

*Kirkspire*

BE READY  
JESUS  
IS  
COMING  
SOON

JANUARY 2020

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*Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy*

## WORD FROM THE PASTOR



### WALKING INTO THE UNKNOWN

*The Lord is your Keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand. (Psalm 121:7)*

I begin by wishing all of you the Year 2020 to be filled with God's daily joy and peace in your heart, God's daily provision for your body and soul and God's protection over your mind, body and spirit. May God unfold His plans in your life, may you walk in His favour, His love in reverential fear and humble obedience to His Word. May you see His miracles in your life and walk in gratitude that every day He gives is part of His miraculous provision. Have a blessed year ahead.

Many of us will recall the closing of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in December 1999, how there was such hue and cry about the world coming to an end and all the panic because of Y2K. Then when nothing dramatic and traumatic happened as we thought, we started planning for 2020, perhaps thinking that's a long way off. Now here we stand in the beginning of this New Year 2020. So, what's next!!??

I have heard so many churches, mission organizations and businesses have 2020 as a deadline or a landmark year for their vision and mission. There are many such visionaries and dreamers who are not alive to see the year 2020. But here we are beginning this brand New Year and what can we expect this year in this world?

5 truths from the Bible that God assures us of:

1. His Sovereign reign will continue – Psalm 90:2
2. He will rule and reign in the hearts of all His children – Colossians 3:15
3. The wicked and their wickedness will thrive more virulently in these last days – Revelation 22:11

4. The righteous will have to swim against the tide, walking the narrow way – John 16:33
5. The End of the World is getting closer by every passing second – 1 Peter 4:7

While you may have mixed feelings as you read and re-read the above lines, God's promise for His children remain unchanged because our God is an unchanging God. Psalm 121:5 is a beautiful assurance that God gives us, saying "The Lord is my keeper". The word 'keeper' immediately will take our mind to the word that Cain responded to God when questioned about his brother, saying 'am I my brother's keeper?'. On the contrary, our Loving Shepherd assures us that every day of this year and indeed every day of our life on earth, He will be our Keeper – during the day (the sun will not harm) and during the night (the darkness will not harm). The celestial beings are under His Sovereign control and so are you and me. Each one of us is dear to God.

I do not promise that you will have no tears or troubles but I promise His tender care over you.

I do not promise that you will not have questions and your faith will not be tested but I promise that the One you believe is faithful.

I do not promise this year to be a bed of roses but I certainly promise that He will carry you in the palm of His Hands.

Have a blessed year 2020.

*Rev. Isaac Johnson*

## BEING THANKFUL TO GOD FOR

### FAITH

1. The Bible in my hand
2. The Christian foundation in the church
3. The joy of Salvation
4. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit
5. The daily communion with God through prayer
6. The teachings from the Bible for daily living
7. The living examples from the Bible that I can relate with
8. The history of the church globally
9. The many martyrs who gave their lives for the faith
10. The missionaries who sacrificially served the Lord
11. The many opportunities to learn God's word today
12. The many books available to answer difficult questions
13. The many meaningful practices in the church that build my faith
14. The opportunity to worship God daily – individually, as a family and often as the church
15. The gift of worship through songs, music etc.
16. The brothers and sisters in Christ who are part of my spiritual nourishment
17. The work of God happening globally both through what is known and in many unseen quarters
18. The miracles of God happening in people's lives that draw many to Christ
19. The weekly manna that comes from the pulpit that warn, direct and encourage our souls
20. The many avenues through which I can be a blessing to others in need
21. The many ministries in our nation that cater to specific challenges in society through the Gospel message (NGO's)
22. Jesus is fulfilling the promise 'I will build my church' even today, though there are many cultic teachings
23. The daily confidence that the Lord is with me here on earth
24. The hope, blessed assurance that I will be with the Lord in glory forever and ever
25. The conscious awareness by His presence of sin, righteousness and judgement

THANK GOD FOR

26. The mixed group of believers in the church in terms of age, education and outlook that enrich unity in diversity
27. The Youth ministry, Sunday school ministry and other ministries of our church
28. All our outreach churches and the Tamil Pastors in each church who are God's stewards in their respective areas
29. All those who have made their commitment to Christ in the past year and have obeyed in Immersion baptism
30. All the projects/ministry wings of our church whereby we reach out to the community at large

**FAMILY**

31. My father and my mother, who are God's gift to me
32. Their faith and walk with Jesus Christ
33. Their Christian upbringing and discipline
34. My siblings, their families now and the next generation
35. The family at large who are part of my life
36. The house that was made into a loving home
37. The God-fearing life partner that God has given me, my wife
38. My in-laws who are a strong spiritual support and encouragement to me
39. For a daily guidance of God in my family
40. For every provision of God in our marriage through storms and rains
41. For God being the One Cord that binds us together
42. For God nurturing us to know each other and together know and follow Him
43. For God's plans in taking us to different places and different ministries
44. For where God is keeping us today
45. For the assurance that He alone is faithful to lead us till the end
46. The joy of being blessed to be a blessing for the Kingdom of God
47. The gifts and talents that He has given us to be used for His glory
48. For God's provision and protection over my household
49. For all the trials, testing and tears that have taught me invaluable lessons
50. The times of waiting and wondering that have drawn me closer to God
51. The assurance that God has a plan for me and my family always
52. The many answers to prayer, both by us and for us by others

THANK GOD FOR

53. The many miraculous provisions that we never prayed or thought about
54. The many people who encourage us
55. Unanswered prayers that teach us to trust His Sovereign will
56. Timely phone calls from family and friends
57. Timely whatsapp messages from family and friends that speak God's word in our hour of need
58. All those who are still alive with us
59. All those who are with the Lord and the certainty that there is a happy reunion very soon to come
60. For every member of our large family who is walking as God's children

**FINANCE (earthly physical provisions)**

61. A place to stay
62. Food to eat
63. Water to drink
64. Air that we breathe
65. Health in our bodies
66. A place to work
67. Daily, monthly provision of money
68. Wisdom to spend the money
69. The expansion of existing resources to unimaginable measures
70. Vehicle to travel
71. Safety on the road
72. All the furniture, equipment and gadgets that we have
73. Provision of electricity supply
74. Clothes, enough and more
75. All the places he has enabled me to see
76. Using me to sow into others' lives by His grace
77. Protection from accidents, terrorist attacks etc.
78. Protection from natural calamities
79. Protection from epidemics
80. Provision of books and other tools to build my knowledge

THANK GOD FOR

**FUTURE**

81. The gentle reminder to ask God to teach me to number my days
82. The calm assurance that my days and plans are known to my Omniscient God
83. The calm assurance that He will never leave me nor forsake me

84. The wonderful truth that Jesus conquered death and is alive today in glory
85. The wonderful truth that Jesus is coming back very soon
86. The world and all its glamour are fleeting and deceitful
87. The Holy Spirit in me is my deposit guaranteeing the eternal inheritance that is in store for me
88. The certainty that not one of God's Words of the end of the world will fail to happen as it is written
89. The daily confidence that I can get up and live in this world knowing that He is guiding me as the 'apple of His eye'
90. He has plans for me, plans not to harm me but to prosper me, giving me a hope and a future
91. He is the King over my life and therefore no evil shall befall me
92. The sweet peace that if I am willing to follow, He will always lead me
93. The sweet peace that my future and that of my family is in the hands of God, therefore I am not the planner but the follower of His plans
94. The sweet peace that all His plans for my well being will never be late or early, all at His right time
95. The sweet peace that one day there will be a reward for the righteous, the obedient in Christ
96. The great day when I will see my Master face to face
97. The great glory where I will be with the Lord forever
98. The great mansion that He is preparing for us, the Church
99. The great eternal timeless life that we will enjoy with Jesus
100. All of this is possible by His grace for all those who will only believe and follow JESUS CHRIST

As you can see, under each of the sub-headings, there are so much more that you can add based on your personal life journeys. Enjoy walking in gratitude.

**GRACE IS GOD'S GIFT TO US. GRATITUDE IS OUR OFFERING TO GOD.**



## **ARMOUR OF GOD**

(Ephesians 6:14-17)

### **Gird your waist with truth**

What - Accepting the Authority of the word of God (Joshua 1:8, Isaiah 40:8)

Why - Access to God (Ephesians 3:12, John 8:32)

How - Abiding in Him Always (Colossians 3:16, Deuteronomy 11:18-20)

If not - Attacked by satan, attracted by sin and feel ashamed before God (1 Corinthians 16:13, Mark 14:38)

### **Breastplate of righteousness**

What - Being Bold in Holiness (Acts 4:31, Proverbs 28:1)

Why - Becoming stronger in warfare (Romans 8:37, 1 Timothy 6:12)

How - Believing in God's righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21, Philipians 3:9)

If not - Be deceived into Lukewarm living (2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Ephesians 5:6)

### **Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**

What - Careful to be a Gospel Carrier (1 Kings 2:3, Luke 12:35-38)

Why - Called from darkness into His marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 5:8)

How - Carry your Cross daily (Matthew 16:24, Luke 14:27)

If not - Cause others to stumble (Mark 9:42, Matthew 16:23)

### **Shield of faith**

What - God's invisible protection (1 Peter 1:21, Roman's 10:17)

Why - To quench the fiery darts (John 7:38, Psalm 91:4)

How - Walking in obedience to God & while believing in the God who promised (James 2:22, Hebrews 11:6)

If not - Will be quenched in spite of knowing the Bible (James 1:6, Acts 14:18)

### **Helmet of Salvation**

What - Protecting my mind by the Holy Spirit in my spirit (1 Corinthians 6:20, Roman's 8:16)

Why - To set my mind on things above and not on things below (1 Peter 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 4:18)

How - Defeat earthly thoughts with Eternal truths (Philippians2:12, Philippians1:6)

If not - I will doubt, fear, worry and battle unnecessarily (Galatians 3:3, Galatians5:4)

### **Sword of the Spirit**

What - The Word of God (Psalm17:13, Hebrews4:12)

Why - Only weapon whereby satan will fall (1 John 2:14, Psalm 60:11-12)

How - Word in the heart, mouth and actions (Psalm119:11, Psalm 37:31)

If not - My spirit will be defeated (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Isaiah 44:18)

*Rev. Isaac Johnson*

## Answers to Bible Quiz No. 106 – December 2019

### **A Christmas Quiz (King James Version)**

1. David. Matthew 1:1
2. Abraham. Matthew 1:1
3. Adam. Luke 3:38
4. Fourteen. Matthew 1:17
5. False. Matthew 1:1-17 / Luke 2:23-38
6. Judah (Judas or Juda). Matthew 1:3 / Luke 3:26
7. Urias (Uriah). Matthew 1:6
8. Ruth. Matthew 1:5
9. True (as Noe). Luke 3:36
10. Seth. Luke 3:38

### **The winners are:**

1. Gladys Vedavimali (Vedavimali)
2. Peace Rani Sudhakar
3. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad
4. Snehalatha Bright
5. Elizabeth Jayaraj
6. Indira Rajanayagam
7. Victoria Baskar
8. Aruna Asir
9. Alverna McGrath

Hearty congratulations!

*Usha George*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE - DECEMBER 2019

### ANSWERS

#### ACROSS:

1. STRIKE - GENESIS 3:15
4. EPHRATHAH - MICAH 5:2
5. DWELLING - JOHN 1:14
7. THREE - LUKE 1:56
8. NAZARETH - MATTHEW 1:23

#### DOWN:

2. HIMSELF - ISAIAH 7:14
3. JUSTICE - ISAIAH 9:7
6. GREAT - LUKE 1:32
9. WITNESS - JOHN 1:8
10. BELT - ISAIAH 11:5

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### His Coming

In Noah's days the earth with sin,  
Was found to be abounding.  
Evil was rife without within,  
Hearts callous to heed the warning.

Jeering and scoffing at Noah's ark,  
Bound blind by the devil's delusion.  
Deaf to God's call, they did not hark.  
Baited, lured by the liar's deception.

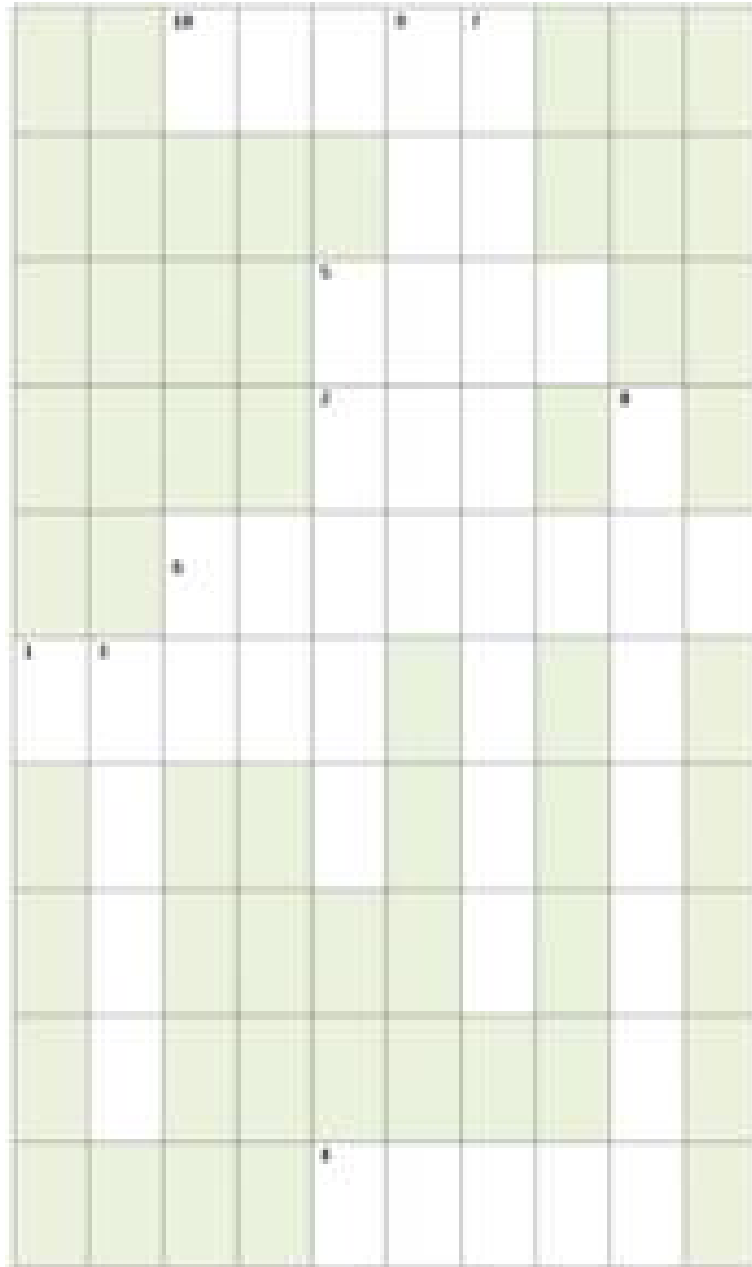
The sky draped in clouds, dismal and dark,  
Burst open with vehement thunder.  
While the breakers bore the Cypress ark,  
The deriders perished deep under.

Noah's days are here again.  
The world in sin is languishing,  
Black, gathering clouds herald the rain  
While mockers scoff Christ's coming.

Christ came a Babe, a Saviour then,  
The fleeting years they speed by,  
Now as King He comes to judge all men  
Hark! Hark! His footfalls draw nigh.

*Sarah Benjamin*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE - JANUARY 2020



**ACROSS:**

1. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Lord himself \_\_\_\_\_ before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.
5. And my God will \_\_\_\_\_ all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
6. Therefore I tell you, \_\_\_\_\_ you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
10. When you \_\_\_\_\_ through the waters I will be with you.

**DOWN:**

2. But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will \_\_\_\_\_ and not be faint.
3. If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and \_\_\_\_\_ from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land.
7. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you \_\_\_\_\_ you go.
8. If you \_\_\_\_\_ with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
9. But \_\_\_\_\_ first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

## Let Us Adorn Him, Lord of All

"THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD, AND OF HIS CHRIST; AND HE SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER". REVELATION 11:15

The Christ of Christmas, His Kingdom of Love is the only kingdom that has survived and is vibrantly alive over twenty centuries and beyond... "and He shall reign for ever and ever." Let the Bethlehem Babe abide in our hearts for all eternity.

We have just celebrated Christmas. The hustle and bustle have quietened out.

"When the song of the angel is stilled,  
When the stars in the sky are gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins."

The event of Christ's entering the human history as a person surpasses human thought. It was as momentous as when in Genesis 1:2 "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." There is a Divine purpose in the event. Jesus spelt out the 'Programme for His Kingdom' in His advent. He made this clear when He read Isaiah 61 in a Scripture reading in a synagogue at Nazareth. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. He then proclaimed, "This day is the Scripture fulfilled in your ears." Luke 4:21

Jesus expects each one of us to follow His directions of what our mission on earth should be. Let us exalt Him and honour and glorify our Master by seeking the lost, binding up the broken lives, feeding the hungry and breaking the bonds of captives, by offering the cup of joy to those who mourn, providing the garment of praise and joy for the spirit of heaviness.

Can we ever fathom how precious is His gift for us miserable sinners, when we receive His beauty, His goodness, His glory, His ultimate sacrifice of His sacred blood to wash away the filth of our transgressions? Let these words "He gave us His beauty for our ashes" soak and be stamped into our innermost being.

Let us adorn Him with our contrite hearts and penitential tears. Let us experience His warmth, compassion and security by our trust in His mysterious and majestic Presence. Let us adorn Him with our faith

when He leads us both through privileged and perilous ways. We adorn Him with our hearts full of gratitude and thanksgiving, adoration and praise.

May our efforts to adorn our Master Jesus Christ be blessed and purified by His Holy Presence. Let us

"Crown Him with many crowns  
The Lamb upon His throne"  
"To Him be glory forever." Romans 11:36

*Usha George*



### **John's Corner**

#### **With God**

Near Year Assurance  
(Read Deut 31:8, Deut 33:27)

With God before you and behind,  
Above you and below,  
You need not fear what lies ahead,  
Wherever you may go.

With God to guide you and protect,  
With Him the way to show,  
You can face life with confidence,  
He'll open each closed door.

With God amazingly near you,  
From morn till bright no more,  
Why should you dread you are alone,  
If you His presence know?

Rejoice! God walks with you always,  
Through all your joys and woe;  
Year in, year out, He'll never change,  
Trust Him and be secure.

*John H. Bala Singh*

Medical Corner

## EMOTIONAL HEALTH

PEACE – 2



*“Doctors treat but Jesus heals”*

Our pilgrimage on this earth is not easy, and we face many anxious moments throughout our journey. Every decade of life has its own set of problems. A child in the first decade has to cope with examination pressure. A teenager undergoes a series of physical (especially hormonal), mental, psychological, and emotional changes. Faring well in studies, getting admission in a good college, being accepted and recognized by peers and worries about their future loom high in front of them. In the second and third decade of life, concerns about landing a good job, a good marriage alliance, meeting the commitments of family, children's school admissions, daycare, education, tuitions, medical expenses etc. are challenges. During the middle age, changes in career, promotions, transfers, looking after aged parents, medical expenses of parents/ surgeries, finding suitable marriage partner for grown up children etc. create anxiety. Diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems, stomach ulcers etc start in middle age. Elderly people face the emotional trauma of death of a spouse, loneliness, medical problems like arthritis, deafness, stroke, fractures and cancer. Soaring prices of food and essential commodities, meagre pensions and low bank interest rates are added concerns of many.

The psychological symptoms of anxiety are apprehension, fear of impending disaster, irritability and depersonalization. The physical symptoms are tremors, sweating, palpitations, chest pain, breathlessness, headache, dizziness, diarrhoea, frequent urination, sleeplessness and poor concentration. Anxiety is usually transient, as part of an adjustment disorder and subsides without treatment. Chronic anxiety associated with worry, panic disorder and phobic anxiety need medical attention. The initial management of anxiety is to talk, understand and reassure the patient. Specific psychological therapy is also effective. In extreme cases, medications are advised by doctors.

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us not to worry and trust in God's provision (Matthew 6: 25-34). “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalms 46:1-2NKJV).

*Dr. Rajini Kantha Narendranath*





Bible Quiz No. 107 – January 2020

### **Based on Genesis (King James Version)**

Give only one reference.

1. What word describes Adam and Eve's first home, Eden, in Genesis?
2. The father of all who play the harp and flute?
3. "You will live by the sword" – who is referred?
4. Whose eyes were darker than wine and teeth whiter than milk?
5. Who was the Hebrew woman found to be very beautiful by the Egyptians?
6. Who was the daughter of Anah?
7. Who was hovering over the waters?
8. Who saw his brother's face as the face of God?
9. Who poured out a drink offering on a stone pillar?
10. "You are a mighty prince among us" – who said to whom?

Kindly send your answers to the church office by 20th January 2020.

*Usha George*



## Stepping Out

I have wanted to write an article for the *Kirkspire* for years now. About three years ago, it went down on my list of new year resolutions - "contribute one article a month to the *Kirkspire*". Ha! If you're a regular reader of the church magazine, then you know I have not contributed a thing.

So, how is it that I finally have an article written and submitted?

I decided not to worry.

What do I mean?

Well, you see, those who know me know I am a planner. I'm a very good planner. I have notebooks made up of endless lists. I have dates down, and ideas planned right down to the tiniest detail. I share my ideas with a grandioseness that, lately I have realised, I should have been ashamed of.

The result? I get absolutely nothing done.

The reason? I can think of two now.

One. Having planned everything to the nth degree, I no longer have the desire to do anything with the plan.

Two. (This is mostly the case with the *Kirkspire* contribution.) I cannot see the plan in detail. I am unable to stop up the flaws I see in my plan, and so I procrastinate.

What makes this time different?

A little over a year ago, I took home with me a point made by a man of God I greatly respect, and that point has been with me constantly every single day since then. It has changed the way I perceive my day and my 'problems'. It has taught me to take each day, a step at a

time. I don't always succeed in remembering it, because I *am* human. But about 80% of the time, I do remember.

What is this point, you ask?

*Jesus said, "Do not worry." Then, why do we disobey Him? Isn't disobedience sin?*

Does it floor you? It floored me.

So, I make it a choice every morning to not worry. Instead, I tell myself to look unto Jesus. In my head is the constant image of Peter eagerly stepping out of the boat to walk to Jesus on water. But then, he takes his eyes off the Lord for a moment, and the swirling waters under his feet send him into a panic. I have noticed that when I take my eyes off Jesus I am overwhelmed, but when my eyes are on Him, I do not worry.

I am not worrying now, as I write this article. I am stepping out of the boat with my eyes on Jesus.

It's a new year. How many of you are stepping out of the boat this year with your eyes on Jesus?

*Sariga Lazarus*

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## OBITUARY

Mr. A. John Basker, our member, passed away on Thursday, 26th December 2019, aged 80 years. The funeral was conducted in The Kirk on 27th December, followed by burial in Kasimedu Cemetery. The memorial service was held on 28th December in The Kirk. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

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**Christmas get-together for the elderly**

