

# SHEKINAH

Quarterly Newsletter from

CMCC  
Central Maryland  
Christian Church

Winter 2012

Volume 4 Number 1

*A Word from our Pastor,  
Rev. Daniel Israel*

**“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”**

Romans 8:32  
(Promise Word for 2012)

God loved us so much, He gave His only begotten Son! He spared not His own Son for our sake! How many of us can give away our children? Even if we have many children we will not even think about giving away any one of them away. The following stories can help us understand this point!

There was a great famine in Germany. A family of four sons were really struggling. They were forced to sell one of their sons for bonded labor so that they could feed their family for few more days. The parents did not know which one to give away. They looked at the first son. He was the first born of their younger years, and he brought back so many memories about their early years. They could not part with him. Then they looked at their second

## **Enter With Confidence! - Message for 2012**

son. Mom did not want to get rid of him because he looked just like his father. Then they come to the third son. Dad did not want to part with him at all because he was very much like his mother. Finally they came to the last child. They could not even think of parting with him because he was really their heart! The parents decided that they will not give away any child, and will stay together and die of starvation. It is not easy to give away our children!

Jephthah's story in Judg. 11 reiterates this point again. Jephthah promised that he would sacrifice anything that comes first out of his house, if he won his battle against the Ammonites. God helped him win. When Jephthah returned from his war, the first one that came out dancing and singing was his only child, his daughter. Jephthah was heart broken, but he had to carry out his vow! It is not easy to dispose off our own precious children. Another good lesson we can infer from this story: Keep your new year vows to the lord! "Love eve-

ryone" should be our vow! Solomon's judgment (I Kings Chapter 3) against two women also reiterates the point about giving away her child. Two women lived together and they both had babies at the same time. But one mother laid on the son in her sleep, and the child died. She got up from the bed, and switched the babies, and she kept the living one. The other mother realized that the dead child was not her baby. She took her case to King Solomon. After hearing the case, King Solomon asked for a sword. He told the soldier to cut the living baby into two parts, and give each half to each mother. The living baby's mother was very much troubled in her heart. She told the king to stop it and begged him to give the baby to the second mother. But the other mother said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him." King Solomon gave the baby to the real mother who said, "don't kill the baby."

**Also in This Issue** ..... *Enter with Confidence contd. Pg2, Moment of Reflection Pg2 ; Rest at the Cross Pg. 3 & 4; Announcements Pg 4*

A real loving mother will never allow her baby to be harmed for any reason!

God not only gave His own Son but He delivered His Son to be nailed on the cross for our sins! God did not stop the gruesome punishment, even though His own beloved Son Jesus Christ pleaded to take this cup of suffering away! Though God the Father loved Him so much, yet He was willing to sacrifice His Son on our behalf and made Him go through so much suffering and shame! It is all for our sake! If God did not spare His own Son, what makes us doubt God's provisions in this New Year? The following verse should give us lot of encouragement!

Ephesians 1:22, 23 says, ***"And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all"***.

Christ is the Head, and we, the church is His body, and

His feet is actually the Church's feet also. That means all things are supposed to be under the feet of the church also. Connect this thought with Romans 8:32! How will He not also "With Him" give us freely all things? Enjoying any thing without Him is idolatry. "With Him" also means that God gave His Son permanently as a Bridegroom for the whole church. As a Bridegroom cleaves to his wife, He will cleave to the church forever. All things God has, is Christ's and all things Christ has is ours. Know this for certain that all things are under our feet also because we are His body! If God gave us His only Son, He will give all things also that we need! Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Why are we anxious about our future? We always seem to be worried! Enter this New Year with confidence! Nothing can come between Christ and us!

Remember as we begin 2012, God has put all things

under Christ's feet. When we receive those things that are under His feet, we must also keep them under our feet. Don't let your wealth, career, education, knowledge, your house, shiny cars, electronic gadgets, games etc. get to your mind or heart or soul. All earthly things must stay under our feet! Christians should enjoy worldly things like a soccer ball, kicking it around, and moving it toward God's goal post and God's purpose. Don't let the materialistic things get to your heart. It can turn into an idol! Receive and use everything for God's glory and purpose. All things are yours when you have Christ and you are Christ's, just as Christ is God's!

Let us not have any anxiety attack concerning our basic needs. Jesus will provide! If God did not spare His own Son, why should he not give us those things freely that are under His Feet as well as ours? Let us praise God and enter 2012 with total confidence, full of trust in His Son and a joyful heart always!

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### Moment of reflection

After the dedication of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys".

While this causes us to smile, it is always a good time to examine ourselves to see what kind of a life we are living. Does our life reflect the life of Christ? Are our minds set on things of this world or on the eternal things above? Do our words carry the power to lift up or destroy?

Do our actions bring joy and peace to all around us or pain and destruction?

The world's eyes may not be on us, but we may be the world to someone who is watching closely our every action. Live like Christ so that Christ may take root in another's heart too!

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## REST at the CROSS

The other day, I was driving to work and my heart was heavy and burdened with so many things. As I was driving to work, a white tow truck emerged out of nowhere right in front of me on I-695, the back of the tow truck looked like a cross. And as I was following, my eyes were just drawn to the cross and the verse just popped in my head “come all ye who are heavy laden, I will give you rest”. God speaks to us in mysterious ways...and He can use the weirdest example to get the point across..

**Matthew 11:28 says, “Come unto me ALL ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you REST”.**— This was not a selective calling...it was a call for all. Come unto me ALL ye that are heavy laden.

What a timely message... so one by one I started releasing my burdens. The cross was the magnetic power that drew me wherever the truck went. We parted ways at the Inner Harbor and I could just sense the release. So this 20-25 min. journey became a time of “casting out”. When I

reached the garage, I felt such a sense of relief... I found my rest.

Two things that stand out in today’s society: hard work and stress. An average American works very hard putting in close to 50/60/70 hours a week. When we work such long hours and under lot of work pressure of deadlines etc, it also leads to lot of mental stress. Many businesses try to ease some of the pressure by providing drive through banks, drive through restaurants, 24/7 stores and microwaveable food because people do not have time. It seems like people do not even have time to get married, so now they have drive through weddings in Vegas! We have all kinds of caffeine and energy drinks so that people can just stay awake and continue to work. We have all kinds of sleep medications, drugs, alcohol and professional therapy so that people can relieve themselves of the mental stress and get a good night sleep. Hard work and stress also leads to impatience, short temper and conflicts. People have no patience on the roads and families are battlegrounds of conflicts.

How about us? As believers do we have a better way? ... Scripture reminds us that there is ... No, scripture does not promise us an easy life or a life without stress, but it offers us a better way to deal with our hard labor and mental/emotional stress. In Matthew 11:28 there is a promise of rest to those who are laboring and are heavy laden. The rest is being promised by Lord Jesus himself and He is offering it to anyone who would come to Him. In Christ, both sinners and saints can find rest.

The first invitation from this verse is to the sinners. Sinners are under the most stress. Sinners in this world are looking for peace and rest, just like the believers. But the scripture warns that the sinners can never find rest to their souls. Isaiah 57:20 says, “But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, said my God, to the wicked.”

To such sinners and to such troubled waters, Jesus says, “Come” ... just as Lord Jesus stilled the storm when he was out with his disciples, he is able to still the restless soul of a sinner. But the sinner has to come to Christ to find that rest. In this world, many have been fooled into thinking that if they only accumulate riches, they will find rest. That is what Jesus tells the young man in Mark 10:21 “**Sell all that you have, take up the cross and follow me.**” What did he do? He went away, sad.

In the story of the prodigal son also, the boy thought he would find rest and happiness if he found wealth and freedom, but we know he was badly disappointed. True riches and freedom are found only in Christ. Paul was a religious man before he was saved but he did not find rest until he came to Christ. **Genesis 8:9** says, "**But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters [were] on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark**".

Why couldn't the dove find any rest? Because the waters had not yet subsided. Life & rest could be found only inside the ark. We live

in a fallen world and if we want to find rest, we need to come back to the ark, which is the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This invitation of rest is also for the believers. Believers who have tasted the love of God will testify that true rest is found only in Christ ... not in drugs or alcohol or some other therapy. When we are crushed by the burdens of this world, we can go back to the promises of God. We are promised in **I Peter 5:7**, "**Cast all your care upon him; for he cares for you**". Just as we take off our jackets when we enter the warmth of our home, we can take off all our burdens and give it to Lord Jesus, for He cares for us. He wants us to be free of our burdens and look up. How does a weak and tired believer find strength, energy and rest?

**Isaiah 40:29 a,c** says, "**He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.**" All believers have had such experiences... when under extreme pain or stress, they would simply pray ... and then they will return with renewed strength and radiance.

If your heart is restless like the troubled sea, you must first come to Christ and find rest.

☞ It is at the foot of the cross, we find release.

☞ It is at the foot of the cross, we are restored.

☞ It is at the foot of the cross, we find hope.

Is your heart heavy? Is your mind restless? Is your heart wrestling with the many "what ifs"? Lay it at the foot of the cross. Receive rest for your soul.

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## *Announcements*

**April 1** : Palm Sunday Service @ 10:30am

**April 6** : Good Friday Service @ 7:30pm

**April 8** : Easter service @10:30am

**April 29** : Young Adults Special Service @ 10:30am

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## *Monthly Schedule*

Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 am

Women's Fellowship - 2nd Saturday @ 2:30pm

Children's Sunday School - 10:15 am

Kidz Club - 2nd Saturday @ 4:30 p.m.

Bible Study & Prayer Session every Friday, except the 2nd week @ 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Young Adults Bible Fellowship every Friday except the 2nd week @ 7:00 p.m. Call for location.

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### *Contact*



3229 Corporate Ct, Ellicott City, MD 21042



410-418-4500



pastor@acts242church.org

Visit: [www.acts242church.org](http://www.acts242church.org)