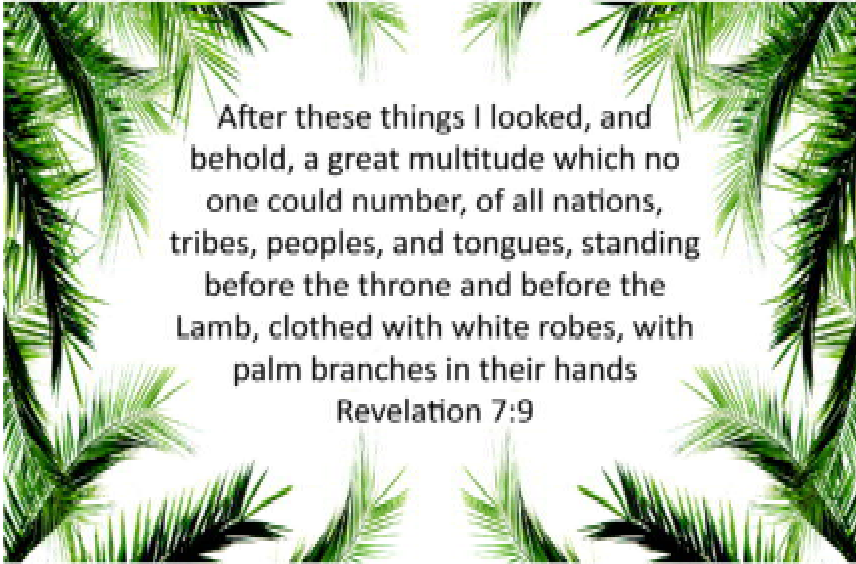


# *Kirkspire*

The Monthly Magazine of St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), Chennai



After these things I looked, and  
behold, a great multitude which no  
one could number, of all nations,  
tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing  
before the throne and before the  
Lamb, clothed with white robes, with  
palm branches in their hands  
Revelation 7:9

*August 2021*

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**Editor : Usha George**



## “Grandeur of Glory”

Greetings to every one of you in the amazing glorious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We have stepped into the eighth month of this year and God is continuing to teach us about the various facets of being the ‘Bride of Christ’. This month we talk about the Diversity of the Bride.

Remember these words uttered by Queen Sheba when she visited King Solomon in his palace:

“It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However, I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.” (1 Kings 10:6-9)

If this is true of a kingdom of this world and of a king who was both mortal and fallible, it would be beyond the wildest imagination of anyone as to how great and marvellous is God’s kingdom and His rule among people of all tribes, peoples and tongues. There are three glorious truths about this Glorious God that we can learn.

1. God is Glorious and He dwells in sinless perfect glory
2. He wants to share His glory with His children for which He is sanctifying us
3. Very very soon, we will be with JESUS forever in mansions that He Himself has prepared for the faithful

In that Glorious kingdom, people of all nations, tribes and tongues

will be present. Human mind cannot comprehend this, sinful mind cannot believe this and fallen mind will not submit to this Glorious, death-conquered, life-giving Saviour. Are you getting ready for His Kingdom? Are you worshipping Him by faith, obeying Him with love and following Him in hope?

Have a blessed month

*Rev. Isaac Johnson*

### **Answers to Bible Quiz No. 116 – June-July 2021**

## **A Shepherd's Quiz**

1. "All we like sheep *have gone astray*" Isaiah 53:6
2. "I am the *Door* of the sheep" John 10:7
3. "Other sheep I have *which are not of this fold*" John 10:16
4. "As a sheep before her shearers *is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth*" Isaiah 53:7"
5. "They are as sheep without a *shepherd*" Matthew 9:36
6. "The Good Shepherd giveth *His life for the sheep*" John 10:11
7. "Behold I send you forth as *sheep in the midst of wolves*" Matthew 10:16
8. "The sheep follow him, for *they knew His voice*" John 10:4
9. "He that entereth by the door *is the shepherd of the sheep*" John 10: 2
10. "They (the harried ones) wander about in *sheepskins and goatskins*" Hebrews 11:37

### **The winners are:**

1. **Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar**
2. **Mrs. Alverna McGrath**
3. **Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam**
4. **Ms. Patricia Patrick**
5. **Mrs. Victoria Basker**
6. **Mrs. Aruna Asir**
7. **Dr. (Mrs.) Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad**

***Hearty congratulations!***



## Memory – The Gift of God’s Love

*“We live to the Lord ...” Romans 14:8*

On a certain day, as a family we were going through a large packet of loose photos, lying forgotten in the corner of a bookshelf. The photos evoked a myriad nostalgic memories of laughter and simple joys, shared moments of togetherness so real and pulsating at that time, now slipped irretrievably into the past. Sad indeed are homes that do not have a single photograph displayed. Cherished faces of loved ones do add a dimension of warmth, life, and glow to a home.

What a priceless gift is Memory! It is defined as a store of things remembered and the faculty by which we can recollect the past. David exalts the exquisite handiwork of our great Designer when he exclaims, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Psalm 139:14

Memories can live on, imprinted on our Memory Walls. The prevailing, pernicious, and persistent Pandemic brought down a series of lockdowns, that rudely disrupted the vibrant congregational worship services. Sadly, we lost some dear familiar faces, fellow worshippers with whom we had raised our voices in praise to our Lord, bent our heads in prayer and heard the Word of God from the pulpit. We had worked side by side in helping ministries of our church. They will remain cherished memories, till we cross ‘the Bar’.

Do we remember the blows of the Pandemic on thousands of migrant workers who had come to our city to eke out a livelihood? Due to a complete shutdown of any work, they experienced the untold misery of hunger, fear, disease, and weariness which means the same in any language. They walked back in the gruelling heat of summer, back to their mud houses and to nothingness. The media made a big noise. Hearts raged, but everything ended not ‘with a bang but a whimper’. The ‘news’ ended like a matchstick in a pail of ice-cold

water. Did the remembrance of this cruel human journey make us aware of the needs of people around us?

Let us build Walls of Memory studded with our luminous beautiful actions. May we endeavour never to collect selfish thoughts and actions, jealousy, pride, harsh words that needlessly hurt; instead memories of generosity, loyalty, tolerance of others and the gift of gratitude! May our prayer be that we may have eyes that see, ears that hear and hearts that can understand and feel.

Our Master's teachings range from Heaven to earth. His words are direct, powerful and easily remembered. Our Master's words need to be hung up prominently on our Memory Walls to be the sole compass for the direction of our lives. This truth was stated by Paul, "Christ's love compels us." 2 Corinthians 5:14. It would then be as easy as every breath we take to offer a cup of cold water to the thirsty, to hold a hand that longs for comfort and perhaps to break our alabaster jar in His service.

In conclusion here is a quote from a disciple of Christ who lived out her faith:

"Today I know that such memories are the key not to the past, but to the future. I know that the experiences of our lives, when we let God use them, become the mysterious and perfect preparation for the work he will give us to do." - Corrie Ten Boom

*Usha George*

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Once a man is united to God, how could he not live forever?  
Once a man is separated from God, what can he do but  
wither and die.

*C. S. Lewis*

Jesus invited us not to a picnic, but to a pilgrimage; not to  
a frolic, but to a fight.

*Billy Graham*

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## Medical Corner

# MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

## ADDICTION V

### DRUG ABUSE

Many people continually use drugs because they want a pleasurable change in their state of mind. Many people use such drugs as alcohol, marijuana and cocaine to gain euphoria (a sense of well-being). This feeling is also called a “high”. In larger doses, these drugs can alter a person’s feelings and perceptions.

Many people start to experiment with drugs out of curiosity, for a thrill, as an expression of rebellion, or because their friends use drugs. Others turn to drugs to escape depression or other personal problems, including difficulties with their schoolwork, job or family. Regardless of why drug use began, large numbers of individuals continue the practice because they become dependent on the drug.

### PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE

It is easier to prevent drug abuse than to stop the practice after it has started. Most people who abuse drugs begin doing so in their teens or early 20’s. Parents of teenagers should establish reasonable guidelines of behaviour and discuss drug abuse openly with their children. Parents also should set an example for their children by not abusing drugs. If a young person develops a drug abuse problem, the parents should seek help from a doctor, a professional counselor, or a community organization that provides such assistance.

### MANAGEMENT

The first step is to determine whether the patient wishes to stop using the drug. If they do want to stop, initial management is to

help them withdraw from the drug. When there are signs of severe physical dependence, withdrawal is best undertaken in hospital, which also enables physical complications such as infections to be treated. Decreasing doses of the relevant drug are given over a period of 1-3 weeks, titrated against objective withdrawal symptoms. Oral methadone is used as a substitute for heroin in patients with opiate dependence. The withdrawal period may need to be extended to several months for some drugs, such as benzodiazepines.

In some cases complete opiate withdrawal is not successful and the patient functions better if maintained on regular doses of oral methadone as an outpatient. The decision should only be taken by a specialist, and long-term supervision requires the patient to continue consulting a specialist at a drug treatment centre. Long-term support is often necessary. Good results can be achieved if doctors strike up a rapport with the patient. Complicated or relapsing patients should be referred to specialist drug misuse services. Support can also be provided by self-help groups and voluntary bodies such as Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous.

## **THE CHURCH**

The church can counsel, help and support the patient and the family members in many ways. Intense prayer support can release the patient from various bondages.

*Dr. (Mrs.) Rajinikantha Narendranath*

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We should never lessen the gifts and talents that God has given us.

*Zig Ziglar*

Work as if you were to live a hundred years,  
Pray as if you were to die tomorrow.

*Benjamin Franklin*

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# **Celebrating God's Goodness**

**RMDCC and Community Development Ministry**

**Report on July 2021 Presentation**

Children are messengers of God. They bring colour and add meaning to our lives. The plight of the little ones in the huts around St. Andrew's Church, made Rev Mackenzie start the Project in 1973 – to provide a nurturing environment for preschool children, left to play on the streets by daily wage earners, practically with no care or protection. The Project extended to include the Community Development Ministry, catering to the underprivileged women in the neighbourhood, enabling them to grow into socially confident, economically self-reliant and spiritually mature individuals. Because of the constraints of the Pandemic, these two facets of the Project were graphically portrayed by video presentation on two consecutive Sundays – 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July, the focus was on the activities of the little ones, the pre-schoolers enrolled in Day Care. Based on the meticulously crafted, vividly descriptive script penned by Mrs. Usha George, the presentation traced the evolution of the Project from a thatched roof shed to a pucca building in lovely surroundings. The Centre was also extended to Balaramapuram in 1990. Functioning from 9.00 a.m to 3.30 p.m, the children are taught rhymes, songs, good habits, Bible stories and Christian values. Due to the upheaval caused by the Pandemic, lessons are now taught online, with our staff rising to the occasion and adapting to the current situation. The tiny tots from the Egmore and Balaramapuram Centres presented a zestful skit and dance, taped in their home environment. Study Centres in Periamet, St. Mark's School and in Balaramapuram provide coaching classes for regular school going children. The students portayed

beautifully "The Children of the Bible". Many congregants who had sacrificially and selflessly worked for the well being of the Day Care Centre children were gratefully remembered. An appeal was made by Mrs. Usha George to share time, talents and finance for sponsoring the children and to build up their Educational Endowments.

The extension of the Project to include and empower the under privileged women in the neighbouring community was well projected on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The women who live in the shadows, generally ignored by society, are trained by the Ministry to acquire vocational skills like Tailoring, Zardosi, making candles, phenyl and leather hand bags. Functional, spoken English classes are held. Regular Mothers' Meetings are organised and the importance of health and hygiene, small savings and dangers of social evils are stressed. Spiritual nourishment is provided with hymns, prayer and the Gospel is shared to many. All these were clearly and vividly presented and reinforced with two powerful testimonies. The Annual picnic, Jumble sale and the gala celebrations on special days were also well brought out with apt pictures. The presentation concluded with 'Our plans for the future' and 'Higher Grasps to reach' by Mrs. Preetha Sundaram.

As we look back, we are filled with awe and gratitude to our Maker and Creator, who has led us so faithfully through the years and we know that we can look ahead with hope and confidence because "He holds the Future in His Hands".

*Chitra Bennett*

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The heart preparing for communion should be as a crystal vial filled with clear water in which the least mite of uncleanness will be seen.

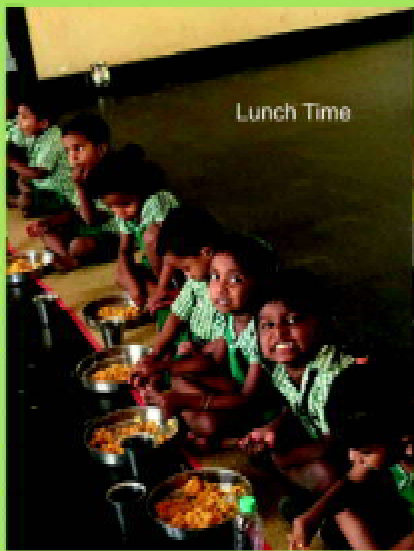
*Elizabeth Bayley Seton*

Come, oh come, with thy broken heart, weary and worn with care.

Come and kneel at the open door, Jesus is waiting there.

*Fanny Crosby*

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Lunch Time



Night School



Nature Walk



Picnic



Scholarship Students



Spoken English



Tailoring



Zardozi Classes



Children at Play



Learning



## Don't Waste It!

'For me as a boy, one of the most gripping illustrations my fiery father used was the story of a man converted in old age. The church had prayed for this man for decades. He was hard and resistant. But this time, for some reason, he showed up when my father was preaching. At the end of the service, during a hymn, to everyone's amazement he came and took my father's hand. God opened his heart to the Gospel of Christ, and he was saved from his sins and given eternal life. But that did not stop him from sobbing and saying, as the tears ran down his wrinkled face—and what an impact it made on me to hear my father say this through his own tears—"I've wasted it! I've wasted it!" This was the story that gripped me more than all the stories of young people who died in car wrecks before they were converted—the story of an old man weeping that he had wasted his life. In those early years God awakened in me a fear and a passion not to waste my life. The thought of coming to my old age and saying through tears, "I've wasted it! I've wasted it!" was a fearful and horrible thought to me.' (John Piper)

There is something that grips us when food gets wasted or when nice clothes no longer fit. It is heart wrenching when we hear of young people committing suicide or a family that's broken due to unfaithfulness. We all hate wastage - be it in the form of garbage or when our valuable time is spent waiting in long queues. But oh! how we waste our time, our lives...

It was Rudyard Kipling who said, "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and - which is more - you'll be a man, my son!" Paul echoes a similar thought: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:16). How is it that some people

accomplish so much in their lifetime and we so little? William Carey, Hudson Taylor, and David Livingstone - what made their lives so different? How do we get there?

### ***Value it.***

Value your time. Value people. Hold God in high esteem. What we value becomes a priority. Live with eternity in view. Let go of petty things and small thoughts that cloud your vision. Make room for the great. Only two things outlast death - The Word and people. Invest in these.

*"Lord, make me know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am."* (Psalm 39:4)

### ***Identify reasons for lack of productivity.***

Whatever it is - procrastination, complacency, laziness - deal with it. Our God is greater than our weaknesses. So ask Him. Ask Him for wisdom, for strength, for motivation. Be more than a conqueror.

*"Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?"* Proverbs 6:6-9

### ***Be faithful.***

Be faithful in little things. Don't underestimate what you have. The deliverance of Israel began with a staff in Moses' hand. Most great projects have small beginnings. CMC started off as a roadside clinic. It could have faded like the other clinics which were started around that time, but it didn't, because of the vision and perseverance of Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder who wanted to build - 'not a medical college, but the Kingdom of God.'

*'Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.'* Matthew 13:12

God is concerned about waste places and wasted lives. He delves right into them and turns a mess into a message. Even if you feel your life doesn't count or you have wasted all these years, God is able to redeem it. That's a promise!



*"For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; Joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody." (Isaiah 51:3)*

May His concerns become ours. May we be called *'the Repairer of the breach, the Restorer of streets to dwell in.'* (Isaiah 58:12)

May we arise and *'rebuild the old ruins, raise up the former desolations, and repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.'* (Isaiah 61:4)

So don't waste it. Don't waste your time, talents, or treasure. Don't waste your life.

*'Only one life,  
'Twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last'*  
- Charles Studd

*"I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you Lord Jesus." - Jim Elliot*

*Dr. Susan Rajkumari*

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Ready to go, ready to stay, ready my place to fill, Ready  
for service, lowly or great, ready to do His will.

*Charles D. Tillman*

The healthy soul is both self-controlled and self-correcting.

*Unknown*

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## ESTHER AMMA TAKES THE LAST BOW

Familiarity breeds contempt, the old adage says. The longer one knows someone, the more likely he or she will discover negative things about that person. But in the case of Asha team it is not so. There are staff members who have worked for 20 years and continue to work as a team with the later entrants. When we look at the reasons the following facts stand out.

First and foremost starting from the project officer they all are believers and love each other with the love of Christ. They do their jobs not as a responsibility to be discharged but are doing it out of the love and concern for the children with special needs. The Bible says in Colossians 3:17 "and whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through Him".

They truly derive happiness in serving not only the children but even their families by counseling and helping out in times of their difficulties. Finally since their love for each other is based on the love of God, they are willing to forgive each other's failures and continue to work in harmony. Team work is the strength of Asha and the staff consider the institution as their "own family," standing by each other supporting and encouraging each other.

Esther Ayah as she is fondly called by everyone has retired from the services of Asha after serving for about 29 years. The other members were in tears as they bid farewell on the last day of her service. Esther Ayah would have loved to continue, but she had to retire due to her age related weaknesses. May God bless her and use her for His ministry as she has been a great source of strength to all in the project through her prayers.

*From The Asha Family*



## A Tribute to Rev. G. Prince Chellappa

Rev Price Chellappa was Presbyterian of St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk) from 2004 to 2006. He is the son of Late Rev D. A. Gregory, who was a CMS Pastor in Madurai. He graduated from American College and completed his Bachelor of Law at Calcutta University. While practicing law, he opted for God's ministry following his father's and grandfather's footsteps. He completed his Bachelor of Divinity from United Theological College (UTC), Bangalore as a Ministerial candidate of CSI, Madras Diocese.

After completion he was sent for Parish training under Rev Nesarathinam at CSI Church, Royapuram. I was then PC Secretary at the Royapuram church. Rev Nesarathinam, a strict and straight person was much impressed with Rev Prince Chellappa and gave a very good report. Rev Chellappa had high regard for Rev Nesarathinam. He had told me several times that it was God given opportunity to get trained under Rev Nesarathinam. He had learnt values and discipline from him.

During the two years when Rev Chellappa was Presbyterian at The Kirk, he served lovingly and was compassionate and the congregants greatly respected their Pastor. Rev Chellappa was known to be strong in his convictions and faced situations with courage. It was evident that as an obedient servant of God he carried out his responsibilities with fear of God and not of men.

Rev Chellappa was a good musician and could play the trumpet and piano. He held many posts in the Madras Diocese as Bishops' Chaplain, correspondent of schools and served in many churches in Chennai.

In spite of all this he was always a humble and simple man of God. Was always grateful for what God has provided. Never demanded

or complained. A faithful servant of God who was caring for his congregation.

Rev Chellappa retired in 2006, after his 2-year service at St. Andrews. Rev & Mrs Chellappa settled in a rented house in Ayanavaram. After his retirement he helped nearby churches in conducting and assisting regular services. Later when he had health problems, they moved near their daughter's place at Padi.

Rev & Mrs Chellappa have three children - two daughters and a son. While both his daughters with families are settled in Chennai, his son Rev Bhaskar Gregory is on the faculty of UTC, Bangalore. When Rev Chellappa's health was failing, he was admitted to CSI Kalyani Hospital on June 20<sup>th</sup> morning. He slept in Jesus at 5:30 pm at the age of 80.

Having served his Master faithfully he entered the Kingdom of God. May God grant his family His strength comfort and assurance.

*Mr. Jacob Sumithran*

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Lord, remind me that You know every thought, test every heart, know every motive, and love every soul!

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Bible Quiz No. 117 – August 2021

## A Fireman's Quiz

King James Version (KJV)

Please give only one reference.

1. What wicked cities were destroyed by fire?
2. To whom did Isaac say: "Behold the fire and the wood!"
3. Who saw a bush burning with fire, but not consumed?
4. Who set fire to the Philistine corn, by illtreating some animals?
5. Finish this proverb: Where there is no wood...
6. Who said that the future Messiah would be "like a refiner's fire"?
7. Who said Jesus would baptise with the Holy Ghost and with fire?
8. On what startling occasion were there "cloven tongues like as of fire"?
9. James says: "The \_\_\_ is a fire".
10. Whose burnt offering was consumed by fire, as proof of the supremacy of Israel's God?

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email [admin@thekirk.in](mailto:admin@thekirk.in) by 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021.

*Usha George*



## John's Corner

# IN CONTROL

(Read Deut 32:39, Isa 59:1, Isa 41:13, Ps 118:6)

How often with anxiety,  
We forget, Lord, to come to Thee  
To solve our problems and instead,  
Grieve, fume and worry needlessly.

Pillar to post we run in search  
Of remedies that are not there,  
Rather than humbly bow our heads,  
And all surrender to Your care.

Lord, give us eyes of faith to see  
It's You who controls everything;  
And when afflicted grant that we  
Fear not but wait on Your guiding.

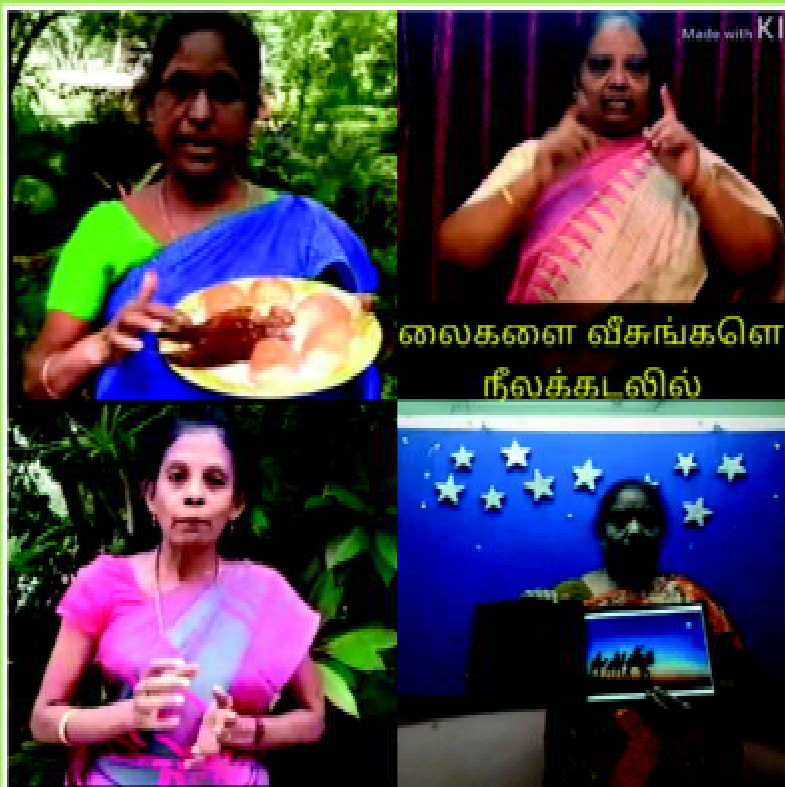
*John H. Bala Singh*

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When our deepest desire is not the things of God, but God Himself, we cross a threshold.

*Max Lucado*

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லைகளை வீசங்களெ  
நீலக்கடலில்

Virtual Classes



Kitchen  
Garden

**RIBER MEMORIAL DAY CARE CENTRE  
AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

