



PERFECTION OF LOVE

A B L E S S U S A N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 8 No. 3

Assistance for People with Disabilities

Every morning we wake up and go on with our daily routine. It is very difficult for us to envision what our lives would be like if we were not able to walk on our own, dress ourselves or be able to see our families. But this is the reality that people with disabilities must face each and every day of their lives.

Many disabilities, whether physical or mental, can be treated through adaptive equipment, assistive devices, rehabilitation or treatment. Simple items such as wheelchairs, crutches, or eyeglasses can remove a huge barrier and allow people to become more functionally independent in their environments. However, these items are not accessible to many of those who are greatly in need of them.

According to the World Health Organization, "the majority of them [people with disabilities] are poor and do not have access to basic services including rehabilitation facilities. Their primary struggle is to survive and meet basic needs such as food and shelter, particularly in case of severe or multiple disabilities." Simple equipment, which can have far reaching effects, becomes out of reach due to its costs.

Many of our brethren in Egypt are suffering from disabilities. However, you can help minimize the impact the disability has on their lives. Assistance for People with Disabilities is a program of BLESS that is specifically designed to serve both physically and mentally handicapped individuals. This includes the provision of prosthetics and orthotics as well as a variety of medical equipment including wheelchairs, hearing aids, walkers, crutches, canes, etc. With your help, a man will be able to walk unassisted, a child will be able to see his mother more clearly, and a woman will be able to hear once again.

Dear Member,

At this time we are reminded of the Easter gift we present to our beloved Brethren of the Lord who are in Egypt. As you, our members, are always generous with your offerings, especially during this blessed time; we also continue to ask the Lord to bless you this coming Holy week, Easter and all your days, and keep you in perfect health and peace.

Service Update

Periodically, BLESS USA shares information about the service of BLESS in Egypt through presentations in churches throughout the country. Through God's grace we were able to share the service of BLESS USA with the following churches:

St. Mary & St. Antonious' Church	Queens, NY	April 3
St. Abraam's Church	Long Island, NY	April 10
St. Mark's Church	Troy, MI	April 17



Sayings of the Fathers

This is that perfect justice of which the philosophers speak which sustains the human society, this is the greatest and most authentic fruit of riches: not to use wealth for one's own personal enjoyment but for the benefit of many; not for one's own present profit, but for justice, which alone endures forever. It is necessary, therefore, to hold that we should do charity without looking for material profit. On the contrary, we should look for reward from God alone, since if we look for it from men, then our action would not be an exercise of the virtue of humanity... [For] to take up the work of caring for and cherishing the sick who have no one to assist them is a most noble work of humaneness. Whoever does this brings a living offering to God, and what he has given another in time, he will receive from God in eternity.

-ST. LACTANTIUS

Reverend Fathers and beloved brethren, friends of BLESS USA

Reverend Fathers and beloved brethren, friends of BLESS USA

The peace, love, and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

I would like to express my gratitude for the generosity and kindness of heart that you shown towards your less fortunate brothers and sisters in Egypt, the brethren of the Lord.

My beloved brethren let us continue to contemplate on:

The Blessings of Mercy toward the Merciful

The Divine Inspiration mentions many blessings that are bestowed upon the lives of the merciful. In the previous newsletter we began contemplating on the twenty-fifth blessing:

The Lord preserves the life of the merciful.

This blessing, "the Lord will preserve his life," is experienced by those who show mercy to others, and carries two meanings:

The first meaning: "The Lord will fill his heart with life" ... Archangel Raphael said to Tobias and Tobit, "Those who give alms will enjoy a full life" (Tob. 12:9)

The second meaning: "The Lord will save him from death" ... Archangel Raphael said to Tobias and Tobit, "for almsgiving saves from death" (Tob. 12:9.) Similarly Tobit said to his son Tobias, "for almsgiving delivers from death" (Tob. 4: 10). The Lord fills the merciful heart with life and saves it from death. We mentioned previously the example of Tobit the righteous, let us now consider the example of:

II. Our teacher David the Prophet:

King David the prophet had a very merciful heart full of compassion toward the poor and the needy. He chanted his sweet Psalm saying, "Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will protect him and preserve his life." (Ps. 41: 1,2.) King David himself experienced this blessing in his own life, he saw how often the Lord preserved his life and delivered him from death.

In the 28th newsletter we discussed how the Lord saved his life from:

1. The lion and the bear. (1Sam. 17:34-37)
2. The Hands of Goliath the Philistine. (1Sam. 17:42-51)
3. The hands of Saul the king, when he wanted to kill David with the spear. (1Sam. 18:6-12)

In the 29th newsletter we discussed how the Lord saved his life from:

4. The conspiracy of king Saul, when he wanted to kill him by the hands of the Philistines. (1Sam. 18:17-28)
5. The conspiracy of king Saul to kill him and God saved him by his friend Jonathan. (1Sam. 19:1-7)
6. The spear of king Saul for the second time. (1Sam. 19:8-10)
7. The conspiracy of king Saul to kill him in his

house. (1Sam. 19:11-18)

In the 30th newsletter we discussed how the Lord saved him from:

8. The hands of king Saul in Keilah. (1Sam. 23:1-4)

In the 31st newsletter we discussed how the Lord saved him from:

9. The hands of king Saul in the Desert of Maon. (1Sam. 23:25-29)

10. The hands of king Saul in the Desert of En Gedi. (1Sam. 24:1-9)

In the 32nd newsletter we discussed how the Lord saved him from:

11. The hands of king Saul in the Desert of Ziph. (1Sam. 26)

This time-my beloved- we continue to mention how God saved him from:

12. The Philistines in the Valley of Rephaim (2Sam. 5:17-25):

The Divine Inspiration said, "When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; so David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you." So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them. He said, "As waters break out, the LORD has broken out against my enemies before me." So the place was called Baal Perazim. The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off.


Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; so David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops the balsam trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army. So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer." (2Sam. 5: 17-25)

Believe me, my beloved, the more we consider the poor, the more the Lord will preserve our lives. We see this in the life of our teacher David the Prophet, when the Lord said to Nathan the Prophet, "now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you.'" (2Sam. 7: 8,9)

My beloved, we will continue to explore more examples about how God preserves the life of the merciful.

May our Lord compensate you with the incorruptible instead of the corruptible, the heavenly instead of the earthly and the eternal instead of the temporal.

Bishop Youannes



General Bishop and Secretary of H.H. Pope Shenouda III