

Kirkspire



Acts 2:17-18

MAY & JUNE 2017

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Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy

Word from the Pastor



The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. (Proverbs 22:9)

It is a man-made problem but there is a God-made solution. Every 2nd Sunday in June, we celebrate Village Project Sunday in our church. I am thankful to God and to the faithful pioneers of this arm of the church ministry outside the church premises. As much as we are pouring our efforts and resources in reaching out to those in need around us, let us be honest about one thing. It is God who has taken us there and there is a God-made plan that we should daily strive to follow. What are some of the things that will help us all to keep this outreach work purposeful, powerful and progressive!

1. Stewardship is essential in ownership: This is a principle that can be relevant in every aspect of our lives. It can be about any business that God has entrusted to you or any resource that God has given to you or it can even be about God placing us as a church among the poor and the suffering. Those to whom we are called to serve may not know about 'Jehovah' or about the Bible. Yet our approach to serve the people with love, graciousness and kindness will help them understand that we are stewards of a God of love, mercy and grace.

2. Dignity to Humanity: If there is one thing that I read and feel about the suffering of the poor and the marginalized it is that, in many cases, the poor are not treated with dignity and respect. The bible uses words like lepers, beggars etc. only for the readers to know about their condition. I don't see anywhere in the Bible that God treated them with any level of inferiority than those with wealth and power.

If only our children can be taught to treat the poor with kindness and even when giving to the poor with love in their hearts and perhaps a smile, how good that would be.

3. Poverty is not for Eternity: Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I shall return (Job 1:21). How true it is about the simple truth of life. It is said about the end of the life of Alexander the Great, that he had asked his soldiers to place him in a coffin and ensure that his hands were left hanging outside. It was his way of showing that after all the accomplishments in this world, he still went away empty-handed. Remember the example of 'Lazarus' who was raised to heavenly glory. God differentiates people into two groups based on

only one qualification. Righteous or wicked (Rev 22:14-16). Lepers, beggars, servants, homeless live in suffering but only for this life. But those who live and die without Jesus in their hearts suffer for all eternity.

Let us continue to be stewards of God's work, treating everyone with dignity and respect, always being prepared and preparing others for 'that home' where there will be no homeless, no poor, no beggars.

Rev. Isaac Johnson

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 77

(April 2017)

Based on the book of Lamentations

The answers are :

1. 'Solitary' -- 1:1
2. 'A' beauty -- 1:6
3. True -- 2:7
4. 'Cruel' -- 4:3
5. The daughter of Zion -- 2:8
6. 'b" there may be hope -- 3:29
7. 'mercies' -- 3:22
8. 'd' all of the above -- 1:4
9. 'days' 'old' -- 5:21
10. 'great' -- 3:23

The winners are:

1. Mrs. Gladys Wilson
2. Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam
3. Peace Rani Sudhakar
4. Dr. Rachel Chacko
5. Mrs. Suguna Joseph
6. Mr. Russel Sterenage
7. Mrs. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad
8. Mrs. Snehalatha Bright
9. Mrs. Aruna Asir
10. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss
11. Mrs. Victoria Basker

Hearty congratulations!

Usha George

Jesus and the Resurrection

“Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God saying, ‘Certainly this was a righteous man’ “ Luke 23:47. “Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said, ‘Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it.’ “ John 19:23,24. And the lot went to the centurion. On these verses was built up the story “The Robe” by Lloyd C. Douglas and later the movie, which traced the robe, the possession of which led the centurion to become a follower of Jesus, in the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor that followed.

When one reads the account of the crucifixion and the resurrection, the Bible narrative reads like a thriller – the resurrection transforming ordinary fisher folk into fearless dynamic personalities, witnessing that death was not the end of life, but a door to eternal life for those who had faith in Jesus, the Son of God. One by one, the apostles carried the message and were cut down. But out of the blood of martyrs sprang up people, who carried on the message of repentance, remission of sins and the gift of eternal life.

What of us in the 21st century? We have all had conversion experiences. One way or the other we have endeavoured to follow Jesus, particularly in the first flush of trust and obedience. But sad to say, as the years wear on, we do not see the imminent second coming of Jesus which we expected. We become lax, our family concerns take the upper hand. We become involved in the marriages of our children, illnesses of our family members, disappointments in our careers etc; our hope whittles down to attendance in the church. We soon subscribe to the general ideas of goodness, contribute money to church charities, attend fellowship meetings once in a way, and breeze off to our particular hobbies. We become good people. We are no longer holy people.

Belief in Resurrection means that when we were sinners and could not help ourselves, God in Jesus, took the penalty for our sins – death on the Cross. When we accept that sacrifice, we become His children. We will sin again, but when we confess our sins, God helps us to be holy. This is the good news – the same news that Jesus gave to the repentant thief, that when we die, sooner or later, we shall be with Him in paradise.



Purpose of Life – Part 1

Basic Questions

Who are we? We were not here a century ago nor are we going to be here for the next! Then why are we here for such a brief period of time? Where were we and where would we go? Who sent us and why? **What is the 'Purpose of Life'?**

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' Jer 33:3-4

But will God reveal everything? What we need to know now he has revealed and the rest He will reveal later when we return to Him.

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. Deut 29:29.

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Cor 13:12

God has revealed himself through nature (Ps. 19: 1-6; Rom. 1: 20) , through Scripture, and through His Spirit in these last days. Divine secrets are like a bud. Unless petals open by themselves and the flower blooms we cannot understand and appreciate its beauty. Similarly God has to open our minds to understand the secrets.

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:45-46

So, we will ponder the purpose of life as revealed by God in the Scriptures and try to live by it for our own good. For, if we don't know why we live, then we will not know how to live!

Life is a Journey

We consider our journey of life starts in the 'womb' and ends in the 'tomb'. But the truth is, it is beyond! Following passages would throw some light on our eternity past and life beyond death.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, Jer 1:5

If God knew us even before the conception, we would have been with Him.

'the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. 'Gen 2:7

If breath of God gave Adam life, then the breath that gave Adam life was in God to start with.

'The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4'

It is not Adam alone who got life from the breath of God but even we get it. Man's sperm and woman's ovum or egg are nothing but organic matter (dust) and when they unite at the time of conception, it is God's breath that gives the first cell union the life which later split itself to form embryo and then body! So, we too were with God to start with.

'and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.' Eccl 12:7

So, after our death, our spirit returns to God. In other words, our death here on earth is not the end of our journey of life but the end beginning of the next.

Conclusion

From the above we can conclude that we were with God (Life came from God's nostrils), we were formed in our mother's womb, lived on this earth for a brief period of time and would return to God for eternity. Why should one send another to a place without a reason? We will normally not send any like that and even if we send , that person will surely ask "WHY?" Now, God has sent us thus far! Should we not ask 'WHY'? That would be the 'Purpose of Life'.

To be continued.

M M Narendranath

RED EYE

“Doctor treats but Jesus heals”



Are your eyes RED? Beware!

Many decades ago, conjunctivitis spread as a severe epidemic in Madras (Chennai), and since then is known by this unique term “Madras Eye.”

Epidemic conjunctivitis is a fast spreading viral conjunctivitis due to infection by Adeno-virus. This virus multiplies and spreads in humid and cold weather conditions and every year, occurs in October - November during the monsoon season. In 2006, the epidemic was particularly serious with severe signs and symptoms, due to increase in the virulence of the virus.

The eye is red, lids are swollen, patchy hemorrhages under the conjunctiva, which take a very long time to disappear can also be seen. Watering, irritation, foreign body sensation, mild pain and discomfort are other symptoms. When a person frequently wipes the eye with a handkerchief, or touches the eye often, a bacterial infection also sets in leading to thick yellowish white discharge.

Since this is a highly infective condition, those affected by it must wear dark glasses, stay away from school, college, work place for a day or two to prevent it from spreading to others. Isolate yourself from other family members and avoid sharing the same towels, handkerchiefs, pillows, etc., and wash these items separately. Use sterile cotton / wipes / swabs to clean the eye and then dispose it off carefully. Wash your hands with antiseptic soaps after instilling the prescribed eye drops. Consult your eye doctor immediately and the doctor will prescribe according to the severity and needs of the individual patient. Do not buy “over the counter” eye medications directly from the pharmacy or use the same medication prescribed for another member of the family, since many other serious eye problems can manifest as a red eye. The eye can be red and inflamed in acute glaucoma (a blinding eye disease), Herpes infection, trachoma, allergic eye conditions, injuries and when a foreign body enters the eye. The dictum is “If the eye is red, consult your eye specialist immediately,” for accurate diagnosis and treatment.

Dr (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha

Seven Words on the Cross

The seven utterances of Jesus from the cross, the seven 'Words' as they are known are of eternal significance to those who listen to them, a heroic confrontation of evil inspiring millions the world over.

A kangaroo court convicted him. An irresponsible Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, failed to dispense justice. A belligerent religious establishment feeling threatened by his teachings had incited the fickle mob, ignorant of the truth, to bay for his blood. Jesus realised their moral blindness. Therefore his first words were intercessory: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do," a magnificent negation of revenge, pleading for those who were thoughtlessly evil, unaware of their criminality.

On either side of Jesus two malefactors were crucified for their crimes. One of them railed at him for his apparent powerlessness. The other recognised his innocence and admonished the first man. He asked Jesus to remember him when he went to heaven.

In the midst of his suffering Jesus was able to recognise the man's genuine repentance. Despite his own utter physical helplessness Jesus assured the penitent man, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise," words of comfort from a victim to a fellow sufferer encouraging him.

Jesus looked down from the cross at his mother Mary mutely agonising over the sufferings of her first-born. Jesus' third utterance from the cross reached out to provide for the mother isolated in her grief.

He turned to his cousin John, his beloved disciple and established a new relationship between the two. "Woman, behold thy son,... (and to John) behold thy mother." Out of his loneliness on the cross he was able to perceive the loneliness of Mary and provided companionship for her.

Now Jesus turned towards himself. The bitterness of the situation, the irony of it - where were the countless people who had been healed and comforted by him during his ministry? - made him cry out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" It is the eternal cry of all those who see around them what W.B. Yeats described as a situation in which "the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity." It resonates wherever there is oppression and suffering and the helpless bleed because they have no one to protect them.

The fifth utterance is a brief expression of physical agony in the heat of the afternoon sun: "I thirst." It echoes down the ages when a human being is denied the bare means of sustenance because of man's inhumanity to man.

The penultimate utterance after great suffering is a triumphant affirmation of a task completed, the suffering undergone on behalf of all mankind, "It is finished." These words resound down the corridors of time as each martyr makes the supreme sacrifice for a cause.

The seventh utterance is one of total abandonment to God who is supreme: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Then he died. It is the affirmation of the great truth that all events are ordained by God. Man's role in the plan of God is to submit courageously to the Divine Will. As the great Italian poet Dante said, "In His Will is My Peace."

Jesus reaches out to every man.....

Contributed.

John's Corner



Don't Compromise

(Read Mat 7:13,14)

My friend said with a touch of pride,
'I know how in this world to thrive,
In everything I compromise,
And that's what helps me to survive.

'I've learnt in all I say and do,
It is important to adjust,
Though it may in the sight of God,
Not always be truthful and just'.

I was reminded of Christ's words,
'Broad is the way and wide the gate,
That many take', but Jesus warned,
Destruction is their ultimate.

Our Saviour urges us to walk
The narrow road trod by the wise,
The few, who will find life and joy,
When they with sin don't compromise.

John H. Bala Singh

The Invisible food for Perfect Fasting!

The word FASTING is a term which we come to hear often during the Lenten season. Of course it means only to abstain from food, refrain from eating, deny oneself food, go without food, go hungry, eat nothing, starve oneself. The Church Ministry advises the believers to Fast, Pray and Read Scripture. It says that the physical practice has a spiritual reward.

Fasting is a word which many – I will say the majority – in this present developed modern world, like. I am not an exception to it. Theoretically yes, but practically it does not come easy. To do this, one needs the right understanding or attitude.

What is interesting for me to know is that a great multitude of people join the existing groups of fasting people during Lenten Season every year. Almost 99% of Christians want to follow this traditional practice of spirituality.

Hence I think that we should first try to find the real and meaningful reason for fasting to be able to observe a real and meaningful fasting.

We have to learn to see our context of needs – both in spiritual and physical spheres. As Jesus taught us, we need to ask Him what we lack for our living and He will supply, both for the spiritual as well as for our physical life.

The situation of poverty is acceptable to God. Jesus accepted this when he came into this world. St. Paul expresses this as the “self-emptying” of Jesus (Phil 2:7). He made Himself poor. Though Jesus was the Son of God, he was born in an odd place, to sleep in a manger, travelled from place to place, as he had no place “to lay his head” (Luke 9:58). He became a poor man. In Luke 6:20-21, he teaches “Blessed are the poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God; Blessed are you that hunger, for you shall be satisfied.” Was this an explanation for His poverty?

He knew that the best way to live in this world is to live as a poor person for the sake of God, who will never forsake such persons. The

exodus of the Jewish slaves in Egypt is a clear proof of God's concern for the poor. And for 'FORTY YEARS" He took care of a few millions of people on desert land providing everything they needed, i.e. food and water and shelter also. It was just an example of what God can do. What is impossible for man, is not impossible for Him. It also tells us why Jesus placed His total dependence upon God. This faith and conviction made it easier for Him to fast for forty days and forty nights. (Matth.4:2).

God reminds us in Is.58:6-9, that he has proposed the perfect fasting -the menu is:-

- to loose the bonds of wickedness,
- to let the oppressed go free,
- to share the bread with the hungry ones,
- to bring the homeless poor into our home, and
- to provide clothes who have none.

These lines and their content coincide with Is.61:1-2, which was quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:18-19, as the Manifesto of His ministry. Through this Manifesto He clarified and declared, who He was. And He was the only one who could observe this kind of perfect fasting. This was His life as example for us all.

In Samaria, He demonstrated to his disciples the Purpose of His coming and how He keeps His life under the control of His Father. Thereby he expressed to the world very clearly that His life in this world was a life of the "Perfect Fasting." He observed this fasting, having His "invisible" food, which the disciples "do not know of"

Once we understand this and digest the meaning of this Fasting which Jesus was observing, would it be difficult to follow Him? Fasting for 40 days or even longer would be just a matter of Joy.

I wish you and I could follow Jesus in this kind of perfect fasting.

The only question for us would be: What was that Invisible Food Jesus had?

I want to inform you that Jesus Himself gave the answer: "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work." (Jn.4:34).

Rt. Rev. Dr. Theol. Kishore Kosala

Vacation Bible School 2017 - A report

The Vacation Bible School was held in our Church from 19th April 2017 to 30th April 2017 from 8:30 to 12.00 PM. The VBS theme 'I am Willing' was taken from 1 Chronicles 29:5 – "Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?" A total of 227 children actively participated of which 41 were Asha students and 55 were Tamil students. The children who attended the VBS were from 12 churches in Chennai and neighbouring places.

The children, teachers and volunteers who made themselves available for God were immensely blessed by this VBS. We thank God for His kindness and providence.

For highlighting the importance of the theme 'I am willing,' topics like I am willing to glorify God, to change, to believe, to disciple, to trust, to honour scripture, to surrender, to serve, to witness and to look forward in hope were taught. The morning devotion time each day focussed on men and women of the Bible who were willing to walk with God and the afternoon devotion time the focus was on people of our times who lived their lives for God, covering each of the aspects mentioned above that relate to being willing for God. This was intended to instil in children a deeper connect with each of the topics, which are crucial in our daily walk before God and man.

Children were given assignments to be done along with their parents. 50% of the children did the assignments with their parents and presented the same during the devotion time. The special days observed were :

Labour day – While doing the assignment for labour day, children took up household chores at their homes and were paid for their work by the parents. This instilled in them the value of work and money. The money earned by the students was given for the village outreach.

Earth day – Children looked up the Bible for verses on God's creation and learned about our responsibility to take care of God's creation.

Cleanliness day – focussed on the need for cleanliness in heart and body and what the Bible teaches about being pure and holy.

Prayer day – The children were asked to find prayer points by going through the newspaper. Parents also helped them with this. During

the class time children prayed over these points along with other issues concerning the various states in India and the neighbouring countries- using the map of India

Show and tell day – The children brought items that reminded them of Bible verses, which even included items like grapes, sharpener, salt, compass etc.

Other special days included friendship day where the kids brought in their friends to VBS, Sports day was a day of fun. On Love Feast day children and teachers enjoyed fellowship over lunch and also shared the snacks brought by all.

God was our provider and some of His provisions during this VBS were

- a) We needed two volunteers to do van duty to bring children from their homes to church and to drop them back. God miraculously sent two volunteers to VBS, one of whom was a Dentist who just returned from overseas and another volunteer who turned up just two days prior to the start of VBS.
- b) Due to unforeseen reasons, one of our devotion leaders had to opt out. As an answer to our prayer for a new devotion leader, God sent two people who shared the responsibility.
- c) God also provided the resources needed through 40 donors both in cash and in kind, just at the right time.

The teacher's morning devotion which started at 8am everyday was devoted to the study of The Ten Commandments and also as a time of prayer for each child, teacher and volunteer in the VBS. All programs for the respective day were prayed over and this gave spiritual strength for the teachers and volunteers for that day.

The final day program for 'Asha' and 'Tamil' VBS kids was held on the 28th of April and that for the English VBS was held on 30th April. It was a joy to watch the children recite Bible verses from memory. They also praised God through songs, dance and skits, which were all based on the theme, 'I am willing.'

On May 1st, VBS Family day was held. It was a different experience and a time of fun for children with crafts, discussions and games.

*Ann Varghese
VBS Teacher*



Bible Quiz No. 78 - May-June, 2017

Based on the First book of Samuel (King James Version)

Give only 1 reference.

1. A book that ends with fasting?
2. A judge who judged Israel throughout life?
3. A sacrifice offered by Elkanah?
4. About which city did Saul say that David is trapped because he has entered the town with gates and bars?
5. "Behold I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle". Who said to whom?
6. The Philistines kept the ark how many months?
(a) three (b) five (c) seven (d) nine
7. True or False : When the ark was taken Eli's sons were killed.
8. Who was the King of the Amalekites whom Saul left alive?
9. What was Saul troubled by after the Spirit of the Lord left him?
(a) stinging insects (b) an evil spirit (c) his disobedient sons.
10. Fill in the blank : "Behold, to _____ is better than sacrifice".

Kindly send your answers to the church office by 21st July 2017.

Usha George

Kirk News



David writes in Psalms 19:7: "The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart" (NIV). Yes, In order to be joyful we need to focus on the precepts of the Lord as we enter this new month of June 2017. Are we focussing and trying to learn God's right precepts?

Guest Speakers

9th April 6 p.m. Mr Abraham Mani, Our Elder spoke on the topic "Holy Living" from 1 Peter 2:1-12

23rd April 6 p.m. Mr. Timothy Deepak Paulraj spoke on the topic "Empowered to love" from the scripture portions 1 John 4:7-12; Romans 5:6-11 at the Youth & Koinonia service.

14th May 9 a.m. Rev. V.M. Spurgeon, spoke on the topic "Encounter with the risen Lord" from John 21:1-12

6 p.m. Mr. Ravi K. Martin, spoke on the topic "MAHANAIM: The reality of two realms (Genesis 32:1-2)" from Luke 9:28-36

21st May 6 p.m. Rev. Isac Soundara Raja spoke on the topic "Peculiar People - Unique standard of living from Phillipians 3:1-21

28th May 7 a.m. Rev Martin Daniel spoke on the topic "Obeying God" from Genesis 16:1-16.

9 a.m. Dr Samip Baruah spoke on the topic "Overcoming Obstacles to Bear Fruit in the Workplace" from Luke 10:1-4 & 16.

District meeting District 5 met on 2nd April in the home of Mr. Rajendran & Mrs. Veinu Gnanaolivu

House Church Meetings

House church was held on 7th April in the home of Mrs. Esther Sunita Doss, and on 21st April in the home of Ms. K.V. Saramma. We thank the members for opening their homes in Christian love and fellowship.

Sunday School was closed for summer, with Closing Day on 2nd April 2017.

Monday Bible Study was held on 17th April, followed by summer break. The study of St. Luke's Gospel was done.

Monthly Night Prayer was held on Friday, 28th April from 7 pm to 10 pm. The speaker was Mr. Christian Davidar. In May it was held on the 26th.

Kirk Youth Fellowship A discussion on 2nd April covered the Topic "In what ways does The Holy Spirit speak to us?" The youth participated in the Palm Sunday procession in Tirupalaivanam on 9th April. They also staged a street play on the crucifixion at Onbakkam in the evening. CATALYST youth worship service happened on 23rd April. In the evening the youth conducted the service at Gypsy Colony, Pallavaram.

May: On 7th May, the youth attended the service in Thirupalaivanam and fellowshiped with the youth there. Rev. Paul Anbarasu met young musicians for an informal meeting on the 14th. CATALYST was held on 28th May.

E&MM Fasting Prayer met on 6th April to pray for the church's concerns regarding evangelism, missions, for the church, the nation and the world. This was followed by summer break.

Men's Fellowship met on 23rd April for a time of prayer and fellowship at 11 am. We would like to encourage men to come and join. Please connect with Vivek (9940132323) & Samip (9952085266) for any queries. The next meeting will be in June.

Women's Fellowship met on 30th April.

Good Friday Fasting & Prayer program was held on 14th April 2017 immediately after the Good Friday service. There were seven 1-hour sessions, with Praise & Worship, Bible reading, meditation and prayer in each session. All were blessed through praise and worship & praying for larger issues concerning our country, city and church and also global issues. There were special groups for Youth and Children also.

Witnessing Sunday was held on 30th of April. The church was blessed with numerous testimonies as the recipients of the Lord's bountiful mercies publicly acknowledged His goodness during the services.

Summer Break Monday Bible Study, Thursday E&MM Fasting Prayer, Friday Morning Prayer & House Church will not be held during the summer holidays. They will resume in June with sufficient advance information.

Induction of our new Asst. Pastor

We are pleased to welcome to the St. Andrew's family, our new Asst. Pastor, Rev. Paul Anbarasu, who joined us on 1st April, along with his wife and two children.

After completing his graduation in English Literature, Rev. Paul was extensively involved with the varied ministries and mission fields, starting with the Scripture Union. Among other organizations, he has worked with HBI, Compassion International, Eternus Foundation and RZIM. Most recently, he was with the IJM. Additionally, he is a worship leader and a gifted musician, having been part of a Christian band.

Having worked in urban and rural contexts, he had a passion for pursuing pastoral ministry and commenced work on his M.Div. thro' the Lake View Bible College & Seminary, Kanchipuram. He just obtained his ordination from the Anglican Church of India.

We thank God for directing us in this journey and as Rev. Paul and his family come on board into our church and ministries, we solicit your prayers and support. His prime focus would include evangelism, providing leadership to our outreach churches, working amongst our youth and assisting our Pastor in our Church's worship and mission.

Vacation Bible School 2017 was held in the Church from April 19 to April 30, 2017 on the theme "I am willing" I Chronicles 29.5. More than 200 children attended and were blessed to hear Bible Stories and took part in singing during those ten days. We would like to thank the Core Team, Praise & Worship Team, Teachers and Volunteers who did a great job and made themselves available to be used by God for His glory. Valedictory Function was held on 30th April 6pm service where they shared their learning in the form of skits and songs. VBS Family Day was celebrated on Monday, 1st May 2017 between 9am & 12 noon. It was a time of learning, joy and fellowship for the children and families. VBS was also held in the outreach areas from 27th April to 15th May 2017 and attended by 900 to 1000 students. We want to

thank the Evangelists, Superintendents, Teachers, Volunteers, other helpers for their leadership and commitment. The outreach areas were blessed by the VBS programs.

Testimony from AKCDC! The Xth & XIIth Results of the Children have been praise worthy because 16 out of 17 passed in Xth exam and the highest score was 460/ 500 marks and XIIth Results have been 11 out of 13 passed with highest score of 1009/1200 in Commerce. We thank God and AKCDC staff for their efforts in tutoring the children (with some from difficult family/social backgrounds) and for helping us to play a small part in shaping their destinies. Congratulations to the successful students, with prayers and blessings also for the students who came up short, and for all the families.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mr.Melvin & Neema Ponraj, our members, were blessed with a baby girl, Keziah Melvin Ponraj on Wednesday, 26th April.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Jessie P. Franklin, mother of Mrs. Cynthia Shanthakumari Kantayya, passed away on 22nd April in Pune.

Mrs.Hannah Selvaraj, mother of Mrs.Nalini Simon, our member, passed away on Saturday (22.4.2017), aged 87 years.

Dr. Azariah Selvaraj, father of our member, Ms.Beulah Kavitha, passed away on Monday 15th May aged 64 years. The funeral was held on Tuesday.

Mrs. Chandra Wilson, mother of Dr. Solomon J. Wilson (our member) and Dr.Nalini Manuel (Project Officer, ASHA), passed away on Thursday, 18th May aged 87 years. The funeral was held on Friday, followed by a thanksgiving memorial service on Saturday.

Deth Staldinf died in March 2017 in Australia, aged 89. He was a member of St.Andrew's Church, and served in the choir for a long time. He went to Australia to stay with his daughter. We extend our condolence to his daughter and family.

Mr. Henry Clarke, member of our church, passed away on 29th May, aged 67. He was Mr. Joshua Paulraj's brother-in-law. The funeral was held at St.Thomas Garrison Church on 31st May.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Dr Samip Baruah



VBS 2017



VBS (Tamil) at the Manse