



Kérugma Newsletter

www.kerugma.org.za

11 November 2009

Dear Kérugma Prayer Partner,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the 11th month of the year. Everything is happening just so fast!

It is not only in our personal lives that we are heading forward at top gear. The regular news Bulletins remind us every day that the Lord Jesus Christ may come at any moment now to fetch His bride.

World leaders are working very hard to reach agreements to ensure peace, while peace is exactly that one thing that seems to be unattainable. It is in times like these that the Word exhorts us to encourage each other with the assurance that the coming of the Lord is very near. We should not lose courage now, but should be watching and working while we still can.

What is making things even more difficult for us is the fact that many Christian leaders are less inclined to teach about the secret of real inner spiritual strength to overcome self, Satan and the World. We hear a lot of motivational speeches and that we have a loving, heavenly Father Who is especially interested in making us successful and happy. Unfortunately, that is just half the truth. Jesus warned us not to be complacent.

He said, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

*To the Thessalonians Paul wrote: "Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us... Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to send Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that **we are appointed to this.***

For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain"
(1 Thess. 2:18-3:5).



Oppression, difficulties, struggles, opposition, all of that is part of the Christian's daily life. Paul says that it is our appointed lot. He also said: *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him ..."* (Phil. 2:5-9).

If we strive towards a comfortable, trouble free life now, avoiding all opposition, we will definitely move outside the perfect will of our heavenly Father. In Mark 8:35 the Lord Jesus told his disciples that whoever is willing to lose his life for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, will save it, but whoever wants to save his life (in other words doing everything possible to have a comfortable life) will lose life eternal.

The Bible defines prosperity differently from what we usually understand it to be. Paul described himself as *"sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things"* (2 Cor. 6:10). In Genesis 24 we read about the servant of Abraham who had to look for a wife for Isaac. When he met Rebecca, he wondered if she was the one chosen by the Lord. The Bible says, *"And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not"* (Gen. 24:21). The definition of the Bible for prosperity is when the goal of God is being achieved.

That is what we as Christians should strive to do: in spite of opposition, difficulties and struggles, to keep on doing what we have been called to do. And that so that God can achieve the goal that He had planned for our lives.

In Genesis 39:2 we read that Joseph was a *successful and prosperous man*. Even though he had been a slave and far away from his parents and own people. In Genesis 39: 23 we read that the Lord was with Joseph and made whatever he did to prosper in spite of the fact that he was in jail. The Word of God only wants to tell us that God achieved his goal with Joseph's life at that stage.

That is what we here at Kerugma strive to do. We want God to achieve his goal with this ministry in spite of struggles and opposition. We would like to encourage you with these words: *"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33).



We would like to bring you up to date with what has happened this past year here at Kerugma. Those of you, who have received our e-mail letters, are more or less up to date, because we have been sending e-newsletters from time to time. Different things have developed in the past year that are really exciting!

Kerugma started to broadcast:

The most exciting news is that we have become involved with a community TV station here in Cape Town, called Cape Town TV (CTV). They have been on air for a little more than a year now. As they have to generate their own funds, they asked us to broadcast our DVDs for free, but with our contact details at the end of the program. We see this as a door that the Lord has opened, but do not know for how long. According to our understanding, other religious groups are paying them to broadcast their stuff. We foresee that one of these days everybody will have to pay them to have their programs broadcast. Although these broadcasts do not generate many DVD sales, people quite often phone to tell us how much it meant to them. Even one of the drivers who delivered a parcel to our home told us that he saw one of our programs while the rest of his family was in church. In this way people are being reached who would not be reached in any other way.

We would really appreciate it if you will pray for us to be given wisdom in our involvement with CTV. Also that the Lord will provide the necessary funds for us to be able to stay involved.

As far as broadcasting is concerned, we have another request: about two years ago the religious affairs department of the SABC contacted us. We had to present our DVDs to a panel. They looked at a few extracts and undertook to broadcast the whole series "Exploring the Lands of the Bible" by Dr. Randall Smith. (All the DVDs by Dr. Randall Smith like Ps 23, HOW JESUS TAUGHT, THE WILDERNESS TABERNACLE, etc. that were distributed as the Word on Location series, are now being distributed as "Exploring the Lands of the Bible".) With the recent turmoil in the SABC, nothing came of that undertaking. We are still praying that the Lord will open the door because that is still the most effective way to reach people. Will you please pray with us that the Lord will open that door to us so that as many people as possible may be reached. We believe that there is still another way that you, our supporters can help with this. We know that broadcasters generally do not take notice of complaints about programs. They definitely take notice of positive requests, because that gives them an indication of what the public want. Therefore we would really like you to write a letter to the SABC to ask them to broadcast the series "Exploring the Lands of the Bible" by Kerugma Productions. You can say that at



least 70% of the population of South Africa would appreciate programs like that. The best will be to say that you have seen some of the DVDs in the series, and that you would like to see the whole series broadcast. The postal address of the SABC is:

SABC 3
Program Coordinator
Private Bag X41
Auckland Park
2006

You can also call them at: Tel: 011 714 5904 or you can write them a short letter on their website at www.sabc3.co.za/contact or directly to: communication@sabc3.co.za

More exciting News:

At the end of this year Kerugma Productions will have been a full time ministry for twelve years. In one of our first newsletters, we mentioned as an example that a full scale tabernacle can be built to show how the priests performed the sacrifices in Old Testament times. We wanted to use that to demonstrate how the understanding of the different sacrifices in Leviticus 1-6 explains the different aspects of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary. After twelve years we begin to see how the Lord is putting all the pieces of the puzzle together. We could not film the sacrifices as such, but that first newsletter led to the series on "The Wilderness Tabernacle" being made. That grew into the "Exploring the Lands of the Bible" project with Dr. Smith that we are busy with at the moment. The good news is that, God willing, the Tabernacle series will be available in bookstores from December. Maranatha Christian Publishing recently undertook to distribute the DVDs by Dr. Randall Smith in stores country wide. Praise the Lord with us! Many times we had wondered if more people than those on our mailing list would ever see these DVDs. Many times it seemed like just a dream, but once again we realize that our heavenly Father never let go of His plans. Will you please pray with us for very effective distribution of these DVDs; that every person who needs a DVD will get one.

Will you also please pray for us for the rest of the project. Maranatha wants to distribute the whole series. That entails all the DVDs of places in Israel not yet completed, as well as the missionary journeys of Paul and other lands of the Bible that still need to be filmed and edited. It will take quite a number of years and a lot of money to complete all of this. The Lord helped us in the past and we trust Him for the future.



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5

We really want to ask you to pray for us for wisdom and for the finances. If it was not for you, the children of the Lord who faithfully and obediently contributed towards this project all these years, we would not have been able to do it. Although the distribution in the bookshops may help financially in the long run, producers like Kerugma only receive a small percentage of the sales. Therefore we rely on your prayers.

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