

Kirkspire

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

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27



November 2021

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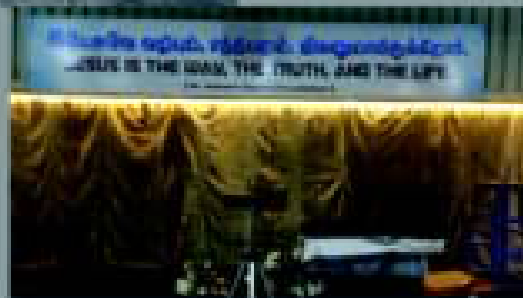
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Editor : Usha George



Special meeting for
visually challenged at
Balaramapuram

St Andrews Church,
Perumbakkam





Word from the Pastor

Riches in Store

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. (Luke 16:10)

The above verse can be looked at in two ways, both as a Great statement or as a frightening statement. It depends on who is looking at it from individual life experiences. Here is a list of 5 pairs of people who were on both sides of this statement

1. For Abel, God stored reward, for Cain, a curse
2. For Namaan, God healed and honoured, for Gehazi, God punished with a curse
3. For Daniel, God rescued and rewarded, for the wicked elders, there was sudden frightening death
4. For Mordecai and Esther, God heard their cry, for Haman, God made him cry and fall
5. For JESUS, God the Father exalted Him to the highest, God will judge satan into the eternal lake of fire

The Verse of the Month is from Colossians 1:27 which starts by saying 'To them...'. Who are the 'them' is answered at the end of verse 26 where the Bible calls God's disciples as saints. This brings us to three important lessons to be learned.

- a. God calls us to God-fearing choices based on Biblical teaching

- b. God warns us of God-watching choices that we make everyday
- c. God keeps us in hope for the God-preserved rewards for His faithful followers

Even as we see brokenness, corruption, duplicity and reckless living all around us...

Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

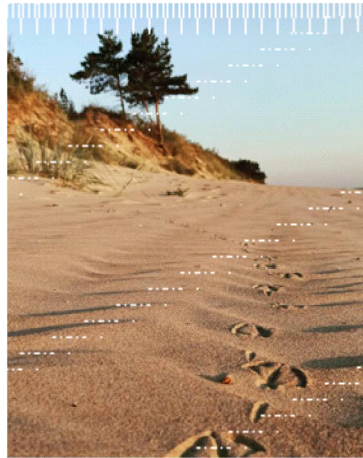
Have a blessed month

Praying for all God's people

Rev. Isaac Johnson

“Follow Me”

‘Follow Me,’ He said Just two words No agendas were verbalised No guarantees were issued. You see, Following requires trust- Complete abandonment.



‘The road is narrow, It is hard,’ - I groaned.
‘I never told you otherwise,’- He said ‘Narrow is the gate
And difficult the way which Leads to life
Very few find it and stay on it.
The highway to destruction is broad The choice is yours, My child.’

‘I wish things happened my way For a change,’ - I said.
‘Follow Me’ - He said,
‘Even when you don’t understand My ways For My thoughts are nothing
like your’s
And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. My ways are
life
My paths are truth.’

'The paths are confusing
The highway looks tempting,'- I said. He smiled gently and said,
'Stand at the crossroads and look; Ask for the ancient paths
Ask where the good way is And walk in it.
Ask and I will answer and you will find rest for your soul.'

'Is it worth it?
The pain, the disappointments?'- I asked.
'When you are in rough waters, you will not drown When you go through
rivers of difficulty,
I will be with you.
When you walk through the fire You will not be burned up
You will come out of it unscathed, For I Am the Lord,
Who builds a road right through the ocean

Who carves a path through the pounding waves. I will make a road in
the wilderness for you
The path is hard
But it leads to a beautiful kingdom And we get to travel together-
You and I...
So, will you follow Me?'

References:

Matthew 4: 19-20
Matthew 7: 13-14
Isaiah 55: 8
Jeremiah 6: 16
Isaiah 43: 2, 16, 19

Dr. Susan Rajkumari

My Lord, my Saviour, pour Thy love through me.

Amy Carmichael

The blood of Christ stands not simply for the sting of sin on
God, but the scourge of God on sin, not simply for God's
sorrow over sin, but for God's wrath on sin.

P. T. Forsyth



A Chasing After the Wind...

Ecclesiastes 1:14

With a deep awareness of the swift passing of time, I recollect a poem learnt in my childhood, "Who has seen the wind?" by Christina Rossetti. The lines prettily explain that only when we see the leaves tremble and the trees bowing their heads, we know that the wind is passing through. Be it the gentle zephyr or the fierce winds whipping up the ocean, it is meaningless to chase the wind.

We humble humans are not on planet Earth by accident. Our Creator designed us in a blindingly brilliant fashion, with a mind which discerns what is good and bad, what is real and what is false, what is vapour and what is spiritual reality. The mind understands that life is fleeting and transient. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow can never be ours. We have only today.

Does it not surprise and perplex us that King Solomon, who received the gift of unsurpassed wisdom from God, goes grossly wrong in his choices in life? He wasted the robust years of his life in self-indulgence as he multiplied his wives, horses and gold, only to wearily exclaim 'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!'

Wisdom dawns in the twilight years of his life when he proclaims that true happiness is found in God alone. He summons the youth of every century to 'Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth...'. It is indeed a clarion call to men and women to give their best to their Master; to bring their fresh ardour, aspiration, and thoughts to offer their Creator the fullness of their might. Jesus set the example.

Since the days of Adam, the devices of Satan have never changed. He makes us believe that we control our lives. We are easily drawn to the glittering lights shining all over in our pleasure-crazy society. We pump our energy trying to gain wealth, fame, power, and sensuous pleasures. We exhaust our precious commodity Time and

end up fearful, discontented, and restless. How many of us understand that all we have done is chasing the wind?

Dust as we are, we have the breath of our Divine Creator. He has planted firmly and deeply in us the thought of Eternity. If we quieten our hearts and the screeching voices of the world, we can hear His voice say that we are His and that we are meant to live in joy with Him forever.

'Take Time to Be Holy' sing our saints. Communion with our God is not like instant food or like the gadgets and digital tools of modern times providing instant gratification. Communion with our Creator is an ongoing process of looking, listening and sitting in silence at His feet.

The Christian message speaks of the beautiful and tender relationship between God and Man. Jesus gave Himself for us and He wants us to share that 'portion' we have received with those in distress of body and mind. Deep communion with our Master helps us reflect his likeness and share lessons of joy to all around.

The timeless classic 'The Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan speaks of a pilgrim, Christian, walking through the twists and turns of life, warding off the fiery darts of the devil, but with invincible faith and focus he reaches The Celestial City. May we too journey through life's perplexing maze with joy, faith, and determination to be picked up in the arms of our Saviour to live ever more in glory.

Far from chasing the wind 'we're marching thro' Immanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high'.

Usha George

The first impulse of a born-again Christian is to win somebody to Jesus.

C. T. Aubrey

The Bible is alive, it speaks to me, it has feet, it runs after me, it has hands, it lays hold on me.

Martin Luther



You Can Be A Part Of God's Mission

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus.

It's a joy indeed to share glimpses of our work in and through our outreach churches. Jesus promises us His presence and empowers us with His authority to baptise in His name, and commands us to go and make disciples through preaching and teaching. Matthew 28:18-20 says, 'And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."' Amen.

Evangelism serves as both a beautiful privilege and an urgent priority for God's people. This is our step in obedience to the 'great commission' of Jesus. It is the predominant means by which the Holy Spirit makes Jesus known and invites all for salvation, from the grips of permanent destruction into the joy of eternal fellowship with Christ in heaven, to the glory of God forever. The vision of St. Andrew's Church captures it, Kirk exists "to make congregations of obedient disciples of Jesus Christ". Since 1972, the church has been involved in going out and sharing the love and hope that Jesus assures through the message of the gospel, backed with sincere actions to uplift the lives of many.

Today St. Andrew's Church is privileged to be involved in 25 areas of ministry with 12 congregations worshipping in Tamil, Hindi and English in our outreach churches. We have a team of 9 outreach evangelists and pastors. The congregations worship in our centres in SM Nagar (Near Central Railway Station), Balaramapuram (Near Padi Flyover), Gypsy Colony (Both in Kotturpuram & Pallavaram), Kosapur (Near

Madhavaram Milk Colony), Awariwakkam (Near Pazhaverkadu), Thirupalaivanam (10 kms from Ponneri), Perumbakkam (Tamil & English) and Hindi Fellowship (in Kirk Campus, Patrawakam & Karanodai). The Evangelism and Missions Movement also includes 9 ministry locations, 3 partnership initiatives and 1 national missions involvement.

While God has blessed the Church with committed staff, who take the gospel to where God is leading us, the apostle Paul reminds us through his letter to the Corinthians, of how each one of us is called to live out the gospel of Jesus through our own lives. "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20

Let me invite you to take time to pray for each of the congregations mentioned above. Ask God to show you ways in which you can participate in this beautiful mission mandate. Find ways to help and encourage the evangelists and outreach pastors in their work. Here are some suggestions for you to consider while you pray: Participate in the Thursday E&MM prayer gathering that meets and prays from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm every Thursday on Kirk campus and through a prayer phone dial-in line; visit one of these ministry locations nearest to your residence; call pastors, elders or the church office for more information about any of these ministry locations; prayerfully give to Evangelism and Missions Movement of the church.

Rev Paul Anbarasu

You cannot see faith, but you can see the footprints of the faithful.

It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs even more not to.
Unknown



Rev. Isaac, Rev. Paul, Left to Right-Rev. Stephen, Eva. Anil, Rev. Pradeep, Rev. Anbu, Rev. Samuel, Eva. Yesudass, Eva. Sathish, Rev. Mishra, Rev. Steve



Rev. Isaac providing spiritual leadership to the evangelists

Baptisms at Kosappur and Thirupattinam





Baptism at
Kottappur



Believers at
Aariwakkam



Congregation at
Balaranapuram



Discipleship at
Hindi Fellowship
at Karamodai



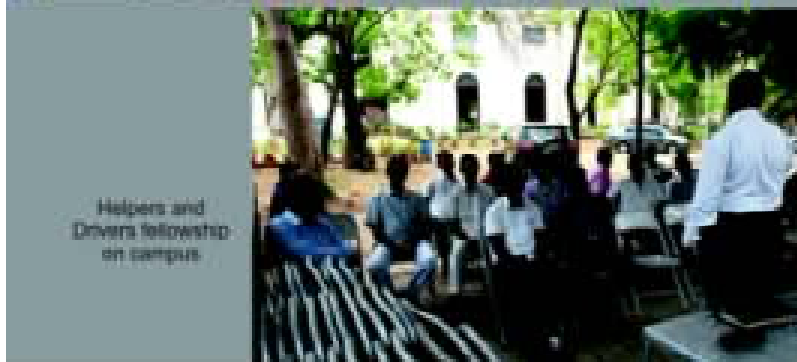
Discipleship of Hindi Fellowship at Palavaram



Gypsy congregation, Palavaram, in their new church



Gypsy congregation, Palavaram, new church hut dedication



Helpers and Drivers fellowship on campus



Helpers and drivers
fellowship retreat



Kirk Hindi Fellowship
at Karanodai (2)



Kirk Hindi fellowship-
special program on
campus



Kosapur
missions work
at Poondy



There Shall Be Showers of Blessing

Daniel W Whittle 1840 – 1901

I will send down showers in season; there shall be showers of blessing (Ezekiel 34:26)

How disheartening it is to see a once fertile field hardened and rendered useless by a drought. Land that was intended to produce a rich harvest to the owner lies barren and lifeless. As Christians, God desires that our lives bear much fruit for Him. But the soil of our hearts must be right if we want the seeds of righteousness to grow. The Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13 teaches us that it is possible to have four different kinds of soil in our lives. An unconcerned soil, a shallow soil, a polluted soil, and a good soil - one that responds and produces a bountiful harvest.

At times many Christians feel as though they are in a spiritual drought; God seems removed, spiritual activities are just routine business. Prayer and Bible reading become monotonous. Christian friends seem critical and irritating. We feel that life is really a 'valley of dry bones'. (Ezekiel 37: 1-4) Then we cry out to God for a fresh outpouring of His grace not just drops of mercy but showers of blessing. And soon the answer comes, perhaps in the form of a scripture passage, a sermon, a song, an encouraging remark, a new insight; our souls revive and we are once again able to raise a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:18)

'There shall be showers of blessing' was the product of one of the outstanding gospel duos of the past century. Major Daniel W Whittle the evangelist and musician James McGranahan. Together these two travelled extensively for several years in a very successful evangelism ministry. They also collaborated on a number of popular

gospel songs, still widely used today. This hymn first appeared in Gospel Hymn No. 4, 1883.

There shall be showers of blessing;
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
Sent from the Savior above.

Chorus:

Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.

Contributed by Mrs. Padma Chandra Dhas
Reprinted from Kirkspire 2005

The same God who guides the stars in their courses, who directs the earth in its orbit, who feeds the burning furnace of the sun, and keeps the stars perpetually burning with their fires – the same God has promised to supply thy strength.

Charles H. Spurgeon

If my heart is right with God, every human being is my neighbour.

Oswald Chambers

Bible Quiz No. 120 – November 2021



A Stone-mason's Quiz

King James Version (KJV)

Please give only one reference.

1. On what kind of foundations were two houses, in one of Jesus' parables?
2. According to Peter, what became of the stone which the builders '**disallowed**'?
3. Who said: '*Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ?*'
4. Was the stone-cutting for Solomon's temple done '**on the job**'?
5. Who is '*the chief corner-stone*' in the holy temple of the Lord?
6. Who '*rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it?*'
7. Who '*looked for a city, which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God?*'
8. Is this a Bible quotation:
'Build thee more stately mansions, Oh, my soul?'
9. What event did Jesus foretell when he said: '**One stone shall not remain upon another?**'
10. What does '**Ebenezer**' mean?

Taken from a Bible quiz book by May C Smith.

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email admin@thekirk.in by 21st November 2021.

Usha George



Medical Corner

MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

ANXIETY – I

“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”

Our pilgrimage on this earth is not easy, and we face many anxious moments throughout our journey. Every decade of life has its own set of problems. A child in the first decade has to cope with examination pressure. A teenager undergoes a series of physical (especially hormonal), Mental, Psychological, and emotional changes. Faring well in studies, getting admission in a good college, being accepted and recognized by peers and worries about their future loom high in front of them. In the second and third decade of life, concerns about landing a good job, a good marriage alliance, meeting the commitments of family, children's school admission, daycare, education, tuitions, medical expenses etc are challenges.

During middle age, changes in career, promotions, transfers, looking after aged parents, medical expenses of parents/surgeries, finding suitable marriage partners for grown up children etc create anxiety. Diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems, stomach ulcers etc start in the middle age. Elderly people face the emotional trauma of death of a spouse, loneliness, and medical problems like arthritis, deafness, stroke, fractures and cancer. Soaring prices of food and essential commodities, meager pensions and low bank interest rates are added concerns of many.

The psychological symptoms of anxiety are apprehension, fear of impending disaster, irritability and depersonalization. The physical symptoms are tremors, sweating, palpitations, chest pain,

breathlessness, headache, dizziness, diarrhoea, frequent urination, sleeplessness and poor concentration. Anxiety is usual transient, as part of an adjustment disorder and subsides without treatment. Chronic anxiety associated with worry, panic disorders and phobic anxiety needs medical attention. The initial management of anxiety is to talk to, understand and reassure the patient. Specific psychological therapy is also effective. In extreme cases, medications are advised by doctors.

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us not to worry and trust in God's provision (Matthew 6: 25-34). "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" (Psalms 46: 1-2 NKJV)

DR. (MRS) RAJINIKANTHA NARENDRANTH

Character is always lost when a high ideal is sacrificed on the altar of conformity and popularity.

Charles H. Spurgeon

He who has the Holy Spirit in his heart and the Scriptures in his hands has all he needs.

Alexander MacLaren

John's Corner

Suffer Little Children

(Nov. highlights Sunday School)

Read Mat. 19:14, Prov. 22:6

Jesus rebuked His disciples,
Who stopped children to Him brought,
That His hands He might lay on them,
And when they His blessings sought.

Guide all children, teach them early,
Jesus loves us and we too,
Him must love and daily follow,
As He bids us so to do.

Train a child, the Bible tells us,
In the way that he should go,
And the path that's good and righteous,
He will all His life follow.

God bless all Sunday School teachers,
To the Saviour may they bring
Children with true dedication,
That they to Him glory bring.

John H. Bala Singh

OBITUARIES

Mr Solomon Howie, our member and senior chorister, passed away on 28th Sept, aged 83 years.

Mr Selvarajan Ponnaiya, our member, passed away on 12th Oct, aged 80 years.

We convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

Forgiveness

We have read so many stories or heard so many messages from preachers from pulpits talk on the subject of forgiveness. We who are in the season of Lent meditate on Jesus hanging on the cross saying the first utterance from there which is on Forgiveness. The preachers have also mentioned that when we forgive others, we get freedom. This feeling is when we really forgive someone who had done great harm to us. I am going to tell about this happening in the life of a person whom I met.

When we buy a newly built house in the US from the developer, only the front yard is somewhat landscaped with lawn and some small plants. But the backyard is not landscaped or developed. In Seattle, when we bought this house, we realised that it had a large backyard with many tall Evergreen trees by the back wall. And that was it. There was a small patch of lawn. But the rest of it had to be developed. The yard also narrowed and ended in one corner like a cone. So my wife and I thought of ways to develop the backyard.

As we were contemplating going to professional landscapers, one day I saw a guy..... let's call him Mark (that's not his real name) working on the neighbour's yard. I called him by waving to him. When he came close, I was shocked to see his face and even had second thoughts about talking to him. He had only the right eye and his face looked scooped up on the other side and it was somewhat hollow. He said in a loud voice to talk to him loudly as his hearing was not good or almost gone. I pointed to my house which was hardly 500 feet away and told him to have a look at it and give me a plan and a quote for landscaping it. A little late that evening he came and saw the yard and gave a plan. I asked him about his experience in this field (no pun) and he said that he was a qualified aircraft mechanic and left that to become a car mechanic; he didn't like that too and took up landscaping as he was confident of doing a good job manicuring the yard. He said that his landscaping would ensure and every time we saw it, we would be reminded of his of his good work and appreciate it, unlike with servicing machines which would need repairs again.

As he was about to leave, I mustered all my courage and asked him my last question as I thought that I would not be able to sleep if I did not know the answer. Moreover, I had guessed the reason and wanted to know if it was correct. So I asked, "Did anyone shoot you because of a drug deal gone sour?" I was almost ready to run as his face registered anger. But he was surprised too because he said,

"Yes, man. How did you find out?" I told him that I was a counselor who specialised in Substance Abuse. He said that not a day passed without thinking of the guy who shot him, and added, "One day he is going to get it." I told him quickly to give up his anger and the thought of revenge as it would spoil his health and future.

He did a wonderful job of landscaping: like a mini park with walkways, area for flowering plants, a nice kitchen garden and some fruit trees by the wall. We were quite happy. Months or maybe a year passed. I wanted to get hold of him and couldn't. One day when I was in a mall nearby, I saw Mark neatly dressed and looking real happy and a lady by his side holding his arm. I was so happy to see him and so was he, and the first thing he said to me was, "Hey, Paul! Guess what! I forgave that guy and now I am a much happier person. I also feel very free now and I go to church regularly."

I congratulated him and Praised God for the change in him and his happiness.

Paul T Vedamuthu

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 119 – October 2021

A Philosopher's Quiz

1. Jesus'. Luke 12:15
2. No. Longfellow
3. David. Psalm 8:4
4. No – 'the poor in spirit'. Matthew 5:3
5. Agrippa. Acts 26
6. 'is perfect'. Psalm 19:7
7. Psalms. Psalm 144:4
8. 'Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy'. Colossians 2:8
9. Wise. Proverbs 9:8
10. Job

The winners are:

1. **Mrs Victoria Basker**
2. **Mrs Leela Coilpillai**
3. **Mrs Suguna Joseph**
4. **Mrs Peace Rani Sudhakar**
5. **Mrs Indira Rajanayakam**

Hearty Congratulations!



Monthly Evangelist's Learning Program

Perumbakam new church building dedication service

Perumbakkam Tamil congregation house gathering

S.M.Nagar Believers worshipping



Teens and youth retreat at Aarwakkam



Thrupalivanam
congregation house
gathering



Thrupalivanam
general meeting

