



PERFECTION OF LOVE

A B L E S S U S A N E W S L E T T E R Vol. 13 No. 5

A Call of Love

We can all relate to the added demands that the holiday season places on us. The Brethren of the Lord are also placed under similar demands, such as providing food, clothing and gifts for their loved ones. Therefore, BLESS in Egypt doubles the contributions to the Brethren of the Lord during the Christmas season. We invite you to share in the blessings of giving a Christmas offering to the Brethren in Egypt, so that we all, as one body in Christ, may be able to enjoy this joyous feast.

Matching Gift: *Furthering Your Contribution*

What is the Matching Gift Program?

It is a program where your employer matches your contribution (gift) to BLESS USA dollar for dollar or more.

How does it work?

Under this program, you, the employee, contribute a dollar amount to BLESS USA, and your employer subsequently gives or matches the same dollar amount to BLESS USA. This results in the Brethren of the Lord receiving double the initial amount.

How do I participate?

Find out if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program by using the easy search tool on the Matching Gift page of the BLESS USA website (www.blessusa.org), or you may also find out by contacting us at (973) 857-4299. If your employer is listed, please contact your personnel office or human resources department to obtain the forms necessary to match your gift. However, even if your employer is not listed, contact your human resources department and ask them if they wish to participate.

We thank the Lord for giving us such opportunities as the Matching Gift Program, where we can easily increase service to people in need. As Christians we are always working toward perfect imitation of our beloved Savior, who has taught us to love our brethren: "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you," (John 15:12).

Year End Reminder...

Please note that BLESS USA is required to process and report all contributions by the end of the year. Therefore, all your contributions need to be received at BLESS USA by **December 31, 2010** in order for them to be included in your 2010 donation summary report. The summary will be mailed out by the end of January of 2011. May the Lord remember your faithfulness and continue to grant you His blessings.



Sayings of the Fathers

Loving the Sheep

What could be greater than to be seen doing the things Christ declared to be proofs of love for Him? He said, addressing the leader of the apostles, "[Peter]... do you love Me?" When Peter confessed that he did, the Lord added, "[If you love Me] tend my sheep" (John 21:15). The Master didn't ask the Disciple if he loved Him in order to get information (why would he when he already knows everyone's heart?), but to teach us how great an interest He has in the care of these sheep. Clearly, then, those who labor for these sheep that Christ values so highly will receive a great reward. For when you see anyone caring for members of our household, or our flock, we consider that person's zeal for them to be a sign of love towards ourselves. Yet all these things can be bought with money. Imagine, then, how great a gift Christ will give to those who tend the flock He purchased, not with money nor anything of that kind, but by his own death. For He gave his own life to pay for the herd.

St. John Chrysostom

**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 to the Merciful

The Divine Inspiration mentions many blessings are bestowed upon the lives of the merciful. We will start in this message to contemplate on the twenty-seventh blessing:

The Lord will not deliver him to the will of his enemies

♦ This is one of the blessings which was experienced by the merciful and sustained them throughout their lives. As our teacher David the prophet sang, “Blessed is he who considers the poor, ... The Lord will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.” (Ps 41: 1,2).

♦ He who considers the poor, sings saying, “When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.” (Ps 27:2)... “The wicked have drawn the sword and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct [the merciful]. Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.” (Ps 37: 14,15)... *The Lord will not deliver the merciful to the will of their enemies.*

♦ He who considers the poor, sings saying, “The wicked watches the righteous [the merciful], and seeks to slay him. The LORD will not leave him in his hand.” (Ps 37: 32,33)... “The salvation of the righteous [the merciful] is from the Lord; *He is* their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.” (Ps 37: 39, 40)... *The Lord will not deliver the merciful to the will of their enemies.*

♦ He who considers the poor, sings saying, “He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle *that was* against me, for there

were many against me.” (Ps 55:18)... “My God, His mercy shall come to meet me.” (Ps 59: 10)... *The Lord will not deliver the merciful to the will of their enemies.*

♦ He who considers the poor, sings saying, “My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed. My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long; for they are confounded, for they are brought to shame Who seek my hurt.” (Ps 71: 23, 24)... The Lord “preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.” (Ps 97: 10)... *The Lord will not deliver the merciful to the will of their enemies.*

♦ He who considers the poor, sings saying, “If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, When men rose up against us, Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us; Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul; Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul.” Blessed *be* the Lord, Who has not given us *as* prey to their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help *is* in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.” (Ps 124: 2-8)... *The Lord will not deliver the merciful to the will of their enemies.*

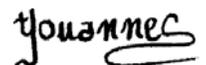
♦ He who considers the poor, sings saying, “O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, You have covered my head in the day of battle. “*As for* the head of those who surround me, Let the evil of their lips cover them.” (Ps 140: 7, 9)... *The Lord will not deliver the merciful to the will of their enemies.*

This is one of the blessings which was experienced by the merciful and sustained them throughout their lives.

+ In the next messages, my beloved, we will have examples of those 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