**Aflame Community Celebration Message – 17 January 2016**

**Minister : Elder Benny Suwarno**

**Theme : Running the Race with Full Commitment**

For the Past 2 Weeks we have learned from Pastor Evelin and Elder Stephanie :

**~ New Year – Start Right, Aligning our Spiritual Eyes upon GOD.**

**~ Vision is important for reaching Goals and your Destination.**

 **Without it there will be disorder, do not know where you are going**

**Proverbs 29: 18 (AMP)**

Where there is no vision (no redemptive revelation of GOD), the people perish; but

he who keeps the law (of GOD, which includes that of man) blessed (happy, fortunate,

and enviable) is he.

**We also learned the importance of having the Right Focus and how we need to Filter what we see and what we think through the Word of GOD.**

**Proverbs 4: 12, 18**

When you walk, your steps will not be hindered and when you run, you will not stumble.

But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

**Vision is never meant for self, but for GOD & for others, and worked toward in**

**Unity Corporately. The LORD Appoints & Anoints HIS Church for the purpose to**

**Run the Race of Pursuing His Given Vision.**

**Aflame Community Church – Vision :**

**1. A Church Aflame to Bring GOD’s LOVE to our COMMUNITIES with HOPE, FAITH,**

 **PEACE & JOY.**

**2. A Church Aflame to LIVE PASSIONATELY according to GOD’s WORD and for**

 **HIS PURPOSE.**

**3. A Church Aflame WHOLEHEARTEDLY in WORSHIP & PRAYER.**

**The LORD Renews our (natural) mind to have the Mind of CHRIST, so the Mind is Empowered to Focus on GOD’s Purpose in Vision.**

**2 Timothy 4: 5 – 8 (NLT)**

But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don’t be afraid of suffering for the LORD. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry GOD has

given you. As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to GOD.

The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and

I have remained faithful. And now the Prize awaits me – the Crown of Righteousness,

which the LORD, the Righteous Judge, will give me on the Day of HIS Return.

And the Prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to HIS Appearing.

**We all have a Race that GOD Set for us to Run, a Heavenly Race, Not an Earthly Race. As the LORD has given us the Heavenly Vision.**

**1 Corinthians 9: 24 – 26 (NLT)**

Don’t you realise that in a race everybody runs, but only one person gets the prize?

So run to win! All athletes are discipline in their training.

They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.

So I run with Purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing**.**

**Shadow boxing = Beating the Air = No Focus to achieve Purpose.**

**Paul’s Attitude of Running the Race:**

**Philippians 3: 12 – 14, 15 – 16 (MSG)**

I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made.

But I am well on my way, reaching out for CHRIST, who has wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong; by no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but

I’ve got my eyes on the goal, where GOD is beckoning us onward – to JESUS.

I’m off and running and I’m not turning back.

So let’s focused on that goal, those of us who want everything GOD has for us.

If any of you have something else in mind, something less than **Total Commitment**,

GOD will clear your blurred vision – you’ll see it yet!

Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it.

**The LORD is looking for men and women whose Hearts are Loyal and**

**Fully Committed to HIM and for HIS Purpose.**

**2 Chronicles 16: 9a (NKJ / NLT)**

For the Eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show HIMSelf Strong on behalf of those whose heart is **Loyal** to HIM.

The Eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are **fully committed** to HIM.

**Commitment = A serious, long term promise you make and keep with yourself and others to fully dedicate yourself to your task, training and/or team, even when and especially times are tough. It is a willingness to invest/give your time, energy and even Finance to something you believe in.**

**In one of the Sport News, one of the Sport Coaches wrote:**

**“In today’s age of Entitlement and Instant Gratification, the critical concept of Commitment is getting watered down in the minds of many athletes.**

**They don’t fully understand nor appreciate the importance of commitment.”**

**Titus 2: 14 (NLT)**

HE gave HIS Life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us

HIS very own people, Totally Committed to doing good deeds.

**The Race GOD has Set for us – Testifying to Others the Good News and**

**Fully Carry Out the Ministry (Good Works) GOD has given to us.**

**Acts 20: 24 (NIV)**

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, my only Aim is to Finish the Race and Complete the Task the LORD JESUS has given me – the Task of Testifying to the Good News of GOD’s Grace.

**To Run and Win the Race, every good athlete understands the Urgency of Time.**

**They have to Make Right Choices and Right Priorities to keep them Focused.**

**They have to spend their time and energy right on the right things.**

**We as Believers are to Redeem the Time given/entrusted by the LORD by**

**Making the Most of Every Opportunity for HIS Purpose.**

**Ephesians 5: 15 – 18 (AMP**)

Look carefully then how you walk! Live Purposefully and worthily and accurately,

not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (Sensible, intelligent people),

making the very most of the time (buying up each opportunity), because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the Will of the LORD is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the HOLY SPIRIT.

**Ezekiel 22: 30 (NLT)**

“I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land.

I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn’t have to destroy the

Land but I found no one.”

**In the OT, there are 2 good examples of GOD’s Committed Athletes who ran**

**GOD’s Given Race, who Understand the Urgency of Times – Esther and Joshua.**

**Esther’s Understanding of Times and Commitment was shown in her**

**Courageous Submission in denying herself and risking her life for her people.**

**Esther 4: 14 – 16**

“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the

Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish.

Yet who know whether you have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?”

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me, neither eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!

**Joshua called all the Israelites to Schechen to hear his final words before he died.**

**He challenged the people their Loyalty and their level of Commitment, to make a Conscious Choice.**

**Joshua 24: 14 – 15 (NLT)**

So fear the LORD and Serve HIM wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idol your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates river and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone. But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve.

Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates?

Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live?

But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.

**1 John 5: 21 (AMP)**

Little children, keep yourselves from idols (false gods) - (from anything and everything that would occupy the place in your heart due to GOD, from any sort of substitute for HIM that would take first place in your life). Amen (so let it be).

**Example: The Rich Young Ruler.**

**Our Relationship with GOD is a process of Changing our Values to agree with HIS’, causing us to make choices and life decisions that is line with HIS Will and**

**HIS Purpose.**

**Philippians 3: 7 – 9a (NLT)**

I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what CHRIST has done. Yes everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing CHRIST JESUS my LORD. For HIS sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain CHRIST and become one with HIM.

I no longer count my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather I become righteous through faith in CHRIST.

**Hebrews 12: 1 – 2 (AMP)**

Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (who have borne testimony to the Truth), let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and

let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course

of the race that is set before us,

Looking away (from all that will distract) to JESUS, who is the Leader and the Source of
our faith (giving the first incentive for our belief) and is also its Finisher (bringing it to maturity and perfection). HE, for the joy (of obtaining the prize) that was set before HIM, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne
of GOD.imHHH

**Aflame Core Value – Harvest Laborers co-working together.**

**We are all laborers co-working together in the communities,**

**to lead the lost into GOD’s Kingdom, as GOD desires to grant salvation to all.**

**Acts 2: 42, 46 – 47 (NLT)**

All the believers **devoted themselves** to the apostle’s teaching, and to fellowship, and

to sharing in meals (including LORD’s supper), and to prayer.

They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the LORD’s supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while Praising GOD and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.

And each day the LORD added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

**Philippians 2: 14 – 16 (MSG)**

Do everything readily and cheerfully – no bickering, no second-guessing allowed!

Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the Living GOD.

Carry the Light-Giving Message into the night so I’ll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that CHRIST returns. You’ll be living proof that I didn’t go to all this work for nothing.

**GOD is looking for HIS Men and Women whose Heart is Totally Committed to HIM,**

**to be empowered to Accomplish HIS Purpose.**

**Full Commitment is Sacrificial Loyalty to accomplish Work in GOD’s Will as**

**JESUS did All Sacrificially in All HE did on Earth.**