

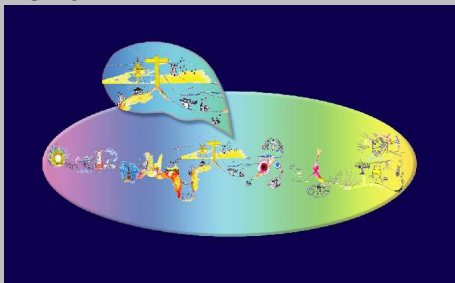
平成18年 10月 月報

フルダ・ミニストリー

一主に在る  
とこしえの集い

OCTOBER 2006

NO 132



## Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testaments) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

*All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!*

[www.huldahministry.com](http://www.huldahministry.com)  
information@huldahministry.com



HULDAH MINISTRY

# LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

## 【 DOING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS 】

*“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.  
“Everything is meaningless!”*

*Not only was the Teacher wise, but also he imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.*

*The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails –given by one Shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.*

*Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.*

*Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.* ECCLESIASTES 12:8-14.

*The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:*

*for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young –let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance –for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.*

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

PROVERBS 1:1-7.

*My son, If you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives*

*wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair –every good path. For wisdom enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.*      **PROVERBS 2:1-11.**

Solomon wrote three books in the Hebrew Bible: Song of Songs, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Probably he wrote them in this order as he grew older. Solomon was the son of King David and was gifted with more wisdom and discernment of heart than anyone else in his time. Israel reached her greatest geological extent and prosperity under his reign and it was the most “peaceful” period in the entire kingdom of Israel, exactly as his name meant. His wealth and wisdom were widely known to every kingdom and tribe. Men came to hear of his wisdom from all over the East, Africa, and Arabia. 1Kings 5:32 onwards describes Solomon in the following way: *‘He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He described plants life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.’* Having been given such abundance and splendour in every area of his life, however, he gradually declined spiritually away from the true God while speedily degenerating into pagan idle gods such as Ashtoreth and Milcom, which were brought in by his pagan wives. His entering into political marriages with the daughters of heathen kings led Solomon into irreversible depravity. After disappointment and lamentation as a result of his search of happiness *‘under the sun,’* which is a very characteristic expression in the book of Ecclesiastes, repeated 29 times and refers to “this present world”, Solomon came to the conclusion that what this world could offer to man apart from God was very limited. Though he uttered *‘Everything is meaningless!’* he realised that it was not the last word and that there was something far more significant beyond the emptiness that this world could ultimately give and finally he found man’s real goal. After pursuing his ways; one thing after another and labouring as if he could master the world, with most of his life already behind him, his conclusion is that life without God is pointless and meaningless. Man should know his limitations and should keep God’s commandments with fear and reverence for Him. Spirit Filled Life Bible comprehensively comments on these verses from Ecclesiastes that were quoted at the beginning, in the following way. *‘Although the increase of books and human knowledge will never cease, human wisdom yields values that are limited and transitory and thus bring weariness. By contrast, reverence for God and the obedience that is its natural outgrowth are literally **man’s all**, a term that stands on sharp contrast to the things of this world that are found to be “vanity.” Those things will pass away but one’s relationship with God will stand all the time when He judges the Earth. Was, then, the Preacher’s quest futile? By no means. It showed clearly where one’s priorities should lie: not in the things of this life, but in God.’ **Do not attempt** to substitute scholarship for obedience. **Cultivate** the fear of the Lord.’*

The book of Proverbs deals with countless topics of human life; wisdom, sin, security, happiness, goodness, wealth, temptation, adultery, perversion, pride, humility, justice, folly, friendship, idleness, poverty, family life, pleasure, revenge, strife, gluttony, drunkenness, success. The last seven verses of Ecclesiastes explored above consequently lead the reader to the collection of the wise sayings in Proverbs, whose main theme is *‘The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.’* **Both acquiring** wisdom and discipline, and **doing** what is right and just and fair alone produce a well-rounded character of God. Without practising what you learnt you would not taste the fruit of them. In the first four verses the most frequently appearing, nine significant words in the whole book of Proverbs are all-together presented: **Wisdom, Discipline,**

***Insight, Right, Just, Fair, Prudence, Knowledge, and Discretion.*** A commentator, H.A. Ironside analyses each word which is worth exploring here. ***Wisdom*** is skilfulness and refers to the ability to use knowledge correctly. ***Discipline*** (Instruction) means to teach by discipline and it is also translated “chastening”. Words of ***Insight*** (Understanding) convey the idea of learning through the unhappy experiences of others, or of oneself. ***Right*** (Justice) refers to conduct and might be rendered ‘right behaviour’ or ‘righteousness.’ ***Just*** (Judgment) is equivalent to ‘decisions,’ and it is the ability to ‘try the things that differ.’ ***Fair*** (Equity) refers to principles, rather than conduct and it is uprightness, or moral integrity. ***Prudence*** (Subtlety) is ‘craftiness’ in the original, and it conveys the ability to detect that in others. According to Ironside, when Christ commanded His disciples to be “***wise as serpents***” He may have had this concept of prudence in mind. ***Knowledge*** is ‘information of a sound character.’ ***Discretion*** is ‘thoughtfulness’, whose characteristic the young generally lack while it is displayed by those feeding on the Word of God.

Many attempted to find knowledge of God in vain and Proverbs 2 tells the reason why they failed. The answer lies in the fact that instead of faithfully **obeying** God’s instruction, many tried to understand the Scripture by their own scholarly means. However, what is required by God is man’s proper heart condition to receive His Word and to put it into practice. Man’s whole being; the ear, heart, mouth, and voice should be devoted to the search for the truth. The real seekers who will never be satisfied with surface knowledge would dig deep into the Word of God because it is a worthy hidden treasure like silver. Diligent Bible study with a committed heart to the Lord, where searching the Word for oneself is involved in its own right, is different from just the accumulation of knowledge about the Bible by reading books about the Bible such as commentaries and expositions. Despite the amount of knowledge equipped by such books, such one-sided study won’t change ones life-style and it will remain as mere dry intellectuality.

The book of James written by the brother of Jesus and the prominent leader of the council of Jerusalem is known for its similarity to the Old Testament wisdom writings such as Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes and indeed it clearly reflects the claim of chapter 2 in Proverbs. James emphasised the importance of good deeds and works accompanying faith. In other words, genuine faith should be characterised by a consistent life-style and doing proves his confessed faith: ***‘Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says....What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ...but someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do....As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.’*** Holding the truth is not enough until our life-style is mobilised so as to be held by that truth. Both searching for the truth and walking in the truth with the help of the Holy Spirit is vital. Maybe the majority of Christians are fully aware of this teaching. However, the reality is not so simple at all. We are surrounded by very subtle cases which are difficult to judge appropriately at first glance.

Here is an example. There is a very earnest Christian who has diligently been studying the Bible day by day by repeatedly reading the whole Bible and by examining its interpretations in detail. He loves the Word of God and he is freely able to draw many precise words to express his feelings, his desires and his security of love. He has been very satisfied with his life after his conversion into faith in Christ, though it is neither rich nor materially filled. He has learned to be satisfied with what has been given to him, according to the Scripture. He well understands the redemption by Jesus Christ and he acknowledges the fact that without Christ there is no salvation. Before accepting Christ he was literally heading for hell but now he has been completely changed so as to be a good witness of Christ. He is ready to die for Christ any time and there is no fear of dying or of anything else apart from one exception. The exception for him is the fact that he always fears not having enough money to sustain his daily living. He is in his prime age, and now that he has been healed from many major diseases that had threatened his life previously, he is theoretically able to return to work. However, because of past fearful and nasty experiences he

has no confidence to be accepted in the society. With negative thoughts filled in his mind, he is slow to go out to the society to relate to others and to find a job but he secludes himself from the outside and confines himself in his own world. While fortunately, his mother who is of retirement age is working hard and therefore can support him financially for the time being, it is obvious in anyone's eyes that his present way of life is not biblical. He is of course not classified as the so-called "cognitively or physically handicapped person." Despite something in his life-style being completely wrong and unbiblical, he believes that he has patiently been waiting for the Lord's timing to use him as his vessel by devoting himself to diligent study of the Bible and in his vision his dream goes out to reaching out to the disheartened, the poor and the outcast in this bureaucratic society with the gospel of Christ. As he had suffered a lot, so he really longs to be able to help those who are suffering by preaching the gospel, and by sharing joy and sorrow with them, and for this purpose he believes that he needs to prepare himself by studying the Bible until the Lord opens a door before him.

One of my friends who is another outstanding Christian in a completely different sense from the one mentioned above, poignantly pointed out the core of his problem. She argued that his thought that he would be used by the Lord itself was wrong and stemmed from nothing other than sheer arrogance because he believes that he is something, not to say a special vessel. Her outspoken point is what the Scripture consistently argues. Paul taught, ***'If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own loads.'*** (Ga.6:3-5). Knowing that everyone has to give an account to God in the future, examining our life-styles day by day is very significant because how we live our daily lives reveals what is in our heart and what is our real motive. She continued to refer to the Lord's Word: ***"And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'we have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*** (Matt.3:9-11). Self-deception, self-esteem, self-exaltation, and lack of humility easily blind man to his or her reality. This friend I refer to is someone who loves the Lord and amazingly, yet really biblically, her wisdom and insight solely come from Him. She has never ever consulted books about the Bible such as commentaries and expositions for the interpretations of the Bible and never attended Bible study conferences or so in her 40 year walk in the truth with the Lord. Her knowledge of the Lord and the Bible is a direct result of her intimate relationship with Him. Through her perseverant pilgrimages she has learned to say ***'I am an unworthy servant; I have only done my duty,'*** after working hard more than anyone around her.

"Self-isms," putting oneself in the centre such as self-love, self-esteem, self-assurance, self-awareness, self-image, self-discovery, self-realisation, self-assertion, self-worth, self-seeking, self-absorption, self-actualisation, are rampant around us not only in secular society but also in Christendom in the present age. Self-centredness began at the Fall in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve rebelled against God's commandment and since then a self-serving religion (symbolised by fig leaves that were used to hide their sin and guilty-conscience) widely developed. Sinful humans have produced many ways to try to obtain salvation through their own efforts, disciplines, rituals, sacrifices and life-styles. Rejection of Cain's offering by the Lord, in that he brought to the Lord what he believed the best, instead of intently following His instruction, was the first sinful and rebellious example stemming from man's sinful nature of self-ism. None of them is accepted by God who instituted His own and sole way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Accordingly, if we think we are something and confine ourselves in our own self-seeking small world just to wait for a divine opportunity, by doing what pleases our own desires, and by turning blind eyes to the stern reality that we must earn our living in this world, who will defend us as a good witness of Christ? Was it not God's commandment: ***"Cursed is the ground***

*because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life....By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground...’? He addressed this command to all human-beings on earth until they die. Was it also not Paul’s instructions: ‘we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle.... We worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this...in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. ... “if a man will not work, he shall not eat.” ...We hear that some among you are idle. ...Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.’ (2The.3:6-12)?*

## **NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS**

Mary Jane in the Philippines, shares her extending vision of her ministry for the impoverished children with us.

During this year’s summer period (May - June) she had her ‘Vacation Bible Studies (VBS)’ in two places. 124 children attended and at the close of the school around half of them accepted Jesus as their Lord. After school she and her staff are planning to visit them at home and to follow up their spiritual growth, starting after the rainy period (July to August) up to September. They are also to visit all the children who had previously attended.

Another major commitment for her is an out-reach to the tribal people “Dumagat” in the mountains. A Christian couple (Joshua & Luz) newly joined Mary Jane as her co-workers. Both will be trained to minister to the tribal minority. She will sponsor three people including Joshua to go to a vocational school.

Added to her commitment to the regular Bible studies for the children in Junji, Powerline and Novaliches and the mountain ministry for the Dumagat tribe, she is launching an ‘Alternative Learning System (ALS)’ program, which has been set up by the Philippine government as non-formal education for out-of-school youth. After receiving training she is to be licensed to set up this program anywhere in the Philippines and she is planning to start it in the mountain where there are many youths who have not finished even their primary level of education. This is a tuition-free program and that is why most of the participants are missionaries because participants have to pay for their educational expenditure in their places. For the present Mary Jane has five candidates for this program.

Her latest work for the underweight children in an elementary school was feeding sixty of them with lunch while she and her staff taught the Bible to them. Huldah Ministry continually financially supports her ministry. Pray for all the work going on and visions starting under the leadership of Mary Jane, and pray for the workers’ health and safety.