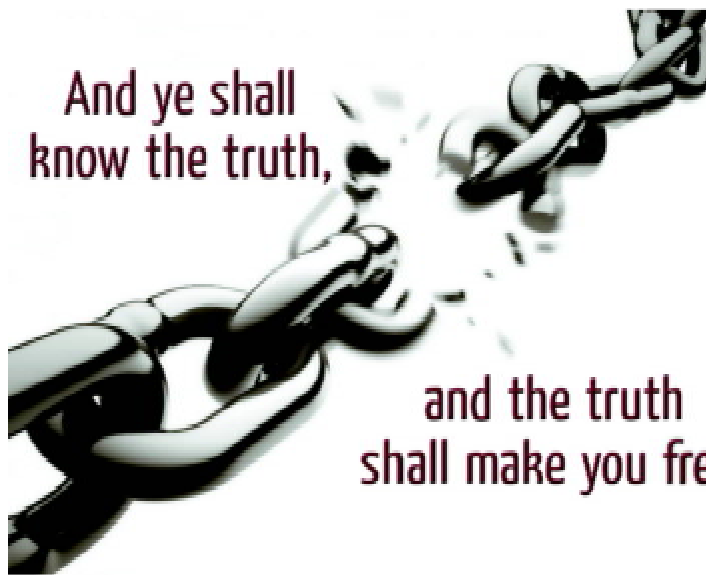


Kirkspire

And ye shall
know the truth,



and the truth
shall make you free.

FEBRUARY 2020

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Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy



Word from the Pastor

We read in Matthew 5:8 where Jesus spoke to the centurion. He mentioned that verily I say unto you. The meaning of the word 'Verily' means certainly or truly. Now many of us would recollect that Verily is a word used in the King James version. If Jesus said it it is true, but he would many at times say verily verily I say unto you.

What was the emphasis of this word, Verily. It means he was not trying to deceive anyone but he was telling the truth. What a contrast it is when you compare his words to the words of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who used and abused their positions to spew lies, certainly not blatant lies but subtle lies and therefore they would deceive people. This month we are studying on knowing truth. The beauty of truth is that Jesus says I am telling you only the truth. Isn't it interesting that Jesus is not only saying the truth, we all know this in John 14:6 where Jesus said. I am the way I am the truth and I am the life.

Truth is not only a philosophical concept but Jesus is the only person in all of history to say not only I am telling the truth, I am the truth. This month we're going to be studying about the importance of truth, walking in truth living the truth and ensuring that not only is our message of the gospel truthful but the messengers of the gospel are truthful. Today, there is no dearth for technological resources, there is no dearth for financial resources, there is no dearth for ideology and ideas, but there is a dearth for truth. Whom do we believe? Whom do the children believe, whom do they follow? And it is important that we as God's children as parents, as Christian leaders, as the church, the body of Christ say we will live by the truth and as Jesus said ye shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.

May God bless each one of us to follow the truth, Jesus Christ, to follow the truth the Holy Word of God, to be the truth as God's living witnesses.

Have a blessed month.

Rev. Isaac Johnson



The Great Invitation!

*“Come unto Me, all ye who labour and are heavy laden
and I will give you rest”. Matthew 11:28*

The sublime words of Jesus Christ resound through all creation. It stirs every believer's heart with a grateful and humble response. Can any other leader in the world ever extend such a royal Invitation? Someone has called the above verse as “the cathedral bell of pilgrimage”.

What is the ‘rest’ He offers humanity? The world in which we live is a troubled one. Misfortunes come in different ways disrupting our normal life of doings and goings. We flounder under the shock and pain of a bereavement, stunned by a bad medical report, injustice, failure in a job, betrayals and the list goes on.

Insidiously Satan seeks to destroy what is beloved and precious to God. Demonic traps lead us to believe that we are our own gods, attract us to glittering false goals, or lead us to think that life is empty and meaningless.

Our Lord understands these vicious attacks on His vulnerable frail children and opens wide His arms to protect us. So, He offers us His peace – peace of mind and peace of heart which we humans are so desperate for.

What Christ offers us is not a life of ease or a relief from our struggles. He, as no other, understands our hearts and what we need. Never will He permit us to shed a needless tear. He who wept at the tomb of Lazarus understood the grief of loved ones. Our Lord has our tears on His face.

The old favorite hymn ‘I need Thee every hour’ was written by Annie Sherwood in 1872. She says the words were ‘ushered’ into her mind and the thought possessed her. When her husband died 16 years later, she understood for the first time why her hymn had “touched the throbbing heart of humanity”. It is under the shadow of a tragedy that we fully understand the sweet serenity, peace and rest offered by our Master. We then wonder how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain!

Sadly, we become negligent and lukewarm in our communion with our Savior. Prayer turns mechanical, sin creeps in, and The Word is taken lightly. We then live dangerously - for without Him we are like sheep without a shepherd, a dry leaf fluttering in the storm.

Just as Mary took the precious ointment in the Alabaster Box and poured her all in sweet surrender to her Lord, may we too cast our reputation, pride, gods, false goals – our all – at His feet. As the dew refreshes the grass, the flowers in the stillness of night, Our Master's Presence restores and refreshes us, filling us with the fragrance of His awe-inspiring Love.

The stirring words of George Matheson encapsulates a heart and mind's total dependence on the Sovereign will of God, and a humble acceptance of The Great Invitation.

“My will is not my own
Till Thou hast made it Thine;
If it would reach a Monarch's throne,
It must its crown resign;
It only stands unbent,
Amid the clashing strife,
When on Thy bosom it has leant,
And found in Thee its life”.

Usha George

Danger within Closed Doors

I waited eagerly for the Witnessing Sunday in December to share a great wonder that the Lord had done, but some seasonal setback in health for some in the family caused us to refrain from venturing out.

The incident happened on Sunday, 24 November 2019. As we were hurrying to leave for 9 am service, I detected some bad smell in the house and I wondered what that was and thought some lizard must be dead somewhere and decided to check on our return and so locked up the house and left on time (08:15 am).

That day happened to be my brother-in-law's birthday and he had invited us for lunch. So, soon after service we went to his home, and left from there at around 03:00 PM and reached our home an hour later, covering some 24+ kilometres. Our daughter, Jerusha did not return with us as she had some other commitments.

On reaching home, I thrust my hand in and switched on the fan and the light in the front room and we all went in including all the aged folks. I was disturbed by the bad smell again and went around looking for a dead lizard behind the doors and windows. The smell was so bad that I sprayed room freshener to ease the situation. The septuagenarians and the nonagenarian have lost their sense of smell, and me, a sexagenarian could get the smell but could not detect what that smell was!

My sister-in-law lit the stove and boiled the milk and prepared coffee for all of us. At about 9 pm when we were having our family prayer, Jerusha returned and within seconds made a beeline to the kitchen; although we were in the middle of prayer she called out, "Mama, gas is leaking!" We jumped to our feet and to our horror we found that half of the cylinder was wet and leaking—like sweat, as the gas hissed its way out of the cylinder! Immediately my husband disconnected the cylinder and we raised our hands up and thanked God for His wonderful and unbelievable protection. We have heard of incidents where there had been severe fire when they switched on the lights or fan because of the spark it generates—but imagine, we not only used the switch in nearly every room, but also lit the stove twice but nothing was ignited! Isn't our God great!

The Lord proved His promise in Ps 46:7 & 11 *The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.*

And, "Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; Psalm 91: 9-10 (NKJV)

And, "The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and evermore." Ps 121:7-8 (NIV)

After the cylinder was disconnected, the 'dead lizard' smell disappeared! I calculated the duration of the gas leak and found out that it leaked for 13 hours! Subsequently when we changed the cylinder we realised that we had lost about 12 days' supply of gas.

All praise, glory and thanks to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Lily Venkatarangam



WHERE?

When The Son of God stood all alone,
Before Pontius Pilate's erring throne,
When He The Lord of power and might
In silence suffered, oh what a sight!

Was there not even a single soul,
To stand for Him Who made them whole?
Where did that sea of people go?
Where did it flee? Where did it flow?

The lepers that were by Jesus healed,
The lips that spoke, that once were sealed,
The eyes that saw, the ears that heard
The dead who rose up by His word.

Where were they... the tumultuous throng?
When Christ faced those awful hours so long?
Friendless and bruised, broken, forsaken
Was The Lamb of God to Calvary taken.

Let's remember that was our debt He paid,
How meek a Saviour! Yet unafraid!
On that precious cross for you and me,
Our Saviour died to set us free.

Sarah Benjamin

The Annual Camp of St Andrews Kirk was held on 15 & 16th January 2020 on the theme "LIVING IN END TIMES FOR ETERNITY" We thank the resource persons Rev C B Samuel and Bro Silas Balraj who led us in learning about the significance and urgency of end times teaching, to anticipate the return of the Lord Jesus as God's own children and change agents in the world, and to order our lives with eager expectation.

We thank the organisers of the Camp and all who participated! We give thanks to the Lord for enriching us in our spirits with timely teaching and for providing us with the warm, wonderful fellowship of our brothers and sisters, from infants to the elderly, including many new brethren! Here's a "real life" account from a participant who thoroughly enjoyed the camp and wishes for more...

The Aftermath

I was looking forward to the camp for months till it finally happened during the Pongal holidays. I believe I was especially excited about it because there were to be so many dear friends with their families at the camp. I imagined much fellowshiping and togetherness, and an early morning Quiet Time out in the open with the Lord, just Him and me, breathing in the crisp January Chennai air. I imagined deep discussions and late night talks filled with wonder and curiosity of what we could discover based on Living in the End Times for Eternity.

The imagination is a fascinating place and creates a bevy of expectations when the reality can be somewhat different.

I didn't get much time with friends apart from "What's up? Lovely camp, isn't it?", and I slept through my Quiet Time, tumbling out of my room in time for breakfast.

This is not to say that I had a disappointing camp. On the contrary, it was beautiful, vibrant, alive and fulfilling. Just not in the ways I thought it was going to be. Really, it just felt like I blinked in excitement and the camp was over. I heard many say, even as we were packing to leave, that they wished we could have stayed longer. Personally, I dragged my feet across the flagstones at the risk of driving my husband crazy. It took me over an hour to say goodbye.

Yes. The Kirk Family Camp of 2020 was packed with sermons, activities, and good food. There was a wee bit of time for fellowship, but not as much as most would have liked, I believe. However, we did get to

mingle with so many new faces. I think it's wonderful that we were able to get together with members of the church who come for the other services on Sundays. So, folk we thought were new members, turned out to be regular worshippers at the Kirk.

It's been nice, since the camp, to come to church and recognise those new faces that are not new anymore, and say, "Hi! How are you?" It fills my heart with a sense of a "bigger" family, and makes me wish to know them beyond the coffee and the greetings.

Now for that *wish* to become a reality.

Sariga Lazarus



John's Corner

Divine Focus

Meditation for Lent

(Feb. 26th is Ash Wednesday)

Read Acts 3:19, 20, Rom 8 : 11-14, Rom 13:14

Worldly though my thoughts and actions,
I still delight myself to think,
I will one day get to heaven,
Whey my aged eyes no more can blink.

But not all the Bible cautions,
Will spend eternity with God,
Save those who from their sins have turned,
And walk the path that Christ has trod.

Look upon my mortal weakness,
Without Your Spirit, Lord, in me,
It is easy to be tempted,
And hesitate to follow Thee.

Guide my steps or else I'll wander,
Show me the road that I must take,
Lest I drift from You, dear Saviour,
And reach at last hell's fiery lake.

May I always fix my focus,
Not on what thrills and soon decays,
But on what endures forever,
And brings true joy for endless days.

John H. Bala Singh

CHURCH CAMP - 15TH



' & 16TH, JANUARY 2020



Resource Persons - Rev. C.B Samuel & Bro. Sailas Balraj



Bible Quiz No. 108 – February 2020

An Anthropologist's Quiz (King James Version)

An Anthropologist is a person who studies mankind

Give only one reference.

1. What happened when God "repented He had made man on earth?"
2. What name is given to the place where God "confounded" the language of Man?
3. What did David say about "the steps of a good man"?
4. Which of the minor prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah in these words: "Behold the Man, whose name is the Branch"?
5. Finish the text: What is man that thou art"?"
6. Who said, "man is like vanity; his days are as shadow that passeth away"?
7. For since by man came death, by man came also " What?
8. What does James say about a "double minded man"?
9. Who propounded this question: "What hath man of all his labour?"
10. Your men shall dream dreams, and your men see visions".

Kindly send your answers to the church office by 16th February 2020.

Usha George

Medical Corner



EMOTIONAL HEALTH

PEACE - 3

"Doctors treat but Jesus heals"

How do we maintain Peace?

1. FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness results in Peace:

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

2. CONTENTMENT

Contentment is the Key to Peace:

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this world*, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." 1 Timothy 6:6-8

3. BITTERNESS

Bitterness destroys Peace:

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice." Ephesians 4:31

For peace in the family, **"Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them."** Colossians 3:19

4. FEAR

Fear takes away peace:

"I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." Psalm 56:3

5. ADULTERY

Adultery Shatters Peace

"You shall not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14

6. WORRY

Stop Worrying:

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" Matthew 6:25

"My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth."
Psalm 121:2

7. JUDGING

Judging causes misunderstandings and loss of peace:

"Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way." Romans 14:13

8. ANGER

Anger destroys Peace:

"A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1

"The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression." Proverbs 19:11

"Loss of Peace is the root cause of many physical and mental illnesses. Apostle Paul says. "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:18

Dr. Rajini kantha Narendranath

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 107 – January
2020

Based on Genesis (King James Version)

1. Garden. Genesis 2:8
2. Jubal. Genesis 4:21
3. Esau. Genesis 27:40
4. Judah. Genesis 49:12
5. Sarai. Genesis 12:14
6. Aholibamah. Genesis 36:25
7. The Spirit of God. Genesis 1:2
8. Jacob. Genesis 33:10
9. Jacob. Genesis 35:14
10. The sons of Heth to Abraham. Genesis 23:5,6

The winners are:

1. Mrs Aruna Asir
2. Mrs Indira Rajanayakam
3. Er Joseph M Manoharan
4. Mrs Peace Rani Sudhakar
5. Dr (Mrs) Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad
6. Mrs Snehalatha Bright
7. Mrs Suguna Joseph Muthumalai
8. Mrs Victoria Basker
9. Mrs Gladys Vedavimali

Hearty congratulations!



Bible Verses About Truth

(Reproduced from BibleStudyTools.com)

Truth is a universal topic that we all seek to know and understand. Throughout the Bible, the importance of speaking the truth is routinely emphasised in keeping a pristine relationship with God. These Bible Verses show the significance of truth in biblical times and our modern day lives.

(All scriptures are from the NIV)

1 John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 4:6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognise the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

1 Kings 17:24 Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Exodus 20:16 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

James 1:18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Proverbs 12:22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Psalms 25:5 Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Psalms 86:11 Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

Psalms 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

Psalms 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

John 18:37-38 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him.

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

1 Corinthians 13:4-6 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE FEBRUARY -2020

1	4				6		2		
			5	9					
3									
									8
				10					
7									

ACROSS:

1. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in _____.
3. Whoever _____ a blessing in the land will swear by the one true God; whoever takes an oath in the land will swear by the one true God.
7. But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognised as one truly sent by the Lord only if his _____ comes true.
9. The King said to him, "How many times must I make you _____ to tell me nothing but the truth in The name of the Lord?"

10. I will _____ Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them says the Lord your God.

DOWN:

2. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is _____ and the true light is already shining.

4. These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and _____ true and sound judgment in your courts...

5. and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and _____.

6. The Word became flesh and made his _____ among us.

8. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to _____.

Praise Ambrose

Crossword - January answers :

ACROSS:

- 1. TRUTH PSALM 145: 18
- 3. INVOKES ISAIAH 65: 16
- 7. PREDICTION JEREMIAH 28:9
- 9. SWEAR 1 KINGS 22:16
- 10. PLANT AMOS 9:15

DOWN:

- 2. PASSING 1 JOHN 2: 8
- 4. RENDER ZECHARIAH 8:16
- 5. HOLINESS EPHESIANS 4: 24
- 6. DWELLING JOHN 1:14
- 8. MYTHS 2 TIMOTHY 4:4

Crossword - February answers :

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CHURCH CAMP - 15TH & 16TH, JANUARY 2020

