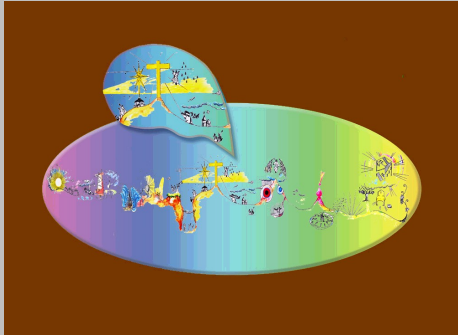


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## Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

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!*

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



HULDAH MINISTRY

# LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

## 【 SPIRITUAL HOUSE CLEANSING 】

*The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "When you enter the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as your possession, and I put a spreading mildew in a house in the land, the owner of the house must go and tell the priest, 'I have seen something that looks like mildew in my house.' The priest is to order the house to be emptied before he goes in to examine the mildew, so that nothing in the house will be pronounced unclean. After this the priest is to go in and inspect the house. He is to examine the mildew on the walls and if it has greenish or reddish depressions that appear to be deeper than the surface of the wall, the priest shall go out the doorway of the house and close it up for seven days. On the seventh day the priest shall return to inspect the house. If the mildew has spread on the walls, he is to order that the contaminated stones be torn out and thrown into an unclean place outside the town. He must have all the inside walls of the house scraped and the material that is scraped off dumped into an unclean place outside the town. Then they are to take other stones to replace these and take new clay and plaster the house.*

*"If the mildew reappears in the house after the stones have been torn out and the house scraped and plastered, the priest is to go and examine it and, if the mildew has spread in the house, it is a destructive mildew; the house is unclean. It must be torn down—its stones, timbers and all the plaster—and taken out of the town to an unclean place.*

*"Anyone who goes into the house while it is closed up will be unclean till evening. Anyone who sleeps or eats in the house must wash his clothes.*

***“But if the priest comes to examine it and the mildew has not spread after the house has been plastered, he shall pronounce the house clean, because the mildew is gone. To purify the house he is to take two birds and some cedar wood, scarlet yarn and hyssop. He shall kill one of the birds over fresh water in a clay pot. Then he is to take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the scarlet yarn and then the live bird, did them into the blood of the dead bird and the fresh water, and sprinkle the house seven times. He shall purify the house with the bird’s blood, the fresh water, the live bird, the cedar wood, the hyssop and the scarlet yarn. Then he is to release the live bird in the open fields outside the town. In this way he will make atonement for the house, and it will be clean.”***

**LEVITICUS 14:33-53.**

Soon after Christmas come the New Year holidays and festivities. In Japan, this is the most festive time of the year, when “o-toshidama” money gifts are given to children. But it only comes after cleansing the entire house towards the end of the year, when housewives are pressed with the preparation of festive meals as well as the cleaning. The end of such hectic days or weeks before the New Year is completed by the traditional and special meal of buckwheat noodles on New Year’s Eve. Shortly before or at midnight the Buddhist temple bells are tolled 108 times throughout Japan, breaking into the New Year. The number of 108 is regarded as the number of worldly cares according to the Buddhist philosophy and incidentally, the rosaries used by the Buddhist believers consist of 108 beads. The family and people start exchanging New Year’s greetings. Although this tradition has gradually been fading from generation to generation, it is still observed by many today.

Behind the physical practices and customs there is usually a spiritual significance. The cleansing of people, houses, lands and all material possessions out of all sorts of defilement is one of the most important acts in the Bible but at the same time one of the most neglected ones. Not knowingly, we have been exposed to a swarm of spiritual defilement and pollution in this world because we were born on a battlefield where good and evil spirits coexist. According to the Bible we know the existence of angelic hosts that have been used by God to minister on the earth to help us, and which are said to be mentioned 99 times in the New Testament alone, while there are demons, evil counterparts to God’s holy angels, waging war against them. Demons aimlessly wander restless, through buildings and people on earth and disguise themselves as ghosts or spirits of the departed. It is not strange that these demons that had once experienced dwelling in flesh are desperate and persistent to seek a physical body (human and animals) to dwell in since the world-wide flood in the days of Noah.

Although our Saviour Jesus Christ died on the cross to defeat Satan once and for all and as a result, ***‘God made (us) alive with Christ... forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; ...took it away, nailing it to the cross... having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them by the cross’(Col.1:13-15)***, He has left the enemy, the devil and his demons on the earth around us so that we would fight against them and overcome in faith. His table before us to feed on is being laid in the presence of our enemies as the king David sang in Psalm 23. We need to understand the reality that we should continually be purified out of defilement and then fully consecrate ourselves to the Lord as His efficient worriers, just as the priests in the Old Testament times executed the rites of purification whenever they were confronted by a defiling situation. By failing to obey God’s request to us, we forfeit His power in our lives. Answers to questions such as why the present church is spiritually impotent, and lacks power and authority with no sign of revival, may be found in Joshua 7:11-13: ***‘Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.’*** After the triumph over Jericho, Israel turned out to be powerless and fearful against their enemies because of one man’s hidden sin amongst them.

As quoted in passages from Leviticus at the beginning of this letter, when Israel went into the promised land, Canaan, where pagan worship rituals and idles had prevailed, the Lord commanded Israel to inspect each house before possessing it. Here, sins of previous heathen owners are likened to ***‘something that looks like mildew’*** found in each house. God ***‘put a spreading mildew in a house in the land’***, in order to show which houses had been spiritually defiled by heathen idle worship and rituals,

unholy sole ties, or possessions and behaviour with an unholy past. After seven days, enough time to diagnose the identity of the defilement of the house, if there was no more sign of spreading mildew sent from God there, it was pronounced clean, and the owner was allowed to possess the property. But if there was another trace of spreading, the contaminated places and parts of the house had to be removed. All the defiled stones, inside walls of the house and materials were to be scraped off and dumped into an unclean place outside the town. Then the house was to be replaced by new stones and to be plastered by new clay. However, even after that if the mildew reappeared the priest pronounced it as a **'destructive mildew'** after further examination, and its stones, timbers and plaster had to be torn down to be taken out of the town to an unclean place. The way in which the contaminated house had to be dealt with was the same as that of the **'iniquity of the people throughout the land'** in Zechariah's vision. There, such wickedness, having been pushed into a basket with a lead cover, was taken to a certain place where it was to be settled because it originated there, that is, the **'country of Babylonia'** (Zechariah 5:5-11). The house desecrated by mildew, representing sinfulness and wickedness, utterly incompatible to the Lord had to be dealt with using drastic measures because of the spreading nature of sin.

It is very interesting that the cleansing of such a contaminated house was complete only by a symbolic ritual of atonement. After the restoration, to purify the house the priest was to **'take two birds and some cedar wood, scarlet yarn and hyssop'**. One bird was for death and the other was for life, which apparently represented the resurrection after the death. All the things used for this ritual of atonement unanimously point to the atonement by the Lord Jesus Christ, only through His death on the cross and resurrection. Examining how each of these things is used in the Bible, **'cedar wood'** symbolises purification, and **'scarlet yarn'** speaks of faith. The Israelite used **'hyssop'** in order to sprinkle the blood of the Passover lamb upon the frames of their doors and they also sprinkled blood in purification. As David pleaded the Lord's forgiveness after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and said: **'Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow'** (Psalm 51:7), the hyssop figuratively speaks of spiritual cleansing. The reference of **'water'** as well as **'blood'** and also the presence of ritually clean **'birds'** such as dove here in the ritual is very significant because faith in Christ's complete atonement by His blood as our sole Saviour into life comprises three important elements to vindicate its authenticity; blood, water and the Spirit as the apostle John taught: **'This is the one who came by water and blood -Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart.'** (1John 5:6-10).

The passage examined above foreshadows the consecration through faith in Christ who died on the cross and was raised from the dead to atone for our sin once and for all, and the ritual foretells that the perfect purification of the desecrated houses caused by sinful men is to be done thorough faith in Christ alone along with drastic measures. This principle should be practically applied to our lives today. However, although many of us are suffering today from ignorantly defiling our houses, more precisely, by giving the devil and his demons the right to afflict our family's lives and to contaminate us with sins, there seem to be only few that correctly recognise the need for spiritual house cleaning. Christians tend to regard any spiritual influence through buildings or possessions and something like spiritual bondage as superstition. But a biblical definition of "superstition" is placing faith in man, place or anything other than God and His Word.

I have come across an interesting book targeting the average Christian family unaware of the necessity of spiritual house cleaning so as to live free in Christ, advising them to rid their home of things that attract and empower spiritual darkness. The authors of the book argue that defilement can come in many forms: statues of foreign gods, magic charms, heathen souvenirs of past sins unwittingly brought into the houses. As Satan is clever to use any available means to separate us from the Lord and to curse us, so we should be fully aware of the keys to free ourselves from demonic hindrances infiltrating our walk with Him. For example, seemingly innocent rosary-beads, one kind of witch I have mentioned in the beginning, appear to contain hidden spiritual significance underneath. According to Ralph Woodrow, *'The Catholic Encyclopedia'* says, "In almost all countries, then, we meet with something in the nature of prayer-counters or rosary-beads." It goes on to cite a number of examples, including a sculpture of ancient Nineveh, mentioned by Layard, of two winged females praying before a sacred tree, each holding a rosary. For centuries,

among the Mohammedans (Muslims), a bead-string consisting of 33, 66, 99 beads has been used for counting the names of Allah. Marco Polo, in the thirteenth century, was surprised to find the King of Malabar using a rosary of precious stones to count his prayers. St. Francis Xavier and his companions were equally astonished to see that rosaries were universally familiar to the Buddhists of Japan. Among the Phoenicians a circle of beads resembling a rosary was used in the worship of Astarte, the mother goddess, about 800 B.C.’ (*Babylon Mystery Religion*, p.27, quoting *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol.15, pp.459 and 484).

There are many concrete examples in the book: *‘Spiritual House Cleaning’* (Regal Books, U.S.A.). First, the authors of the book: Eddie & Alice Smith refer to many symptoms of spiritual pollution in a house.

1.Sudden chronic illness, 2.Recurrent bad dreams and nightmares, 3.Insomnia or unusual sleepiness, 4.Behavioral problems, 5.Relational problems –continual fighting, arguing and misinterpreted communication, 6.Lack of peace, 7.Restless, disturbed children, 8.Unexplained illness or bondage to sin, 9.Ghosts or demonic apparitions ( to which young children are particularly susceptible), 10.Poltergeists (the movement of physical objects by demons), 11.Foul, unexplainable odors, 12.Atmospheric heaviness, making it hard to breathe, 13.Continual nausea and headaches.

Then they list many sources of defilement in detail.

1.Things related to heathen worship (voodoo dolls, spirit masks, snakes dragons, thunderbirds, phoenixes, etc.) 2.Things related to past sin (necklace, ring, love letters, photos) 3.Things with unknown history, which are not inherently evil by design (Pray about the item. Dedicate it to the Lord. If the problem persists, then discard it.) 4.Things that have been become gods in our lives (collections, antiques, clothing, money, jewellery, etc.) 5.Ouija Board (also known as a witch’s board) 6.Games like *Dungeons and Dragons*, *Masters of the Universe*, *Pokemon* (a combination of the words “pocket” and “monster”) and certain video games with witchcraft references, extreme violence, demonic or occult entities and images 7. Buddhist, Hindu or other Eastern worship artifacts 8.Certain indigenous art or pagan worship items, Egyptian ankh (the cross with a loop on top) 9.Items related to satanism, witchcraft, New Age, yoga, Unity, zodiac, crescent moon, crystal ball, pyramids (ancient obelisks or the Asherah poles of the Old Testament ) and the martial arts 10. Things related to astrology, horoscopes and geomancy, Edgar Cayce, Jean Dixon. 11. Comic books, rock posters, hard rock music and materials with obvious images of darkness 12.Pornographic materials of any kind (including explicit sexual videos, books, cable and satellite TV channels and Internet sites) 13.Art with obvious demonic representations such as snakes, spirits, death, gargoyles, skulls, dragons, etc. 14.Material related to Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witness, Unity Church, Scientology, ancestral worship, Islam, Rosicrucianism, Zen, Hare Krishna, etc. 15.Things relating to secret societies like Freemasonry, Eastern Star, Knights of Marta, Skull and Bones, etc. 16.Certain children’s books or movies such as *Harry Potter*, which encourage children to seek access to spiritual power unauthorized by God 17.Good luck charms, amulets, fetishes 18. Masonic aprons, books or rings, oriental yin and yang symbols, fortune-telling with tea leaves, tarot cards, talisman, etc. 19.Movies with occult messages, extreme violence, excessive foul languages or explicit sexual contact 20.Books (novels that focus on sensuality or death and destruction)

They finally give the seven steps of purification that we should follow according to Joshua’s example. 1. Present yourself before the Lord for His inspection.

2. Sanctify yourself. It is time that we sanctify ourselves and our possessions to the Lord.

3. Locate the offensive items.

4. Rid yourself of those things that defile.

5. Be serious about this.

6. Renounce the enemy and your association with him.

7. Finally, consecrate your life and property to the glory of the Lord.

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

This month Money Gift of £\*\*\*\* has been sent to Mary Jane in the Philippines, and also, £\*\*\*\*has been sent to Frederic in Burundi. Mary Jane has been engaged in an outreach to the disadvantaged and the poor through the children’s ministry in her country. Frederic has been engaged in evangelising in some refugee camps in his neighbouring countries and also in helping the Christian repatriate amongst the present mess of his country after the close of the recent twelve year civil war. Pray for their ministries, and be informed about their ministries, whose reports are now on the Huldah Ministry web site.