

March 2011

Volume 8, Issue 5

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Special points of interest:

- **Commonwealth Prayer Initiative**
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Picture: Parliament Buildings, Georgetown, Guyana

CONECAR Now At Ocean View Hotel

The Congress of Evangelicals in the Caribbean (CONECAR 2011) will now be held at Ocean View Hotel in Guyana October 17-20, 2011. The hotel is under new management and has offered very competitive rates.

The hotel has offered single rooms at US\$41 per night, double occupancy at US\$23.50 per person per night, and triple occupancy at US\$17.35 per person per night. Morning plenaries and afternoon workshops will be held at this hotel with evening plenaries, which are open to the public, taking place in a local church. Rooms at Ocean Spray Hotel and

Pegasus Hotel are also available at higher rates. Registration forms are expected to be on EAC's website shortly. Meals are covered in the registration fee of US\$250. Persons registering by June 30, 2011 may do so at US\$225 as funds are needed for the final preparation costs of the congress.

The theme for this year's congress is *The Caribbean Church: Its Missing Dimension.* Some ten plenaries and a number of workshops will flesh out the theme in detail.

Speakers at this year's congress will include Rev.

Ocean View Hotel



Dr. Alister Alexander (Trinidad), Rev. Dr. John Smith and Apostle Elsworth Williams (Guyana), Rev. Dr. Allan Lee (Bahamas), Mrs. Donna Every (Barbados) and Col. Raphael Mason (Jamaica).

All Caribbean leaders should plan to take advantage of this unique opportunity. It will shape the future of the Caribbean Church.

Seale To Step Down From EAC

Bishop Gerry Seale has announced that he will be stepping down from the post of Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer of EAC shortly after CONECAR 2011, which will be in Guyana in October.

Bishop Seale joined

EAC's staff in September 1993 after the death of Dave Ho, his predecessor. A year later his wife, Cyla, also joined EAC's staff. They have both been tireless in their service to the Lord and the Church in the Caribbean during their tenure on EAC's staff.

As this newsletter went to press the Seales did not know what their next assignment would be but are confident that they are obeying the call of God on their lives as a couple. They "look forward to the future with excitement."



Commonwealth Prayer Initiative



Every two years, there is a gathering of Commonwealth leaders. It is held in a different nation each time and brings together ¼ of the world's national leaders, spouses, some foreign ministers, youth and business fora.

Church leaders and prayer leaders in host nations have been faithful to undergird CHOGM in effectual and fervent prayer, particularly Uganda in 2007 and Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. Prayer leaders in these nations have notable testimonies about what

happened over that time and how CHOGM was a catalyst to strengthen church unity and the prayer networks in their nations.

The next CHOGM is to be held in Perth, Australia in October 2011. Church and prayer leaders in Australia decided to continue this wave of prayer by:

- ♦ Convening a **Commonwealth Christian Assembly** just prior to CHOGM
- ♦ Coordinating **Project 54** where churches adopt a Commonwealth nation in prayer for a year. There are 54 Common-

wealth nations, including Fiji which is presently suspended.

- ♦ Coordinate **Project 54** for schools and appoint Child and Youth Prayer Ambassadors for each nation.

Prayer leaders in different nations began to offer to get churches in their own nations to take part and it was soon realised the Lord wanted an extraordinary global wave of prayer by the Commonwealth nations for one another. Intercessory ministries in non-Commonwealth nations are also praying.

This extra interest has caused a move beyond simply praying for CHOGM and the leaders. The aim now is to get all 54 Commonwealth nations praying for the other nations and national and local government offices and the Commonwealth Secretariat has been advised of this.

It is hoped that a minimum of 54 churches in each country will each adopt a different Commonwealth nation. Some churches are aiming much higher.

Do Something World—St. Lucia

A major volunteerism campaign, led by a former professional American football player, will soon get underway in Saint Lucia.

Former NFL player Miles McPherson, president of Miles Ahead and Senior Pastor of the Rock Church in San Diego, said the volunteerism initiative dubbed "Do Something World—St.

Lucia" is set to take off on the Eastern Caribbean island nation this April following successful projects in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

The "Do Something World" campaign works with national stakeholders to "cooperate, commit and participate in community building projects that engender a spirit of brother-

hood and have a life-changing impact on young people, families and communities across the focal country," reported McPherson.

The campaign promotes "love and service to communities," utilising sustainable solutions, working in partnership with civic, business, church and state leaders. Through a con-

certed six-month volunteerism drive, the campaign hopes to see hundreds of volunteers serving and addressing key social issues in the community. The ultimate goal is to see lives changed by positively impacting young people in particular, and families in general across Saint Lucia.

Projects are also being planned for other Caribbean islands including Barbados.

Warehouse Under Construction in Haïti



Artist's rendering of the new warehouse.

Convoy of Hope will soon begin construction of a 35,000-square-foot warehouse just outside of Port-au-Prince, Haïti.

In January Kevin Rose, International Programmes Director for Convoy of Hope, reported, "The site is prepared and I expect con-

struction of the prefabricated steel building will progress quickly once begun. I am optimistic we will be utilising the building by early summer."

Once completed, the warehouse will have the capacity to hold up to six million meals. "The warehouse will allow us to con-

tinue to expand our rapidly-growing feeding initiative in Haïti's schools and orphanages," says Hal Donaldson, president of Convoy of Hope.

Convoy of Hope's goal is to provide a nutritious daily meal to 40,000 school children this year. (AG-News)

Street Theatre in HIV Education Programme

The Association of Evangelical Churches in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has conducted a highly successful programme on HIV, focusing on education about the disease, testing, and reducing stigma and discrimination. The tools used were street theatre, testing for HIV and training persons to conduct workshops in their own communities.

On July 24 the first two

street theatre performances were conducted to rave reviews from observers and not a little amount of real life drama as some persons in the communities got a bit too involved in the performances.

In three more communities five more performances were conducted with some 270 persons seeing them.

Canvassing took place after each dramatic presentation where literature and referral cards were

distributed. Along with the dramas and canvassing, HIV rapid testing was done in each community (141 persons in total getting tested with one known HIV case). This was done as it was felt and advised that people would be ready to get tested in the community in which they lived.

The following week in each community workshops were held with the largest turnout occurring in Barrouallie and the smallest in Layou. Each community had its varied chal-

lenges but each was an exciting, fact-filled experience for all concerned.

Further training took place in training trainers to conduct HIV workshops with an aim to reduce the occurrence of stigma and discrimination throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

This programme is one of the ways the St. Vincent EA is responding to the Sexual Practices Survey conducted in partnership with EAC and UNICEF in 2009.

Archbishop Celebrates 400 Years of KJV

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has celebrated the impact of the King James Bible since its publication 400 years ago.

"When we try to make sense of our lives and of who we really are, it helps to have a strongly defined story, a big picture of some kind in the background," said Williams, in his annual New Year mes-

sage, recorded for the BBC. "As the King James Bible took hold of the imaginations of millions of people in the English-speaking world, it gave them just that—a big picture, a story in which their lives made sense."

The Authorised King James Version is an English translation of the Bible begun in 1604 and published in 1611. James I,

who instructed the translation, was king of England at the time.

"Things move on but it's good for us to have some long-lasting furniture in our minds, words and images that have something a bit mysterious about them and that carry important experiences for us that we can't find words of our own for," Williams said.

"As the King James Bible took hold of the imaginations of millions of people in the English-speaking world, it gave them just that—a big picture, a story in which their lives made sense."

WEA Dedicates New Centre in New York

World Evangelical Alliance has dedicated a new conference and training centre it hopes will unify evangelical leaders from around the world in strategic service for God's Kingdom.

The Evangelical Centre is a multipurpose facility spread over 64,000 sq ft and set within leafy upstate New

York, close to Binghamton.

The facility houses the offices of the WEA and its training arm, the WEA Leadership Institute, as well as a spacious conference hall, library and R&D centre.

Secretary General of WEA, Dr Geoff Tunnicliffe said: "This centre is an historic first for the global evangelical community. We now have a

place where evangelicals from around the world can come together to pray, share their vision, strategise and be trained and equipped in their service for the Kingdom. We hope the many conferences and meetings here in the years to come will be the starting point for significant advances in the fulfilment of the Great Commission."

The centre has been fully funded by WEA ministry partners and was formally opened on December 9, 2010, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony joined by senior leaders of the World Evangelical Alliance.

In a sermon during the dedication service, Dr Tunnicliffe said the centre's most important function would be as a place of prayer.



Donna Every
author of

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"Surviving in Times Of Financial Crisis"

and writer of the column,

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Wealth Creation Series

Philipsburg, St. Maarten: Victorious Living Foundation (VLF), an Associate Member of EAC, whose mission is to be the leading total-wellness, family and youth-oriented community service provider entered into a strategic partnership with Caribbean Home & Business Expo (CHBE) and held its Wealth Creation Series there.

The Victorious Living Wealth Creation Series (WCS), a brain child of visionary Dr. Erna Mae Francis in conjunction with Ascendant Strategy, a CEO branding company based in Philadelphia, aims to create new and effectively grow existing businesses, re-energise seasoned entrepreneurs, and mentor youth through innovative training and practical experience.

The series, which fulfills the socio-economic development arm of the foundation, was launched in June 2010 and continues to 2011. It comprises several intensive ses-

sions led by successful international and local entrepreneurs from industries that provide wealth creation and business development tools to increase the overall success of businesses in St. Maarten and neighbouring islands.

Following the success of the previous Wealth Creation Symposium on August 7, 2010 at the Belair Community Centre, other exceptional workshops were held at the Expo. Among the guest speakers at the August Symposium were Louis Lautman, Producer of the "YES Movie" presenting "The Winning Strategies You Take Action On" and Fenorris Pearson, Former VP of Dell and Motorola, presenting "Developing Million Dollar Ideas."

Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate commented, "You don't expect to see a seminar of this calibre on this island. I am very impressed with the quality of this seminar." Marie Antoinette of Hairlusions commented, "I truly

enjoyed it! I felt that I have gotten much knowledge and it is only the beginning."

The most recent WCS workshops took place Nov. 12-13, 2010 at the Sonesta Maho Convention Centre. On Friday, Nov. 12 Dr. Rodney Sampson, international social entrepreneur, thought leader, and leader of faith and economics, spoke on "How to Monetise Social Media"—a workshop on experiential strategies for monetising social utilities such as Twitter, Facebook and E-Factor. Raoul Davis the Chairman of The Ascendant Group, a CEO branding, management, and literary company designed to increase visibility for executive clientele in the global marketplace, spoke on "Newest Techniques in Corporate Branding."

On Saturday, Nov. 13 Dr. Rodney Sampson spoke on "Maximising the Social/Mobile Media Universe" demonstrating the integration of social and mobile media tools, plat-

"You don't expect to see a seminar of this calibre on this island. I am very impressed with the quality of this seminar."

forms and practices. Arthur Wylie, one of the hottest celebrity entrepreneurs in America and founder and CEO of Arthur Wylie Enterprises, Co-CEO of (Ticker GBHL) Global Entertainment Holding's Film Fund, spoke on "Product U: Marketing a business begins with marketing yourself" and "The art of deal making and negotiating contracts."

St. Maarten's very own successful entrepreneur, owner and Managing Director of NAPA Auto, Truck & Marine Parts on St. Maarten and St. Croix, Mr. Michael Ferrier, was also a guest speaker. Mr. Ferrier shared his experience of "Product U: Marketing a business begins with marketing yourself." The symposium was deemed a major success by the attendees.

St. Vincent EA Launches Leadership Training

Plans have been put in place for the Leadership Series Training that will be held in St Vincent and the Grenadines under the auspices of the Association of Evangelical Churches

"The training will last for three years, with one seminar/training every six months."

in conjunction with EQUIP International, a non-profit organisation founded by John Maxwell.

The training will last for three years, with one seminar/training every six months. Lecturers will come from EQUIP and conduct training on Friday and Saturday.

The first training seminar will be held April 15-16, 2011.

The total cost per seminar will be

EC\$150.00 which will cover registration, food, materials and any other incidentals. This means that every seminar attended in the series would cost EC\$150.00.

Following successful completion of the programme participants will be certified by EQUIP and would be fully able to meet the challenges of leadership in the current national and regional climate.

Venue is still to be

arranged.

The team co-ordinating this event comprises:

- ♦ Rev. George Fredricks
- ♦ Rev. Dr. Melch Pope
- ♦ Rev. Paul Kirby
- ♦ Ms. Eudene Gregg
- ♦ Rev. Shakika Fraser
- ♦ Mr. Kenyatta Lewis

The main target audience for this training is church leaders. However, the training will also be made available to those in the business community and other interested persons.

"Vilage Mirak" Rises from the Dust of Haïti

It's been more than one year since the catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the small country of Haïti.

Amidst reports of side-tracked donations and widespread ineffectiveness bringing relief to the suffering people of Haïti, there is a ray of hope for survivors living in a tent city outside Fond Parisien.

According to a media release from Love A Child Ministries, a new village is currently being built, literally from the ground up, by the ministry and its future inhabitants. The project arose from the immense suffering witnessed by ministry founders Bobby and Sherry Burnette in the aftermath of the earthquake.

"January 12th, 2010 changed us forever. Our lives will never be the same," says Sherry Burnette.

nette.

The news release states that on the completion of Phase One of the project the first fifty houses were occupied by amputee survivors and their families.

Phase Two of the project would see 206 more houses completed in the first weeks of 2011. The full project will be a master-planned community with 500 permanent homes, public buildings, gravel roads, and a market area for local business to flourish.

The release says that every home is being built with earthquake and hurricane resistant materials, with ramps for handicap access, and will be provided fully furnished for each resident. Local workers are being utilised for many jobs, and the future inhabitants are helping to

build, paint, and lay the foundations for each home. The residents recently voted on a name for the new settlement, and have dubbed it "

"Vilage Mirak" or Miracle Village.

Some statistics on the January 12, 2010 earthquake:

- ✦ 220,000 killed, many crushed by collapsed concrete buildings.
- ✦ Over 300,000 more injured.
- ✦ Approximately 1.3 million left homeless.
- ✦ Thousands of businesses, schools, and public buildings destroyed with no supplies or income to rebuild.

Over a year later, 90 percent of the rubble still lies in the streets of Port au Prince, and the majority of the displaced still live in tent cities or transitional

Every home is being built with earthquake and hurricane resistant materials, with ramps for handicap access, and will be provided fully furnished for each resident.



The new village takes shape—500 houses are being built.

WEA/AEA Statement on Sudan Referendum

January 2011 In 2005, when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in Kenya and an interim governance arrangement set up, the stage was set for the end of nearly five decades of civil war. The CPA set in motion the process that led to the Referendum in 2011, the most crucial part of the Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The Referendum was held to decide whether Southern Sudan remained united to the greater Sudan, the Arab North, or secede as an independent state. The Referendum was held from January 9th to 15th January 2011 in Southern Sudan as well as eight overseas countries—Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt, UK, Canada, US and Australia—making it nothing short of historic!

The Sudanese Church, a vital part of civil society, invited the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), a global body representing 600 million evangelical Christians, and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) to be involved in the process of rebuilding Sudan as part of the "Kejiko 2", an important dialogue between the Church and the Government of Southern Sudan. It was against this backdrop that AEA and WEA jointly undertook to send teams of international observers to the Referendum. This statement is issued pursuant to their initiatives in observing the South Sudan Referendum.

Process

AEA/WEA applied to the South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) for accreditation. This was granted and subsequently a team of observers was sent to Sudan and the host country Kenya.

In addition, Uganda, Ethiopia and Egypt, mainly through the National Evangelical Fellowships (NEFs), facilitated teams of observers to over fifty (50) different polling stations. The teams observed polling conditions that included confirmation of registration by the voters, polling documentation, ballot papers and polling booths. Similarly the teams witnessed polling taking place in urban and rural settings, including army camps, SPLM camps and even a lepers' community in the heart of Juba!

"AEA/WEA facilitated teams of observers to over fifty (50) different polling stations."

Findings and Observations

As representatives of Evangelical Christians we observed the following:

- ✦ The Referendum was conducted in a peaceful manner to a large extent and for this we give glory to God.
- ✦ As preliminary results were received from the different centres around the world we noted the high numbers of voters who turned up to vote, well over the 60% threshold required to validate the exercise.
- ✦ That the South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) undertook to conduct, and did conduct, the Referendum in a fair and free manner, and were generally efficient, organised and well prepared. For this they should be congratulated.
- ✦ That the SSRC did organize the referendum cognizant of all people groups, i.e. the elderly, sick and

physically or otherwise challenged, that SSRC did cater for each of these categories thus the voice of the Southern Sudanese in Sudan and the Diaspora was well noted.

- ✦ That SSRC and the contracted agency, The International Office of Immigration (IOM), did facilitate access to the polling stations through provision of free transport in some areas therefore enabling even those far from the polling stations access to the same in good time,
- ✦ That IOM did provide and ensure an adequate supply of voting materials at all times as well as provision of technical support to the Referendum Staff.
- ✦ That host countries did provide and ensure adequate security at all times at the polling stations; overnight security was provided for the ballot boxes awaiting conclusion of the exercise and tallying of the votes.
- ✦ That adherence to the set guidelines was strictly adhered to. The guidelines concerned opening and closing times, press freedom, accreditation of all international and domestic observers, orderliness within the station, clear identification of all staff, valid voter registers as well as ballot papers.
- ✦ That SSRC did take into consideration community concerns and fears; in Uganda, stations were mainly situated outside the capital city for security to ensure safety of voters and ballots.
- ✦ Failure to agree terms on implementing the referendum for Abyei, due to be held simultaneously with the Southern Sudan Referendum. This failure must be held partially responsible

for subsequent violence and instability in the Abyei region.

As Sudan and the world at large await the official announcement of the results, we urge the international community to continue in prayer for South Sudan. Several issues are emergent:

- ☑ The ongoing conflict in Abyei—over 20 reported dead; this continues to be a great area of concern and outstanding issues must be resolved as soon as possible.
- ☑ Managing the very high expectations post referendum—communities and individuals have very high expectations post referendum and it is feared that failure to meet these expectations could lead to unrest and possible tension.
- ☑ Provision of basic services, i.e. education, sanitation, food, and shelter to the millions of returnees. As scores of people make the southward relocation, access to basic service has already been stretched to the maximum, yet more continue to pour in through the ports and border points.
- ☑ Volunteers—this could be either short- or long-term volunteers to work alongside the staff with the different development and mission agencies in Sudan in attending to the humanitarian crisis, the provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs) and medical care among others.
- ☑ Trauma Counselling—as communities seek to settle down to nation building, the effects of twenty-one years of conflict cannot be underestimated. Much effort will be required in post conflict management and peace building.

Stakel Records First Gospel CD



Rachel Stakel of Suriname

A journey of prayer, excitement, disappointment, open doors and hard work has helped to create *Good Woman* — Rachel (pronounced RAH-KEL)

Stakel's first CD.

This has been a journey of many years of hoping and wishing then finally recording her own music.

In 2010 God opened the doors. Rachel, born and living in Suriname, came into contact with Noel and Philip Williams who run *WILLBRO Music Production*, an independent gospel music label and production studio in Georgetown, Guyana.

In September 2010 Rachel started recording, a vision that she had carried for years. Her vision, which she believes to be God-

given, is to sing first to exalt God and second to encourage people in their everyday life which can be filled with many challenges.

Rachel knows that God has called her for such a time as this and is excited as a young woman to see where God is taking her in ministry and in life.

The encouraging words of the songs *Good Woman*, *I'm an Overcomer*, *One Drop of Faith* and seven other songs, will be a true inspiration to all who listen to this CD.

The album carries a modern urban/Caribbean

sound and is mastered in the USA by Diskmakers.

The lesson Rachel has drawn from the experience is that a vision given by God does not have to come to pass immediately. Just know that once God is in it, it will come to pass. For everything there is a time and a season. Keep dreaming and hold on to the word God has given.



Cuban Church Responds to Economy

Cuba is expected to cut more than a million government jobs, or about one-tenth of the workforce.

Christians in Cuba are increasingly going public with their faith as the country confronts hard economic times.

"The crisis is an opportunity for faith," said Pastor Marcial Miguel Hernandez, president of Cuba's National Council of Churches. "Crisis is

God's opportunity for the church to show its solidarity and love for our neighbour."

Cuba is expected to cut more than a million government jobs, or about one-tenth of the workforce. Churches are preparing to provide some financial support as well as hope for those who will

lose their jobs.

"You can't be romantic about the situation," Hernandez told CNN. "There are going to be a million people, maybe more, who will be unemployed. The church is getting ready for this." (RT)



WEA Grieves Senseless Murder of Shabaz Bhatti

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) is grieving the loss of Pakistan's Minister for Minority Affairs Shahbaz Bhatti, who was assassinated March 02, 2011 in Islamabad. The WEA condemns in the strongest terms this senseless act of violence and urges the government of Pakistan to bring to justice those who committed this crime.

Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, WEA Secretary General, stated, "Not only have I lost a dear personal friend, but the world has lost a great champion for

religious liberty, human rights and the protection of human dignity for all people."

WEA commends Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari for creating the Ministry for Minority Affairs, for appointing a minister from a religious minority community, and for forcefully condemning the assassination of Minister Bhatti. WEA urges the Government of Pakistan to honour the pioneering work of Minister Bhatti and his memory by ensuring the swift appointment of another strong advocate for minorities to build upon all that

he accomplished.

Minister Bhatti was an outspoken critic of Pakistan's blasphemy law and had been calling for its abolition. Pamphlets left by the assassins labelled him an "infidel Christian" and cited his opposition to the blasphemy law as the reason for his assassination.

The killing of Minister Bhatti underscores the peril religious minorities in Pakistan are facing as a result of the blasphemy law and the culture of animosity this law continues to foster within the country.

Dr. Tunnicliffe met Minister

Bhatti just recently to discuss the situation in Pakistan and to plan a high level visit to Islamabad by WEA leaders.

Ten days ago Shahbaz Bhatti was re-inducted into the cabinet of the government of Pakistan. According to Minister Bhatti his induction "had sent a wave of joy and encouragement among the religious minorities across the country, especially the Christian community".

The day before his assassination, Minister Bhatti wrote Dr. Tunnicliffe, acknowledging his personal faith in Jesus Christ.



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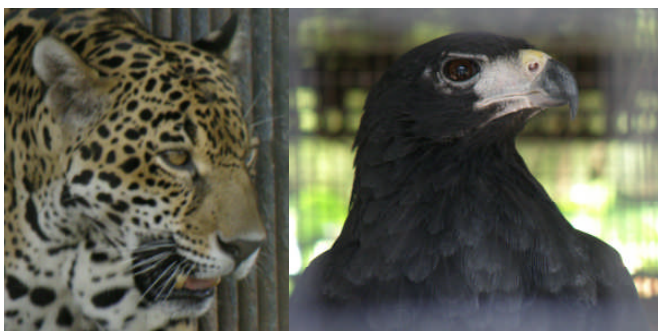
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Rev. Dr. John O. Smith,
EAC Chair

A Word From the Chair:

Jesus in response to the question by His disciples in Matthew 24:3 with regard to the end stated *inter alia* that "kingdom shall rise against kingdom." Our eyes are certainly on the Middle East but for another reason. The Arab Revolt, as some call it, is sweeping kingdom after kingdom in the Middle East bringing kingdom against kingdom and brother against brother. Could this be the shaking that Isaiah spoke about in chapter 24:18?

Jesus also declared in Matthew 24 that "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars and earthquakes in divers places." As I write New Zealand is reeling from another earthquake five months after the last one. This time around there is loss of life. What meaneth this? What do these happenings tell us? What we have to do we must do quickly.

But what is it that we must do? Jesus told His mother, Mary and Joseph that He must be

about His Father's business. Two things therefore must consume us. Firstly, we must be involved in the Great Commission. This is the task of taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Secondly, we must live the Great Commandment. We must love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbour as ourselves.

We cannot take the Gospel to people we do not love.