

# Newsletter March - April 2013

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May God's truth, grace and peace enfold you and your entire household.

I have just read a very punchy fable by Aesop, an African slave and story-teller believed to have lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 BC. I seem to have come quite late to Aesop's fable about the Tortoise and the Hare, but it did not fail to enchant me as it has done to many others for over two and a half millennia! Plato was said to have written that Socrates whiled away his time in prison turning Aesop's fables into verses.

In this fable Aesop pitched the Tortoise against a group of Hares called the "Hopper Gang" in a race. This was not a race between Osain Bolt and Yohan Blake. The Tortoise stood no chance against the Hoppers Gang in terms of speed, but there was something else he had in great supply: DILIGENCE! This calls for patience and perseverance.

There are too many Hoppers in the world today. Always hopping about with a gang mentality and getting nowhere. Like the Hoppers Gang in the race against Mr Tortoise they bully and ridicule everyone else they consider not living on the fast lane.

Wise King Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes 9:11 (NKJV) that "...The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill..." Zechariah shouts out "...'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6 NKJV)

Solomon further admonishes in Proverbs 21:5 (NKJV) that "The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty." "He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool will be servant to the wise of heart" (Proverbs 11:29 NKJV)

I guess we can learn a lot from limping Jacob. The young man had known real sleight of hand. This set him on the run from his brother Esau to his Uncle Laban's house, and that of his of

Father-in-law/Uncle Laban, set him on the run towards a stomach dropping, and heart wrenching encounter with his dreaded brother Esau. It's as well he first Encountered God before meeting his brother Esau with a limp. His full reliance was now on his covenant God!

When he eventually found favour with Esau, and was offered a full presidential escort with gallant riders for his entire entourage we read this:

"Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you." *But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die. Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir."* (Genesis 33:12-14 NKJV).

We must all reject the Hoppers Gang and guard our families with all diligence knowing that "Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain" (Psalms 127:1 NKJV). That which we have learnt from the Lord, let us be diligent in passing unto our children (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Needless to say that the Tortoise won the race in Aesop's fable. Be patient and persevere looking unto Jesus Christ in the task He has given you in your family and you will surely overcome. Never give up. You and your family are still a work under construction.

Join us in our ParentingPoint Clubs and ParentingPoint Courses to learn how to guide your children and household in peaceful and fruitful walk with God.

Let your Children's/Youth Workers avail themselves of our next Training in Children's/Youth Ministry. Please contact us for details

these programmes.

Finally my brethren permit me to crave your indulgence in praying for Kenya as they hold their national elections on Monday 4th of March. Let there be peace, fairness and appointment of those who will rule with the fear of God.

Attached is our Ministry's Praise and Prayer Bulletin. Thanks for standing with us in the challenge of **Building Strong Families and Raising Godly Children**.

God bless and keep you in His peace.

Your co-labourer,

Chuks Aniereobi