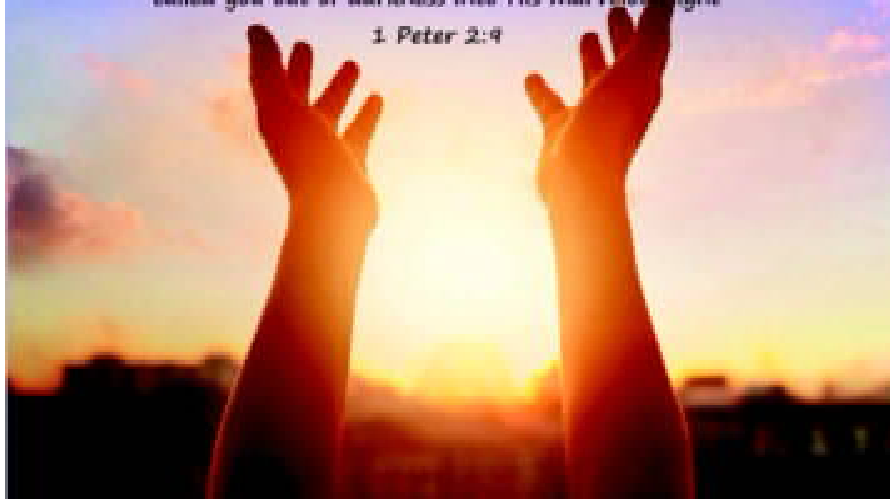


Kirkspire

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

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

1 Peter 2:9



October 2021

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Editor : Usha George



WORD FROM THE PASTOR – OCTOBER 2021

Tasty when Tasted

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him. (Psalm 34:8)

In the recently concluded Olympics, there was a moment when an Indian athlete threw a javelin, a moment that has been viewed millions of times on various platforms. However, none of us know what the experience was like except for Neeraj Chopra, the gold medal winner. We are spectators while that champion tasted the moment personally.

Joy and Pain or every other emotion is a personal experience in life which cannot be fully and accurately described in words. We may use different expressions or adjectives, but none can truly and completely capture that experience. That is why the Bible is the manual for living – not to be merely listened to, merely learned or even merely loved. It should be lived. In this little space, I draw every reader to get this one important message. **DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL LIVING EXPERIENCE WITH JESUS TODAY?**

1. Experience of Forgiving love

This is where it should begin. It is called being 'born again'. It does not start with church membership, but with the deepest sense of conviction of sin and realizing our self-filth, not self-worth. Have you felt the embrace of a 'clean pure God embracing an unworthy sinner', and realizing that this love is unwavering, unflinching and unparalleled? Taste and see....

2. Experience of Fearful submission

1 Thessalonians 4:3 starts by saying, 'it is the will of God – your sanctification'. Often, we wonder 'what is God's will for my life'. You cannot know His will or do His will unless you come to the point of fearful surrender. Fear is a good word. It teaches us boundaries, it trains us to be careful and it talks to us when we tend to be hasty, rash and reckless. Taste and see....

3. Experience of Faithful obedience

Moses obeyed because he wanted to be faithful in deeds, not merely in talk. Abraham obeyed in his actions, Mary was faithful even to the point of seeing her son on the Cross, and they all *tasted* the goodness of God. We live in times when we fear to question other human beings but are quick and audacious to question God. Obey God. Taste and see....

Psalm 34:8 says we are called **BLESSED** when we taste God first-hand, not when we hear (or preach) a sermon, but when the word of God is lived personally. Walking with Jesus is a *tasty experience* beyond anything that the world may offer.

Have such a blessed month

Rev. Isaac Johnson

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.

Peter Marshall



Joy

'My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.' James 1:2-3

Some of us are like Chicken Little (a European folklore about a chick that believes the sky is falling when an acorn falls on its head). The sky is falling. It doesn't matter if it's a small glitch. The world is coming to an end. When things don't happen the way we want them to, when we want them to, we get depressed. Deferred hopes can destroy our joy, jeopardize our peace and ruin the atmosphere at home.



"So, Jeremiah, if you're worn out in this foot race with men, what makes you think you can race against horses? And if you can't keep your wits during times of calm, what's going to happen when troubles break loose like the Jordan in flood?" Jeremiah 12:5-6

God is asking each one of us the same thing. The last year has been exceptionally rough. By Jesus' predictions we are to expect more earthquakes and persecution. How are we going to endure? How do we 'count it all joy'?

Smile.

A smile is said to dispel sorrows and heal relationships. It's a small miracle and contagious. Facial expressions not only signal what we feel but also contribute to that feeling. Smiling despite how we feel elevates our mood. So smile in faith. Smile with the knowledge that God is in control and He is good. May laughter resound in our homes.

*The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous.
Psalm 118:15*

Sing your heart out.

Offer anthems that will raise the roof. David's music drove out the spirit of torment from Saul. Something powerful happens every single time we worship our Father of Lights. Start your day with a song. Angels are n't sitting around with scoreboards waiting to grade you, but your Father sure is waiting for you to start making some music. Don't wait until Sunday morning. Start now. After all that is what we are going to be doing all eternity.

'But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning.' Psalm 59:16 'The righteous sings and rejoices.' proverbs 29:6

'Serve the LORD with gladness: Come before his presence with singing.' Psalm 100:2

Practice gratefulness.

Some people are inherently thankful. They see the bright side of everything. They advise the not-so-optimistic to 'be grateful.' It doesn't come naturally to most of us. Practice gratitude till it becomes a habit. Take time to thank God for your meal. Thank Jesus for the cross. Write down reminders. Thank Him before you fall asleep. Count your joys. Celebrate those little moments. The sky's not falling. You are going there one day.

Learn to take things lightly.

Look at the big picture. Ask God to open your eyes and put things in perspective. It is Mother Teresa who said the following, "In light of heaven, the worst suffering on earth, a life full of the most atrocious tortures on earth, will be seen to be no more serious than one night in an inconvenient hotel." Paul is a firm proponent of the above statement.

'For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.' 2 Corinthians 4:17

Smile sincerely. Sing joyfully. Practice gratefulness. Learn to take things lightly and count it all joy, for the best is yet to come...

"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." - C.S.Lewis

Dr. Susan Rajkumari



Medical Corner

MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH ADDICTION-VII

Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path. Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor and drowsiness clothes them in rags (Proverbs 23:19-21 NIV)

Alcohol can affect virtually any organ in the body. Effect on the brain:- In very heavy drinkers there are periods of loss of memory (amnesia, alcoholic blackouts) for events which occurred during bouts of intoxication. When alcoholism has been established for several years, cortical atrophy can occur and clinical picture of dementia develops. Haemorrhage and degeneration of the brain tissue also occurs.

Skin may be flushed and spider shaped naevi can occur on the skin. Gastritis and cancer of the mouth, throat and food pipe are common. High blood pressure (hypertension) and dilatation of the heart (cardio myopathy) are also seen. Alcoholics are prone to inflammation of the pancreas, and mal-absorption of food resulting in mal-nutrition, especially thiamine (vitamin B1) deficiency. Infections, pneumonia and tuberculosis of the lungs are common. Muscular changes (myopathy), infertility, peripheral neuropathy and gout are also seen.

Alcohol can cause hepatitis (inflammation of the liver) with subsequent cell death. Prolonged inflammation may be accompanied by fibrosis and progression to cirrhosis, and even chronic liver failure, portal hypertension and hepato cellular carcinoma. The blood vessels of the food pipe (oesophagus) become dilated, and prominent

(varices), which can lead to bleeding. The abdomen and feet can get swollen up due to liver failure.

Women who drink heavily during pregnancy may give birth to babies who suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome. Such babies are abnormally small at birth and may have malformed organs or be mentally challenged.

Prolonged heavy drinking of alcohol can produce more serious effects. For example, a condition known as delirium tremens, often called the DT's, may result after an alcoholic stops drinking. This condition results in mental confusion, hallucinations (visions), violent trembling, and sometimes death. Another condition associated with alcoholism is Korasakoff's syndrome. Symptoms of this syndrome include mental confusion, hallucinations, and paralysis of the hands and feet. Alcoholics with this syndrome may have memory gaps or tell stories of fantastic experiences in a believable way.

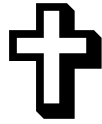
Dr. (Mrs.) Rajinikantha Narendranath

"We ought to be living as if Jesus died yesterday, rose this morning, and is coming back this afternoon."

Adrian Rogers

If you know that God loves you, you should never question a directive from Him. It will always be right and best. When He gives you a directive, you are not just to observe it, discuss it, or debate it. You are to obey it.

Henry Blackaby



THUS FAR '*THE LORD*' HAS HELPED US!

'A' lone car could be spotted even before '*eight*' in the morning in front of SACCE Hall at Church and it was none other than '*Binil's!*' He was always way before time and worshipping the Lord even alone, since he led worship for Catalyst as it all began eleven years ago. It was time not flying but the Lord fulfilling His heart's desire as we learnt the book of Romans together. Then '*of course*' we could see '*Bob*' not just praying alone but together. The prayer session at the Guest house then, just before the tract distribution began, became unforgettable! The harvest is still plentiful, isn't it? Though it was one memorable year for Swetha and her team it was not just using technology but practicing the '*Faith Book*' – the faith book camp would surely run-down memory lane! It was definitely a great reminder from the Lord through Nitin & his team that we are all a peculiar treasure unto the Lord. But how could we ever forget to '*Suit Up*' with the Armour of God.

'A' lone car can be easily spotted criss-crossing Chennai and its outskirts with a loud '*Hallelujah!*' No doubt Suman and his team have been constantly working out their Salvation by the Grace of God. The Prayer and fellowship during the 1st week, Outreach visit to Thirupalaivanam (Church service, Sunday school teaching & Medical Clinic) during the 2nd week, Bible Study during the 3rd and of course Catalyst in the morning followed by Tract distribution and visit to Gypsy Colony in the evening on the 4th Sunday has never been a routine but a delight and a demonstration of the power of the Living Lord! Special events like Alumni Meet, Medical work, Street Plays during Easter and Christmas Programmes and Outreach village Youth Retreats have been a place of growth and maturity in the Lord. Even as the Pandemic and the Lock-down continue in varying degrees, the KYF Media Team has been very active and alert indeed! The Outreach services, Bible Study and Catalyst are broadcast in

YouTube and Zoom Platforms which reaches even the overseas youth fellowship members. How could we ever forget to taste the Goodness of our Lord?

'Never Alone' - Yes, thus far the Lord has helped us. All that has gone by is not just a Marvellous masterstroke but a *'helping in step'* with the Holy Spirit at the Master's feet. In all That is to come by, help us Lord either under or at the Master's table, to be still and serve you alone. Help us to stop running between two masters. As your masterpiece surely, goodness and Mercy will follow and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever: Oh! I am sure that none of us Would want to forget the Home Fellowship!

Dr. Christina Ambrose / KYF

The Lord gives his people perpetual joy when they walk in obedience to him.

D. L Moody

In almost everything that touches our everyday life on earth, God is pleased when we're pleased. He wills that we be as free as birds to soar and sing our maker's praise without anxiety.

A. W. Tozer

Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.

C. S. Lewis



GYPSY COLONY MEDICAL CAMP



HOME FELLOWSHIP



YOUTH MONTH THANKSGIVING



BIBLE STUDY



ANNUAL YOUTH CAMP 2019

Bible Quiz No. 119 – October 2021



A Philosopher's Quiz

King James Version (KJV)

Please give only one reference.

1. Whose philosophy was this:
'Man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth?'
2. Is this a Bible quotation:
'Life is real, life is earnest'?
3. Who asked:
'What is man that Thou art mindful of him?'
4. Did Jesus say: 'Blessed are the poor'?
5. Before which ruler did Paul, the prisoner, expound his philosophy of life?
6. What did David say about **'the law of the Lord'**?
7. Is this still popular philosophy from **Psalms, Proverbs** or **Ecclesiastes**:
'Man is like to vanity; his days are as a shadow that passeth away?'
8. What does Paul say about philosophy? Is he for or against?
9. Fill in the blank: *'Rebuke a _____ man, and he will love thee.'*
10. Which dramatic book of the Bible proves that 'all's well that ends well'?

Taken from a Bible quiz book by May C Smith.

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email admin@thekirk.in by 17th October 2021.

Usha George



John's Corner

NOT ENOUGH

(Oct. highlights Evangelism and Missions Movement)

Read John 3:16, 2 Pet 3:9, Mat 28:19, 20, 2 Cor 5:18-20,
John 10:16, 2 Tim 4:5, Luke 10:2.

The end time's swiftly drawing nigh,
There's so much wickedness around;
We must seek souls sinking in sin,
And lift them up to higher ground.

It is our Lord's desire that none
Should in their wickedness perish;
And by the Saviour we are called
To fulfil His command and wish.

May we as Christ's evangelists,
To our Good Shepherd's call be true;
The harvest's truly plenteous,
Alas! the labourers are few.

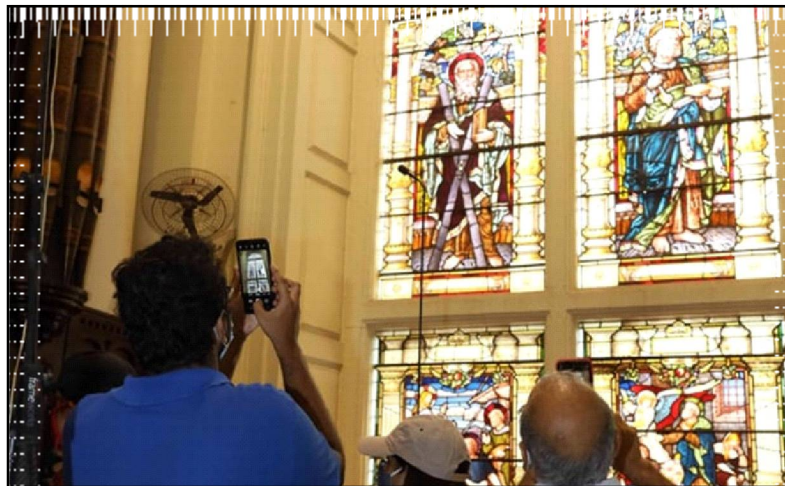
John H. Bala Singh



200-Year-Old Chennai Church Opens Its Doors for Heritage Enthusiasts

Article in NDTV 14 September 2021 Written by J Sam Daniel Stalin

Visitors got a rare opportunity to climb up to the church's roof to have a closer look at the tallest steeple in the city, the unique dome, belfry and the tower clocks that tick even today.



St Andrew's Church was built by the British for worship by the Scottish community in the then Madras

Chennai: September 12 was a Sunday of a different kind for the 200-year-old St Andrew's Church in Chennai, fondly called The Kirk, as Heritage enthusiasts stepped into its campus for The Kirk Heritage Walk, a guided tour of the church known for its architectural splendour and rich heritage. It is a part of the Madras Day celebrations. Kirk in Scottish means church.

Vanathi Gopalakrishnan, a Chennai resident of 40 years, had always wanted to visit the landmark church. "I was awestruck" she said looking at the iconic pillars at the entrance, the dome held by 16 fluted Corinthian columns and the intricate ornamental work.

Visitors also got a rare opportunity to climb up to the church's roof to have a closer look at the tallest steeple in the city, the unique dome, belfry and the tower clocks that tick even today.



"To climb the spiral stairs partly through the tallest 111 3/4 foot high steeple was an experience" she said. "The Kirk transported me to old Madras. Though Chennai has turned chaotic, this place has retained the old Madras feel."



Consecrated in the year 1821, St Andrew's Church was built by the British for worship by the Scottish community in the then Madras.

The design was largely borrowed from a London church, St Martin-in-the-Fields. Rev John Allan was the first Presbyter and Major Thomas Fiott De Havilland its architect. Raised on a marshy land on the banks of the River Cooum, the edifice stands on a foundation made of 150 wells, filled with stones and sand.

With recent excavations and carbon dating confirming the 3,200-year-old Porkai Civilization in southern Tamil Nadu, Mathew Mathew, HR professional, said, "These excavations, including the one at Keezhadi, have triggered interests towards heritage sites. It feels special to stand on a well foundation. These initiatives will raise awareness on conservation. I'd love to contribute for such causes."

Chitra Mukunnan, a visiting professor who lives in Chennai since 1977, said she was stunned by the dome, coloured with lapis lazuli inside to reflect Scotland's blue sky all over the ceiling.

"I was thrilled that the dome ceiling has the original lapis lazuli coat and has not been painted all these years. The 200-year-old church is well maintained. It's interesting that all the beautiful work on the pillars were done by artisans from our districts those days."

Radhika Rajkumar, a travel and tourism professional, said, "For a non-Christian like me the tour of the Kirk was a beautiful experience". She loved the series of outreach activities of the church. "I am a Rotarian and I love projects. To learn about the number of service activities of the church to the differently abled, children, vocational training for woman supported by the congregation is amazing."

The visitors were also drawn towards the pipe organ and the 27-foot high stained-glass paintings. Members of the church also shared their restoration initiatives over the years.

Gabriel Sathianathan, an elder who led one of the guided tours, said "This Heritage Walk is to celebrate God's blessings on our City of Madras/Chennai over 382 years and our Church St Andrew's Kirk over the last 200 years."

There was a special screening of a documentary on St Andrew's Church.

The Presbyter, Rev Isaac Johnson, shared the message of the church.

Encouraged by the response, the Kirk would make the heritage walk a part of its calendar.

Dulip Thangasamy, Secretary of the Kirk Session, added, "St Andrew's Church has for long been a favourite destination for heritage enthusiasts. But the Church has never directly organised the walks. In deference to the requests of the local heritage community, the Church administration decided to organise walks around the campus annually coinciding with the Madras Week."

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 118 – September 2021

A Butcher's Quiz

1. Lamb. Isaiah 11:6
2. Reins. Psalm 7:9
3. Bones. Matthew 23:27
4. Tongue. Psalm 34: 13
5. Heart. Jeremiah 17:9
6. Fowls. Psalm 104:12
7. Calf. Luke 15:23
8. Venison. Genesis 27:3
9. Butter. Proverbs 30:33
10. White - - Egg. Job 6:6

The winners are:

1. **Dr. (Mrs.) Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad**
2. **Mrs. Leela Coilpillai**
3. **Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar**
4. **Mrs. Aruna Asir**
5. **Ms. P. Patricia**
6. **Mrs. Victoria Basker**
7. **Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam**
8. **Mrs. Sabrina Siga**

Hearty Congratulations!



To Be A Light on A Lampstand

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”. Matthew 5:16

The universe was dark and empty when our Creator declared, “Let there be light”. With this royal command sprang up the flaming red orb with its insufferable brightness, lighting up millions of heavenly bodies hurtling through space with incredible velocity in mathematical precision. Through the canopy of darkness emerged the peerless silvery moon and the twinkling stars termed by poets as “living sapphires”. All this and much more was made by our God for His supreme creation – MAN.

Man was made in His image with His breath in him. Blessed with a free will, he was not a mere robot, but possessed the will to choose between good and evil. Our life was the deciding place where one could choose light or darkness.

Jesus, the Master Teacher used several graphic teaching methods to unstop our ears, open our eyes, and increase our understanding of His divine teachings. He frequently used the ‘concrete’ over the ‘abstract’. For example, ‘salt of the earth’ to mean that we should stem the decay of the world! ‘The candle on a lampstand’, ‘the city on a hill’ to convey that we should shine high and bright in His service.

In Biblical days every simple house possessed an oil lamp which was placed on a high stand, with a single or many burners. This lighted up the entire household.

Our Lord’s will for us is that we should love Him, serve Him, and be loyal to Him. He wants us not to be lukewarm and indifferent in His service but to be a high flaming torch witnessing to the world His Redeeming love and compassion

What a blessing for us to be of help to our all-powerful God, who in His magnanimity stoops to ask us to help Him to illumine the paths so that our neighbours could avoid dangerous pitfalls and beguiling dangers of the temporal world? The broken world needs an encouraging word, a soothing and comforting hand, companionship during unspeakable loneliness, and a helping and supporting presence when in distress.

For this purpose, our Creator has endowed us with talents and gifts to be used and multiplied. May we not be like the slothful servant who buries his talent and incurs the wrath of his master. Luigi Tarisio, the well-known collector of the most exquisite violins crammed his attic with the best instruments. They lay there silent, depriving the world of thrilling music that would have emanated from the touch of a master.

Jesus was highly visible. He spoke from mountain tops, streets, synagogues, fishing boats, and gardens. We must witness for our Saviour. Not that we are better than others. We are sinners. But with Jesus as our Saviour, we have received a new power and light to burn steadily. Jesus is the oil in our wick. He has said that "Without me you can do nothing". He also said, "If ye abide in Me, ye shall bear much fruit". May we raise our lights not to shine on our faces but on our good works and give the glory to our King of kings.

The beautiful simple Sunday School hymn expresses this so sweetly and endearingly: "This little light of mine...let it shine". We may be just the soft glow of candlelight or a powerful beam of a lighthouse; let us shine each in our own measure as we are blessed. "Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine"!

Usha George

"Why do bad things happen to good people? That only happened once and He volunteered."

R. C. Sproul



ANNUAL YOUTH CAMP 2018



ANNUAL YOUTH CAMP 2019

