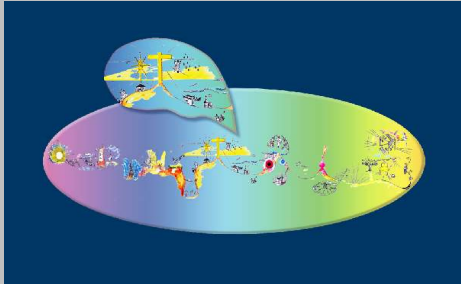


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Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

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!

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HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

NEED OF CONTINUAL DELIVERANCE

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No-one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No-one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No-one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remain in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. 1JOHN3:2-10.

Two hundred years ago, on 25th March 1807, an epoch-making law was voted by the British parliament in London. The new law prohibited all British ships from transporting slaves. The Act of 1807 was the "Abolition of the Slave Trade", and it was significantly achieved by a small number of very committed Christians. How it was brought about is worth tracing and recalling.

According to pieces of information provided by Centre For Contemporary Ministry at Moggerhanger Park (www.contemporaryministry.com), this coming

March in Britain, the film "*Amazing Grace*" is to be generally released, which illustrates the life of William Wilberforce whose great faith in God finally enabled the House of Commons to ratify the 1807 Act. Clifford Hill who was privileged to see a preview of the film comments: 'Amazing Grace is both gripping and inspiring. Wilberforce's objective was not only the abolition of slavery but also the reformation of the moral and spiritual values of the nation. This film shows how the Lord brought together a group of committed Christians with different gifts but with a common faith and a common purpose. It shows how a small number of men and women, filled with the Holy spirit, can change the nation and change the course of world history.' According to him, there is a plan that century sailing ship that was used in the filming of *Amazing Grace* is to be leased and to sail into London for 10 days. He puts it: "The plan is to rename the ship 'The Zong' after the most notorious slave ship from which 133 Africans (men, women and children) were thrown over board so that the owners could claim insurance for the lose of their 'property.' The Zong is planned to sail up the Thames- through Tower Bridge at 4.15pm (high tide) on Thursday 22 March 2007 with a Royal Navy warship escort. Arrangements have been made to moor it in the pool of London at tower Pier opposite HMS Belfast and open it to the public with an on-board exhibition of 'Slavery Past and Present' including replica slave quarters below deck with manacles, shackles, neck irons and other cruel implements of the infamous trade that carried more than 10 million Africans across the Atlantic to slavery in South America, the Caribbean and North America. The exhibition will tell the story of how a small group of Christians led by Wilberforce achieved the seemingly impossible. It will tell the story of the triumph of faith over adversity, of goodness over wickedness, of love over cruelty. Using the ship as part of a public education exhibition, which will also be open to school parties, we hope to reach large numbers with a message about what the transforming love of Jesus did 200 years ago and can still do today.' (The C & M Newsletter in December 2006).

Looking back through the seemingly impossible fight against slavery, there is a terrible fact about which most people know very little. Among other countries such as France, Portugal, Spain and Germany, it was the British Empire that had been most deeply involved in the slave trade since the late 16th century. Slaves from Africa were transported to British colonies in America and the West Indies to be used in the tobacco plantations in the New World and on the sugar plantations of the Caribbean. The cities of Liverpool and Bristol were the main centres for shipping slaves and no fewer than twelve million black people were estimated to be forcibly taken from Africa as slave labour between 1600 and 1800. It was the largest forced migration of people in human history. However, it is said that nothing would be crueller than the fact that a huge number of slaves died on the terrible voyages across the oceans. An estimated 1.3 million Africans died on the 'middle passage,' locked in chains to each other, packed tightly with very small space below decks in speechless conditions with no sanitary arrangements for the entire duration of the voyage (for three months or so), and often victimised by diseases such as typhoid and dysentery. Even those who scarcely lived to reach the plantations were too weak and destined to an early death because of the forced labour and the lack of care and medication.

Among the protesters against the British slave traffic, foremost was John Wesley. Wesley protested against slavery as inhuman and unjust, and seventeen years later, in 1791 when he lay dying in his house in London, Wesley wrote a letter to William Wilberforce and encouraged him to go on fighting against the slave trade: 'Go on, in the name of God...in exposing that execrable villainy, which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. At that time Wilberforce(1759-1833) was about to present another anti-slavery petition in Parliament. He entered politics at the age of 20, and he was converted to be a Christian at the age of 25, and became a member of the Clapham Sect; an influential group of evangelical Anglicans who worshipped together at Clapham in south London. The group devoted its time, money, influence

and prayer to social issues, especially against slavery in the British Empire. Despite repeated defeats, Wilberforce and his supporters presented his Abolition Bill again and again by gathering evidence and leading the campaign in the House of Commons since 1787, and finally on 25th March 1807, the historic bill became law. It took another thirty one years before all the slaves were set free in the British Empire on 1st August 1838. Clifford Hill puts it: 'Today the legacy of slavery is still to be seen in poverty and in many subtle forms of social deprivation,' and he believes that the anniversary events this coming March give an opportunity for Christians to reflect upon the reasons why it took so long for the British forefathers to recognise the wickedness of the rape of Africa and the cruel enslavement of millions of fellow human beings.

The inexcusable slave trade was indeed abolished two hundred years ago, however, as Clifford points out, we, whether Christians or not, are still under slavery of sin and need to be set free from the things that persistently bind us. Whatever revolutions and reformations have taken place to change a society, if the root problem in man's heart, sin, is not completely blotted out, the situation in this world remains with not much difference. We need to first well recognise ourselves; what lies inside us, what are our motives, what are our real purposes, what emotions are always buried deep inside us, what thoughts promptly come out of our hearts...

Turning our eyes to human history, time and again, it has shown what the result was when man tries to establish a kingdom on their own with selfish and inhuman motives. For example, the slogan of the French Revolution was "Liberty, equality, fraternity" but as it is well known, what it produced was blood-shed. Further, despite its advocacy of a utopian classless society, what the Communist Revolution produced was an impoverished and disintegrating society. Further more, despite Hitler's desire to build a kingdom of peace (a Third Reich), his regime merely exposed the legacy of hatred and almost resulted in the killing of all the Jews in Europe. Regrettably, church history is not so much different from secular world history. The Crusade, and the Inquisition carried out in the name of the Lord only brought about blood-shed. Though Christians tend to believe that they will do and are doing God's will, and are doing things for Him, yet, the truth is that they cannot themselves bring the kingdom of God to this earth. Unless Christ returns, the ultimate kingdom of God that brings in true peace on earth will not materialise. Indeed, Christ has brought His kingdom in His followers' hearts and minds through the Holy Spirit, and wherever those followers gather together, His kingdom has been established. However, unless Christ comes back in glory for everyone to see, His kingdom will not be perfectly and visibly established. Only when Christ appears again to reign in the world as a king of the Jews from Jerusalem, worldwide deliverance will be consummated.

Today as a prelude to ultimate worldwide deliverance, the Jews are returning to their home to the promised land, i.e., Israel from all over the world. A train of the phenomena over the past few decades is a sign of them being destined to their final rest. Their long awaited Messiah will finally come and restore His kingdom on earth, when **'you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God... (when) People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.'** (Lk.13:28-29). Some argue that the fact that synagogues are worldwide being closed because of the Jews' returning to Israel is spiritually related to the fact of today's decline of Christianity in the Western world. Quoted from Paul's teaching about "In-grafted Branches" in Romans 11, they analyse the decline of Christianity particularly in Europe as a result of having cut the old root (the Jews), first theologically, and then, literally by the 'conspiracy of silence' in that they had turned blind eyes to the persecution and pogroms of the Jews for centuries. Christianity cut the root and stole the fruit from the Jews. However, they argue when you cut the root, whatever grafted onto that root will die and thus, Christianity is dying, especially in Europe.

Today Christendom as well as the world are in big trouble and time is getting shorter before

the Lord's second coming. The purposes of His second coming are to marry His bride, the true church, and to establish His kingdom on earth as a fulfilment of the promise to the Jewish forefathers prophesied throughout the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament). Unfortunately, the reality is that His should-be bride, the church is not yet ready because of her double-minded, unholy and adulterous condition today. Unless Christians go through a time of cleansing by God, the church will not be ready for the Lord, her glorious bridegroom. So now is God's time for our purification before the ultimate time for full deliverance by God, and for the time-being, we will be challenged and exposed in our innermost motives and commitments. The time for judgment has already begun with us, the **'family of God'**, as Peter predicted in his epistle. Those Christians who believe a sometime-blindly-accepted false doctrine of **"once saved always saved"** might argue 'The bride of Christ is all those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Because Christ died once and for all in our place as the lamb of God, her sins have completely been atoned for, and she is clothed with the righteousness of Christ now. Consequently, having been justified by faith but not by her work, the bride, His church is eternally saved.' While their argument is true, the presupposed doctrine is wrong. The doctrine ignores the responsibility of being the bride of Christ after acceptance of God-initiated free gift of salvation.

Some point out the difference between "saved" and "elect": 'Once elect always elect' (which is true) does not mean 'once saved always saved.' While election is an eternal matter the meaning of salvation is much broader. The example of the Exodus, where Israel was once saved from Egyptian slavery resulted in the failure of them entering the promised land, Canaan, tells us that salvation may refer to only a temporal and earthly condition. Especially, the Epistle to the Hebrews spends pages to warn us of the fact that saved ones are not necessarily elect. The important issue is how to maintain faith in Christ along with obedience to Him and how to finish the race as Paul taught: ***'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will last for ever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.'*** (1Co.9:24-27, Line added). Although exactly what Paul meant by referring to the **'prize'**; eternal life beyond death or entering the Christ's millennium kingdom as His bride is not certain, one thing which is clear is that the believer's life in this world is not easy-going but a daily battle, especially against oneself. Accordingly, a conversion experience alone does not guarantee eternal life. True faith always accompanies obedience to God's Word and appropriate conducts as James stressed: ***'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?...As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.'*** (James 1:22...2:14...:26).

After being saved by God's grace, the believer's lifetime process of **'sanctification'** starts, during which each believer needs to be transformed to be a likeness to Christ as His true bride through deliverance from the root problem of the human heart. Even after believers are atoned for by Christ's death on the cross, justified by faith, and forgiven for their misconducts of sins, they still need their continual cleansing to get rid of the spiritual diseases of the human heart, i.e. sin. Total cleansing; both outward- by justification and inward- by sanctification is a must for Christ's spotless and unblemished bride, the true church. The need for believers in Christ after receiving salvation, still to be cleansed, purified, transformed and conformed to the image of Christ during the present earthly life in a growing process towards maturity is seen in several scripture passages, one of which is quoted at the beginning. If evidence of being the **'children of God'** is a holy life, Christians would not be transformed to be the true bride, but for the daily guidance and scrutiny of the Holy Spirit.