

# *Kirkspire*



MATTHEW 1:21

DECEMBER 2016

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*Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy*

## What is My Christmas Gift

Giving and receiving gifts happens more during this time of the year around the world than at any other time. Be it between family members or friends or even as charity, exchange of gifts is one of the hallmarks of the Christmas season. So what would you like to receive as a 'gift' this Christmas? What have you planned to give as gift(s) to someone else? New clothes, new phones, new toys or some monetary gift can all light someone's lives but I would recommend or even desire this as THE BEST GIFT OF ALL – CHRIST IS MY CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Mark 8:36 is a verse that can either lift our spirits or scare the life out of people. "What good does it do to a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Our Daily Bread carried this small note on Christmas saying 'This coming Christmas season whether we live in a place of plenty or not, we all can seek unhealthy ways of filling the God-shaped hole in our hearts with gifts, feasts and other material things. But when we look to the Lord for our sense of peace and well-being, He will fill us with His goodness and love. For this devotion, I would like to remind ourselves of the 'gifts' within the GIFT that we can and need to enjoy every day as children of God.

1. The Child who made me His child – John 1:12 says "to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" How can anyone give me a better gift than that? I am a child of God not by natural descent or human will BUT BY GRACE. God is my Heavenly Father and I am His son.

2. The Child who is my Strength – Philippians 4:13 says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". The personal presence and power that the Saviour gives me goes beyond the month of December or the season of Christmas. The GIFT that keeps on giving.

3. The Child who is my King – 2 Timothy 2:12 says, "we shall also reign with Him..." If anyone thinks that the biggest gift from God to man was the first coming of Jesus to earth, they are totally WRONG. The GREATEST GIFT IS YET TO COME. He will come for His own and receive them and we shall all reign with the Lord forever and ever and ever.....

Do you have Christ as the greatest gift in your life? If so, with or without a feast of food, with or without grand clothes and festivities, you have every reason to celebrate this season and in fact, every day of your life. ENJOY THE SEASON WITH THE SAVIOUR, ENJOY CHRIST NOW AND FOREVER. Amen.

## Darwin became a Christian?

When Lady Hope told the world that Charles Darwin, the man behind the theory of evolution, was an ardent Christian, the world was puzzled.

### Madras connection

Lady Hope was the daughter of General Sir Arthur Cotton, the British Military engineer attached to Madras Engineers Group. He was behind the remodelling of Kallanai (Stone Dam) and Godavari Anicut. He was an evangelist. Elizabeth Cotton (Lady Hope after marriage) was an evangelist also and was involved in Temperance Movement against drunkenness.

### Lady Hope's narrative:

He (Darwin) was sitting up in bed, wearing a soft embroidered dressing gown, of rather a rich purple shade. Propped up by pillows, he was gazing out on a far-stretching scene of woods and cornfields, which glowed in the light of one of those marvellous sunsets. His noble forehead and fine features seem to be lit up with pleasure as I entered the room.

He waved his hand toward the window as he pointed out the scene beyond, while in the other hand he held an open Bible, which he was studying.

"What are you reading now?" I asked as I seated myself beside his bedside. "Hebrews!" he answered - "still Hebrews. 'The Royal Book' I call it. Isn't it grand?"

He seemed greatly distressed; he said "the holiness of God" and the "grandeur of this book," looking at the Bible which he was holding tenderly all the time, he suddenly said: "I have a summer house in the garden which holds about thirty people. It is over there," pointing through the open window. "I want you very much to speak there. I know you read the Bible in the villages. To-morrow afternoon I should like the servants on the place, some tenants and a few of the neighbours; to gather there. Will you speak to them?"

"What shall I speak about?" I asked.

"Christ Jesus!" he replied in a clear, emphatic voice, adding in a lower tone, "and his salvation. Is not that the best theme? And then I want you to sing some hymns with them. You lead on your small instrument,

do you not?" He added "If you take the meeting at three o'clock this window will be open, and you will know that I am joining in with the singing."

[Excerpts -19th August 1915 in the Baptist "Watchman-Examiner" in Washington D.C. (Q29/2:70)]

Lady Hope's visit was (possibly) in autumn-Thursday 28th September 1881. Darwin died within seven months of this meeting. The Darwin Family Bible preserved in the Darwin Museum is unmarked except for a backwards pencil tick opposite the first few verses of Hebrews 6.

*JC Thomas*



**John's Corner**

## **Christmas Offering**

**Read Ps 116:12,17**

Christ for us came down at Christmas,  
Our hearts with happiness to fill,  
Though to Him it meant no comfort,  
Save knowing He'd God's plan fulfill.

As we celebrate His birthday,  
This we must always have in mind,  
That He endured much affliction,  
With one sole aim, to save mankind.

Never should our festivities  
So blind us that we fail to see,  
Twas our sin that brought the Saviour,  
And love led Him to Calvary.

With truly grateful hearts may we,  
Our lives yield as an offering,  
To the Babe who's soon returning,  
To judge the world as Lord and King.

*John H. Bala Singh*



## **“Something to eat”**

Time and again, we either rush through a meal or plan out an elaborate ‘menu’. Like it or not, generations might come and go but favourite ‘recipes’ still linger on! And who can forget the innumerable ‘tussles’ or the bustle around the dining tables of our modern day ‘lifestyle’. Just a small ‘recap’ around a table that was set long ago:

Follower: Who’s this person always seated at the King’s table?  
Oh! He’s crippled in both feet!

Leader: He’s none other than Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son.

Follower: But how come he ended up eating at King David’s table in Jerusalem?

Leader: It was all because of King David’s kindness for Jonathan’s sake. Even as a King, David did not forget his promise to Jonathan to show ‘God’s kindness’ to his descendants.

In the midst of it all, young and old, we’d surely remember the voice of our ‘Lord’ that rang out in the beginning, “Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from? Oh! Yes! The question was no doubt heard in ‘Eden’ but the truth just hits us even now, isn’t it? We were free to eat from any tree except the one our Lord himself had specified. True freedom definitely has Godly boundaries of trust and respect.

Over and over again, we’d have read through ‘the Passover’ meal that was to be eaten in haste; Yes it was the ‘Lord’s Passover’. Reflecting the haste, bread made without yeast, bitter herbs and ‘meat’ roasted over the fire were to be eaten the same night the Israelites were delivered from Egypt. The meat of course came from a blemishless one year old lamb that was slaughtered at twilight for each family. Some of the blood was put on the sides and top of the doorframes of the Israelite dwellings and it was to be a sign and pledge of the Almighty Lord’s mercy. They tasted victory as long as their heart was set on the Lord who led, fed and covered them under the shadow of his wings. The Lord’s kindness and compassion never end, “For CHRIST

our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us". And we are called to 'Celebrate' CHRIST our Lord with a difference.

\* There's an Invitation: to celebrate the 'lost' being found as a special occasion. The best robe, ring, sandals and the feast with the fattened calf were ordered to be brought in for the 'lost son'. There is of course 'no' room for bitterness, as the heavenly Father gently reminds us even now "You are always with me and everything I have is yours". How about moving out of wickedness and malice and eating the bread of sincerity and truth?

\* There's a preparation: to JESUS' disciples, our Lord gave detailed directions, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him; the teacher says: My appointed time is near, I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house". So the disciples did as He directed and prepared the 'Lord's supper', but there was 'one' in the room who would betray him. Surely our Lord's body was broken and the 'blood' poured out for many. Forgiveness and acceptance do go a long way when we believe in the name of JESUS. Then how can we fret – isn't every detail of our life planned by his Master touch?

\* There's a dedication: The five loaves and two fish that was brought to JESUS satisfied about five thousand men besides women and children. Earlier JESUS had told the disciples concerning the crowd – "You give them something to eat". Right now innumerable concerns may be literally wearing us out, but how about dedicating ourselves anew and following the Shepherd of our souls – "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit". Of course, as we joyfully follow 'JESUS' our Lord and Saviour, the 'follower' is one day the 'over comer' who is given the "right to eat from the tree of life".

*Dr. Christina Ambrose*

## The Duty of Beauty or The Beauty of Duty through Christ's Eyes in the Christmas Season



Beauty & Fashion are both buzzwords of Today's world. The Beauty of a person attracts us. Beauty has different definitions for each individual and that underlines the statement "Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder". Mother Teresa showed the beauty of Jesus's compassion to a road side sick person when she stooped to pick him up, nurse his wounds, give him a bath, give him a meal, give him all needed medicines & treated him till he was well again. 1 John 2:16 talks of the 3 things of the world – Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes and Pride of Life- which are more to do with the beauty the world gives and should be avoided by every good believer in Christ.

There are 3 lessons which I learn about Beauty from the Bible

(1) God is the Author of Beauty (Outcome) – Beauty is not only about looking beautiful, wearing beautiful clothes, but also beauty in your nature like humility, warmth, goodness, fruit of the spirit & fire for the Lord. When Jesus was saying (Matt 6:30) about clothing the grass of the field and feeding the birds of the air, he was explaining that the beauty of the lilies of the fields is given by God at the right time when it is the season, and about the power of God to create different colors like coloring the field green or painting the sky blue or Heaven constructed with golden streets and pearls (Rev 21:21)

Daniel and friends were plumper and healthier when they refused the King's wine and drinks – it was God who made them handsome and beautiful after 10 days (Dan 1:15). Today's newspapers have more information on beautiful / star studded lives of celebrities who invest a fortune to look young. It can lead to idolatry of beauty in small children & society, forgetting to focus on the God of Beauty i.e. God Himself. Christmas Season can direct our attention to glossy things instead of the God of all these things – Jesus Christ. We need to focus on the author and the perfecter of our faith Jesus – Heb 12:2 rather than beauty by itself.

(2) God wants us to use our Beauty for a Duty (Outlook) – The most beautiful woman in the bible can be quoted as Esther. The modern day definitions of beauty are the prosaic parameters like height, weight, gait and get up, collarbone angularity, cheek bone fitness, taste and charm, hair and makeup, clothes and color. All these were present in Esther and we know the story as how Esther used her beauty (Esther 2:12) to save the Jews from being killed, by seeking King Ahasuerus's favor. Esther must have been beautiful inside her heart too as she prayed and fasted before appearing before the King. Yes, Esther not only had a beautiful appearance outwardly but also inwardly because God looks at our hearts (1 Sam 16:7). I can well imagine today's Esther would have beamed her charming persona, used all the formulae of cosmetology, worn lacy corsets, worn a gold & diamond studded sleek crown, with red nails, red lips, red clutch bags, black berets, a beautiful flowing velvet gown to impress the King (Esther 2:13) and save the Jews and reverse the decree against them (Esther 8:8). Here Beauty did its duty and that's the duty of Beauty for you too to use it for God's glory.

(3) God Beautifies in His Time (Outflow) – King Solomon writes that "God makes all things beautiful in His Time" Ecclesiastics 3:11. This verse reminds me of the story of the caterpillar getting beautified to be the butterfly. At the right time the caterpillar goes into a cocoon form and transforms itself into a beautiful butterfly.

As Christmas comes in – there is the beauty of decoration, beauty of good delicious- eye catching, mouthwatering dishes – all look beautiful. These are good things to do but we need to remember the purpose of Christmas & the sacrifice Jesus did on the cross for you and me. Jesus also got beautified or rather glorified when He died and rose again. God is willing to beautify Himself through us too. Are we willing to? The song of "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me" sums up that question. God restored all wealth, riches, children and family to Job and Job 42:15 states that Job's daughters were the most beautiful in all the land – God beautified Job and his family because of his faithfulness and trust. The last verse of the Book of Job says Job lived out the fullness of days (Job 42:17).

In conclusion – I want to define Beauty as BE-U-T which is Being Under Transformation thru Christ (Rom.12:2).

*Samip Baruah*



**Medical Corner**

## **Nutrition VI**

**“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”**

### **Health Benefits of Pineapple**

#### **Healing and inflammation**

Pineapple fruit contains a proteolytic enzyme bromelain that digests food by breaking down protein. Bromelain also has anti-inflammatory, anti-clotting and anti-cancer properties. Studies have shown that consumption of pineapple regularly helps fight against arthritis, indigestion and worm infestation. Bromelain is currently being used to treat and reduce inflammation from tendinitis, sprains strains and other minor muscle injuries as well as swelling related to ear, nose and throat surgeries or trauma.

Fresh pineapple is an excellent source of antioxidant Vitamin C, which is required for the collagen synthesis in the body. Collagen is the main structural protein in the body required for maintaining the integrity of blood vessels, skin, organs, and bones. Regular consumption of foods rich in vitamin C helps the body protect from scurvy; develop resistance against infectious agents (boosts immunity) and scavenge harmful, pro-inflammatory free radicals from the body.

It also contains small amount of Vitamin A and beta-carotene. Vitamin A is required for maintaining healthy mucosa, skin and is essential for vision. Studies suggests that consumption of natural fruits rich in flavonoids helps the human body to protect from lung and oral cavity cancers.

In addition, ananas fruit is rich in B-complex group of vitamins like folates, thiamine, pyridoxine, riboflavin and minerals like copper, manganese and potassium. Potassium is an important component of cell and body fluids; helps in controlling heart rate and blood pressure. Copper is a helpful cofactor for red blood cell synthesis. Manganese is a cofactor for the enzyme superoxide dismutase, which is a very powerful free radical scavenger.

## **Digestion**

Pineapples, because of their fiber and water content, help to prevent constipation and promote regularity and a healthy digestive tract.

## **Fertility**

Antioxidant-rich diets have been shown to improve fertility. Because free radicals also can damage the reproductive system, foods with high antioxidant activity like pineapples that battle free radicals are recommended for those trying to conceive. The antioxidants in pineapple such as vitamins C, beta-carotene and vitamins and minerals and copper, zinc and folate have properties that affect both male and female fertility.

*Dr. Rajinikantha*

### **Answers to Bible Quiz No. 72**

**(November 2016)**

#### **Based on Genesis and Exodus**

The answers are :

1. 'a' Genesis 20 : 12
2. 'b' Genesis 11 : 27/31
3. 'c' Genesis 4 : 16
4. 'd' Genesis 8 : 4
5. 'a' Genesis 24 : 67
6. 'b' Genesis 25 : 28 / 27 : 7
7. 'c' Exodus 17 : 6
8. 'b' Exodus 4 : 14/17 : 1
9. 'a' Exodus 2 : 3
10. 'b' Exodus 19 : 24

**The winners are:**

- 1. Mrs. Victoria Basker**
- 2. Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam**
- 3. Mrs. Gladys Wilson**

***Hearty congratulations!***

*Usha George*



**Bible Quiz No. 73 - December, 2016**

**Christmas Special**

**Based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke**

**(King James Version)**

**Give only 1 reference.**

1. How does the Bible describe Mary to assure that her pregnancy was miraculous?
2. How did an angel speak to Mary's husband to change his divorce plans ?
3. **True or False :** Mary had no questions about the news of her pregnancy.
4. Fill in the blanks : "Thou shalt call his name JESUS : for he shall save his people from \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_."
5. What child of Adam and Eve became a part of the line of Christ?
6. Name the family that Elisabeth wife of Zachariah belonged to?
7. The first woman who was filled with the Holy Spirit in the New Testament?
8. What agricultural term did Jesus use to describe the soul winners' goal?
9. How many generations are in the groupings Matthew describes?  
(a) seven (b) ten (c) fourteen (d) twenty.
10. Fill in the blank : Mary purified herself "according to the law of\_\_\_\_\_.

Kindly send your answers to the church office by 18th December 2016.

*Usha George*



## The Saint I Knew

"She was small made, had a wizened face, and would walk very fast... pat-pat, pat-pat, pat-pat... her chappals would go. She was immensely humble. A virtue that most saw and talked about. She had another side. She was practical and decisive. At the home and in the broader world, she knew exactly what to do. 'Go meet that bureaucrat, talk to that MLA.' She'd say.

"I knew Mother Teresa and helped her set up her caring home in Hyderabad in the early 80's.

"Mother Teresa had just been granted a generous parcel of land, with dilapidated buildings on it, by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Sri Chenna Reddy.

"Neela D'Souza, Ranjini Subramaniam & I, all bureaucrat wives, helped Mother smooth the way with the Government, and helped the Hyderabad centre grow. Most helpful was Arjun Rao, then the Commissioner of... the municipality. He was instrumental in getting the wall built, essential as all unsavoury characters had used the land as their adda. The wall in those days cost several lakhs, which in today's money, is several crores...

"Mother Teresa inspired us. For example, Nila kept an abandoned child in her own home for several months & then facilitated her adoption.

"I can tell terrible stories, they used to pick these people up from the roads... babies... children who were maggot eaten... women and men, often so brutalized . they were beyond repair... Hair matted... clothes falling apart... sometimes you could barely call them human... The first thing we'd often do was to put them in a tank and hose them down...

"I spent several years, going week after week, helping out... I used to get tins of biscuits, spectacles, bought clothes... for the home...

Sometimes even radios... But no, NO TV's. Mother Teresa didn't believe in Television... thinking it would distract the nuns and workers...

"It was heart-warming and gut-wrenching... "A lady in the home, would keep saying that her brother had a store and a big house and he'd take her back, she had just got lost... On the day before Diwali, Ranjini and I took the old lady and found her brother's house, it was a modest cement house with a ka-ka shop below. The next day, on Diwali day morning, the brother dropped her back. According to the broken-hearted old lady her brother brought her back as he said he had only one bathroom and no one to take his sister to the bathroom..."

"Working for Mother Teresa's home we saw the best and worst of humanity... we saw tears of joy in people picked out of sewers and we saw horror... We saw a woman... a saint who led us by example to be what we truly are... lights."

*Gladys Saldanha  
(Teacher & wife of ex-DGP of Andhra Pradesh)*

*Sent to the Editor & Published in tribute to the lady  
who dedicated her life to serve Jesus who said, "Blessed  
are the poor for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*



## Treasures Hidden

As I scrolled down my Face book account I chanced to see the video of a ten year old autistic boy on my wall. As the little boy's body swayed to and fro I ; wondered what he might have to offer! I was totally unprepared for the power and sweetness of his song as he praised his Lord and Saviour. "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord" he sang and the pure, crystal clear notes brought tears to my eyes. His physical limitations hid a heart in perfect harmony with God. How often is it that we dismiss people because of external imperfections , because of outward appearances and superficial veneers? The all surpassing beauty of Jesus lay hidden behind an appearance that had no beauty or majesty to attract people to him. As He was flogged and scourged His spit stained, blood soaked body hid the magnificence of His Sacrifice and the incredible beauty of His Love!

In our day to day life we often miss out on the inner beauty of those around us. The closed look on the face of our neighbor in church could mask a very shy timid personality. Fear of rejection and ridicule makes a person look aloof and cold. A vulnerable soft nature is often camouflaged by loud aggressive behaviour. The broken body of Stephen Hawkins could hide a brilliant mind. The weak paralysed frame of Joni Ereckson Tada could still be a powerful testimony to the Love and Grace of our Lord, drawing people from all over the world to the feet of Jesus! The range and power of the limbless Nick Vujici's wonderful witnessing is like a magnet pulling men and women of all faiths and religions to our one true Living God.

In our family circles, relationships flounder and become embittered because we are often too busy and cannot take the time or trouble to delve deep into hearts. Inside a a volatile quick tempered, husband could be a heart of gold -a' loyal; caring heart willing to stand by you "in sickness and in health". A rebellious teenager could be masking a heart full of love for you, yearning for your attention and approval.

The bitter words of a complaining young woman could be an unspoken message of longing for acceptance and validation.

How do we bring out the riches deeply hidden in shattered broken 'jars of clay'? How do we expose the brilliant diamonds encrusted in the deep crevices of the earth? It takes a lot of love, compassion and patience to delve into the hearts and minds of people and bring out the inherent, intrinsic beauty within. All of us are created in God's own image and as such will certainly bear some semblance of His greatness. We live in a world of dead-lines and time frames and find it hard to spend time with those who are hurting inside, to patiently listen to them and lovingly bring out their hidden strengths. Jesus displayed enormous insight and love as He looked deep into the hearts of men. He could see beyond the harsh exterior of Peter, the fisherman and see him as a fearless ardent disciple. The promiscuous Samaritan woman was to Him the messenger of His Grace and in Paul the ravager of churches, He saw the passionate apostle who could say, "To die is Christ and live is gain". It is to Him, our gentle Shepherd that we need to turn to for grace and patience, for love and sensitivity to reach out and touch another in love. Mother Teresa did not see the festering sores of the suffering in Calcutta. She only saw the poorest of poor as 'children of God', who needed her care and attention. Is it possible? Surely so. If we can let the Love of Jesus flood our hearts and minds, flowing out to cleanse and heal, peeling off veneers and facades, we too could reveal and expose the rare inner beauty of our fellowmen, lying hidden behind shattered and fragmented images.

*Chitra Bennett*

## Kirk News



The Psalmist writes in Ps 27 "The Lord is My Light and My Salvation, Whom Shall I Fear ". The coming of November reminds of the approaching Christmas Season when Jesus Christ came and spread The Message of Salvation. We thank God for His Gift of Eternal Life, remembering that it is His grace which gives us this wonderful gift and not because of our works or of anything to do with our efforts.

### Guest Speakers

- 6th November 6pm Dr.(Mrs.) Anita Chelliah, our member spoke on the topic ""The Sprinkled Blood that forgives, redeems and heals" from Hebrews 12:22-24 at the healing service.
- 13<sup>th</sup> November 6pm Mr. M.M. Narendranath, our elder spoke on the topic "Barn builder How much is enough?" from Luke 12:13-34, 1 Tim.6:6-12 in the evening Koinonia service.
- 20<sup>th</sup> November 7am Mrs. Meera Ninan, our member spoke on the topic ""The Aroma of Christ" from 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 in the morning service.

**Monday Bible Study** (on Luke's Gospel), **Evangelism and Missions Movement's Fasting & Prayer** (Thursdays) and **Friday Prayer Cell** were held as scheduled.

**Friday House Church** – The hosts during the month were: Dr. & Mrs. D. Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. J. Ramesh Lesley, Rev. Dr. Arul Samraj & Mrs. J. D. Chalcedoney Samraj.

### **District Meetings:**

During the month, District 5 met in the home of Mr. K. Theogarajan & Dr. (Mrs). Devaki Theogarajan, District 9 met in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Janakaraj Thomas and District 1 met at the home of Dr. Benny & Mrs. Susan Benjamin.

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

**An Interactive Session** was held for **New Church members** on **6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016** to welcome all new communicant members and families and invite them to share about the Church and its Mission.

**Kirk Youth Fellowship** went on an outreach program on **13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016** and spent time in Thirupalaivanam by having fellowship with the youth and also teaching them English lessons. Another group went to Gypsy Colony, Pallavaram to initiate Sunday school and teach them about the Gospel. On **20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016** they met after the sermon to study the book of Job and had a time of fellowship and learning. And on **27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016** they also met for the Catalyst after which they distributed tracts and went to Gypsy Colony for a Skit and Songs for the Sunday School there.

**AKCDC Sunday** was held on **13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016**. We thank and praise God for the service and participation of the children of Andrew's Kirk Child Development Centre, of the members for their contributions and prayers Please continue to uphold this project with your prayers and support.

The **Men's Fellowship First Meeting** was held on **13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016** when men came for a time of get together, fellowship and fun. The next meeting is planned on **11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016, Sunday at 11am**. All men are invited and requested to attend this Fellowship meeting.

The **Junior Piano Recital** for children and young adults was held on **19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016**. It was time of praising God through the presentation of the skills of all participants.

The **Kirk Sunday School Christmas Program** was held on **27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016** on the theme "Rich in Christ" wherein various skits titled "Treasures to Heaven", "Jesus is for all", "His ways are higher than mine" along with beautiful choreography and songs were presented by the children through the guidance of the teachers and cooperation

of the parents. Pastor gave an exhortation wherein God calls each one of us to be used for His Kingdom.

**Christmas Sharing Sale is planned for TODAY 4th Dec 2016** after the 9:00 AM service. The theme for this year's sharing sale will be 'Sharing', 'Participation' and 'Praising God'. Everyone is invited to participate in this program and support the Church in its ministry to share our joy of the season and share resources with the less fortunate through this event. All are welcome to contribute through Cash/ Cheque / Credit or Debit Cards.

The **Annual Church Camp** is planned at **Joe's Beach** near Mahabalipuram on **13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017** (Friday & Saturday) on the theme "FOUNDATION". The resource persons are **Rev. Ashish Raichur**, Pastor, All Peoples Church, Bengaluru & **Rev. Paul Asveen**, Country Director, Karuna Bal Vikas. We request all worshippers to **pray, plan** and **participate** in the Camp.

#### **OBITUARIES**

Dr. T.S. Koshy, husband of Susan Koshy, passed away on **4th Nov 2016** aged 86 years. The funeral was held on **7th Nov 2016** at Kilpauk Cemetery. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Please continue to pray for them.

Mrs. Rachel C. Jeyakaran, our member, passed away on **18th Nov 2016** aged 88 years. The funeral was held on **22nd Nov 2016** in the Kirk. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

*Samip Baruah*

Christ is the centre



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December 2016

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (THE KIRK), CHENNAI