

Kirkspire



November 2013

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Word from the Pastor

There is a story about a sea captain who in his retirement skippered a boat taking day-trippers to Shetland Islands.

On one trip, the boat was full of young people. They laughed at the old captain when they saw him say a prayer before sailing out, because the day was fine and the sea was calm.

However they weren't long at sea when a storm suddenly blew up and the boat began to roll & pitch violently. The terrified passengers came to the captain and asked him to join them in prayer.

But he replied, "I say my prayers when it's calm. When it's rough I attend to my ship."

As we read this story, this is a strong reminder to all of us to seek God at all times (in quiet times as well as in times of panic). It's learning to pray in the regular and not only in emergencies. We need to remember that our God is not a parachute that we use only when we need to save ourselves from a crisis.

The Bible exhorts us in Psalm 105:4 "Look to the LORD and his strength; **seek his face always.**"

Even David shares from his journey with God the experience of seeking Him. Psalm 34:4 "I sought the LORD, and he answered me; **he delivered me from all my fears.**"

Vs.6: "This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; **he saved him out of all his troubles.**"

Vs.10: "The lions may grow weak and hungry, **but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**"

Our Lord Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; **seek and you will find**; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; **he who seeks finds**; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8

I close with Isaiah 55:6 "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near."

For He is only a prayer away. May the joy of seeking the Lord cause you to experience His peace and power.

*Peter Francis
Pastor*



'The Double Delight'

Right from the start the 'District-5' family Camp this year was full of delightful surprises! While it had rained heavily in our Church campus it was a welcome relief for the 'Sixteen' of us gathered at the station behind to experience absolute dry weather on the 26th of September. The double legged journey by train and then on road to Kodaikanal was weathered by one and all easily amidst the fun and fellowship. The delicious food and the remarkable hospitality at the place of our stay was no doubt an added advantage.

Right at the outset, even during the planning and preparation for the Camp, it was the collective desire of one and all involved to dig deeper into the Word of God while enjoying every bit of the healthy fellowship of believers. 'Secrets of the Knowledge of the Kingdom of God' was the theme that was chosen this year and it was expounded by God fearing speakers who followed up each session with thought provoking discussions. The first two sessions focussed on the understanding of the Kingdom of God and the Heart of the King. It was awesome to ponder on the thought that though God's rule encompasses everything, yet in and through CHRIST JESUS every human need is continuously met through generations. (Luke 9:18-19) As the people of God, our motives and attitudes were challenged by apt examples and parables.

Right into the middle of this delightful family camp loaded with all the shopping for 'mouth watering exotic pastries and home-made chocolates, the third and the fourth sessions called for a thorough stock taking of our inner 'self'. The beliefs, values and the Character of the Kingdom builder rightly pointed us to the heart of worship. Seeking the Lord from the heart and living as outlined in Amos 4:4 called not for mere emotion but transformation. This transformational relationship-'worship', no doubt encouraged each of us to participate in the Kingdom expression of 'Holiness'.

The singing sessions, humorous quotes and not to leave out the actively participated games session richly brought out the talent and worth of each member of the District-5 family of our Church. Though missing 'PC Uncle' for the 1st time, his explanations and anecdotes based on the Word of God were remembered and mentioned right through. The fifth and the sixth sessions reinforced the truth that the Kingdom of God is present when we live in Holiness and in 'His' love. It was really a time of 'refreshing' and renewal, as the session right at end on 'Spiritual warfare' literally challenged each of us to experience 'God-sized' victories. And it was a pleasant surprise indeed, as this 'family' was invited to sing during the Sunday morning worship service at St. Peter's Church. The medley – "I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart" was sung with great enthusiasm and with the emphatic affirmation that 'Nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing – nothing is too difficult for thee'. To sum it all up – this year's camp continues to overflow with a double blessing – each of us continuing to delight ourselves in the Lord and reaffirming along with the Psalmist – "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity...For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life for evermore"

District 5 members



A Monkey Story

The story must actually begin on the day our District 5 of St Andrew's Kirk arrived at Kodaikanal for our camp on September 28, 2013. Although it was quite cold, we were all excited and glad to be there, taking a break from our hum-drum lives in Chennai. We arrived at a guest house of sorts and our charming hostess — amongst many do's and don't's — warned us to shut our bedroom windows at night as monkeys were known to climb in and steal things or mess up our stuff. This somehow stayed in my mind above all other words of advice and Sheryl and I meticulously checked that the windows were closed before we said good night for the night.

At about 3 a.m I awoke to a curious sensation. While the rest of my body was warm enough, my feet were like ice! I surreptitiously tried to warm them up by moving them closer to Sheryl. She promptly

protested b; shoving them away, mumbling something about "cold as ice!"

All of a sudden, I felt something land on my feet! At first I thought it must be a left-over blanket from an overtaxed housekeeping department and gingerly felt this "thing" with my toe... It did not have the right texture for a blanket! What could it be? I felt it with my toe again (perhaps it was a bedsheet Instead.) No; didn't feel like a bedsheet either. And then, with dawning horror I remembered our hostess's words and thought ... (don't forget it WAS later than 3 a.m!) ... could it be a monkey which climbed into our room?!?!?? I began to be a little more concerned now. And yet ... the "thing" on my feet didn't move!

Perhaps it was a dead monkey! But what if it was alive and playing "possum" instead? What if it bit me when I moved again? All these horrible thoughts flitted through my mind in those dread minutes in the hours before dawn.

Luckily, at that time, Sheryl woke up to go to the bathroom. Heaving a sigh of relief (for now I had company, you see, to share my horror.) When she came out, I said, "Sheryl, please switch on the light and see what this "thing" is on my feet." Taking one glance she said, "Oh, that's my towel!"

The only thought (midst the relief that it wasn't a monkey as I'd feared) was, "Why would anyone put a towel under our sheets?? And why would it then land on my feet at 3 a.m., to scare *me* half to death!"

I suppose there is a moral in the story above. But at 3 a.m., I was dashed if I could find it!

—- *Russel Stevenage*



Dignity in Death

It was probably June or July 1971, I was in Calcutta for about a week. When we landed in Calcutta we were told by the vice- chancellor that it would be risky for all of us to stay at one place in the University campus as the fear of getting attacked by the Naxalites was very high. We were asked to stay in the residences of different faculty members.

I was somehow not very happy at the prospect of being a 'guest' for an unwilling host. I wondered whether I could use this opportunity for meeting Mother Theresa and if possible to serve as a volunteer in Nirmal Hriday. I reached Nirmal Hriday in the morning. Mother was not there. I waited for sometime and Mother returned after about an hour. I introduced myself and asked her whether I could stay there and work as a volunteer. Since I had told her that I was a student of Chemistry, she asked me to go and work in the pharmacy. She did not ask me anything else. She treated me as if she had known me for ages. I was the fourth one in the room allotted to me.

An incident happened at about 1.30. in the afternoon. The volunteers of Nirmal Hriday brought an old lady on a stretcher. The lady was about 90 years old and was not fully conscious. She had high fever and was constantly uttering something in her semiconscious state. Mother and other sisters took her in and gave her a bath and medicines. Mother sat beside her pressing her legs and patting her shoulders in a very soothing way. She was also telling something to the old lady, who was certainly looking better. Since I could not follow Bengali, I asked some one as to what the old lady was saying and what Mother was telling her. What I heard was pathetic. This lady had lost her husband when her son was only three years old. She struggled hard to bring up this -son. She worked tirelessly in a number of homes as a maid servant. She gave him a decent education. He got a job and was married. Till then the lady's life was joyful. I do not know whether the lady had differences

with her son or daughter in law and it was also not clear whether the lady was sent out of the house or she herself walked out of it. But this much was clear that she was not staying with her son. She continued to work in other houses as long as her health permitted. When she could not work, she started begging. For the last three days she was suffering from high fever. She had fallen unconscious, totally exhausted by fever and hunger. Now the volunteers had brought her here. A message was sent to her son so that he could meet and take her home. But he refused to come. The old lady was cursing her son and holding him responsible for her present situation. Mother in her own inimitable style was telling her not to speak ill of her son, "mother is a God for the children. If God curses, will it not become true? Mother should always wish well for the children." She continued pressing her legs.

Maybe because of the medicine or due to the affectionate attention she received, the lady showed distinct improvement in her health. In the evening she regained consciousness. She was cheerful and was now speaking good about her son. She was nostalgically recollecting those lovely incidents when her son was a small child and played pranks with her. "Yes" she said, "Mother was right I should not curse my son. Actually he is a very good boy. He is under wrong advice. I am sure, one day he will come and take me home." She smiled. And then she rested. We all thought that she would recover completely.

After midnight, the lady developed complications and her blood pressure started falling. Doctors were called in. In spite of their best efforts, the lady died at 2.30 in the morning. Again a message was sent to her son. He declined and told the volunteers that he had nothing to do with her. Probably he was upset that his mother died in a missionary place and brought bad name to the family. At that time, Mother suddenly turned to me and asked, "Are you a Hindu Brahmin?" I said, "Yes". "Would you do the rituals for this lady?" she asked. I was shell shocked. I come from an orthodox family where going to the crematorium when your parents are alive is unthinkable and performing rituals there is beyond imagination. I thought for a second. I remembered that I had promised Mother to be a volunteer. Volunteers have no options. After a few seconds' hesitation, I said 'yes'. Early morning I went and performed all the rituals that a son should perform for his mother.

Later I asked Mother, "you did so much for this lady but she did not survive. Don't you think that all your efforts were wasted?" Her greyish green eyes met mine. Let me tell you that I have not seen a more wrinkled face than hers and a more beautiful face than hers. She smiled. "No son, nothing is wasted. I knew that her health was delicate. I wanted

her to have dignity in death." I was stunned. I had never heard anything like this. I had only heard about dignity in life. What is this dignity in death? I asked her. Her answer made me dumb. Even after so many years, when I think of her answer, I get thrilled. She said, "Son" and kept her little finger on my chest, which I still feel. "Son, this little heart of yours beating continuously is the temple of God. It should always be clean.

Normally it gets filled up with dirt such as anger, jealousy, hatred, selfishness. When we die and go up to see God, His temple must be clean. Otherwise you cannot see his lovely face. Did you see that the heart of the lady was filled with anger, helplessness, and frustration? What happened to her in the evening? She had cleaned her heart from all those negative feelings and was cheerful and positive. Her temple of God was clean and would certainly be able to go and see God in the eyes. That I call as the dignity in death. If one has purity of heart in the last minute of his life, he can see God. That is dignity in death" I have thought about it several times in my life. I have seen many people who have shown remarkable dignity in life. Some really had dignity, some managed to show dignity, some wore masks and some manipulated dignity. This may be easy. But to have dignity in death truly demands purity because at that time there is no pretence, no one to please and nothing to gain. I had learnt a message from the Mother that dignity in death is more important than dignity in life.

Dr. Gururaj Karajagi

*Extracted from the "News Bulletin of Oct, Nov, Dec. 2013
" of Jeevodaya Hospice."*

Quiz No. 39 - Nov. 2013
Based on King James Version



(Note : Give only 1 ref. which best answers the question.
Ref. carries 1/2 mark.)

1. The 200,000 women, sons and daughters of the men of Judah taken captive by the men of Israel, under King Pekah were
(a) Slaughtered (b) made bondmen and bondwomen (c) exiled
(d) sent back home
2. David was detached from the Philistine army that was to fight Saul, because
(a) he requested it (b) Achish distrusted him (c) the Philistine lords distrusted him (d) Of language difficulties.
3. Muppim, Huppim and Ard were : (a) Amramite gods (b) the words of a chant of the priest of Bawal (c) Three men who rebelled (d) the sons of Benjamin (e) Not in the Bible.
4. What man in the Bible had hair like eagle feathers and nails like bird claws?
5. There is one place in the Bible where it talks about grease. In what Book of the Bible do you find that comment?
6. What was used to join the Tabernacle curtains together?
7. The book of Proverbs lists four creatures that are small but exceedingly wise. What are these four creatures?
8. In John's vision he saw 'the tree of life', whose leaves were for what?
9. In what book of the Bible are the words; 'Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn'?
10. What is the name of the Bible story in which these words occur; 'And he washed their stripes; and was baptised'?

Trivia

What did Adam and Eve do when they were expelled from the Garden of Eden?

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

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

Usha George

John's Corner

DAVID AND GOLIATH

Read I Sam : 17
(Nov 14th is Children's Day)

Goliath was a mighty man,
By birth a Philistine,
Who tormented the Israelites,
And made them sweat and pine.

For they had no one good enough
To fight this giant strong;
They trembled at his very sight,
And thought they'd not last long.

But David, a young shepherd boy
With ruddy cheeks, told Saul,
'I'll fight this man in the Lord's strength,
We need not fear at all.'

Saul doubted greatly and assayed
To dissuade the lad,
But naught could make him change his mind,
For immense faith he had.

'Pray let me go,' he begged of Saul,
'With God I will prevail;
For I can do all things through Him,
He surely will not fail.'

Finding his faith steadfast, King Saul
At last let David go.
With just a sling and five smooth stones
He marched toward the foe.

Goliath scorned and ridiculed,
But David took a stone,
And with his sling and faith in God,
He struck that mighty one.

Down came the giant, and his men
Were slaughtered as they fled.
Like David we too will succeed,
When by the Lord we're led.

'Twas not his strength that killed the man,
Nor wisdom of the lad;
But 'twas his confidence in God,
The intense faith he had.

Whatever trials you may face,
Look to the Lord in prayer,
And He will give the victory,
He's with us everywhere,

John H. Bala Singh

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 38

Hearty Congratulations !

Right answers given by :
Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam
Mrs. Minnie Devadoss
Dr. S.E. Prasad
Mrs. Victoria Basker
Dr. Rachel Chacko
Mrs. Sneha Dawson

The answers are :

1. Solomon - Proverbs 6 : 27
2. David - Psalm 55 : 21
3. Joel - Judges 4 : 19
4. Joshua - Joshua 8 : 29
5. Fill in the blanks - Numbers 11 : 5 -- fish -- cucumbers, -- melons, leeks, onions, garlic;
6. Leviticus 19 : 23 - 25. It is the fruit of the first three years of a tree newly planted. It was reputed unclean, and no one was allowed to eat it. In the fourth year it was offered to the Lord, and after that was for common use.
7. 'Christ the Lord is risen to-day.'
8. Ephraimites - Judges 12 : 5, 6
9. 'The Stone of Help' set up by Samuel to commemorate the defeat of the Philistines. - 1 Samuel 7 : 12
10. The Benjamites - 1 Chronicle 12 : 1, 2

Trivia !

Answer - Joseph - Pharaoh made a ruler out of him.

Usha George



Medical Corner

ULCERS IN THE BODY - VI

AMOEBIC ULCERS

Doctors treat but Jesus heals

Everyone is familiar with Amoebic dysentery. It is caused by an organism known as *E. histolytica* which is spread between humans by its cysts. It can also lead to amoebic liver abscess. The cysts are ingested by drinking contaminated water or eating uncooked food like lettuce & salad contaminated by human excreta.

Amoebic ulcers occur in the large intestine and may cause severe haemorrhage, but rarely perforate the intestinal wall. Passing frequent loose motions contaminated by mucus and blood is a characteristic symptom. The lower abdomen may also be tender. Laboratory examination of the stool confirms the diagnosis and appropriate anti-amoebic treatment is given by the physician.

Prevention of amoebiasis which is very prevalent in India, is to wash all the vegetables and meat well before cutting and cooking. Uncooked salad must be well washed before eating. Any one cooking food must wash their hands thoroughly with anti bacterial/ disinfectant soap. Washing hands with soap after the daily morning rituals will stop the cysts from getting transmitted. Excellent personal hygiene is the key to the prevention of amoebiasis. While travelling outside home, it is advisable to eat food from hygienic hotels/eateries.

Dr. (Mrs) Rajini Kantha

P-R-A-Y-E-R



Some one said 'When you pray, do not ask for what you desire but ask for what your deserve'

As God's children, each one of us has the right and privilege to enter the throne of grace through His Son, Jesus Christ,

The foremost expression of this relationship, between man and God, culminates in prayer and worship. A few simple tips could help to build more meaningful prayers. The trick is to shift the focus from man (we, me, my needs, etc.) to God the father in Heaven.

As a Church (The body of Christ), let us arise to render a more meaningful prayer, acceptable to God. (Rom 12:1)

P-Praise - An expression of glorifying the Father in Heaven through our worship and thanksgiving. (Heb 13:15)

R-Repeat - One can never enter into His holy presence without first being cleansed of all sins. And the primary act is to 'repent' of our sins, which is only at the foot of the cross.

A-Ask - Our petitions can now be expressed by asking. - 'Ask and ye shall receive.'

Y-Yield - Yielding to the will of God, with the help of The Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26 and Rom 12:2)

E-Expect - Believe, God has heard our prayers and expect to 'see' the results through the spiritual eyes of faith; Surely, He is the rewarder of them who seek Him. (Heb 11:6)

R-Rejoice - Thanking and praising are very much part of rejoicing - an expression of having 'received' in faith. (1 sam 1;18,Hab3;17& 18,Rom5:2)

Children's Corner

Blasphemy from the mouth of babes

Children are amazing.

Names changed to protect popularity.

Well, are you?

I have been working with Jay, a five year old with autism for about 8 months. I noticed that his sister Sandra ran upstairs and cried every time I stated that I was leaving!! Most often I run behind her and find her in her usual place under a table in her room. I sit with her there till she calms down but we don't really talk. One day after the chasing and the sitting down and the calming down process, she asked me why I always talk to Jay and not her as soon as I get into the house. Attention! That's what she wanted. I decided to give as much as I could to her the next time.

The following visit, I made it a point to talk to her and began my visit by playing with her, talking about school, her hair, Jay's hair, pasta shapes etc. She said I have a beautiful face and that my hands are "very little." I laughed. She looked intently at my face and touched it with her little hands and touched my necklace. She asked me what it was. I asked her what she thought it was.

"A cross!" she said. "Yes, it is a cross." repeating her bubbly tone. "Why do you wear one?" she asked, looking at me like I knew everything. I looked away and just mumbled, "I am a Christian." She stared at me. I felt guilty, till she screamed, "Are you Jesus?"

Nah, you must be...

My favourite case Sarah. Sarah is the most beautiful 5 year old I have ever laid my eyes on. She is just gorgeous. I find it hard to communicate to Sarah. Still learning.

Sarah's brother Richard and me have long conversations about cartoons, books, toys and going to the pound shop. On one of my recent visits, Richard asked me to come to his bedroom to show off his new red truck. Finally, we got bored of the truck we moved on to Shrek and Woody.

"Let's make Shrek as tall as Woody," Richard said, trying to get all the books on top of each other to make a stack. Checking constantly if Shrek was growing tall enough for Woody.

The books fell. The books were read. The books were torn. The books glued.

I was getting a bit bored by then. I hadn't had any "significant" conversation with him, nothing to fill out my "Notes about the visit."

I thought I'd better end this soon. "Richard, who would you like to be Woody or Shrek?"

Recognising my need to leave, boy -green eyes staring into my black ones, he shouted: YOU ARE SHREK!

No-I'm-not. I-am-Jesus.

Jesus wanted us to have a heart of a child, be as humble as a child to enter the kingdom of God. He does love entertainment!

Xyna Elizabeth Prasad

TRUE or FALSE

- | | TRUE | FALSE |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Goliath had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The dove was the only bird Noah sent out to find dry land. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Obed was Ruth's first baby. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Jesus fed 6,000 people with 8 loaves and 4 fishes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Lazarus was in the grave 3 days when Jesus raised him from the dead. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Moses parted the Dead Sea with his rod. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. John the Baptist died a normal death. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The serpent tempted Eve with an apple | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. David killed Goliath with his own (Goliath's) sword. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Kirk News

October has been a month of important events both on the national and international levels. When some of them enshrine the Kingdom values taught by our Lord, we are delighted. For example, when Malala Yousafzai won the European Union's human rights prize, it underscored our Lord's example of treating women as of equal worth as men. Jesus' parable of the unfaithful servant highlights the miserable end of people who serve in high positions without accountability and honesty. We therefore welcome the Supreme Court's strictures on corrupt politicians and bureaucrats. The cricket loving Indians lament the retirement of Tendulkar who was almost a god to them. Instead they should thank God for giving this man this incredible gift and his dedication to nurture the gift for 24 years. Anything else would be idolatry.

So we are full of hope and optimism as we face Advent and the good news of God's coming on earth.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- 6th October - 6pm Healing service - Dr. (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha Narendranath spoke on 'Overcoming stress' (Matt.6: 31-34, 11:28-30 & Phil.4:6-7)
- 13th October - 9am Healing Sunday - Dr.Rebecca Vedamanickam, representative for South Asia for the Haggai Institute, shared on the topic 'Whose life is it anyway?' (1 Tim.5:5, Psalm 71:17-18).
- 6pm service - Mr.P.C.R. Suresh's topic 'Discovering daily' expounded on Eph.6:10-20 and John 16:19-24.

The Healing Sunday service at 9am praised the dedicated service and sacrifices of our doctors in the Kirk Healing Ministry. Dr.Rebecca Vedamanickam's topic focussed on the Author and Perfecter of our faith, the Lord Jesus, and reminded us that *He* is the One who owns us and heals us in spirit, soul and body and sets us right.

The Choir presented a special ensemble of Anthems at the 9am service on the 20th on the theme "His Dwelling Place".

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY As expected, the Book of James has proved to be challenging because James' style is utterly direct and his message is totally relevant today, even though the letter addressed believers centuries ago. We invite all to this stimulating study which is into the 4th chapter.

PRAYER CELL met in the manse on Fridays, with the study of the Psalms continuing to strengthen and bless the intercessors.

HOUSE CHURCH was conducted on Fridays:

4th October in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Larsen Sathyaseelan,
11th October in the home of Miss Abigail Sunithi Rajan,
18th October in the home of Mr. & Mrs. James Roberts,
25th October in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Sudir Paul Karunakaran.

DISTRICT MEETS

District 1 met in the home of Dr. & Mrs. Benny Benjamin on the 27th for fellowship (& pot luck dinner!).

District 2 also met in the home of Mrs. Usha George on the 27th for Bible study and fellowship.

District 5 met in the home of Mr. David & Mrs. Jennifer Pacheco on the 20th.

A very special '**Thank You!**' to all the brothers & sisters who welcomed us into your homes with warmth & fellowship and blessed us with your abundance. May the Lord bless you forever more!

KIRK WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP had their monthly meeting on 20th October after the 9am service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes 2-12 met for play practice on the 6th. Regular classes were held on 13th and 20th. 27th October was Adventure Sunday up to Class 9, while Classes 10-12 joined KYF at CATALYST for praise & worship and sharing.

KIRK YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (KYF)

KYF visited the Friend in Need Society near the Church on the 6th and ministered to the senior citizens there. On the 13th, there was a time of prayer and sharing on the topic 'Hope in the midst of suffering'. On the 3rd Sunday (20th) the youth-led Bible study was on 'Hope of deliverance'. CATALYST youth service happened on the 27th.

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS MOVEMENT (E&MM), Fasting and Prayer on Thursdays saw evangelists and Church members praying for the evangelical work and the needs of the Church, including our Outreach Churches and Projects and crucial issues concerning our Nation. They also prayed that Christmas programs in the outreach areas might be more Gospel oriented. The upcoming Christmas Sharing Sale on 1st

December and the annual Church Camp in January also figured in the list of requests made to the Father of lights, whose promised help and guidance are proof of His unfalling love.

CONGRATULATIONS!

And thanks to God for the gift of a baby boy to Annette and Ruben Caster on 2nd October 2013. Grandson of David and Jennifer Pacheco.

Praveena Caleb, daughter of Mr.D.John Manickam, our member, gave birth to a baby boy on 2nd October 2013.

OBITUARY

1. Capt. S.K. Vincent Gnanaraj, our member, passed away on 7th October 2013, aged 69 years. The funeral was conducted in our Church on 8th October. We express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray for God's comfort and strength for them at this time.

2. Our member Mr. P. Thomas Mathew, husband of Dr. Reema Mathew passed away on October 29th. Our sincere condolences to Dr. Reema, Sons Anish & Vivin and their families.

OTHER NEWS

The Riber Memorial Day Care Centre held the annual Jumble Sale during the month and reported a good response from the congregation and community.

UPCOMING EVENT

1st December: Christmas Sharing Sale & Fellowship! Celebrate the Lord Jesus by participating! The entire proceeds of the sale are distributed to needy Christian outreach ministries. Call the Church office to find out how you can help! (044-25612608).....and, of course, December will see a whole line of Christmas programmes in our Church and at our outreach projects. Your prayers for the Lord's hand in all our plans and hopes are the need of the hour. This includes prayers for the Church Camp in January 2014. This is the season to show the world around us who Jesus is, what He has done and what He can do! We are His chosen people to spread His love among our Christian brethren and those who don't know Him at all!

We look forward to your articles, drawings, poems & feedback/ suggestions from you, our beloved congregation. Youth and children are especially requested to contribute and liven up our magazine. Remember: December is the time to rejoice. So let the Lord inspire us through you! (1 Cor.12:7-11)

Please hand over material either to the Editor, or to the Kirkspire committee members or in the Church office.



District 5 Camp at Kodaikanal