

ONSEEPKANS MISSION

Newsletter November / December 2013

Dear Friends

With amazement we reflect back on 2013 and realize that the year is behind us. So much have happened and we can only thank our heavenly Father for His grace and goodness.

We want to sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, encouragement and support the past year.

During these days I pondered on the portion of Scripture in Matt. 1:21 where the angel spoke to Joseph regarding Mary and the baby Jesus to be born. The angel told Joseph that the baby must be called Jesus, because "He shall save His people from their sins."

Robert Murray M'Cheyne, a Scottish preacher a few centuries ago, preached a sermon entitled *The Impressions of Natural Men*.

He makes the following statement "*The impressions of natural men are generally of terror. They feel the danger of sin, not the filthiness of it. They feel that God is just and true, that the law must be avenged, that the wrath of God will come. They see that there is hell in their sins; but they do not feel their sins to be a hell. They love sin; they have no change of nature.*"

This statement made a deep impression on me. I asked myself the following question: "Do I fear the consequences of sin, or do I fear and hate sin itself?" The angel did not say that Jesus will deliver His people from the consequences of their sins, but of sin itself.

How many times in ministry, and even in our own lives, do we see people fearing the conse-



We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy new year, filled with God's presence in your lives.

quences of sin. We do not want to sin because we are afraid of the consequences, feeling separated from God and a fear of hell. We fear the results of sin, but not sin itself.

I was challenged on this point. Do I truly despise sin because of the nature of sin, or only because of the consequences? Try to think of it this way, do I feel repulsive at the thought of eating rotten meat because I am afraid of the potential dangers to my health as a result? Or is the very thought of rotten meat so repulsive that I do not even want to touch it? In the very same way we must hate sin because of the nature of sin.

Is this not the reason why so many peo-

ple profess Christianity today, and yet we see so few lives truly changed by Christ? We became used to the presence of sin and the nature thereof is not repulsive to us anymore.

Maybe this does not sound like the Christmas message that we would like to hear. Christmas is about goodwill and festivity, a time of fellowship with friends and family. Yet this is the very reason why Jesus came to this earth, to "save His people from their sins". The greatest gift that we can receive this Christmas is our Lord Jesus saving us from our sins. This is not a message for those people who do not know Christ. The angel did not say "He will save people from their sins", but "He shall save His people from their sins".

Jesus wants to save us, His children, from our sins (the love, desire and fondness of sin). I believe that if we grasp this profound truth, 2014 will be a revolutionary year in our relationship with Christ.

This is truly the prayer of our heart, that this coming year 2014 we will experience Jesus saving us, His people, from our sins. May 2014 be a year where we will hate sin, grow in holiness and get to know our Lord Jesus in a more intimate way.