

Kirkspire



LUKE 2 : 7

JANUARY 2017

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Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy

Dreams Need Directions



"Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard and I have come in response to them." - Daniel 10:12

Success stories have always been great inspirational tools to lift our spirit, to give hope to the suffering and motivation for the success of others. But what is not often realised is that behind every success story, there is a process, passage of time and personal character modification that eventually leads to the final hurrah called "Success".

As we begin the year 2017, let us learn some key lessons from one of the success stories in the Bible. A man who went from being taken as a slave to a foreign land to one who survived and surpassed all natural expectations and who went on to become the best administrator in the land. His name is Daniel. He was not a man who walked around only with dreams and desires but who sought directions which would set him toward a destiny beyond his greatest dreams. HE SOUGHT GOD.

Here are some inescapable realities of life that Daniel understood and therefore, SOUGHT GOD.

1. Life is full of uncertainties but God is certainly on the throne – Daniel was a well-learned Jewish man but his life was tossed and turned in so many ways that he was taken to the palace of Babylon not by his wish, but by force. Yet GOD WAS WITH DANIEL. Daniel was sure that he could live in any place, under any circumstance, his God being with him, for him and in him. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

2. Life can be lived without boundaries but dreams can be reached only with boundaries – Daniel was living among people who wanted to reach 'success' one way or the other. Personal values and moral code of conduct were not in their plans and decisions. But Daniel was different. He knew that if he would 'set his mind to gain understanding' as against money or fame, if he 'would humble himself before God'

and walk within GOD SET BOUNDARIES, his future was secure. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

3. Life is not about personal glory but about God's glory – Daniel was not only an example to other Jews in Babylon or other Babylonians living around him, his life was an inspiration even to the kings under whom he worked. Nebuchadnezzar sought his own glory, but lived like an animal for a while. Belshazzar lived for his own pleasure, but his death was sudden and swift. Darius lived to please man and for his own honour; he made hasty and foolish decisions. Daniel lived for God's glory. GOD HONOURED DANIEL. "I will deliver him and honour him" (Psalm 91:15)

All of us enter this New Year with dreams, desires and prayers. Let us consciously make this choice today and everyday to gain understanding and humble ourselves before God. We can rest assured that God our Father is with us and will lead us. The Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not be in want. Have a blessed, Christ-following, Spirit-filled, God-honouring year 2017.

Pastor Isaac Johnson

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



Bible Quiz No. 74 - January, 2017

Based on Proverbs (King James Version)

Give only 1 reference.

1. Because of whose blessing is the city exalted?
2. For whom is it glory to conceal things?
3. In whose dwelling is there oil and desirable treasures?
4. Life and death are under whose control?
5. The creatures that march like an army in ranks even though they have no king?
6. What provides atonement for inequity?
7. What does a person who ignores criticism receive?
8. What does he love, who has grace on his lips?
9. What are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body?
10. When does the whole city celebrate?

Kindly send your answers to the church office by 18th January 2017.

Usha George

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



AKCDC Report for the year 2016

November 13th was celebrated as AKCDC Sunday. AKCDC is an acronym for 'Andrews Kirk Child Development Centre' located in the Kirk cemetery at Sathyavani Muthu Nagar, behind Government General Hospital. A shed in the cemetery serves as a tuition centre for children who are poor, helpless and hopeless from different walks of life.

The Word of God in Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Yes, if we don't teach God's love and Jesus of the Cross who else will teach them?

Here, a child is enrolled while he or she is in the age group of 3-9 years and is trained and nurtured till the age of 22.

The objective is to have a fourfold emphasis on the following development aspects:

- Cognitive
- Physical
- Spiritual
- Socio-emotional development

Children enter the premises at 4:30pm every day after their school hours. They are provided healthy beverages on arrival and have a good full dinner before they leave. After prayer and devotion, children are grouped into classes and are helped with their studies by dedicated teachers. Basic needs like school fees, school uniforms, school bags, books and birthday gifts are provided to every child. Education is given top priority.

A programme called MPT which means 'My Plan for Tomorrow' for children above 12 years stirs up special interest in choosing their

respective fields. Our children are talented. Last year, by God's grace, +2 and 10th standard results were very good and students have joined engineering colleges, nursing, arts and science courses.

The slow learners are given special care. Some children are taught music and Hindi. Music lessons are conducted by Mr. Richard and Hindi by Mrs. Mercy. The Annual Sports Meet was conducted on 5th March and trophies were awarded by the chief guest – Mrs. Roselin Johnson.

Teen retreat was conducted by Scripture Union on 20th February 2016. VBS was conducted from May 2nd to May 12th and Mr. Sobitha Kumar was the chief guest for the final day programme.

Christmas celebrations were enjoyed by the parents and children. Children participated in carols, skits and dances. Pastor Isaac Johnson gave the Christmas message. Gifts and biryani were distributed.

A staff retreat was held on 24th February on the topic 'Who am I?' and Dr. (Mrs.) Anita Chelliah was the guest speaker.

Sunday worship services, both morning and evening and Sunday school are being held in the shed area. We are thankful to our pastor Rev. Isaac Johnson and evangelist Mr. Stephen for reaching out to the community.

Rich and poor, educated and uneducated, old and young were caught up in last year's flood. As many of our project children dwell on the banks of the Coovum river, they were shifted to nearby schools. Relief measures by supplying biscuits, bread, blankets, medicines, Tarpaulin and provisions were undertaken. We thank the Lord for sparing the lives of these children despite the severe calamity. We thank Dr. John Henry Bala Singh for providing a new shed.

Our challenges are many – snakes, school dropouts, bad friendships, riots, finances, and so on. But we pray and depend on God's wisdom and move forward in faith.

We thank the sponsors, Compassion International, and everyone who help with funds. We thank Mrs. Kala Dennis our project chairman and all the committee members, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sumithran and Dr. (Mrs.) Anita Chelliah for their timely help.

It's a great blessing to have Mrs. Veronica Mohan as project manager and a team of dedicated teachers who serve all through the year.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Pastor Isaac Johnson, session Secretary Mr. Dulipsingh Thangasamy, Treasurer Mr. Jebasingh Jothi and other session members for their guidance and support.

Indeed, Great is God's faithfulness!

We solicit your prayers for every child's

- Safety
- Studies
- Personal encounter with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Sophia Dulipsingh

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 73

(December 2016)

Based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

The answers are :

1. "a virgin" - Luke 1 : 27
2. In a dream - Matt 1 : 20
3. False - Luke 1 : 34
4. Their sins - Matt 1 : 21
5. Seth - Luke 3 : 38
6. Aaron's family - Luke 1 : 5
7. Elisabeth - Luke 1 : 41
8. Harvest - Matt 9 : 37, 38 or Matt 13 : 30 or Luke 10 : 1-2
9. 'c' fourteen - Matt 1 : 17
10. Moses - Luke 2 : 22

The winners are:

- 1. Mrs. Victoria Basker**
- 2. Dr. Rachel Chacko**
- 3. Mrs. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad**

Hearty congratulations!

Usha George

“Give me this Mountain”

He was a ‘hunter’ skilled with the bow and arrow. With watchful eyes he followed the trail among the fallen leaves in the mountain terrain. Softly and then surely he heard another footstep in that mountain forest. The hunter waited and he was greatly surprised as a young boy approached him. They eventually shared a friendly meeting, “I’m on my way to the castle up ahead” said the hunter. “I’ve heard that the King visits the Castle sometimes,” replied the boy. “I’d like to see him.” “Come with me then. You will see him today.” “I have never seen the King before. How will I know him?” -that was his genuine concern. “It won’t be a problem,” said the hunter. “He’s always the only one in the room wearing a hat.” The boy was very doubtful about entering the castle and it seemed like a mountainous challenge, but as they trudged upward they discovered their common ground. The fresh mountain air thrilled them, the peculiar birds were their point of discussion and the animals lurking in the background were under their watchful eye. Suddenly the Castle loomed in front of them and there was absolutely no problem as they entered in and found themselves in a huge room that was full of the nobility. Every person rose instantly to their feet and pulled off their ‘cap’. The boy then turned his puzzled eyes to the hunter. “Who is the King?” he thought. “It must be either you or me because we are the only ones with our hats on!” And suddenly the truth flashed into the boy’s mind that this hunter was the King. Wow! This King had been with him and given him ‘his’ mountain. Instead of worrying and hurrying our way, making many a mountain out of molehills, how about listening to the voice of JESUS, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom”.

He was a ‘Kenizite’ and hence not a native Israelite because ‘Kenaz’ was an Edomite. But he became associated with the tribe of Judah and at the Lord God’s command he was one of the leaders chosen to explore the land of Canaan. At the end of forty days he too returned from exploring the land. When the goodness of the land was masked by mountainous challenges’ as outlined in the report of the spies, he was the first person to speak up. Surprisingly he silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it”. When the ‘other ten’ explorers of Canaan literally weighed themselves down with their word, ‘we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes’ this person steadfastly chose to

differ. Finding a common ground with 'Joshua' he implored the Israelites not to rebel against the presence of the living 'Lord'. Faithfully he walked for 45 years more and we find him asking Joshua who was dividing the inheritance at Gilgal, "Give me this mountain". (Joshua 14:12) Surely we know who he is: he was singled out by the Lord's commendation, "But because my servant 'Caleb' has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him unto the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it". Faithfully, walking, trudging or may be even falling at times do we continually know who we are in 'CHRIST' – "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

Here is another New Year, '2017' to be precise and mountainous challenges are sure to be ahead. But through the eyes of faith do we see just?

- Mount Moriah or the 'Jehovah Jireh'.
- Mount Horeb or The 'I am what I am'.
- Mount Sinai or 'The Lord who carries on Eagles wings'.
- Mountainous tasks or 'The Glory of the Lord and His presence'.
- Mount Ebal or 'The renewal of the covenant'.
- Mount of Transfiguration or 'The Lord JESUS praying'.
- Mount Zion – or 'Our Lord and Saviour JESUS whose blood speaks forgiveness'.

Wavering and wandering among a maze of mountains, or waiting on the Lord like those who returned from the hill called 'Mount of Olives', the warning to 'watch out' and to 'keep watch' definitely looms large before us. Oh! But wait a minute! Let not our hearts be troubled. Let's not be just caught up with the 'manger' or the mansions above. But let's be comforted and called to dwell on the beauty of the preparation. Our hope is secure as 'JESUS' himself is preparing a place for you and for me. Now working out our Salvation with trembling and fear is a delightful experience. And we'll surely be never out of place, be it on a mountain top or deep in a valley if we don't miss out on the 'A':

P – Peace that only 'JESUS' himself 'is'.

L – Love that only 'JESUS' commands.

A – Alienated from Him still or Reconciled and Alive in CHRIST?

C- Continue to be equipped.

E – Endure and Encourage.

Dr. Christina Ambrose



NUTRITION VII

“ Doctors treat but Jesus heals”

HEALTH BENEFITS OF PAPAYA FRUIT

Papaya plant is grown extensively all over the tropical regions in cultivated farms for its fruit as well as for latex, papain, an enzyme that found wide application in the food industry. The papaya fruit is very low in calories and contains no cholesterol; however, it is a rich source of nutrients, minerals, and vitamins. Papayas contain soft, easily digestible flesh with a good amount of soluble dietary fiber that helps to have normal bowel movement, thereby reducing constipation problems. Fresh, ripe papaya is one of the fruits with the highest vitamin-C content more than that of oranges or lemons. It is also an excellent source of vitamin-A which is required for maintaining healthy mucus membranes and skin and is essential for healthy vision. These compounds are known to have antioxidant properties. Consumption of natural fruits rich in carotenes is known to protect the body from lung and oral cavity cancers. Papaya fruit is also rich in many essential B-complex vitamins.

Fresh ripe papaya also contains a good amount of potassium and calcium. Potassium is an important component of cell and body fluids and helps to control heart rate and blood pressure, countering effects of sodium. Papaya also has copper and magnesium. Papaya seeds have been proven to be a natural remedy for many ailments in traditional medicine, and are used to treat stomach ache and ringworm infections.

Together, these nutrients promote the health of the cardiovascular system. In addition, papaya contains the digestive enzyme papain, which is used to treat sports injuries, other causes of trauma and allergies. Papayas are also a good source of fiber, which has been shown to lower high cholesterol levels.

Promotes Digestive Health

The nutrients in papaya have also been shown to be helpful in the prevention of colon cancer. Papaya fiber is able to bind to cancer-causing toxins in the colon and keep them away from the healthy colon cells. In addition,

vitamin C, beta-carotene, and vitamin E have each been associated with a reduced risk of colon cancer.

Increasing your intake of these nutrients by enjoying papaya is an especially good idea for individuals at risk of colon cancer.

Immune support

Vitamin C and vitamin A, which is made in the body from the beta-carotene in papaya, are both needed for the proper function of a healthy immune system. Papaya may therefore be a healthy fruit of choice for preventing such illnesses as recurrent ear infections, colds and flu.

Having fresh fruit for breakfast is an excellent idea.

Dr. Mrs. Rajinikantha

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

When Insight is the Sight, To Fight the Might of 2017

Currency is Urgency leading to Emergency in the year end of 2016. People are trying to foresee the sea of happenings after Dec 2016. The Blind Man in John 9 said "All I know is that I was blind but now I see". We are like the blind man in 2017 and when we see- we need to see physically as Jesus saw and also see through our heart and mind which is the spiritual sight which I call insight. That's the sight which was received by the blind man in John 9. Insight from the Scriptures today reigns supreme in the interpretation of the surroundings and happenings in our world. **Predictability of Unpredictability** is taking the front stage. Today in the business world the ability to slice the dice in data is respected in individuals because of their ability to predict new things about business. Does that happen today, also in my journey through the scriptures?

(1) **God says Insight is the Sight** - In this time of Chaos, Confusion and Complexity, God is supreme and He reigns in the new year of 2017. We sing that song Our God is an Awesome God who reigns from Heaven above. With wisdom and power and love, Our God is an awesome God. There is thunder in His Footsteps and Lightning in His fists, Our God is an awesome God. This song reveals that He reigns and controls the earth and all things in it. So we can be sure that in the midst of men's chaos, He controls heaven and earth and He can **disrupt the disruptors**. We need to have this insight as our sight to move ahead in the New Year when situations arise **when we do not know what to do**.

Our dependence has to be 100% on our All Reigning Awesome God, on the insight of the scriptures and on the Holy Spirit. Since God is sovereign we need to know that God controls also the authorities as in Proverbs 21:1 "The heart of the King is in the hand of God – so even the heart of the authorities is in the hand of God. In the entire episode of John 9, we see that God saw the blind man, God healed the Blind Man, and God came and comforted and revealed Himself when the Blind Man was thrown out of the synagogue. In fact we are like the blind man. Yes God sees – God heals and God rescues us **anywhere, everywhere, any time, every time**. God reigns in

the confusing situations too and all we need is to call on Him and He will do marvellous things (Jeremiah 33:3).

(2) **God says Fight the Good Fight** – Our God is a God of Peace & Order and not of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). The man who is inspired by the Spirit of God will observe order and decency in delivering his revelations and that is why Paul writes “I have fought a good fight” (2 Tim 2:7). But be sure that everything is done properly and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40). Even when Jesus feeds 5000 he told all the people to sit in groups of 50s (Luke 9:14). Jesus rose early to pray (Mark 1:35). He was disciplined to pray early and seek His Father’s guidance to fight in the day. God must have instilled wisdom in the hearts of the leaders (Moses, Aaron and Miriam among others) as to how to go about feeding 6 lakh men (approximately 24 lakh people with families) in the wilderness for 40 years. And when we depend on Him, yes, God will restore His Peace – because He says – My Peace I give to you not as the world gives, I give to you in 2017 (John 14:27)

(3) **God says My Light is your Might** – God encourages us to be Overcomers by depending on His Light. We sing the song “We shall overcome someday”. In fact Jesus says “You will overcome everyday every moment with me on your side”. As America’s citizens & forecasters were surprised by the election results we were stunned by the demonetization. There has been depression among people and the common man was put to misery through these happenings. God says – in John 16:33- Be of good cheer I have overcome the world and hence you will also be able to overcome the same. Rev 3:21 states that He who overcomes will be given the right to sit on the throne with Him & Rev 3:12 “He who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God” (NKJV). Yes, we can overcome through His Might in 2017.

In conclusion, I want to state that as we enter the new year of 2017, we need to be sure that God reigns and we need to depend on the insight of the scriptures “Be Still & Know that I am God” Ps.46:10. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee” (Isaiah 26:3, KJV) and we will overcome every day every moment when we see what God wants us to see and hear (Matt 13:16).

Dr. Samip Baruah

Yardstick for Smallness

The visiting card he gave me was so small. Had to use a magnifying glass to read the print on the back "The size of this card is proportional to the order you have given to us"

Does your calling card to God also have the same inscription with the word 'order' replaced by 'blessing'?

Barack Obama and his coterie were watching the live video of the killing of Osama Bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Once he was killed by the SEALs, they wanted to confirm the physical size of the dead. One of the SEALs lay beside the corpse and confirmed the height approximately. Obama exclaimed then "Why can't they carry a small one Dollar tape with them"?

Well, the One Dollar shops are the craze in America especially where you can get any item there at \$1 each. After the financial meltdown, a small board adorned one such shop "One Dollar is now \$1.25 due to financial instability".

Luke 21:1-4 " He (Jesus) looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had."

One copper coin, lepta in Greek, is the smallest copper coin in use which the evangelist Mark, for the benefit of his Roman readers, computes in terms of Roman coinage as equivalent to a Penny (Quadrans Roman, Kodrantés Greek) which is equivalent to 1/64 of the daily wage for an ordinary worker.

During the US Presidential debate

Hillary Clinton "I give tithe (1/10)"

Donald Trump "I challenge that ; I give double of it - 1/20"

I was in the Kilpauk Cemetery a couple of years back. Suddenly a white clad female figure emerged from the bushes. I was startled. But I was relieved to see a Bible in her hands. She began introducing herself in Tamil saying she was a prayer warrior.

"Do you want me to pray for you?"

As if she had got confirmation, she started quoting:

"A small prayer would cost you Rs. 100. A small prayer and a short Psalm, it will be double. But if you need a long prayer with Psalm 119....."

Now I was really startled.

J.C. Thomas



John's Corner

My New Year Prayer

Read Josh 1 : 9, Heb 13 : 5, 6

Lord, calm my troubled mind lest I
Grow anxious and begin to grieve,
When events in my life cause pain,
And tapestries of doubt I weave.

Help me to look beyond my doubts
To Jesus standing by my side,
So I when tested do not faint,
But rest assured You're there to guide.

May I recall with confidence,
Your promise never to leave me;
The times I tend to get afraid,
Panic not but trust in Thee.

I know not what the future holds,
As I another New Year face;
All I ask, Lord, is steadfast faith,
To lean upon Your strength and grace.

John H. Bala Singh

Kirk News



Jesus said "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you" Matt 6:33. We need to seek God and His Righteousness from the first day to the last day of 2017 and all things which we need and cherish will be added to us. Wish You a Great, Blessed & Grace Filled New Year 2017. Let us Praise & Thank Him for giving us a fresh new year of 2017.

Guest Speakers

4th December 6pm Mr. S Gabriel, our member spoke on the topic "The Challenge of Living and Outworking Faith" from James 2:14-24 at the healing service.

18th December 7am Dr. Samip Baruah, our member, spoke on the topic "Worship of a different kind" from Matt 2:1-11.

Monday Bible Study, Evangelism & Missions Movement's Fasting Prayer, Friday Prayer, District Meetings & House Church were suspended during December due to the Christmas Season, till the Church Camp which is scheduled to be held in January 2017.

KYF's carol rounds for the sick on 14th Dec. and visit to members' homes for carols on 17th Dec. evening was encouraging to one and all. KYF blessed the congregation with their Christmas Play on 11th Dec. Praise God for the commitment and enthusiasm of the youth as they continue to enrich the church through their participation in ministry.

The Men's Fellowship & Women's Fellowship groups organised a Christmas Get Together on the same day, followed by Luncheon fellowship and fun. The next meeting of the Men's Fellowship is planned in the 3rd week of January. It was a time of learning from one another. All men and women are invited and requested to attend the respective Fellowship meetings.

Christmas Sharing Sale happened on 4th Dec 2016 under the theme 'Sharing', 'Participation' and 'Praising God'. Everyone participated in this major event and we thank the Lord for His abundant blessings

and also for everyone who contributed generously. The collection peaked at Rs.18.39 lacs through God's grace and mercy. The proceeds of the sale will be used for distribution among missionary organizations, orphanages, homes for the destitute, and other outreach missions around our city.

Special Christmas Programs held during the month of December 2016

Date	Time	Details of the Program
1 st Dec	10:30am	Visit to FINS by KWF
3 rd Dec	5pm	Swamidasapuram Christmas Celebration
9 th Dec	11 am	R.M.D.C.C. Christmas Celebration
10 th Dec	11am & 5pm	Asha Trust & Awarivakkam Church
11 th Dec	11am	Men's Fellowship / Women's Fellowship, Gifts for lepers.
11 th Dec	4pm / 6pm	Balaramapuram / Kosapur
11 th Dec	7:30pm	Campfire
13 th Dec	3pm	Friendship Club
14 th Dec	4pm	Visit to TB Hospital to pray for the patients & distribute fruits.
17 th Dec	10:30 am, 3pm & 6pm	Thirupalaivanam , Karanodai Village Project & AKCDC
18 th Dec	6pm	Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols
20 th Dec	11am 6pm	Christmas Get Together for the Elderly & Gypsy Colony Christmas Celebration
24 th Dec	4pm	Kilkuppam Church

St Andrew's Church Hindi Fellowship & FMPB plan to have Hindi Christmas Program TODAY from 4 to 6 pm. This is a great opportunity to invite your Hindi speaking friends and neighbours to share God's Love with them during this Festive Season. Request each one of you to remember this Ministry in your prayers.

ANNUAL CHURCH CAMP – 2017.

Dates: 13th & 14th January 2017(Friday & Saturday)

Venue: Joe Beach near Mahabalipuram.

Theme and Topics: Sessions are planned on the Theme "FOUNDATIONS", and various interesting topics such as "The Nature of God", "Salvation", "Assurance of Salvation and Forgiveness", "Overcoming Temptation", "The Work and Ministry of the Holy Spirit", "Prayer and God's Word" and "God's Purpose for Your Life", each being a foundation stone in the building up of our life of faith and witness.

Resource Persons: Rev. Ashish Raichur, Pastor, All Peoples' Church, Bengaluru. Rev. Paul Asveen, Country Director, Karuna Bal Vikas.

PS: Separate sessions similar to Sunday school syllabus are being arranged by people having expertise in handling children's groups during the camp.

OBITUARY

Miss Myrtle Dueman, our member, passed away on Sunday, 4th Dec. aged 90 years. The funeral was held in the Kirk on Monday, 5th Dec. We express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

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



new beginnings

God is with you – no matter what life brings
Joshua 1:9

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January 2017

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