

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

# Kirkspire

The Monthly Magazine of St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), Chennai  
July 2023

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### Editorial Board :

**Usha George**  
**Chitra Bennett**

Word from the Pastor



## ARISE and BUILD

*...was dead and is alive again (Luke 15:24)*

One of the most famous parables in all of scripture is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus used this parable to compare the opposite attitudes of the loving Father versus that of the prideful loveless older brother. The older brother represented the Pharisees of the time who were self-righteous, unforgiving and unwelcoming of those who came to God for mercy in humble repentance. In a most dramatic fashion, the key moment of this parable is when the 'lost, lonely and despondent' younger son *comes to his senses* and **ARISES** from his place among the pigs and takes that long walk back to the Father expecting nothing less than to be treated like a servant or slave. The son did not understand the tender heart of a father which Jesus conveys in these important lessons about Our Father in Heaven, who has a

1. **Heart to Build** – What a heart, what a loving forgiving heart of this (Heavenly) Father who did not want any explanation of the past or even the full talk of repentance! The Father saw the heart of repentance - His heart was longing to see this and He saw it. The moment the lost one arose to build a new life of repentance, his rebuilding process had started. The irony of the parable is that the younger 'prodigal son' understood the heart of the Father while the older one who was right there was far away from understanding the Father's heart.
2. **Hand to Build** – The Father had the wherewithal to build the broken, mend with mercy and cleanse with compassion. The Father will not run out of jewelry by putting a ring on this son's finger, He will not run out of cattle by killing the fattened calf, nor run out of attire by clothing him with the finest. The Father's wealth is so rich that the cattle upon a thousand hills belong to the Lord. He waits for those who will come to be built and His

hands are ready to shower His children with blessings beyond the wildest imagination.

3. **Hope to Build** – The latter is far greater than the former glory of the Prodigal son because this time, the son will *never* leave the Father. Unfortunately, the older son will not understand repentance, mercy or forgiveness. Those who wallow in self-righteousness will never understand God's grace. Unfortunately, there will be those who will always talk about their religious heritage but blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are forgiven.

Even today, when there is so much hatred when we mention GOD anywhere, the God of Heaven and Earth still longs for any to simply Arise and Build by turning to Jesus. He is the Builder and we can simply let God build - rebuild our lives in ways which we can never fathom. His heart has room for you, His hand is open to you, and our Hope is certain in Christ Jesus. Have a blessed month.

*Rev. Isaac Johnson*

#### **John's Corner**

### **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST**

Read 1Tim 4:12, 2 Cor 5:20  
(July is dedicated to Youth)

Grant that the youth of our church be  
Faithful disciples, Lord, of Thee,  
In everything they say and do,  
Point others tirelessly to You.

Morality is declining,  
Lost in sin the world is sinking;  
We should as God's children arise,  
And proclaim Christ and paradise.

Christ warned in end times it will be  
Hard to turn from iniquity;  
Prayerfully youth should take the lead,  
To save a dying world in need

*John H. Bala Singh*



## Kingdom Friendships

*Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9*

It seemed like any other Sunday but this Sunday too was very special. I decided to greet Pastor Isaac Johnson as he was standing in front of the altar. I stood at a fair distance letting him welcome and greet the two newcomers to the church - Asher and Rachel. When Pastor spotted me, he introduced the newcomers to me. I did my usual, which was to greet pleasantly not expecting anything more from it.

The following Sunday, however, Rachel shared her vision during her stay in Chennai. She wanted to learn English in order to translate her Korean pastor's sermons to English. I was so moved by her passion and commitment that I readily volunteered to help her.

We decided to meet at church every Tuesday to learn English. The very first class took me completely by surprise when I realised that she was far beyond the beginner category for which I had prepared. I thought reading devotionals together would help. While the reading was fruitful in its own right, it also served as a launching pad for both of us to share our struggles, hurts, passions, dreams, and so on.

Though I knew that church is not about the gathering of the saints and then rushing back home, I couldn't stop myself from falling into that trap. I gave myself sufficient excuses and justifications. In sharp contrast, I watched Asher and Rachel, who were new not only to the church but to the country, wanting to serve in the church in all ways possible.

They had to travel over an hour to get to church, yet, they came regularly. They joined the choir and the SALT Bible Study at the very first invitation. Once every month they stayed after the morning service till evening service as Rachel played the piano in the evening

service. She took part in the church quiz. She truly loved those who were around her. It's easy to emphasise on how important the invitations are, equally important is the heart that wants to take up on every offer, considering it as opportunities to worship God and give your all. I was moved by how they planned their day around church activities.

Our Tuesday meets were very special. I found myself sharing many things that were in my heart. Rachel is a wise and composed person who wasn't easily swayed by the range of emotions I was throwing at her. In a level headed fashion she counselled me. It was on a Tuesday that she went back to Korea to continue to serve in her church as an evangelist.

We can always find reasons why we don't, can't and won't serve in church. I learnt from Rachel that when we trust God and choose to go to church to receive and to serve, God will open doors of opportunities for us. In a very short period, Asher and Rachel demonstrated what it meant to be the church.

Rachel and I are very different but when God brings two people together, differences become a matter of appreciation. She maintained a curious attitude throughout her stay. We spoke about our cultural differences, learning what is good in both and critiquing what wasn't.

Asher and Rachel chose our church having watched a sermon by Pastor Isaac Johnson during the peak of Covid -19. They felt God's anointing here. We often fall prey to taking for granted what we have. I learnt to be grateful for the blessing of our church. God builds kingdom friendships in ways we can barely fathom and these friendships are precious. It all happens in the church!

*Angela Susan Bryner*

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

*Benjamin Franklin*

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## Rain-Maker

*Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.*

*Hosea 10:12*

Fallow ground: left unseeded, undeveloped or inactive, but potentially useful.

Rain in summer is a precious reminder of things we cannot create.

Summer showers are nostalgic memories of: sudden thunderclouds that squelch the heat and that earthy smell which lingers and permeates.

Getting soaked to the skin, dancing with faces turned heavenward and the coolness it brings somehow makes the season more bearable.

A spontaneous aftermath is quickly evident. The sky becomes a brilliant blue, clouds appear freshly washed, a riot of colors spring forth, smiles replace sweat and praise erupts.

And this is what You do as well-Reviving, restoring and Creating beauty from the dust.

Lord, forgive me but often I long for rain when much remains undone. You will send it when it's time. Meanwhile, help me to keep sowing when it seems hopeless. Teach me to prepare my fields, to clear out unprofitable things and plans. By faith, may I plow through this barren season with no cloud in sight.

Increase my capacity to understand, to receive all that is in store. Then surely the rains will come gently, torrentially... After all, You are the Rain-Maker.

*Hosea 6:3 Job 38:25-, 28, , 34-, 35 Isaiah 41:17-, 18 Joel 2:23, , , ,*

*Dr. Susan Rajkumari*

## To Turn Stone Into Bread

*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4*

The most challenging and magnificent Commission was placed on Jesus as He was baptised in the waters of Jordan. The baptism was not a mere ritual. Our Lord Jesus Christ emerged as God's Spokesman, His Chosen and His Beloved Son.

"There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin,  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of heaven, and let us in."

Our Lord stepped out of the waters and withdrew from the milling crowds into the loneliness of the barren Judean desert to ponder and plan and pray for this unique and sublime responsibility. He was mentally and physically exhausted after sustained fasting and praying, when Satan sidled up to Him. Cunningly Satan suggested many stunning shortcuts and stunts that Jesus could do to attain spectacular fame and name. Of course the offers were flashy, charismatic and seductive and would have hoisted our Lord on the pinnacle of fame. But the paths of worldly glory would lead only to the dusty grave. Severely rebuked by Jesus, the crafty Tempter crawled away! Jesus walked the path of obedience, allegiance and total surrender to the will of His Father.

Trials, tests, and temptations have been an integral part of life right from the Garden of Eden. We worldlings yearn for physical satisfaction and the lure of riches, fame and power is not the prerogative of a few. A leading newspaper carried a front-page advertisement invoking a goddess to shower her abundance grace to fill homes with plentiful gold, silver and all-round prosperity! The advertisers had clearly understood the compulsion of the human mind to worship



mammon. "Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom" (Song of Songs 2:15).

Christ never distanced Himself from the fallen world. He loved life – the beauty of the earth, the little sparrow and the lily of the field. He loved humanity and never distinguished between the sinner and the saint, the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the learned and the ignorant, the healthy and the infirm. The Master Teacher handed the Beatitudes - the tenets of life - that would lead us to ultimate happiness and perfection, right to the heart of God.

There is in every human heart a tiger and a lamb, good and evil. The conflict between the two is a reality. While the devil has the power to bring the world to us, he does not have the power to make us sin. Our Master has said, "Watch ye and pray lest ye enter into temptation." Reliance on His grace and mercy alone can gain us victory over chaos and doom, for, "he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Let us not be lured into a fool's paradise and try to make ourselves into 'little gods'. If we want to get to our Eternal Home, let us walk in the light of His footsteps and worship God and not yield to the Tempter.

"Jesus call us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love Me more!"

*Usha George*

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Oh! how I wish that the Lord would come in my lifetime! I  
should so love to lay my crown at His feet.

*Queen Victoria*

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Self is the opaque veil that hides the face of God from us.

*A. W. Tozer*

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## **Village Project - An Overview**

The second Sunday in June is observed and celebrated as the Village Project Sunday. The purpose of these Project Sundays is to sensitize the congregation members to the outreach efforts of the Church, one of which is the Village Project, in deference to the Biblical mandate and the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a privilege for me to be associated with the Andrew's Church Village Project and to have an appreciation for the impact the ministry has on the communities that are served. From a fledgling beginning with a tremendous foresight in 1972 by the then presbyter, Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie, the project has now grown into a multipronged outreach that seeks to address the social concerns along with addressing the spiritual needs of the people groups.

We salute the dedicated staff at these locations and a handful of committed church members for their commendable and faithful service who make a perceptible difference in the lives of those who need basic medical attention, children and women from economically distressed backgrounds, those who are touched in some way by the mission of the Church to reach out to the needy in obedience to the call of our Master!

The centres and campuses that function as part of this project in Thirupalaivanam, Auvrivakkam and Karanodai, are beacons of hope and rays of light for the families that reside in proximity.

The areas covered by the project include evangelism and church services, medical clinics and camps, tailoring classes, tuition centres and gardening. More than 8000 patients have benefitted over the last year at the two clinic locations. Specialities include diabetes, skin, eye and general medicine.

While the attendance during the Sunday services is only in double digits at all locations, outreach activities happen in about eighteen surrounding villages from time to time. After more than five decades, it is a testament to the faithfulness of the congregation of St. Andrew's, that, as a body of Christ, we continue to be focused on worship, education, health, and addressing social concerns.

It is our prayer and hope that, as a congregation, we continue to strive to renew, transform, and restore the communities in which our project campuses are placed.

*Dulip Thangasamy*



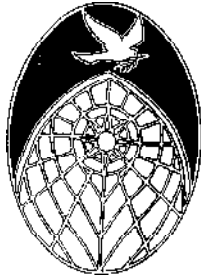
Village Project Medical Camp

Village Project Tailoring Unit & Course Completion Certificate





Village Project Evening Tuition



## Fellowship of the Unashamed

I am part of the 'Fellowship of the Unashamed'. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, shut up, slow down, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colourless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, promotions, plaudits, or praise. I don't have to be right, first, tops, regarded, praised, or rewarded. I now live by His presence, lean by faith, love by patience, live by prayer, and labour by power.

My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of compromise, pander at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, or slow up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stayed up and stored up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go on until He comes, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He stops. And when He comes for His own, He'll have no problem recognizing me – my colours will be clear.

*An African Martyr*



**Bible Quiz No. 138–July 2023**

## **IN THE BIBLE OR NOT?**

Look at each of the following sayings and write “yes” or “no” to indicate if you think it is actually a quote from the Bible. Please give the Bible reference if “yes”.

1. “All hard work brings a profit.”
2. “Cleanliness is next to godliness.”
3. “God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.”
4. “Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.”
5. “The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully.”
6. “God will not give you more than you can handle.”
7. “God helps those who help themselves.”
8. “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.”
9. “Hate the sin, love the sinner.”
10. “I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth.”

Taken from Our Daily Bread Bible Word Search and Activity Book

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email [admin@thekirk.in](mailto:admin@thekirk.in) by 20th July 2023.

*Usha George*

## **Answers to Bible Quiz No. 137 – June 2023**

### **A Schoolmaster's Quiz**

1. Solomon, or The Preacher. Ecclesiastes 12:12
2. Jesus. Mark 1:22
3. Gamaliel and Tyrannus. Acts 19:9
4. In the Synagogues – they were only for boys.
5. The Arabs
6. *'bring us to Christ'*. Galatians 3:24
7. Ephraim. Judges 12:5,6
8. *'Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost'*. Matthew 28:19
9. 'I suffer not a woman to teach'. 1 Timothy 2:12
10. Nicodemus. John 3:2

### **The winners are:**

- 1. Mrs. Sabrina Siga**
- 2. Mrs. Suguna Joseph**
- 3. Mrs. Aruna Asir**
- 4. Mrs. Victoria Basker**
- 5. Mrs. Indra Rajanayakam**
- 6. Mrs. Patricia Patrick**
- 7. Er. Joseph M. Manoharan**
- 8. Mrs. Gladys Vedavimali**
- 9. Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar**

***Hearty Congratulations!***



## Children's Corner

### Learn About Love

#### What Did John Say About Love?

Read the verses and answer the questions.

John 13:34 - What does Jesus command us to do?

1 John 4:7 - Where does love come from?

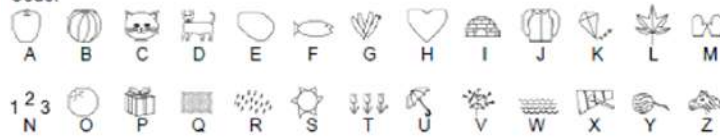
1 John 4:9 - How did God show his love for us?

1 John 4:11 - Why should we love one another?

#### Why Should We Love?



Code:



Source: [ministry-to-children.com](http://ministry-to-children.com) - free printable

*Dolly Shanthakumar*



## **Medical Corner**

### **ULCERS IN THE BODY – III**

#### **FOOT UCLERS IN LEPROSY**

**“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”**

In Mathew 26:6, we read that Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper. A leper is a person with leprosy and in those days there was no medical treatment for leprosy. Lepers were social outcasts and had to stay in separate “leprosy colonies” outside the city gates. No one interacted with them for fear of contracting the disease. But Jesus broke all social barriers and norms and stayed at the home of Simon the leper.

In Luke 17: 12-14, we read how Jesus healed ten lepers miraculously. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voice and said “Jesus, master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw them He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests” and so it was that as they went, they were cleansed (NKJV).

In leprosy, the sensations in the foot are lost due to damaged peripheral nerves and foot ulcers are very common. Principle of leprosy treatment is to stop the infection with appropriate medications and to educate the patient about leprosy. Prevention of disability and supporting the patient socially and psychologically is a must.

Anaesthetic feet (numb feet) need protective footwear. For anaesthesia alone, a well-fitting trainer with firm soles and shock absorbing inners provides adequate protection. Once there is deformity, then special footwear is needed to protect pressure points and ensure even weight distribution. Ulceration is treated by rest. Unlike ulcers in diabetic feet, ulcers in leprosy heal if they are protected from weight bearing. No weight bearing is permitted until the ulcer has healed. Appropriate footwear should be provided to prevent recurrence.

The social and cultural background of the patient determines many of the problems that may be encountered. The patient may have difficulty in coming to terms with leprosy. The community may reject the patient. Women with leprosy are in double jeopardy; not only may they develop post-delivery nerve damage, but they are also at particular risk of social ostracisation with rejection by spouse and family. Education, employment, confidence in family, friends and doctors, and plastic surgery to correct the stigmatizing deformity, all have a role to play.

*Dr. (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha Narendranath*

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The church has many tasks but only one mission.

*Arthur Preston*

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In the name of Jesus Christ, who was never in a hurry, we pray, O God, that You will slow us down for we know that we live too fast.

*Peter Marshall*

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## Kirk News

*Bright eyes gladden the heart;  
Good news puts fat on the bones.  
Proverbs 15:30*



## Our Happy Father

On the 18th of June, we got to honour and celebrate our fathers. Father's Day is truly special in that it points us to our perfect Heavenly Father, who loved us so much that He gave His only beloved Son so that we could become His children. It's not just that He gives but He gives in style, He doesn't give begrudgingly but it warms His heart to give to us. Let us live each day conscious of the Father's heart that wants to give above and beyond we can ask or think.

*"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32*

The 18th of this month was not only Father's Day but also Eco Sunday. Nestled in the centre of Chennai, The Kirk stands out not only because of its magnificent sanctuary but because of the Eden-like environment around it. The garden committee is committed to being faithful stewards of God's command "to tend and keep" the land entrusted to us. We thank God for the peace and beauty that God has joyfully bestowed upon us in the midst of the buzzing city life around it.

### Guest Speakers

Rev. Dr. Thomas W Keinath - Beautiful Warrior - 18/06/2023 - 7 am Service

Rev. Prabu - Do you love me more than these? - 18/06/2023 - 6 pm Holy Communion Service

Mr. Timothy Bob - Victory In & Through Jesus - 25/06/2023 - 6 pm Service

### Annual Bible Quiz

On June 11th, the Bible quiz for seniors and super-seniors was conducted at SACCE Hall from 11:30 am - 01:30 pm . The juniors and sub-juniors had the quiz conducted at the DCC Hall from 11.30 am - 12.45 pm. Lunch was provided for the participants. The beginners had their quiz on the 18th.

### **Kirk Sunday School**

The Kirk Sunday School is back after the break! On the 11th at 9am at the Manse and SACCE Hall the children gathered with the teachers. With the theme for the term "Right Choices," the children were encouraged with the verse: "Choose ye this day whom you will serve." Joshua 24:15

### **Kirk Men's Fellowship**

The Kirk Men's Fellowship met virtually on the 9th from 7:30 pm - 8:00 pm for a time of prayer. The Men's Fellowship met in person on the 18th at 11 am at the DCC Hall to discuss on "Godly Families," facilitated by Mr. David Appasamy.

### **Kirk Women's Fellowship**

On the 18th, KWF's Women's Monthly Meet took place at the SACCE Hall after the 9 am service. Their topic for discussion was "Endurance" alongside which they shared testimonies and prayed together.

### **Village Project Sale**

On the 11th, the Village Project Sale began after the 9 am service. The sale included their most sought-after biriyani, vegetables, coconut oil, tailored and embroidered products.

### **Riber Memorial Day Care Center (RMDCC)**

Classes began from the 7th for the precious children between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 at the RMDCC. The children are provided with nutritious meals, English medium classes, clean and healthy environment, well established indoor and outdoor play areas, regular medical check-ups, free uniform, and footwear. Awareness programmes for parents and scholarships for the alumni of the Day Care Centre are also provided.

The RMDCC Annual Jumble Sale '23 took place on the 18th after the 9 am service.

### **Landmark Birthday**

On the 16th, Mr. J.C. Simon turned 100! He has served in various projects and ministries of the church well into his early 90s. We thank God for his remarkable life and pray that as his days are so shall his strength be.

*Angela Susan Bryner*



Village Project



**Jumble Sale by RMDCC - 18.06.2023**



