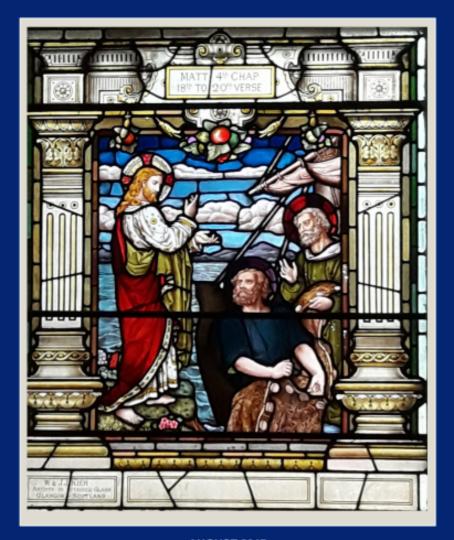
Kirkspire



AUGUST 2017

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Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy



Word From the Pastor

RAGE, REDEEMER, REPENTANCE

Genesis 4:8 is not a verse we will remember by heart like other verses in the bible like Psalm 23:1 or Psalm 91:1. But Genesis 4:8 shows the very first instance of rage in its most violent form. The Bible says, '....while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him'. What was Abel's fault? He had done the right thing before God and more importantly he had done nothing wrong against Cain. His innocence adds to the cruelty of the crime, hence the severity of the punishment.

Dr. Ferry Rankin writes about the 'Biblical Response to radical Islam'

In chapter four of Acts, Peter and John had been arrested, threatened and ordered not to preach or teach in the name of Jesus, a restriction imposed on many believers across the Muslim world today. The response of the church to this situation is a model for how the global church should respond—they prayed! When Peter and John reported the threats and potential harm that would inevitably spread to any Christian believer, they relinquished the situation to God in prayer. But note the content of their prayer, beginning in Acts 4:24-25. It was not the expected plea for protection and safety. It is instructive for believers who continue to face such threats in our contemporary world.

When they heard it, they lifted their voices to God and said "Sovereign Lord who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against His anointed.'"

We are asking the same question today. "Why do the nations rage?" Why do those in authority in Muslim nations set themselves against Christ and those who follow Him?" Why does ISIS indiscriminately

behead Christians in Libya, al Shabaab slaughter Christian students in Kenya and Boko Haram massacre Christian villagers in Nigeria? They recalled this perplexing plea from Psalm 2 hundreds of years earlier. The question of why the righteous suffer has been raised through the ages without satisfactory explanations.

Three responses to the crisis we see in the world today.

- 1. Walk in the light because darkness is disastrous. 1 John 1:7 says 'But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin'.
- 2. Wisdom in times of anger saves us from foolish decisions. Proverbs 19:11 says 'A person's wisdom yields patience, it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.
- 3. Wait for God. Justice will soon be revealed. Eccleciastes3:17 says 'I said to myself, "God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed."

Anyone who has chosen rage over love can turn to the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, repent and life will never be the same again. You may not be in the category of the *worst case scenario* but are you missing being part of the *best-case scenario*.

Rev. Isaac Johnson



Medical Corner

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

Doctor treats but Jesus heals

WHAT IS DIABETIC RETINOPATHY (D.R.)?

When diabetes affects the retina, it is known as D.R. The incidence of Retinopathy increases with the duration of diabetes. Juvenile diabetics are more prone to develop D.R. at an early age. The effect of uncontrolled diabetes on the eye is extremely variable. Some diabetics never show any sign of disease in the eye. But in many diabetics, the disease progresses until massive bleeding, scarring and retinal detachment occurs and makes recovery of sight impossible. There is yet no way of preventing the occurrence of D.R. Therefore emphasis has been placed on the treatment of its vision threatening complications. Diabetic patients are said to be 25 times more prone to blindness than non-diabetics.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fundus Fluorescein Angiography (FFA) reveals the extent of DR and the stage of DR.

OCT : Macular line scan can be done to rule out fluid accumulation in the macula which is the most important part of the retina (Diabetic Macular Odema)

MEDICAL TREATMENT

Good and sustained control of blood sugar level is mandatory.

LASER TREATMENT (PHOTO COAGULATION)

Most sight-threatening diabetic problems can be prevented by laser treatment, if it is given early enough. It is important to realise that laser treatment aims to save the sight you have, and may or may not make it better. The laser can be focussed with extreme precision to seal the blood vessels that are leaking fluid into the retina. If abnormal

blood vessels are growing, then more extensive laser treatment has to be carried out. In eight out of ten cases laser treatment causes the new blood vessels to disappear.

SURGICAL TREATMENT

Whenever there is bleeding inside the eye (Vitreous haemorrhage) or a traction retinal detachment, then a surgical procedure known as Vitrectomy can be done to restore vision. Injections can be given inside the eye also to reduce the Odema of the macula.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY TREATMENT

Early diagnosis is vital. Have an eye examination every 6 months. Do not wait until your vision has deteriorated to have an eye examination. Early treatment can prevent blindness.

Dr. Rajinikantha

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 79 (July 2017)

Based on the book of Second Samuel (King James Version)

The answers are:

- 1. Abner 3 : 32
- 2. David 22: 34
- 3. 40 years 5 : 4
- 4. Amnon 3 : 2
- 5. Jedidiah 12 : 25
- Saul and Jonathan 1:23
- Tamar 13: 19
- 8. The people to David 18:3
- 9. Absalom 14: 25
- 10. The Lord to David 12: 12

The winners are:

- 1. Mrs. Aruna Asir
- Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam
 Mrs. Minnie Devadoss
 Peace Rani Sudhakar

- 5. Rev. S.C. Mishra
- 6. Mrs. Snehalatha Bright
- 7. Mrs. Sneha Dawson
- 8. Mrs. Suguna Joseph
- 9. Mrs. Victoria Basker
- 10. Dr. Rachel Chacko
- 11. Mrs. V. Gladys

Hearty congratulations!

Usha George



John's Corner

Not Unable

(Read Phil 4: 13) (Asha Sunday - 20th August)

Lord, may my disabilities Not so embitter me that I Begin to feel You don't exist, Or are indifferent to my cry.

Give me the vision to behold You always standing by my side, Though I be considered as blind, With sightless eyes, though open wide.

Help me to harken to Your voice, And realize You're always near, Though oft I'm ridiculed as deaf, And not a word my ears can hear.

Help me to walk with You each day, Though on my own I cannot stand, And my poor crippled feet can't take One step without a helping hand.

Though I can't speak may how I live, To sinners, Lord, Your Word proclaim, So they repent and turn to You, And never be again the same.

Lord, may my disabilities

Not cause remorse but rather lead

Me to a firmer faith in You,

That trusts You'll meet my every need.

John H. Bala Singh

The Lord Jesus – Our Model In Ministry To Persons With Disability (PWD)

In His Nazareth manifesto, our Lord Jesus stated that ministry to persons with disability was an integral part of His mission 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised'. (Luke 4.18) Therefore He was frequently involved with individuals affected by disability during his years of ministry.

There are more than seventy passages where Jesus cured an illness, raised a person from the dead, or took away a disability. Of these, approximately twenty-six scripture passages about people with disabilities such as people with paralysis, people who could not see, hear or walk are in the gospels. With the exception of Bartimaeus, the other people with disability (PWD) in the gospels are nameless. Most people of disability are poor, unemployed, beggars, or servants. They are usually patronized, treated with contempt, publicly rebuked and humiliated, screamed at and spoken at, instead of spoken to.

Jesus saw PWDs as people. He called the man with paralysis (Luke 5:20) "friend" and another such man "son" (Matthew. 9:2). He called the woman with a bent back as "daughter of Abraham" (Luke 13:16). In most encounters scripture mentions that He touched PWD as He healed them. This was true for even the most untouchable in society- the person with leprosy. (Luke 5:13) Jesus' ears were open to the cry of PWD. When Bartimaeus who was blind called for mercy and as the crowds rebuked him to be silent, Jesus heard him above the noisy crowd and answered his cry and healed him. (Mark 10:46-52)

In some encounters Jesus chose to not say anything at all, and just healed the disabled person. When a demon possessed mute man was brought to him He just healed him (Matthew 9:32-34). There

was also a similar situation with a blind and mute man (Matthew 12:22). Jesus knew what was most needed and quietly and compassionately met that need by giving the man his sight and speech.

Jesus was sensitive to protecting a person's personal sense of pride. He removed the person from the public eye before using spit and applying it to the person's eyes or tongue before healing him (Mark 7:31-37). Jesus' tenderness is recognised when He took the blind man by his hand and led him away from the crowds and then stayed with Him until his sight was completely restored. He took the time that was needed (Mark 8:22-26).

Jesus saw the woman with a bent back (Luke 13:11-13). Jesus saw the man who had been lame and blind for 38 years (John 5:1-9). Jesus saw the man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-4). Jesus saw the man blind from birth (John 9:1-9). In Mark 10:46-52 Jesus heard the blind man's cry above the noisy crowd. In all these cases it was Jesus who saw or heard the individual first.

Jesus' concern for PWD was not only physical but also spiritual. He spoke of the centurion's faith as He told him of his servant who was paralysed back home. The centurion believed in the power of Jesus' word and with His word Jesus healed the man's servant (Matthew 8:5-13). Jesus recognized the faith of the two blind men before He healed them (Matthew 9:27-31). He acknowledged the faith of the four friends who lowered the paralyzed man through the roof and the man was healed. When Jesus' response to the paralytic was that his sins were forgiven, it is clear that the man had a need for forgiveness. Jesus' forgiveness before his healing of the paralyzed man indicates the weight he placed on spiritual health over physical health. (Mark 2.1-12)

Jesus did not associate all sickness with sin. When the disciples started a theological debate on seeing a man born blind, Jesus stated that his blindness was not due to either the man's sin or his parents' sin but that God's work in the man's life could be displayed. (John 9) This was the Bible verse that answered Nick Vujicic who asked the question "Why am I born with no limbs?". Jesus understood that God's power could be manifested in the life of a person with a disability.

When John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the one or should they wait for another Messiah Jesus' reply indicates

how significant His ministry to PWD was. He replied to John's disciples, "Go, report to John what you have seen and heard. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled now walk. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. And good news is preached to the poor. (Luke 7:21-22)

Jesus' healing activity restored afflicted individuals to purity, to wholeness, i.e. restored to full and active membership in the holy community, the people of God. Jesus broke down the social bias and boundaries that were established by society. Instead of Jesus becoming contaminated by people with disabilities labelled unclean, He made them go back to their family and friends and to participate in worship.

Jesus is our greatest model of how we are to minister to PWD in our world. Jesus took the time to speak with and heard their concerns. He touched them and had compassion on them. Sometimes words were not needed, just the loving help of a friend would suffice. All this He did while respecting them and protecting their pride. In several situations Jesus placed importance on the spiritual well-being of those He ministered to. In fact He considered a person's spiritual condition far more important than their debilitating physical condition. He knew their need for forgiveness and the Savior. Jesus knew that whether healed or not, the life of PWD could reflect the mighty power of God. And He bestowed on them the privilege of being used by God to speak to an unbelieving world the truth that He is the Sovereign Loving God. We can emulate His attitudes and His actions and with the power of the Holy Spirit, be Jesus' disciples to PWD.

Dr. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad

"Messiah" by G.F Handel

George Frederick Handel was a prodigy. During his early days, he mastered composing operas. He then left Germany for London.

In 1713 Handel performed "Te Deum" at St. Paul's Cathedral to celebrate a peace treaty. Queen Anne granted Handel an annual stipend of 200 pounds. Handel formed his opera company, the 'Royal Academy' of music in which king George I and many Londoners joined.

One of Handel's admirers, a part time poet named Charles Jennens, gave a script. The plot was taken from the Bible. Jennen had assembled Old and New Testament quotations into a narrative of Christ's birth, sacrifice and resurrection. He called the piece "Messiah".

It began with a prophecy from Isaiah, promising deliverance: "Comfort ye, my people". The words were simple and familiar. Handel formed the melody.

London premiere of the "Messiah" in 1743 had quite a bit of criticism. Sermons were preached against it. Was the Bible a text to be sung by actors for mere entertainment? Through thick and thin, Handel stubbornly clung to his beloved Messiah, offering it every year for charity during the last decade of his life.

In London audiences began to flock to the performances. In one of the programmes the hall was filled to its capacity. King George II also attended the Oratorio, as the trumpets rang out in the great Hallelujah Chorus the king rose to his feet as he could not contain his enthusiasm, the entire audience stood up along with the king. To this day the audiences stand when this chorus is sung.

'Samson' and 'Judas Maccabaeus' were some of his popular pieces. Late in life Handel went blind. But, still he composed and played the organ. It was after the blind composer had conducted a performance of "Messiah" he fainted and had to be carried home. He died in 1759.

Handel was a great musician. He gave excellent music to the delight of listeners of all faith which is performed all over the world till today.

Jacob Sumithran



Purpose of life Part - 3

Birth

An unborn baby inside its mother's womb is without any care or concern. All its needs are met and it is not aware of any wants and is oblivious to the world outside. It thinks, if at all it can think, that it would remain there in that confined place forever. Then one day, at the time of delivery, it is pushed out into this world and comes out crying.

Challenges of Growing

As the child grows he & she learns from the parents, near and dear ones and accepts whatever they teach and train. However, as they enter school and get exposed to further learning they start asking questions and seek for answers as they explore the world.

First the child begins to observe and compare. Comparison of the physical growth is usually one of the earliest and then it goes to other aspects like looks, complexion etc. Then the observation turns toward parents and their socio economic status and comparing them with that of others. Then it would be academic, sports and cultural achievements. As the child approaches school final it would be on marks for entering into colleges that would assure good careers. As the child grows comparisons lead to challenges.

On completing higher education the challenge would be on getting a job, the nature of job and the remuneration. After settling down in a career will come the need for marriage; while some may remain single others will get married (of course the challenge will be to get the right partner) and start their own families. At the beginning of the career the challenge would be to climb the ladder of success in their

career. As the years pass, the focus would turn to children's education, their settling down and their getting married and the challenge would be on their achievement and later on the grandchildren's settling down and their achievement. Importance and focus would shift from self, to children and later to grand children and great grandchildren. As one proceeds on in life no more that person would be interested on himself or herself but on their next generations.

Results of Challenges

In the beginning of the career one could aspire for great things and greater achievements, but as the years pass by, at the time of retirement, ambition could gradually get reduced to having good health, friends, be independent and not to be a burden to anyone. During this period of life's journey one would have encountered success as well as failures, obstacles, setbacks, difficulties and disappointments. With success some could have become arrogant, proud, selfish and self seeking thus displeasing God and some with benevolent hearts could have become those who love their neighbours. Some who faced failures could have become bitter and gone away from God and some who had the humbling experience could have turned to God and gone closer.

In our lives we are to be concerned about pleasing God and not going away from God.

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word." Ps. 119:67

It is God who Reveals

As explained above during this period of challenges one can become a seeker and seek God or drift away as an unbeliever. God is interested in our overcoming the difficulties and seek Him so that He can reveal Himself.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD," Jer. 29:12-14

"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word." Isa 66: 2

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right." Acts 10:34-36

From one man he made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. Acts 17:26-27.

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me." Prov. 8:17

God of the Bible has been revealing Himself to those who seek Him, fear Him, who are humble at heart and contrite in sprit. He has revealed Himself progressively in the Scriptures starting from Adam in the book of Genesis to Apostle John in the book of Revelation. We will humbly sit at His feet and try to understand His plans for us as He unfolds His plans in the Scripture.

To continue M.M. NARENDRANATH

• • •

The Most Important Teachers – Parents (Proverbs 1:8-9)

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

These two small sentences contain within them some very basic and important concepts or principles for parenting.

The first principle here is that *both* the father and the mother are to instruct and teach their children. Fathers cannot leave the upbringing of their children to their wives alone, as many tend to do. Nor can parents expect that merely setting the children a good example is enough for them to learn good habits and values, and leave instruction and education to the schools. *Both* parents must constantly instruct and teach children moral values as well as skills for living effectively in this world – things that they have themselves learned from their own parents, from life and experience and other sources of knowledge, especially the Bible. Most importantly, they must model and teach a reverential fear of God and what He requires from us.

The second principle here is that children are to obey their parents and do what they say, teach and instruct. Obedience is one of the first lessons a child is to be taught by his or her parents. This is because the natural tendency of children is to do what they want and like. Parents must teach them that they need to do some things even if they are not inclined to do them, because it is the right thing to do. This is because they don't yet have the knowledge and maturity required to make choices in all matters, and they need to be taught by word and example. Above all, a child who obeys his parents is more likely to be inclined as an adult to obey God.

Thirdly, children who are well taught by their parents, cooperate with them and learn and apply their teachings develop a certain charm and appeal that is more attractive than anything they may adorn themselves with outwardly. People are drawn to them not because of how they are dressed, but because of the beauty of their character.

Abha Appasamy





Bible Quiz No. 80 - August, 2017 Based on the 1 Kings (King James Version) Give only 1 reference.

- 1. A farmer who became a prophet?
- 2. A prophet who struck another prophet?
- 3. "Arise and eat;" Who said to whom?
- 4. During whose reign did everyone live without fear from Dan to Beersheba under one's own wine and fig tree?
- 5. During whose reign was gold not valuable?
- 6. How many oxen and sheep did Solomon have for his daily provision?
- 7. Pharaoh, King of Egypt, gave his daughter (Solomon's wife) as a present
 - a) Four hundred and twenty talents of gold
 - b) a crypt in the great Pyramid
 - c) a burned and slaughtered city
 - d) a tapestried houseboat on the River Nile.
- 8. Milcom was a __
 - a) god b) river c) sedative
- The Lord decided to leave alive in Israel anyone whose knees had not bowed to Baal and whose mouth had not kissed him; namely

d) disease

- a) 70 Israelites b) 700 Israelites Israelites
- c) 7000

- d) 70,000 Israelites
- 10. At that dedication Solomon gave as peace offerings to the Lord
 - a) 22 oxen and 120 sheep b) 220 oxen and 1,200 sheep
 - c) 2,200 oxen and 12,000 sheep
 - d) 22,000 oxen and 1,20,000 sheep.

Kindly send your answers to the church office by 13th August 2017.

Kirk News



The Lord says "I am the Lord, your Holy One" Isaiah 43:15. As we enter Aug 2017, we need to consider leading a holy life because we belong to the Holy One. Has my endeavour been to be holy in everything I do?

Guest Speakers

2nd July 6 p.m. Mrs Meera Ninan, Our Elder spoke on the topic "Overcoming Spiritual Defeat" from Numbers 21:1-9; John 6:40 & 2 Cor.5:21.

9th July 6 p.m. Mr. S Gabriel spoke on the topic "Sermons in stones and miracles in the sand" from the scripture portions Eccles.3:9-14 and 2 Cor.9:10.

16th July 6 p.m. Mr. Dulip Thangasamy, Secretary of the Church, spoke on the topic "Practicing intimacy and oneness with God" from Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:38-42.

House Church Meetings

During the month of July, The Hosts of the Meetings for **7**th **July** were Mr. & Mrs. S.C.M. Williams, for **14**th **July**, Mr. & Mrs. Ranjit Jacob, the meeting on **21**st **July** was in the home of Mr. Preetham Kumar & Mrs. Esther Preetham.**& on 28**th **July** in the home of Mr. Jayakaran & Mrs. Abigail Jayakaran

District 5 met **on 16**th **July** for a time of Bible Study and Fellowship in the home of Mr. & Mrs. G. Adolf Asir.

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

Prayer Cell met on **Fridays during the month**. Pastor leads the study on Proverbs.

Monday Bible Study was held **at** the SACCE hall. The study of Luke continued.

Confirmation Class was held on 9th July & 16th July which parents and children attended.

Monthly Night Prayer was held on **Friday**, **28**th **July 2017**. The topic of discussion was" Pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20)". It was a time of intercessory prayer for Revival in the family, the Church, the Nation and the world at large.

Kirk Men's Fellowship & *Kirk Women's Fellowship* met on 16th July for time of testimony, worship and prayer. There was an enriching presentation on Israel in Men's Fellowship.

Evangelism and Missions Movement's Fasting and Prayer was held on Thursdays. Our prayers are required to uphold our Evangelists, our Missionaries and the life and activities of our Church and about our concerns for the present situations of our nation, which are of great importance, and for the world.

Evangelism & Missions Movement Sunday was held on **9**th **July 2017**. We encourage you to contribute to the evangelism & missions efforts of the church.

Witnessing Sunday was held on **30**th **July 2017**. The church was blessed with numerous testimonies as the recipients of the Lord's bountiful mercies, publicly acknowledging His goodness in the three services.

The Annual Church Retreat has been arranged on the theme "Understanding Islam, engaging with her followers" on **Saturday**, **12**th **August** & **Sunday**, **13**th **August**. It will be held from 9am to 4pm on Saturday. On Sunday, the three services will focus on the theme, with a session at 11am also (as usual). The speakers for this year are Mr.Asgar Ali, Mr. Arputraj & Mr.Neil Vimalkumar from Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM) We encourage everyone to please pray and attend. Registration charges: Rs. 100 per day.

Church Project Carnival was a huge success. We Praise God for His immense Grace which enabled us as a congregation to raise resources for our projects. The Session would like to thank each and every member of the congregation who pitched in with their time, talent and financial resources for this cause. Special thanks are due to the stall holders, people who contributed items to the stalls, people who painted, did craft work and people who donated articles to be auctioned.

A special word of thanks also to many of you who had sponsored expenses towards the shamiana, sound, consumables, biriyani etc. Thanks to the youth for enthusiastically providing good, inspirational

music during the entire event. Thanks to the church and project staff also for their contribution.

Any effort of this nature needs a lot of planning to be successful and for this, Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln Victor, along with the co-convenors Mr. P.C.R. Suresh, Mrs. Kala Dennis and Mr. B. Christ Das have to be commended as they spent a lot of time and effort to ensure that the entire program went off in a flawless manner. To God be the glory! We raised a sum of Rs.20.16 lacs.

Riber Memorial Day Care Centre – Jumble Sale A jumble sale was organised for the congregation on **Sunday**, **30**th **July** after the 9AM service.

The Kirk Youth Fellowship - visited Thirupalaivanam for outreach on **9**th **July**. Another group visited Gypsy Colony, Pallavaram, to teach in Sunday school. **On 23**rd **July 2017** they met distributed tracts in and around Egmore to spread the Gospel. **CATALYST** Youth Worship Service happened on **23**rd **July** between 9 & 11 AM. On **30**th **July** they visited Gypsy Colony, Pallavaram, in the evening conducted the service there with praise and worship.

KYF Camp'17: The Annual Youth camp will be held at Kodaikanal between the 13th&15th of August. If you have not registered your name yet, please block the dates and register. Please contact: Nitin (98841 52446), Anya (98405 66378) or Suman (98403 26078).

OBITUARY

Mr. John Rodgers, our member, aged 58 years, passed away on Friday, 14th July. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and request all to pray for the comfort of peace.

Dr Samip Baruah



KYF conducting the evening service at Gypsy Colony



Poovami village (Tirupalaivanam) street preaching

45 : 08 August 2017 THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (THE KIRK), CHENNAI