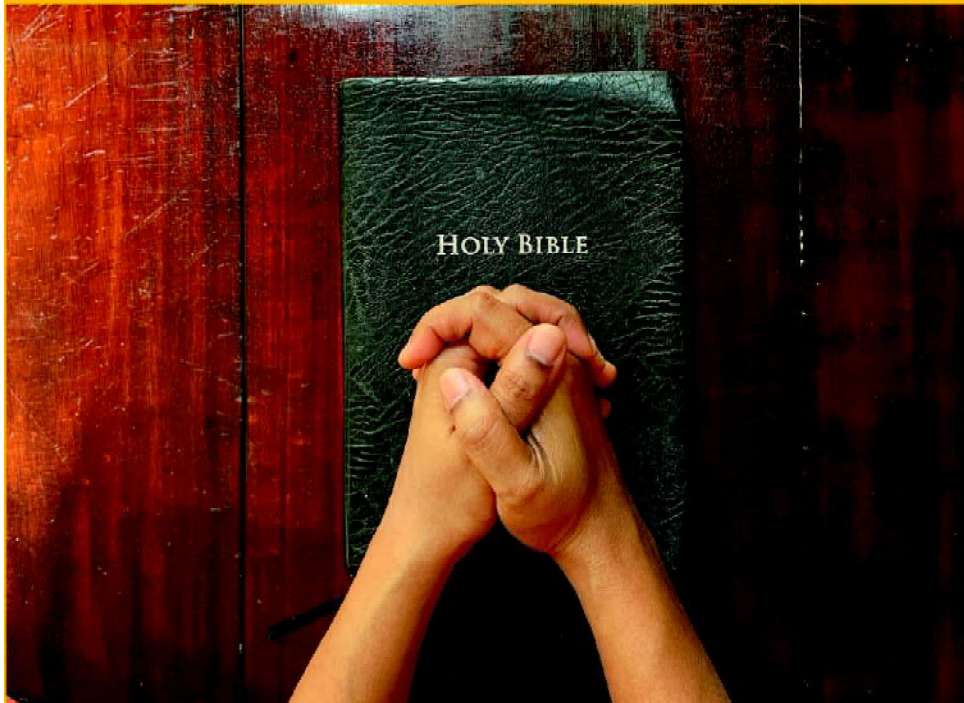


Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with  
thanksgiving; - Colossians 4:2



# **Kirkspire**

The Monthly Magazine of St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), Chennai  
February 2025

## CONTENTS

Word from the Pastor	<i>Rev Isaac Emmanuel Johnson</i>	3
John's Corner	<i>John H. Bala Singh</i>	5
Nonsense	<i>Dr. Susan Rajkumari</i>	6
When the Lord Knocks at My Door	<i>B V Selvaraj</i>	7
The Price of the Portion	<i>Usha George</i>	8
A Report on AKCDC Project	<i>Sophia Dulipsingh</i>	10
Kirk E&MM - January 2025	<i>Sathish Moses</i>	12
St. Andrew's Church Village Project	<i>Dulip Thangasamy</i>	14
Bible Quiz No. 156 - February 2025	<i>Usha George</i>	16
Children's Corner	<i>Dolly Shanthakumar</i>	17
St. Andrew's Annual Church Camp 2025	<i>Gabriel Sathianathan</i>	21
Know Your Law	<i>Joshua Chelliah</i>	24
Answers to Bible Quiz No. 155		25
Know Your Hymn	<i>Dr. Anita Chelliah</i>	26
Living by the Book : Part 7	<i>Anisha Lazarus</i>	28
Medical Corner	<i>Dr. (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha Narendranath</i>	31
Kirk News	<i>Angela Susan Bryner</i>	32

### Editorial Board :

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

Word from the Pastor



## Value of Persistence

*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)*

Great things take time to make and great achievements are accomplished after much struggle, resilience and patient pursuit. It is not that God takes pleasure in making us wait but in the waiting, God transforms us in ways we will not learn any other way. There are many examples in the Bible of men and women who changed only for the better when they waited on God, waited for God and waited in the presence of God. Jacob (means deceiver) was a completely different man by the time he reached Egypt because he learned invaluable lessons in the journey of life. The expression of Job, one who perhaps experienced deepest sorrow, after his encounter with God in Job 41 is different from the previous chapters.

As we study on Persistent Prayer through this month, we will study three lessons that will help us seek God continually as a lifestyle.

1. God loves to our fellowship – Genesis 3:8 says “ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” Revelation 21:3 says “ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.” Even in the earthly life of Jesus, the Master spent a huge part of His life only with His disciples. Very often, we think about worship as an expression of our joy to God. How often we fail to realise that it is His joy that pours into our

souls. Persistent prayer is not so much of repeatedly asking God for the same need but instilling in our minds of our need of Him, for without Him, we are nothing.

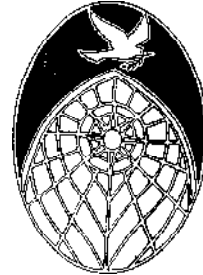
2. God loves our faith – Romans 10:17 says ‘So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.’ Matthew 8 records one of the most amazing declarations of Jesus when He spoke about the faith of the Roman Centurion. He said that He had not seen such great faith in all of Israel. This is a great testimony not only of the faith of the Centurion but also about how much that filled the heart of Jesus with joy and gladness. This is not meant to be an exception for the children of God but the norm. Faith is not something to be self-generated but one that comes from God through the word of God. Persistent prayer in itself is a sign of a person’s faith because one confesses his dependence on God in spite of happenings of life. Time to pray through times of struggle is an evidence of strong inward faith in the person and power of the Almighty God.
3. God loves our faithful living – Prayer is not something to be looked in isolation. Dependence is always to be coupled with a life of obedience. Noah’s journey of building the ark, preaching about the flood and preparing his family is a great life lesson of balancing multiple responsibilities. Is it easy? No. Is it possible? Yes. Matthew 25 records an amazing parable of the talents and two out of the three servants were rewarded by the Master after he said ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’ The Master took time to come but that did not deter the faithful servants from continuing a lifestyle of persistent obedience and patient obedience. Proverbs 23:18 says ‘For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off.’

Walk of discipleship will have many challenges and very often it will challenge the core of our relationship with our Triune God. God does not change in time and He will not abandon those who look to Him. Stay persistent in prayer, faith and obedience, you will have a sure reward.

Blessings

*Rev. Isaac Emmanuel Johnson*

John's Corner



## ANXIETY

(Read Joshua 1:9, Matthew 6:33,34)

O Lord, You know my every need,  
Yet anxious thoughts I often get,  
Your promises I do believe,  
But still Your Word I oft forget.

It is unfortunate, dear Lord,  
Though I'm a Christian, in my mind,  
There's turmoil due to doubts and fears,  
And peace of mind I cannot find.

Lord, this my prayer that always I,  
With faith that's steadfast comprehend,  
Your Word, Your love, and deep concern,  
And trust You're with me till life's end.

*John H. Bala Singh*

---

Moses served not only Israel, but left his mark on the social structure thinking, ethics, and religion of all humanity. No man ever had more to contend with and no man, alone has helped his brothers more.

*J. C. Martin*

---

**"For forty years I was grieved with that generation,  
and said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts,  
and they do not know My ways.'" Psalms, 95, :10, , , , ,**

'His Omnipotence means power to do all that is intrinsically possible, not to do the intrinsically impossible. You may attribute miracles to Him, but not nonsense.' – C.S.Lewis

Nonsense.

We encounter it every day in sitcoms, conversations and work.  
Like the gray mist that seeps into a sleepy seaside village  
it invades thoughts and clouds minds.

It is said that Hitler's relentless indoctrination of Aryan supremacy  
altered a whole generation's way of thinking.

The Germans of that era were not necessarily more evil  
than the rest of us but propelled by a flawed doctrine  
they truly believed in a cruel cause.

Any sustained propaganda does that.  
It increases the threshold of tolerance.  
Nonsense becomes the norm and  
immunity develops to authenticity.

Lord, my tolerance level for nonsense is alarming.

Primarily in my thoughts.

Acceptance of every wayward feeling without questioning its  
legitimacy

has often led to the downfall of joy.

I invent worries in a vacuum and meditate on one till it consumes  
me...

For the whispered lies of the Enemy  
about my ineptitude and worth seem far closer  
to everyday reality than what You have to say.  
Forgive me for engaging with such thoughts  
because believing always precedes seeing with You.

As I learn to dwell on Your Word help me to accept with gladness  
the small victories and not despise the long process of  
transformation.

Help me, please, like David, to question my emotions and  
challenge chronic patterns of thinking (Psalms, 42, :11), . . . . .  
Teach me to preach uplifting truth to my soul  
and wrestle with mistruths at the onset.

May a deep sense of Who You are and who I am in You  
prevail over prevalent nonsense.  
Only then can I truly live.

*Dr. Susan Rajkumari*

## WHEN THE LORD KNOCKS AT MY DOOR

Let us be ready to receive the Lord whenever He comes,  
There could be a knock at the door anytime of the day;  
As the Lord has revealed to all in His Book of Revelation—  
O my heart, be sensitive to His soft footsteps silently arriving,  
O my ears, be ever alert He may stand at the door and knock.

I long to hear His affectionate encouraging soothing voice,  
I shall rush to open my door wide 'n warm for Him to come,  
I shall kneel and prostrate before Him to convey my gratitude;  
He who blessed me with a roof, has also given me this door,  
Behold, all His gifts of food, bed and clothes are safe within.

I shall wash His feet in a warm basin laced with fragrance,  
I shall sit at His feet seeking forgiveness for all my lapses;  
I will beg Him to dine, starting with His bread and His wine:  
For He is the Bread of Life, and I shall not be hungry again!  
His wine is the Blood of the Lord, I shall not be in sin again!  
(Refer, Revelation 3:20)

*B V Selvaraj*

## The Price of the Portion

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33*

It is accepted by recognized standards of literature that The Parable of the Prodigal Son is the world's greatest short story. The parable is a sheer work of art and radiates a heavenly light on the way men and women should live. The prodigal son demands his "portion" from his caring father and goes his way to follow the false lights that entice him. Soon he squanders his wealth through reckless living. Darkness and insecurity engulf him. He returns home in "filthy rags" with remorse and repentance. His father receives him with overwhelming love and forgiveness.

What a graphic parable our Lord holds up for us to understand His message of love. We are given the "Portion" by our Creator's grace. This means not only the gifts and joys of life, but the gift of forgiveness and salvation which only a Creator can bestow. We pompously and stupidly want to grab our rich worldly inheritance and ignore and reject the Giver. We turn our greedy and ungrateful hearts and eyes away from God and waste our "Portion" on barren wastelands.

We selfishly forget that our top priority should be to feed on Christ and His Word, and then with prayer proceed to live our lives in the world. Relationship with our God and Redeemer is the most precious part of our "Portion". Our Giver waits for His children to rise up and fulfill his purpose and be ready for the "Great Day".

Jesus spoke clearly about the goal for our life when He said that we should first seek and prepare for His kingdom. Yes, we have to live our faith. Our faith will get stronger and energized as we put it into action.



We are expected to celebrate our "Portion" by following our Master's teachings. Our Lord needs our eyes, our voice, and our feet to help the needy and the lonely. We need to be the "salt of the earth". He was using the word salt in a spiritual sense. He needs us to spread His Gospel across the world and thus purifying, giving a new flavor to life. If we lose this treasure placed in our hands, we become insipid and flavourless, thus losing our Portion in the kingdom of God. We, His community, the Church, should be a model to make known and exhibit God's reconciling love between individuals and groups.

We all have gone through the experience of losing our way through stubborn defiance to our Lord's commands. We have all strayed to a "far country" and experienced the bitter feeling of "famine" of the soul. There is a way though the grace of our God to change our soiled rags for robes of righteousness. Let us with penitential repentance and tears turn back and limp home.

There will be waiting our Father God, searching and walking the second mile to greet His sin-worn, travel-weary prodigal children, back to His loving arms and home where we were born to be.

"Clad in His righteousness alone;  
Faultless to stand before His throne".

The price of our Portion is priceless; the precious blood of our Saviour. Even in heaven, our song shall be "Thy precious, precious blood".

*Usha George*

---

There is no room for arrogance when every gift we have is from Christ.

*Sinclair B. Ferguson*

---



## **A Report on AKCDC Project**

The Andrew's Kirk Child Development Centre, with its acronym AKCDC, is a study centre situated amidst the Kirk cemetery located behind the Govt. General Hospital for the underprivileged children, residing in around the slums of Sathyavani Muthu Nagar.

The AKCDC was started in the year 1998 in partnership with Compassion International. Since April 2017, the project is funded and managed by the members of the Church. Children from the age group of 5 to 22 years come to the Centre after their school hours and are coached by the staff in their studies. Every day, they are provided with milk and nutritious dinner. At present there are 104 registered children, out of which 64 are girls and 40 are boys.

The mission of the Church project is "to uplift the highly vulnerable and underprivileged children and develop them physically, spiritually, cognitively, and socio-emotionally, thereby encouraging them to be responsible and independent citizens and followers of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ".

A well-planned timetable is scheduled for every day. Mrs. Annamary, the Project Manager, along with other teachers and two cooking staff do a wonderful job. Physical and online tuitions along with classes for chess and Hindi provides an environment for overall growth.

The Word of God is given priority every day with a time of prayer, devotion and songs. Children bagged prizes at the recent Bible quiz competition at the Kirk. VBS and Christmas celebrations are always a time of joy and are well attended.

Parents retreat, teens meet, skill development programs, tailoring classes, medical check-ups and career guidance classes are among some of the programs that are conducted periodically. Most recently, an interest has been created among the college boys for taking up playing football.

The sponsors play a vital role in meeting out the basic necessities of fees and food. What was once an uneducated slum has become a place where you find first generation students and graduates pursuing their studies in the fields of engineering, law, nursing, and with aspirations to serve in the government.

We thank and praise God for His faithfulness and His sufficiency thus far. We solicit your prayers for the children's studies, safety, and to stay strong in the Lord.

Compiled by: *Sophia Dulipsingh*  
Project Secretary.

---

It is not success that God rewards but faithfulness in doing His will.

*Anonymous*

---

## January 2025

### **The Past Present and Future..... The Road Ahead for our Evangelism & Missions Movement**

Greetings to the family of Kirk, We are grateful for the Lord's faithful guidance in all of our outreaches throughout 2024. Through Prayer and dedication, our E&MM leaders at the respective mission fields, have been able to reach the unreached, share the love of Christ with fervour. We are also thankful for all the support our congregation has extended to all of these efforts. As we step into the New year, When we look at the road ahead the core truth remains unchanged: Evangelism starts in our hearts. The question is, how can each of us, within our distinct cultural contexts, fully engage with the entire narrative of Scripture to bring about lasting and deep transformation in both society and the individuals within it?

We live in the present, but the Bible clearly teaches that the past, present, and future must all be understood together if we are to lead a balanced, Christcentered life. Living in a way that reflects God's love and righteousness is the best way to draw others to Him, even if it's just out of curiosity. When the time is right for someone to open their heart and accept God's message—or at least listen—God will make that happen. It's important to remember that we don't bring people to God ourselves; rather, God works through each of us to lead them to Him. To paraphrase Paul, the one who plants the seed and the one who waters it do their part, but it is God who makes it grow.

While the core message of sharing our Lord's love remains unchanged, the unique nature of each mission field and the diverse communities we serve requires us to adopt specific and tailored approaches. For example, how we engage with the community in Gypsy Colony is vastly different from our approach in Perumbakkam or in Kosappur. Each community has its own cultural, social, and spiritual context that demands a thoughtful and individualised strategy. This principle holds true for all of our mission fields—there is no one-size-fits-all formula. It requires a unique method, guided by understanding their particular needs and circumstances, while always staying true to the Gospel's timeless message.

#### **A. Cultural Contextualization**

Each of our Mission field community is unique, the individuals with their own traditions, values, and struggles. We are constantly

seeking how the timeless truths of Scripture can be shared in a way that speaks directly to these cultural nuances. It's not about changing the message but presenting it in a form that resonates deeply with the people in their own context.

### **B. Holistic Transformation**

Transformation isn't just spiritual but must affect every area of life. We need to engage in efforts that not only evangelize but also address the physical, emotional, and social needs of individuals and communities. Whether it's through education, health initiatives, or advocacy for justice, the gospel speaks to every part of human life.

### **C. Community Empowerment**

Encouraging and equipping individuals within each community to not just receive the gospel but to live it out in their daily lives. Transformation often happens when people are empowered to take ownership of their faith and engage actively within their communities creating a much powerful transformation achieved through community empowerment.

### **D. Storytelling as Mission**

The Bible itself is a story that unfolds from creation to redemption. Teaching and modelling how the entire narrative of Scripture connects with the daily human story. Showing how the gospel is not just a set of principles to live by but the fulfilment of humanity's deepest needs and longings.

### **E. Discipleship and Mentorship**

Real transformation happens in the context of relationships. Fostering environments of discipleship where individuals can grow in their understanding of Scripture, live it out in community, and be equipped to share it with others.

### **F. Praying for Wisdom and Unity**

As we move forward, we continue to seek God's wisdom and guidance through prayer, asking Him to give clarity on how best to reach the unreached in the diverse contexts. Unity in purpose and mission being the key to move forward effectively. Being receptive to God's guidance has led us to the right places at the right times, allowing our outreach leaders to share His truth with those in need. Continue to pray, and uphold, participate as the Lord leads you to fulfil the Great Commission He has bestowed upon all of us.

*Sathish Moses*  
Kirk E&MM -Member

## **St Andrew's Village Project –Report on the Tailoring Certification Program**

One of the community improvement initiatives that the St. Andrew's Church is involved in, is the Village Project in the northern suburbs of the city, in a handful of villages around Ponneri taluk. Our intent is to reach the people around us with the gospel of Jesus Christ in deference to the Great Commission. As we collectively work to fulfil this mandate, often, we find that there are critical needs that we, as a congregation could help with, that plug some of the gaps in the sustenance and livelihood of the communities who we work with.

For the members of the Church who are actively involved with the neighbourhood outreach projects from the above perspective, it may come as no surprise that the impact that it creates in the lives of those who are touched by the ministries and programs is powerful and far-reaching, sometimes even altering the course of their lives.

The community projects under the Village Project Centre are great examples of such life-altering events. The Centre and the two campuses at Thirupalaivanam and Karanodai offer a beacon of hope to the needy and poorer sections of the society at these locations and the dedicated and committed staff and volunteers make a perceptible difference in the lives of such people who live in proximity to these centres.

One such program is the tailoring course that is of immense benefit to the women residing near the two centres. With the help of a qualified staff member, a 6-month certification course in tailoring and embroidery was designed a few years back. Every year, two batches graduate. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2025, it was a privilege for a handful of committee members to visit and present certificates to 54 women who completed the course during 2024 in two batches.

Listening to their testimonies and the empowerment they felt with the newly acquired skill set was a reflective and insightful experience. After receiving certification at the end of six months, they are able to secure employment or provide a livelihood for themselves and their families. Very recently, the staff have tied up with a local garment export promotion unit for providing a steady demand stream.

More than 500 such beneficiaries from our tailoring course are currently residing in different parts of our city. As most of them are from people of other faiths, we plan to have a one-day retreat during 2025 to provide them with spiritual nourishment. It is our endeavour to schedule the retreats annually or biannually and invite all those who have graduated thus far. Please do keep this initiative in your prayers.

It is indeed a unique opportunity and privilege for me personally, along with some of the members of the Church, to be associated with the Project, to have an appreciation for the term 'faith in action' that is demonstrated by our staff and volunteers and the impact the ministry has on the communities nearby.

It is the mandate and responsibility of each of our congregation members to be looking out for the interests of others apart from their own (Phil 2:4) and to reach out to the needy in our spheres of our influence, in obedience to the call of our Master!

It is our prayer that, as a congregation of believers, we strive to renew, transform, and restore the communities in which we are placed.

*Dulip Thangasamy*

---

The Ten Commandments still cover all human relations and all spiritual relations.

*Ralph Brewer*

---

Bible Quiz No. 156–February2025



## An Archer's Quiz

Please give a Bible reference (KJV)

1. Who is the first archer mentioned in the Bible ?
2. Who killed a famous warrior with a 'simple version' of the bow and arrow ?
3. Who gave a warning to his beloved friend, by throwing three arrows ?
4. When Absalom was caught by the hair in an oak tree, who killed him with three darts ?
5. What did David mean when he said :  
**'Happy is the man who hath his quiver full of them'** Full of what ?
6. Who asked a son to take his **'quiver and bow'**, and kill a deer ?
7. Did Moses, Hannah or Deborah say :  
**'The bows of the mighty men are broken'** ?
8. Which tribesmen were famous for their ability to shoot with the bow and arrow – both right-handed and left-handed ?
9. From which Psalm are these words taken ? *'Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day'* ?
10. Who said, *'we are able to quell the fiery darts of the wicked with the shield of faith'* ?

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

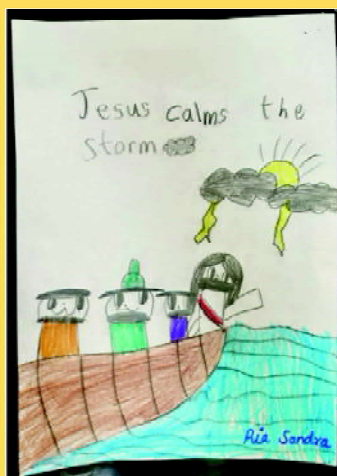
Kindly send your answers to the church office or email [kirkspire@gmail.com](mailto:kirkspire@gmail.com) (please note the new email address for Kirkspire) by 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Usha George



### Children's Corner

Jesus Calms the Storm - Ria Sandra, 2nd Grade, Kirk Sunday School



#### BIBLE QUIZ -February 2025 Genesis 26-30

1. Where did Isaac build an altar to God and pitch his tent ?
2. What does the word Jacob mean ?
3. What was the name of the city that Jacob called "Bethel" ?
4. What name did Isaac give to the well he dug at Beersheba ?
5. Whose grandson is Laban ?

Source: theseeker.org

#### Answers to the Bible Quiz for Children January 2025 – Genesis 21 - 25

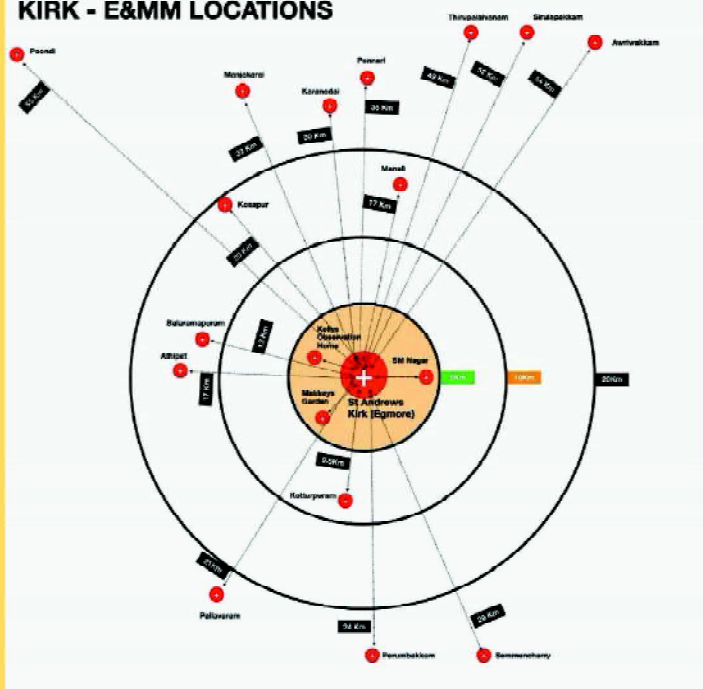
1. Isaac means Laughter. Genesis 21:3
2. God said He will make Hagar's son into a great nation. Genesis 21:18
3. Angel of the Lord. Genesis 22:11-12
4. In a cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre. Genesis 23:19
5. Town of Nahor. Genesis 24:10
6. Esau was a skillful hunter and Jacob stayed at home among the tents. Genesis 25:27, 28

*Dolly Shanthakumar*



St Andrew's Annual Church Camp 2025

## KIRK - E&MM LOCATIONS



## **St. Andrew's Annual Church Camp 2025**

**THEME: FOR THE DISPLAY OF HIS  
SPLENDOUR Isaiah 61:3**

On the chill morning of 14<sup>th</sup> January, the day for the Annual Church Camp dawned. Young and older alike, braced themselves against the chill, rather unusual by Chennai standards. The participants made their way to Joe Beach Resort, many drove on their own and a cluster chose to travel by a bus that was arranged. The warmth of camaraderie was evident from the fact that most people who came in their own cars, picked up many who stayed nearby.

On arrival at the Camp site, Registration and allotment of rooms was completed expeditiously. This was followed by a hearty breakfast before the Sessions began. Session One was preceded by an Ice Breaker and Praise and Worship Session.

Dist. 9 was the Host, ably led by Gladstone Jonathan who spared no effort and looked into every detail to make everyone comfortable. The Sessions were handled alternatively by Rev. Dr. K Vasudevan and Bro. Jeyakumar Christian. Both the Speakers were richly endowed with experience of heading Churches, Missions, mentoring youth and above all a deep commitment to serving God. God's anointing was evident on them as they handled the sessions.

The Sessions were:

Day One 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

1. Love that heals
2. Love that disrupts
3. Invitation to intimacy with God
4. Beyond healing

Day Two 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

5. Teaching restless intimacy with God
6. Scars that heal become stars

Closing Reflections- Integrating 'being healed to heal' into the life of our Church

These sessions were held alongside sessions for the Youth by Rev. Vasudevan and for the Children by Janet and team.

Interspersed were Praise and Worship Sessions by Men's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, Kirk Youth.

The role of MC was ably played by Sam Daniel who introduced the Speakers, the Sessions and

briefed participants on each event.

It was heartening to have many non-Members from other Churches attending the Camp and this enriched opportunity to make new friends and renew acquaintances.

There was no dearth of fun and games, to break the continuity of the Sessions and also at The Camp Fire on 15<sup>th</sup> night. No one will ever forget the energy evident during the game of 'Bing, Bang, Bomb' ably conducted by Dr Bharat. The enthusiasm of the children and their teacher Janet was evident during the skit they put up at the end of the second day.

There was time for a cool stroll on the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> January in the pristine campus, overlooking the lapping waves of the Bay of Bengal. The Bible references given served as reflection for the Quiet time on the 15<sup>th</sup> morning. It was a pleasure to be away from routine, to stay in well-appointed rooms and have excellent food on every occasion. Everyone owes full appreciation to Gladstone Jonathan and every volunteer (name the prime movers) who made this camp memorable.

Above all what God spread out for us was the heavenly manna through the Sessions. A few Nuggets are:

- We are all worthy to be loved
- We need to have a restless intimacy with God (Habakkuk)
- Without passion, you cannot transform
- Is your life a signpost to God?
- Called to challenge whatever demeans people
- We are made in the image of God

- Be an Agent of healing in a hurting and fractured community, since we are recipients of God's love
- Make positively biased choices that reflect your passion to transform
- Challenge the status quo by studying God's word and listening to Him
- Mentor someone, who is your Timothy?
- The purpose and result of all intercession is to submit to God's will
- Use religion to build, not to abuse
- The Blessings:
  - i. To be Oaks of Righteousness
  - ii. Display His splendour
  - iii. We are Priests of the Lord
  - iv. We are Ministers (servants) of our God
  - v. Our God is involved in history (at all times)
    - Parenting: Interpret the fingerprints of God in the lives of your children
    - Our God is experienced/measured not by transaction but by transformation
    - Intimacy with God must result in a positive restlessness to serve God and our neighbours

The Question-and-Answer Session curated by the Pastors and the Speakers threw light on many challenges faced by believers.

*Gabriel Sathianathan*

---

John the Baptist was the first Christian, the morning star of the kingdom of God.

*Frank S. Mead*

---

## Know Your Law

**Audi alteram partem** is a Latin maxim that means “listen to the other side” or “let the other side be heard”. It is a legal principle that ensures all parties in a dispute have a fair chance to present their case.

*What does it mean?*

No one should be judged without a fair hearing.

All parties should be given the opportunity to respond to evidence against them.

Each party has the right to be informed of the charges against them.

Each party has the right to call witnesses and cross-examine witnesses called by the other side.

*Why is it important?*

It is a fundamental principle of natural justice.

It is a basic requirement of the rule of law.

It ensures fairness and impartiality in legal and administrative proceedings.

The right to be heard and a matter to be established was mentioned in Deuteronomy 19:15 (KJV) One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

At the trial of Jesus many false witnesses appeared but their statements did not agree. Mark 14:56

Finally, TWO came forward and declared, “This fellow said I am able to destroy this temple of God and rebuild it in three days.” Matthew 26:60

Jesus is found guilty of blasphemy and taken to Pilate.

Pilate knew that it was out of envy that the crowd had handed Jesus over to him. Matthew 27:18

The crowd took him to Pilate because they had no power to execute anyone. John 18:31

Pilate, although finding “no basis for a charge against him”(Jesus) John19:6, handed Him (Jesus) over to be crucified.

Here we find the greatest Travesty of Justice in Jesus’ trial.

A mockery of the Rule of law by the Romans whose legal system is studied by students of Law throughout the world...!!

*Joshua Chelliah*

**Answers to Bible Quiz No. 155 – January 2025**

**Bible Trivia**

1. B. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Genesis 1:10-13
2. Ten righteous people. Genesis 18:32
3. C. 13. Joshua 6:1-4
4. Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes 12:12
5. The twelve disciples. Luke 9:1-3
6. Isaiah. Acts 8:27-30
7. Uzziah. 2 Chronicles 26:18-21
8. B. 3 punishments. 1 Chronicles 21:10
9. Ant, conies (badger), locusts, and spiders. Proverbs 30:24-28
10. White, red, black, pale. Revelation 6:1-8

**The winners are:**

1. Ms. Praiseye K
2. Dr. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad
3. Mrs. Suguna Joseph
4. Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam
5. Mrs. Victoria Basker
6. Mrs. Gloria Jawahar
7. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss
8. Mrs. Leela Coilpillai
9. Mrs. Patricia Patrick
10. Mrs. Sabrina Siga
11. Mrs. Gladys Vedavimali
12. Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar

*Hearty Congratulations!*



## Know your Hymn



“All Things Bright and Beautiful” - Cecil Frances Alexander

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” is one of the most beloved hymns celebrated for its joyful praise of God’s creation. Written by the Irish poet and hymn writer Cecil Frances Alexander in 1848, it is universally sung in church services, schools, and other gatherings.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895) was a prolific hymn writer from Ireland. She was deeply influenced by her Christian faith and sought to make theological concepts accessible to children. Her hymns often reflected her love of nature and a desire to teach Biblical truths through simple yet profound language.

Alexander was married to William Alexander, who later became the Archbishop. She dedicated much of her life to charitable work, particularly helping the poor and the deaf. Among her other well-known hymns are “Once in Royal David’s City” and “There Is a Green Hill Far Away.”

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” is part of Alexander’s collection *Hymns for Little Children*, published in 1848. The hymns in this book were intended to explain aspects of the Apostles’ Creed to children. This particular hymn was written to illustrate the phrase “Maker of heaven and earth,” emphasizing God’s role as the Creator of all things.

The hymn reflects Alexander’s appreciation for the natural world and her belief that every part of creation is a testament to God’s glory. Its vivid imagery, from “the purple-headed mountain” to “the ripe fruits in the garden,” helps us to see the divine in the everyday beauty of the world.

The hymn celebrates the beauty, diversity, and intricacy of creation. Each stanza highlights different aspects of nature, from majestic mountains to small creatures, affirming that everything in the world—no matter how grand or humble—is a reflection of God’s handiwork.

The refrain, "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small," is an expression of gratitude for the wonders of the natural world.

Over the years, "All Things Bright and Beautiful" has been set to several tunes, the most famous being the melody by William H. Monk, known as Royal Oak. The hymn's cheerful tone has made it a favorite in schools, Sunday services, and community events.

Through its simple yet powerful words, Cecil Frances Alexander's timeless hymn continues to inspire awe and gratitude for the world around us connecting people to the splendor of creation and the Creator.

*Dr. Anita Chelliah*

---

We are, after all, like lumps of clay. There are brittle pieces, hard pieces. We have little shape or beauty. But we need not despair. If we are clay, let us remember that there is a Potter and His wheel.

*Peter Marshall*

---

## Living by the Book: Part 7

*Learning how to study the Bible from Dr Howard Hendricks*

Having studied the Word through the steps of Observation and Interpretation, what are we going to do about it? We neither begin nor end with Interpretation. The ultimate goal of Bible study is to allow the Bible to do something to us.



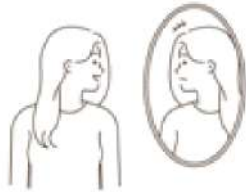
“Biblical truth is the wardrobe of the soul” (Hendricks, p.290), but its truth is attractive only when it is applied. Unfortunately, there are five dead-end streets that we sometimes take in our study of the Word.

1. **We substitute interpretation for application:** With knowledge, comes the responsibility to put it into action. For example, the scribes and Pharisees knew the Old Testament prophecy regarding the Messiah, but never went to Bethlehem to check its truth for themselves. Knowledge without obedience is sin.
2. **We substitute superficial obedience for substantive life-change:** Alternatively, we can apply biblical truth to areas of our lives where it is already being applied, with the result that there is no noticeable change. If we apply the Truth about honesty to our families and our associates, but not to our business practices, we fail to change.
3. **We substitute rationalisation for repentance:** When the truth gets too close, we defend ourselves by rationalising sin instead of repenting of it. It can build up with age, as we find more reasons why the truth applies to everyone but ourselves.
4. **We substitute an emotional experience for a volitional decision:** If emotion is the only response,

there will be no change; there has to be substantive life-changing decisions based on what the Scriptures say. Real change begins in the will - when we are not satisfied with just being exposed to the Word or convicted by it.

5. **We substitute communication for transformation:** Being able to speak eloquently or convincingly about Scripture is not sufficient, because God knows our hearts. Instead of hiding behind our words, we have to let the Word pierce deep inside of us.

James gives us the analogy of a mirror: I can look into it and see that I am a mess, yet go away and do nothing. Or I can be blessed by looking intently at the perfect law and abiding by it, not forgetting but doing. The mirror of God's Word has the power to transform us. We *come* to the Word, using the first two steps of Bible study - Observation and Interpretation. Although applications



may be many, the truth of the Word means that there can be only one ultimate interpretation. The better we understand a passage, the better we can respond. We are *convicted* when the Word highlights our sin and what we need to stop doing. It diagnoses the disease in order to effect a cure. It also *convinces* us to walk in newness of life, by showing us God's provision for what is good. Ultimately, studying the Word this way results in *conversion*, an ongoing process in which we actually begin to live differently, becoming more and more like Christ. True conversion is a change of behaviour, borne out of a change of heart, as a response to what God has shown us in His Word.

**"You see, when we leave church on Sunday morning, the issue is not what did the preacher say, but rather what are we going to do as a result of what he said?"**

- Hendricks, p.297



This change is likely to result in others sitting up to take note. However, it does not change our essential personhood. As God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10), we are an intentional creation, fashioned by God for a purpose. Understanding our unique design helps us to understand where we are most effective, so that

we can carry out His purpose for us every single day. We do not have to become someone else, as a result of transformation; rather, we put off the old ways, through our new relationship with Christ. We are the same person, but a new version, an altogether different creation.

This change is not an isolated one, but for the entire community of believers in Christ who are being transformed by Christ. The Word applies to me, but it is not centred around me. I was made to fit into God's plan, which is for the world. "Individually and collectively, the Church engages the world, and the power of God's Word lived out in us impacts whatever sphere of influence God opens for us." (P.316). That is transformation!

*Anisha Lazarus*

---

If God sends us on stony paths, He provides strong shoes.

*Corrie ten Boom*

---



## COMPUTER VISION SYNDROME

**“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”**

Everyone is using the computer now. Some professions require continuous usage of the system for 14 – 18 hours per day. It is scientifically proved that video display terminals do not radiate any harmful rays like ultraviolet rays which can harm the eyes.

Some people experience difficulty in focussing distant objects after prolonged near work on the system. Eye ache, tiredness of the eyes, heaviness of head, intolerance to light, double vision, burning sensation, dryness of eyes and sometimes excess of watering is experienced. This is known as Computer Vision Syndrome (C.V.S). They may also have headache, neck pain and backache due to improper posture for prolonged periods of time.

The reasons for C.V.S are many. Wrong sitting posture; room light being too dim or too bright; not blinking for long durations of time; wearing incorrect spectacle power and small uncorrected refractive error. Normal blink rate is approximately 22 times a minute. When we read, the rate is about 10 times a minute. Computer users only blink 7 times a minute causing dry eyes.

**Precautions:** People who need to use the system for long durations of time must get their eyes checked every 6 months. Anti-glare (anti reflection coating) glasses must be worn. Spectacle powers can be customised for the terminal since this distance is different for different people. Regular eye exercises are mandatory. Moving the eyes in various directions 10 times (once a day) must be done every day. Lubricating eye drops can be used for dry eyes. Palming the eye and taking a break to look at a distant object every 10 minutes can decrease the symptoms. Neck exercises can be done to relieve neck pain.

*Dr. (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha Narendranath*



## **Kirk News**

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

### **A Foundation Built on God's Word**

Hope is an essential element of life, rooted in the solid foundation of Scripture. Inspired, preserved, and handed down to us by the Holy Spirit, the Bible provides us with the guidance and encouragement needed to endure life's challenges. As Romans 15:4,13 reminds us, hope comes through the Scriptures and fills us with joy and peace as we trust in God. Similarly, 2 Peter 1:2-3 assures us of the divine power and the knowledge of God available to us for living a godly life.

Without hope, it is impossible to live a good and fruitful life. Life's uncertainties, tests, and difficult circumstances are inevitable, but they do not have to overwhelm us. Biblical hope serves as the buoy that lifts us up when we fall, enabling us to rise above adversity and press forward with confidence.

The Bible equips us with both the guidance and the encouragement to navigate life's trials. It fills our hearts with the hope we need to persevere, especially when things seem to be going wrong. By consistently turning to God's Word, we find the answers we truly need and the strength to endure. Let's start the year making certain that our foundation is strong!

### **Annual Church Camp**

The Annual Church Camp was held on January 14th and 15th, 2025, at Joe Beach Resorts. With inspiring sessions led by Rev. Dr. K. Vasudevan and Bro. Jayakumar Christian, participants were spiritually enriched and encouraged in their walk with Christ.

**Kirk Youth Fellowship**

The Kirk Youth Fellowship gathered on January 19th after the 9 AM service at the Guest House. Centred on the theme "Rebuild", the Bible study was a time of deep reflection, fellowship, and refreshments.

**Kirk Men's Fellowship**

The Kirk Men's Fellowship met on January 19th at 11 AM in the DCC Hall. Pastor Isaac Johnson shared an uplifting message titled "Tarry and Carry", challenging the men to wait on the Lord and carry His mission forward.

**Kirk Women's Fellowship**

The Women's Fellowship monthly meeting took place on January 19th at 11 AM in the SACCE Hall. The women gathered in unity to grow in faith and encourage one another through prayer and shared testimonies.

**Mission Aviation Fellowship**

On January 5th, 2025, the DCC Hall hosted an engaging session by the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Resource persons Sundar Daniel, Pushpa Lawrence, and Benjamin Matthew shed light on meeting the needs of isolated communities and inspired attendees to partner in this mission.

**AKCDC Project Sunday**

The AKCDC children led the worship during the 7 AM and 9 AM services on January 19th. Their heartfelt songs, testimonies, and memory verse recitations in Tamil and English uplifted the congregation and glorified God.

**Special Exam Prayers**

On January 19th, after the 9 AM service, a special prayer was held for students appearing for board exams, offering them strength, wisdom, and guidance for their preparations.

**Success 2025 Prayer Meet**

On January 25th, the Kirk hosted a special prayer meet for students appearing for exams. The event featured praise and worship, motivational talks, video presentations, and practical exam tips to prepare students spiritually and academically.



### **An Evening of Music for Hope**

On January 25th, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, An Evening of Music for Hope was organized by the Friends of Karigiri at St. Andrew's Church. With performances by Mr. John Pettigrew, Jasmine Samuel, and the Genesis Chamber Orchestra, the event raised awareness about leprosy and the incredible work of the Schiefflin Institute of Health Research and Leprosy Centre. For 70 years, this institution has provided free treatment, reconstructive surgeries, and prosthetic limbs, restoring dignity and independence to countless individuals.

### **Annual General Assembly (AGM)**

The Annual General Assembly of St. Andrew's Church was held on January 26th at 11 AM. Communicant members gathered to reflect on the past year's blessings and plan for the year ahead, recommitting to serving the Lord and the community.

May these events continue to inspire and strengthen us as we strive to glorify God and serve His people.

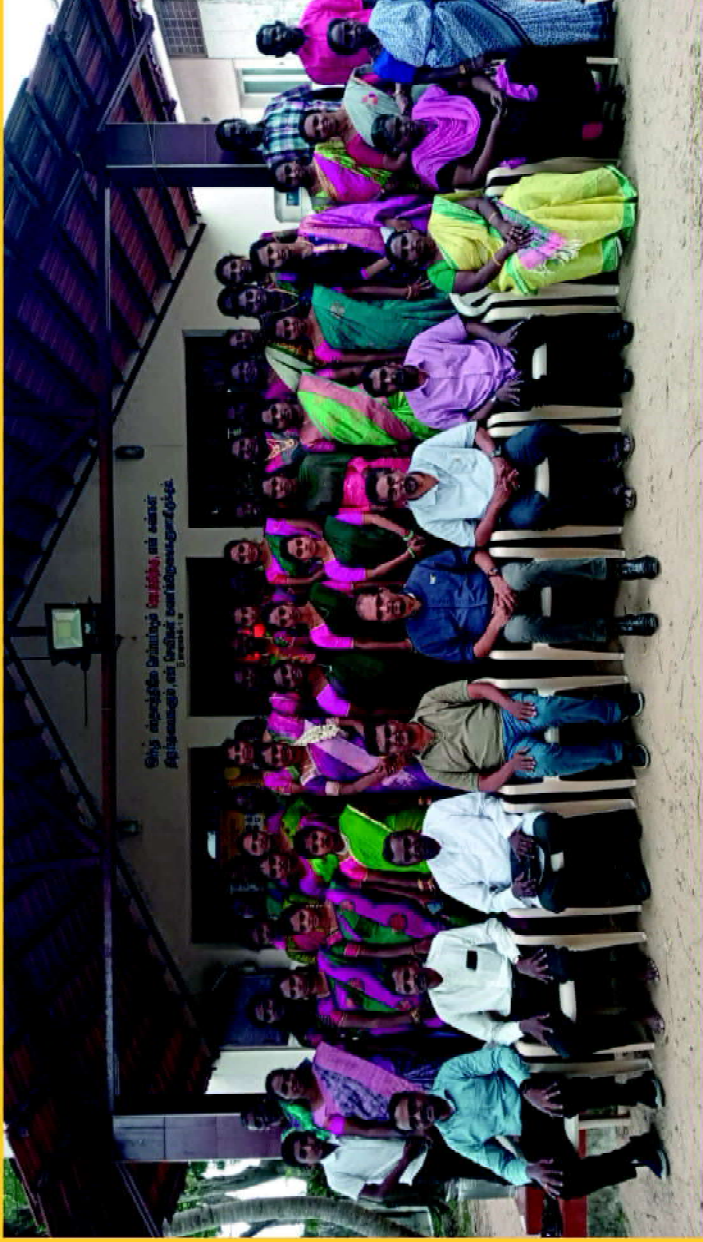
*Angela Susan Bryner*

---

To grow up in a home where Christ is known, loved, honoured and recognized daily in consistent living means more than wealth and fame.

*Clate A. Risley*

---



St Andrew's Village Project - 54 women from Thirupalaivanam and Karanodai completed the tailoring programme



AKCDC Sunday

