

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST !

A New Year Message From
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Happy New Millennium!

Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters:

It is a joy to greet you again in the precious name of Jesus, at the dawn of this new decade, new century and a new millennium. Contrary to the general popular beliefs and the world-wide millennial celebrations a year ago, the real New Millennium has arrived only on January 1 of 2001. Most of us can expect to see the end of the new decade, and at least some of us would be able to see the end of the new 21st century. As for me, as most of the Bible believers, I am sure I will be alive and well at the end of the 3rd millennium. My reason for that is based on my faith in the imminent coming of Jesus and His establishing a Millennium of peace, prosperity and security on this earth. No matter whether His coming again would happen today, tomorrow or several years from now, the possibility is that we would be in some stage of the Millennial Reign of Christ at the end of the 3rd Millennium, enjoying its blessings and participating in the Messianic Government. The Apostle Paul in his letter to Titus exhorts us to "look for this blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

Why The New millennium Begins Only On January 1, 2001.

Years of the Gregorian Calendar, which is currently in use today, are counted from AD 1. Thus, the 1st century comprised of the years AD 1 through AD 100. The second century began with AD 101 and continued through AD 200. By extrapolation (extension), we find that the 20th century comprises the years AD 1901-2000. Therefore, the 21st century begins with January 1, 2001 and continues through December 31, 2100. (The system of calculating years from 0 or the use of negative numbers came into being only in the 14th century).

Similarly, the 1st millennium (of our Lord) comprised the years AD 1 - 1000. The 2nd millennium comprised the years AD 1001 - 2000. The 3rd millennium begins with AD 2001 and continues through AD 3000. Where shall we be in a hundred or a thousand years from now is a matter of utmost importance, and if we know that we are in Christ today, we can make sure that we will be in heaven, to be exact, in the Messianic Kingdom on Earth, in some part of the 3rd millennium. (For more details, ask for my pamphlet Millennium, the Messianic Kingdom on Earth. Also refer to www.usno.navy.mil/millennium for more information on the dating of the millennia.)

Happy New President!

In the US, we have a new president for the new century—George W. Bush, son of former president George Bush. Widely acclaimed as an affable person and good at inter-personal skills, George W. is an answer to prayer of millions of Christians in this nation. According to his election year pronouncements, he is determined to bring decency and honor to the presidency. Though the squabble over his election still continues, and a Senate divided right in the middle, Bush vowed he would do everything he could to unify the country. "We must rise above a house divided," Bush said in his first address to the nation as president-elect.

For Florida, the recent Presidential election has earned it a permanent place in the History and the Geography of the World drawing a lot of attention and some notoriety. Florida's voting has contributed to the Language a few new words and phrases: chad, pregnant chad, dimpled chad, hanging chad, and manual count by hand. (Chads are bits of paper (debris) punched out of the voting card). The Florida recounting also brought to the attention of the world the story of Saint Chad who gladly stepped down from his elected position of bishop for a contestant, in 7th century in England.

My personal interest in the election and George W., has mainly been due to his testimony of being born again and his boldness to declare Jesus Christ as his greatest hero. In fact, the venerable Indian Pastor D. G. S. Dhinakaran has prophesied many months ago (while on TV with Pat Robertson and Benny Hinn) that God was going to give America a godly new president. Needless to say, it is our continued responsibility to pray for the new President, and for all who are in authority (1 Tim.2:1-4). For record, I have to say that I have been a member of the Republican Presidential Task Force 2000. In my case this is only one of the examples to say there is some truth in the saying, "You don't have to be a millionaire, to look like one."

Speaking of Millionaires:

According to a recent report (Wall Street Week), there are 300 Billionaires in America today, whereas there were only 17 in

1899. Forty of the present billionaires are under 40. Another report says, the millionaires in America doubled in the last 5 years. An internet article is titled, "Millionaires are a dime a dozen in the new world of mega-riches. Yet, in the midst of this all, the have-nots are on the rise, many living in poverty! Like religion and cholesterol, there are a lot of good millionaires and billionaires. It is said that some of the most generous in America are millionaires, contributing large chunks of money to charities. God bless the good ones and save the souls of others. A good advice for both groups is, "that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to share—that they may lay hold on eternal life " (St. Paul in 1 Timothy 6:17-19).

Pray for the Miss World:

The current Miss World, Priyanka Chopra is an Indian, whose mother is from Kerala which is also our native State. The Miss Universe 2000, Lara Dutta, is also an Indian. From Rita Fariya (1966) to the present day, India has produced 7 beauty queens, either Miss World or Miss Universe. As with people (one billion, 200 million) and gods (330 million), India has plenty of beauties also. These Misses are chosen on the basis of physical beauty, intelligence, elegance of behavior and eloquence of speech. Some of them have noble aspirations, like Priyanka (meaning Darling or Dear one) whose hero is Mother Theresa, and who wants to become a Psychiatrist to serve the mental patients. The glamour and glitter, the easy money and the world-wide attention a young person gets in a contest like this can put her (or him) on a slippery path. The Bible characterizes situations like this as the "pride of life " and the "deceitfulness of riches." The motivation behind the production and promotion of these chosen people is not always pure but purely commercial. The sad thing is that many of the churches too are not immune to such temptations. As with any other human beings, these young ladies also need God's salvation and our special prayers, more so because the number of people they can influence for good or bad is enormous. It is a joy to know that 7 out of the past 10 Miss USAs are witnessing Christians, glorifying God with their talents and elegance..

Mission 2000: My Brazilian Year!

The highlight of our missionary endeavors in the year 2000 was my trip to Brazil in September. (Other memorable events were our (Sarah and myself) attendance at the Billy Graham School of Ministry in Colorado, and my participation in the Reclaiming of America for Christ Conference in Fort Lauderdale, and a Missionary Conference in Newark, New Jersey). In the past the Lord granted me the opportunities to go on mission trips to countries like Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and meet with people from several nations in Central America. But, this was the first time I could visit South America proper. How grateful I was when I received a call to go to Brazil because it was not only the fulfillment of a word the Lord gave me about 30 years ago, but also the realization, in part, of a dream I cherished from boyhood days when I studied in Geography about the ABC countries — Argentina, Brazil and Chile—about 50 years and 20-25,000 miles later! If you have a dream, keep it, and don't lose it. In due time it will come to pass, as Habakkuk the prophet wrote, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry" (Habakkuk 2:3).

Brazil is the largest country in South America, occupying about half of its land mass. It is the only non-Spanish speaking nation in Latin America with Portuguese as its national language. The people are warm, friendly, accessible and outgoing. It was a delight to have heart-felt communication and fellowship with many of the believers who showered us with Christian love, affection and hospitality. I had also some taste of their bounteous generosity.

We began our ministry in the State of Espirito Santo (The Holy Spirit) in the City of Vitoria (Victoria-Victory) and in a place called Gloria (Glory), starting with ministries in the Assemblies of God churches in Espirito Santo. Brother Gesiel Gomes, my young missionary friend and spiritual son, was my main translator and sponsor. Some of the gatherings were in public squares where I was given the opportunity to speak briefly in Portuguese to thousands. These meetings also coincided with the election campaign of a brother evangelist (Reginaldo Almeida who won a key position in the Municipality of Vila Welha, for a third term). Later on we went to minister in the Northern state of Mato Grosso (Cuiaba) where, among other things, we visited the largest church in the Americas, an Assembly of God. On the way we could briefly touch cities like Brasilia (the Capital), Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Some of the larger meetings were addressed by Pastor Ralph Gerald from South Florida who came there for a week. His was a powerful ministry with special emphasis on prosperity and healing. My main assignment was to speak on Missions in particular reference to India. It was my joy to see scores of people coming forward to dedicate their lives to be missionaries. A couple of them (Gesiel and Karla) have already gone to India and many more are ready to go, not necessarily to India alone, but other nations including China. I had also the privilege to see Gesiel and Karla being engaged in a large church in Cuiaba, and stand in place of a father to Gesiel. Gesiel was in politics before being called to missions, and Karla's family in Cuiaba is part of the aristocracy there. In one month they were married, and later visited us in

Florida..

Pai & Pastor Indiano!

The Lord gave me also some time to do research on a very important subject -- "Freemasonry and the New World Order Concept" while in Brazil. I referred to it in several meetings. Another important experience I have had in Brazil, as I had in India in 1999, was that the Lord has opened up some new aspect of my call and personality, to be a father figure. Let me state for the glory of God, that He gave me several spiritual children, all over 25, who proudly call me a Pai (Dad). Some of them are in regular contact with me, and I cherish those connections. God also gave me another new name in Brazil -- Pastor Indiano. It seems I am the first Indian Pentecostal minister having visited Brazil. I may lack many things, but not in titles, and at least for a time, I come to relish and cherish these God-given appellations, and try to keep them to myself.

Asbury Aspirations:

I think these personal notes are incomplete without a mention of an application I made for a post-doctoral program called the Beeson Pastor Program by the Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, in response to an invitation from them. The application is in progress, and I believe, I am in the semi-finalist stage. It is a very competitive program with very stringent requirements and guidelines. Whatever be the outcome, I can welcome it gladly, because it is a big commitment in time and work. If it comes, I can accept it gladly, if it doesn't, that's fine too. With God's help, I can pursue other important but less strenuous avenues of education and ministry. At any rate, the process of application has been very edifying and rewarding.

Books And Books Again:

It is with great gratitude to the Lord that I can report to you that my second and third books -- "The Biblical New World Order and The New Heavens and the New Earth" have been published in Malayalam (Indian) in 2000. It has been a very difficult process reminding one of the adage, there is no gain without pain. Very often these books are being distributed freely. And 99 % of friends and fellows -- even the very well-meaning of them -- tend to believe that these and other projects are sponsored by some mysterious force and the books and other benefits they receive require no payment. They think they deserve it because of their spiritual eminence and position in church or society. Some may even act as poor and helpless, and others simply ignore! (I hope we will all shape up!) In this case it could be better said there is no pain without gain. The gain itself is a gain, because all this is done in the name of Jesus and for His kingdom's sake.. And often, this is another area in which I feel like a millionaire without being one. Despite the trials and pains involved, a book when it is properly printed and presented, is a beauty to behold! The joy and satisfaction that a million dollars cannot buy!!

Trusting in God, this is our Book Projects for the new year:

1. Produce an English- Spanish-Portuguese version of the "Multi-Lingual Glossary of Bible Facts";
2. Publish a book on Psychology and Christian Counseling;
3. Work on the English editions of The Biblical New World Order and The New Heavens And The New Earth;
4. Continue to work on the trilingual Mathai's Glossary of Bible Words.
5. Publication of an Indian version of Dr. Michael Brown's book, "From Holy Laughter to Holy Fire."

My simple plea is, So help us God! Your prayers and cooperation will be highly appreciated.

In conclusion:

We have had a tremendous year of promise, problems and progress. We are living in critical times.. As Christians it is our fervent hope and prayer that we would finish our course with alacrity and fidelity to the One Who has called us. Jesus may Return any time and require of us an account of our stewardship on this earth. It is our desire to serve Him acceptably and be found faithful and confident at His coming. It is our glorious hope. May the Lord help us to be found confident, and not ashamed, at His coming, is my prayer.

Let me close this letter with the Judean Doxology:

"Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

I love you and wish you a blessed new year of ever-increasing wonder and expectation!

Your Brother in Christ,

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