

Kirkspire



Mark 4 : 16

November 2016

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Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy

Word from the Pastor



DON'T WRITE'EM OFF

'When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.' (Acts 4:13)

The World or The World Islands is an artificial archipelago constructed in the rough shape of the world map located *in* the waters of the Persian Gulf. If man can conceive a plan and implement what was once considered an impossibility, how much surer we can be that God can make 'a nobody' into 'a somebody'. The same God of Abram-Abraham, Jacob-Israel, Simon-Peter and Saul-Paul is at work where we least expect it.

Unschooled, ordinary, unqualified, poor, downtrodden, less-fortunate are adjectives used to describe people who are suffering in life in terms of financial and social status. But our God is one who looks at the same group of people and sees 'beauty in ashes', 'pearls in pits' and 'miracles in mire'. It is not the appearance of man that matters to God but those who are willing to put their brokenness into God's hand and He will bring out greatness from emptiness.

As you read these words, what are the things that you have written off as not worth praying for? Who are the people that you think will never change? What are the negative words you are speaking about your own future or of your family? Let us repent for our short-sighted, 'write-off mentality'. As long as Isaiah 66:1 is true and as long as Revelation 3:20 is true and as long as Matthew 19:26 is true, you know that God will not fail you nor forsake you.

As the church celebrates the ministry of Andrew's Kirk Child Development Center (AKCDC) on November 13, 2016, let us see the children, the families and the ministry among these people from God's perspective. Let's learn to re-define the words we use to describe people, situations and titles. The God of Peter and John is still looking for 'anyone' who will walk with JESUS and seeing that NO ONE is beyond the reach of His love. Let's not WRITE 'EM OFF.

Rev. Isaac Johnson

A PARABLE



God became a human being and stayed with us.

There once was a very wise and very good king who had an only son as heir. The son was as wise and as good as his father, and the people loved him and looked forward to his being king. While he awaited the moment he would be made king, the son travelled to foreign lands to prepare himself better.

The years passed and the old king got sick and died. But first he announced to the people that his son was on his way home.

After the king's death many problems arose in the country, because there was no guide to provide a good example. And so the people went to look for the son so he could begin to rule as soon as possible. But they could not find him. They knew that he was to be found somewhere in their midst, but they did not know where. Meanwhile, the situation got worse. Injustices abounded, as did corruption and the spirit of division and competition. And the people longed for the son who had disappeared because they knew that he would free them from their misery.

The search continued, first in the likeliest places, and then throughout the land. One group went to look in the universities, but they did not find him there. But those who went to search became fascinated with the scientific advances that were being made at the universities, and so they stayed there and forgot about the problems of the country and the liberator they were seeking.

Others went to look for the son among the politicians, but they did not find him there. But they became fascinated by power and its possibilities, and so they stayed with the politicians and forgot about everything else. Others sought him in the world of finance, but he was not there either. And they became fascinated by wealth and so remained there and forgot about the rest. Others even went to find him in centres of amusement and vice, and he was not there either.

But they became fascinated with so much pleasure, forgot all about the misery of the people and their awaited liberator, and remained there.

But in one of the poorest neighborhoods of the country there was a poor and simple man who was dedicated to helping the needy and to teaching them to overcome their misery and vices and to be happy. Nobody knew where he had come from. And his fame as a holy and wise man increased. And many people began to be guided by him and to imitate him. And people began to come to him from other places as well.

Everyone loved him and trusted him. And then one day the good man revealed to them that he was the heir and liberator they were seeking and the whole neighborhood believed him. And so the people travelled throughout the country to tell others about their discovery. But many were not interested. They had become totally involved in politics, finance, research, vice, amusement....

The people in the poor neighborhood did not get discouraged. Inspired by their guide and liberator, they continued their work to make life in their country just and loving as it had been before.

Taken from "Music of God" by Segundo Galilea

The Bible teaches that God chose not to give us what we deserve -- we call that MERCY. In addition, He decided to give us exactly what we don't deserve -- and that's GRACE.



We don't need to become smarter materialists; we need to repent of materialism and become smart stewards.

To 'Shoot' lies

Telling a 'lie' is a subtle but the greatest trap for even a mighty warrior. And who can escape its effect and impact for the "tongue is made ready like a bow to shoot lies." The tongue – this little member can corrupt the whole person be it young or old. Putting 'off' a simple, yet fearful encounter at home can sound familiar and go along some of these lines:

Father: Johnny! Johnny! You know - I've just found your continuous assessment.

Mother: Oh! No! Was it hidden among the newspapers? How could you 'lie' Johnny?

Don't you remember what you said this morning?

Liar: I don't remember clearly. O.K. let's forget it. You don't know how scared I am of my Score. But of this you can be sure. I am escaping the teacher's fury – (whispering) Oh! That's because I informed her that Dad's gone out on his all important business Tour.

Mother: Just as an afterthought – I'll try and convince 'Daddy' to go with your story and then meet your teacher, maybe a week later. But Son, let this be the end of your 'Covering –up' tales.

Liar: (Sighs) I've made good my escape – at least for now.

Putting 'away' the things that 'Gehazi' received from Naaman's hand might have looked like child's play for him. But the evil in his 'lie' literally marred 'who' and whose he was. When healed 'Naaman' saw Gehazi running after him, he got down from his chariot to meet him. No doubt, Gehazi Elisha's servant commanded a huge respect because of the gracious hand of God. Gehazi's blatant lie, "My Master sent me to say, 'Two young men from the company of prophets have just come to me from the hill countries of Ephraim; Please give them a talent of Silver and two sets of clothing', was met with a greater generosity from Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept two talents of Silver in two bags. Then quietly putting away his earthly 'booty' Gehazi came and stood before Elisha. But he continued to lie to Elisha's question and said he didn't go anywhere. In the end we read that Gehazi could

not stand in Elisha's presence because Naaman's leprosy would cling to him and his descendants forever.

Putting 'off' our old 'self' with its practices definitely involves shooting down anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language and lying to each other. And putting on the 'new' self is possible only when our life is hidden with CHRIST in God.

- The Magnitude of this Spiritual makeover becomes all the more clearer as "God is not a man that He should lie, nor the Son of man, that he should change his mind". He changes us inside out and our heartbeat now is on things above. Fear of people and compromise led King Saul to disobey the 'Glory of Israel who does not lie' and lose out on his Kingship. Great fear seized the early Church when they heard about the consequences to Ananias and Sapphira who lied to the Holy Spirit. Although the Apostles were persecuted they replied, 'we must obey God rather than men' and fearlessly "day after day, in the temple Courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the 'Good News' that JESUS is THE CHRIST.
- The attitude and gratitude, with which God's chosen people are to clothe themselves, becomes all the as we clearer daily and through the week constantly put on this set of Seven:
 - Compassion
 - Kindness
 - Humility
 - Gentleness
 - Patience
 - Forgiveness and
- Love - Our mindset is not on earthly things. Definitely we don't belong to the 'liar' and 'Father of lies' for when he lies he speaks his native language. Confidently and resting on the finished work on the Cross we are to wait for the coming again of our Lord JESUS CHRIST and not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecies, reports or letters. But the 'one' question that cannot be shot down 'lightly' is of course 'Are our names written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb that was slain before the creation of the World'?

Dr. Christina Ambrose



See you on Nakba

We were in the swelling crowd in Washington DC on 4th July to watch the American Independence day parade. Through the crowd, a group of twenty or so people of all ages wriggled to distribute pamphlets. When I took one, the young man in a baseball cap asked about my mother tongue. When told, he took from his big strolley bag a Malayalam CD.

The pamphlet and CD were strange – Jews for Jesus. The “O’ in a word ‘for’ is the Star of David. Well, that is the fastest growing non-Judaic Jewish religion and without a synagogue in over 20 countries.

The strolley had some writings as well “We are Jewish people who believe in Jesus. We want to tell everyone about Jesus the Messiah.”

Jews for Jesus was started in 1973 by Moishe Rosen in San Francisco. Their website is even more vociferous. “Why should you believe in Jesus? Is Jesus the Messiah?”

“Well, honestly, you shouldn’t. That is, you shouldn’t believe in Jesus just because it’s our mission to tell you to or because you want to upset your tradition-gearred mother. You should believe in Jesus if you come to the recognition that he is who he says he is—the Jewish Messiah and the only way for real, inner peace and completion. It’s the best thing that can happen to you as a living, breathing being. It’s the hope of our people, of the Hebrew Scriptures, and the way to true peace and fulfilment. Interested in getting to that point?”

Whatever path you choose —whether through us or elsewhere—we pray you’ll discover the same truth that we have: Jesus is for our people in the greatest sense. He is the Jewish Messiah who has come as our atonement, who wants to fulfil us, and who is God in the flesh.”

Just before plunging deeper into the crowd, a young girl with twinkling eyes said “see you on Nakba”. Nakba is on May 15, the day of Israel’s Independence. “Jews for Jesus” celebrate Jesus as the Jewish Messiah on May 15, the day of Israel’s independence.

Thoughts I Fought & Sought

All of us have fought with our thoughts. I have sought thoughts to focus on the Lord, seek things of above & not of the world. There is an author who writes "Watch your thoughts, they lead to attitudes" and it goes on.... saying finally these lead to the forming of our character and finally the destiny- the saying is elaborated below. Thoughts, most of the time prevent you from experiencing the moment. Thought is an expression of memory and memory being the past, pulls you backward and not towards the present moment. Life is meeting the moment while through thoughts one is meeting life with the past. So how do we control these thoughts and live in the present as the Lord told us to. The whole saying is given below.

Watch your thoughts; they lead to attitudes.

Watch your attitudes; they lead to words.

Watch your words; they lead to actions.

Watch your actions; they lead to habits.

Watch your habits; they form your character.

Watch your character; it determines your destiny.

I have faced enough and more challenges in controlling my thoughts and hence I say I fought my thoughts through the help of the Holy Spirit & God's word taught me 3 important lessons which I want to share

(1) God gives us authority over our thoughts- We sometimes build a prison around ourselves through our thoughts. When we get identified with thoughts, we get identified with the past. We live in the past. Most of us are living our minds. The Bible talks about captivating our thoughts in 2 Corinthians 10:5 where Paul writes "Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." 1 Cor.2:16 states that we need to have the mind of Christ. When we worship and pray – if we are truly worshipping in spirit and in truth – we will be mindful in the words we sing, mindful of the words prayed by the person praying the intercessory prayer. That is what is called captivating

your thoughts through Christ. There are many people whose mind floats in the air & some go off to sleep when someone is praying – this is my problem also & that is what I say as “FOUGHT against THOUGHT”. I have prayed to the Lord & sought the Help of the Holy Spirit to be alert and aware to be caught in the thoughts of the prayer of the praying person.

- (2) **God tells us to cultivate good thoughts** – our mind is like a garden, if you plant good thoughts – good things will come out of us. Jesus said in Luke 6:45 – A good man stores good thingsOut of the fullness of your heart, our mouth speaks. “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8. We need to focus on what is noble in God’s sight. It is true; we can change our lives by changing our thinking—either for good or bad. Yes, I can be caught in thought by seeking noble things which I call “SOUGHT THOUGHTS” of things of above. If we harbor and dwell on negative thoughts, we will act in negative ways. On the other hand, if we harbor and dwell on positive thoughts, we will act in positive ways. What we think about comes about.
- (3) **God says discard thoughts about tomorrow** – Thoughts are a form of conclusion or another form of desire. Thoughts can be our attempt to predict our future. God tells us to be thankful in all circumstances and leave the future to Him. Jesus said “Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself” Matt.6:34. Yes, worry is a sin – He will take care of us whatever be the situation.

In conclusion, let us all remember that even in our thoughts we need to edify the Lord, that’s what is the essence when we say in the apostle’s creed “I have sinned in thought, word & deed” and we need to confess and repent for our sins in thoughts apart from word & deed. Jesus said “even if you have seen a woman wrongly – you have committed adultery” Matt.5:27-28. Yes, we need to remember the above three lessons (a) Take authority over our thoughts through the Holy Spirit (b) Cultivate Noble Thoughts (c) Discard thoughts of tomorrow and depend on the Lord for everything.

Dr. Samip Baruah

Trust and Obey

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thy own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him and he shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6) A verse that we are all familiar with and ready to quote. A verse that is easy to follow when all goes well, but not so easy to follow when things go haywire.

Does crisis bring us closer to God, does it enhance our faith or strain it to its limits? During a recent crisis, the words above kept coming to me. In a desperate situation, it isn't easy to believe that all will be well, that there is a plan and that God will provide. Prayers for healing seemed to fall on deaf ears, prayers for help looked like they were bouncing off the walls. Where was God, why was he allowing so much suffering? What was the plan....no answers, yet in small simple ways and with immense patience, God slowly but surely reveals his plans, in simple everyday miracles. Why did we have a midnight medical crisis?..anyone who has seen ambulances caught in rush hour traffic will be glad to reach a hospital in ten minutes. No small miracle this but God in his infinite wisdom chose the hour. In the age of corporate hospitals and unethical practices, we get a doctor who is like family, who knows our history who can provide care with an informed mind, understanding the patient's psychology. Many years ago we started this relationship with the doctor. It was a chance meeting. We didn't foresee the future but God knew that we would have this crisis, he had it in his plan, he revealed it in the time of crisis.

Random people, neighbours, long time friends, the support systems are endless. Pastors who relate to one's pain, men and women of God, sent to help in small effective ways, some in prayer, some in practical ways, some just to be there. We never make friends to gain something, friendships happen but unknown to us, God chooses our friends, our spouses, he chooses who we will need in times of pain and in times of joy and sends them to us. Instruments working God's miracles.

Not all of us have the same degree of faith, but that's hardly a reason to be discouraged. The all pervasive God augments our faith with that of others. He sends us people to uphold us in desperate times. While we plead and cry and not understand his plans, in the end he does guide us slowly but surely to see the light. Small crises of faith are God's ways of showing us that all isn't lost. It brings us humbly to our knee but will also serve to lift us up and trust and submit to His plans.

**Answers to Bible Quiz No. 71
(October 2016)**

The answers are :

1. Phoebe - Romans 16 : 1
2. From the Word of the God - 10 : 17
3. Seven thousand - 11 : 4
4. Share with them (hospitality) 12 : 13
5. Persis - 16 : 12
6. God gave them over to a debased or (reprobate) mind - 1 : 28
7. Good - 8 : 28
8. Be transformed by the renewing of the mind - 12 : 2
9. The weak - 14 : 2
10. Christ - 10 : 4

The winners are:

- 1. Mrs. Victoria Basker**
- 2. Dr (Mrs) Rachel Chacko**
- 3. Mrs. Leela Coilpillai**
- 4. Mr. Joseph M. Manoharan**
- 5. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss**
- 6. Dr. (Mrs.) Elizabeth Sujatha Prasad**
- 7. Mr & Mrs. Premkumar and Malathy Satya**
- 8. Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar**

Hearty congratulations!

Usha George

Bible Quiz No. 72 - November, 2016

Based on the Books of Genesis and Exodus.

(King James Version)



Give only 1 reference. From the 'Match word' you need to choose from the 'Match group' which one goes with the match word.

1. Match word : Sarah
Match Group (a) She married her half brother Abraham (b) She gave birth to Isaac when she was seventy (c) She first met Abraham under the great tree of Moreh.
2. Match word : Terah
Match group (a) He was the grandfather of Lot (b) He was the grandfather of Haran (c) He was the grandfather of Nahor.
3. Match word : Cain and Abel
Match group (a) Abel worked the soil while Cain tended the sheep. (b) Abel was sentenced by God to wander the earth (c) Cain was sent to live east of Eden.
4. Match word : Ararat
Match group (a) Where Moses received the Ten Commandments (b) Where Moses struck the rock and water burst out (c) Where Noah's ark came to rest.
5. Match word : Rebekah and Isaac
Match group (a) Isaac was comforted by her after Sarah's death (b) She gave water to Abraham's servant but refused to water his camels (c) She refused to leave her family for ten days.
6. Match word : Venison
Match group (a) Daniel's diet for seven days (b) One of Isaac's favourite dishes (c) What manna tasted like.

7. Match word : "Water from the rock"
Match group (a) Aaron struck the rock at Horeb (b) Moses called the place "Meribah" because the people were happy (c) Moses struck the rock at Horeb.
8. Match Word : 'Aaron to Moses'
Match group (a) Nephew (b) Brother (c) Cousin
9. Match word : Nile
Match group (a) Where baby Moses was hidden (b) Was turned to mud by Moses (c) Also known as the Great Sea.
10. Match word : Sinai (Horeb)
Match group (a) Where the Israelites joined Moses at the top to see God (b) Where Aaron was asked by God to join Moses (c) Where Moses was speechless and said nothing to God.

Kindly send your answers to the Church office by November 25th, 2016.

Usha George



Someday my candle will burn low And flicker into night; Will there be then an after glow To guide someone aright?



Prayer is a power which soars on high Through Jesus to God's throne; It moves the hand that moves the world And brings salvation down.

Medical Corner



Nutrition v

“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”

Citrus Fruits

1. LEMONS:

Loaded with antibacterial, antiviral and immune boosting properties, the lemon is also used as a weight loss tool as it is a digestive aid and cleanses the liver. Lemons contain citric acid, vitamin C, calcium, magnesium, bioflavonoid, pectin and limonene which are known to boost the immune system.

Lemon juice, especially, has several health benefits associated with it. It is well known as a useful treatment for kidney stones, reducing strokes and lowering body temperature. As a refreshing drink, lemonade helps you to stay calm and cool. Drinking lemon juice is helpful for people suffering from heart problems, because it contains potassium. It controls high blood pressure, dizziness, and nausea, because it provides a calming sensation to both the mind and body. It is commonly employed to reduce mental stress and depression.

2. ORANGES:

Rich in vitamin C, potassium and beta carotenes, oranges are an ideal source of multiple health benefits. It promotes cardiac health, prevents kidney disease and lowers cholesterol. Oranges are by far one of the most popular citrus fruits.

- Oranges also contain very good levels of vitamin A, and other flavonoid antioxidants such as alpha and beta-carotenes. These compounds have been known to have antioxidant properties. Vitamin A is also required for maintaining healthy mucus membranes and skin and essential for healthy vision. Consumption of natural fruits rich in flavonoids helps human body to protect itself from lung and oral cavity cancers.
- Orange fruit also contains a very good amount of minerals like potassium and calcium. Potassium is an important component of cell and body fluids that helps control heart rate and blood pressure through countering pressing effects of sodium.

3. LIMES:

Green in color as opposed to the yellow lemon and has a bitter/sweet taste, limes are cousins of the lemon and considered two different fruits. Rich in vitamin C, vitamin A, iron, potassium, magnesium and other minerals, limes can reverse the signs of aging, make the skin look younger and are even known to prevent formation of kidney stones. It aids digestion, relieves constipation and has cancer properties.

Being rich in vitamin C, mosambi provides protection and prevention against inflammation and swelling. This fantastic fruit also reduces the symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. Mosambi helps in weight loss. Drinking a glass of lukewarm water with lime juice and honey helps to shed those extra pounds. Mosambi juice reduces the cholesterol level and controls the blood pressure.

Dr. Rajinikantha

"Calm me my God
And keep me calm
Calm in the hour of buoyant health
Calm in my hour of pain
Calm in my poverty or wealth
Calm in my loss or gain."

A 20th Century Saint



John's Corner

Where is the Sun?

Read Isaiah 54 : 7, 8

"Where is the sun?" a little boy asked,
One morning when skies were grey.
And thick dark clouds blotted out the light.
For it was a rainy day.

"It is still there", his father replied,
"It's just that you cannot see.
It's shining brightly beyond the clouds,
Hidden momentarily.

"The clouds will soon pass away, my boy,
And then you'll see it again,
If you wait patiently for the sky
To clear after there's been rain.

"So it is true in life too, my child,
When trials cause much dismay,
You may think God has forgotten you,
But He's watching every day.

"Keep trusting and soon you'll come to learn,
God in His love sends the rain,
To wash our eyes so we clearly see,
He's working through joy and pain."

John H. Bala Singh



Detours

I was working for a very large conglomerate until very recently. In fact it is in the news, these days. I enjoyed the job & everything seemed idyllic, until disaster struck!

A junior staff of mine stole a very large sum of cash and very expensive jewellery, totalling Rs.2.50 lacs. There was much enquiry, discussion & debate. He was dismissed but things got worse for ME! The CEO decided that the loss had to be made good, by deducting the amount from the rest of the staff and me....she refused to go to the police, which should have been the normal strategy, as it would reflect badly on the organisation.

I was deeply disappointed, as I thought it was unfair and beyond logic. I protested as vehemently as I could on behalf of the staff and myself. But the protests seemed to have no effect and the deductions continued. I resigned as I was convinced that it was unjust and we were being made scapegoats. I was deeply distressed and disappointed because of the events that led me to lose my job I questioned God and felt abandoned by HIM.

Months went by and I had not yet reconciled to past events and was unsure why I "lost" my job, and very self righteously thought that I was wronged and victimised!

Meanwhile I was preparing to travel and, one morning, I noticed a large bulge on my neck.....I rushed to the family doctor, who took one look at it and suggested an immediate CT scan. From his look, I feared the worst. I was devastated and again questioned God as to why HE was trying me continuously....all the while lying motionless in that long "tunnel like" scanning contraption. I was very anxious as to how this illness was going to affect my future, family and finances. I must have been in the "tunnel" for 45 minutes, fearful, prayerful, but

very worried. After a long wait the technician came and held my hand and said, "Doctor says, 'nothing to worry about' "....I could not believe my ears and I closed my eyes and took a moment to thank God, our Jehovah Raffa.

All the way home, I just kept thinking "what good would it have been, if I did indeed have a job, but was seriously ill and could not work".

Again, my son who was posted in a South East Asian country, was posted back to India, gave up a very well paying job and opted to stay back in a country where his wife was posted and decided to look for employment there. It was many trying months of desperate prayers and anxiety for me and my husband. But again, God worked wonders and bestowed on my son another good job....All praise & thanks to HIM alone.

All this got me to think about detours in life. We may seem to be travelling on a smooth pathway, but suddenly, for some reason, God redirects us into an unfamiliar area, but the answer is to trust & obey, instead of questioning and slipping into self pity like i did. I have learnt again to trust our unfailing God, He will guide us through all our mysterious detours and lead us where He wants us to go.

Mrs. Asha Mohan



It is only when we let go of anger that we can receive true peace.



Stop looking outside of yourself for the strength to carry on.
Turn to the indwelling presence of Christ.



AKCDC



Christmas 2015



Sports Day 2016