
**FAITHFUL
WITH A FEW
THINGS:
A DEDICATION
TO DR. ZENAS
AND MRS.
ESTHER GERIG**

The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews concluded with important exhortations designed to encourage the readers to persevere in their Christian walk. The exhortations in 13:7-8 are not often seen in their context because the guarantee of the unchangeableness of Jesus Christ is such a powerful and inspiring promise. However, when this guarantee is linked with its antecedent, even greater assurances of God's blessing are received. Consider the words of the prophet:

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.

Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(Heb. 13:7-8, NIV)

This exhortation is a call to "remember," to meditate on what God has done in the lives of those he appointed to lead his people. Those leaders were assigned by God to shepherd the flock, to protect it from the "savage wolves" (Acts 20:20, NIV) that Satan would send to destroy it, to nurture it with the word of God (Jn. 21: 15-17, 1 Pe. 2:2), to guard it from satanic spirits and demonic doctrines (1 Tim. 4: 1). In performing their tasks, these leaders spoke the word of God to the flock. The "remembering" is to focus on "the outcome of their way of life."

A Caribbean Career

Dr. Zenas Gerig has contributed much to the strength of the Body of Christ in Jamaica and the Caribbean. His first ministry in Jamaica was to pastor a young congregation, Emmanuel Missionary Church, in the town of Mandeville. Following this, God led him to Kingston to establish a baccalaureate level pastoral training program at Jamaica Theological Seminary

(JTS) in January 1960. Dr. Gerig's involvement in JTS led to his participation in the formation of the Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association (CETA) and its Accreditation Commission, as well as the formation of the Jamaica Association of Evangelicals in 1965 and the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean in 1977. He represented the Caribbean region at the General Assembly of the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) in Switzerland in 1974. He served as the Caribbean representative when WEF formed an accreditation arm in 1980. Dr. Gerig led the way when CETA formed the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology (CGST) and was appointed Coordinator with the duty of bringing the new institution into existence.

God has worked through the life of Dr. Zenas Gerig. While there are many lessons that can be learned from a consideration of his life and ministry, there are three principles that merit particular emphasis.

Indigenous Leadership

Indigenous leadership is essential to the growth of the church in any land. Dr. Gerig recognized this truth at a time when many opposed it vigorously. Yet, Dr. Gerig committed himself to the task of preparing Caribbean leaders for the regional Church at Jamaica Theological Seminary. Subsequent events have vindicated his decision.

Cooperation Rather Than Competition

When Dr. Gerig arrived in Jamaica, the various branches of the Body of Christ retained the excessive denominationalism of the United States and Europe. Dr. Gerig recognized that there was more to be gained by cooperation than by competition. He took a leading role in the formation of the Jamaica Association of Evangelicals and the Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association.

Servant Leadership

Perhaps his greatest contribution to the cause of Christ in the Caribbean has been through his demonstration of leadership through service. Throughout his career in the Caribbean, Dr. Gerig has sought to do the things that would facilitate the expansion of the Kingdom of God. Assignments others were not able or willing to accept, he accepted as an act of service to God and the Body of Christ.

The writer to the Hebrews challenged the people of God to remember their leaders, to consider the outcome of their lives of service to God, and to imitate their faith. What God did through Christian leaders in the

past, he still does today, and will do again in the future. Dr. Zenas Gerig is living proof that Jesus Christ is, indeed, the same through all the ages.

Therefore, we dedicate this issue of *BINAH* to Dr. and Mrs. Zenas Gerig. They are retiring from their Jamaican ministry after 43 years of faithful service, having fought well and completed their task. We pray that God will raise up new leaders to continue the task of building the Body of Christ in the Caribbean. We challenge these new leaders to remember that what God did through Dr. Gerig, he will do through them as well if they will emulate his humility and servant leadership style.