

# “Golden Jubilee”

*R. Stanley, September 2020*



The 50th Anniversary of any event or an institution is celebrated as Golden Jubilee. The year **2020** is the most important Golden Jubilee year for my ministry in the Kingdom of God. It was on Sunday the **25th October 1970** that God spoke through me to about 30 youngsters who had gathered in the woods of Kottaiyur near Karaikudi, Tamilnadu. We had gathered from various parts of the State to wait before God for three days of prayer with partial fasting. It was to know His mind concerning the burden that was intensifying in our hearts over the role of youth in the purposes of God.

This 3-day gathering was the culmination of 7 years of daily evening prayer by about a dozen of us, college students, in the campus of the Alagappa Chettiar College of Engineering & Technology, Karaikudi. God used me to start a **campus prayer fellowship** here in 1963 when I joined as a student in the 5-year Engineering degree course. I led this group till 1968 when I left for Chennai to pursue my 2-year postgraduate studies in the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. My 2-year junior collegemate, Mr. A. Lionel, led the fellowship from 1968 to 1970.

Though I was the class-topper in our batch of six M.Tech. students in the Department of Soil Mechanics & Foundation Engineering, I was the only one who did not register in IIT Madras or overseas for doctoral studies. It was because there was a mounting urge in my heart to get into **God's work** as quickly as possible. One of Sister Sarah Navaroji's (1938-2014) prayers for me during this time was a confirmation. Towards the end of my final semester, Lilian's parents from Thanjavur proposed her to me through my parents. We were engaged in August 1970 and got married on the 21st September. No honeymoon trip but I was pondering over the inspirations that kept coming like surges from Above. Our 3-day gathering in October had several Spirit-filled youngsters from Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi and Madurai also. My parents and younger brother took care of our hospitality.

The first two days of this 3-day get-together were spent in worship, Bible meditation, mutual sharing and intercessory prayers. The unusual visitation of the Lord was during the dawn devotion on the third day around seven. As we were all on knees in a circle in the open-air, I broke forth into extempore prophetic preaching which went on for about an hour. The core of the message was the promise from Ezekiel 34:26, **“There shall be showers of blessing!”** It was a deep-reaching and thrilling experience for all of us. We had witnessed several outpourings of the Holy Spirit in our gatherings during the seven years, but this was all-surpassing. We all got literally drenched in the rain from Heaven. This was another Pentecost for this small group! Then we sat down looking at each other's face reflecting on the glorious experience. “What are we to do next?” Dominated by this question, we started making various proposals. The one on which we all quickly and unanimously agreed was to organize a 3-day Statewide **Revival** Programme for **young men**. The next immediate holidays were the Pongal Holidays in Jan 1971. We decided to call the Programme as “Blessing Retreat” in line with the prophetic promise that came to us from Ezekiel 34:26.

There were a little over two months for preparation. Where shall we conduct this Retreat? How shall we meet the expenses? And many such questions with no answers! I joined the faculty of the Regional Engineering College (now, NIT) in Trichy in November 1970. While eating out one evening, I casually shared with my father-in-law, Dr. J. A. Muthiah Pandian (1917-2008), a famous Ophthalmic Surgeon, the bare details of our gathering the previous month, God's visitation and our plan to hold a 3-day programme. As a down-to-earth practical man, he asked me, "What about the venue?" I answered, "No idea!" He instantly offered the famous Pandithar Gardens in his 100-acre land in Thanjavur to conduct the programme. His next question: "What about the expenses?" My answer again: "No idea!" He said he would take care of the entire expenses. To cut the story short, this was the first major programme which gave birth to the **Full Gospel Young Men Association** (FGYMA) in 1972 which is now known as the **Blessing Youth Mission** (BYM).

The 3-day Retreat in January 1971 with nearly 200 delegates from all over Tamilnadu witnessed the **descent of the glory of God**. Though it was exclusively for young MEN, a few seniors including a couple of praying women with my mother-in-law were there at the last row. They testified how the entire *pandal* (a temporary shed of coconut leaves) literally moved to the left and to the right for about a foot while I was preaching and the gathering was lifting up its voice in repeatedly singing, "*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!*" The next Camp was in January 1972, again during Pongal Holidays, and it was named as Blesso '72. Until 1974 these camps were largely financed by my father-in-law. The rest is history.

The late 1950s, the 1960s and the 1970s were a period of **Revival in India**, especially in the Southern States. Numerous modern Missions were born during these years. The Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB), Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM), and Gospel Echoing Missionary Society (GEMS) along with Blessing Youth Mission (BYM) are some of them. The FMPB celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2008 and the IEM in 2015. The BYM would celebrate it in 2021 and the GEMS in 2022. Several other Missions would follow. Older Missions like Indian Missionary Society (IMS) and National Missionary Society (NMS) had their Centenary celebrations in 2003 and 2005 respectively. The Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) had its Golden Jubilee in 2001. To God be all praise for the great things He has done through these and the younger Missions. Let's keep for us the slogan of William Carey (1761-1834), the Father of Modern Missions: "Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for Him!" The word "**blessing**" has become quite popular in the Christian world in that several ministries, meetings and telecasts go with this name! Yes, God has called us to be a "blessing" to the whole world as He commissioned Abraham the first Missionary (Gen 12:1,2).

The purpose of this Article is to study what God expects us to do in the Golden Jubilee year, whether it is of a local Church or a Mission or an Institution. The lessons will be helpful for individuals or families as well for 50th Birthdays, Wedding

Anniversaries, and the like. Read through the entire **25th Chapter of Leviticus** to get the spirit of the Jubilee celebration. The word “Jubilee” occurs 14 times in this chapter. The Jubilee Year is also called the Year of Liberty. The word “jubilee” comes from the Hebrew word “yobel” which means the blast of a trumpet. Liberty in the Jubilee Year was proclaimed through the sound of a trumpet which was made from a ram’s horn (v9). The Jubilee Year was the 50th year after seven cycles of seven years (v10). Three outstanding prescriptions for the Jubilee Year were (a) Rest for the soil (v11), (b) Reversion of lands to original owners (vv10-34; 27:16-27) and (c) Release of slaves and prisoners (25:39-46). The time was wisely announced in the evening after the solemn services of the Day of Atonement. The message is that we must forgive others as God has forgiven us (vv9,10).

The Jubilee Year had a levelling effect on Israel’s culture by giving everyone a chance for **a new start**. This was a type of the ministry of the Messiah in the New Covenant. Here’s Isaiah’s prophecy: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor ... to proclaim liberty to the captives ... to proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord ... to comfort all who mourn” (Isa 61:1,2). Jesus Himself read this passage from the Book of Isaiah as the inauguration of His ministry (Lk 4:16-20). After reading it He told the people in the Synagogue, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (v21). While reading the portion from Isaiah, He stopped with the “Acceptable Year of the Lord,” and did not read the words, “The Day of Vengeance of our God” (Isa 61:2; Lk 4:19). This He did deliberately because at His first coming He came as the Saviour; only at His second coming He would come as the Judge! Today is the “Day of Salvation,” not Judgment (2 Cor 6:2).

I urge all ministries and Missions to carry this spirit into their Golden Jubilee celebrations. Otherwise we would miss God’s purposes so clearly spelt out in the Messianic Manifesto as foreshadowed in the Old Testament, especially in the Book of Leviticus. Who gave us the authority to spiritualise the words, “poor, brokenhearted, captives, blind and the downtrodden” (Lk 4:18,19)? The spontaneous outcome of the Pentecostal experience of the early believers was the spirit of the Jubilee Year. “They sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need” (Acts 2:45; 4:34,35). No apostle commanded it. It was a voluntary act of the Spirit-baptized believers. Probably the Holy Spirit reminded them of Leviticus 25 as they were all Jews with a knowledge of the Old Testament. The tongues of fire which came upon them burnt the strings of attachment to earthly riches (Acts 2:3). I call this “the” evidence of Spirit anointing. The first non-Jew who got baptised with the Spirit, even before water baptism, was the one rich in almsgiving (Acts 10:1,2,31,44-48). Apostle Paul’s teaching on **economic “equality”** (2 Cor 8:13-15) is based on (a) the OT teaching on Jubilee Year (Lev 25), (b) the doctrine of John the Baptist (Lk 3:10,11), (c) the Messianic Manifesto (Lk 4:18,19; Isa 61:1,2) and (d) the voluntary practice of the first entrants into the Church (Acts 2:44-47). Dear reader, Are you with me? Are you

getting disturbed? Yes, we have drifted so much from God's Word, twisting it and interpreting it to suit our convenience. Let's come back to the Bible to enjoy the blessings of the Jubilee Year. Pentecost means 50th day! Just like the Day of Pentecost, why don't we call the Jubilee Year as the Year of Pentecost? Let all evangelistic ministries and missionary organisations plan to at least double their charitable activities beginning with the Jubilee Year. This would attract God's smile towards us (Acts 10:1-4).

As the Founder of a Mission and its Leader for 33 years (1971-2003), I would like to give some practical guidelines to various Missions as to how they can make their Golden Jubilee celebrations a sweet-smelling aroma to God. These seven guidelines are based on the Biblical teaching observed in the earlier paragraphs —

**(1)** As we saw earlier, the Year of Jubilee followed the Day of Atonement (Lev 25:9,10). We are forgiven because of the atoning death of Christ. We are made friends to God because of His cross (Rom 5:10). We are admonished to forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven us (Eph 4:32). Let's observe the Jubilee Year as the **Year of Forgiveness**. If we do not forgive one another wholeheartedly, God would not forgive us even if we pray with tears (Mt 6:14,15). Let the Staff of each organisation throw away all bitterness, anger, quarrelling and evil speaking (Eph 4:31). Let the leaders stop speaking harsh words to the workers. Do not treat the Staff as employees as if you are the employer, but as brothers and sisters. Give up threatening (6:9). Dear leaders, do remember that the Missionaries are not "your" servants; they are "God's" servants (Lev 25:42,43,55). Avoid prejudice and partiality (1 Tim 5:21). Never take vengeance on anyone (Dt 32:35; Psa 94:1; Rom 12:19; Heb 10:30). The Anniversaries must be an occasion to flush out all regionalism and casteism from our organisations. Most of the Indian Missions have a South Indian origin. Ask the Staff from Northern States whether they are uncomfortable with any of your dealings. Is there equidistribution in representation for top leadership positions and in Board and General Body? Give a national flavour to your main programmes. Show extra kindness to the widows and the fatherless. They may not be able to express some of their problems. Be considerate to the weak. Obedience to the superiors must be born out of love (1 Jn 5:3). Our King is meek and lowly in heart (Mt 21:5; 11:29). As servants of God, let's be companions in the patience of Jesus Christ (Rev 1:9). Authoritarianism is unchristian (Lk 22:25,26; 1 Pet 5:3).

**(2)** The first of the three directives God gave for the Jubilee Year was rest for the soil (Lev 25:11). This is what God said: "The fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap that grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine." Besides the provision of regular leave to Staff according to your rules, bless those who have overworked and are exhausted with a couple of weeks of **extra leave** to rest, relax, renew and recoup. God gave compensatory rest even to the lands which were over-cultivated (26:34,35). You can easily identify those who didn't avail even the legitimate leave facilities because of the pressure of work over the years.

Do not keep beating a tired horse! Bless such Staff with a paid holiday for a fortnight or a month. In special cases, you can even think of one year as sabbatical. This is the practice in the Christian Medical College Hospital (CMC) in Vellore for doctors and administrators who are over-worked. Overwork and insufficient rest invariably affect mental health. The number of cases of depression among Missionaries is on the increase. Any Mission with over 200 Missionaries must have a couple of professionally trained Christian Counsellors on their Staff. Our daughter was a Missionary Counsellor with BYM for 6 years from 1996. Without revealing the names, she used to share with us some of the acute problems of the Staff. Alarming! Administrative solutions alone will not help. Those who continue the work mechanically without “peace of mind” and the “joy of the Lord” are too many (Neh 8:10). Do take measures to address these issues in the Jubilee Year. Give all the Staff **a refreshing start**.

**(3)** Then comes reversion of lands to original owners (Lev 25:10-34; 27:16-27). See how lengthy this prescription is. People would have sold their lands due to poverty (25:25). Without closely expounding these passages, let us see how we can apply the spirit of these laws in our situation, especially in the context of Indian Missions. There are simply too many Missionaries crushed by **heavy debts**. They would have borrowed money either from their Missions or from outsiders for their huge medical expenses, educational and marriage expenses of children, funeral expenses of parents, or some unforeseen circumstances in the family. I do not want to comment on the loans from outsiders or other agencies like Banks. The Government is bringing out various schemes to write off agricultural loans for **farmers**. Why don't we take it as a challenge to relieve our **Harvesters** of their loans? Why not consider writing off all the loans of the Missionaries in the Jubilee Year? Is it possible? Of course yes! What is the average income of the Mission supporters? What is the average income of the non-fulltime leaders and Board Members of the Missions? Compare it with the average income of the Missionaries. You may be shocked to death! Let each Mission present before its supporters the total dues from the Staff. Dear supporters, mobilize enough funds from among yourselves to lift off the heavy yoke of debts from the necks of the Missionaries. Already they are yoked for ploughing the hard soils in the mission fields. The Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain” (1 Tim 5:18). Being in debt is a bondage. You may sell a jewel or a property to bring Missionaries out of it (Heb 10:34). Strictly speaking, the salaries of those who “labour” in the frontline to proclaim the “Word” must be “double” that of their supporters in the supplyline (1 Tim 5:17), or at least equal (1 Sam 30:24,25). You may be the sponsor of a Missionary as an individual or a family or a fellowship or a Church. Each of you can pay up to the Mission the debts of the Missionary sponsored by you. Get the details from the Mission. This exercise of writing-off the debts of Missionaries can be undertaken every six years on the 7th year (Lev 25:1-7). This would give them “rest” from mental tension caused by financial burden. Read Deuteronomy 15 to understand God's heart for the helpless borrowers. Instead of keeping on discussing whether or not this would ever be possible, the leaders must take a decision in God's presence

to launch this project which is in accordance with His commandment. If the Missions would develop this mindset, God would multiply their income (vv 20-22). I know how angry some of you are with me and call me cranky! Religion hates revolution! The Lord's prayer in Matthew 6 and Luke 11 speaks mainly of "debts" rather than "sins" or "trespasses." But we have cleverly modified it to suit our convenience! Beware! (2 Pet 3:16).

We talk about Revival, Rebuilding, Restoration and so on when we complete 25 or 50 years in a Mission or Ministry. The Bible character who is invariably referred to on such occasions is Nehemiah. We stop with the meditation of the preparation, construction and dedication of the walls of Jerusalem. But we hardly study how he dealt with the **oppression** of people. Read the 5th chapter of the Book of Nehemiah. See how boldly he dealt with slavery, usury and heavy bondage on people. Sometimes we become more interested in rebuilding our masonry structures than the missionary staff!

**(4)** The third commandment for the Year of Jubilee is concerning the release of slaves (Lev 25:39-46). Any Staff in a Mission, when he turns fifty, if he has worked for a considerable number of years, must be given **freedom to leave** the organisation for a different ministry or whatever, if he or she so desires. (cf. Num 8:23-26). They may be relieved with hearty recommendation letters. We are eternally obliged only to God and not to any organisation. Paul and Barnabas need not get stuck with the Church in Antioch. God first spoke to them before He spoke to the fellow leaders (Acts 13:1-3). This is not defection. Mr. Emil Jebasingh (1941-2013) left FMPB, and Vishwa Vani was born. One Missionary, Mr. Michael Achary, left BYM, and he has the largest Church with over 3000 members in Hubballi, Karnataka. Mr. K. P. Yohanan, Gospel For Asia (GFA), Mr. Ebenezer Sunderraj, FMPB/IMA, and Mr. Thomas Samuel, Quiet Corner India (QCI) are among those who were once leaders in Operation Mobilisation (OM). Dr. Sam Kamalesan, after pastoring the Emmanuel Methodist Church, Chennai, for several years, became one of the Vice-Presidents of the World Vision International. Dr. Ravi Zacharias (1946-2020) was a Missionary with Christian & Missionary Alliance before he started his own ministry of RZIM. When I retired from BYM in 2003 after 33 years of leading it, the Board requested me to be its leader for life. But God led me into a wider Bible teaching ministry as StanleyOnBible. Church history is replete with many such examples.

**(5)** In this context, I want to make a reference to the plight of some **retired Missionaries**. A sizeable number of them do not have a house of their own because they entered fulltime ministry immediately after their graduation before they earned anything. Not all parents are able to build houses for each of their children. Staying with their sons or daughters for long after retirement is also not feasible in several cases. The pension amount from Missions is too meagre to pay escalated house rents these days. Just like Old Age Homes, a number of Missions can come together to raise money and build complexes of quarters with basic facilities for the retired who have no house of their own or cannot stay with children. Medical facilities in such complexes are a must. Those who

worked in the Government or private establishments availed huge Home Loans and repaid them from their salaries. Such a facility is not there in Indian Missions. That's why this proposal. Such complexes can be called **Missionaries Retirement Homes**. Let's work out special welfare schemes for the **Missionary widows** also. Any day they must be given extra care and shown special consideration. Making the widows' hearts sing for joy will be fragrant before God. That's practical righteousness (Job 29:13,14).

**(6)** Whether it is the Silver Jubilee Year (25 years) or the Golden Jubilee Year (50 years) or the Diamond Jubilee Year (60 or 75 years), it can be profitably used to remind ourselves of our Founders and the foundations. God sounds a clarion call through Prophet Isaiah: Isa 51:1,2, "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, you who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you; for I called him alone, and blessed him and increased him." Abraham was known for his sacrificial obedience. He left towers for tents (Heb 11:9,10). He became a blessing to all of us (Gen 12:2). Even though several Christian Institutions and Missions have forgotten the original vision of the Founders and forsaken the ideals they set forth, they continue to enjoy God's blessing in the ministry, at least to some extent. This is because God honours the **dedication and sacrifice of their Founders**. Apostle Paul had to remind the Corinthian Church that though they had many builders, it was he who laid the foundation (1 Cor 3:10-13). Though they had many teachers, he was their father (4:14-16). God's refusal of entry to Moses into Canaan must have been a rude shock to him. Those who didn't relish his leadership must have gossiped so much about it. But Joshua took the positive side and proceeded. God promised him, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you" (Josh 1:5). It was not simply, "I will be with you," but "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you." Unless the nextliners have this personal assurance from God, they cannot conquer Jerichos or cross Jordans! Missions and Ministries can honour their Founders by declaring their Birthdays as Founder's Day or creating a Founder's Fund for the emergency needs of the Staff. This is one way to maintain the historical link.

If the Founders are alive and around, the top leaders and a few seniors must sit with them annually or biennially and ask them whether they observe any deviation in the ministry from its original God-intended vision and Biblical ways. Here's an admonition from Job 8:8-10, "Inquire, please, of the former age, and consider the things discovered by their fathers; for we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow. Will they not teach you and tell you, and utter words from their heart?" Some of what they say might sound irrelevant and inappropriate because of the revolutionary advancement of the day in science and technology. Nevertheless the **wisdom of years and experience** in building up that ministry from the scratch would be profound and incomparable. The spirit of the 5th commandment will also manifest in this exercise. This is the only commandment among the Ten "with a promise," that it would make the days of those who obey it golden (Eph 6:2,3; Dt 5:16). During such times of listening to the Founders, we would become aware of our blindspots. Then when we seek the Lord, He would bless us with "pure gold" and "bright vision" (Rev 3:17,18). You need not of course follow verbatim whatever advice they might give. They would send you with the blessed words of Paul to Timothy: "Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you

understanding in all things” (2 Tim 2:7). Ten youngsters representing the next generation interviewed me on these lines in the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the BYM in Oct 1996 before an audience of 1200 delegates. The full text was published in the Dec 1996 issue of *Blessing*, under the title, *Why we do What we do?* One reason why there arise splits in Missions in the staff community and support base is the failure of the nextliners to imbibe the spirit of the founders. Though Solomon was a hard taskmaster, there was peace in his time, as per the meaning of his name. But the kingdom got divided when his son did not catch his dad’s spirit (2 Chr 9:22-10:19).

The Founders also, as long as they are able, must somehow pass on to the present leaders the precious lessons they have learnt over the years, sometimes the hard way. In this connection, I had announced a 2-day Meet in August this year, to be called, Fifty Foundations Fellowship (FFF), in which I was planning to share with a few hundreds of various cross-sections from all over India 50 foundational lessons I learnt in life and 50 years of public ministry. While the preparations were halfway through, because of the travel and other interruptions due to the Corona outbreak, we had to cancel the Meet. I’ve however communicated to the applicants that I would compile these lessons in bookform and make it freely available to them. Even after the Founders pass away, the next generation should take advantage of the **prophetic significance** of their written and spoken messages (2 Pet 1:13-15). Do not overlook the significance of the seven occurrences of the name, “God of our fathers,” both in the Old Testament and the New (Dt 26:7; 1 Chr 12:17; 2 Chr 20:6; Ezra 7:27; Acts 3:13; 5:30; 22:14).

**(7)** In any organisation the days of the Founders in general are considered as the **Golden Era**. The successors must be careful enough to build the superstructure with **“gold”** and not just “wood” (1 Cor 3:12). The gold should not lamentably become “dim” either (Lam 4:1). If it becomes dim, it must be repolished. There’s also the danger of getting satisfied with bronze. King Rehoboam made “bronze shields” when the “gold shields” made by his father Solomon were carried away by the King of Egypt (2 Chr 12:9,10). Bronze also has a yellowish colour similar to gold! How deceptive! We must continue with the Gold Age and not slide down to the Silver Age or Bronze Age or Iron Age! Each metal has some use, but gold is gold!

Gold represents **glory**. The Ark was overlaid with *gold* (Ex 25:11). The seven Churches are represented by seven *gold* lampstands (Rev 2 & 3). The anointing is by *golden* oil through *gold* pipes (Zech 4:12-14). The prayers of the saints are in *golden* bowls (Rev 5:8; 8:3). The crown on the Son of Man is of *gold* (Rev 14:14). Messages from God are *golden* apples (Prov 25:11). The tested faith is *gold* (Job 23:10; 1 Pet 1:7). New Jerusalem is pure *gold* (Rev 21:18). Even the street is pure *gold* (v21). When glory departs from our ministries, (1) We would keep boasting of the “name” that we already have in the society (Rev 3:1); (2) We would boast of our material prosperity as if it’s a sign of God’s favour (3:17); (3) Being unaware of the absence of the Holy Spirit, we would go on working through the well-built structure (2 Tim 3:5); (4) We would keep boasting of our statistics, being blinded by victories and successes; (5) We would resort to entertainment to attract people and keep them; (6) We would emphasize rituals and ceremonies to bring about awe and reverence; and (7) We would expect nothing unusual to happen in our gatherings. Ichabod! (1 Sam 4:21).

## Conclusion

I request the readers of this Article to refer to the two Talks I delivered in the Second Decade Meet of the Blessing Youth Mission in December 1980, titled, “*Hitherto*” and “*Henceforth*.” These are available on pages 514-541 of the 1024-page book, *Youth Revival Letters*. I would also have you spend sometime meditating on the *Silver Jubilee Covenant* I prepared for BYM in 1996, based on the Beatitudes of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. This appeared in the Dec 1996 issue of *Blessing*. Both these write-ups would help any Mission or Ministry for their Anniversaries, yet to come or already past.

The Talk I delivered in the Silver Jubilee celebrations (1963-1988) of the Karaikudi Campus Prayer Fellowship, titled, *Count the Towers*, was published in the Oct 1988 issue of *Blessing*. The text was, “Walk about Zion, and go all around her. Count the towers ... that you may tell it to the **generation following**. For this is God, our God for ever and ever; He will be our Guide even unto death” (Psa 48:12-14). I preached the same message in greater detail in the 4th Decade Inauguration Meet of BYM in May 2000. Similarly, what I preached in the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Karaikudi Fellowship was released as a 52-page booklet, titled, *I have decided to follow Jesus!* This is a 10-point self-assessment. You may download it from Online Letter 71 of my website. I celebrated with 100 invitees the Golden Jubilee of my Rebirthday on 18 November 2012 in my native town Nazareth where I was born again on this day in 1962. I shared with these friends some of the thoughts I’ve highlighted in this Article. God gave me a new lease of life in 1996 when I turned 50 following my open heart surgery. I wrote down my searching experience as an Article, titled, *Who can understand his errors?* This was published in *Blessing*, Nov 1996.

The tenth Golden Jubilee of the Protestant Reformation was celebrated all over the world as the 500th Anniversary in 2017. One of the three Talks I delivered in the 3-day Convention in Bengaluru was released as a 56-page booklet, titled, *Here I Stand!* You may download it from Online Letter 69 of my website. You may wonder why I make a reference here to all these Anniversaries and the corresponding publications. This is just to emphasize the fact that they help as historical links to remember God’s works of old, as individuals or families or institutions. Over half of the Bible is history!

Instead of spending all your time, money and energy in conducting a 3-day programme and releasing a Souvenir, if you put into practice the Biblical exhortations outlined in this Article, the promise of Jesus to Nathanael would be yours: “You will see greater things than these!” (Jn 1:50b). The latter Temple shall be more glorious than the former (Hagg 2:9). The latter wine shall be tastier than the former (Jn 2:10). The best is yet to be! Cheer up! Jubilant Jubilee!

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