

# *Kirkspire*



August 2016

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*Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy*

From the Pastor's Desk



## IN \_\_\_\_\_DEPENDENCE

*.....they have rejected me as their king.....(1 Sam8:7)*

There are so many ways the Lord has shown that He truly loves our nation, India, and He continues to shower His immeasurable mercies on our land. From the ministry of Apostle Thomas to the many missionaries who have served and died in our land, the blood of the martyrs has been the seed for the harvest of souls we are reaping today. Why did the Lord send them all to our land and why does He use many faithful people to minister in our land? I see the reason being the same as why He was so patient with the people of Israel. *He wants to be our King.*

Looking at the many examples in the Bible, can we see any example where God was burdensome to those who came to Him? No. On the contrary, those who came to the Lord both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament were only delivered, healed, protected, provided for, led, loved, and so forth. That is the King our Lord Jesus Christ **is**. His reign is a reign of love, truth, hope, forgiveness and blessings. If there is any part of His rule that we feel is burdensome, it is only because He keeps us from grave danger and we, in our short-sightedness, fail to see and realise.

Therefore, the question is: when we think of '*Independence*', whom are we independent from, whom are we dependent upon and who fills the gap between In\_\_\_\_\_Dependence. As a child of God, we are delivered from, and independent from, the condemnation of sin. For there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... (Romans 8:1). I pledge my allegiance to Jesus as my King. He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful. (Rev 17:14)

If you are in bondage to sin or fear or anything, or if you know someone who needs *Independence*, find your dependence in Jesus who said "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)

*Pastor Isaac Johnson*

## **STOP and CONSIDER GOD'S WONDERS!**

A jungle 'trek' might sound very frightening to some, while for a few others it can bring about exciting memories! On one such trek through the South African jungle terrain, a group of men were following a trail, when all of a sudden 'John' thought he could catch the frog that was peeping out from a thick bush. He was thrilled to break the monotony of the long walk, but just as he was about to wrap up his prize catch, he heard a shattering gun shot. John stopped completely taken aback and asked Jacob, "Why did you do that? I just wanted to have a little fun, catching a frog". Jacob explained, "John, what you thought as a frog was really the head of a very poisonous snake called 'Fer-de-lance". The body of the snake was hidden under the bushes and plants and only the head could be seen. It was deceptive because it looked like a harmless frog rather than the dangerous snake it really was. Although this dangerous Fer-de-lance snake was deceptive by its looks, we have an even more dangerous deceiver today. Satan is the Father of all deceptions and lies, causing people of all ages journeying through this world, to think that the attractions of this world are more important and enough. But can we stop and **consider the wonder of God's Grace!** The reason the Son of God (JESUS) appeared was to destroy the devil's work (1John 3:8b). Our Lord knew the danger we were all in and came right into enemy territory and let cruel men nail Him to a cross where He suffered and died, paying the price for our sins in His own body. How about believing, receiving and standing firm with a heart full of gratitude – "I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart, I will tell of all your wonders".

As his chosen people called out of darkness into His wonderful light, Can we declare daily **the wonder of seeking His face!** How about whispering a prayer for strength to yield the members of our body to the 'Wonderful counsellor' remembering the tune of the well known song:

**Oh! Be careful little eyes what you see:** - Have we ever stopped and considered why we have two eyes placed just where they are? An ant or a fly have compound eyes. A rabbit has an eye on each side of his head so that he can see the side fox creeping up behind him! But our eyes look straight ahead and God made us that way. But many a time our eyes though seeing never perceive unless the Lord opens them! Elisha prayed, "Lord, 'open the young man's eyes' and the

servant's eyes were opened and he saw that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire.

**Oh! Be careful little ears what you hear:-** Even "The heavens praise your wonders O Lord, your faithfulness too in the assembly of the holy ones"! Psalm 89:5. We who hear the Word of the Lord, do we understand the Word that is sown?

**Oh! Be careful little tongue what you speak:-** Telling of all His wonderful deeds will truly have an impact when with undivided hearts, we put away double mindedness and without doubt 'ASK IN HIS NAME'!

Oh! Who can deny the depth and **wonder of God's love and presence?** Beyond all wonder is of course the hope that we'll see our 'Lord' face to face one day. So let's not wonder how, but get busy from this day and pray continually

- Create in me a clean heart O God!
- Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
- "Search me O God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting".

*Dr. Christina Ambrose.*

**Answers to Bible Quiz No. 68  
(July 2016)**

Based on the Acts (Part 1) (King James Version)

The answers are :

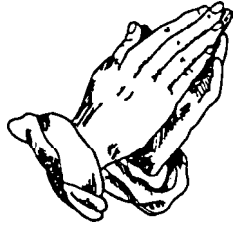
- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. A – Acts 18:25 | 2. A – Acts 12:6-9 |
| 3. B – Acts 1:26  | 4. B – Acts 16:14  |
| 5. A – Acts 7:58  | 6. A – Acts 10:13  |
| 7. A – Acts 13:9  | 8. B – Acts 14:23  |
| 9. C – Acts 11:28 | 10. B – Acts 18:18 |

**The winners are:**

- 1. Mrs. Victoria Basker**
- 2. Dr. Rachel Chacko**
- 3. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss**
- 4. Mr. Joseph M. Manoharan**
- 5. Mrs. Nalini Surya Prakash**
- 6. Dr. Elizabeth Sujatha Prasad**
- 7. Mrs. Gloadys Wilson**

***Hearty congratulations!***

*Usha George*



## A Prayer for Our Country

One of the defining moments in our history was when our tri-coloured national flag was hoisted for the first time in our capital. On this 69th anniversary of our Independence Day was recall with grateful hearts the sacrificial struggles of men and women who selflessly sacrificed careers, education, safe homes and even their precious lives. Rich lessons of courage and endurance should never be forgotten as we continue to build our nation.

Wordly success and material wealth can never fill a deep internal void. Earthly joys are fleeting and no high technology can keep us here forever.

By far there is a freedom sweeter and higher than the world can offer. This is prophesied in Isaiah 61 : 1 "He has send me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives" We are tainted and trapped in sin and deceit. We are like the birds and animals in the zoo -- with one difference, the door of the cage is open and we tragically choose to stay in bondage.

No matter how deep in sin we are we have our great Redeemer who can cleanse us of the filth and dirt, with the power of His precious blood. Let us proclaim to the world that Jesus is calling us tenderly and will gently disarm our unworthiness with His love.

Our prayer for our beloved country is that our mighty God will break the shackles of superstition, confusion, and blind worship of deities and mortals. That our country will be ablaze with the victorious and confident recognition that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Messiah. We pray that all of us will joyfully share this irresistible journey with our irresistible Saviour-- losing our independence with more dependence on Him.

Into this wonderfully beautiful Truth may our country awake.

*Usha George*

## A Humbling Experience



As the car sped on Mt. Road towards the Pallavaram gypsy colony, my mind was preoccupied with the task our Pastor had given us. He had asked us, the committee members of the Riber Memorial Day Care Centre, to evaluate the feasibility of starting a similar centre for the little children in the Colony. The Evangelical and Missions movement of our church has been ministering to the gypsies for the past five years and Pastor felt there was a need for such a centre to cater to the physical, intellectual and spiritual needs of small children aged two to five, who were left behind as their mothers went about trying to earn their livelihood. I wondered how receptive the gypsies would be to have an organized, structured set up for their children!

As we reached the Gypsy Colony, our evangelist, Bro. Samuel came out to meet us and led us into the colony. Much had changed since my last visit a couple of years ago. Our Church had done a great job in helping the gypsies clean up the place. Pathways were visible and we could walk without stumbling into ditches, a couple of shelters for the women to have their baths were new additions provided by the Women's Fellowship of our church. Washed clothes fluttered gaily in the wind and we could not help smiling at the dish antennae which sprouted from most roof tops. But what delighted us most was the small church which stood right in the middle of the huts. "I will dwell among them" said God to Moses and here was tangible evidence of it. An incredible peace pervaded the clean and spotless little church.

Soon a smiling, slightly built gypsy came over to meet us. She had a wide grin on her face -no trace of despair or self pity and out went my ideas of trying to lift them out of distress. She looked contented and happy!! Though smudged with dirt and grime, her white and bright, million dollar smile could melt the heart of anyone. We were quite surprised to hear that the gypsy girl, Lakshmi was the proud mother of five children! But what took our breath away was the bit of news

shared by Evangelist Samuel. He said that the piece of land on which the church stood was given away by Lakshmi and her husband Vijayan - what if it was only a "Poramboke" Land?. Though land was scarce, the gypsy girl and her family were willing to give theirs to build a home for their Saviour. About twenty gypsy families attended church regularly said Bro. Samuel and sent their children to Sunday School. We the so called 'affluent' often calculate how much we should give as our offering. "Is it one tenth of our salary or one tenth of all our assets?" we wonder and with reluctance dole it out, forgetting that everything we have belongs to Him. We plan our retirement funds, ensuring a steady income even in old age, but these gypsies not even sure where their next meal would come from were willing to give away the land on which they could have built a hut for themselves.

Meanwhile Lakshmi had disappeared but soon came back with a bag full of beads. She took out half finished necklaces in brilliant colours-red, yellow, green, blue -all glittering in the morning sunlight. The necklaces were delicate and intricately made, each an incredible piece of craftsmanship! Her friend Poongodi soon joined us, bringing out her own collection, telling us with a beautiful smile "You can take what you want". As we insisted on paying them, Bro. Samuel remarked casually "Did you know the gypsies had put up a stall for the carnival? They raised Rs14,000 for the church - and all their beads and necklaces were freely donated"!

As we took leave of Lakshmi, Poongodi and their friends, I felt strangely light and uplifted. Our visit did not give the gypsies anything much, but we definitely returned much richer! In their own, inimitable way the smiling gypsy girls had taught us the value of Christ's Sacrifice, the value of Love, the value of Sharing with one another and above all the value of remaining Contented and Happy with what God has blessed us with. Young Lakshmi's face will linger on in my mind and heart, reminding me that nothing I can give my Saviour would be adequate for the immeasurable Love and Grace He has showered me with. "The music in my heart I bore, long after it was heard no more".

*Chitra Bennett*



Medical Corner



## NUTRITION-II

### VITAMIN 'A'

**Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”**

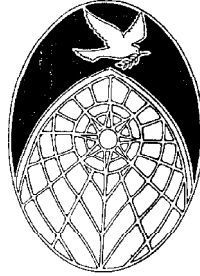
Liver, milk, butter, cheese, fish-oils, are rich sources of vitamin A. Carrots, papaya, dark green leafy vegetables, spinach, drumstick leaves and drumsticks, contain beta-carotene which gets converted into vitamin A in the body. Vegans who are strict vegetarians depend totally on beta carotene for their vitamin A requirements of the body.

Vitamin A is necessary for normal growth, and fetal development, fertility, and immune function. Deficient children suffer more severe respiratory infections and gastroenteritis and fall sick frequently. Most often seen in severely malnourished children.

Vitamin A deficiency can cause blindness, Night blindness is the earliest sign of deficiency. The eye looks dull and lustreless. White elevated spots resembling thermacole can be seen on either side of cornea (Bigot's spots). In severe deficiency corneal melting can occur in infants and children leading to blindness.

Prevention is better than cure. A well balanced diet rich in Vitamin A and beta-carotene can contribute to good health. In severely affected children injections of vitamin A is given. For mild and moderate deficiency vitamin A capsules are available. For generations, "Cod liver oil" capsules have been used to prevent deficiency, in many families.

*Dr. (Mrs) Rajini Kantha*



**John's Corner**

## **Not Forsaken**

(Read Isa 43:2, Heb 13:5, 1 Pet 5:7)

Aug 21<sup>st</sup> is Asha Sunday

When disabilities cause grief,  
And there be none to give relief,  
We wonder, 'Lord, are You still there?  
Is it for us You've ceased to care?'

Oft trials blur our mortal eyes,  
But darkness can't prevent sunrise.  
God His disciples won't forsake,  
Dawn soon will for His children break.

In clearest tone God's Word assures,  
Our Saviour's love always endures.  
All who believe will one day find  
He has us ever in His mind.

With steadfast faith to Jesus cling,  
Joy in His time He'll surely bring.  
Handicaps yielded to God's care,  
To blessings change where was despair.

*John H. Bala Singh*

**Bible Quiz No. 69 - August, 2016**

**Based on King James Version (KJV) selected from  
The Acts of the Apostles**



**From the 'Match word', you need to choose from the 'match group' which one goes with the match word. Give only one reference.**

**Where There's Smoke.....**

1. Match word: Burning Bush  
Match group: a) God asked Moses to remove his tunic. b) Was on Mount Horeb. c) After the bush burned up, God spoke to Moses.
2. Match word: Worship of Baal  
Match group: a) Elijah's fire consumed even the stones and the soil. b) The prophets of Baal stopped shouting at midday. c) The prophets of Baal got a little fire going, but then it went out.
3. Match word: Pillar of fire  
Match group: a) Covered the tabernacle at night. b) At this sign, the Israelites set out on their journey. c) At this sign, the Israelites made camp.
4. Match word: Fiery Furnace  
Match group: a) Shadrach, Mershack and Abednego wore only trousers in the furnace. b) King Nebuchadnessar ordered the furnace seven times hotter. c) King Nebuchadnezzar saw fire men inside the furnace.
5. Match word: Ten Commandments  
Match group: a) Mount Carmel was covered with smoke. b) Moses got lost going up the mountain because of all the smoke. c) Mount Sinai was covered with smike.
6. Match word: Tongues of fire  
Match group: a) In Bethany on the day of the Pentecose. b) Rested only on the 12 apostles. c) Habakkuk had fore told his event.

7. Match word: Chariot of fire

Match group: a) Elijah was taken up to heaven by the sea of Galilee. b) Elijah left his mantle after departing in the chariot. c) Elisha was taken up to heaven in the Chariot.

8. Match word: Burnt offerings

Match group: a) Didn't need to burn all night. b) Priests wear to wear woolen garments when presenting them. c) The priests were to burn the fat of the peace offering first.

9. Match word: Satan's destruction

Match group: a) By another flood. b) By fire, before the 1,000-year period of peace. c) By fire, after the 1000- year of peace.

10. Match word: Nadab and Abihu

Match group: a) Sons of Aaron who put fire in their censers. b) Sons of Moses who offered burnt offerings. c) Sons of Miriam who could swallow fire.

Kindly send your answers to the Church office by Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

*Usha George*



## Our Unfailing Father

As our vehicle wound its way through the stifling traffic which inched its way in T.Nagar. I felt impatient. We had to wait almost at every signal.

My thoughts carried me away at the word "Wait". A line popped up from Milton's poem "On His Blindness

"They also serve who only stand and wait"

Milton's agony that he was struck blind at an age when he thought he had much to offer frustrated him. Then came his resignation and complete surrender. He realised that God is Sovereign. He is not counting on our efforts and achievements to promote His kingdom. His plans and timings are always precise and perfect. Milton's greatest works Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained were composed after his blindness.

In our lives today we become weary of waiting for answers to our prayers concerning loved ones, perhaps a final break through, an elevation in the Corporate ladder, a miraculous healing, a deliverance from addiction, restoration, healing of broken relationships, change in situations or a change of heart!

It may seem sometimes that God has taken a backseat and watching silently the injustice, tears and the pain. A saint once said,

"My Father knows what to give me and when He puts me in the furnace He knows just how much heat to turn on".

The Psalmist in Psalm 27 : 14 exhorts us not to lose heart but wait with courage and in Psalm 40:Vs1 to be patient and Psalm 130 : 5&6 to keep hoping.

W atch  
A nticipate  
I mplicitly  
T rusting

Abraham waited with unstaggering faith; David waited for God's good time to establish him. On the throne and did not take the opportunity to slay Saul----- so unlike Shakespeare's Maebeth. Joseph who was thrown in prison wrongfully had to wait for Pharoah's call as the butler forgot all about him for another two years,

Our God is a loving Father. He sees the end of the road from the beginning; He views the Larger picture. Let us keep trusting in His goodness, power and precision, while confessing and claiming with our mouth his precious promises in His word.

His word is a two edged sword One edge is the power of the written Word and the other edge is when you and I confess it as Jesus did.

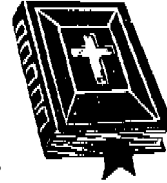
Waiting renews and strengthens our innerman. Isaish 40 vs 29-31, Waiting never puts us to shame. It bears the fruit of endurance.

On the other hand God is patiently waiting---sometimes for years-- -- to transform us into His image. How difficult have we been! Trust in His faithfulness and unfailing love to shape us for eternity.

"He knoweth the way that I take, When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. Job. 23 : 10.

In conclusion --- "If His eye is on the timest sparrow you are not too small to miss His caring eye"

*Sneha Dawson*



## Reaching out in compassion.

Recently, I happened to attend a prayer meeting held in memory of my sister-in-law, who passed away a year ago. While talking to her husband I was disturbed and saddened to see how depressed and dejected he was. It was due to the void left by his wife's death. He felt lonely, unloved and unappreciated. I was at a loss for words to console him. I sent quick arrow prayers to God to give me the right words to say and the right thing to do. I told him that these seemingly long stretches of loneliness, sadness and disappointment would eventually pass and he needs to focus on what he can give rather than what he can get. Sometimes "your smile can be a source of your joy and your joy can be a source of your smile." He is a friendly extrovert. I held up to him his better self, his real self that can dare and do things to bring blessings to others.

However, this set me thinking. Don't we find such people around us, in our homes, in our workplace, in our church or neighbourhood? Do we contribute to this state of mind, this pain and depression in others? The world is full of hurting people, needy people who long to get a little bit of love and encouragement you can give them. What is our response? Are we too callous to be sensitive to their feelings and needs? In our homes, how do we treat our parents, especially when they are aged, ailing and senile? How do we treat our children? Do we take them for granted? Are we anywhere closer to the father of the prodigal son? Time constraint, energy constraint, financial constraint- we give umpteen reasons to camouflage our uncaring unresponsive attitude. Outside our homes how often have we played a good Samaritan? Jesus saw the faith of the friends who brought the paralyzed man to him for healing. Does He see our faith for our friends in need? We all too often rush through life and miss what God is telling us to do. Christian life is not and should not be mediocre. "Be holy as I am holy" says the Lord. He challenges us to raise the bar of

excellence. God's holiness is something which we need to assimilate into our personalities. We need to develop Christ-like qualities like love, compassion, kindness etc. So, let us make a conscious, deliberate effort to love our 'neighbour' who could be anyone besides ourselves. Let us reach out to those who live in misery and pain. It's true, "too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring all which have the potential to turn a life around." The aged, the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, young or old are around us longing for a healing touch. Be it a timely telephone call, a short visit, a shared meal, a warm hug, a leisurely walk or ride with them, lending a willing ear, singing and praying with them- anything will go a long way to make their day bright!

We often feel inadequate and powerless to say the right words and do the right thing when we encounter such lost souls. Let us remember God's promise to Abraham which holds good for us too. "I will bless you and I will make you a blessing, causing you to dispense good to others" (Gen.12.2). God empowers us to say like Job, with confidence, "Comfort from my lips will bring you relief" (Job16:5). We have our Bible, the treasure house for words of comfort, joy and peace. God has given us hope through His Word and we need to find a way to spark hope in others who need it. An authentic, genuinely compassionate person will always be more effective in reaching out to people. All we need is to find time, make the effort, and have sincere love and a large heart. "What you do to these little ones you do unto me" says the Lord. The more we care for the happiness of others the greater is our own sense of wellbeing. Even if our gesture may not bring about a global change to alleviate pain, still Jesus bids us shine and "in the world of darkness, so let us shine, you in your corner and I in mine."

*Suguna Joseph*



## Kirk News

It is good to imagine and believe that the Lord considers every month and every day precious for us as He leads us to eagerly anticipate and prepare for the blessed hope of His presence in person (2 Peter 3:8, 2 Cor.4:18). Thanks to the Lord for His precious mercies and care during the month of July, because in each and everything that we were involved in, He took care of us in all our circumstances.

### Guest Speakers

- 3<sup>rd</sup> July 6pm Mr. S. Gabriel, Elder, spoke on "Listening, Speaking, Doing" from James 1:19-25 at the healing service.
- 10<sup>th</sup> July 6pm Mr. P.C.R. Suresh, Elder, gave a message on the topic "Combat Discouragement" from Romans 8.1-17.
- 17<sup>th</sup> July 7am Mr. M.M. Narendranath, Elder, spoke on "Lessons to learn on Earth" from Deut.30:11-20, Matt.28:16-20.
- 24<sup>th</sup> July 6pm Mr. Kishore Victor, a minister of the Gospel through music, spoke at the Youth & Koinonia service on "Being Connected" from John 15:4-8.

**Monday Bible Study** Members continued to enjoy the study and exposition of the Gospel of Luke led by Pastor Isaac Johnson.

**Evangelism & Missions Movement** Fasting prayers continued to focus on the evangelistic and spiritual needs of the church, her ministries as well as national concerns, especially spiritual and moral issues. Please join us on Thursdays between 10:30am and 1:30pm.

**Friday Manse Prayer** was held with study of the Book of Proverbs.

**Friday House Church** The hosts during the month were: Mr. & Mrs. Dalton Eddy, Mr. Joshua Chelliah and Dr. (Mrs.) Anita Chelliah, Mrs. Omana Joseph, Mr. & Mrs. Dilip John Chacko and Mr. & Mrs. S. David Devasahayam.

### District Meetings:

Districts 4 & 6 met in the SACCE hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> July with songs, testimonies, games & fellowship lunch. There was a Bible quiz on Acts 1 to 10.

District 5 met in the home of Dr. & Mrs. D. Bennett on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

District 2 met in the home of Capt. Sujeet and Mrs. Kalpana Oommen on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

We thank the members for opening their homes in Christian love and fellowship.

**Kirk Youth Fellowship** met on 3<sup>rd</sup> July for prayer and discussion on "Peer pressure". The monthly Bible study on the Book of Job was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Catalyst worship service on the 24<sup>th</sup> was ministered to by Mr. & Mrs. Rampert Ratnaiya with a message on how to be "Peculiar" in our respective lives (1 Peter 2:9). The youth also distributed tracts in and around the Egmore area and spread the Gospel.

#### **Other news:**

The 9am service on 10<sup>th</sup> July was observed as **Evangelism & Missions Movement Sunday**. Mr. Melvin Ponraj, Secretary of the E&MM committee, presented the annual report. There was a testimony from the church's Gypsy Colony outreach in Pallavaram. The church evangelists sang a group song. The sermon by Pastor Isaac Johnson was on "Bring them to Jesus" from Luke 5:17-26.

**Projects Carnival** was held after the 9am service on 10<sup>th</sup> July with good participation by Church members, project staff and visitors. We thank and praise the Lord that an amount of Rs.25,16,000/- was received through donations and sale of products. We are grateful to everyone who responded generously to our appeals and participated in the sale with their hard work.

Three new **Elders** were ordained at the 9am service on 17<sup>th</sup> July:

Mrs. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad (District 8)

Mr. Joshua Chelliah (District 3)

Dr. Praise Joseph Ambrose (District 5)

We thank the Lord for the new Elders and pray that He will bless them and their service for His glory.

#### ***Bible Quiz Competition***

Based on the practice of holding memory verse competitions over the past two years, this year a **Bible Quiz Competition** on Genesis will be held on on **Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> October after the 9AM service**. It is open to all. Please enrol by filling in the sign-up sheet in the church office. May God richly bless and delight you as you study and participate! (Ps.37:4)

## GYPSY COLONY



Lakshmi, The Cheerful Giver



Their place of Worship

**ASHA MINISTRY**  
Giving Thanks in Everything



Smiles of Victory



Ready to Go