

Kirkspire



Acts 2:1-3

July 2016

CONTENTS

Ready To Go	3
Rev. C.T.E. Rhenius	4
Kirk Youth Fellowship (KYF) Report for 2015-16	7
Bible Quiz No. 68	8
Medical Corner	9
Lighten my darkness!	10
Missing You....	13
Answers to Bible Quiz No. 67	15
John's Corner	16
Kirk News	17

Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy

READY TO GO



“not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10:25

The news of the recent horrific incidents in Nice, France and in Turkey remind us of the volatile condition of the world. Human life is threatened in so many ways, right from violence against women and even what comes out of family disputes. There is an increasing level of selfishness and lesser (to negligible) place to listen to the word of God. In such times, we who call ourselves “God’s children” have to make this conscious decision every day in everything that we choose to do. Are we going to live for ourselves or are we going to hold to our earth-bound dreams with slippery hands and our heavenly anticipation with grateful hearts.

How can I gauge for myself if I am living every day that Christ will come anytime ‘for me’? There is so much to be said about living in anticipation of that all-important day but I would like to earnestly remind here one important truth: **HABITUATE YOURSELF TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.** While the many will neglect personal time with God and carelessly give excuse for corporate time with God, let us give **TOP PRIORITY** for these two things. We **DO NOT HAVE** the time and the luxury to say, “I will take it up later.”

Habituating to Christian fellowship means let us gather often for worshipping our God, let us make time for every opportunity to learn God’s word together and every opportunity to encourage one another. Let us, for our own wellbeing, waste no time causing hurt to one another, directly or indirectly. Let us waste no more time trying to gain the upper hand. We are one in Christ and let us so live and build one another up. **CHRIST IS COMING, LET HIS BRIDE (THE CHURCH) BE READY.**

Pastor Isaac Johnson



Rev. C. T. E. Rhenius

Reverend Charles Theophilus Ewald Rhenius – The Apostle of Tirunelveli was a German born missionary of the Church Mission Society (CMS).

Rhenius lost his father at the age of six. When he was 17 years of age he went to live with his wealthy uncle who had no children. Rhenius felt the calling of God to be a missionary overseas while reading missionary magazines that were found aplenty at this uncle's home. His uncle was distraught at Rhenius' decision as he intended to bequeath his property to his nephew – Rhenius. Rhenius had an option either to stay back and inherit the property or move out as a missionary!

Rhenius went to Berlin to study theology at a missionary college of Basel. After a year at the seminary, Rhenius was ordained as a Lutheran presbyter. Rhenius and another student named Schnarre were selected by the Church Mission Society (CMS) to serve as missionaries in India.

The journey to India was arduous, he experienced a fire aboard the ship and it was nearly wrecked near the Maldives. He and Schnarre reached Madras and headed to Tharangambadi to learn the Tamil language, where Charles demonstrated remarkable skill as a linguist.

Rhenius completed five months of language training; he was called back by the governor to Madras and was granted permission to work in the Black Town of Madras (George Town). He studied the Hindu scriptures and learnt that Hindus had once believed in one supreme god and polytheism was a later belief. His evangelism urged Hindus to return to monotheism and the worship of Jesus Christ.

Rhenius started several schools in Madras (Chennai), including one in Black Town and another one in Kanchipuram at the invitation of the Hindus. Rhenius was forbidden to enter caste Hindu localities or visit their homes, on one occasion he had to spend the night in a cow shed.

The Bible Society in Calcutta in 1815 decided to revise the Johann Phillip Fabricius version of the Tamil Bible. Rhenius, then 25 years old was asked to help with the revision, with assistance from a language scholar. He observed in his missionary travels that many Hindus had trouble understanding the Fabricius translation of the Bible.

In 1816, the Reverend James Hough wrote to the CMS asking for a missionary to serve in Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli. The first CMS congregation in Palayamkottai (present day Holy Trinity Cathedral, Palayamkottai) came into existence on 10 March 1822. Rhenius also started the Palamcottah Preparandi Institution.

In 1824, he procured property that now houses the Bishop Sergeant Training School, Palayamkottai from his Hindu friend and philanthropist, Vengu Mudaliar, for a price of just Rs.750 and shifted the Preparandi School to the new campus.

Operating from Palayamkottai, Rhenius covered a number of villages all over the Tirunelveli district, which include the current Thoothukudi district and part of Ramanathapuram district and planted small congregations.

When Rhenius visited Solaikudiyiruppu, the Mukandar (administrator) of Solaikudiyiruppu Village was Velu Muthu Nadar. Rhenius converted Velu Muthu who was baptised as "Vedha Muthu". Vedha Muthu was the first Protestant Christian in the Megnanapuram Circle.

In 1827, Rhenius created a settlement for the Christians of Puliakurichi, a village he purchased with money donated by a Prussian nobleman, Count Dohna of Scholodin, and named it after him as Dohnavur. The village later became the place where Amy Carmichael founded the Dohnavur Fellowship to protect women rescued from prostitution.

Rhenius and his colleagues were evangelists of unusual zeal. In 1825 they reported more than 3,000 converts in ninety villages. But a crisis arose between Rhenius and the CMS with regard to ordaining evangelists according to Lutheran custom, without participation of a bishop.

During this time, Rhenius had published a pamphlet titled "Union of Christians, an Address to all Christians, especially to all Ministers of the Gospel." He was attempting to bring harmony among missionaries of different backgrounds.

On termination by the CMS, Rhenius' catechists pleaded with him to return. Rhenius yielded to their urging and began to work independently with his German and Swiss colleagues as the German Evangelical Mission, consisting of 67 out of the 293 Tirunelveli congregations.

Only after Rhenius's death in 1838 did the remaining German missionaries and their congregations return to the CMS.

Rev. C.T.E Rhenius chose to live a zealous life for our Lord Jesus, left behind his family and a wealthy life, tossed and tried in the high seas, steadfast to the call to mission hood. He is remembered not only as one of the ablest writers and translators in Tamil, but also as one of the founding fathers of the Tirunelveli church. He was the first CMS missionary to arrive in India. For his relentless missionary work in the Tirunelveli district he came to be known as the "Apostle of Tirunelveli". He was involved in the attempt to revise the Fabricius version of the Tamil Bible and also published a Tamil grammar book.

Grace Devadoss

In prayer, God hears more than words; He listens to your heart.

• • •

Instead of giving up on a person, give that person to God.

• • •

The human spirit fails us unless the Holy Spirit fills us.

• • •

Sin cannot flourish where godliness is cultivated.

Kirk Youth Fellowship (KYF) Report for 2015-16

The schedule followed by Kirk youth last year is as follows:

- **1st week** – Prayer and Discussion/Bible study
- **2nd week** – Outreach Sunday
- **3rd week** – Bible study on ACTS
- **4th week** – Catalyst, Tracts distribution/Koinonia service
- **5th week** – Witnessing Sunday
- **Second Friday** – Home Fellowship

The **1st week** focuses on prayer for the various ministries of the church, the church in itself, the youth, the nation and other needs. This is followed by a discussion on topics that are raised by the youth or a pre-Bible study to support our study in the coming weeks.

2nd week is our Outreach Sunday where some of our youth attend the service at one of our outreach churches (Thirupalaivanam, Gypsy colony), lead in singing and host other activities such as music lessons for the boys and English lessons for the girls.

3rd week is solely for Bible study. We studied the book of Acts last year and a quiz was conducted at the end of the year.

4th week is when we have our youth-led service called **Catalyst** which runs at the same time as the 9 a.m. service. Post Catalyst, the youth gather to distribute tracts in and around the Egmore area to spread the Gospel. In the evening, **Koinonia**, which is a youth-led service, is held at the church.

5th week is set apart for witnessing Sunday where the youth are given a chance to share how God has touched them in many areas of their lives, which helps to strengthen the faith of others.

Home fellowship is conducted at one of the youth member's homes where various topics are discussed with the help of an Elder.

Bible Quiz No. 68 - July, 2016

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



**Here is a Bible Quiz with a slight difference! From
the "match" word, you need to choose from the
"match" group, which one goes with the match word.
Give only one reference.**

1. Match word: Apollos
Match group: a) Fervent preacher in the early church b) Tent maker who aided the Apostles c) Greek silversmith
2. Match word: Peter
Match group: a) Freed from prison by an angel b) Exile to Patmos c) Had a dream about a ladder to heaven
3. Match word: Replacement of a disciple
Match group: a) Judas was replaced by Stephen b) Judas was replaced by Matthias c) Judas was replaced by Barsabbas
4. Match word: Lydia
Match group: a) Proprietor of fine linen b) Dealer in purple cloth c) Known for her camel's hair coats
5. Match word: Saul (Paul)
Match group: a) Was surrounded by the clothes of witnesses to Stephen's stoning b) Took off his cloak to throw rocks himself c) Took Stephen's cloak to be his own
6. Match word: Peter
Match group: a) Was told in a dream to "kill and eat" b) Saw a sheet filled with only reptiles c) Went into a trance at Cornelius' house
7. Match word: Paul
Match group: a) Saul b) Simon c) Peter
8. Match word: Paul and Barnabas
Match group: a) Fasted after leaving prison in Philippi b) Fasted when appointing elders in early churches c) Fasted after the riot in Ephesus
9. Match word: Agabus
Match group: a) Roman ruler who heard Paul's case b) Prophet against Solomon to Jeroboam c) Prophet who predicted famine in the Roman world
10. Match word: Cenchrea
Match group: a) Where Ur was located b) Where Paul shaved his head c) Region named after Caesar Augustus

Kindly send your answers to the Church office by Aug 10th, 2016.

Usha George



NUTRITION-I

“Doctors treat but JESUS heals”

AN APPLE A DAY

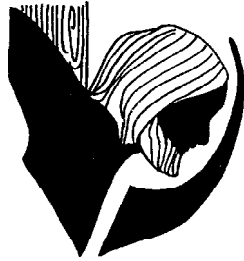
Apples are a rich source of iron, Calcium and vitamin A and it is also an important source of pectin and cellulose and therefore a good source of roughage for the body. Although most of the varieties can be eaten raw, there are certain varieties which can be classified as cooking apples as they are best eaten when they are slightly cooked. As far as possible, eat apples with the skin to avoid loss of essential vitamins under the skin. To avoid oxidation of the flesh after peeling, sprinkle some lemon juice on the apple. While cooking, do not use excess water as this would require prolonged cooking and would result in loss of all the heat sensitive vitamins. Wash thoroughly before peeling and not after peeling.

GOODNESS OF YOGHURT

Yoghurt is integral to Indian cuisine. Most south Indians end a meal by eating rice mixed with curds. In the West, Yoghurt is a dessert usually eaten frozen or with fruit, and yoghurt made from low-fat milk is a health food. Yoghurt's tartness makes it a perfect matrix for sweet banana slices, fresh or frozen berries, grapes and pineapple slices. Yoghurt, like milk, is a good source of calcium, vitamins and other minerals. Yoghurt is easier to digest than regular milk by those who cannot digest lactose, the sugar in milk. Hundred grams of yoghurt made from plain whole milk contains 60 calories.

A cup of plain low-fat curds can have as much as 400mg of calcium-40 percent of the daily requirement of the minerals. What's more, it also has protein, B-12, riboflavin, potassium, magnesium and zinc. Eating curds helps control the diarrhoea associated with antibiotic use-probably by replenishing the levels of "good" gut bacteria (*Lacto bacillus*), indiscriminately killed off by antibiotics.

Dr. (Mrs) Rajini Kantha



Lighten my darkness!

P.C. Verghese was a dynamic elder in the Kirk Session in the closing years of the 20th Century. An eloquent evangelist, he was popular with the congregation, especially the youth. Above all, he was humble and affectionate to all.

A lawyer by training, he opted for full time ministry in 1959, much to the disappointment of his mother who had great ambitions for him as a lawyer. But he never wavered from his calling, his field of mission constituted University students particularly in the North. They admired his zeal, his cheerful outlook and unbounded enthusiasm to preach Christ.

He was a sort of roving ambassador for Christ and used to be invited for short missions abroad. On one such mission in the U.S. early in 2015 he suffered a stroke. He had programmed 8 conferences for the Indian Churches, from Cleveland, Ohio. At the close of the 7th Conference, on August 31st, he had a stroke. By God's grace his doctor daughter in the U.S. was able to get to him in time, and initiate medical treatment. He is still not able to walk properly, but returned to India as his visa had expired. His friends visited him and he shared with them the lessons God had taught him when he lay ill.

He spoke of his anguish when he fell ill. He asked God why this had happened to him when he was doing God's work. He had always believed that in return, God would look after his health. God made it clear to him that he did not listen to his body, and like everybody else, he too had to discipline his habits.

He detailed 4 main disciplines he had to undergo.

The 1st was the discipline of fire. The story of Shadrach, Meshakh and Abednego came to him. They were cast into a fiery furnace for refusing to worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar had set

up. But God sent his angel to unfasten their ropes and walked with them in the fire. (Daniel 3 : 25) Alongside this vision, the words of Isaiah in Chapter 50 : 10 strengthened him. "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God." These verses seemed addressed to him personally and he realised that the furnace of illness might be fierce, but God would walk with him in the fire.

The 2nd discipline was the discipline of darkness. There are 4 kinds of darkness in the world. There is the darkness of ignorance - the kind the exiles from Jerusalem experienced in Mesopotamia and Babylon. They could not envision a time when they would be able to return to their land. "By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept. How shall we sing the songs of the Lord in a strange land?" Prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel prophesied to them that God had prepared a great light for them, but they could not believe it.

Then there is the darkness of sin. The originator of sin is Satan, backed by his minions. In Job, we read of how Satan walks about the world, seeking whom he can devour. They tempt the people to commit sin. The list is endless and is named in Roman Chapter 1 : 29-32. The Bible records sadly that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. So how is this sin to be dealt with? Somebody has to take the punishment for sin. "The wages of sin is death" The Bible says that Jesus took the punishment for the sins of all people past, present and future, by his death on the Cross. When you appropriate his death as the punishment for your individual sins, you are saved.

Separation from God is the result of sin. God cannot be present where there is sin. That is why Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Everyone of us will utter that cry, when sin separates us from God, unless we have appropriated Jesus' sacrifice as the payment for our sin.

So what is this treasure in the darkness that Mr. Verghese talks about? He says that he could see stars in the sky even in the deep darkness of his soul.

How? Because he knew that his darkness was not permanent because of Jesus' death on his behalf. The broken fellowship with God is never permanent because Jesus paid for the sin that caused the separation.

The 3rd discipline he had to face was the discipline of the Net. When an animal falls a pray to his would be captors by falling into a ditch

camouflaged by a net, he cannot extricate himself. The more he tries to get out, the more he is entangled. Unless someone rescues him, he is doomed. Psalm 66 : 10-12 describes succinctly the state of the man who is entangled in sin either his own, or by the machinations of his enemies. "Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins. Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads: we went thro' fire and water, but thou broughtest us into a wealthy place." Disciplined yes, but exalted in the end.

The 4th discipline he underwent was the discipline of the pit. He was in a pit of despair unable to help himself. It reminded him of Joseph's forsakenness in the pit his brothers had thrown him. But, lo and behold! a company of Midianite merchants came that way and the brothers drew him out of the pit and sold him to them. But God had arranged a bright future for him. From pit to palace was his destination. So he encouraged himself that even as God used Joseph to give life and food for so many people, so would God use him to tell the story of salvation.

Mrs. R. Chandy

Without a heart aflame for God, we cannot shine for Jesus.

• • •

The world sees what we do - God sees why we do it.

• • •

A true friend will put a finger on your faults without rubbing them in.



Missing you....

All of us want somebody to love and be loved by, someone to say, 'I miss you'. We would love to have at least a wee bit of heart and soul out of life. Could we have that bit of colour, that little streak of orange, rose and gold of the sunset? In our morning worship service last Sunday Rev. Peter Francis spoke of battling loneliness among the young and the old. His message was based on Psalm 25 and drew practical lessons stressing on David's total dependence on God when life took terrifying turns.

In life's journey, God's gift of moments become days, the gift of days become years. These years are filled with faces, feelings, relationships, duties, victories won and failures endured. A part of humanity feel as the great Teacher records in Eccl.5:20 "They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart." Some do feel life is full of endings and broken dreams.

We look around and see life taking a toll on us – spiritually, emotionally and physically. There are fewer comfortable places to meet. Fewer people to share our thoughts with. We tend to look within as I did when an old family photo popped up. All the old familiar faces on the picture had vanished leaving decades of memories and a haunting emptiness within me. Wrenching myself from the grip of a limp loneliness, I reflected that no matter how deep, how dark and how good things may appear, we children of God can count on our Father's delight and joy in us – always.

Believers sitting comfortably in church pews, with the warm glow of stained glass around, the church resounding with the outpouring of rich organ music can feel this crippling loneliness of the soul. The 'soul-refreshing' dew of Jesus' love has to be experienced every day. He meets us in the smallest of moments. His healing love has to flow from Him to us and from us to others. Let us never forget that we are never beyond His reach.

A few days ago, I was chatting on the phone with my cousin. An octogenarian, she had left her beautiful garden home at Mylapore for a Home at Padappai. With deep Christian conviction, she spoke on the inevitable changes ageing brings. She refused to fall a victim to the pernicious disease called nostalgia! She said that if we love the Lord as we all say, we should trust Him when He says that He will never forsake us. He will see us safely through. She said that she had suffered untold loneliness when she lost her husband. But, trusting in the Lord, she keeps her eyes and ears open to receive His plans. She advised me not to look inwards but upwards to God and then we would grow in spiritual maturity. She would use her strength and mind to help the less-privileged children by tutoring them, and assist the deaf and dumb young persons to write essays. Her positive and buoyant words rooted in the Word were like a breath of fresh air.

Adversity and consequent unhappiness can be termed as divine intervention. Paul experienced this 'thorn in the flesh' (2 Cor.12:7). God used this 'thorn' because He understood the value of preserving him as a servant of God. God had chosen Paul to be His instrument and could not afford to lose him to pride. Paul reacted with total acceptance.

We are beset with trials and temptations but it is needless to try and manage this pain in our own strength. Jesus sorely misses us when we turn our eyes away from Him. When 'God so loved the world,' He shows no favouritism. We are the 'lost coin' which He searches for so intensely; we are the son He waits for so longingly to return and to lavishly clothe him and lovingly take him in to have supper; we are the wounded and lost lambs that He longs to fold to His bosom.

Let us turn our drifting boats towards our Anchor and paddle toward God with all our strength. No one is guaranteed an easy life. Let us never forget that while Jesus was fully God, He was also fully human. He understood the sting of rejection and experienced sublime loneliness. We do not journey through this life alone. Jesus travels with every believer side by side and hand in hand. He stands and knocks at the door of our heart. He misses us deeply if we turn our gaze away from Him to linger over material possessions, dabble in cults and New Age philosophies. He is with us always (Matt.28:20). Everything changes in this world but He will never waver or vary. Great is His faithfulness.

Usha George

**Answers to Bible Quiz No. 67
(June 2016)**

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

The answers are :

1. C – Acts 1:3
2. A – Exodus 18:1
3. B – Ruth 1:3,4
4. B – Acts 24:24
5. B – Acts 12:2
6. C – Matthew 13:33
7. B – Matthew 13:45
8. A – Luke 12:18
9. B – Luke 10:35
10. A – Matthew 14:26

The winners are:

- 1. Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam**
- 2. Mrs. Leela Coilpillai**
- 3. Mr. Joseph M. Manoharan**
- 4. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss**
- 5. Mrs. Nalini Suryaprakash**
- 6. Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar**
- 7. Dr. (Mrs.) Sujatha Prasad**
- 8. Dr. (Mrs.) Rachel Chacko**
- 9. Dr. A.J. Premkumar Satya**
- 10. Mrs. Victoria Basker**

Hearty congratulations!

Usha George

John's Corner



The Lord's Helper

(Read Matt 5:16)

July 10th was Evangelism and Mission's Movement Sunday

Lord, I guess that Your true image
In this world depends on me,
For my life reflects to others
All that I have learnt of Thee.

Make me, Saviour, fully conscious,
That what others see in me,
May for them be, Lord, the only
Way they get a glimpse of Thee.

Not that You, Lord, need assistance
To reveal Your deity,
But that as a child of Jesus,
I help build Your family.

Fill me with Your Spirit, Master,
That in all I say and do,
I may to Your name bring glory,
And each day draw more to You.

John H. Bala Singh

Kirk News



June was a busy month with Village Project Sunday, Eco Sunday and Youth Sunday – each showing an aspect of the church's outreach, aiming to glorify our God and Lord Jesus Christ in everything we do. May the Lord be pleased to magnify Himself through our good works and demonstrate His grace and power as He chooses, and may we humble ourselves to hear His voice and obey His commands.

Guest Speaker

- 5th June 6pm Dr. (Mrs.) Christina Ambrose spoke at the healing service on the topic "The Loud Cry", based on Mark 15:37-38 and Psalm 29:1-11.
- 12th June 6pm Mrs. Rani Williams, our members, shared on the topic "The God we serve" from Revelation 1:7-20.
- 19th June 7am Mrs. Dolly Shanthakumar, our member, spoke on "God's Invisible Blessings" from Psalm 103:1-10.
- 26th June 6pm Mr. D. Shanthakumar, our Elder, spoke on "Stand Firm" from Philippians 4:1-9 at the Youth & Koinonia service.

Monday Bible Study resumed on 13th June after summer break and continued to study the Gospel of Luke.

Evangelism & Missions Movement resumed the Thursday fasting prayer meetings on 16th June. If you are interested to pray for the needs of the church and nation, please join us between 10:30am and 1:30pm.

Friday Manse Prayer resumed on 17th June, praying and studying the Psalms.

Friday House Church resumed on 17th June in the home of Ms.K.V.Saramma; on 24th June, it was held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Anil Oommen.

District Meeting: District 5 met in the home of Mrs.Nalini Simon on 5th June.

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

Kirk Youth Fellowship: met on 12th & 19th June to practice and prepare for Youth Sunday. Some members visited Thirupalaivanam for outreach on the 12th. Youth Sunday on the 26th featured the theme "PECULIAR – A Chosen Generation" (1 Peter 2:9). The youth glorified God through heartfelt praise and worship, skit, special songs and thanksgiving for the year gone by.

KYF Camp'16: The annual Youth camp will be held at Ooty, Coonoor between the 13-15th of August. Please block these dates and register your names at Sunday services!

Village Project Sunday was held at the 9am service on 12th June. The project staff presented a song and Mr.Rajasekaran, Secretary, presented a report on the activities during the year. Thanks to God for His blessings on the project over many years serving the needy in villages north of Chennai with the gospel, social education and health care support.

Eco Sunday was held at the 9am service on 19th June. Mrs.Nalini Simon presented the annual report. Praise God for His protection of the church campus and for blessing it with greenery. Thank Him for the members who have contributed to the beautification of His campus. Thanks also for the gardeners who help to preserve and improve the grounds come sun or rain.

If you wish to contribute to one of the above projects or to any another ministry of the church, please contact thekirk.chennai@gmail.com or phone no.0091-44-25612608 for details of how to do so.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Joshua (son of Rev. Peter Francis, Jennifer Francis) and **Shweta** (daughter of Oommen George, Deepa Oommen) were blessed with a baby boy on 13.06.16.

Amelia Grace and Abhishek Samuel were blessed with a baby boy on 15th July. Grandson to Mr. Sam Nirmal and Mrs. Vasanthi Nirmal.

OBITUARY

Mr. Ian Manchanda, our former Elder, passed away in Bangalore on Saturday, 18th June. The funeral was held in his house in De Costa Layout, Bangalore on 20th June. We express our heartfelt condolences to his family and pray for God's comfort and strength for them.

Please send your articles etc. to the Editor or the Church office by 3rd July for inclusion in the next issue.

K. Mahendra Kumar

Believing Christ died - that's history; believing Christ died
for me - that's salvation.

• • •

The one who lives for this life only will have eternity to
regret it.

• • •

To uproot the weeds of anxious care, get down on your
knees.



Drivers Fellowship meet on a Sunday



Patients at cancer screening camp - Karanodai - 23rd July.