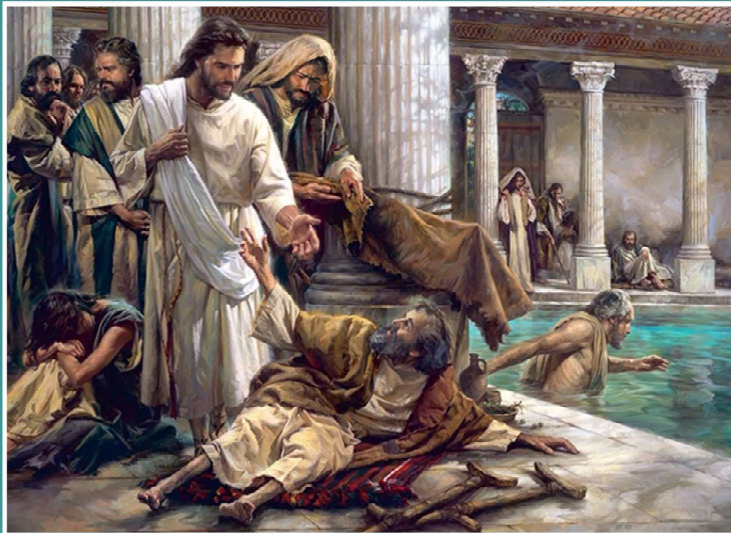


Kirkspire



John 5:8-9

OCTOBER 2017

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Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy



Word from the Pastor

'By your stripes we are healed' – Isaiah 53:5

IN NEED OF HEALING - PERSPECTIVE ON PRAYER

First, *we need to understand that the purpose of prayer is not for God to please us, but for God to change us.* If a father constantly gives in to a little child's whiny demands, we'd take him for a lousy parent. Why, then, do some think God's a stubborn God when He doesn't give us everything we want? We need to trust that God is wise and powerful enough to answer rightly—and right on time. First John 5:14 says, "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." That is, God won't jump at every loose-lipped confession. Prayer offered up in true faith submits to His will—our sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3). God's will is to *change* us, not *please* us.

Second, *we need to accept that the power of prayer is perceived in even the smallest response.* I'm convinced that humans don't fully comprehend how little we deserve God's love and grace. Consider that what we regard as "crumbs" of answered prayer may really be bountiful feasts once we realize that God owes us nothing (Genesis 32:9-10; Luke 7:6-9). When we adjust our attitude about our own unworthiness to receive God's favor, we'll never regard "small" answers to prayer as insignificant.

Finally, *we need to acknowledge that the process of prayer is not as important as the attitude of prayer.* When God chose in His sovereignty to heal Karen, He did so even though none of us expected it. Our feeble prayer was a simple act of faith—turning our worries over to God's care (Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:6-7). Christians can get hung up on method, worried that they haven't said the right words, haven't prayed hard or often enough, or haven't believed deeply enough. If you're concerned about not praying with the right words or for the right things, memorize Romans 8:26—God's Spirit even helped Paul pray!

Rev. Isaac Johnson



A Father's Instruction and Example

(Proverbs 4:1-9)

"Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention and gain understanding.
I give you sound learning,
so do not forsake my teaching.
For I too was a son to my father,
still tender, and cherished by my mother.
Then he taught me, and he said to me,
"Take hold of my words with all your heart;
keep my commands, and you will live.
Get wisdom, get understanding;
do not forget my words or turn away from them.
Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;
love her, and she will watch over you.
The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
Cherish her, and she will exalt you;
embrace her, and she will honour you.
She will give you a garland to grace your head
and present you with a glorious crown."

~~~~~

These days most fathers don't take the trouble to instruct their children; they leave it to their wives. Mothers are, however, busy meeting the practical and emotional needs of their children, and so it is essential for fathers to pitch in and participate in the all-round upbringing of their children and begin to instruct them about life skills from a young and tender age. This involves spending time with their children and doing things with them. From these activities come opportunities to instruct them in day to day living and moral values. *Both* parents have much to offer their children in the way of care and instruction. This is

better done when one is not overwhelmed with the number of things that need to be done, as is the case with many mothers, whose husbands don't participate in the parenting process. Fathers *must* share the load of child rearing and upbringing with their wives, if the family is to function as a biblical family should, and for the future of the children to be secure.

This also sets an example for the children in the future; Solomon taught his sons as his father David taught him from a tender age, and this was a great factor in the fact that Solomon, who took his father's teachings to heart and went after gaining wisdom and understanding, became the wisest man in the known world (1 Kings 4:30-31).

When fathers teach their children at a young and tender age, the children truly look up to them and absorb everything they say. The love that is communicated by a father's taking time to spend with a child and feed his curiosity and desire for discovery and knowledge is reciprocated with obedience. A young child learns obedience when a father lovingly answers his questions and instructs him in ways that he needs. The impression that a loving father's words make on a child's mind and heart cause him to remember them, make them his own and live by them. This is more so when the father says, "Remember what I am telling you; it is very important! It will help you tremendously in life if you follow what I say – it will give you a great advantage over everyone else." A wide-eyed, expectant, eager child will absorb his father's instruction like a sponge!

David describes to his young son in glowing, attractive words, the advantages of gaining wisdom and understanding. We know from the course of history how seriously Solomon took his father's advice. Incidentally, many of the negative "don'ts" taught by his father also came true.... when Solomon abandoned wisdom and God's commands to follow his own desires, such as having many wives, especially from pagan nations, and accumulating much wealth; it led to frustration and confusion in his own life, and later to the downfall of future generations of God's people.

*Abha Appasamy*

## THE FIRST LADY

### Prologue

The first lady lived in no mansion.  
Neither did she catwalk in fashion.  
Lived along with nature in a garden  
Which was named as 'Garden of Eden.'

The voices of the birds did awaken  
The couple with whistles and tunes  
In different pitches and melodies  
To praise and worship in dedication.

The animals prepared themselves  
To be the playmates of tender Eve,  
While Adam went for a long walk  
To have a control over the creatures.

No burgers nor chicken sixty fives,  
Cooked in the oven for the foodies  
God blessed them with juicy fruit  
To quench their hunger and thirst.

The nap in the afternoons was too good,  
For they were together to glorify the Lord.  
In the long awaited evenings, the Almighty;  
Came to chit chat with His creation so lofty.

The routine went on with good memories  
Till Eve had an encounter with the creep,  
Which tempted her to disobey His Words  
And plunged them in the chasm so deep.

The Lord called them in passion and love;  
And found none other than the creatures.  
God's wrath was exposed and He drove  
Them out of Eden, cursing the whizzes.

### Epilogue

Toil and pain were due to disobedience.  
Sins and evils existed with all evidence  
Till the holy birth of our gracious Jesus  
Who redeemed the sinners on the cross.

('Creep' and 'whizzes' are used as nouns, signifying 'snakes'.  
Bear with me for using the poetic leniency)

*Snehalatha Bright*



## **Friendship Club Retreat at Scripture Union on 06.09.2017**

A retreat was organised for the members of the 'Friendship Club', at Scripture Union, Mahabalipuram on 6 September 2017. 42 Members attended the retreat. They were taken in a bus from the Church. The resource person for the retreat was Mr. Thomas George. Breakfast was served in the bus to all.

After a light refreshment, the retreat started with Praise and worship. The theme for the first session was 'Old age may be a Blessing or a symbol of Loss or a Calling'. The session was interactive and the members were divided into 5 groups where, they could express themselves freely. The speaker then explained how old age may be a blessing or how sometimes it could turn out to be a symbol of loss for the afflicted or, how it is a calling based on Biblical Characters like Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Simeon and Anna and how they were used by the Lord to fulfil His plan.

The second session was on "God's call to Moses" at the age of 80. The speaker interacted with the members on how excuses are given when God calls us to represent Him or speak for Him. Then he spoke on the 5 excuses Moses gave and how God helped him to overcome these excuses. As a final activity, members were asked to role play their response to God's call from what they have learnt from the experience of Moses. The groups responded enthusiastically by presenting small skits. The retreat came to an end with a vote of thanks and a closing prayer by Mrs. Valsa George. All the members were brought back safely by 5.45 pm. Praise and thanks be to God Almighty.

*Andrew & Leena  
Members of the Church*

**Medical Corner**

## **Hypertensive Retinopathy**

“Doctors treat but Jesus Heals”

Most of the us know that high blood pressure (Hypertension, HT) can affect the heart leading to enlargement of heart. It can affect the kidneys and the brain. Multiple factors lead to a stroke and HT is one of them. Very few people are aware that it can affect the eyes also. Retina is the innermost layer of the eye. It is comparable to the photographic film of the camera.

Persistent HT, can cause narrowing of the arteries in the retina. (Central retinal arteries and its branches). Changes are also seen in places where arteries cross the veins. Sometimes the arteries take up a golden/copper colour known as copper wiring. In some cases it takes up a silver hue known as silver wiring. Haemorrhages and cotton wool exudates can be seen scattered in the back ground of the retina. Sometimes, the central retinal vein (CRV) can get blocked (CRV Occlusions). Sometimes branches of the retinal vein can get blocked, leading to segmental changes in the retina. If not treated, abnormal blood vessels can grow in the retina and cause Neo Vascular glaucoma, which is difficult to treat, and is a challenging situation.

Some individuals have both diabetes and high blood pressure, so a mixed appearance of both diabetic retinopathy (DR) and hypertensive retinopathy (HR) can be seen in the fundus (Interior, back portion of the eye). In very high blood pressure (200/120, and above) fluid accumulates in the optic nerve head. Some women develop high blood pressure during their pregnancy known as toxemia of pregnancy. Periodic fundus examination is done by the eye specialist, and delivery of the baby is planned accordingly.

People with HT & Diabetes should maintain normal Blood pressure and Blood sugar levels with regular exercises, diet control and use of prescribed medications. These are mandatory. Periodic check up, once in 6 months is also advisable with the eye specialist, so that early treatment is possible to avoid complications. Prevention is better than cure. Stress should be avoided as much as possible.

*Dr. Rajinikantha*



## **It's all about God's Love**

Psalm 145:8 says "The Lord is Gracious and Compassionate, slow to anger and RICH IN LOVE"

GOD LOVES US, it's not JUST love, it's a DEEP LOVE. A love that human mind could never comprehend.

God loves us enough to take care of us, comfort us, provide for us, guide us, anoint us, and the list goes on and on! As a Christian we should be thankful and grateful for God's love daily, by completely surrendering our lives into God's hands. Then we can experience the DEEP ... DEEP love of God.

I John 3:16 (NKJV) says "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."The depth of love is that "he laid down his life for us". This shows us the full extent of his love. It is because of the Love that God had for us that he left all heavenly blessings and came down to earth to suffer for us and it is through the poverty that he experienced that we are made Rich, Rich in God's love.

We all are familiar with the Lyrics of a familiar song, which goes like this, "Above all....like a Rose trampled on the ground ... you took the fall and thought of me..."A rose trampled on a ground will be in a form that nobody would like, but Jesus took that form just for us, because he loved us first (I John 4:19)

Showing God's love is nothing but loving our neighbours as ourselves. It is the love that we have from God which we can show to everyone, not just our family and friends, but for all people with whom we come across. Do we show such kind of love in our day-to-day life?

No, showing that kind of love is really impossible for everyone including me. But the word of God gives us a solution to the problem. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His LOVE (Romans 5:5). Yes, Holy Spirit helps us in showing Gods love.

The human level of love is the one that changes life to war, when situations go wrong. And that's not the Christian way to live. God expects us to show the divine level of God's love. The divine level of God's love is returning good for evil as in Mt 5: 44,45. It is often

difficult to do good toward those who have wronged you. But God wants us to live on the divine level of love. God will use those actions to bring glory to himself. It is the dynamic level of Love where we live like our Lord Jesus.

All we have to do is completely surrender ourselves into God's hands realising that the Holy Spirit is our divine comforter, the sole source of love.

We often look at our failures and our sin, and feel like we're not worthy enough. We fall into despair, anxiety, and depression. That is the time Satan peeps in making us guilty, saying that we are not worthy to stand in God's presence.

We struggle many times with disappointments; but God miraculously steps in, helps us and corrects us. Isn't He faithful and loving? It was our mistake and wrongdoing and yet He still remains faithful in love, helping us all the way through. God is a Loving God!

Yes our God is generous in love, he gives abounding grace. He is plenteous in mercy to wipe off all our wrongs, to cleanse us from all guilt and purify us from sins. Many times we have violated His love by our evil doings, but our God graciously steps in and renews us with new life.

As a supplication, can we confess "God, soak us in your laundry, scrub us, clean us, that we may lead a snow-white life. Give us the power to understand the height, depth and breadth of your deep love and help us to experience the love of God every minute of our life and help us to shower the same love on all the people that we meet"

Dear Jesus,  
Help us to be reminded of your love  
Keep our faith active  
Our eyes fixed on you  
For we are more than conquerors  
Gaining victory  
In him who loved us  
For as the heavens are higher above the earth  
So great is your steadfast love toward those who fear you  
Your steadfast love, extends to the heavens  
Your faithfulness to the clouds.

## Times and Seasons - A Reflection



Our Creator cradled all creation in His arms. Light and darkness were divided for us. He set the seasons rolling in with certainty and dignity. He correlated all the forces of Nature with a mathematical precision and set the universe in motion. He set the sun and moon in the skies - gave the earth a global shape to rotate on its axis around the sun, making time 'in days' possible. The earth's rotational axis was tilted, that made seasons measurable. The Supreme Artist crafted Man in His image and breathed into him His breath.

We are the most complex miracle of God who loves us dearly and showers us with His manifold blessings and Presence. We are made to reflect His glory, joy, beauty and purity. Has man brutally extinguished our Maker's dream and purpose? Forgetting our Maker's expectations, have we sullied and damaged His glorious whole, by our selfishness, greed and worship of the golden calves of the world?

The blame game is readily played and we point our finger at our earliest parents, accusing them of having lost Paradise thus unleashing evil to percolate through the earth. Just picture them, freshly made, looking around with wide-eyed innocent wonder. The air was fresh, soft and pure when the predator penetrated this perfection. Yes, paradise was lost. How easy it is for us to say, "I would never have done that." Betray Jesus? Kill a sibling out of jealousy? Worship golden calves? Forsake the Living Waters for a desert without wells? 'Never', we say.

The sad fact through the ages is that man has sought instant gratification of his baser needs. This is more evident in our modern society. Yes, we do belong to a lost world but our Creator loves us with an everlasting love that many waters cannot quench. His eyes never slumber and His heart never ceases to beat with love. We are His bride and He considers it His responsibility to strengthen, restore and cleanse us. He will lift us up to be the sons and daughters of the King. Though we stand in our filthy clothes and with sin-stained hearts, He will present us faultless before His throne of grace without spot or wrinkle, stain or blemish.

Let us stand firm in love and loyalty and defy the whole world to separate us from the love of Christ. One evening as we were driving on the highway we witnessed a bewitching sight. The light of the sun was shadowed by some darkish clouds leaving a lining of light. Three small rainbows appeared in rare hues. Sadly the rainbows faded as the transitory sunbeams passing through raindrops moved away leaving behind dull gray clouds. Let not the loveliness of our Christian graces resemble the fleeting mesmerising charm of the rainbow.

Once a month our church hosts over 80 elders - men and women. Some come down from "Friend in Need Society" and others from places near the church. I was privileged to be invited to share with them some thoughts. It was a lovely hour of Fellowship which consisted of prayer, witnessing, hearty singing, Bible Quiz, Memory verse competition, a brief message and a Bible Reading. It was uplifting to observe their eager participation. What if our cheeks are faded and eyes burn dim and footsteps have grown slow? Hearts are beating merrily and joyfully for our Jesus. One dear elder gently told me, "Whatever will I do without Jesus." "They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green." Psalm 92:14.

There is a time and season for everything under the sun. But we are meant for Eternity. To quote the words of the English poet Robert Browning,

"Grow old along with me  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was made."

As we enter the 'golden' stage of life the fever of life is over, there is time to think, repent and prepare....we cease to worry about the ebb and flow of things, for we have learned to look beyond to the mighty tide of God.

Redemption, like Creation, is dynamic and powerful. Jesus loves us, He looks, He touches us, and we live.

*Usha George*



## **Your Confirmation**

*By Rev. John Stott*

Confirmation is the first great milestone which a baptized and converted Christian passes on his pilgrimage to heaven. Outwardly it may seem just a memorable service in Church; inwardly it can determine the whole course of your life. At your confirmation you are signing on for the Christian race. You are offering yourself in the service of Jesus Christ. Already at your baptism you were signed on your forehead with the sign of the cross in token that in later years you would "not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified and manfully to fight under His banner against sin, the world and the devil". Now at your confirmation you are yourself volunteering for the army of Christ, resolved to be His faithful soldier and servant to the end of your life.

The time has now come for the candidate to make up his / her own mind. You are old enough to decide definitely that you want to follow Christ and belong to Him and, in obedience to His command, serve Him.

It is an opportunity to confirm and to be confirmed, to declare yourself a Christian, and be declared a Christian. Thus confirmed, you are also a full member of the Church, ready to receive the privileges and assume the responsibilities of full Church membership. In being confirmed you state publicly that now by your own choice you are a Christian.

How can we witness to Christ and share in the evangelistic work of the Church?

1. By our prayers. Prayer is the secret of power. We must be regular and spend more time in prayer.
2. By our example. "Let your light so shine before men, said Jesus, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

3. By our personal testimony. Bring a friend closer to God, spend time with him and pray for him.
4. By our Church work. Every member ought to be in one way or the other a Church worker. Prayerfully discover the gift of the Holy Spirit and use it for God's glory.
5. By our gifts. The general level of our Christian giving needs everywhere to rise not only to keep pace with inflation, but also to honour God and help in His work. The freewill offering of our money is a symptom of the joyful dedication of ourselves to Christ.
6. By our service in the community, Christians have pioneered the way in social service. Teaching, nursing the sick, helping the under privileged in caring and sharing.

Every confirmation candidate, by a whole hearted personal commitment to Jesus Christ, may bring honour to our Lord and Saviour by his deepening Christian behavior.

*Contributed  
Jacob Sumithran*



**Bible Quiz No. 82 - October, 2017**

**Based on the Book of Joel (King James Version)**

**Give only 1 reference.**

1. The plague of locusts described in Joel does not include – (a) Palmerworms (b) Galleyworms (c) Cankerworms (d) Caterpillars
2. Joel declared, beat your (a) plowshares into swords, your pruninghooks into spears (b) swords into plowshares, your spears into pruninghooks (c) pruninghooks into swords, your plowshares into spears (d) swords into pruninghooks, your spears into plowshares
3. The place where trumpets have to be blown as recorded by Joel?
4. The valley where the Lord brought all the nations?
5. Which is the valley that will be irrigated by the fountain that comes out of the house of the Lord in the day of the Lord?
6. "the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" Who asked this?
7. Who commanded to rend hearts and no clothing and return to the Lord?
8. Who has to weep and howl?
9. Who was asked to lament like a virgin dressed in sackcloth for the husband of her youth?
10. Who will dream when the Lord pours out his spirit on all flesh?

Kindly send your answers to the church office by 15th October 2017.

*Usha George*

## Kirk News



The Bible says states that The Righteous shall live by faith. (Hab 2:4). As we enter this month we need to be reminded that our faith only makes us righteous in the sight of God. Let us strengthen our faith in Jesus and take a leap of faith in the new month of October'17.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Service</b> | <b>Guest Speakers</b> | <b>Topic &amp; Scripture Portion</b>                                              |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3/9/17      | 6 P M          | Abha Appasamy         | "Favored by God"<br>Proverbs 3:3-4,16:6-7<br>(Healing service)                    |
| 24/9/17     | 6 P M          | Rev Martin Daniel     | "The 3 B's in Exodus<br>Chapter 1"<br>Exodus 1:6-22 (Youth &<br>Koinonia service) |

**House Church** was held on Friday **15th Sept** in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Sanjay Stanley Roberts. then on **22nd Sept** in the home of Mr. Sudir Paul Karunakaran & Mrs. Ann Sudir & on **29th Sept** in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Eric Jeremiah. We thank the members for opening their houses for Fellowship and prayer.

**District 5** met on 3/9/2017 in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Russel Stevenage for Bible Study and Prayer

**Districts 4 & 6** met for a time of fellowship on **9/9/2017** in the home of Mrs. Diana Joshua & Mr. Joshua Paulraj. Their Bible Quiz will continue, from Acts Chapters 11 – 19.

**District 2** met for a time of Bible Study and Fellowship on 9/9/2017 at the RK Eye Centre, hosted by Mr. M. M. Narendranath and Dr. (Mrs). Rajini Kantha Narendranath

**Monday Bible Study** was held on **11th Sept, 18th Sept, 25<sup>th</sup> Sept** on the book of Ezekiel. All are welcome!



**Friday Manse Prayer** was held on **15th Sept, 22nd Sept, 29<sup>th</sup> Sept** with a study on Proverbs.

**Kirk Men's Fellowship** had a Special Program "**Mysteries of God's Creation**" by Mr Rajan Rajkumar on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 and also **Kirk Women's Fellowship** met for prayer and fellowship.

**Kirk Women's Fellowship** have planned a Retreat on Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of October at a resort. The registration fee is Rs.500 per person. Please contact Mrs. Diana Paulraj (98844 66869) or Mrs. Jennifer Pacheco (99622 45709) for more information.

**Evangelism and Missions Movement's Fasting and Prayer** met on the **14<sup>th</sup> Sept, 21<sup>st</sup> Sept, 28<sup>th</sup> Sept** in the SACCE HALL. Please continue to pray for Evangelists, our Missionaries and the life and activities of our Church.

**Thanksgiving Sunday** service was observed on 10.9.17. Many contributed for the glory of God. The Kirk Session wishes to thank all members & regular worshippers for your generous Thanksgiving contributions. We deeply appreciate the work of volunteers who helped in collecting & distributing items. The items were distributed to 19 organisations immediately after the service. **Kirk Youth Fellowship** participated in the distribution of Thanksgiving materials to beneficiaries.

**Kirk Youth Fellowship** Offsite **Catalyst** was held at Pleasant Days Resort, Chembarambakkam on 24.9.17 with the participation of youth from outreach churches.

**Bible Quiz Competition** This year, the Quiz Competition features the Book of 1 Samuel I and will be held on **Sunday, 29th October** after the 9AM service.

The competition is in **2 categories**: School students (classes 1–12) can take the quiz on Chapters 1 to 16; College students and adults can take the quiz on the entire Book. Please enrol in the sign-up sheet in the church office. May the Most High God fill you with His Eternal Word and His promised blessings! (Matt.4:4, Psalm 119:129).

**Monthly Night Prayer** was held on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept** on the theme of Prayer for "Breaking of Bondage".

**Confirmation Classes** were held after the 9am service on Sundays by Pastor Isaac Johnson.

### **Obituaries**

**Mrs. Deborah David**, our member, passed away on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August. The funeral was held on 1<sup>st</sup> September in the Kirk and the burial took place on the same day at West Tambaram Cemetery.

**DR. E.G.R. Solomon**, our member, aged 79 years, passed away on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The funeral was held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September in the Kirk, followed by a memorial service on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, also in the Kirk.

We express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

*Samip Baruah*



### **John's Corner**

## **Hol'y'stic Health**

Read 2 Cor 5 : 17

(Oct. 8th is Healing Ministry Sunday)

Health is God's priceless gift to man,  
Health not of the body alone,  
A healthy soul is ours through Christ,  
Who died all our sins to atone.

Medical checkup sure does help,  
A lot is spent on it by some,  
But free is ours a healthy soul,  
When we with faith to Jesus come.

Thank God for the health you're blessed with,  
Praise Him for restoring your soul;  
Holistic health is ours when we  
Trust Christ is always in control.

Desire Jesus, only He  
Can purify body and soul;  
Heed the doctor but seek the Lord,  
For He alone can make you whole.

*John H. Bala Singh*



Preparing for Thanksgiving Sunday (10th September)



Annual Retreat of the Friendship Club