



Give Thanks

Kirkspire

September 2014

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Cover - Luke 17 : 11-19

Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy

Word From the Pastor

The Psalmist beautifully reminds us as we prepare for Thanksgiving Sunday. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

Mercy (Hebrew "*chesed*") is often translated "steadfast love," "unfailing love," or "loving kindness" and is equivalent to the New Testament "Grace".

Is it a yearly observation or a daily attitude of gratitude you and I need to cultivate in the light of God's loving kindness and unfailing love in our lives?

If you have been a recipient of God's grace, exposed to the bountiful love of the Father, then you ought to give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. Psalm 118:28: "You are my God, I will praise You. You are my God, I will exalt You."

As we study the book of Psalms, the psalmists call for constant verbal expression of heartfelt gratitude for all His benefits and gifts to man.

Let us corporately and personally give thanks.

- GIVE thanks to God first of all, for Who He is.
- GIVE thanks to God for His loving kindness and Mercy.
- GIVE thanks to God for His protection.
- GIVE thanks to God for His guidance.
- GIVE thanks to God for all His mighty acts.
- GIVE thanks to God, for His purposes will prevail.

Let this not become a forgotten word, act and attitude. May the Lord so help us to be a thankful people. God keeps a lookout when you and I would *Re-turn* to thank Him. Let's not forget to turn back to God when He keeps filling our cups to overflowing.

When God's blessings flow and overflow, there ought to be outbursts of Praise and Thanks to God for the inflow into our lives.

*"Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Calls for songs of loudest praise."*

Give thanks.

*Peter Francis
Pastor*

KYF Annual Camp 2014

“And after the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire, a still small voice” – 1 Kings 19: 12.

When we read the Bible, we often see so many examples of people who have been chosen by God to do His work, among them our Lord Jesus Christ, who had retreated to the wilderness, to have a quiet personal time with our Heavenly Father. In a similar manner, God had also called us, the Kirk Youth Fellowship, to follow their example and take to a kind of “wilderness” setting away from the mundane, monotonous manic of everyday life. This year’s Camp, for a first timer like me, has been one overwhelmingly spiritual experience.

Throughout the trip, God’s constant presence and reassuring guidance was felt. Whether it be on our way to the camp, our God-inspired and Spirit filled sessions during the camp, right up to our enthusiastic singing on our journey back, one can only imagine Our Heavenly Father smiling down from above.

Our train journey may have begun late, but again, everything works according to God’s plan, as this allowed some of our members who were delayed to be able to join us. God’s protection was felt during our train journey and we are grateful for His provision for transport to and from the camp. After having located the camp site, we retired to our accommodations. Though the weather got very, very cold, compared to what we are used to in Chennai, again the Lord provided us with the basic necessities, one of them being hot water for our morning sojourns.

The first day began with an ice breaking session which helped us all to get to know one another a little better albeit with loads of laughs all around.

This was followed by the special session for the male youth where much neglected topics were brought to the table. With helpful advice from Pastor Isaac, Pastor Joshua and Brother Raju and quoting God’s Word from scripture, various questions and issues were addressed and handled with the utmost care.

One activity helped bring about various scenarios from the Bible to life. It was really fun and inspiring, watching the different teams come

up with their own version of biblical events through a 'dumb charades' game called "Bind It".

On the second day, the session on "Negative emotions" was also a fun take on various events from the Bible; to see how events would have turned out had those characters in the Bible just listened to God and not to their own human nature. The climax to the event was when we had to write down our own experiences with these negative emotions in mind and then throw them into the campfire later that night.

The night of the second day ended with a feedback session where Pastor Isaac invited us to share our experiences at the camp, especially for the first timers. Phoebe, our youngest member, gave a grateful account of how wonderful the camp has been for her, and Roshan, another member, was quite elated that he got the chance to fellowship in a different way and learn more about our Heavenly Father.

In the first two days, we had our sessions with Pastor Joshua. In his message, he reminded us of what God had already accomplished on the cross through Jesus' sacrifice and that we were not put here on Earth to do good works to attain salvation but to do God's work, so that we could truly shine as lights in this world, as was stated in the theme for our camp.

And on both the days, the rain played spoilsport during the daytime so some of the outdoor games couldn't be played. However, ingenuity abounded and we made up for it by playing indoor games. One of which was the "Do unto others" game which had its share of laughable and cantankerous moments.

The morning quiet times, on all the three days, were the highlight of the camp; where a personal time with God truly came to mean something. Maybe it was the quietness of the surroundings, maybe it was being around with fellow believers, but during these quiet times, I felt a trembling in my soul and in my spirit, which I'm certain many others in the camp also experienced.

The final day began with a communion service followed by a very early lunch and a mad dash to the train station to avoid the Bangalore traffic.

The train journey back home started off with a few funny stories being passed around to lighten the mood. Then there was a soft murmur of a few of our members singing Christmas songs. Gradually the murmur became a voice & the voice became a choir as the other

rows joined in. Then the guitars came out and it became a full on performance. It was heartening to see fellow Christians on the train singing along with us. It was even more touching to see God's hand at work when children from non-Christian backgrounds were mouthing the words to some of the songs.

At our destination, everyone bade one another an emotional farewell, wondering how three days had gone by so fast. Nevertheless they were three amazing, spirit-filled days in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

In closing, this camp was and will always be very special to me. Not only because it was my first camp, but the whole overwhelming notion of being in God's presence along with those whom I have come to consider my *spiritual family*. It was indeed a blessing to have had the chance to get away from the normal routine and just simply experience our Heavenly Father. For this I shall forever be grateful. In my honest opinion, this camp has helped me on my journey to becoming a true child of God, a journey which all of us share. I hope that this testimony will also help many more of you who are reading this to come to know and share in this wonderful experience in the years to come. God bless you. Amen.

*Borve Kharsyntiew
Kirk Youth Fellowship*



Largest Churches and Cathedrals in the World

Before the era of skyscrapers there was a period when the tallest buildings in the world were the Christian churches and cathedrals. In Britain, Germany, France, Belgium and Spain several churches were built during the middle ages which until the advent of modern sky scrapers were the highest edifices in the world. This exemplifies the zeal of monarchs, artisans and the people of the Christian faith who devoted their time, talent and treasure to build the best structures to worship the King of Kings, Lord Jesus.

The same desire to build beautiful churches in our country was demonstrated by the British and other European missionaries who built beautiful tall churches in our cities, and villages in the South like Megnanapuram, Sawyerpuram (Sawyer,G.U Pope), Idaiyankudi (Caldwell), Nazareth, Mookuperi, Mudalur, Vellanvilai (highest church steeple in S.E.Asia 215 ft.) as well as in towns like Trichy, Tanjore (Schwartz) and Palayamcottai (Rhenius). This is also true in the other states of India. It illustrates the love they bestowed on our Nation and its people to have sanctuaries of architectural grandeur with beautiful naves, stained glass windows and steeples. Today, we are thankful to God for having blessed our nation with those dedicated missionaries who left us these treasures.

Our church, St.Andrew's Kirk was built by Scottish missionaries in 1821, a model of St.Andrew's Kirk in Edinburgh built in 1784, but far

exceeding its beauty. They also built another small and beautiful church with a steeple in 1837, known as St Andrews Tamil Church in Choolai, Madras for new converts, their Tamil speaking acquaintances, and the local people living there, who by profession were brick makers, weavers and hay sellers.

A brief compilation of the biggest, largest and tallest Churches and Cathedrals in the world is listed for the benefit of the readers of Kirkspire. When you have an opportunity to visit Britain and Europe, keep it in your itinerary and plan to visit some of them.

Biggest and beautiful Churches in the World

1. Vatican-St.Peter's Basilica, Rome AD 1626
2. Seville Cathedral, Spain AD 1520
3. Cathedral of St.John Divine, New York, AD 1941 Episcopal....Unfinished
4. Milan Cathedral, Italy AD 1386
5. Liverpool Cathedral, Britain, Anglican, Largest in Europe AD 1311
6. Ulm Minister,Germany, Lutheran, Tallest church in the world
7. Cologne Cathedral, Germany, Catholic, AD 1880
8. St.Pauls Cathedral,London,Church of England, AD 1708
9. Washington National Cathedral, USA, Ad 1907-1990, Episcopal
10. Amiens Cathedral, France, AD 1270
11. Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (Istanbul) AD 537- Was the largest church in the world, now a museum

Tallest Churches in the World

From AD 1200 to 1901, the tallest buildings in the world was always a Church or a Cathedral, only to be surpassed by the world's first sky scraper in New York.

1. Ulm Minister, Germany, 530 ft.
2. Lincoln Cathedral,UK, 520 ft. Surpassed the height of the great Pyramids. Tallest building in the world for 249 years (1311-1549).Spire collapsed in a storm in 1549
3. Our Lady of Peace Basilica, Ivory coast 518 ft.
4. Cologne Cathedral,Germany, 516 ft. Largest church façade in the world
5. Rouen Cathedral, France, 495 ft.

6. Strasbourg Cathedral, France, 466 ft. Tallest 15th century structure in the world
7. St.Peters Basilica, Italy,452 ft.
8. St.Stephens Cathedral,Vienna, 449 ft.
9. Chartres Cathedral, France, 375 ft.
10. St.Pauls Cathedral, London, 366 ft. Tallest building in UK till 1962

By comparison St.Andrews Kirk is 166 ft.

Sagrada Familia,Barcelona will be the tallest church in the world 558 ft. when completed in 2026

Dr. E.G.R. Solomon



Service

- (1) Worship is service. Our acts of worship are called 'Services'. It is service because God has made us to love Him & obey Him. God rejoices in that. It is eternal.
- (2) Another service is to love, for in loving we share God's love with those around us. "For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for His sake in serving the saints (Hebrews 6 : 9-12)
- (3) Another service is to share our faith with others. We should be teachers. "For... by this time you ought to be teachers." (Hebrews 5 : 11) This does not mean that we should be leaders of study groups, but that all Christians by their witness to Christ, teach the faith to those around them.

So serve God

- (1) in worship
- (2) in love
- (3) in the proclamation of faith

*Contributed
Mrs. R. Chandy*



John's Corner

GRATITUDE

(Read Psalm 136)

Sept. 14th is Thanksgiving Sunday

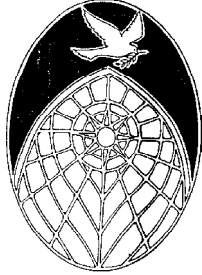
A patient came the other day,
His condition was grave;
He worried much because he feared
He'd soon be in his grave.

I prayed for him and touched by Christ
He was wondrously healed;
He hardly could believe himself,
He thought his fate was sealed.

His gratitude then knew no bounds,
He'd thank me every day,
And daily he would ask if he
Could help me in some way.

That man's behaviour made me think,
How oft is it that we
Thank God for benefits received,
Who cares incessantly?

John H. Bala Singh



Memo from GOD

Today I will be handling all of your problems.

Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box.

All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic; don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; Think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a
relationship gone bad;
Think of the person who has
never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of
another weekend;
Think of the woman in dire
straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed
her
children.

Should your car break down,
leaving you miles away from assistance;
Think of the paraplegic who
would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray
hair in the mirror;
Think of the cancer patient in
chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a
loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my
purpose?
Be thankful. There are those who
didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the
victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or
insecurities;
Remember, things could be worse.
You could be one of them!

*Contributed by
Rev. Peter Francis
Pastor*



Medical Corner

ALLERGY IN THE BODY - VI BRONCHITIS AND ASTHMA

“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”

Acute bronchitis often follows a common cold. Initially irritating dry cough with chest discomfort occurs. Later chest tightness, wheeze and breathlessness can occur. Sputum (phlegm) is initially white and scanty but after a day or two becomes thick, yellow and copious. If allergy is associated with infection then fever (38-39°C) can occur. Asthma is due to multiple genetic and environmental factors. Exposure to air allergens and cigarette smoke, can cause an attack of wheeze, and this could be responsible for childhood asthma. It has been known that asthma runs in families. First degree relatives are more prone.

House dust mites (microscopic insects) abound in carpets, soft furnishings and bedding. Frequent vacuum cleaning of house, carpets is advisable. Bed sheets should be changed frequently. Pets like cats and dogs can also produce allergens. Fungal spores and cockroach allergens are common in houses. Passive exposure to cigarette smoke immediately following birth increases the risk of developing asthma. In the outdoors, motor vehicle emissions (smoke) and fuel burning industries can liberate chemical gases which are harmful to the lungs. Pollens from grass, flower and crops are also allergens. Some drugs, viral and bacterial infections and smoking can trigger symptoms. Severe anxiety or stress can exacerbate asthma and acute emotions may provoke an acute attack.

A detailed history is taken. Pulmonary (lung) function tests are done, A chest radiograph (x-Ray) may give added information. Successful management of asthma begins with education of the patient. Bronchodilators (reliever) and anti-inflammatory (preventer) medications are used. It is important to identify and avoid allergens. Short acting bronchodilators, such as salbutamol or terbutaline are used by inhalation for the relief of occasional minor symptoms. In chronic cases, steroid

inhalers (beclometasone etc.) are prescribed. In acute asthma attacks, oral steroids are also given besides oxygen. The initial treatment for each patient should be chosen individually depending upon severity of the disease. Proper method of use of inhalers must be taught to children, their parents and elderly patients. Spacers can also be used.

Dr. (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 47 (For the month of August 2014)

Based on the Book of Isaiah

Hearty Congratulations !

Right answers given by :

Mrs. Victoria Basker

Dr. Rachel Chacko

Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam

Mrs. Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad

Mr. Joseph M. Manoharan

Mrs. Minnie Devadoss

The answers are :

1. The house of Israel - 5 : 7
2. The enemy - 59 : 19
3. The house of Jacob - 48 : 8
4. The King of Babylon - 14 : 11
5. The house of Jacob - 48 : 4
6. Moab - 16 : 6
7. Feet of those who proclaim salvation - 52 : 7
8. Isaiah - 59 : 1
9. In Jehovah the Lord - 26 : 4
10. The wicked - 48 : 22

Usha George

Bible Quiz No. 48 - September, 2014
(The questions are based on the Book of Isaiah -
King James Version)



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

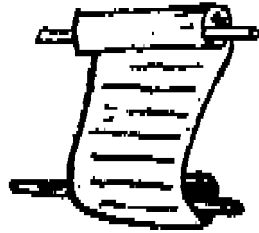
Each Ref. carries 1/2 mark.)

1. A bird in the desolate place?
2. "But I am like an Olive tree, thriving in the house of the Lord."
who?
3. "I am a wonder to many". Who said this?
4. The bird that made its nest in the altars?
5. The animal created to play in the oceans?
6. The first Psalm known by the name of Asaph?
7. The love song among Psalms?
8. The Land known as the land of Ham?
9. The Psalm that describes the beauty of the Lord's dwelling
place?
10. The shortest Psalm?

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

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

Usha George



Kirk News

An FMPB calendar for August shows a picture of a dove flying out of a cage with the Indian tricolour in the background and the scripture: "If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed!" That's as good a call for India to hear the voice of the Lord speaking to her, as any could be.

The Lord has personally freed so many of us from our bondage to sin and, having done so, given us eternal life, to be spent with Him in bliss for *"no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"* 1 Cor.2:9.

As we recap below the events of August in our church, let us multiply our prayers for the good news to go out in power, His message of love to touch unreached hearts, however confused or caught up with the ways of the world. *"For there is no other name under heaven by which men must be saved"* Acts 4:12. It's our duty to the Lord and our way of showing gratitude for His sacrifice for us.

And let us, as His own beloved ones, believe, be encouraged and strengthened: *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* John 14:1-3

Guest Speakers

10th August 9am Rev. E.C. Gnanasekar, associate pastor of Emmanuel Methodist Church, spoke on Asha

- Sunday. His topic was "How to become a good friend" from Luke 10:25-37.
- 17th August 9am Prof. C. Bala Singh, Professor of Physics and Christian speaker, spoke at the 5th session of the Annual Church Retreat, throwing light on "How to be a disciple of the Lord" from Isaiah 52:1-7 & Mark 16:4-20.
- 6pm Prof. C. Bala Singh continued with the 7th and last session of the Retreat. His topic was "How to be pleasing with the Lord" (Gal.1:3-10).

District Meetings were held with Bible study and fellowship by, Districts 7 & 8 on 3rd Aug. in the SACCE hall after the 9am service. District 5 in the home of Dr. & Mrs.Solomon J Wilson on 10th Aug.

House Church was held on Fridays (except Aug.15 – Independence Day) in the homes of Mr. & Mrs.Sathish Moses, Mr. & Mrs.Larsen Sathyaseelan, Mr. & Mrs. M. Sobitha Kumar, Mr. & Mrs. J. Reuben George.

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

Monday Bible Study continues to study the Gospel of St.Luke.

Manse Prayer Cell met on Fridays (except Aug.15), praying for various issues and studying the Psalms.

Evangelism and Missions Movement's Fasting and Prayer was held on Thursdays, interceding for our Evangelists & Missionaries, churches and projects, the outreach programs of our Hindi ministry, for our annual retreat, the forthcoming Thanksgiving services at our churches etc.

Sunday school classes met every week.

Kirk Youth Fellowship

Following the meditation on the life of Paul on July 20th, KYF organised activities on the practical aspects Paul's life on 3rd August. They made another visit to the Tirupalaivanam church on 10th August, participating in the service and spending time with the local youth members. The monthly 'CATALYST' youth service happened on the 24th.

About 50 KYF members participated in the Annual Youth Camp near Bangalore from Aug.29th to 31st. According to Allen, a youth coordinator, it was a refreshing and blessed time for the youth.

During the month

Asha Sunday was celebrated on 10th Aug. with joy, giving thanks for this ministry among differently-abled (special) children, for the Lord's grace and favour in enabling the church to reach out as a light among this section of people. Students presented choreographed songs with their characteristic simple enthusiasm, and were joined by their caregivers and staff.

The Annual Church Retreat on 16th & 17th August featured guest speaker Prof. C. Bala Singh, a Christian teacher with an academic background (Physics professor).

He spoke on the theme '**How to be with the Lord**' and covered practical aspects of 'inheriting the peace of the Lord', 'winning His grace', 'praising and glorifying Him', 'being in time with the Lord', 'being His disciple', 'being with the thoughts of the Lord' and 'pleasing Him'.

As reported last month, **The Kirk Christian Counselling Centre** conducted a workshop for married couples on "Family Relationships" on Sunday 24th Aug. It touched on God's blueprint for marriage and how spouses can connect with God and in turn, with others. Workshop was well attended and highly appreciated, with several members requesting follow up workshops.

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Sunday will be observed today (14th Sep.). As in previous years, we invite you to contribute your mite in kind (rice, oil, sugar, pulses, flour, soap...) for distribution among Christian organisations taking care of orphans, elderly and other needy people who cannot reciprocate. This is a way of saying "Thank you, Lord!" for all the bountiful provisions He gives us through the year, and especially to show Him gratitude for the salvation He purchased for us! It's also an opportunity to store up treasure in heaven which can never be lost, as the Lord promised.

OBITUARY

Mr.E.J.J.Vedamuthu, our Elder, aged 86, entered into glory on 7th August 2014 in the U.S.A. He was the former Secretary of the Asha Project.

Mr. C.T. Joseph, aged 81, passed away on 20th August 2014. Father of our member, Mrs.Preetha Jacob.

We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families

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



St. Andrew's Tamil Church, Choolai, Chennai - 112. (A.D. 1837)

Source : Dr. E.G.R. Solomon



Photos from the KYF Annual Camp at Bangalore

