other thing – even a husband – that can bring contentment like the Spirit of God.

Leah signifies God's design for your life.

Rachel signifies your design for your life.

Our own plans and dreams are more appealing to us. We actually work for them, and there is a war that goes on!

Jacob only came around Leah when he had to, like the way we treat the Spirit of God! Jesus was despised and rejected by men. The fruitful one is the Spirit of the Living God.

We too seem to be married to two: Leah, i.e., God's plan in our life; and Rachel, our plan for our life. And we have all kinds of trouble! We are supposed to be married to the Lord, but we also are married to this world and self.

Over the years, Jacob had a change of heart about Leah. God had plans for Jacob, and Jacob had his own plans. The devil has only one plan for you. John 10:10 says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and to destroy..."

When we surrender our plans (Rachel) to the will and plan of God, a change occurs. Genesis 30:22 says, "And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb."

Yet, even after letting the Lord's grace to come in like a flood, we still fall! An incident is recorded later on where Rachel takes her father's gods. She had other gods and other plans, displaying her carnality.

Ironically, Rachel died on the way to Bethlehem, the same place where Jesus the King of Kings was born. Jacob was on the way back to where he started with God. It is difficult to leave behind the one you have always loved. Jacob's focus on his own plans died there also. Our own plans have to die too if we want to get close to God. The fruitful one (Leah, or the plan of God) is with you all the time. And God is still there, though He is the One you hated and quenched so many times, and told, "Leave me alone. I will come to you when I feel like it! Right now, I'm busy!"

Thank God, He never leaves us.

Leah, the hated one, was buried beside her husband, which was a great honour. Jacob finally made Heaven his home, not because of a natural Leah, but because he finally understood what God wanted for him. God took away the most precious thing from Jacob, to show him the more precious thing that HE had for him. Do you sometimes feel that God has taken away what was so precious to you? Believe me, He has something more precious than that for you!! The last shall be first, and the first shall be last. The first thing that you had on your mind was your will, not God's will. But your will has got to come last!!

When all of our desires perish, then God's perfect will can be fulfilled in us, and we can walk exactly like Jesus! John 3:30 says, "He must increase, but I must decrease." It is time for us to ask God to set us free from our own plans, so that we are not buried with them!

May God's Plan Remain For you.

– Sister Lynette Mergulhao



Work out the Verse

There's a Bible verse in each line. Can you find it?

1. listentoyourfatherwhogaveyoulifeanddonotdespiseyourmotherwhensheisold
2. hewhowalkswiththewisegrowswisebutacompanionoffoolssuffersharm
3. yourwordisalamp tomyfeetandalight to my path

KEY TO PROSPERITY

With the little you have, you can do much

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is so good to write about God's blessings, goodness and kindness month after month, day after day. Most of us know about God's blessings. God says, "I will supply all your needs. I have everything worked out. Trust me to do it."

However, despite knowing this, we do not trust God. Most of us, the beloved in Christ, think blessings are synonymous with money. No! That is not true. Blessing means peace, joy, happiness and money. In this world, there are so many people who have wealth and the luxuries money can buy, but no peace, no Jesus.

In the Book of Mark, a rich man asks Jesus: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Please read Mark 10:17 onwards). Jesus told the rich man, "Go sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Yes, my brothers and sisters, if you don't have Jesus in your life, in your business and in every aspect of your life, you don't have much going for you. That's why despite coming for the fellowship meetings and the

retreats, despite making our personal prayer, many of us are still waiting for their wishes to be fulfilled. And when they don't receive what they asked for, they wonder if God's word is true.

The problem is not with God's word, but with us. He has already accomplished what we have requested, but we have not been whole-heartedly expecting what we asked for. We are not acting as if we have it; therefore, God cannot give it. It is we who are holding Him up. "The Lord bestows favour and honour; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless." (Psalm 84:11).

When I was in Israel, I was shown a mustard tree. It was massive. Then I saw a mustard seed. It is hard to imagine that such an immense tree can spring from such a tiny seed. To paraphrase Jesus, you don't need a lot of faith; just a little will move mountains. And the little you have can achieve much. But you aren't using it.

God Bless You.

— Editorial Desk

Youth Retreat at



Watch Out, Dr. D

Adrenaline pumping, hearts thumping, voices blaring, feet stomping, hands waving, groovy moves and mighty revival would be the best way to describe the victorious BMM youth at the Retreat held in Khandala from October 31 to November 2, 2009.

Indeed, the three-day Retreat felt like an oasis in a desert for our youth, who were desperate to break free in Christ. The boys and girls at BMM were refuelled with crazy joy and an insane thirst to know more about their only true pal, Yeshu!!!

They jammed up the evenings with powerful praise and deep worship. Bro. Manuel and the elders enlivened the U'th with the much required and relevant Word, which satisfied their hungry spirits, spiking them with

righteous rebellion against Dr. D (aka, Da Devil). With every joint renewed and a better understanding of their call, our warriors are now ready to rumble!!!!

Watch out, Satan! Our youth have triumphed yet again!!

Potential

(Part-1)

Every human being comes to this world pregnant with potential. Potential is the capacity embedded in man. Capability is the ability to exhibit, exploit or use this capacity. A man may have capacity, but not capability. Such a man cannot be a good leader. For example, a man may be highly qualified and learned. This means he has capacity. But if is unable to use his talents, it means he is not capable. No one comes to this earth empty. Everyone comes with some potential or the other. A seed has the potential to become a tree. And a tree has the potential to become a forest. So each one of us has much more than was evident at birth.

The fact that you were born is evidence that you are born for a purpose. What I am is God's gift to me; what I become is my gift to God. No matter what you give, what you have achieved, or what you have accomplished, there is still so much inside you that needs to be released. And only you can release it.

Even God, when He created the first man, wanted his (the man's) potential to be exploited and released. Man, whom God had created, was an adult with 100% unreleased potential, full of capabilities, talents and gifts. All his senses, powers – both physical and spiritual – were fully developed. But someone had to release these hidden talents. So God created the situation as it is recorded in Genesis 2:15,19-20: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field."

'Work it and take care of it': An assignment given by God to explore and exploit man's potential. God wanted man to be capable of using his capacity. Many of us have the capacity, but when we don't use it, our capacity goes in vain. The parable of talents in Matthew 25:14-30 tells us that even Jesus wants us to use our talents to the fullest potential. Each one of us is born with talents. When we use them, the Lord's anointing rests upon it and we grow in faith and prosper in whatever we do. The more we use our talents for the Lord's glory, the more our talents get multiplied. But when we do not use our talents, we become like the man who buried his talent in the ground. Then whatever is left with us is also taken away from us and given to the one who uses his talent to the fullest potential. The same principle applies to our work in the ministry. If we don't use our talents, the anointing just



shifts and is given to the person who uses his talent and works fervently for the Lord.

A person can only use his capacity to the fullest extent when he takes responsibility. The Garden of Eden had everything. It was full of trees, flowers, fruits, birds and animals. It was highly automated. Genesis 2:10: 'A river watering the garden flowed from Eden...' The garden was even automatically watered. But what was Adam's responsibility in this garden, which was self sufficient with everything? He had to work it and take care of it. He also had to follow God's instruction. Gen 2:16: 'And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

That means God wanted this man to use his muscles to work the ground; creativity to name the livestock, birds & beasts; brains to follow God's instruction; imagination to beautify the garden and emotions to take care of the trees, birds and animals.

God thus put Adam in a situation wherein all his capacities were explored. In the same way, God creates situations in our life so that our potential is exploited and we can rely on Him and move to a higher level of faith; from one glory to another.

The degree of your potential can only be understood when you allow it to be used beyond your understanding. Simply put, you should give your potential a chance to do something you have never done. The unfulfilled dreams and potential lie buried in the graves as the dead never gave their potential a chance when alive. Death is not a tragedy, but what gets buried along with you is surely the greatest tragedy.

To be continued...

– Editorial Desk



1. Listen to your father who gave you life and do not despise your mother when she is old. (*Proverbs 23:22*)
2. He who walks with the wise grows wise but a companion of fools suffers harm. (*Proverbs 13:20*)
3. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (*Psalms 119:105*)

Testimonies

Testimonies



I started my business about six months ago after consulting Bro. Manuel. Today, my business is doing quite well. We are already managing eight hotels. My peers are really surprised and shocked. But I know that all this has been possible only because of God. I have been sowing regularly. In fact, I sowed even before I got my first payment. I was very sure I would get that amount. God has blessed me immensely. I just want to thank Him and the ministry for everything.

- Deleyse Braganza



During Passover, Bro. Manuel asked people to close their fists and raise it to God. In one hand, hold whatever you want to offer, and in the other hand what you want from God. Back then, I offered God more than I usually do as a partner. In fact, my offering almost emptied my bank account. In return, I asked God for a second child. I imagined that I was holding a baby in my hand, and at that very moment Bro. Manuel spoke that there is someone conceiving. Today, by the grace of God, I am pregnant. When I checked the date of conception, it was the same day. When Bro. Manuel said hold your need in your hand and show it to God. I want to thank God for everything He has done for me. I believe I have been blessed only because of my sowing.

- Flavie Periera



A couple of months ago, I was admitted to the hospital in serious condition. My lungs had almost failed. My kidneys had stopped functioning. And even my asthma was getting worse. Doctors had given up hope. Someone knew about this ministry and helped me to get in touch with Bro. Manuel, who prayed over me. The very next day itself, I made a complete recovery.

- Valentine Fernandes



I was suffering from asthma and had to use a spray regularly. In fact, I even came for the retreat with the spray. After the first day, I was surprised when instead of getting healed my problem became worse. I was not suppose to come for the second day, but my mother forced me to come. As Bro. Manuel was leading the praise and worship, I suddenly felt the power of God. I started feeling very fresh. I am healed. I don't need the spray anymore.

- Arpita Tak



I was diagnosed with tuberculosis. The doctors said there were holes in my lungs. I was suffering for almost a year. I came to the ministry a month ago after someone told me about the prayer meetings. When I went to the doctor recently for a check-up, he said the tuberculosis has vanished completely.

- Renuka Rathod

FREE Retreat
DEC 11-12, 2009

Thane Outreach
DEC 7, 2009

GOA OUTREACH
DEC 27-29, 2009

Wednesday
Indian Education Society (I.E.S.),
Manik Sabha Griha,
Opp Lilavati Hospital,
Bandra (W), Mumbai-50, India.
Time - 5:30 pm

Friday
Green Village Resorts,
Opp Akashvani Kendra,
Marve Road, Malad (W),
Mumbai-64, India.
Time - 6:00 pm



Live in the Spirit

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