

Newsletter May - June 2013

“...who are these?” Genesis 48:8

Many folks are familiar with the feelings associated with lose of a precious item. Perhaps you were in a busy shopping arcade, theatre or airport when you say to yourself “Oops it’s gone. I can’t find it!”

There are myriads of emotions that can easily wash over you depending on your perceived value of the lost item. Perhaps an anxious prayer dribbles out of your mouth in the hope your crown jewel is found by a good Samaritan. You try assuring yourself that no one else will claim the item because it has your name on it. Then suddenly after a seeming eternity of frenzied search you hear your name on the Tannoy inviting you to Customer Services Desk. With bated breath you make a dash in the direction of the neon sign displaying Customer Services where hope beckons with a re-union with your treasure.

Joseph knew somewhat of that sinking feeling. He received news that his father Jacob was ill and dying and made a quick trip with his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim to say their farewells. Jacob was duly informed of the arrival of Joseph, and with the last strength left he got up to receive his beloved son.

Jacob, partially blind from age, could tell that there were two men standing with Joseph and he proceeded to ask Joseph a most distressing question: “Who are these?” (Genesis 48:8). Jacob knew his son Joseph. He could at least tell from his posture and voice. He had related well with his son Joseph. The question concerned the identity of Manasseh and Ephraim, Joseph's sons. They were both in their 20's, have had Grand-dad Jacob living with them in Egypt for 17 years and yet were strangers to their grand-father and custodian of covenant promises!

Grand-dad Israel knew the names of his grand children and reserved a portion of inheritance for them in his earthly and spiritual estate, but those two boys remained strangers to him and

to their heritage. How alarming and sad.

No parent can get away from that penetrating question: “Who are these?” Who are my and your children? Are they “...aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12)? I’m I like Joseph busy running the government of this world, and forgetting to place the government of my children's lives on the shoulders of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 9:7)?

It is not enough for us to say, like Joseph, that “...They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place” (Genesis 48:9). We must go a step further and act like Hannah: “For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD” (1Samuel 1:27-28).

“Well, you may say “I have no child of my own.” Even so, look around you. There are children everywhere. You can become your “Brother's Keeper” (Genesis 4:9) by reaching out to the young people around you. What about nephews, nieces and your other young relatives?

It is only in God's hands that our children are safe and built up (Psalm 127:1; Matthew 16:18). We must be deliberate in surrendering our children to God and familiarising them with their covenanted heritage in Christ.

Together we will keep pressing on to the finish line in the race God has given us. Do not give up on the good fight of faith (1Timothy 6:12). There is a great reward awaiting you and your children (Hebrews 10:35).

Thanks for standing with us as we continue in our task of **Building Strong Families and Raising Godly Children**. Your support is truly invaluable. We appreciate and celebrate you.

Thanks for praying for a peaceful and successful national elections in Kenya in March. Please continue to pray for your national governments that they will act to uphold godly family values (Psalm 11:3, Proverbs 23:10).

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 for May and June. Please feel free to send in your prayer requests, and to share with us testimonies of what God is doing in your family and ministry.

May God's favour and peace be with you, your nearest and dearest.

Your co-labourers,

Chuks and Agnes Aniereobi