



BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH

Office of the Metropolitan, Synod Secretariat, Thiruvalla, Kerala, India.

SHEPHERD'S LETTER

January 2019

✠In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

New Year's greetings to you all! A new year means a new start! A new year also means a season of new challenges and a season of new blessings. As we have entered into this new year, let me take this time to remind all of you about two very important things which we should practice and make habit in our lives.

The two things are: (1) Family prayer and (2) Bible reading. I have given short speeches on these two topics. They have been recorded and arrangements are being made so that you can watch them along with your parish members.

Family Prayer

There is a saying, "A family that prays together, stays together!" I believe this statement is very true because praying as a family not only brings us closer to God, it also brings us closer to each other. As all of the family members—the father, mother, children, grandparents and grandchildren all unite their hearts in prayer, God will bless that family. When God blesses a family, it will be seen by those around us. And when those around us seek to know the secret of joy and peace in our family, we can tell that the secret of all this is Jesus Christ!

For better understanding and practical application on this topic, please listen and learn from the DVD which I have made regarding this. In this new year, I believe that as we practice praying together as a family, God will truly bless us.

Regular Reading of God's Word

Imagine that you are unable to eat or drink for a day. What will happen to you? You will become very weak, feel tired and will not have strength to do work. What if this goes on for one or two weeks? I don't think anyone of us will be able to survive! We all will eventually die without food.

If that is true for our bodies, what about our spirits? We must feed our spirit by reading God's Holy Word. That is the food God gave to us, and Jesus said in St Matthew 4:4 that "Man shall not live by bread alone but by the word of God." Just as food is needed for our physical body, God's word is needed for our spiritual life.

Remember, the Holy Scripture is unlike any other book written. All words of the Bible are inspired by God and written for us to read, learn and apply in our lives (2 Timothy 3:16). God's word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12); it has everything needed to deal with all the questions and problems we will face in our lives.

That is why in Believers Eastern Church, we want everyone to have their own Bible. We should read it daily. (There is a booklet called *Bible Reading Calendar* which our church has produced which will help you read systematically through the Bible.) We should make it a point to memorise as many verses as we can. One more thing—God said great blessings are there for those who listen to God's word, for those who let others listen to God's word and those who obey God's word.

For better understanding and practical application on this topic, please listen and learn from the DVD which I have made on this subject. In this new year, I believe that as we practice regularly reading from God's Word, He will truly bless us.

My dear brothers and sisters, my prayer for you is that this year will be the most blessed year of your life till now. And as we practice reading Gods Word daily and praying together as a family, we will experience Gods blessings in a new way!

May the blessings of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ be with you throughout this new year. Amen.

✠Moran Mor Athanasius Yohan I Metropolitan.