

Minister's Message – August 2006

Peace

There have been many declarations of peace in the Middle East in recent years but none have lasted. The US President wants a peace that will last and he is not the only one. Most people want peace, not war. They want peace among the nations, peace in their community, peace in their homes and peace in their own hearts. But where will this peace come from?

The first step is to have peace with God our Creator. Sin separates us from God. When Adam sinned he tried to hide from God. He started to argue with his wife and then one of his sons killed his brother. Ever since then human beings have been fighting among themselves. We are all born in sin and therefore enemies of God. We have no peace with God and no peace among ourselves.

As proud and selfish individuals we fight to fulfil our desires. *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires* (James 4:1). Living without a knowledge of God and eternity, men are always striving to get more of this world's property, power or praise. The adage goes NO GOD, NO PEACE. Then it goes on KNOW GOD, KNOW PEACE.

How do we get peace? We must first get peace with God. And how do we get this? It is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus told his disciples – *peace I give to you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives* (John 14:27). The Bible also tells us – *therefore having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ* (Romans 5:1). When you believe in Jesus Christ, that he died for your sins and rose again from the dead, then you will have peace with God; and having peace with God you can have peace with other people.

True and lasting peace in your heart will come through Jesus Christ and through him alone. Being at peace with your Creator you can then be at peace with your neighbour. The damage done in the Garden of Eden is repaired at the Cross. True and lasting peace is possible in the Middle East, and throughout this world, through the peace that is found only in Jesus Christ. *Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God* (Matthew 5:9).

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