THE LORD'S INVITATION

Brethren, Jesus extended his invitation by saying, "come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Mathew 11:28-30)

The Lord's invitation is, as far as it is concerned, the greatest so far. And it is the beginning of evangelism to the Great Kingdom – the church of the Lord.

To let one and all know what He would expect of those who would respond to his invitation, Jesus commanded the Apostles to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Mathew 28:19,20).

Mark recorded the Lord's great commission in this way, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all over the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:45,16).

What is the gospel that the Lord is talking about? The word literally means "good news" (Romans 10:15), the message telling of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). In obeying the commands of the gospel, picturing what Christ has done for us, a person dies to his sins, is buried in the waters o baptism, and is resurrected from that watery grace to walk in newness of life. Read John 3:3-5 and Romans 6.

Because of the meaning of "gospel," Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH" (Romans 1:16,17).

Following the Lord's personal ministry on the earth, after He had died, been buried resurrected and had returned to the Father in heaven, on the Day of Pentecost the Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, enabling them to begin the work of preaching that gospel to a lost world. A great gathering took place in the city of Jerusalem on that day and the Apostles preached to the multitude. Many of those who heard the message became believers and wanted to know what else they should do (Acts 2:37). "Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in

the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38-41). And so they continued to teach and serve God," .... the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

Now when I was still young man, working as teacher in Western Kenya, I was blessed to hear the Gospel proclaimed by some missionaries from United States of America U.S.A. Had attended Gospel meeting where the preachers from USA and in various worship services of the church of Christ. Those who were preaching always extended the Lord's invitation to those were present, (I included), explaining what one needed to do to be saved and encouraging the erring Christian to return to God. All of this was done in a clear, kind way so that there would be no doubt as to what the Lord expected anyone to do. On that day about seven of us were baptized and added to the church.

My brethren, what does the Lord's invitation mean to you? Don't you think it is worth repeating? Do you really think the repetition is boring waste of time? Explaining that invitation, with the love and concern of the Lord could make eternal difference for someone in the audience.

Let us prepare ourselves with the "LORD INVITATION" while, and whenever we are on our mission to reach out to the lost and also during worships on the Lord's Day.

God bless you.

Brother John Kombo