
ZION NEWS

A newsletter of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia – June, 2010

“Come let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.” Jeremiah 51:10

Our Jubilee in Christ

by Pastor Daniel Fleischer

“OUR JUBILEE IN CHRIST” is the theme of the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

The Old Testament Year of Jubilee was celebrated every 50th year. During this year the land that had been taken from its owners was returned to the family to whom it originally belonged. All slaves of Jewish blood were to be released. Leviticus 25 describes the divine command and reason for the Year of Jubilee.

The Father commanded it as an expression of divine love through which He provided for the preservation and welfare of families and tribes. It contributed to the recording of genealogies and preserved evidence to establish right to ancestral property.

Since the Year of Jubilee was part of the ceremonial law, we of the New Testament are no longer under its mandated provisions. In Christ through Whom liberty is proclaimed and through Whom the brokenhearted are bound up (Isaiah 61:2, Luke 4:18,19), we enjoy spiritual rest and freedom foreshadowed by the Year of Jubilee. The peace we know is the peace of forgiveness, proclaimed by Christ, and won through Him. The freedom we know is the freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil. In Christ we have REDEMPTION FOR THE PAST, and HOPE FOR THE FUTURE....

The visible Christian church in the world today is in the sorry condition it is in part because, having forsaken God’s Word, it rejects His teaching

regarding the practice of fellowship. However, the purpose of our synod’s existence is greater than the promotion of the Scriptural fellowship principle. In fact, the principle serves the greater purpose—the proclamation of the full, free, and unadulterated Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our witness is not, “See how ‘pure’ we are in our fellowship practice.” Such a boast is vain and belies the struggle in which we are regularly

engaged. Our witness is to the cross of Him upon Whom was laid the sin of us all. Our witness is to Him Who gives life and salvation. Our jubilee year in Christ is not to the praise of our church body, but is recognition that our Father in His mercy has preserved to us the blessed message of salvation without which there is no joy or peace or freedom—no hope and no future. For 50 years He graciously has

blessed us with the privilege to preach the Gospel.

Our jubilee in Christ will be meaningful

only as we continue faithfully in the Word of God, and only as we continue to proclaim the Gospel of which Jesus is the heart and soul. We are but servants of the Lord our God (cf. Leviticus 25:55).

“To The Triune God alone be jubilee praise and glory forever. Amen.” †



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Preach the Word!

Submitted by Bill Duncan

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

(2 Timothy 4:2-4).

In most American churches, its not as if they out right deny Christian orthodoxy, in fact most affirm orthodox Christian doctrine. The problem is that they don't preach, teach and proclaim sound Christian doctrine from their pulpits. Oddly enough Martin Luther nearly 500 years ago discussed this very issue when he expounded on the two primary hindrances to the Gospel. Said Luther:

“There are two hindrances to the Gospel: the first is teaching false doctrine, driving the consciences into the Law and works. And the second is this trick of the devil: when he finds that he cannot subvert the faith by directly denying the Gospel, he sneaks in from the rear; raises useless questions and gets men to contend about them and meanwhile to forget the chief thing; Thus Satan comes in the back way, people gape with wide-open mouth at these things and lose the chief things. A man does not need much wit to gain the popular applause; let him but preach new and strange things, and people will say that he is more learned than others; they come in droves, with eyes and ears and mouth widely opened. They do not care to have faith and love preached to them; that is too common; they heard and know enough about that; it irks them always to hear the same thing.” †



The Importance of Doctrine



In an age of religious and social relativism, churches today are again giving in to these worldly philosophies and tossing the Word of God out the window. Often this is done under the guise of “love and unity.” But, if the church is to be dedicated to proclaiming the truth of God’s salvation in Jesus Christ, it must adhere to pure doctrine! Martin Luther spoke of the importance of doctrine in his *Reply to the King of England’s Blasphemous Letter*. This serves as a valuable reminder for us as well!

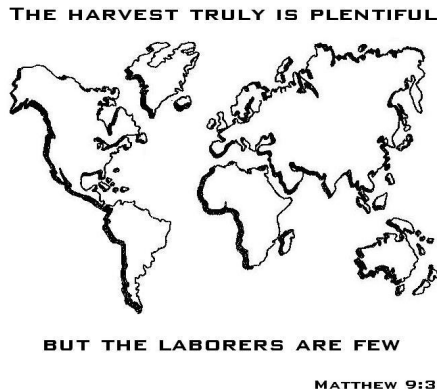
“Doctrine is the chief matter in which I am defiant, not only against princes and kings, but also against every devil, and indeed, apart from that there is nothing else that preserves, strengthens, cheers, and can make my heart even more defiant. The second matter, my personal life, I myself know to be sinful to such a degree it is not worth defending. I am a poor sinner and its fine with me if my opponents are pure saints and angels. Good for them, if they can maintain it. Not that I want to be that kind of person before the world and those who are not Christians, but before God and his dear Christians. I also want to be good before the world, and I am, so much so that they are not worthy to untie my shoelaces. They shall also never be able to prove by the truth that I have lived or acted towards anyone before the world such that I was not teaching them what is good. In short, I am not someone who is too humble, nor too proud, just as St. Paul says: **“I can be exalted and I can be humbled, I can suffer poverty or have enough” (Philippians 2:3)**. For the sake of my doctrine I am very much too stalwart, unbending and proud to the devil, emperor, king, princes and all the world, but for the sake of my life I am also humble and submissive even to every child. Whoever doesn’t know that should hear it now.” †

Materials Needed for our Overseas Missions

by Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

In addition to his call to Zion, Pastor Mayhew also serves the CLC as a Part-time Missionary to East Africa. He makes a yearly, four to six week visitation to our brethren in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. This year Pastor Mayhew will be leaving for his East African visitation on August 8th and returning on September 16th. This year CLC Board of Missions Chairman, Pastor Todd Ohlmann will accompany him.

The membership of our East African affiliated churches numbers about 6,000 souls. These members are served through 60 different congregations. We also have 21 men in pastoral training programs in Nairobi and Etogo, Kenya and Arusha, Tanzania. Since we are only able to spend a little more than a month with these brethren, we have been trying to help build them up and assist them in their work of instruction in God's Word in other ways as well.



Last year we had a great outpouring of help from members in the CLC who responded to the needs in East Africa by donating books, computers, Spokesmans, cards and more for our work overseas. Last year our mission team took a donated laptop to Arusha, Tanzania and left it with Pastor Jeremiah Issangya to assist with the work in the CLCEA. Another laptop was sent to India with Missionary Koenig to be used by one of our men in India or Myanmar. Three large boxes full of Bibles, Catechisms, Bible History books, Lutheran Spokesmans, and Sunday School teaching aids were donated last year. These books were distributed throughout our districts in East Africa during the four week visit last October by Mission Board member Larry Hansen, Mission Helper Russ Schmidt and myself. But there is continuing need for more of these types of materials. Here are some

books that have been taken over in the past which have served our brethren well:

- Koehler's "A Summary of Christian Doctrine"
- Mueller's "Christian Dogmatics";
- Luther's Catechism (any version)
- Book of Concord (any kind)
- Bible History books (any kind),
- English Bibles (almost any version),
- Greek and Hebrew grammars and lexicons,
- Sunday School teaching materials and VBS materials,
- Laptop computers (laptops only because it is not cost effective to transport desktop computers)

We continue to emphasize translation work of the catechism and other doctrinal materials into the multitude of languages of the foreign fields where we are privileged to be working. If we can provide a computer to our translators and teachers, it saves time and money. Donated laptops are currently being used in India, Kenya, Tanzania, and the Congo and have been a real asset to the work in those countries.

You can support our CLC missions program by giving to the CLC General Fund and/or the CLC Mission Development Fund, through your local offerings.

If you have a question about other resources which might also be useful, please speak to Pastor Mayhew or e-mail him at ndmayhew@juno.com. †

Meet the Church Fathers

by Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

Clement of Rome

Little is known about Clement, though it is said that he was a disciple of Peter and Paul (1 Clement 5:1-7), and that he was the third or fourth bishop of Rome. This Clement is often associated with the Clement mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Philippians (4:3), though we cannot be sure.

“And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.”

~ Philippians 4:3 ~

Though little has been passed down about Clement himself, he is best known for the letters to the Corinthians which bear his name. The first letter was written from the church in Rome to the church in Corinth about certain problems which had arisen within the Corinthian congregation. This letter dates sometime near the end of the first century (75-100 AD). In this letter, Clement shows his knowledge of many of the letters of Paul, quoting

often from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, as well as his letters to the Ephesians, to the Romans and to Titus. Regarding Paul’s writing, Clement writes, “Take up the epistle of the blessed Paul the Apostle. What did he first write to you at the beginning of his preaching? With true inspiration he charged you concerning himself and Cephas and Apollos, because even then you had made yourselves partisans” (1 Clement 48:1-3). In addition to the letters of Paul, Clement also quotes from the Gospels, Acts, James and 1 Peter, and frequently from Hebrews. This shows us just how wide spread these letters were even before the end of the first century.

Clement also shows a great familiarity with both the Old and New Testament, and demonstrates true insight in the doctrine of grace and justification by faith. He writes: “Therefore, we who by His will have been called in Christ Jesus, are not made righteous by ourselves, or by our wisdom or understanding or piety or the deeds which we have wrought in holiness of heart, but through faith, by which Almighty God has justified all men from the beginning of the world; to Him be glory forever and ever. Amen” (1 Clement 32:4). †

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produced by:

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Did you Know?

Adapted

Englishman William Carey (1761-1834) is often called the father of the modern missionary movement. In his time, the Church of England had stopped sending missionaries to foreign countries. But Carey had a passion to make Christ known to the unreached.

Carey started out as a shoemaker, so his dream to become a missionary may seem unlikely. But shortly after becoming pastor of a small church in England, Carey felt called to work in India. He struggled to gather enough funds to make the journey and start a mission there. Carey learned several languages, translated the Bible into Sanskrit and set up schools, places of worship and other ministries.

The building in Leicester, England, where Carey repaired shoes still has his motto stretched across it: “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.” †