

LIFE **earth** environment *air* you  
*climate* ANIMALS Future **wildlife**  
habitat *o* **Kirkspire** NATURE  
**Rescue** *friendly* **air**  
endangered *recycle* CLIMATE you  
**water** earth *air* habitat **eco**  
go green nature **Rescue** YOU endangered  
**oxygen** *air* planet CLIMATE  
*eco-friendly* habitat LIFE *recycle* *air*  
organic *climate*  
/OU **eco** **earth** you  
PLANET ANIMALS *endangered* *air*  
*oxygen* Future **wildlife** global  
YOU LIFE PLANT go green  
earth GO GREEN NATURE  
endangered nature environment  
**eco** *air* *recycle*  
habitat earth **water**  
creation nature

June 2013

### CONTENTS

Word from the Pastor	3
Why Pray?	4
Colourful Way to be Thankful	8
A Report on VBS 2013	9
VBS at Kirk Outreach Project Areas-2013	10
John's Corner	11
Medical Camp - Report	12
Medical Corner	13
Quiz No. 33	14
Kirk News	15

Cover: June 23rd is Eco Sunday Service  
Design by Abigail Benjamin

*Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy*

## Word from the Pastor



During the healing service last Sunday one of the songs which was sung was

“What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.”

What a powerful reminder, to lean upon God. God calls us to put our whole weight on Him. Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding”.

As we move into the sixth month of this year we need to trust God our Father. For Jesus our Lord said in John 15:5, without Him we “can do nothing”.

1. In Christ Jesus we have Peace in our troubles (John 16:33).
2. In Christ Jesus we have the certainty of His supply for all our need (Phil.4:19).
3. In Christ Jesus we have one blessing after another (John 1:16).
4. In Christ Jesus we find help in our time of need (Heb.4:16).
5. In Christ Jesus we have victory through our times of temptation (Heb.4:18)
6. In Christ Jesus I can do all things through Him who strengthens me (Phil.4:13)

As we travel through this month, let us lean on the everlasting arms of Almighty God who would cause us to experience showers of blessing as our dependency is on Him.

*Rev. Peter Francis*

## Why Pray?



When I pray, I visualise Jesus at the right hand of God and I address my prayers to Him. At times, I feel He is very close to me and listens to my words. But at other times, I feel like the devout Jew who having thrust his prayer missive into a crevice in the Western Wall at Jerusalem, prayed for peace – for himself, his family and his Jewish nation. When asked what answer he received, he said, “It is like hitting at this wall.”

Then, if I feel that my prayer is just a torrent of heartfelt longings, and I am uncertain as to who or whether anybody listens to them, why do I pray?

I pray because I can't help it. I need to put into words my horror at the evil of this world and my yearning for righteousness, justice and mercy to prevail. It is not that I doubt the power of God to fell at one stroke the murderers, the rapists and the selfish humans of this world. But books like Revelation counsel patience and I cry, how long Lord?

The second reason I pray is because Jesus prayed. His prayers were answered, but many a time they were not answered the way he expected. He prayed for feeding the five thousand, and miraculously, the loaves and fishes multiplied themselves. Before raising Lazarus, he prayed and then affirmed, “Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard my prayer”, and later, “I know that thou hearest me always”. So we can be sure that God hears our prayers. But often the answers are not what we want. “Remove this cup from me”, Jesus prayed. The cup was not removed. He agonized on the cross, “My God! Why have you forsaken me?” Jesus felt, like us, that there was no one out there to share his darkest hour. Yet he always reiterated that men ought always to pray and not to lose heart.

However, Jesus always maintained that there was an inevitable connect to effective prayer. When the woman with the issue of blood touched his garment hoping for a cure he assured her, "Daughter, thy faith had made thee whole, go in peace". Similarly, when the father of the epileptic boy besought Jesus for a cure, he said, "All things are possible to him that believeth". The father answered, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief." Most of us walk in that man's shoes.

Uppermost on our prayer list are our selfish concerns. Jesus did not find fault with that. "That I may see." The leper cried, "If thou wilt thou canst make me clean". " I will, be thou clean."

I am sure when the Roman centurion petitioned Jesus for his servant, Jesus honoured the intercessory nature of his prayer and exclaimed, "I have not found so great a faith, no, not in Israel."

When the intercessory prayer ministry of my church appeals for prayer, on behalf of the sick in other countries, people who are total strangers, I could not fall in line till my Pastor asked me, "How did the Christians in England, by no means rich, send missionaries to India and pray for them and support their ministry financially? The great missionary movements in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in India and China were firmly grounded on the prayers of people living far away and unlikely ever to see the missionaries or the people they led to Christ. But they could feel for the sacrificial lives of these ministers and the trials of the people who responded to their gospel. So they got together in two's or three's or bigger groups and prayed for them consistently. So must we.

*Mrs. R. Chandy*



## Colourful Way to be Thankful

'The choice of being grateful' – can sound to be quite ordinary when its repetitive – but this choice, reminded as part of the VBS theme this year can become very thought provoking! The world around us says 'Thank you' quite often and has a lot of colourful ways in expressing it too!! Schools and Institutions teach respect and code of conduct in and through the word 'thank you'. But the deeper we dig into the treasured Word of God, the more we can understand and experience the special relationship in the word 'Thank you'.

Sharing a few aspects of this 'special thank you' from the well known Psalm 100 the first verse "Shout for Joy to the Lord all the Earth" resounds and literally bursts in to our ears. The realization that the choice of being grateful is open to all the Earth teaches us right at the outset an important lesson in humility and it's a calling for unity and harmony now itself. This choice doesn't stop here but it takes us into a new eternal dimension altogether wherein we hope and wait for the future glory when every living creature will be singing and glorifying the Lord Almighty on the throne in heaven and the Lamb of God. There will definitely be eternal 'Thank yous' along with the unending Hallelujahs just as we read on in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> chapters of Revelation. If we keep on responding thankfully and shouting for joy to the Lord as the first priority now itself, I am sure it's music in the ears of the Almighty here and hereafter.

And of course we can see that the choice of being grateful becomes the 'best choice' as we move on through Psalm '100' worshipping and knowing the Lord, entering His gates and tasting the Lord's love and faithfulness through generations. But worshipping the Lord takes a new definition for a thankful heart. Deep within there's a calling for sincerity and making melody to the Lord from our heart. Rooted and built up in CHRIST; Strengthened in the faith as we were taught and overflowing with thanksgiving, worship becomes the passion of our

inner most being as we continue to live in Him. Colossians 2:7. Knowing that the Lord is near and in control of every situation is a calling for rejoicing in the Lord, as the Psalmist rightly points out that we are the sheep of His pasture. Acknowledging that 'He is the shepherd and we are the sheep' sharpens our vision and no doubt gives us a clear cut new direction, because a heart that does not glorify the Lord is caught up with futile thoughts and ends up in foolish choices and ways as portrayed vividly in Romans chapter 1 by the Apostle Paul. Getting rid of anxiety becomes all the more easier and in anything and everything there's a new direction for a prayerful and a thankful heart - The Peace of God that transcends all understanding guards our hearts and minds in CHRIST JESUS.

Entering into His gates with thanksgiving we surely praise our Lord's Name, but as we move out into the World around do we make use of every opportunity and willingly yield to His will and mission for a new demonstration of the power of God? Living as children of light we can think of many colourful ways to be thankful

L – Let's listen, share and pray over our thank you list.

I – In everything give thanks to God the Father always in the Name of JESUS.

G – Going out into the world thanking parents, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

H - How about quitting every bit of obscenity, foolish talk and coarse joking.

T – Therefore living a life of love as CHRIST loved us.

And as we affirm that the Lord is good and His love and faithfulness endures through all generations its all the more refreshing as we modify our thank you list in line with 1Thessalonians 2:13 and go in for a re-dedication – to continually thank God for everyone who receives and applies the Word of God. The choice of being grateful no doubt enriches us with a new dimension, definition, direction, demonstration and dedication. So let's be joyful, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for us in CHRIST JESUS.

*Dr. Christina Ambrose*

## **A Report on VBS 2013**

By the grace of God, VBS 2013 was held from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of April at our church. The theme for this year "It's your choice" gave a wonderful platform for teachers to help the children realize the choices that are available, the choices they could be making and the choices they should be making.

To begin with, the teachers had a sound training session in which Rev. Isac Soundara Raja shared the reason and importance of this ministry along with the statistics of children at risk all around us. This was followed by a session on "Principles of Godly discipline" well handled by Mrs. Meera Ninan. Simultaneously enthusiastic volunteers (young mothers and youth) were trained in craft work by Mrs. Pallavi Pramod who had planned interesting crafts based on each day's theme.

The secret behind every ministry is prayer and this was proved again. God's presence and providence could be felt right from the word start. God in His mercy intervened twice even before VBS could begin. The power cut schedule was shifted to 12noon to 2p.m instead of 10a.m. to 12 noon which was a great relief. Also the last working day for schools was shifted to 17<sup>th</sup> instead of end of the month. God continued to provide and meet every need in beautiful ways.

We had a team of dedicated teachers and volunteers who served with great enthusiasm. Everyday powerful speakers presented the theme for the day to the various groups. This year God enabled children of DCC to be part of our VBS and they were ministered to in Tamil simultaneously. The children enjoyed theme based craft and games every day. We had a total of about 150 students including DCC children and young adults. The labor day saw children bring in so generously all they had earned by doing small chores at home. The inspection day was a tough one for the judge as each class had very creatively put up all they had learnt and also answered questions. Every day during the closing assembly the children came forward to recite the memory verses they had learnt. The love feast day was one happy occasion when the entire lot got under one roof to fellowship and have food very lovingly served by one of our members and his family.

The valedictory function was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 2013 during the evening service. Apart from the songs, memory verses and skit by the students, we had for the first time a short film on "The Conquerors" mentioned in the Bible enacted by the students of Junior and



Intermediate classes. The movie was shot and edited by the volunteers and had a powerful climax that proved Jesus as the ultimate conqueror.

In this span of ten days the children learnt how to make choices of obedience, of priorities, of confession, etc.....It was indeed a very blessed time for the entire VBS team and I take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated, contributed and prayed for this ministry.

Praise the Lord!!

*Grace Mrinalini Aruliah*

**Answers to Bible Quiz No. 33**

***Hearty Congratulations !***

Right answers given by :

**Dr. Rachel Chacko**

**Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam**

**Mrs. Snehalatha Dawson**

**Mr. David Sundararaj**

**Ms. Jennifer Christina Kutty Francis**

**Mrs. Shantha Jeyakumar**

Note : Give only 1 ref. which best answers the question.

Ref. carries 1/2 mark.

The answers are :

1. The foundations (Revelation 21 : 19)
2. Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 21 : 13-14)
3. Aaron - (Numbers 33 : 39)
4. Revelation - (Revelation 16 : 21)
5. Deborah, a prophetess and first woman judge of Israel (Judges 4 : 4,5)
6. Jubal, harp and the organ (Genesis 4 : 21)
7. 'True' and 'heaven' (John 6 : 32)
8. The son of the giant of Gath (2 Samuel 21 : 20)
9. To burn down the standing corn of the Philistines (Judges 15 : 4,5)
10. David (Psalm 40 : 3)

**Trivia !**

Answer - Noah. He floated his stock while the whole world was in liquidation.

*Usha George*

## VBS at Kirk Outreach Project Areas - 2013

VBS was conducted at various project areas such as Gypsy Colony (Pallavaram), Balaramapuram, Kosapur, Avariwakkam, Kilkuppam, Tirupalaivanam and Karanodai. Our evangelists Jayakodi, Azariah, Samuel and Santhosh with support from Evangelism & Missions Movement members planned well ahead to carry out VBS effectively in their respective locations as per the schedule from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Teachers were trained to handle different level of classes starting from Beginners to Senior level. Number of children who attended VBS this year at Gypsy Colony was around 65, at Balaramapuram 100, Kosapur 130, Avariwakkam 70, Kilkuppam 75, Tirupalaivanam 120 and Karanodai 65.

Teachers taught children with great commitment. They prepared colour charts, taught them many action songs which the children loved and enjoyed. Children memorised each day's memory verses with great interest and learnt Biblical stories and biographies of renowned missionaries. Children were also taught the importance of "work & earn" policy on the "Labour Day" and "share with others" on the "Love feast day". We are grateful and thankful to some of our congregation members who accepted our invitation and spared time to inspect the classes on "Inspection Day". We appreciate the children who though mainly from non Christian backgrounds participated regularly with eagerness to learn God's Word, despite scorching summer heat.

The keenly awaited "Final day" celebrations went on beyond one's expectation. Children had the privilege to exhibit their talents through their singing, dancing & reciting memory verses of all the six days. We thank God for enabling us to conduct VBS for the first time at Avariwakkam and Karanodai. We were amazed at the benevolence of a few Hindu families who sponsored snacks and juices for children, teachers and volunteers. At Kilkuppam, a Hindu family opened their home and shared their hut to conduct VBS. A Hindu boy from a distant village (Seerapakkam) attended VBS uninvited on the first day and brought few other friends for the following days. He was enlightened by God's word and his eyes lit up with zeal for our Saviour. All the children, teachers and volunteers were served with packed lunch after the class every day.

Most of the children were inspired and touched by God's Word and His power through VBS at all the centres. The seed has been sown and it is our responsibility to continue to pray that they would walk in obedience and faith in our Saviour Jesus Christ. All praise, honour and glory be to God our Father and Saviour Jesus Christ for enabling us to be a part of VBS.

*Joshua Paulraj*  
Secretary, Evangelism Committee



### **John's Corner**

## **On Purpose**

It was with a purpose  
God made me a Christian,  
That I might to Christ others lead;  
Not keeping to myself  
The good news of Jesus,  
But hungry souls with His Word feed.

It was with a purpose  
The Lord made me suffer,  
That I might a comforter be;  
For he who's experienced  
God's strength in affliction,  
The grieved can uphold lovingly.

It was with a purpose  
The Lord blessed me greatly,  
That I be a source of blessing,  
To those who are weary,  
The poor and the needy,  
The lonely, the sick and dying.

My eyes open, Master,  
That I see more clearly,  
The purposes You have for me;  
So I while rejoicing,  
And in sorrow likewise,  
Don't question but serve faithfully.

*John H. Bala Singh*

## **A Report on Medical Camp and Inauguration of Clinical Laboratory at Thirupalaivanam**

Our Lord made it possible to successfully conduct a Medical Camp at the Village Project clinic in Thirupalaivanam on 21.04.2013.

A full-fledged Clinical Laboratory was also inaugurated on the occasion.

A team of doctors from the Kirk including Dr.Bennett, Dr.Benjamin Ninan, Dr.Percy Sumithran, Dr.Mohan, Dr.Prasanna Rao, Dr.Thuthi Mohan and Dr.Chitra Andrew, apart from Dr.Pichamuthu from Sugam Hospital, conducted the camp.

Mr. Moorthy, Lab Technician, conducted the clinical tests during the camp.

Our Assistant Pastor Rev. Isaac Johnson thanked God for His blessings and presence and asked the Lord to guide the doctors and heal the patients visiting the Camp. He also dedicated the Clinical Laboratory to the glory of God.

Pastor read Psalm 22, followed by prayer. He cut the ribbon to inaugurate the Camp and the Lab.

Nearly 75 patients attended.

25 patients had their blood and urine tested. Asthma, Paediatric and Gynaecology patients were treated, and general check-up was done for those needing it.

Dr. Prasanna Rao arranged for representatives from Cipla to visit the clinic and distribute free medicines to asthma patients.

We praise and thank God first for His mercies in starting the Clinical Laboratory which will definitely be a great blessing for the Villagers.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to Dr.Ira Packianathan who donated Rs.2,00,000/- for the Lab.

We very gratefully acknowledge and thank Dr.Thuthi Mohan for her efforts in planning and setting up the Lab including all equipment etc., which helped us to inaugurate it successfully.

The credit for the success of the medical camp and the inauguration of the Lab goes to the Lord, His medical servants, Village Project contributors and staff, all of whom gave of their time, energy and expertise with dedication.

*G.S. Rajasekaran*  
Secretary - St. Andrews Church Village Project



### Medical Corner

## ULCERS IN THE BODY -1 MOUTH ULCERS

I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well (Ps 139:14 NKJV). Each one of us is a unique creation of God. When we have a disease, doctors treat but Jesus heals.

Deficiency of vitamin B2 (Riboflavin) mainly affects the tongue and lips and causes inflammation of the angles of the mouth. The richest source of riboflavin is milk and milk products. Oral tablets are also available.

Mouth ulcers (Aphthous ulcers) are superficial and painful; they occur in any part of the mouth. Recurrence of ulcers, in spite of treatment is seen in 30% of the population. Topical corticosteroid or choline salicylate (8.7%) gel can effect healing. Symptomatic relief is achieved using local anaesthetic mouthwashes. A few patients have very severe, recurrent aphthous ulcers and need oral steroids.

Mouth ulcers can also be due to Fungus (Candidiasis; oral thrush), Virus (Herpes simplex) and bacteria. Oral thrush can occur in babies, debilitated patients, patients receiving prolonged corticosteroid or antibiotic therapy. They are also seen in diabetics and immunosuppressed patients, especially those receiving cytotoxic therapy and patients with AIDS. Oral thrush is treated by anti fungal suspension or lozenges. A detailed history and investigation of the patient will identify the cause, which can be treated, appropriately.

*Dr. (Mrs) Rajini Kantha*

**Quiz No. 34**  
**(For the Month June 2013)**



1. Who said, "Holy, holy, holy; is the Lord of hosts"?
2. When Elijah found Elisha, the prophet Elisha was --  
a) Plowing b) eating c) praying d) singing
3. Which of the prophets was thrown into a dungeon?
4. God gave Hezekiah a sign that he would live longer. What was the sign?
5. Elisha was told to shoot an arrow from the window. What was the arrow called?
6. In the book of Proverbs, God says he hates how many things?
7. What King pouted in his bed because he could not buy someone's vineyard?
8. Finish this proverb :--  
'Where there is no wood.....'
9. James says : 'The \_\_\_\_\_ is a fire.'
10. Who bought Ornan's threshing floor? For what purpose?

**Trivia**

Where was Solomon's temple located?

*Send the answers with Bible references to the Church office before 25th June 2013.*

*Names of the members who answer correctly will be published in the next issue of Kirkspire.*

*Usha George*

## Kirk News



*In all these things we are more than conquerors through  
Him who loved us – Romans 8: 37*

The Kirkspire is happy to be back after the usual annual one month break in May. The two months that have gone by have seen so many happenings that have affected each and every one of us in one way or the other. From natural disasters to high end politics and scandals to mundane things like problems with water, electricity and lack of goods, facilities & soaring prices have taken their toll on most people. As Christians we pray to God for the kind of guidance & protection only He can provide us.

With the end of exams and the annual holidays most families made their holiday plans. Those who stayed back were kept busy with the VBS, and other activities in church. We now prepare for the annual church carnival to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July after the 9 am service. Let us put in our best effort and make this laudable event a grand success.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

- 14<sup>th</sup> April: 6:00 pm – Mr. PCR Suresh
- 28<sup>th</sup> April: VBS Valedictory service.
- 5<sup>th</sup> May: 9:00 am – Rev. Isac Soundara Raja (Holy  
Communion Service).
- 6:00 pm – Mr. M.M. Narendranath (Healing Service).
- 12<sup>th</sup> May: 7:00 am – Dr. Kethoser (Aniu) Kevichusa, (RZIM)
- 9:00 am – Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, Gen.  
Secretary, Bible Society of India
- 6:00 pm – Mrs. Meera Ninan

19<sup>th</sup> May: 7:00 am – Mr. S. Gabriel  
9:00 am – Mr. Neil Vimalkumar, apologetics  
speaker from RZIM

26<sup>th</sup> May: 7:00 am – Mr. PCR Suresh  
9:00 am – Mr. D. Shanthakumar  
6:00 pm – Mrs. Abha Appasamy (Koinonia  
Service)

**BIBLE STUDY** was conducted on Mondays, 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30 p.m. The Study on the Gospel of St. Matthew continued.

**PRAYER CELL** met on 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> April at the manse. Rev. Peter Francis continued teaching from the Book of Psalms.

#### **HOUSE CHURCH**

5<sup>th</sup> April – in the home of Dr. S. Mohan and Dr. (Mrs.) Thuthi Mohan.

12<sup>th</sup> April – in the home of Dr. Benny Remi Ponnappan and Dr. (Mrs.) Archana Benny.

Bible Study, Prayer Cell & House Church, closed for summer vacation, will resume in June.

#### **DISTRICT MEETINGS**

District 2 met in the home of Mrs. Usha George on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

District 5 met in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Rajendran Gnanaolivu on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Districts 7 & 8 met in the SACCE Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

District 2 met in the home of Mr. Jeyam and Mrs. Snehalatha Bright on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

We thank all the members who opened their homes in hospitality and Christian fellowship.

**HEALING MINISTRY** met on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** met on 21<sup>th</sup> April.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Class evaluation was held on 7<sup>th</sup> April followed by teachers meeting. The Sunday School closed on 14<sup>th</sup> April, followed by Parent-Teacher meeting. Please pray for the upcoming "**Kirk Sunday school Conference**" planned for the 30<sup>th</sup> of **June**. Do pray and support this very important ministry of our church.



## **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

KYF experienced a full schedule in April and May with worship, spiritual blessing, fun and fellowship:

7<sup>th</sup> April – KYF visited the church's outreach at Pallavaram Gypsy Colony and spent time with the families there.

14<sup>th</sup> April – A discussion was held on the topic "Add-ons to faith"

21<sup>st</sup> April – A Youth led Bible Study focussed on the topic: Add-ons to faith – Self control

28<sup>th</sup> April – CATALYST, the unique youth worship service, focussed on the topic: Add-ons to faith – Godliness.

5,12,19 May – KYF met for praise & worship and for planning ahead.

26<sup>th</sup> May – Youths from our village churches joined KYF in Catalyst for a Retreat. The programme included songs, Choreo, skit, bilingual message, activities & games, cricket match and ended with lunch. Rev. Dr. Isac Soundara Raja was the speaker.

**E&MM Fasting Prayer** was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of April to intercede for the evangelism and missions movement of the Church. We also prayed for God's blessing on the VBS Programme in our church, rural churches and outreach areas. The fasting prayer was suspended with the start of VBS. It will be resumed in due course with advance notice.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Raja and Aparna** were blessed with a baby boy on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> of May. Grandson to Mr. S. Samuel Jayachandran and Mrs. Ruth Jayachandran.

## **OBITUARY**

**Mrs. Prema J. Arthur**, wife of Dr. Samuel J. Arthur, our member, passed away on 10th March 2013 in the USA. The Arthurs were married in the Kirk on 6.6.1973, were resident members in Chennai, and later relocated to the USA. May The Lord comfort the family in this time of bereavement.

**Mrs. Margaret Raj, 76 years**, wife of Dr. PJ Sanjeeva Raj, our member, passed away on 21st April. A memorial service to commemorate her life was held in the church on 27th April. Our heartfelt condolences and prayers are with the bereaved family.

**Mr. Thomas Verghese, 79 years**, passed away peacefully on May 8<sup>th</sup> morning. Father of Kieve Verghese & Lisa Verghese. Please pray for Mrs. Elizabeth Verghese as she has been unwell.

**Mrs. J. Santhammal Manickam, 95 years**, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 morning. Mother of Mr. Joseph M. Manoharan and mother-in-law of Dr. (Mrs.) Punitha J. Manoharan. Kindly remember the family in your prayers.

### **OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**VBS 2013** "VBS is the Lord's love gift to children and families, both Christian and non-Christian." This was evident during the VBS programme from 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April in our Church, with the theme "It's your choice" from Joshua 24:15.

The dedicated efforts of Mrs. Dolly Shanthakumar and Mrs. Grace Aruliah, Directors together with that of the teachers and volunteers, ensured that the children got to know the Lord better than ever before, or learnt about Him for the first time. A knowledge that results in eternal life and peace was implanted and strengthened in the young minds.

The programme ended with the Valedictory Service at 6:00 pm on 28<sup>th</sup> April. It was a time to celebrate God's faithfulness with music, drama and singing, a time to sit back and enjoy a lively presentation put together by the VBS children and their teachers. The children included pre-schoolers from the Riber Memorial Day Care Centre

The following village churches and outreach ministries hosted VBS under the supervision of our evangelists and staff, with guidance from E&MM members:

Pallavaram (Gypsy Colony)	-	29 <sup>th</sup> April to 4 <sup>th</sup> May
AKCDC (S.M. Nagar)	-	1 <sup>st</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> May
Balaramapuram	-	6 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> May
Kilkuppam	-	6 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> May
Kosapur	-	6 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Tirupalaivanam	-	6 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> May

VBS was held for the first time from May 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in our new outreach at Karanodai near Chennai.

The attendance at all the centres was very encouraging. We pray that the Lord will help each child grow in grace and knowledge, to become a shining witness for Him in their families and among neighbours. We

thank the Lord for His wisdom, grace and protection over all the participants.

**Global Day of Prayer** As in previous years, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday, was observed as the Global Day of Prayer where we joined churches worldwide in praying a specific prayer during the worship services. The prayer included praise, thanksgiving, confession, and a cry to the Lord to remove evil and oppression and establish His kingdom on earth. We praise and thank the Lord for hearing our prayer and answering in His grace.

Church members are requested to contribute articles to this magazine. They may be marked "For Kirkspire" and handed in at the office.

As the schools and colleges reopen most families will be busy with admissions and preparations to face the challenges the new academic year throws up. Kirkspire wishes all of you the very best. May God's guidance be with you every step of your way.

Though danger lurks on every side,  
In Christ our Lord we will abide;  
Our God is strong; our hope is sure,  
In Him alone we are secure!

*Ranjit Silas  
Mahendra Kumar*



Prayer at Inauguration of Clinical Laboratory at Tirupalaivanam



During VBS class hour in the Kirk

41 : 5 & 6

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, (THE KIRK) CHENNAI

May & June 2013