

# *Kirkspire*

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



O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
Give ear, O God of Jacob!  
Psalm 84:8

*March 2022*

## **CONTENTS**

Word from the Pastor <i>Rev Isaac Johnson</i>	3
Walking Exercise <i>Alfred Pramod</i>	5
'Fight One More Round' <i>Usha George</i>	7
Blossoms <i>Suguna Joseph</i>	9
John's Corner <i>John H Bala Singh</i>	10
Esther's Women's Fellowship <i>Roselin Johnson</i>	11
Early <i>Susan Rajkumari</i>	12
Medical Corner <i>Rajinikantha Narendranath</i>	15
Answers to Bible Quiz No. 123	17
Bible Quiz No. 124 - March	18

**Editor : Usha George**

**Ministry of the month : Women's Fellowship**



### Word from the Pastor

## CONFIDENCE Vs PRIDE

*...you come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts...(1 Samuel 17:45)*

Is it possible to see someone's confidence and think it is pride!! Too often we fail to see the difference between the two. When David, the young rugged-looking shepherd *boy* spoke about the possibility of defeating the seasoned mighty giant, Goliath, EVERYONE misunderstood David's words of confidence. His brothers accused him of pride, king Saul thought of him as being immature, and no one would have bet on David against Goliath. The difference in this is that David never said that he was capable, powerful or valiant. His confidence was in the power, ability and greatness of EL SHADDAI.

David teaches us these five lessons about putting our confidence in EL SHADDAI

1. Never underestimate your small victories - they are stepping stones to the future
2. Never buy into the hype created around you about obstacles and challenges - El Shaddai is greater than any or all of them
3. Know your resources or skills but don't forget that Victory comes from God Alone

4. When no one encourages you or when many discourage you, remember the God who is WITH YOU, IN YOU and FOR YOU
5. In the victory and beyond the victory, never forget to follow EL SHADDAI.

Saul struggled with pride during much of his reign because he never sought to build his confidence in God. Choose 'Confidence in God' over 'Pride in self'

The One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4)

Have a blessed month.

Rev. Isaac Johnson

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God has two dwellings: one in heaven, the other in meek and thankful hearts.

Isaak Walton

When the soul has laid down its faults at the feet of God, it feels as though it had wings.

Eugenie de Guerin

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## Walking Exercise

They say walking is a great way to improve or maintain your overall health. Just 30 minutes every day can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, and a whole lot of benefits. On the 27th of February 2022, Men's Fellowship along with the Urban Ministry of St. Andrew's Kirk organized a Prayer Walk which for me personally, was a walk to check my spiritual health. There were 12 men and one lady who participated in the Prayer Walk. We had a briefing followed by prayer before we set off in three groups in three circuits.

I was part of a group of 3 and we walked eastwards on PH Road, crossed Police Commissioner's office, Pursaiwalkam High Road and the Veterinary Hospital, and then headed back to church. Just as we started the Prayer Walk I asked Mr. David Appasamy about what I should do/expect from this walk. He said, "Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the need around us and pray silently for those things." The following are some of the things that I prayed for as led by God:

- An elderly man, who looked helpless, struggling to open a parcel he had in his hand
- A couple of young men, who looked like they were migrant workers going about their daily work
- The Police Force as we walked past the Commissioner's Office
- A couple of women, of whom one was physically challenged
- A woman who was sleeping on the pavement
- The traffic cop who was taking a breather on a hot Sunday afternoon

We ended the Prayer Walk with a debriefing, a prayer and left with plenty to ponder.

Today the 3rd of March 2022, as I write this, most assuredly I can say that this Prayer Walk has impacted me. My eyes automatically see people on the roadside, children selling at traffic signals, the number of migrant workers, and so on. This Prayer Walk should continue and not just be limited to prayer. The Master said "Go into all the world..." On the 27th of February we took the first step which is to 'GO'. As the Lord leads, I hope we have more men join us in this walking exercise to become spiritually fit, and do more for the Kingdom of God.

Alfred Pramod

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'You have only one pound, or one talent? May God have mercy on you if you bury it!'

Christ did not simply speak the truth; He was Truth – Truth through and through, for truth is a thing not of words but of life and being.

Frederick W. Robertson

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### **OBITUARY**

Mr. S.W. Kanagaraj, Elder (Retd.), passed away on 21st February, 2022 aged 95 years. The funeral was held in the church on 22nd February, followed by burial at Kasimedu Cemetery. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.



## **'Fight One More Round'**

*"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again..." Proverbs  
24:16*

Christian life is like a battlefield. The simile is apt as there has always been a tug of war between good and evil. It all started in the garden of Eden. We fully understand that Satan is tracking us tirelessly tempting us to fall into sin. This battle will continue till our Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory and majesty to claim His own.

The folks of the early Church were rightly considered saints and valiant warriors. We exalt their spectacular lives and fierce loyalty to their Leader. With no backing of rank or rabbinical education to support and strengthen them, they stood before the highest authorities and answered with fire in their eyes and determination in their voices. Judaism itself shook. The mighty Roman Empire was jolted. The world would never be the same again.

Jesus had built a successful team of followers who raised His banner high and signaled the world to follow their lead in establishing the Kingdom of God.

It is indeed very comfortable to sit within a Christian bubble, safe from the cruel darts of the hostile world. We read inspiring devotional books, drink the Word and listen in ease to learned messages from the pulpit. But comfort can never produce a good soldier. Jesus demands ACTION from His soldiers. "Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves" *James 1:22*.

So instead of basking in a poetic reflection of this One Solitary Life, let us step out into the adversarial world, perhaps against all odds, armed with His shining shield, press forward to fight the good fight. May our dull ears hear His clarion call, "Christian follow Me!" Jesus is not looking for giants to accomplish His work but to come to His side just as we are.

There is yet another battle which has to be fought within us. Overcome with fears and misgivings, we whimper, grumble and tell ourselves, "There is a lion in the way" *Proverbs 26:13*. Should we not fight against our timidity and inaction and claim the divine promise, "Thou shall tread upon the lion and adder" ? *Psalms 91:13*. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we overcome this turmoil within us.

As we enter the period of Lent, let us ponder anew the life of Jesus which was filled with apparent failures. The world never understood His great mission to the world. Even His disciples displayed shocking ignorance. He found God's will for Him in the bitter cup and bonded with God's will on the Cross. The greatest victory ever won was the Resurrection. He lives and so we live!

Our Lord needs our voices, our eyes, our feet, our minds and our hearts – our all. Even when overcome with opposition and ridicule, when the hostility of the world exhausts and extinguishes our energy, with His wonderful grace divine we will rise up and "Fight One More Round" for our Leader and Captain Jesus Christ, in His battle to save Mankind.

Usha George

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We should call a man who could sit on a barrel of gunpowder smoking a pipe, a rather unbalanced sort of man; so is the man who lives in this world thoughtless of the next.

George R. Hewitt

May God help us all, every day of our lives, to come to Christ just as we are, that He may make us more and more just what we ought to be.

Phillips Brooks

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## Blossoms...

Memories are special to me. I love to recall the past, basking in memories vivid and pleasing, distant and fading, painful and haunting. I used to visit people and places associated with my childhood just to relive the old days. Now, due to restricted movements, I resort to flipping through albums and rummaging the mementoes of bygone days. There is no denying a smile or a tear these nostalgic memories evoke. To me it's a kind of wandering into my past, invisible to others but heartwarming to me.

Recollections have brought a transition in me. Some of these memories have become my greatest praises. If I need to trust God more, I only have to look at my past. When I remember the many things God did in the years gone by, I feel like singing,

"Thookki thookki sumandir, yennai thangiye nadathinir  
Ullamellam anbinale ponguthaiyah"

(You carried me, held me, led me and my heart overflows with love)

We hardly recognise the value of a moment until it becomes a memory. Now, for me, Psalms like 1, 23, 46, 91, 103, 121 leap to mind easily in times of praise, fear or anxiety. But I recollect my younger days when I considered memorising these Psalms an ordeal and not a blessing! As for the painful memories, which resurge now and then even when I try to forget, they have become powerful reminders of God's forgiveness, His healing touch and His gentle mending of my brokenness. Memories have also led me to pray for others. Remembering an unsaved family member, a stranger who showed kindness, a friend of a different faith who had tough times, enabled me to lift them up to His throne of grace through prayer.

Memory is a special gift from God. The importance of remembering recurs throughout the Bible. God tells His people to "Remember," to "Call to mind". Remembering is an action that commands an outlook of the awesome power and love of God, showcases the lessons in humility, forgiveness and faith that we have learnt and emphasizes that the people and incidents in our lives are not there by coincidence or chance, but planned by God with a specific purpose.

But often we wait for a birthday or an anniversary to remember God's goodness. We need a Christmas or an Easter to remind us of the price He paid for us. Even while we partake the Lord's Supper in obedience to His instruction "Do this in remembrance of me," how do these memories impact us? Perhaps we too like Mary, need to treasure some things in our heart, even when we don't understand what God is doing in our lives. When we view our memories "through the lens of Scripture" we can clearly see the undeserved grace and unmerited favour we have been receiving from God and memory will take a new depth and meaning.

Memories are like blossoms, perhaps far behind, yet when they bloom, will, no doubt, spread the sweet fragrance of God's love and kindness that permeates our lives.

Suguna Joseph

### John's Corner

## IT IS WRITTEN

Meditation for Lent  
(Read Mat 4: 1-11)

Christ taught us clearly how we can  
Overcome every temptation,  
By seeking guidance in God's Word,  
And finding the right direction.

'It is written', Jesus replied,  
When He was by Satan tempted,  
And the devil could not prevail,  
However hard he attempted.

Fret not there's none to assist you,  
When Satan to allure you tries;  
Look to Jesus, lean on His Word,  
And rest assured He hears your cries.

John H. Bala Singh

## Esther's Women's Fellowship

One of the great women in the Bible was Esther. Her Jewish name was Hadassah which means 'an evergreen shrub which carries a beautiful aroma'. The name given to her later is Esther which means 'hide or conceal'. The meanings symbolise these two aspects of her life. In one sense she was an evergreen person carrying beautiful aroma, initially in her childhood and later in the palace even as a 'foreign' queen. However, there were several moments in her life when she had to be in hiding (though not in fear) of her personal details and later of her plan to expose Haman and his evil plans.

One of the key moments in her life was the time when she asked Mordecai and the Jews to pray saying that she and her maids would also pray (Esther 4:16). These women would not only pray but fast and pray. One has to wonder what kind of influence Esther might have had in the palace that the other women (who were not Jews) would join her in praying for the deliverance of the Jews, though they would have nothing to gain from this. In one sense, they obeyed the order of the queen but more importantly, the spiritual influence of Esther on the women which inspired them to join Esther in praying to Jehovah by faith, fighting a spiritual battle and praying with all earnestness, is worth noting. This what I call "Esther's Women's Fellowship".

Over the past two years, Kirk Women's Fellowship turned virtual and along with it came the opportunity to pray, pray together and pray for the world, our nation and the needs therein, not merely for our own needs. We bonded in prayer, we grew in faith in prayer and we saw God at work in and through our prayer. We all hear about prayer, many theoretically know about prayer but there is GREAT POWER when we actually pray with one accord, selflessly and faithfully. This is indeed God's doing and we have no plans to stop this anytime soon.

Dear Sisters, join us, pray with us and let us intercede for those who cannot pray for themselves.

Roselin Johnson

## Early



*As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed. Proverbs*

*26:14*

6:00 AM.

Snooze.

6:10.

Snooze.

6:20

Snooze.

6:30

Scramble out of bed.

Brush. Bathe. Eat.

Run out of the house.

Drive menacingly.

Start the day

with two fiends –  
frustration and hurry.

And of course,

Stress, a subtle intruder.

In the morning

a seemingly innocuous thought  
is pondered upon.

By afternoon

it becomes full-fledged anxiety.

By night

pregnant worry has given birth  
to twins – despair and tears.

If prevention is better than cure  
then daybreak happens to be the best time  
to implement these strategies.

There is something about  
early mornings that evoke  
child-like wistfulness.

Maybe it's the calm splendor of dawn,  
the quiet solitude or  
just the rush of getting  
a head start on the day.  
Abraham, Joshua and Mary  
seemed to prefer it.  
And You were known for  
disappearing into the Judean mountains.  
Father, I find it difficult  
to wake up these mornings.  
The blankets seem to  
offer more comfort than  
Your word.  
Citing inadequate sleep  
I skip my time with You.  
And then squish it into  
my five-minute break time.  
Hurried reading has nil retention.  
But my conscience is appeased and  
my checklist ticked.  
Your economy being vastly different  
I lose more than I gain  
when time with You is taken in vain.  
Forgive me for making  
Prayer my last option -  
The last effort after all else  
has miserably failed.  
May I seek You first:  
Before the temptation  
becomes too hard to handle,  
Before the fight  
becomes a war,  
Before worry  
turns into despondency.  
Change this slumbering child  
Awaken me  
Nudge me  
For those who seek  
You early  
will not be disappointed.  
(or frustrated =☺)

My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up. *Psalm 5:3*

The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will. *Isaiah 50:4*

And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. *Genesis 19:27*

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. *Joshua 6:12*

Then King Hezekiah rose early, gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord. *II Chronicles 29:20*

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. *Mark 16:2*

Dr. Susan Rajkumari

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The Sabbath is necessary not because it is commanded; it is commanded because it is necessary.

F. W. Robertson

I see in every child the possibilities of a perfect man.

Froebel

When you have nothing left but God, then for the first time you become aware that God is enough.

Maude Royden

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**Medical Corner**

## **EMOTIONAL HEALTH PEACE**

**“Doctors treat but Jesus heals”**

We are in the midst of panic due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many questions haunt our minds. Is it the end of the world? Is this the beginning of events leading to the second coming of Jesus? How can we have peace during alarming times such as these?

### **PRAYER:**

Mark 11:24 says “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” James 5:15 says “And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.”

2 Chr 7:14 says “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Psalm 122:6 says “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” We should pray for peace and healing of the entire world.

### **FAITH:**

We can pray to God almighty, who can control each and every situation. If we have absolute faith in God, then we will have complete peace in our hearts and minds. Habakkuk 2:4 says “But the righteous will live by his faith”. Matthew 9:29 says “According to your faith will it be done to you”. Acts 14:9 Apostle Paul “saw that he had faith to be healed.” Faith is part of the Armour of God. Eph 6:16 says “To all this take up the shield of faith”. In 1 Thess 5:8 “Faith and love as breast plate.” Faith gives us protection. Heb 11:1 says “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

**HOPE:**

Psalm 42:5 says "Put your hope in God" Isaiah 40:31 says "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."

Rom 12:12 tell us "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction".

**PRECAUTION:**

We should also follow the precautions advised to prevent virus spreading in our community / State / Country / World. Be careful, not fearful. Dispel the myths of corona scare, imbibe correct knowledge, and become aware. Follow cough etiquettes, hand hygiene and personal care.

1. Educate yourself about infection.
2. Maintain basic hygiene
3. Do not over stimulate yourself with news from various sources, especially social media. This can lead to fatigue, anxiety and stress. Do not constantly engage in conversation on this subject.
4. Find ways to relax - be it music, reading, family time etc.
5. Health care professionals must ensure they do not burn out in the process of caring.
6. While physical social distancing is advocated, stay connected with friends, family and well wishers. Emotional isolation does not help.
7. Do not hesitate to seek help if you are not able to help yourself. Children also need support. Talk to the child, share simple information, don't underplay the seriousness since they pick up information from other sources also.

Dr. (Mrs) Rajinikantha Narendranath

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You may juggle human laws, and you may fool with human courts, but there is a judgement to come, and from it there is no appeal.

O.P. Gifford

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## **Answers to Bible Quiz No. 123 – February 2022**

### **Match Word Answers**

1. c) Genesis 37:5, 9-10
2. c) Matthew 1:19
3. b) Genesis 29: 27-28
4. b) Job 2:9
5. c) Ruth 4:22
6. a) Genesis 11:31
7. a) 1 Samuel 18:27
8. c) Genesis 1:26, 31
9. b) Judges 11:35
10. a) 1 Chronicles 1:1-3

### **The winners are:**

1. Mrs Aruna Asir
2. Mrs Indira Rajanayakam
3. Mrs P Patricia
4. Mrs Victoria Basker
5. Mrs Suguna Joseph
6. Dr (Mrs) Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad

***Hearty Congratulations!***



**Bible Quiz No. 124 – March 2022**

## **A Tent-maker's Quiz**

King James Version (KJV)

Please give only one reference.

1. What name is given to the most famous '**tent**' in the Bible ?
2. Who is called '*the father of such as dwell in tents*' ?
3. Of what material were tents chiefly made ? What colour were they ?
4. What well-known Bible character '*pitched his tent toward Sodom*' ?
5. What military leader once hid valuable plunder under his tent ?
6. Who is the most famous tent-maker mentioned in the Bible ?
7. Two dear friends of his were also of the same craft. Who were they ?
8. In which book of the Bible are the words:  
**'I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house  
of my God, than to dwell in the tents of  
wickedness'**
9. A dream of a barley cake tumbling into a tent inspired which Israelite leader to overcome the Midianites ?
10. Whom did Jael murder, by smiting him on the temple with a tent peg ?

Taken from a Bible quiz book by May C Smith.

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email [admin@thekirk.in](mailto:admin@thekirk.in) by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Usha George



**Prayer Walk for Urban Ministry**



**Women's Fellowship**



