

## Minister's Message – January 2005

### Repent

The voice on the radio said this was a disaster of Biblical proportions. What did he mean by that? I guess he was thinking of Noah's flood. I wondered if he believed that the world was inundated totally by water thousands of years ago. Did he believe in the God who created this world and who has the power to shake it?

When Noah was 600 years old (600 years 2 months and 17 days to be exact), *on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were open*. The waters rose until all the earth was flooded and only those in the ark were saved. It must have been a terrible time – a disaster of Biblical proportions. Thankfully God promised never to destroy the whole earth again by flood (Genesis 9).

Let us not doubt the power of God to act in this world in a mighty way. Let us remember that this planet on which we live was made by God, and one day will pass away; it will be destroyed by the same God (I Peter 3:10).

Now God sent the flood in the days of Noah to destroy the wicked. The Lord said *I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth* (Genesis 6). In this terrible Tsunami that came from the Indian Ocean, over 100,000 have perished. Were they all wicked? Surely not – both righteous and wicked died in this disaster that came suddenly and without warning.

Many are grieving the loss of loved ones and suffering the loss of the basic necessities of life. We pray for those suffering and seek to help them at this time in material ways. I particularly think of some of my former students working with Christian relief agencies in India. Let us do good to all (Galatians 6:10), let remember the orphans in widows in distress (James 1:27).

But Jesus wants us to think beyond humanitarian relief. He himself was second to no man in helping the poor and needy, but listen to what he said to those who asked about the people killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them. *Do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem* asked Jesus. *I tell you no; **but unless you repent you also will likewise perish*** (Luke 13:5).

Pray for those suffering, and give generously and appropriately to relieve their suffering. May we also each one reflect and repent as Jesus said. Reflect on God's might and power, and repent before death takes us from this world. Be it suddenly or slowly, it will be surely – except for those who live and believe in Christ Jesus (John 11:26).

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