

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest  
your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at  
the revelation of Jesus Christ;  
1 Peter 1:13



# Kirkspire

The Monthly Magazine of St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), Chennai  
April 2024

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**Cover Page Photo:** *St Peter's miraculous release from prison — depicted in a section of the stained glass windows, St Andrew's Church, Chennai*

### Editorial Board :

**Usha George**  
**Chitra Bennett**

**Word from the Pastor**



## **Repentance to Redemption**

*Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.  
(Matthew 5:8)*

This verse and its powerful meaning is missed by all of us very often for it is embedded in the midst of the rich tapestry of the Sermon on the Mount especially as part of the Beatitudes. Through this month of April, we will study on having a 'Repentant Mind' and I want us to know what God has in store for those who are willing to travel in this 'Road of Repentance'. It is not for the faint of heart, not for those who are satisfied with superficial religion or now-focused Christianity. This Road is full of surprises – joy, sorrow, miracles, disappointments, promises, hope and strength. However THE FINAL DESTINATION – YOU WILL SEE GOD.

We can't see God as He is in all His glory on earth. We are called to start by faith, walk by faith, obey by faith, wait by faith, love by faith, endure by faith and finally our faith will be turned to sight. The Road to Redemption starts with Repentance. Why is the starting point 'Repentance'? Why did Jesus start His earthly ministry by saying 'Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand'? Here are four reasons why Repentance is crucial, essential, transformative and rewarding.

1. Repentance is Crucial because God is holy and He will not lower His standards. It is also crucial because we are completely sinful and we do not have the standing to see God in our fallen nature. Without this radical difference we are on our way to eternal damnation but Christ is offering the only Way, Truth and Life. If you want to eternal life – Repent.

2. Repentance is Essential because in this place we totally submit to God's authority on our lives relinquishing our rights, privileges and self-will. We are, in essence, exchange our pride for His grace. We come to Him by faith trusting in the redemptive work of Jesus on the Cross. If you want to be saved – Repent.
3. Repentance is Transformative because it is at this point that the individual begins to think differently (in God's ways), talk differently, walk differently, choose differently and desire differently. Those around us will see the change and most importantly, we will see the change in and of ourselves, all the time knowing that this change is not in us, but Christ in us the Holy of Glory. If you want to experience this powerful transformation – Repent.
4. Repentance is Rewarding because Christ did not die on the Cross, rise from the dead, ascend into heaven to come again soon for us to have 'a blessed life on earth'. NO. Eternal life is a free gift of God and the Bible says we will be with the Lord forever. This is not for everyone though it is available for everyone. Jesus Christ is the only One who has and can make this promise i.e you can see God. Is it possible to see God and live? It gets better. You can see God, be with God forever and ever only through faith in Jesus Christ. If you want to see God – Repent.

Repent today, before it is too late. We live in days similar to the days of Noah and I feel sins have exponentially become more aggressive and human hearts have become more stubborn and rebellious against God. Narrow is the way and only few will walk in it. Fix your eyes on Jesus and WE WILL SEE GOD.

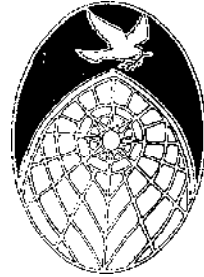
Have a blessed month.

*Rev. Isaac Emmanuel Johnson*

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"Do not begin a job with a hurrah and finish it with an excuse."

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### **John's Corner**

## **REJOICE, HE'S RISEN!**

(Read 1Tim. 1:15, Isa. 1:18, Ps. 16:10,11)

I'm feeling miserable, Lord,  
My sins torment me constantly;  
Though hard I try from sin to flee,  
The devil, Lord, overtakes me.

So thought I as I prayed for help,  
But nothing good happened to me;  
In pain and anguish I cried out,  
'How can You, Lord, so silent be?'

Eyes filled with tears God's Word I read,  
And came upon 1 Timothy,  
The first chapter and verse fifteen,  
And read what Jesus did for me.

Next Psalm 16, I read in full,  
Verse ten and eleven carefully,  
And learnt Christ died and rose and lives,  
Lost souls to save and from sin set free.

I bowed my head in reverence,  
'Have mercy, risen Lord', I prayed;  
He heard my cry, brought hope and joy,  
With Christ I'm now no more afraid.

*John H. Bala Singh*

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It does not take great men to do great things; it takes only  
consecrated men.

*Phillip Brooks*

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## A Life of Obedience

The book of Deuteronomy is the last book written by Moses. Though it means "the second law" it doesn't contain new laws. Except for Caleb and Joshua, all the adults who had left Egypt and received the law at Mt. Sinai had died. Therefore it was necessary that the new generation should have the law retold. Moses did this as a series of discourses and the motive for the message is a Divine treatise on Obedience. Moses knew all things for the new generation depended on their obedience. God loved them, they were His own and He desired to prosper them and for that to happen, He longed for their obedience, which was a necessity.

Few remember that 88 years before William Carey came to India, 2 men were the 1st protestant missionaries.

We now come to a person called Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, who was a prototype of German Lutheran missionaries. He was born in Saxony in 1682. He lost his parents very early in life and he had a conversion experience while in high school. He was a sickly boy and illnesses interrupted his studies in Halle and Berlin, but under guidance of Pietist leaders he managed to finish a very tough course of studies in Greek and Hebrew. This would be of immense help to him later in life. God plans His details for every individual as we shall see.

King Frederick of Denmark was interested in mission work among non-believers overseas. He called his German chaplain Franz and instructed him to find suitable candidates.

After much searching and interviews Franz found two persons, Ziegenbalg and Plutschau. It was in Copenhagen that they were both ordained and sent to South India in the erstwhile state of Travancore,

to a place called Tranquebar or Tharangabadi. It was in 1706 that they followed in Obedience to God's plan and path for them and landed in this Danish fort and trade establishment.

The success of the mission was all due to the creative ability of Ziegenbalg and the vision he had for God's glory. Ziegenbalg was impetuous by nature and this was among other things which created many obstacles for them and their mission. Yet we read in his reports and correspondences that under mighty pressure he only seemed to grow. This was due to his intense prayer life.

The first challenges were the languages of Portuguese and Tamil. With the assistance of his indigenous helpers he managed to master both the written and spoken forms of Tamil, and because of his dedication it became as easy as his mother tongue. Ziegenbalg knew the success of his mission lay in learning the local language. This would be important for the progress of his mission. He called the local Pundit to run his school from his home. Thus he would sit on the floor with little children and would learn to write the alphabets in the sand as was the practice in the 1650's. Ziegenbalg laboriously got a dictionary written, collected many Tamil manuscripts.

We know that he became a pioneer of western study of south Indian culture, society and religion. Much of his hard research was sent back to the university of Halle.

Ziegenbalg translated the Bible, the whole New Testament, and the Old Testament up to the book of Ruth into Tamil.

It was obvious to Ziegenbalg that without a printing press all his efforts would come to nought. In 1706 he requested Denmark for a printing press. The Danes forwarded the appeal to London, to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and one was sent from Britain. Sadly the person who accompanied it by ship died on the way. He was the one who knew how to use the press. This was a minor setback as they found a soldier in the Danish east India company at the Danish fort who came to their help. He got 2 Dutch blacksmiths to create the Tamil character moulds. There was a scarcity of paper as manuscripts in Tamil were written on palm leaves. He built his own manufacturing paper mill.

He also translated and printed Hymn books and Christian literature. He began a school for boys and girls which is still being used by the local community. He built a Church which is still there in good



condition, called the New Jerusalem Church and a seminary for Tamil pastors and catechists was begun. As a missionary of the Danish crown, ordained in Denmark, Ziegenbalg felt himself bound by the liturgy and customs of the Danish church. We can see that all of this underscored Ziegenbalg's conviction that the church would be Lutheran in faith and worship but Indian in character. In spite of being imprisoned for conversion he laboured intensively establishing the Danish-Halle mission. He faced a lot of opposition from Hindu and the Danish authorities but pressed on.

He used the local Tamil community who were knowledgeable in music to introduce singing the Tamil lyrics to Tamil melodies and tunes. His last 13 years he spent in laying the foundations for a German scholarship for Tamil which still exists today. In summarizing we see that Ziegenbalg's dedication to spreading the gospel in obedience to God's will, left an enduring pact on Indian missions.

*Sabrina Siga*

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God judges what we tolerate as well as what we practice.  
Too often we put up with things we ought to put out.

*Vance Havner*

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## The Very Best

*Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Proverbs, 3:9*

Conversations, concentration and humor.  
Why do strangers & acquaintances get our best  
whilst those closest to us don't?  
Is it familiarity?  
Or perhaps we have them  
all figured out-  
Their quirky behavior, foibles and  
predictability no longer amuse or please.  
A cold contempt or insidious indifference soon  
replaces the joyfully attentive love once shared.

So instead of listening to words-  
spoken and unspoken,  
we advise.  
Demands supersede requests and  
the relationship eventually crumbles  
for the sense of entitlement  
decrepitates gratitude and wonder.

Father, don't I do the same with You?  
Often content to give titbits and  
morsels of my time and energy  
I am strangely satisfied with it.  
Finding comfort in knowing that  
I'm doing better than most and  
banking on Your ready forgiveness,  
this sense of superiority and  
entitlement has led me astray.

This lukewarm response in worship and study has been gradual. Imperceptible. Unchecked and unconsidered it has led to hardness of heart and spirit (much like Pharaoh's).  
Forgive & heal my complacency (It's been soul destroying).

Fill me with a pondering curiosity to explore and experience the unknown terrains of Who You are in Your Word and in life.  
As I intentionally and humbly choose to be all there (without parallel conversations or worries in my head),  
Give me the grace to give the best of me-  
To You and the people in my life...  
For You Jesus  
give Your very best.  
Always.

*Dr. Susan Rajkumari*

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"Begin with the most important, the most satisfying, relationship in life – the peerless joy of fellowship with Jesus as Saviour and Friend."

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## Lessons from Judas, the betrayer

We are all familiar with Judas, who betrayed Jesus leading to His crucifixion. His betrayal led to his killing himself in a senseless act of remorse. If only he had waited a few days longer, He would have seen Jesus' resurrection, and finally believed, and given himself to Christ!

What lessons can we really learn from Judas, the betrayer? There are profound lessons for us from his life and death which were ordained by God for a purpose (John 17: 12). Judas did have a choice, but he chose money and worldly power instead of the Light of the World. Here are a few lessons we draw from his life:

### *Close to the light, yet remaining in darkness*

Judas was one of the twelve chosen by Jesus to carry on His work after His ascension. He lived with Jesus, heard His teaching, had his feet washed by Him, and given the portion of honor at the Last Supper. After which Jesus exposed Him and asked him to do what he was about to do quickly. And Judas went out, and it was night. He had passed from the light into darkness.

Are we members who attend service every Sunday, serve on committees, pay our tithes and take pride in being members of the church? Then we may be like Judas, close to the light, but still in darkness, and driven by worldly desires. You see, we are doing everything right, but we are not right with God.

### *What is the real desire that drives us?*

For Judas it was money, for that represented power, and he was waiting for the day Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom so he could be treasurer of the kingdom! Not because he wanted to serve Jesus. It was because he was serving his desire for power, prestige and position, often using the money for his own purposes (John 12:6).

For us, it may be to be respected as good Christians. Yet part of the world -seeking status, power, money, a bigger house, a bigger car, a better designation or a club membership. Are we using our faith, such as it is, to fulfill our desires by praying for them every day? We may be sincere, but we are sincerely wrong in pursuing our self-will without discerning what God's will is for us.

*How can we discern God's will?*

The answer lies in Jesus' words to Nicodemus in John 3:3 about being born again. Later, in John 3:16 he explains, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life". Indeed, that is His will for us!

In John 14, Jesus tells His disciples He is going to prepare a place for them so they may be with Him, and they know the way. Thomas, ever practical, wanted an explanation asking Him in John 14: 5, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me".

In John 15, Jesus speaks about being the true vine and his disciples as the branches. In John 15: 4 He says, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me". And in John 16, as He continues to prepare them for his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, he tells them about the Holy Spirit who will abide in them and remind them of everything that He had taught them.

*We must be born again to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*

The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as they waited in the Upper Room. After which Peter, a common fisherman with no theological or leadership training, stood before the people and spoke powerfully as enabled by the Spirit. In Acts 2: 38, he said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins: and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".

It is the Holy Spirit who transforms us to live a life of sacrifice (of self-will), and transforms our minds to be able to discern what God's will is for us (Romans 12:1-2). His indwelling presence

enables us to bear fruit, the fruit of the Spirit-love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). When we do, others are drawn to us and we can witness to them, so their believing in Jesus also become our fruits.

*Belonging to Jesus is what matters*

Those who belong to Jesus are members of the Church the Bible speaks of. They are already in God's kingdom, doing His will by the power of the Holy Spirit, and being His witnesses by the way they live their lives.

*David Appasamy*

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When I worship, I would rather my heart be without words,  
than my words without heart.

*LaMar Boschman*

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## RMDCC PROJECT REPORT 2024

*"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Psalm 107: 1*

The Riber Memorial Day Care Centre and Community Development Project started in the year 1973. serves the communities in Egmore, Periamet and Balaramapuram.

This Christ-centered ministry currently has a total strength of 43 children drawn from the families of auto drivers, daily wage earners and domestic helpers, 57 Night School students and 24 Tailoring Trainees.

**Preschoolers** aged 2 1/2 to 5 learn about the world around them and the love of Jesus through songs, stories, games and numerous creative activities. Every week different topics like Family, Plants, Animals etc. are taught. Kids enjoy nutritious food and a beautiful safe play. Every year general health checkup is given to all children.

**Night School students** from Classes 3 to 8 are helped with their schoolwork. Each session starts with prayer, followed by nutritious snacks and then daily lessons are taken. We provide **Scholarships** for deserving students in high school and college. This year 22 students benefitted.

As part of our focus is on Women's Empowerment, **Tailoring** is taught to community women. Students attend a 6-month certificate course and Zardozi courses are also conducted periodically. Many women are able to earn a small income stitching from their homes.

Parents and tailoring trainees attend Weekly prayer and Monthly Retreats. This year we have had 2 **Awareness Programmes**— Nutrition and Healthy Living and Cancer Awareness. A **Monthly Prayer** with teachers and committee members is held during which time we pray for the needs of our project and give thanks for God's blessings over the previous month.

### **New Initiatives**

This year we have introduced staff and parent's **Review**. The assessments are done by committee members and a frank one on one discussion with each parent and staff was held. Parents and staff were greatly encouraged and benefitted by these assessments.

We are able to provide **Occupational Training** to two ASHA students in gardening and basic housekeeping.

Good quality **phenyl** is being made by a community mother following all safety protocols.

**Online Spoken English Classes** are being held, for two final year college students. These help them improve their language skills and prepare them for job interviews.

By the Grace of God, we were also able to start a monthly **Hindi Ministry** for the Night School children of St Mark's school, Periamet in partnership with St Andrew's Evangelism Ministry.

The RMDCC Project Sunday was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The theme was 'Rejoice'. Children gave a colourful variety performance singing 'I've got the joy, joy,'; 'Clap your hands' and Hindi song 'Kushi Kushi Manov'. Rev Isaac Johnson's message was on the topic 'Report Card'. It was a blessed service followed by a sale of products made at our centres and delicious eats.

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!" - I Chronicles 16:8

*Ruth Ramji*

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Men are free to decide their own moral choices, but they are also under the necessity to account to God for those choices.

*A. W. Tozer*

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RDCC Kids Program



RDCC Joyful Singing



RMDCC Night School



RMDCC Zardosi Work



RMDCC Daily Activities



RMDCC Phenyl Making



RMDCC Hindi Ministry



RMDCC ASHA Training

## Children's Corner

*"But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." Luke 18:16-17*

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

### Easter Anagram



aeeghmnst \_\_\_\_\_

deknoy \_\_\_\_\_

einrs \_\_\_\_\_

aeilv \_\_\_\_\_

accefiirs \_\_\_\_\_

eoornst \_\_\_\_\_

ccfiruy \_\_\_\_\_

efginorv \_\_\_\_\_

hnorst \_\_\_\_\_

aahnos \_\_\_\_\_

Source: <https://www.dltk-kids.com>



The Resurrection – Word Search



G W W S O M A G D A L E N E Q  
 T O K C P Z D C C F I R S T D  
 E M B R O T H E R S I Y D M I  
 A A F M A O P Z Y M E K N E S  
 C N W Y E M K F I O S K Z U C  
 H L D T J B F R N V N I E P I  
 E G I D H Z E R G E E G P A P  
 R H A K L F C W J D A A H Q L  
 W E H R K K Q J O K J J R G E  
 D T Q E D U E F A T H E R L S  
 F A E M U E Y V E N N X D L Y  
 M W R A R X N V B O L R E A O  
 Y A A K C D A E T L O G G B N  
 J G R D A Y R S R L N V B S D  
 F X H Y F V V I R A W Q R W Z



early	Mary	angels	gardener
first	Magdalene	white	teacher
day	tomb	Lord	Father
week	stone	woman	brothers
dark	moved	crying	disciples

Bible Memory Verse

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"  
 And she told them that he had said these things to her.  
 John 20:18 (NIV)

Source: <https://sermons4kids.com>

*Dolly Shanthakumar*

## Answers to Bible Quiz No. 146 – March 2024

### A Farmer's Quiz

1. The seventh year. Leviticus 25:4
2. 'Went forth to sow'. Matthew 13:3
3. Oats
4. Tied their tails with burning torches, and set them loose in the standing corn of the Philistines. Judges 15:3-5
5. Reuben. Genesis 30:14
6. David – for the temple site. 1 Chronicles 21:21 – 25
7. Harvest – labourers. Matthew 9:37
8. a) Sickle b) sheaves c) threshing floor d) oxen
9. Winnowing
10. Sieve

### The winners are:

1. Mrs. Gloria Jawahar
2. Mrs. Leela Coilpillai
3. Mrs. Aruna Asir
4. Mrs. Sabrina Siga
5. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss
6. Mrs. Victoria Basker
7. Mrs. Indra Rajanayakam
8. Mrs. Suguna Joseph
9. Ms. Praisye
10. Mrs. Sujata Elizabeth Prasad
11. Mrs. Gladys Vedavimali
12. Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar

***Hearty Congratulations!***

Bible Quiz No. 147 – April 2024



## A Musician's Quiz

Please give a Bible reference, where applicable.

What are the musical instruments named in the following texts?

1. 'We hanged our \_\_\_\_\_ upon the willows.'
2. 'And Miriam took a \_\_\_\_\_ in her hand.'
3. 'Awake up my glory, awake \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.'
4. 'Jubal was the father of such as handle the \_\_\_\_\_.'
5. 'I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling \_\_\_\_\_.'
6. 'And he put a \_\_\_\_\_ in every man's hand.'
7. Blow ye the \_\_\_\_\_ in Gibeah.'
8. The people piped with \_\_\_\_\_ and rejoiced.'
9. 'Thou shalt make \_\_\_\_\_ of gold upon the hem of the robe.'
10. 'They chant to the sound of the V\_\_\_\_\_.'

Taken from *A Bible Quiz Book* by May C. Smith

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email [admin@thekirk.in](mailto:admin@thekirk.in) by 29thApril2024.

*Usha George*



## Starve the Flesh 'n' Feed the Spirit

Oh, my troubled soul, in turmoil  
starve the flesh and feed the spirit;  
And seek smiles of a living heart  
in the holy presence of Holy Lord;  
Day in day out, with every breath  
in all endeavour, each expedition  
At every step of the paths you walk  
starve the flesh and feed the spirit.

Frail and fleeting though is your life  
let it transform into eternal whole;  
In proximate company of God's love  
fear no one, and worry no more;  
Tread humbly His resurrected footprints —  
starving the flesh, feeding the spirit.

*B V Selvaraj*

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God expects great things from you; take care that you do  
not disappoint Him.

*Howard Duffield*

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## Hold The Fort

*"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed before many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:12*

A Fort is a military position that has been fortified to withstand brutal enemy attacks: a stronghold which serves as a defense and protects. God in the Bible is often referred to as a "Rock," "Fortress", and "Deliverer."

Jesus plainly states that His followers would do 'greater works' than He had done as His ministry was mainly in Israel. His followers would reach the ends of the world carrying , "That good thing which was committed unto thee by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us" (2 Timothy 1:14).

The story of Calvary is not merely sentimentalizing the atrocious Event; The Sinless Saviour, our High Priest becomes the Sacrifice for the ugliness of humanity's sin.

"And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin."

The stark fact remains that there is only One Way to Heaven. Only by the precious blood of Jesus can sinners be saved. This Truth is Absolute. It must be held high, guarded, proclaimed, preached, and fought for by every believer and follower of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Master depends on us to be good stewards. He depends on us to joyfully share the "good news" and press forward to our goal. The early Christians had three words by which they lived, "Jesus is Lord!"

At every stage in life, Satan stealthily slides up to entice us in simple or complicated ways. He baits us to promote self. He plants the desire for applause, greed for fame and exclusivity. The devil is a fear-monger and hikes up our anxieties and depressions. We are most vulnerable when we suffer bereavement and the pain gnaws our innermost being. In our vulnerability, or perhaps our faith is placid, do we dare to question the goodness of God?

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

When we consider our life as an “Exchanged life,” we no longer live but Christ lives in us”; we will then be restored in faith, stronger than ever.

Jesus does not want partnership with us but ownership of us. Are we willing to surrender? Only then can we obediently and joyfully serve in His Royal Service and experience the rapture of bringing in the sheaves for His glory.

“Hold the Fort, for I am coming!  
Jesus signals still,  
Wave the answer back to heaven,  
By Thy grace we will!”

*Usha George*

---

“Whatever of outward service or obedience we render to God or man, if love is withheld the law is not fulfilled.”

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## CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:5,6*

One of the favourite hymns sung during Easter 'Christ the Lord is risen' today was written by Charles Wesley, an English leader of Methodist Movement. The hymn appeared under the title "Hymn for Easter Day" in Hymns and Sacred Poems by Charles and John Wesley in 1739. The hymn eventually became well known for the "Alleluia" sung as a melisma after each line, which was added in the 19th century by an unknown author. This hymn is used as an Easter processional hymn and was written as a more uplifting style of worship expressing personal feelings to God which was very new in that period of time.

Charles Wesley, born on December 18, 1707, in Epworth, Lincolnshire was the eighteenth child of Samuel and Susannah Wesley. His father, Samuel Wesley, an Anglican cleric and poet, was prominent in the Church of England. Wesley's mother Susannah was well-educated and knew four languages, which made education and religion a focal point of his life. A dedicated mother she set apart an hour each day of the week for personal time with each child. Charles grew up being homeschooled by his mother, preparing him for excellence when he transitioned to public school. His educational and leadership skills earned him a place at the prestigious Oxford University in England, where he earned his master's degree in classical languages and literature. While at Oxford, Wesley continued to strengthen his religious background by forming a Bible study and prayer group with his peers and older brother, John Wesley. Since they were so dedicated to this group, other students began to taunt them by

calling them the Holy Club. This nickname turned to the Methodists due to their methodical approach to the Bible. He was a younger brother of Methodist founder John Wesley.

Wesley was a prolific hymn writer who wrote over 6,500 hymns during his lifetime. In each verse of this hymn, Wesley's focus is on Christ's resurrection. Wesley uses descriptive language to describe four requirements for Christians to enjoy eternal life with God. The focus is for Christians: to know God, to bear witness to God, to sing their faith, and to love one another. The text is drawn from Matthew 28 where an angel tells Mary Magdalene and the other Mary of Jesus' resurrection. The Alleluias are from the many Psalms praising the Lord. The 24 Alleluias bring in the joy of resurrection in this uplifting victorious hymn.

The tune of the "Easter Hymn" was by an unknown composer. The lyrics were also sung to the tune of "Maccabeus" of George Fredric Handel. Other tunes could potentially have been the original tune when it was first performed by Wesley, but this is unknown.

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!  
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!  
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, Soul of bliss, Alleluia!  
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!  
Thee to know, Thy pow'r to prove, Alleluia!  
Thus to sing, and thus to love Alleluia!

May we never cease to praise the glorious name of our Lord, telling of His victory over the grave, praising and thanking Him for the eternal life he has prepared for us by His victorious resurrection.

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:55-57).

CHRIST THE LORD RISES TODAY, ALLELUIA!

*Dr. Anita Chelliah*

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'We say that John was "only" a witness. But what a witness!  
And what can Christ do in our world without witnesses?'

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Medical Corner

## GLANDS IN THE BODY – VII THE PITUITARY GLAND – II

“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”

### SHORT STATURE

We read about the salvation of Zacchaeus, a short man, in Luke 19: 1-10. “Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way” (Luke 19: 1-4 NIV).

Patients with short stature usually present during their teenage years. Youngsters with delayed puberty are often underweight at presentation and have been small as children.

The cause of short stature could be constitutional or familial (genetic). Systemic illness during childhood like asthma, mal-absorption and renal failure can lead to less growth. Psychological stress, extreme anxiety (anxiety neurosis), hypothyroidism and growth hormone deficiency can lead to short stature.

Physician must rule out any illness in the body. Hormonal assays are done to find out hormone deficiencies. X-ray of the wrist is done to assess the bone age. Once the cause (aetiology) is diagnosed, appropriate treatment can be given, to ensure normal growth in the child.

*Dr. (Mrs.) Rajinikantha Narendranath*

## Kirk News



*Bright eyes gladden the heart;  
Good news puts fat on the bones.  
Proverbs 15:30*

### **The Cross and the Empty Tomb**

The pinnacle of Jesus' love for humanity—His sacrificial death on the cross and triumphant resurrection. On Good Friday, we remember the agony of Jesus towards and on the cross, where He bore the weight of our sins and all that the fall of man brought about. However, the story does not end at the cross. On Easter Sunday, we rejoice in the empty tomb, where death could not hold Him captive. Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate expression of His love, offering us the gift of salvation and life more abundantly. Oh, how beautiful that the Son of God would carry all our sin and shame and die in our stead but even death couldn't hold Him—all loving and all powerful. Our living and life-giving Saviour is beautiful beyond comprehension. May our eyes be fixed on Him forevermore!

### **Guest Speakers**

Rev. Jayaraj Edwin – Faith Enhances a Rejoicing Mind - 17/03/2024 – 7 and 9 am Services

### **Good Friday Fasting Prayer**

On 29th March 2024, from 11 am to 6 pm, all were invited to join the Good Friday Fasting Prayer. It was dedicated to prayer, worship, and contemplation of the Scriptures.

### **Kirk Summer Bible School**

May we keep KSBS in our prayers as the team prepares for the children to dive deep into the Scriptures from April 24 to May 5,



2024. They will explore the theme of "Overcomers" based on Romans 8:37.

### **Kirk Youth Fellowship**

Kirk Youth Fellowship had its monthly "Catalyst" on 24th March 2024 at 9 am in the SACCE Hall. Mrs. Diya Oommen brought the Word of God. It was a time of worship, word, and fellowship.

The Annual Street Play was performed by the youth at Gypsy Colony, showcasing acting, narration, music choreography, dance, and art designing!

### **Kirk Women's Fellowship Sunday**

The Women's Monthly Meet was held on 17th March at 11 am at the SACCE Hall. It was a time of sharing and reflecting on the goodness of God. It was an enriching gathering where stories of faith and blessings intertwined.

### **Kirk Men's Fellowship**

The Men's Fellowship gathered on 17th March at 11 am at the DCC Hall for a captivating sharing session. Mr. Shanthakumar, Mr. Jebasingh, Mr. Bharath Devadas, and other speakers shared about their recent Mission Visit to Jharkhand, recounting their experiences at Gangapada Hostel, Tarjola Church Dedication, Chotagagri Tisro Village, RCPS Primary School, and Chandikola Hospital.

### **Asha**

The Asha Family hosted a vibrant Special Sports Meet on 16th March 2024 at 9:30 am at St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk). The event was inaugurated by Rev. Devaputhiran, Presbyterian of C.S.I. Egmore English Wesley Church, adding spiritual grace to the athletic fervour.

### **Friendship Club**

The young at heart members of the Friendship Club met on Thursday, 14.03.2024, 3:00 pm at SACCE Hall for a time of spiritual growth and fellowship.

### **Bible Quiz**

Sharpen your wits through the study and save the date for the Bible Quiz on 9th June 2024 at 11:30 am at the SACCE Hall.

### **House Church**

Many got to experience the warmth of fellowship at the House Church hosted by Miss. Sugila Sharon on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 6:30 PM in Chintadripet. It was a time of worship, prayer, and community.

### **A Reason for Hope: Because He Lives - Gaither Music Concert**

The Madras Guild of Performing Arts will be presenting "A Reason for Hope: Because He Lives," a Gaither Music Concert on Saturday, April 6th, at St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk). Featuring Music Director Atul Jacob Isaac, Bass Guitar by Eugene Pandian, Drums by Daniel Ezekiel and Ethan Ezekiel, and Lead Guitar by Mike Williams. This concert is a fundraiser for The Kirk's restoration, promising an evening of uplifting melodies and joyous celebration.

### **Angela Susan Bryner**

Dear Readers, Kirkspire will not be published in May and will resume in June 2024.

*Kirkspire Editorial Board*

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"In our prayers we speak to God, but in reading the Scriptures He speaks to us."

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RMDCC Staff and Committee Members



RMDCC Library Time



RMDCC Play Time

