

DEEPER CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRY, STUTTGART
WORKERS' TRAINING PROGRAMME, 13 July 2015
THEME: INVESTMENT ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND FRUITFUL SERVICE

10:00 – 10:30: Prayer	14:00 – 14:30: Q&A
10:30 – 11:30: Message 1	14:30 – 14:45: Prayer 2
11:30 – 12:15: Seminar 1	14:45 – 15:45: Message 2
12:15 – 13:00: Seminar 2	15:45 – 16:00: Briefing

WORKSHOP SONGS

I'VE PITCHED MY TENT IN BEULAH

1. I long ago left Egypt for the promised land,
I trusted in my Saviour and to His guiding hand,
He led me out to vict'ry through the great Red sea,
I sang a song of triumph, and shouted, "I am free."

*You need not look for me, down in Egypt's sand,
For I have pitched my tent far up in Beulah land;
You need not look for me, down in Egypt's sand,
For I have pitched my tent far up in Beulah land.*

2. I followed close beside Him and the land soon found,
I did not halt or tremble, for Canaan I was bound,
My Guide I fully trusted and He led me in,
I shouted, "Hallelujah, my heart is free from sin."

3. I started for the highlands where the fruits abound,
I pitched my tent near Hebron, there grapes of Eschol found,
With milk and honey flowing and new wine so free,
I have no love for Egypt, it has no charms for me.

4. My heart is so enraptured as I press along,
Each day I find new blessings, which fill my heart with joy,
I'm ever marching forward to that land on high,
Some day I'll reach my mansion that's builded in the sky.

ONLY REMEMBERED

1. Fading away like the stars of the morning
Losing their light in the glorious sun,
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered by what we have done.

*Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered by what we have done,
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered by what we have done.*

2. Shall we be missed, tho' by others succeeded,
Reaping the fields we in springtime have sown?
Yes, but the sowers must pass from their labours,
Ever remembered by what they have done.

3. Only the truth that in life we have spoken,
Only the seed that on earth we have sown,
These shall pass onward when we are forgotten,
Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.

4. Oh, when the Saviour shall make up His jewels,
When the bright crowns of rejoicing are won,
Then shall His weary and faithful disciples
All be remembered by what they have done!

Seminar 1: BROKEN TO BLOSSOM

John 12:24-26

Fruitfulness in God's service demands the death of self (Galatians 2:20). Corn must die to reproduce. A believer must be broken before he can blossom (I Corinthians 15:36-38). One who would reproduce spiritually must be a fool for Christ. He must be dead to sin and self and joyfully carry the cross to follow the Master (Matthew 18:3,4; 16:24-26).

SPIRITUAL FRUIT-BEARING

God desires that the believer be fruitful (John 15:16; Romans 7:4; Philippians. 1:11; Colossians 1:10). Spiritual fruitfulness consists in being like Christ. Emphasis is on the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23; Ephesians 5:9; James 3:17; I Peter 3:4; II Peter 1:5-8). These traits set the believer apart from the world. Their presence makes his life desirable to God and of benefit to man. That is the type of vessel God can use. Jesus exemplified this: though highly exalted, He was humble and obedient (Matthew 12:14-21; Phil. 2:5-8). He was holy, harmless and separate from sinners (Hebrews 7:26). A believer who models Christ's life will bear fruit. Fruit-bearing is evidence of true relationship with Christ.

SOWING TO THE FLESH

The root cause of barrenness in many believers is the reign of self. Where self reigns, Jesus cannot reign; spiritual barrenness will be the result. This is what we must co-operate with God to destroy in us if we would be fruitful in life and ministry. The unbroken life is a great limitation to spiritual service. God cannot and will not freely use a vessel that is full of self (pride, self-will, lightness, insensitivity to the Spirit, struggle with the Word of God, etc). Such a life cannot

endure solid spiritual truth (John 6:59,60; I Corinthians 3:1-4; Hebrews 5:12-14); it struggles with God's perfect will and would rather dwell in Egypt than make progress to the Land of Promise (Exodus 16:3; Numbers 11:4-6; I John 2:16). The unbroken life resists rebuke, despises correction, excuses lapses, indulges in stubbornness, is heady, argues incessantly and is very difficult to work with or lead (I Samuel 15:13-30). That life wants to be lord to himself. Consequently, it limits progress and hinders spiritual fruitfulness (Galatians 5:17). That is the life that must be broken if one ever hopes to go far with God (John 12:24; Romans 8:12-14).

SURRENDER AND FRUITFULNESS

To be fruitful, self must die. The steps to be taken are revealed in the scriptures. **One**, separate yourself from scorners and seek to have contact with the Living Water (Psalm 1:1-3; II Corinthians 15:33). **Two**, melt your heart by prayer, withdraw from choking cares of the world and prepare your heart to become fertile ground for God's word (Matthew 13:18-23; Col. 3:16). **Three**, yield to the pruning work of the Spirit, endure chastening from the Lord no matter how or whom He chooses to do it and seek to abide in Christ (John 15:2-5; Hebrews 12:5-11). **Four**, reckon yourself to be dead to sin; count yourself as God's property and not your own, and live daily to please God (Romans 6:11-13; I Corinthians 6:19,20). And **five**, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, cultivate a child-like spirit that can be easily admonished or corrected (James 3:1; James 4:6,7; I Peter 5:5,6). To blossom, you must be broken!

Seminar 2: DEALING WITH ENCUMBRANCES THAT HINDER SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Hebrews 12:1; Mathew 5:29-30; Mark 9:43-48

Encumbrances are bulk of things that may not necessarily be sinful but they slow you down spiritually, thus they must be laid aside. Otherwise they will hinder your spiritual progress, deaden your soul and make you lose your Christian vitality. A Christian faith is a long distance race with many unexpected twists and turns and there are many obstacles to overcome in this race, hence no one can run it successfully with a heavy backpack. It is a race that requires discipline, patience and endurance. To effectively run this race, we must strip ourselves of everything that would impede us.

Categories of habits or activities that hinder our prayer time, bible reading, spiritual service, fellowship attendance and those that have the tendency to sap our spiritual energy, generate unbelief, imprint worldly passions and immoral thoughts on our hearts are the main silent encumbrances that we need to deal with in our lives. These may include;

- **Television Programs:** Though some television program can have some edifying, educational, entertaining and exciting news, most of the Anchors are not born again. They are worldly and accentuate worldly ideas, worldly lust. The actors and actresses in Film Series, Home Videos, Dance shows are paid to show nudity and promiscuity on the television to influence or sway people's mind towards morality. Sometimes, Christians are caught up in this web and struggle with immoral thoughts. Sometimes they are so absorbed in it that they spend long time before the television at the expense of their personal prayers, bible study and fellowship. Mark 10:50
- **Radio Talk /Telephones:** Radio Talk/Music always provides avenue for soulish, worldly songs that make some believers to remember the old life they have forsaken. Sometimes believers spend time on baseless conversation on the phone with acquaintances that they forget to pray and read their bible. Some believers are so conscious and glued to their phones.
- **Internet, Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Yahoo, WhatsApp etc...):** There is hardly a day you will not see pornography on the Internet. Either by worldly music's stars or Hollywood on parade. This has direct access to some believers' hearts and tends to bring them to bondage again especially the single ones. Some believers are so addicted to Facebook, WhatsApp, Skype and other social media that they can hardly have time for spiritual exercise. Their social friends on internet are bulk of people who are not saved thus impede their spiritual growth.
- **Old Associations:** Former friends (Old boyfriends/girlfriends), associates, groups, get together with worldly values can eat up our spiritual life and impede us from growing in the Lord- Proverb 22:24.
- **Games & Sports:** There may be nothing wrong with sports such as football and tennis in general. But when a believer is so addicted to football matches that he can trade his personal prayer time, fellowships and bible study for it, then there is a big problem. If watching Tennis/Olympics will awake immoral thoughts in your mind because of their scanty sensual dressings, it is time to let it go. *Mark 9:43-48*
- **Family ties:** Caring for one nuclear and extended family is good but if it will make you so busy that you will not have time for your spiritual life; it is time to set the standard and scale of preferences.
- **Overtime at work:** To work is good but if the desire to work overtime or double work because of money will not leave space for us to care for our spiritual life, it is time to let the overtime work to go. *Mathew 5:29-30*,

- **Vacations/Visitation:** Some unnecessary vacations to places that will not allow us to have the fellowships of the brethren should be avoided And or places that will form a great source of temptations to our faith should be avoided. Like visiting an old boyfriend or girlfriend for a close conversation alone indoors should not be encouraged.
- **Spiritual laziness and indiscipline:** For some believers, it is easy for them to watch television, read newspaper, read novels, watch games, home videos, and go to their secular work but they are so lazy and undisciplined to read their bible, pray or go extra mile for spiritual services.
- **Besetting sin of unbelief:** The Christian race is a race of faith. The sin of unbelief is the constantly besetting sin waging war against Christian race. Are you guilty of limiting God by your unbelief? Christians must make a clean break from all known sins by repentance and serve God faithfully and sincerely.

What encumbers one believer may be of no consequence to another believer. The point is that we must not let anything hamper our Christian growth and race. Ask yourself in everything you do, does this help or hinder my spiritual life? It is not really hard to know if we are only willing to face it. Sometimes there are certain things we must be ready to give up if we are to successfully run this race to the end.

YEAR OF COVENANTED POSSESSION

YOUR CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Consecration:** our way of life that lends credibility to the gospel claim.
- **Opportunities:** they are there for those who would make use of them.
- **Vision:** the fields are ripe for the harvest; souls are hungry for the bread of life.
- **Enlargement:** this our thrust for the year; we will spread to the north, south, east and west.
- **Nobility:** our irreproachable character as God's servants will testify that Jesus is Lord.
- **Availability:** be ready for divine service anywhere, any time and at any cost.
- **Newness:** renew your service: new enthusiasm, new energy, renewed focus, renewed determination.
- **Timeliness:** avoid delayed obedience; redeem the time; be prompt, punctual and precise.
- **Excellence:** strive to excel in all you do; only the best is good enough for our King.
- **Discipline:** God's servants must not be sloppy: tame your appetite, trim your tongue; be a soldier.

YOUR ATTITUDE:

- **Pursuing:** seek to be filled with the Spirit; let Him enable your service so you will be fruitful.
- **Ongoing:** there is no going back; as God's soldier, keep on the frontline and fight manfully onward.
- **Sacrificing:** nothing should be too great to give up; the gospel cause should overrule every other claim.
- **Sowing:** sow the seed morning and evening, withhold not your hand; sow in righteousness, reap in mercy.
- **Exalting:** the Kingdom is His, so exalt the King; seek no empire for yourself: His honour is enough for you.
- **Serving:** serve the Body of Christ; seek to edify the Church; do not seek your own but to bless others.
- **Supplicating:** the Spirit has a way of doing things specially; involve Him through prayer and supplication.
- **Impacting:** that is why you are doing it; ensure you focus on impact and not on forms, rituals and such like.
- **Ordering:** bring order into broken lives through the ministry of the Word; be committed to the whole truth.
- **Nesting:** embed your service inside grace; let your ministry be wrapped up inside God; let Christ be all in all!

Northern European General Conference 30 July – 02 August 2015

This is a place to transform your life and ministry; a place to renew your vision and add colour to your calling. Have you made your reservation? It is impossible to be there and come back empty-handed. The impact of this conference will follow you for the rest of your life. It is a meeting you **MUST** attend. Moreover, it is a place worthy of your sacrificial investment to bring others. Definitely, it shall be a landmark event to be remembered in generations to come!