

## PARTNER LETTER NOVEMBER 2008

Dear Partner

### COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

In this day in which we live society generally knows very little about the sacredness of a covenant. That should be obvious by the number of marriages that break up [many of them with just cause] however marriage is a 'blood covenant' relationship.

In the Bible generally a covenant is made for two reasons love or necessity. As the Church of The Lord Jesus Christ we have all been called into a covenant; it is a covenant of love. The precious blood of Jesus Christ seals this covenant and it operates through Divine love.

However when we came into covenant with God we also came in of necessity [by God's command] and we have come into covenant with one another and are now in the same family; we are blood brothers and sisters. We have been commanded to love one another as He loves us [John 13.33-34].

One of the great expressions of what a covenant is all about is found in 1 Samuel 18.1-4 where it describes Jonathan being knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved David as himself. Now to help you understand the sacredness and high calling of covenant it says in 2 Samuel 9.1-13 that after Jonathan's death, David is still looking for his covenant brother and he says, *"Is there anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"*

*3 And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.*

*4 And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.*

*5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.*

*6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant*

*7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.*

Kindness is the true expression of covenant love as David showed to the little boy who was lame in his feet but was Jonathan's son. As the King David could have banished Saul's memory forever but David was motivated by the spirit of covenant love and not by the spirit of the world. I believe the Body of Christ needs to understand this kind of covenant love today.

Matthew 10.8 *"...freely ye have received, freely give."*

Because God poured out His love on each of us unconditionally through Jesus Christ, He calls us as His body to do the same. We have received freely now we must freely give!

What are we motivated by?

Many are motivated by a judgmental spirit, and many are motivated by a sectarian spirit, yet others by a critical spirit.

Our job is not to JUDGE or CRITICIZE we are to LOVE and to GIVE.

It's not a question of *"Does this person deserve my love!"*

But *"Does the covenant I have with God require me to love this person unconditionally?"*

We may not like what they are doing but we don't have the right to judge them in that, because that is the job of the Holy Spirit, we are not qualified to do that.

David was a man after God's own heart, not because he never made a mistake, [and he made a few], but because he understood the power of covenant friendship and kindness. Here at Northern Faith Centre I want you to reflect a spirit of FRIENDSHIP and COVENANT KINDNESS, not judging or criticizing but loving and giving, just like Jesus did.

In His Covenant Power and love

**Norman & Elizabeth**

Dr. Norman & Elizabeth Campbell