

Kirkspire

A new day

A new year

Thank you

Lord!

January 2015

CONTENTS

Word from the Pastor	3
Persecution of early Christians	4
“The Indescribable Gift”	8
Piano Recital by Young Musicians	10
Medical Corner	11
Quiz No. 52 January 2015	13
A Church Presses On	14
John's Corner	15
A Day to Remember!	16
Kirk News	18

Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy

Word from the Pastor



As we thread our way into the New Year, all of us stand in the need of guidance on many issues of life, even though it may vary for each of us.

There are several findings in Scripture which assure us of God's willingness to guide us.

The sons of Korah in Psalm 48 verse 14 say, "For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end." (NIV)

Selwyn Hughes, who has been, and still continues to be, a blessing to many through his devotional which reaches more than half a million readers (*Everyday with Jesus*), wholeheartedly believed that our Christian life rises and falls at the point of our devotional life. He was once asked by a reporter from a Christian magazine, "Why do you read the Bible?" He gave the following reasons in reply:

1. Because within its pages I find the power of the inspiration I need to live;
2. Because it teaches, in the words of Emerson, "The lesson of life is to believe what the years and centuries say against the hours"
3. Because I find in it the wisdom I need for the ordering of my inner life;
4. Because it assures me, I am supremely dear to God, and that His thoughts are ever towards me;
5. Because it unfolds for me the secrets by which men and women of the past walked the highways of hope and happiness;
6. Because it discloses the nature of my final destiny and reminds that my Saviour is preparing a place for me in my eternal home;
7. Because it helps me breathe in the pure air of objective truth before I go out and face the choking dust of this post-modern generation.

May God so direct our path in the path of His commands where we would find truly great delight.

Peter Francis
Pastor

Persecution of early Christians and growth of the Church

As a congregation we have to be familiar with elementary facts about the events and people of the early church as it is a part of Bible history. Bible scholar Henry Halley states "it is impossible to understand the present condition of Christendom except in the light of history, and ignorance of church history is as widespread as ignorance of the Bible".

Church history consists of three periods:

Roman period (Persecutions, Martyrdom, Christianization of Roman empire), Medieval period (Growth of Papacy, Inquisition and the Crusades) Modern period (Protestant Reformation, Growth of the Protestant Church, Circulation of Bible, and World wide missions).

The present day persecution of Christians in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, the adjacent and far off countries is reminiscent of the persecution of early Christians in the Roman Empire.

Roman power and rule during the time of Christ and His disciples

The Roman empire extended from the Atlantic to the Euphrates and from the North sea to the African desert. During the reign of Emperor Augustus (31 B.C–A..D 14) Herods were Kings who under Rome got control of Judea shortly before Christ was born. Herods were Edomites, descendants of Esau. In the New Testament days we see four generations of Herod. Herod the great was the king of Judea (Matt 2:1,16) who ruled Judea when Christ was born. He slew the children of Bethlehem in an effort to kill Jesus. His son Herod Antipas beheaded John the Baptist. Pilate was the Governor of Judea when Jesus began his ministry. He was cruel and merciless, but Pilate did not want to crucify Jesus as he found no fault in Him (Luke 23:4).He sent Jesus to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time. Herod also did not find any fault with Jesus and therefore he sent Jesus back to Pilate and to Jewish rulers and to the multitudes. Pilate scourged Jesus so that the Jewish rulers and the multitudes would be satisfied with the punishment, not requiring Jesus to go for Crucifixion. He did not make up his mind to crucify Jesus (John 19:12) till the Jews threatened to report him to Caesar Tiberius who was the emperor of Rome A.D 12-37. Since it might cost Pilate his position as Governor of

Judea, he at last gave his consent to crucify Jesus. (He is said to have committed suicide and his wife Procula became a Christian).

Herod Agrippa I, the grandson of Herod the great, put to death Apostle James, the brother of John (Acts 12:1,2). His son, Herod Agrippa II, the great grandson of Herod the great, was the King before whom Paul was tried (Acts 25:24).

The first Church in Antioch

Antioch was the third city of the Roman empire surpassed only by Rome and Alexandria. Its worship of Ashtaroth was accompanied by immoral indulgence. Yet multitudes of its people accepted Christ and it became a centre for Christianizing the world. The followers of Christ were termed Christians for the first time in Antioch.

The early Church was founded in the Roman empire in Antioch soon after the stoning of Stephen (Acts 11:19-26) by those scattered in the persecution in A.D. 32 and it consisted only of Jewish Christians. Some years later in A.D. 42 certain Jewish Christians of Cyprus and Cyrene came to Antioch and began to preach to the Gentiles that they could be Christians without becoming Jewish Proselytes. The Church in Jerusalem heard of it and sent Barnabas to Antioch where multitudes of Gentiles believed in Christ. Barnabas then went to Tarsus found Paul and took him to Antioch for ministry in the Church and the disciples were called Christians, first in Antioch (Acts 11:26).

Persecution of Christians

During the Roman period, the early Christians, who were converts of Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, Titus and several other disciples, were persecuted and executed by Roman emperors. Persecutions started with Nero A.D. 54-68 with the burning of Rome and continued till Constantine in A.D. 313.

Nero persecuted Christians and the great fire of Rome took place in A.D. 64 during Nero's reign. In order to build a new and grander Rome, Nero set fire to the city. The Roman people suspected him. To divert suspicion from him, Nero accused the Christians, a despised sect from humble walks of life, of burning Rome. He used them as scapegoats and ordered their punishment. Christians were put to death in the most cruel ways. Crucified, tied in skins of animals, thrown into arena, tied to stakes in Nero's garden, pitch poured over them to burn as torches to light Nero's garden at night while he drove around in his chariot. Paul was also falsely accused and imprisoned in A.D. 66-67 and executed. While in prison he wrote II Timothy. James the brother

of Jesus was told to proclaim that Jesus was not the Messiah; instead James cried out that Jesus was the son of God and Judge of the world. The Scribes and Pharisees stoned him to death.

Vespasian A.D 69-79 destroyed Jerusalem. Domitian A.D 81- 96 persecuted many Christians violently. Many thousands were slain in Rome and Italy, including Flavius Clemens, a cousin of the Emperor and his wife was banished. He banished Apostle John to Patmos in A.D.95. The next year after the reign of Domitian he was released and permitted to return to Ephesus where he wrote the Book of Revelation.

After the formation of Christians in Antioch, Christians in Asia minor had become so numerous that the heathen temples were almost forsaken. To punish them, this is what was told to Emperor Trajan about Christians. "They meet on a stated day before light, sing themselves a hymn to Christ, as to a God and bind among themselves by an oath not to do any wickedness, and never commit theft or robbery nor adultery; that they would never break a word; that they would never deny a trust when called to give it up. They separate and then meet again to partake of ordinary food". Early Christians refused to sacrifice to Roman gods and offer sacrifice to the Emperor. The test of Christian faith was to force them on pain of death to swear by the Emperor and to offer incense to his images and to sacrifice to gods.

During the time of Trajan (A.D. 98-117) who ruled Rome, Christians refused to take part in Emperor worship. Christianity was considered as a secret forbidden religion. During his time, Simeon, the brother of Jesus, Bishop of Jerusalem was crucified in A.D 107. Ignatius the second Bishop of Antioch (A.D. 110) was sentenced to be thrown to wild beasts at Rome. He longed for the honor of dying for his Lord saying "May the wild beasts be eager to rush upon me. If unwilling I will compel them, cruel tortures of the devil; only let me attain to Christ". Polycarp, a pupil of Apostle John and Bishop of Smyrna A.D.156 was offered freedom if he would curse Christ. He was asked to say Caesar is Lord and offer incense to save his life. When he refused, he was burnt alive at the age of 86.

The Catacombs of Rome

Vast subterranean galleries extending hundreds of miles beneath the city were used by Christians for refuge, worship and burial during the Roman persecutions. It is estimated that more than 2 million graves and more than 4000 inscriptions have been found during the period between Tiberius A.D. 12-37 and Constantine's conversion A.D.312.

Christianization of the Roman Empire

Towards the end of the Roman persecutions (A.D 313), Christians were one half of the Roman empire. Tertullian a Roman pagan after conversion became a defender of Christianity (A.D 160-220), wrote "we are of yesterday, yet we have filled your empire, cities, towns, castles, palaces, and senate". The rapid conversion of Roman empire took place during the rule of Emperor Constantine who became a Christian himself. On the eve of the battle outside Rome A.D 312 he saw in the sky above the setting sun, a vision of the Cross and above it the word "In this sign conquer" He fought under the banner of Christ and he won the battle. This was a turning point in the history of Rome and Christianity.

Constantine granted to Christians and others full liberty of following that religion which each one may choose. He favoured Christians by filling chief offices with them, exempted Christian Ministers from taxes and military service, encouraged building Churches and made Christianity the religion of his court. He issued a general exhortation to all his subjects to embrace Christianity. Since the Roman Aristocracy persisted in adhering to their Pagan religions, Constantine moved his capital to Byzantium and called it Constantinople, "New Rome", the capital of the Christian empire. Today it is known as Istanbul. He further made Sunday as Christians' Assembly Day forbidding ordinary work, permitting Christian soldiers to attend church services. Slavery, gladiatorial fights, crucifixion were abolished with the Christianization of the Roman empire.

From this glorious beginning as time passed by, Christianity grew into the three great divisions of Christendom which are the Protestant, Roman Catholic and the Greek Catholic Church..

History repeats itself, and today we hear about the persecutions by ruthless religious militants to our dear Christian brothers, sisters and children who refuse to deny Christ. Such of those Christians in our country, who live in a very comfortable and safe environment cannot be complacent about this but should uphold our suffering fellow believers in our daily prayers. Let us endeavor to stand together and remember them in fervent prayer.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Reference: Halley's Bible Handbook

Dr.E.G.R.Solomon

“The Indescribable Gift”



Gifts!! Wow! Who doesn't like it? Whether we give or receive - gifts mean a lot to all of us. A variety of them can literally jump out of headlines and even surprise gifts can be very attractive. But just wait a moment! What or who is this indescribable Gift? The Apostle Paul exclaims in 2 Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be to God for 'His' indescribable Gift"! 'JESUS' Himself is the indescribable Gift and only in and through Him we can experience God's gift of eternal life. But the question that echoes and echoes through centuries can startle us many times – How much do we value so great a gift – so great a salvation?

'Bill' and 'Cyril' were really good friends and especially during weekends they spent their time by making invaluable handcrafted articles. When Cyril came into their weekend hideout one day, he found his friend chiselling at something in the hollow of his hand. Bill wouldn't even look up and it bothered Cyril a lot. And when he saw that a beautiful boat was taking shape in Bill's hand he couldn't take his eyes off it! But a greater surprise was waiting for Cyril the next day. Oh! What a thrill he felt to receive that intricately designed boat as a gift! Without thinking twice Cyril immediately asked Bill, "How much do I pay for it"? Much to his regret, Bill was completely offended and literally snatched the 'gift' away from Cyril's hand. "You cannot pay for a gift", was Bill's only answer. Throughout his life, as he learnt to beautifully handcraft many boats, he went on to share with many, that a gift can never be paid for but had to be accepted.

Honestly speaking, have we really accepted God's gift of forgiveness for all our sins? Neglecting so priceless 'a salvation', purchased at the cost of the blood of 'JESUS' amounts to sailing in boats that still rhyme and mime that 'Life is but a dream'. But accepting the offer of 'peace and goodwill' from the King of Kings, takes us in the right direction to unwrap this 'Indescribable gift'. The more we value this 'personal relationship' with our Lord and Saviour JESUS, the more we know

JESUS, become like JESUS and together we can make him known! Just as the choice to walk and talk with 'JESUS' daily enriches us and changes us inside out there is a gentle reminder to 'Be Kind and compassionate, to forgive each other as God forgave us in Christ JESUS. This age old challenge doesn't become an uphill climb if broken up into specific goals and it can start right in our homes. When Bill had taken his family out for an evening stroll in the beach, his little daughter just couldn't understand why he was standing right in front of her. She moved a little further and then further way to his right but he moved continually wherever she ran. Finally the little girl shouted out, 'Daddy, why are you blocking the awesome view of sunset'? But Bill gently answered, 'My little one, I wouldn't want the sand blown around by the strong breeze or the dazzling sunlight to hurt your eyes'. Under the shadow of our Lord Almighty's wings we have all found shelter and refuge many a time.

Apostle Paul's charge to Timothy "Do not neglect your gift" is a prayerful reminder. In this gift hamper when we unwrap the letter 'G' – It gently reminds us that the different gifts we have are all because of the Grace of God. But as we exercise our gift, the Grace of God teaches us to say 'No' to all ungodliness.

'I' – It challenges us to 'Imitate' those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

'F' – Forcing ourselves or being forced to exercise a 'gift' proves futile many times. Forgetting the past – the failures, inadequacies and the bitterness of it all, when we wait on the Lord, we will run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint.

'T' – Treasuring the eternal rather than the temporal, with a thankful and a humble attitude takes us to a higher ground – 'To excel in gifts that build up the Church'.

As we look back and ahead to memorable moments of wrapping and unwrapping gifts, how about rejoicing always, praying continually and thanking God in all circumstances.

Dr. Christina Ambrose

If you're too big to willingly do little things, you are probably too little to be trusted with big things.

PIANO RECITAL BY YOUNG MUSICIANS



A Piano Recital by young musicians of our Church was held on 29th Nov.2014 in our Church. This initiative was taken to mobilise and nurture the talents of the young pianists so that in course of time they will get involved in the musical activities of the Church and glorify God.

At 6.00 p.m on that day 14 young people in the age group of 7 to 20 studying Elementary Grade to VIII th Grade in piano playing gathered in the Church. The Recital commenced after prayer by Rev.Isaac Johnson. Each person played a piece they had learnt followed by a Christmas Carol. The music flowed and filled the Church to the delight of those present, including parents, grandparents and well-wishers. Compositions by musical legends like Bach, Beethoven and Mozart were competently handled by the young hands.

Mr.Rampert Ratnaiya, an accomplished Pianist and Organist who is also involved in Music Ministry, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He congratulated the young pianists and exhorted them to practice assiduously to achieve greater heights. He stressed that the music they played should not only edify the listener but ultimately glorify God.

Mr.Devakaran welcomed the gathering and Dr.Arul Siromoney thanked the Chief Guest and the gathering.

The function came to a close with prayer and benediction by Rev.Isaac Johnson.

J. Devakaran



Medical Corner

Ten Health Capsules

“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”.

The world health organization, W.H.O. defines health as follows: “health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity”. We all want to be health. The 10 health capsules in this article, if taken daily, will enable restoration and maintenance of good health.

The 1st capsule is **“faith”**. Mark 5 : 25-34, talks about the faith of a women who had a bleeding problem for 12 years. Verse 28 says, “If I just touch his clothes I will be healed”. She had 100% faith. As believers we know we are healed by His stripes. Healing already took place at the cross. We should claim this healing with absolute faith.

The 2nd capsule is **“praise and worship”** with “thanks giving”. Whatever may be the emotional circumstance, when we praise and worship our lord with thanks giving, it lifts up our soul and spirit; we feel light hearted. It is the best medicine for depression, anxiety, disappointment, loneliness and emotional ill health.

The 3rd capsule is **“prayer”**. In Philippians 4 : 6 Apostle Paul says “be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanks giving let your requests be made known to God”, and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”. He is a prayer answering God. We must pray ceaselessly.

The 4th capsule is the **“Word of God”**. There are over 100 verses on healing. We can personalise them and claim them. In Matthew 11:28 Lord Jesus says. “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest” As children of God, we can say, daddy you promised, Please heal me.

The 5th Capsule is the **“Holy Spirit”**. When we accept the lord Jesus as our personal saviour, when we get saved, the Holy Spirit comes to

live inside us and we become the temple of God. He leads us, guards us, comforts us, convicts us and empowers us, to become overcomers. Temptations can be overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The 6th capsule is to **"Put on the full armour of God"**. Ephesians 6 : 11-12 says "put on the full armour of God so that you can stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Addictions and many mental illnesses are due to evil forces attacking us, (Mark 5 : 1-20). We must put on the full armour of God.

The 7th capsule is **"forgiveness"**. When disciples asked Lord Jesus how many times should we forgive, up to 7 times? Lord Jesus said Seventy Seven times. That means every time. Bitterness is like concentrated acid. It burns our inside. It leads to high blood pressure, ulcer in the stomach and emotional problems. We should forgive from our heart.

The 8th capsule is **"reconciliation"**. Once we forgive people who hurt us, it is easy to reconcile and forget the past.

The 9th capsule is **"contentment"**. When we are discontented thinking I don't have this, I don't have that, may be power, position, or possession, we have mental and emotional problems.

The 10th capsule is **"love"**. Love is a very powerful emotion, It is a strong, cementing or binding force. We should use it to build relationships, families and societies (1 Cor 13 : 4-8). Love is the best and most potent medicine for all emotional and relational problems.

Dr. (Mrs) Rajini Kantha

The Christian is like the ripening corn; the riper he grows, the more lowly he bends his head.

It isn't so hard to teach children right from wrong. The hard part is to remember what you taught them.

Bible Quiz No. 52
(Based on Job - KJV)



Note : Give only 1 reference

1. "Neither have we vineyard, not field, nor seed". About whose house was this spoken?
2. "A woman shall compass a man". Who said this?
3. About when did the Lord say though the "were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence?"
4. Another name for stars?
5. How did the Lord love Israel?
6. Into which dungeon was Jeremiah put?
7. Name the birds that obey the time of return
8. Name the city which was unwilling to be made clean
9. Name the king of Judah who received his daily ration from Babylon till his death.
10. Name the kingdom that is described as the prettiest heifer?

Send answers by 25th January.

Usha George

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 51

Hearty Congratulations !

Right answers given by :

Mrs. Aruna Asir
Mrs. Indira Rajanayakan
Mrs. Minnie Devadoss
Mrs. Sujatha Prasad
Dr. Rachel Chacko
Mrs. Snehalatha Dawson
Mrs. Victoria Baskar

The answers are :

1. Job 6 : 6
2. Satan to the Lord - Job. 1:7, 2:2
3. Eliphaz to Job - Job 5 : 7
4. Job - Job 9 : 9
5. Bildad the Shuhite - Job 26 : 5
6. The stones underneath the earth - Job 28 : 6
7. Job 28 : 5
8. Job 29 : 16
9. Job 12 : 12
10. Job 31 : 1

Usha George

A Church Presses On

One reflects with thanksgiving to God for whom a thousand years is as an evening gone. No matter what lies before us, - trials, joys and sorrows, we should press on with our duties and always be ready for the blissful presence of our Lord.

The New Year was ushered in with praise and prayer by our joyous and reverent congregation. There can be no more fitting place than a church to review and reflect for a few quiet moments the passing of a year or to take courage to press on for the year that lies before us.

We have a church which is perhaps one of the most beautiful buildings that exist in our country. Our congregation has the blessing of being engaged in different spheres of outreach ministry. As a congregation may we have an even more vigorous existence, with all of us performing different tasks as the body of Christ, our Lord. Let us merrily with whole hearted devotion carry on the work of the Lord through the New Year.

How easily a year can slip by! The world is so full and so busy: there is so much to think of : Life is such a scurry that we have little time for things of value and oftentimes, Jesus is crowded out. We stifle the beautiful and enduring truths of our Lord with our business, our pleasures and our manifold engagements.

The New Year is a solemn time, a time for thoughtful recollection, for gathering oneself together and for rededication. We remember the divine message to St. Paul: "To this end have I appeared unto thee to make thee a minister and a witness". Paul never lost sight of that. Christ gave each one of us the same message "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". May we ever remember that the Church of Christ exists solely for this purpose.

Usha George

*Our cool judgment is worth a thousand hasty councils.
The thing to do is to supply light, not heat.*

One of the hardest things about business is minding your own.

John's Corner

March Boldly

(Thought for the New Year)

Read Josh. 1 : 9

I'm not worried 'bout tomorrow,
For I know Christ holds my hand,
Whilst I live whate'er my trials,
In His strength I can withstand.

Foolish is the one who worries,
And his religion is vain,
For should he trust Christ is living,
Naught shall cause him grief or pain.

Nourish me, Lord, with Your goodness,
May Your word show me the way,
Chastise me when I am erring,
Teach me to trust and obey.

Cleansed and purified by Jesus,
Forward I will boldly go,
Fearing not what I'll encounter,
For He'll uphold me I know.

John H. Bala Singh

Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first thanks, then giving.

Men trip not on mountains, they stumble on stones.

Christianity is like electricity. It cannot enter a person unless it can pass through.

Don't brag; it isn't the whistle that pulls the train.



A Day to Remember!

(District 5 fellowship at Blue Lagoon)

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity... It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion”

It is the general practice for each of the homes in our District to host the Members' Monthly Fellowship a time of praise, worship and prayers followed by a short message and group games. But the monthly gathering in November 2014 was a little different. A few of our members jointly decided to arrange for a get together on 30th November in the Blue Lagoon resort on the East Coast Road. All of us gathered in the Kirk Guest House after attending the 7 a.m. service and had a potluck breakfast.

We reached the resort around 10 a.m. and after a 'welcome drink' we gathered in the hut by the sea shore. After a word of prayer by Dr. Bennett we had a refreshing time of praise and worship followed by a sharing of testimonies. Each family remembered with gratitude God's provision and faithfulness during the past year and we also got to know about what was happening in each of our lives as well as in our children's. As a group we were able to raise our hearts in praise and thankfulness to our Almighty God. This was followed by intercessory prayers. Our prayers covered a wide range of concerns including matters like our nation's stability, the spreading of ecological sensitivity; the needs and ministeries of the Church, our Pastors, staff members and lay leaders.

We soon broke for the noon meal and in the afternoon session Arul Chittaranjan conducted a couple of group games, which were helpful

in fostering better understanding among the members, enabling them to get a more intimate knowledge of the needs and concerns of one another. It was pleasant to cool our heels in the sea and spend some time on the seashore admiring the huge waves battering the shore. We got ourselves sprayed generously with tiny water droplets from the mighty waves of the Bay of Bengal against the backdrop of the vast blue sky-threatening overhead with dark clouds, mighty thunder and flashing lightning. We had a truly wonderful time of rejoicing in the Lord and happily returned home with our hearts filled with gladness, gratitude and sense of praise for the Lord's bountiful gifts, loving provision and gracious protection. We were prompted to join the Psalmist in Psalm 8 to exclaim" O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers! What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him!"

Adolph Asir

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
'Give me a light that i may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your
hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better
than light, and safer than a known way.' " - Minnie Haskins

Thus we now move forward in faith on the next stage of what has been a rather difficult journey for Anne and myself and our family over the past few months. We continue to be grateful for all your prayers and good wishes and are sorry that we are sharing with you some more difficult news.

This is an excerpt from a letter sent by Rev.Murdoch MacKenzie, who is going through a difficult time of serious illness. Our prayers and good wishes are with Anne and Murdoch. May God's Love, Peace and Comfort sustain them.

Kirk News



The excitement and anticipation of the Christmas season was infectious among all church members and worshippers who love the Lord's coming. Thank you, Lord, for taking away for ever the vacuum that was in our hearts and replacing it with your glorious and almighty Presence. We thank the Pastors and Elders in leading the church in worshipping the Lord during this time. May He delight in our worship!

The Kirk reached out to others also with special events organised in the churches and project areas which saw many come and be blessed by the good news of His goodwill and peace to all men.

As we start the New Year, may our hearts continue to be filled with the joy of the Lord, even as He takes us through this year. We wish you a Blessed, Happy and Abundant New Year!

Guest Speakers

14 th December	9pm	Mr. Allen Bailey, Church Elder from Australia, spoke on "Let us go on full growth" from Hebrews 6:1-15.
to		
21 st December	7am	Dr. P.C. Verghese, our Elder, gave advent message on the topic "Four Dimensional Christmas" (Matthew 1:18-25).
an		
	9am	Rev. Dr. Sam Kamaleson spoke on "The reason for Christmas" from John 3:1-17.

District Meetings were held during the Christmas season by,

District 9 in the church SACCE hall on 7th Dec.

District 1 in the home of Mr. Vivek & Mrs. Sangeeta Harinarain on 14th Dec.

District 5 on the 17th in the home of Dr. & Mrs. Bennett.

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

(Regular church programs such as weekly Bible study, manse prayer etc. are suspended for Christmas/New Year and will resume after the annual Camp this week.)

AKCDC organised a Children's Day program on the 14th of November, taking a 1-hour rally through the local community. The children and staff displayed placards on social messages about local issues such as living a healthy life, benefits of avoiding drugs & alcoholism, education, child labour etc. The rally led by Martin and Dinesh was watched and appreciated by many people including the children's parents.

AKCDC celebrated Christmas Day with special songs by the children, recitation of Bible verses, dance and skit. Child Jeyashri's recitation of Psalm 116 impressed the audience. Praise God for this joyful occasion!

Kirk Youth Fellowship Along with Sunday school children, KYF presented the Christmas Play on the 14th of Dec. The Theme of the play was 'More Like Jesus' – In Wisdom, Stature & Favour (Luke 2:52)

KYF visited the sick to sing carols for them on 17th Dec. and sang carols at the church members residences on 20th Dec. On the 19th, they organised the activities at the camp fire which was attended and enjoyed by many members. Youth service CATALYST happened on the 28th.

CONGRATULATIONS! **Sarah and Jacob** were blessed with a baby boy on 2nd December. Grandson to Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Mani, our Elder. **Eric & Cheryl Jeremiah**, our members, were blessed with a baby girl on the 5th of December.

We look forward to your articles/poems/photos which may be sent to the Editor or the Church office by 30th of the month (*answers to quiz by the 25th*). Youth and children are especially invited to make use of the Kirkspire to express their God-given talents in print.

Mahendra Kumar



AKCDC Christmas celebration



District 5 meeting at Blue Lagoon



Piano recital by young musicians