



# 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. 5

## Assistance for the Underdeveloped

*"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.  
Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."*

-Lao Tzu

The very spirit of the Assistance for the Underdeveloped Program is captured in this wise saying. The hungry need food to eat, but if they become self-sufficient and are able to provide for themselves, this will have a much greater impact on their lives over time.

As such, the Assistance for the Underdeveloped Program offers training and provisions to help individuals develop a trade, which in turn enables them to generate income for their families and become self-sufficient. The Program helps these individuals get started by providing them with things such as fruit/vegetable stands, street vending carts, sewing machines and livestock.

The effects of unemployment most often leave the Brethren of the Lord without a means to provide the basic necessities for themselves and their families. Recently, unemployment has reached as high as 20% among Youth, 37% among Adult Females, and 14% among Adult Males (Reference: 2004 United Nations Human Development Report), leaving many in need of aid. The Brethren of the Lord are among the population in most urgent need. According to the 2004 United Nations Human Development Report, 43.9% of the population is considered "Poor," meaning they live on less than \$2 per day. Living on \$2/day does not mean being able to afford what \$2 would buy when converted into Egyptian pounds, but the equivalent of what \$2 would buy in the United States, for example, a newspaper, a bottle of soda.

Having an income-generating project, no matter how small, is a means of livelihood. Not only does it provide a steady source of income, but also a medium through which one's talents are developed and utilized.

Giving a man a warm meal to eat is an act of love; helping a man become self-sufficient so that he will be able to provide for himself and his family allows him to continue in that love daily.

## Dear Member,

Did you know that you could automatically contribute each month to BLESS USA directly from your checking account or credit card? For more information about **Automatic Monthly Contributions**, please contact us at the BLESS USA (973)-857-4299.

God bless your service.  
Member Services



## Sayings of the Fathers

What shall we do, then, we who have inherited a great and new name, taken from the name of Christ himself; we who are a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a people chosen and set apart (1 Pt. 2:9), doing good and salutary works (Tit. 2:14); we, who are the disciples of the meek and merciful Christ Who carried upon Himself our infirmities (Is 53:4), Who humbled Himself to the point of assuming our human condition and made Himself poor to cloth Himself with our flesh and dwell in this earthly tent, Who for our sake suffered pains and weakness, so that we may be enriched by His divinity? Now, we, who have such an example of mercy and compassion before our eyes, what do we think and what shall we do with these unfortunate people? Are we going to look down upon them, pass them by, abandon them as dead, as abominable, as the most dangerous snakes and beasts? No way, my brethren! We who are the flock of Christ will not be allowed to do so by the Good Shepherd, who looks for those who have gone astray, goes in search of those who are lost and strengthens the weak. Much less will we be allowed by our human nature, which promulgates compassion as law and teaches us to have mercy and kindness for those who are weak?

**Gregory of Nazianzus**

## 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 previous newsletters 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. 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.

- 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)
- 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)
- 8.The hands of king Saul in Keilah.(1Sam.23:1-4)
- 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)
- 11.The hands of king Saul in the Desert of Ziph.(1Sam.26)
- 12.The Philistines in the Valley of Rephaim (2Sam.5:17-25):
13. From the hands of Absalom his son. (2Sam.21: 15-17)
14. From The Philistines and Ishbi-Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant (2 Sam.21: 15-17):

The Divine Inspiration says, "When the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David and his servants with him went down and fought against the Philistines; and David grew faint. Then Ishbi-Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose bronze spear was three hundred shekels, who was bearing a new sword, thought he could kill David. But Abishai the son of Zeruah came to his aid, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the

men of David swore to him, saying, "You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."" (2 Sam.21: 15-17) And David chanted and sang to his Lord -who saved him from the hands of all his enemies- and he said,

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my Savior; You save me from violence. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies. "When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry entered His ears."(2 Sam.22: 2-7)

"He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; for they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all His judgements were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness... With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;" (2 Sam.22: 17-26)

"For You are my lamp, O Lord; The Lord shall enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop; by my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. "For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me; so my feet did not slip. "I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise; they have fallen under my feet. For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me." (2 Sam.22: 29-40)

"The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation! It is God, who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me; He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name. "He is the tower of salvation to His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore." (2 Sam.22: 47-51)

Contemplate, my beloved, on this deep song, of the righteous and the merciful through the ages.

My beloved, this was one more example of how the Lord 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

*Youannes*