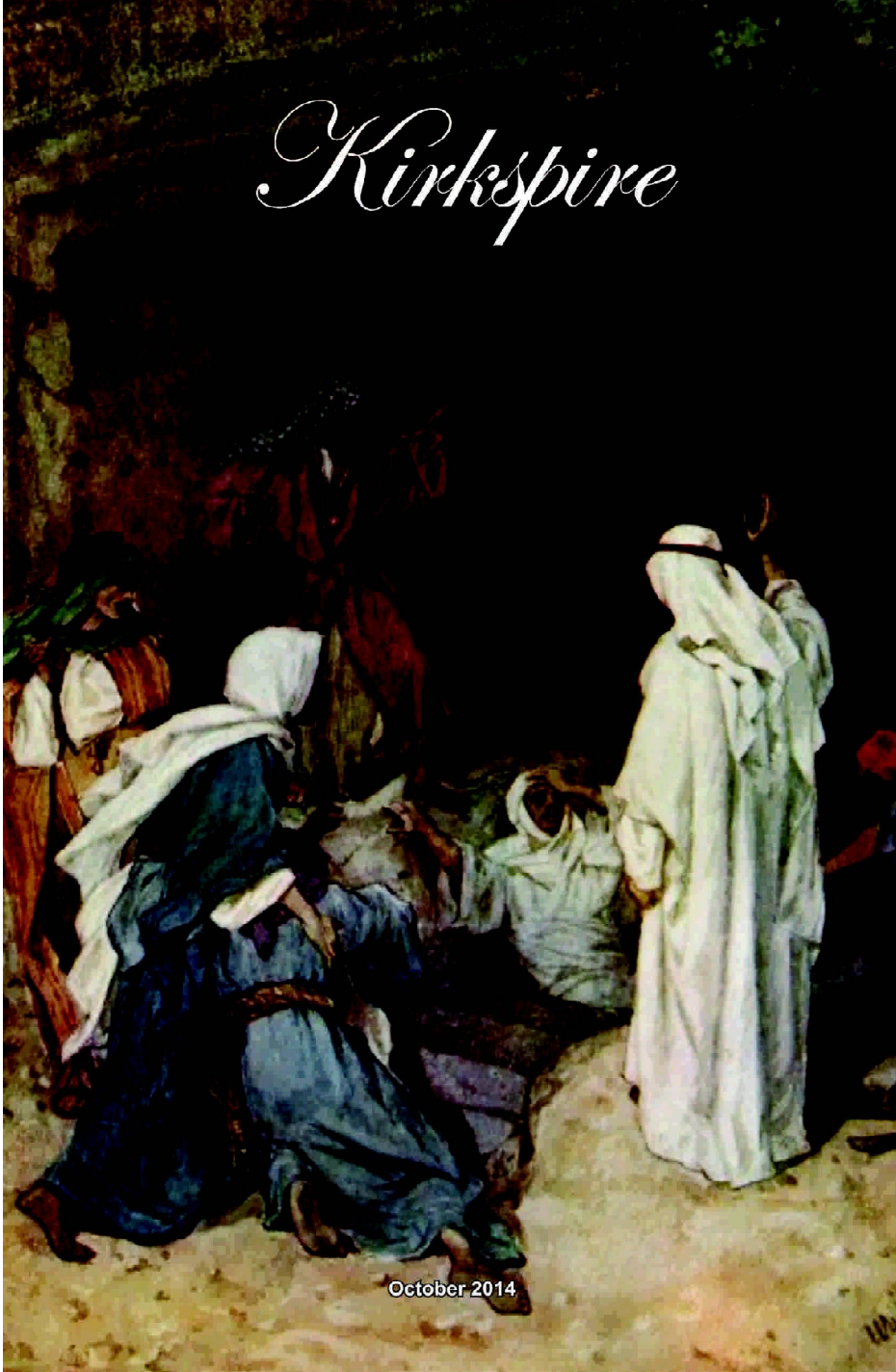


Kirkspire



October 2014

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Cover - Raising Lazarus from the dead
(This highlights the healing ministry of Jesus)

Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy

Word from the Pastor



Given below is a brief reminder to all of us that we are writing a story with our lives – one that affects others now and in the future.

Bernard Shaw, while smoking his cigarette, puffed out some smoke in the air and said: "God, that's for you."

He died at the age of 32 of LUNG CANCER in a horrible manner.

The man who built the Titanic: After the construction of the Titanic, a reporter asked him how safe the Titanic would be.

With an ironic tone, he said: "Not even God can sink it."

The result: I think you all know what happened to the Titanic.

Marilyn Monroe (actress): She was visited by Billy Graham during a presentation of a show.

He said the Spirit of God had sent him to preach to her.

After hearing what the preacher had to say, she said: "I don't need your God."

A week later, she was found dead in her apartment.

Bon Scott (singer): The ex-vocalist of the AC/DC band. In one of his 1979 songs, he sang: "Don't stop me; I'm going down all the way, down the way to hell."

On the 19th of February 1980, Bon Scott was found dead, he had choked on his own vomit.

Campinas (in 2005): In Campinas, Brazil, a group of friends, drunk, went to pick up another friend....

The mother accompanied her to the car and was so worried about the other friends being drunk, that she said to her daughter, holding her hand as she was already seated in the car: "My daughter, go with God and may He protect you."

She responded: "One if He (God) travels in the trunk, 'cause inside here.....it's already full."

Hours later, news came by they had been involved in a fatal accident, everyone had died, the car couldn't even be recognised as to what type of car it had been, but, surprisingly, the trunk was intact.

The police said there was no way the trunk could have remained intact. To their surprise, inside the trunk was a crate of eggs, none was broken.

Christine Hewitt (Jamaican journalist and entertainer): said the Bible (Word of God) was the worst book ever written.

In June 2006, she was found burnt beyond recognition in her motor vehicle.

"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God." Psalm 14:1-2.

Let us seek the living God so that, as we write a story with our lives, let it be a fruitful one and a faithful one that affects others now and in the future.

You are the only Bible some people will read.

Peter Francis
Pastor



John's Corner

Fitness Test

(Oct 12th is Healing Ministry Sunday)

Read Isaiah 40:31

'Heal me, heal me, quickly heal me,
Won't You heal me, Lord?' I prayed.
'I am sinking, I am dying,
Why is Your response delayed?'

But the Lord maintained His silence,
While I thought my end was nigh;
And my anger it was mounting,
Vainly I sought a reply.

Suddenly I heard Christ whisper,
'Child, you're not beyond my heart;
Your illness is meant to prove you,
In My time I'll do My part.

'He who trusts in pain and sickness,
Confident I'll see him through,
Will come out revived and stronger,
Fitter far My work to do.'

John H. Bala Singh



Medical Corner

ALLERGY IN THE BODY-VII

ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS

"Doctors treat, but Jesus heals"

In allergic conjunctivitis the eyes become red, with a watery discharge. Itching is a very common symptom. Contact with animals (horses, cats), pollens of certain flowers (Primula etc) is a frequent cause. Some chemicals, cosmetics like mascara, eye liners can cause severe conjunctivitis and inflammation of the eye lids and cheeks (dermatitis). The cosmetic must be completely stopped for complete recovery. Hair dyes when shampooed and washed can run into the eye and cause allergy.

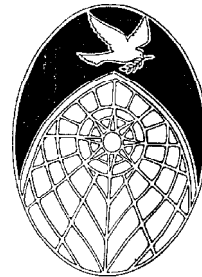
Eye drops used for eye diseases like glaucoma (eg. eserine) and some dilatation drops like atropine can cause swelling of the conjunctiva and eye lids. These must be stopped and substitutes used. Some times the allergen is a protein from bacteria in the sinuses, nasal cavity, adenoids or tonsils. Tubercular (T.B) protein is another source of allergy.

Spring catarrh is a bilateral conjunctivitis occurring with the onset of hot weather and is found in young people, usually boys. Burning, itching, some light intolerance and ropy secretions are the symptoms. In cooler months the condition subsides and gives no trouble.

Treatment is to identify the allergen and avoiding it. Anti histamine eye drops, 2% sodium cromoglycate eye drops are used to treat milder allergies, severe cases respond well to steroid eye drops, which must be strictly monitored by an eye doctor since prolonged use of steroid (self medication) can lead to fungal infection, cataract and glaucoma.

Dr (Mrs) Rajini Kantha

'This One Thing'



I always thought that Jesus was rather unjust to Martha who had toiled for hours to welcome Jesus into her home, and partial to Mary who only sat and listened to His words. Jesus' answer to Martha's complaints explains why. There are so many good and necessary duties to perform, ("Lord, let me go and bury my father, then I will follow you") there are so many little pearls to be bought, but are you prepared to let go of those pearls to buy 'the Pearl' of great price? So Jesus commends Mary for letting go "those many things" in order to choose that good part which shall not be taken away from her".

Does this mean that Jesus was unaware of the contribution of Martha? Not at all. He knew how much care she took to make Him and his disciples comfortable, keeping ready water or tea, baskets of fruit and bread, checking the stew in the pot, making sure of the number of bedrolls needed. But what Jesus wanted was that Martha should take care of herself as she cared for others. He was only pointing out to her that she needed to seek a godly balance in her life by listening to Jesus. The story is told of a woman who took on too many different ministries and exhausted herself. She asked the Lord why she had no joy and the Lord told her "Just be with Me."

In the Community of faith we belong to, there are many who feel they are not pleasing God unless they participate in many of the ministries of the church. They feel God is not pleased with them unless they try to set right all the wrongs they come across. Of course, we should not turn a blind eye to glaring wrongs, but we should not take on more burdens than God wants us to carry. We are not called to reform the

church or save the world. We are called to do what we are able to and leave the rest to God and others. Examples of people who had many options to serve God in manifold ways, yet chose to do the one thing God required of them, are many.

Barnabas was not a writer like Paul, he could only be a son of consolation and work for peace. He did that. Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk worked as a helper in the kitchen in the monastery he lived in, but by his piety and devotion to the work in the kitchen. he inspired many to see God, in the humble tasks of the labourer.

Selwyn Hughs in "Every Day with Jesus", states that our Lord is the supreme example of one fulfilling the task God had given Him. In Jesus' High Priests prayer in John 17 : 4. Jesus tells His Father that He has brought Him glory on earth by doing the work God had given Him to do. "I have completed the task you gave me to do." Our Lord did not allow Himself to be drawn into spiritual activity that might have been commendable, but were not right for Him. When faced with the Syrophocnician woman's request to heal her daughter, Jesus at first says, "I am not sent but into the lost sheep of Israel." This implies that Jesus knew the limits of His ministry. He finished His ministry on earth having done only those tasks that the Father had assigned to Him. In the same way, we should also choose to do the task God has assigned to us according to our talents and circumstances. "This one thing I do..." I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3 : 13, 14

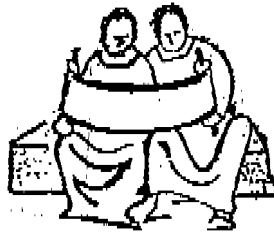
Mrs. R. Chandy

His Hands

The hands that plained the grainy yoke,
That yanked the nets at sea,
That blessed the little children's heads,
Can surely comfort me,
Can hold, can heal,
Can soothe, can guide,
Can strengthen and control,
O hands of Christ, reach out to me,
Touch me and make me whole!



From The Kidron by Talitha Cherian Mathew



The jewel in the Crown

If there is one thing more beautiful than others in the Kirk, it is the stained glass window high up on the eastern wall beyond the Communion Table. The representation of St. Andrew and St. Peter is a work of art as it towers close to 27 feet. The then French Consul in Madras, Monsieur Oe Singer gifted it to the Church.

St. Andrew holds the cross associated with him and Peter the key of the Kingdom of Heaven. Below these figures are scenes from the New Testament - Peter being led out of the prison by an angel and Jesus calling the brothers James and John busy with their nets in their fishing boat.

In Early English churches the windows were narrow, admitting of very little light; but, as the style advanced, the windows grew bigger, till at last, the whold church was flooded with light. Not always white light, sometimes the light shone through stained glass, and reflected all the colours of the rainbow. These beautiful stained windows were the glory of the Gothic cathedrals.

Good modern stained glass is done in exactly the same way as the old. That is to say, glass of different colours is taken and fitted together like a mosaic, and such things as the features of a face, hands, feet, etc., are painted in a clean strong line on almost clear glass.

The main thing to remember is that in stained glass the light shines through the picture, and in an oil painting the light shines on the picture. The quality that glass should have therefore is clearness. The colour should be simple, and should glisten and scintillate like

rubies and emeralds. A window is not intended to obscure the light, but to let the light through.

It must also keep out the weather. Consequently the glass should be thick and strong and the leads into which the different pieces of glass are fitted should also be thick and strong, or else some windy night the window will be blown in.

The old Gothic windows, sometimes used to tell a story-the story of "The Beautiful Life" - the Angel appearing to Mary with the glad tidings that she was to be the mother of Our Saviour, or the Shepherds tending their flocks by night, or the Wise Men following the Star in the East till it led them to a manger in Bethlehem. And very precious these "storied windows" must have been to the people in olden times, when books were dear, and few could afford them, or read them if they had them.

Another great advantage about these glass pictures was that they were always there! They did not get torn, like the pictures in story books; or fade away, like some of those on canvas;

But in reason's ear meaning 'stars' all rejoice,
and utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing as they shine,
The hand that made us is divine."

"Divine?" Yes! And the hands that made these, the hands that fashioned with such loving care those windows, are not they too, in their own way, "divine"?

Bible Quiz No. 49 - October, 2014
(The questions are based on the Book of Psalms - King James Version)



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

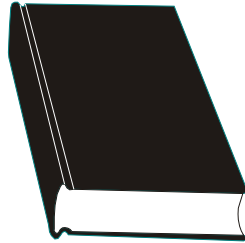
Each Ref. carries 1/2 mark.)

1. Where do we read, "they that sow in tears shall reap in Joy"?
2. What did the Psalmist say was better than thousands of gold and silver coins?
3. Which bird has its nest in the fir trees?
4. Which Psalm has its first verse a question and the following verses its answer?
5. Which Psalm ends all its lines by the refrain "Praise"?
6. Who flourishes in the courts of the Lord?
7. Who prays to collect all his tears in God's bottle?
8. What is like silver that is purified seven times in the furnace?
9. Which Psalm has all its verses ending alike?
10. Who were all addressed by God from the cloud?

Send the answers with Bible references to the Church office before 25th October 2014.

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

Usha George



A Book Review

The Zealot

Everybody is talking about the New York Times Best seller ZEALOT, about the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth. I was greatly disappointed to find it talks only about the historical Jesus. But we believe in a Christ, not limited to one race, or one people but a Christ who continues to be relevant for all times, in all places and for all peoples everywhere.

Reza Aslan, the author, writes of him as an itinerant Jewish preacher and miracle worker who walked across Galilee, gathering followers to establish what he called the "Kingdom of God." The revolutionary movement that he started was so threatening to the Roman Government of the province of Judea, and to the Jewish priestly hierarchy the religious authority in Jerusalem that the two colluded to execute him. Within decades after his undeserved crucifixion, his followers would call him God.

But was He the Son of God as He claimed to be or only a 'Zealot' as Aslan portrays Him?

Sad to say, most of the Christians in our day and times, present Jesus as a historical figure. Hence the rejoinder by many non Christians that they sever Him as one of the manifestations of the one Universal God, along with other avatars of God worshipped by them. That is why Hindu fundamentalists at one time said that Christians worship a foreign God and should leave India and go to His birth place in the Middle East. It is our own fault that we, like Aslan, have restricted

Christ to the historical Jesus. We have not presented Him as a Saviour for all races and peoples. We prefer to live in our ghettos of traditions and religious practices. We need to find His presence among all peoples and all countries. And most important of all, our way of live has to be an embodiment of the values of Christ - the words that we speak, the actions that we perform, and the lives we lead as disciples of Jesus have to be such that we make him present in the midst of a world which does not yet know him.

At the end of his book Reza Aslan laments that "the memory of the revolutionary zealot who tramped across Galilee with his followers to establish the kingdom of God on earth, the magnetic preacher who defied the Temple priesthood in Jerusalem, and challenged the Roman occupation, has been lost to history. But the study of the historic Jesus woul reveal that Jesus, the man, is every bit as compelling, charismatic and praise worthy as Jesus the Christ. He is, in short, someone worth believing in,"

Source from the Book and other articles

**Answers to Bible Quiz No. 48
(For the month of September 2014)**

Based on the Book of Psalms

**(Quiz No. 48 was also based on Psalms, and not on Isaiah.
The error is regretted.)**

Hearty Congratulations !

Right answers given by :

Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam

Dr. Rachel Chacko

The answers are :

1. Owl. Psalm 102 : 6
2. David. Psalm 52 : 8
3. David. Psalm 71 : 7
4. Swallow. Psalm 84 : 3
5. Leviathom. Psalm 104 : 26
6. Psalm 50
7. Psalm 45
8. Egypt. Psalm 105 : 23
9. Psalm 84
10. Psalm 117

Usha George



Kirk News

Thanksgiving Sunday saw a glad outpouring by many worshippers and the items were shared among 20 organisations who expressed their gratitude for the timely contribution by the church.

Items such as rice, flour, cooking oil, soap, sugar, biscuits, pulses etc. were proportionately distributed among 20 Christian organisations ministering to orphans, the destitute, women needing support, the AIDS-affected, handicapped etc. We thank the Lord for giving us this opportunity to store up treasure in heaven!

Today is Healing Ministry Sunday when we also thank the Lord for the gift of healing and ministry by doctors and medical professionals.

We can also pray that Tamil Nadu will be protected during the current political turbulence so that the Lord's mercy will be on this land. May He look upon us with favour and give us bold, just leaders who fear Him and ensure peace.

Guest Speakers

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---|
| 7 th September | 6pm | Mrs. Chitra Bennett, our member, was the speaker at the Healing service. The topic was "God's provision for total well being", Luke 13:10-17. |
| 14 th September | 6pm | Mr. Thomas George spoke on the topic "Lord, teach us to pray" from 2 Thes.1:1-12. |

28th September 6pm Mrs. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad, our member, spoke at the Youth & Koinonia service on the topic "Twos & threes and the Lord" from Matthew 18:19-20, Exodus 17:8-16, Daniel 2:14-19.

The following **District Meetings** were held in September:

District 5 met in the home of Mrs. Omana Joseph on 7th Sept.

District 1 met in the home of Mr. Paul Vedamuthu on 21st Sept.

House Church was held on Fridays in the homes of

Mr. Sudir Paul Karunakaran & Mrs. Ann Sudir,

Mr. & Mrs. V. Abraham Mani,

Mr. & Mrs. Prabhakar John Durai and

Mr. & Mrs. Raja Gnanamanickam.

We thank the members for opening their homes in Christian love and fellowship.

Monday Bible Study continued with the Gospel of St. Luke.

Manse Prayer Cell met on Fridays, praying for the church and other issues and studying the Psalms.

Evangelism & Missions Movement Fasting and Prayer was held on Thursdays as usual. The participants prayed for Thanksgiving Sunday in our church and in our rural churches, apart from the special needs of our projects, mission fields and ministries.

Sunday school classes were held as usual.

Kirk Youth Fellowship

The Youth met for prayer and discussion on the 7th. On Thanksgiving Sunday (14th), they helped in the distribution of articles to needy organisations. Youth-led Bible-study was conducted on the 21st while Catalyst youth service happened on the last Sunday of the month, the 28th.

Upcoming Events

- CONFIRMATION SERVICE: at 9am on 19th October (next Sunday). Please pray for the candidates.
- CHRISTMAS SHARING SALE: The 2014 Sale will be held after the 9am service on 7th December. As you may know, the church will be sharing the joy of Christmas by distributing the proceeds of the sale among evangelical/missionary organisations. If you would like to contribute by putting up a stall, organising various activities, making a donation etc., please contact the coordinators Mr. Vivek Harinarain (9940132323) or Mr. Joshua Paulraj (9444468986).
- AKCDC SUNDAY SERVICE: at 9am on 9th November.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY SERVICE: at 9am on 16th November.
- ADVENT SUNDAY: 30th November, 9am: Advent service.
- ANNUAL CHURCH CAMP 2015: Inviting the congregation to plan and prioritise participating in the annual church camp scheduled on the 14th and 15th of January 2015 at Joe Beach, ECR, Mahabalipuram. Kindly block these dates in your schedules.....and be blessed.

Please pray that the Lord will bless the church and the participants abundantly.

OBITUARY

Mr. Christopher Omer Das, our Church member, aged 79, passed away on Tuesday, 30th September 2014. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family

Please send your articles, poems, pictures etc. so as to reach the Editor or the Church office on or before the 30th of every month. Youth and children are specially invited to contribute.

Mahendra Kumar



Patient being checked at Tirupataivanam clinic