

# *Kirkspire*

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



Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.  
1 Corinthians 10:12

*September 2021*

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## WORD FROM THE PASTOR

### The Cross and the Crisis

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 16:24-25)

Every time we think we are in a crisis moment in life, we are bombarded with hundreds of thoughts, and plenty of advice from so-called experts confuses our mind further. This month, the theme is 'Dangers of the Bride'. It is very important that we are able to find time every day to completely trust in God and express that trust in Him through our quiet time or prayer time. I cannot think of a better time than now to re-emphasize the importance of personal prayer, family prayer and corporate prayer as the church. The sceptic or cynic will still ask the question, 'What can prayer do? Will it change all my situations? Will it make my life more joyful?' or 'What about all those prayers for which I got no answers?' My answer to these questions is in three parts:

#### 1. Faith is the foundation of following God

Hebrews 11:6 says, 'Without faith, it is impossible to please God'. Many times, we are convinced that certain things are true, but later we get to know that what we were so sure about is not actually what it seemed like in the first place. Cain was convinced that Abel was his enemy and so decided to kill *his own brother*. On the other hand, we read that Abel offered a better sacrifice by faith. The question I bring to our attention is 'How much do you put your trust in God when you pray?' Do you believe that He is listening, do you

trust that He cares for you more than you do, and are you willing to trust that His answer (Yes / No) is the right answer to every prayer of yours?

## 2. Obedience is the requirement for understanding God

While we struggle to accept God's answers to our prayers, God also has certain essentials for our lives. This started in the Garden of Eden and continues even today. GOD MAKES THE RULES AND WE **SHOULD OBEY**. The big danger is when one begins to listen inadvertently to the liar, the cheat, the deceiver, the devil. He lied, always did and always will. *It is dangerous to fall for his lies and then blame God for our choices*. Classic example is Cain again. God warned Cain after he offered the sacrifice and before he killed Abel. Dear one, do not be dismissive of God's warnings. He warns you because He cares for you. *Obey God*.

## 3. Cross is the example of rejoicing

All of us go through those moments in life when we feel, 'No one understands my pain, my situation, my sorrow'. We all feel like others have it easy while we have the toughest problems. The teaching of the Bible is to 'Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and the perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorned its shame...'. (Hebrews 12:2). The farther one walks away from Jesus, the lonelier the path of life becomes and louder the voice of satan becomes. Come to Jesus, turn to Jesus, trust Jesus.

Life on earth is hard but God has given Jesus as an example for us to follow and also assures us saying, 'My grace is sufficient for you'.

Have a blessed month

With much prayers for each one of you

*Rev. Isaac Johnson*

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This is the blessed life—not anxious to see far down the road nor overly concerned about the next step, not eager to choose the path nor weighted down with the heavy responsibilities of the future, but quietly following the Shepherd, one step at a time.

*Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, Streams in the Desert*

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**Bible Quiz No. 118 – September 2021**



## **A Butcher's Quiz**

King James Version (KJV)

Please give only one reference

1. 'The wolf shall dwell with the ——'
2. 'God trieth the ——' (Bible word for kidneys)
3. 'Within (ye are) full of dead men's ——'
4. 'Keep thy —— from evil'
5. 'The —— is deceitful above all things'
6. 'By them (springs of water) shall the —— of the heaven have their habitation'
7. 'Bring hither the fatted —— and, kill it'
8. 'Go out to the field, and take me some ——'
9. 'Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth ——'
10. 'Is there any taste in the —— of an ——'

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email [admin@thekirk.in](mailto:admin@thekirk.in) by 19th September 2021.

*Usha George*

## It Is Not In Me...

*So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."*

*"It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."*

*"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."*

*Genesis 41:16*

It is not in me to give the other person the benefit of doubt  
It is not in me to have the kind of faith that moves mountains  
It is not in me to exert good judgement  
It is not in me to be disciplined  
It is not in me to remain strong in the face of trials  
It is not in me to not care about what others think of me  
It is not in me to do all things without grumbling and fault-finding  
It is not in me

But with Jesus  
In Him are the treasures of wisdom and understanding  
In Him there is hope unending  
Joy unspeakable  
Faith unshakable  
Love unstoppable  
In Him there is power to dispel every fear  
to break every myth  
to set free  
In Him there is healing for the brokenhearted  
In Him darkness has no place  
In Him shadows light up  
And He lives in me

It is not in me. But in Him and with Him is a different story. The next time you feel overwhelmed and weak, it's okay if whatever is required is not a natural tendency of yours. Go to Jesus. He has the answers you are seeking.

*All we have accomplished is really from you. Isaiah 26:12*

*Dr. Susan Rajkumari*



### John's Corner

## NOT ENOUGH

(September is Thanksgiving month)

Read Ps 139:17,18, Ps 116:12, 1 Thes 5:18,  
1 Pet 4:8-10, 1 Tim 6:6

Twenty four hours are not enough  
To thank You, Lord, for all You've done,  
Should I my blessings daily count,  
And each one number one by one.

It's only right that I should be  
Upon my knees in gratitude,  
Acknowledging each blessing, Lord,  
But then I'll on my knees be glued.

Help me to see Your hand at work,  
Lord, even in adversity,  
And not complain when trials come,  
But count my blessings cheerfully.

Contentment and deep gratitude,  
Should, Lord, encourage me to share  
With those less fortunate than me,  
And lead them to Your love and care.

*John H. Bala Singh*

## **ASHA..... A CENTRE OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION**

Beginning in 1982 as St Andrews Church's endeavour to make a difference in the lives of the differently-challenged in the society around The Asha Project reached out as a **Counseling and Placement centre** for individuals with visual impairment, hearing and speech impediments, loco-motor disabilities, to enable them and empower them to meet the challenges of life. Asha was a liaison agency between the physically challenged and other organizations to enable them to reach appropriate medical care, educational opportunities, suitable vocational and technical training, and to connect with job opportunities. But most important of all, Asha was and is a corner in the city of Chennai where these, sometimes very lonely, demotivated, unfortunate individuals can meet, share and encourage each other and be encouraged themselves.

In 1990 Asha Project moved on to focus on the needs of children with intellectual challenges caused by brain damage and developmental disorders, and has established itself on the map of Chennai as a **Centre of Special Education And Vocational Rehabilitation**, registered and recognized by **the Government Of Tamil Nadu**. Presently there are **Forty nine** 'Special children and young adults' in the **Chennai, Egmore** campus and **Ten** in the **village Thirupalaivanam** centre, undergoing individualized training in academic skills, daily living skills and vocational skills patterned on the basis of the Madras Developmental Scale, customized to individual needs and abilities. Four of our children, having progressed well, have been initiated into the mainstream school syllabus and being assisted to cope by the persevering efforts of the special educators.

The past year has indeed been challenging for the staff to find ways and means to help their wards and their families cope during the lockdown. Financial support was mobilized to support the families to supplement their income to provide for their needs. Video and WhatsApp calls were used to mentor the caregiver to help tutor the



child in the home situation to ensure that the progress achieved in their development is not lost. It has been a 'family based rehabilitation' process with fathers, mothers and siblings pitching in, contributing their time, phones and skills to help the child stay focussed. VBS 2021 with our theme "My Rock – My God" who sustains, strengthens, shields, was a rewarding 'Family Effort' and the word was sown in the family and the neighbourhood around!

**Therapy Units in Physio, Occupational and Speech Training** integral to the rehabilitation of these special children, have been active, counselling and guiding to help develop mobility, self-care skills and to overcome speech limitations.

**Early Intervention Programme** for the very severely affected little ones is being imparted using a lot of therapeutic interventions to provide them with the best advantage.

**Vocational training & Production Programmes** are integral to Asha's vision, reflecting the ultimate goal of this ministry, which is to shape his/her personality, attain self identity and enhance self-esteem.

The **Boys Skill Unit** is focused on mastering the skill of screen printing, making envelopes and printing bill books voucher books, business cards, letter pads.

**Girls Skill unit** is involved in assembling eco-friendly paper cups and plates, and training in kitchen chores and cooking skills. Besides candle making and chappati and 'appalam' making, the girls unit has launched into making paper bags for shopping needs and paper covers for grocery stores and bakeries.

**Weaving Unit** provides a therapeutic experience for our young people, the skill of weaving enhancing their attention, concentration and patience and helping to control hyperactive behavior. Colourful mats, towels and fabrics are the products of this unit.

During the lockdown period the young adults were reinforced in maintenance skills viz dusting, sweeping, mopping and kitchen and household chores and simple cooking skills, cutting and pasting paper in their home situations to keep them occupied and focused. The young adults are continually trained in the concepts of time and money, reinforced in reading, writing and counting skills and in personal hygiene and grooming so that they don't forget the basic requirements for a good quality life.

**Thirteen** of our young men and **one** young woman after training at different levels in academic and vocational skills and now placed in appropriate jobs, continue to cope well and function to the satisfaction of their employers. We praise God for leading our young workforce to compassionate, caring employers!

On the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the children and staff of the Egmore centre joined the worship in the Church to praise our Sovereign Lord for his goodness and grace through songs and dance, and to give thanks to Him for this Vision of St Andrew's Church, ASHA, which is an anchor to them.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the parents participated, giving testimonies of our Lord's hand in their lives.

**Outreach Efforts** : The mission to reach the unreached 'special child' resulted in our partnership with the Village Project at Thirupalaivanam where ten 'special children' identified from the surrounding villages are undergoing special education and need based, appropriate vocational skills training.

A video of the ministry at this centre was presented on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021.

**'Let the roots of God's Love in your life be entwined with others who need your support'**

May our Heavenly Father continue to help us to remain steadfast in our vision, continually reminded of the needs and problems of the lesser privileged, and to be sensitive to them.

*From the Family of ASHA*

### **OBITUARIES**

Mrs. Maisie Mehta passed away on 26th July 2021 aged 72 years, and was buried in Kilpauk cemetery on 27th July.

Mrs. Anita Nappoly passed away on 8th August 2021 aged 63 years. The funeral was held at The Kirk on 10th August, followed by burial in the YMCA Nandanam cemetery.

We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.





**The  
Asha  
Project**







## MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

### ADDICTION VI

#### DRUG MISUSE

Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways  
Proverbs 2:12-15 (NIV)

#### **DRUG MISUSE**

Dependence on illegal and prescribed drugs is a major problem in many countries. The reasons for misuse are cultural pressures, particularly within a peer group, and availability of drug. Many drug users take a range of drugs - "polydrug" misuse.

Cannabis is usually smoked mixed with tobacco. It quickly produces a sensation of relaxation and well-being; psychological dependence is common but tolerance and withdrawal symptoms are unusual. A toxic confusional state occurs after heavy consumption and acute psychotic episodes are well recognized. Barbiturates are very dangerous in overdose because of their depressant effect on respiration.

#### **OPIATES**

Morphine, heroin and codein are examples of opiates. Heroin has become especially prominent recently. Taken orally, by injection (intravenously) or by inhalation, heroin gives a rapid, intensely pleasurable experience. Physical dependence occurs within a few weeks of regular high-dose injection; as a result, the dose is escalated and the addict's life becomes increasingly centered around obtaining and taking the drug. Intravenous users are prone to bacterial

infection, tetanus, hepatitis 'B' and AIDS through the contamination of needles.

### **HALLUCINOGENS**

Ecstasy has become fashionable among young people for recreational use at dance parties or 'raves'. It has both stimulant and hallucinogenic properties, thus producing feelings of euphoria and emotional intimacy, together with distorted sensory perceptions. Increasingly popular, Cocaine is taken either by injection (intravenously) or by sniffing or 'snorting' the powder into the nostrils through a tube. Absorption occurs through the nasal mucous membranes and gives a rapid stimulating effect. Hallucinogenic drugs cause a person to have hallucinations - that is, to see or hear things that do not exist. "LSD" and "magic mushroom" are among the most commonly used hallucinogens. Solvent inhalation (glue sniffing) is popular in some adolescent groups. Solvents produce acute intoxication characterized by euphoria, excitement, dizziness and a floating sensation.

Trust in the lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

*Dr. (Mrs) Rajinikantha*

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When our deepest desire is not the things of God, but God Himself, we cross a threshold.

*Max Lucado*

Spiritual growth depends on two things: first a willingness to live according to the Word of God; second, a willingness to take whatever consequences emerge as a result.

*Sinclair B. Ferguson*

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## Star of Hope

In the past one and a half years, we have all been gripped by the fear of this pandemic, not only in our country but throughout the world. So many lives have been lost, so many hospitalized and so many economically devastated. Even among our own church family we have seen loss of dear ones and hospitalization of many. I have also lost my young cousin, my classmates, and seniors to Covid-19. All we can do is put our trust in God who is the God of Hope and comfort. Though many of us are vaccinated we must follow the protocols as this delta variant of the coronavirus affects even the vaccinated people.

To add to this we hear in the news about the Taliban taking over Afghanistan as US troops withdraw, see the scramble of people trying to leave the country and the other nations trying to evacuate their people. Worse still, we see the fear of the women and children of Afghanistan as they dread their future under this rule.

Through all this, we wonder, Where is God? Why is He silent? Why does He not do something? In such times we should remember that God is Sovereign and in control of everything. He will act according to His plan. He is our Creator and a promise-keeping God.

Looking back in Biblical history we go back to Genesis 3:15 when God promised to send a Saviour following the fall of Adam. He called upon Abraham to leave his land and promised to make him the father of nations (Gen. 12-1,2). Later, God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky (Gen. 15:5). God kept His promise. Down the ages we come to the star that stood over Bethlehem where Jesus the Messiah was born (Matt. 2-2,9). Jesus, the Son of God was born in a manger, walked on earth with the people, shed His blood on the cross to save us from the wrath of God and to set us free. He promised He would come again.

So, through all these troubled times we should set our eyes on Jesus, the Bright Morning Star (Rev. 22:16) who is our Hope and who will come again to take us to be with Him (Jn. 14:2,3). The only question is – are our lives ordered according to His Will? Yes, He is our Star of Hope, and as we await His coming at any time, are we ready?

*Dr. Vimala Samuel*

### **Answers to Bible Quiz No. 117 – August 2021**

#### **A Fireman's Quiz**

1. Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 19:24
2. To his father, Abraham. Genesis 22:7
3. Moses. Exodus 3:2
4. Samson. Judges 15:5
5. "There the fire goeth out". Proverbs 26:20
6. Malachi. Malachi 3:2
7. John the Baptist. Matthew 3:11
8. At Pentecost. Acts 2:3
9. Tongue. James 3:6
10. Elijah's. 1Kings 18:38

#### **The winners are:**

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

*Hearty congratulations!*



## **'A Super Beatitude'**

'And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive". Acts 20:35

It surprises many that this great 'beatitude' is found not in the Gospels but tucked away in the book of Acts to be proclaimed and hailed by Paul.

We are basically "Receivers". All of creation has been made for us to admire, enjoy, and marvel. Our eternal city described magnificently in Revelation is in utter contrast to the change and decay of the fallen world we live in. The perpetual joy and sunshine will surpass the highest dreams of men – all ours if we overcome this world with the power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, we are "Receivers" of joys supernatural, all given by our Eternal Provider.

By nature we are selfish, hateful, grasping, and jealous - the 'green-eyed monster' as Shakespeare termed it. But the love of Jesus can change and transform dross into gold. We can understand that we are not meant to be only "Receivers", but more importantly to be "Givers".

The Pandemic which changed the course of life across the continents, brought added gloom and misery in its ruthless trail. Several people in and around our city are suffering from poverty, physical pain, gnawing mental torture, and unspeakable loneliness.

As a church united, may we use our tears, time and talents and resources to be "doers" and not just luxuriate in the beautiful words of life given to us by our great Commander-in-Chief: "I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." (Matthew 25: 35,36)

Every human being needs the human touch of kindness. Love, which is also a precious gift from God, is the power that compels us to offer communion and communication with others. You can see faces brighten up when one takes a few moments to talk to vendors on a trip to the local market or grocery store, enquiring about their day, their family, or a troublesome pain in the knee. Modern gadgets and machines can never replace the meeting of the eyes in a warm smile, a gentle touch, an assurance to pray for them.

When we receive, we are happy and thankful, and that is human. When our hearts are transformed by His divine grace, our humble hearts play the melodies of heaven and we long to share and alleviate another's pain. Our endless glory will rest in flawless service to Him. Always remembering the words of wisdom "He who gives to the poor will not lack" (Proverbs 28:27), may we find God-given opportunities to be Christ-like and use every glorious chance to reach out with a helping hand, without counting the cost. May we know from personal experience the truth of Christ's saying "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

*Usha George*

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O people of God, be great believers! Little faith will bring your souls to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your souls.

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

Some people feel guilty about their anxieties and regard them as a defect of faith but they are afflictions, not sins. Like all afflictions, they are, if we can so take them, our share in the passion of Christ.

*C. S. Lewis*

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## **Come let's build the Kingdom of God together!**

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38, 39 \*Nothing in this world has the power to deny us the love of God. When we are firmly bonded in faith with Christ Jesus, there is zero possibility of obstructions coming up in our relationship with Him. For, the medium of love is love itself. Faith is built upon the elements of love, which energizes the inner man to pull down all the earthly barriers coming before the immeasurable love of God. And His love alone endures forever. Amen

### **Know the Lord and learn to walk with Him**

"For this is God, our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death." Psalm 48:14 \*Clasp the nail pierced Hands of your resurrected Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ whose blood-stained cross of Calvary, is still witnessing His infinite love for His people. He came to show you the way, for He found you scattered on the mountains, as sheep, having no shepherd. But the world rejected Him & crucified Him. But today, all those who persecuted Him, fear greatly and realise that He is the only God & His realm is forever & ever. So, today, let's abide by the voice of the LORD God, the Omniscient. His works are marvelous & His counsels are astonishing. Be with Him & He'll be with you until death & even after.

### **"Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God"**

William Carey once said these words that are more of a question to many. Are we just expecting things from God without even attempting things for God? Out of the 27 books of the New Testament 13 of them were written by Apostle Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He attempted to do a great ministry for the glory of God thus proclaiming the word of God, being brought up from Tarsus to

Antioch, Cyprus, Galatia, Asia Minor, Greece, Corinth, Jerusalem, Ephesus, Yugoslavia, Caesarea and Rome.

To be a disciple of Jesus, you must be converted in Spirit and mind to have the alacrity to convict and touch people who have fallen short of God's glory, raise them up from the dusty shackles, revive their vision to see the Salvation of God and encourage them to walk by faith even when the pathway is unclear.

Every baton to burn needs fire. You be the fire that lights up lives living in darkness. Do not look around for people who can uphold you; nevertheless, put your spirit in submission to receive the conviction of Christ Jesus. For you are commissioned with a greater mission as in Isaiah 61:1-3.

If you have set right your life for Jesus to take hold of you then for you, to live is Christ and to die is gain, Philippians 1:21. This verse says it all. Christ died for you and now you live for Him.

As the Psalmist says, in Psalm 118:17, "I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD." Yes, your skills, talents, the gifts of the Spirit and anything that belongs to you should be manifested for the glory of God. As the words of Paul to Corinthians continue to echo in our hearts, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31. If you are expected to glorify God in the most common thing that you do, how much more would you be expected when you stand up for God in His mission?

Remember these words "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

Giving your best is what pleases the Lord. Rise up for Jesus and attempt great things for Him and He shall make you shine forth in His glory, which is the most awaited reward for a stalwart servant, from the Lord Himself! Amen!

In His service,  
*Bro. Joshua Gokul Nathan. A*





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