

THE ORACLES

Quarterly - April '10



VICTORY OVER THE GRAVE



ST. THOMAS' (SPG) TAMIL CATHEDRAL
SECUNDERABAD

MANAGED BY ST. THOMAS' (SPG) TAMIL CHURCH SOCIETY (REGD NO. 2394)



Glimpses of Bonfire Jan. 2010 - The 'Synergic Way'

Editorial

Praise and Glory to our God who has been faithful to us over the last 3 months. His love endures forever!

As we step into the 2nd quarter of this wonderful year, we have more to look forward to - children get busy with their exams, the VBS and indeed their annual vacation. As adults, we are also excited about the upcoming VBS for our participation. Through it all, we trust that we would witness God's grace and providence in our families.

As we present to you this issue of 'The Oracles' on the topic 'Transformation in the Family,' we pray that the Lord will continue to interact with you through these pages. We believe His guidance would be sufficient for us to evaluate our family lives in the light of His Word and seek to transform in the way He wants us to. We look forward to your feedback and suggestions to make this magazine better.

God bless you,

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MPD Sundar, Susan Richard, Ruth Johnson, Sam Manavalan, Jennifer Hastings, Dalima Thomson, Anish, Michelle Samuel & Jemima Aaron

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Daniel Peddi

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REACH US

1. If you have a prayer request to share.
2. If there is something wonderful that God did for you, that you want to praise Him for.
3. If you have a thought / article to share with us.

We thank you for your contribution. The editorial board reserves the right to edit articles according to space and clarity.

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VICTORY OVER THE GRAVE

I would like to wish every one of you, a Happy Easter, wishing that you all personally enjoy the triumphant Lord in your daily walk, in this challenging world!

Easter is an important time of celebration in the history of the Church. It is the celebration of the victory over death, sin, the devil and the world. It is a day that Jesus emerged victorious challenging the last enemy, death and crushing the head of the devil, who tried to finish Jesus and His Mission on the Cross. It is the day that all Christians are invited to remember and celebrate the victory to become more than conquerors in their Christian life. What a blessed way to end our fasting and lent through the forty days!

Let me share about the two men who walked in sorrow on that Easter day without knowing the fact about the Risen Lord. As the two men, Cleopas and his companion walked along, suffering mentally and emotionally thinking and talking about how all their dreams and hopes have been shattered, Luke, the Gospel writer says that, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. Many godly men and women have felt that way in the Bible. Even King David once cried out with desperation in Psalm 42:6, "O my God, my soul is cast down with me..." They were pondering in their mind that Jesus was supposed to be the Messiah, a miracle worker and a marvelous teacher about the kingdom of God. They even believed him to be a mighty Prophet who would one day turn down the power of Romans and establish His kingdom. But now He is dead and their hope for the people of Israel is destroyed.

As we all walk life's road like these two men, we often have hopes and dreams, desires and possibilities. We want to believe with all our heart that one day our dreams would be fulfilled for sure. But unfortunately, it does not always happen as we think. Our own children have disappointed us; our closest friends have given us broken relationships and broken hearts. When the hopes and dreams of these disciples were shattered, Jesus came and walked with them. This clearly tells us that,

1. JESUS IS ALWAYS THERE THOUGH WE MAY NOT SEE HIM

My friends, do you know that Jesus always walks with you not just during times of gladness, but also in the times of sadness? The Christ who walks with you is the Risen and All Powerful God on earth. The Bible says that "their eyes were held" or restrained so they wouldn't know Him. Why? The disciples could not recognize Jesus walking with them. May be they were not looking, rather, expecting a risen Jesus. When we are confronted with problems, it's our natural human tendency to look around the problems rather than the Lord and His Word. But our Resurrected Savior is concerned about our lives and He wants to know our suffering, and wants us to share our problems with Him. Jesus stands with us in our trials. We need to look away from the problems and turn towards Him, seek His help and look for Jesus in the midst of our trials. The Resurrected Jesus stands near us - ever present, ever faithful, and waiting for us to invite Him into our life.

The second reason, the disciples did not perceive Jesus, may be because of their unbelief. They had believed that he was a prophet from God. They had believed Jesus was a great Rabbi, a great teacher. But at this moment of trial, they could not believe in a conquering Messiah who would conquer death and come into life to join them on their journey. Many times, in our own lives, when we are in great remorse, we cannot recollect the Word and the promises of God in the time when we need them the most.

2. JESUS ENLIGHTENED THEIR MINDS AND HEARTS THROUGH THE WORD

As the disciples continued their journey Jesus opened the Word and helped them to walk through the Bible (the Old Testament), explaining to them the prophecies concerning the Son of Man, His Mission, His death and Resurrection. I presume they were hungry for the Word, and He gave them the bread of the Living Word that opened their mind and increased their knowledge and faith.

My dear friends, we must read and meditate on the Scriptures daily and systematically if we want to find Christ even in our hopeless circumstances. We cannot find Him if we are too confused and entangled in our own wants and desires. Even in my own life, in the midst of suffering and terrible problems, my eyes have looked for Him and found Him standing by my side when I feed my soul on the Word of God. Jesus is standing near you now, and waiting to reveal Himself. So, read His Word, meditate and saturate your soul on His Word. Invite Him into your lives and your homes. When the disciples

invited Jesus into their home and sat down with Him, when He broke the bread they suddenly experienced the Word kindling their hearts and revealing to them who He was.

You may be a Sunday-Christian, engaged in the religious activities without experiencing the saving power of the Lord in your life to walk victorious in this world. Friends, the walk with Christ requires that we walk with Him at all times and in all situations. We must learn to love and serve others in order to recognize Jesus in our worsening brokenness. Jesus came to serve, not to be served and demanded that we serve Him by giving ourselves, our time, talents, tongue and money. When "I" becomes more important than "Jesus", then "I" walk away from Jesus. This is practical Christianity with the "burning heart" that Jesus has risen and walks with you.

Does Jesus the risen Lord walk with you today? May this Easter help us to find Jesus in our lives and lead all of us to victory in the midst of challenges.

God bless you all.

The Most Rev. Dr. Duraisingh James
Bishop



MORE THAN CONQUERORS

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest, if we do not give it up". Gal. 6:9

The New Year was ushered in with Thankfulness to God for enabling all of us to see yet another year 2010 and work together in extending His Kingdom here on earth.

The Stay Order for the Church Extension Project which was in force from May 2009 was lifted on 17th December 2009 and we have been able to concrete the sloping mezzanine floor and to our dismay, the HC had again ordered Status Quo to be maintained on 16th February 2010 until further orders when Judgment will be pronounced. It is our ardent prayer that God in His appointed time will remove all the obstacles and we will be able to resume and complete the work started for His Praise and Glory.

We request all the adult communicant members to renew their Society membership for the year 2010-2011 immediately for effective working of the Society.

We have commenced work in the Trimulgherry School Campus for a Church building of size: 30' x 20' with AC sheet roofing. The walls have been constructed with doors and window frames and are hoping the Church will be ready for Dedication by June 2010. Our Missionary Dn. John Charles is already doing Outreach Work in the area, please uphold him and his wife in your Prayers.

The Season of Lent commenced on February 17th and our Cathedral Clergy ably assisted by Church members visited the homes of our Parishioners in 4 groups and thank God for the grace He has bestowed on all, in carrying on this Ministry of our Cathedral.

The Cathedral Choir presented Passion and Easter Music on 28th March depicting the last days of His life on Earth and His Glorious Resurrection. It was well attended by both our congregation members and others as well.

The following members have gone to be with the Lord in the recent past and please uphold their near and dear ones in your prayers.

1. S.J. Sunder H/O Susila Mary Sunder
2. Richard Barnabas H/O Victoria Barnabas
3. Samuel Chandrakiran H/O Revathi Samuel
4. Suguna Cornelius M/O Dn. George Cornelius
5. Alice Prasada Rao M/O Sandhya David Joshua
6. A. Solomon H/O Bhagyamma Solomon
7. S. Paul Dharma Raj H/O Vinitha Gracelin
8. J.B. Kotishwaran
H/O Shyamala Kotishwaran.

- Henry Jaganathan
(Exec. Secretary)





There is nothing more important than prayer to help you grow as a Christian. When you abide in the Lord Jesus Christ and He abides in you then you are growing as you pray. Have you ever wondered why God doesn't answer your prayers immediately? Its because he wants you to grow some more. Prayer is the way of developing our spiritual walk.

If God were to answer our prayers just automatically, then there would be no growth. But if we never had to pray, there would be no dependence. The wisest thing we can do is to learn how to pray

Human weakness, flesh, which is our enemy does not allow us do that something which God wants us to do. But Praise God ! He knows we are weak and that we need His power to pray. Through the Holy Spirit, God promises that whatever your circumstances may be. He will be your partner in prayer. Romans 8:26 says, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

There are five key areas where God's Spirit helps you pray in real power. These are:

1. Lack of concern. By nature, you and I tend to be lazy and lethargic when it comes to prayer. The flesh does not want to pray, but the Spirit does. So in our moment of weakness He comes along beside us and helps us want to pray.

2. Lack of communion. Many people don't pray because they feel like there is a distance between them and God. But Galatians 4:6 says, "...God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, Abba, Father." The Holy Spirit helps us sense

God's presence-the closeness of our communion with Him-when we pray.

3. Lack of content. As humans, not only do we not naturally know what to pray for, we don't even know how to pray! So He teaches us what to say by teaching us to listen. When we listen to God in prayer...when we stay long enough at the place in prayer...God is able to clarify His will and teach us what to say when we pray.

4. Lack of capability. We lack the strength, we lack the energy, and we lack the steadfastness to pray. But the Spirit of God comes along and energizes our prayer lives. When we worship God in the Spirit, we are invigorated!

5. Lack of concentration. Is it strange to you how anything and everything will distract you when you finally try to pray? I'm convinced the devil will do anything he can to keep us from talking to God. So the Spirit of God does warfare against the enemy to help us concentrate when we pray.

Remember, God is at His strongest when we are at our weakest. Consider what the apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12:8-10: And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Never be surprised when God just puts you flat on your back! He wants you to look up to Him! God will sometimes allow pain in our lives so that we might pray in dependence upon Him.

In our family, prayer has been a mighty weapon and part of our life. Prayers have helped us to be victorious in difficult situations. I encourage you all, not only during these lent days but every day of our life, to pray without ceasing.

- Israel Asirvatham



Write your answers in a separate sheet and drop the entries into the box kept at the Cathedral office along with your name and contact details by 15th May 2010.

Who Am I?



1. I was the promised son, born to my parents in their old age. God commanded my father to sacrifice me, but at the last moment told him to offer a ram instead. Rebekah and I were the parents of twin sons.

A. WHO AM I? B. WHO ARE MY PARENTS?

2. I was the younger daughter of Laban, Jacob's uncle. My sister, Leah, and I were married to Jacob, but I was his favorite wife. I bore him 2 sons, named Joseph and Benjamin.

A. WHO AM I?

3. I was born to an elderly couple. My father was a priest and my mother, Elizabeth, was a kinswoman of Mary, the mother of Jesus. I lived in the wilderness and wore camel's hair and a leather girdle. I baptized Jesus in the river Jordan. I was beheaded by Herod.

A. WHO AM I? B. WHO IS MY FATHER?

4. I was the son of David and Bathsheba. I prayed for wisdom and became famous for my wise sayings. I built the first temple in Jerusalem.

A. WHO AM I?

5. I sat at Jesus' feet, listening to His teaching while my sister, Martha, was "distracted with much serving." Jesus praised me for my devotion to Him. When my brother died, I wept at Jesus' feet and after Jesus raised my brother from the dead, I lavishly anointed Jesus' feet with ointment and dried it with my hair.

A. WHO AM I? B. WHO IS MY BROTHER?

6. I was a righteous man whom God told to build an "ark" to save my family and every kind of animal, bird, and creeping thing from the flood that would destroy life on the earth. I did so.

A. WHO AM I?

7. God created us in his own image and placed us in the Garden of Eden. A serpent enticed me to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil by telling me that I would become like God, knowing good and evil. After eating, I gave a portion of the fruit to my husband who also ate it. When God knew it, He drove us out of the Garden of Eden.

A. WHO ARE WE?

8. I was the son of Elkannah and Hannah who had been barren for long. My Mother dedicated me to the Lord as a child and brought me to Eli, the priest. When I was a child, I heard the voice of the Lord speak to me at the shrine in Shiloh. I anointed Saul as the king of Israel and later went to Bethlehem and anointed David as Saul's successor, as the Lord commanded me to do.

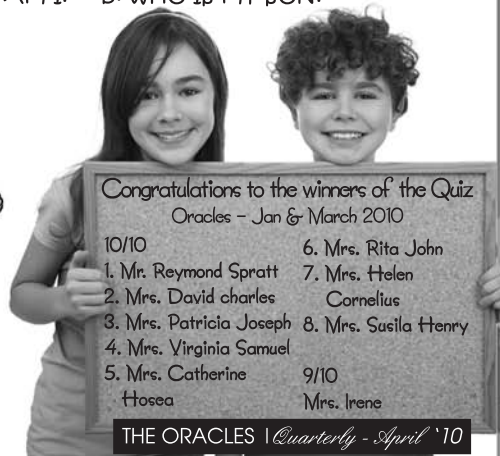
A. WHO AM I?

9. My brother and I were the sons of Zebedee. We were Galilean fishermen. While we were mending our nets, Jesus called us to follow Him. I was present at the mount of Transfiguration, asked for a special place in Jesus' kingdom and accompanied Jesus in Gethsemane.

A. WHO AM I? B. WHO IS MY BROTHER?

10. I was a virgin who lived in Nazareth in Galilee. An angel announced that through the power of the Holy Spirit I would conceive and bear a Son. I accompanied Joseph to Bethlehem where my Son was born in a stable. I was present when my Son turned water into wine at Cana.

A. WHO AM I? B. WHO IS MY SON?



Congratulations to the winners of the Quiz
Oracles - Jan & March 2010

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10/10 | 6. Mrs. Rita John |
| 1. Mr. Reymond Spratt | 7. Mrs. Helen Cornelius |
| 2. Mrs. David Charles | |
| 3. Mrs. Patricia Joseph | 8. Mrs. Susila Henry |
| 4. Mrs. Virginia Samuel | |
| 5. Mrs. Catherine Hosea | 9/10 |
| | Mrs. Irene |

SYNERGIC REVOLUTION

KINDLING A PASSION FOR CHRIST IN THE CITY

- Nancy Philip



“Synergy” is defined as the interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects. “Revolution” is a momentous or sweeping change/action.

We, as the youth fellowship, were inspired to collaborate with a few churches and Christian youth groups operating in the city, to come together and worship our Lord, with one accord. The entire year of 2009 was spent with these groups, either they attended our youth fellowship or we lead the service for them, at their places of worship.

Let’s hear from few of them, who were blessed through the Youth fellowship and the synergic revolution, what they have to say about this initiative:

It’s a brilliant idea to network with churches across denominations, barriers and pooling in talents, just to see the name of Christ glorified. It’s wonderful!!!

There are people across this city, who, love God passionately, see Christ glorified and who love to usher the presence of God through music, word and ministry. This is powerful!! Kudos to the Synergic Revolution!!



→ Pastor Chaitanya,

Capstone Church, Hyd

It’s an opportunity to be united together, work better, encourage and strengthen each other and show what the Lord has done.

→ Bradley

Carpenter Streets (Worship Band)



As an individual we can contribute, but as a unit we can do far better things for the Lord. Going forward, this revolution has to be carried forward and have people come together as ONE!!

→ Sam Cornelius

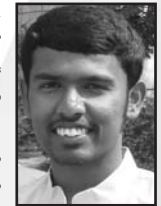
(Youth Fellowship Member)



It’s good to be with the Christian crowd rather than going to other places. I’ve been growing in the Lord through the youth fellowship and have learnt a lot of things. I get to interact with many people, learn new songs, and play cricket (SPG Premiere League)

→ Sam Hastings

(Youth Fellowship Member)



It’s amazing to turn back and see how the Lord has worked in each of our lives. The way he has built, molded, shaped and is spiritually enriching us, day by day, when we attend the youth fellowship.

→ Sam Christian Manavalan

(Youth Fellowship Member)



The youth fellowship is not only a place where youngsters meet, but is also open for those young at heart. Come, be a part of this revolution and kindle the passion in you for Christ, by joining us every Sunday at 5 pm.



I was born and brought up in a routine Christian family. I lost my father when I was 6. It was God's grace that helped my mother to encourage my two brothers and me, during the difficult period. God touched me, when I was studying at ITI. I repented for my sins and pleaded for His mercy. He helped me realize my mistakes. I had once traveled without a ticket in a train. With the help of my Hostel warden, I had sent the amount to Railway department. And also I apologized to my friends for the hatred, that I felt for them.

I learned to fast and pray and soon I felt my heart had become very light, as the load of my sins disappeared. God spoke to me through Luke 19:9-10, Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham". God also encouraged me saying, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

God opened the door for me to get a job in the HAL, Bangalore but I had faced a small problem in it, immediately I fasted and prayed. God answered me by sending the appointment letter the next day itself. Later, I was deputed to IAF Thambaram – Chennai in the year 1981. I enjoyed the good fellowship of God's children there. God gave me a good wife (a Hindu convert and now a strong believer of Jesus Christ) and we are blessed with two daughters and a son. He has also blessed us with a house to live.

I had an accident on 12th October 2005, a fall near the gate of my house, resulting in multiple fractures in my left leg. I had to undergo 3 operations to be able to walk again. I wished and believed that I will get cured very fast. But even 2 and a half months after my 1st operation, I could not stand on my legs. My Pastor prayed for me and took me to another doctor for a 2nd opinion. This Doctor told me that I had to go in for a 2nd operation. I was seeking God for His mercy every day. A God's servant wrote to me "As in the days when you came out of Egypt, I will show them my wonders." Micah 7:15. The 2nd operation revealed that there was a pus formation inside the bone and the doctor was able to diagnose and treat me for it. Then the 3rd operation was carried out and the metal plates were removed and external clamps were placed for next 6 months. I still remember the pain. I also remember to have never murmured and asked God, why He allowed this to happen to me. I used to pray & cry to my Lord through the nights until dawn. He strengthened me with this verse, Roman 8:28 'All things work together for good to them that love God'. Our Lord healed my bones and supported me for 1 year in spite of my absence from duty. God has sent many of His servants to pray for me and console me.

My profession brought me to Secunderabad a few months ago. One of my friends introduced me to this Cathedral. I started worshiping in the regular services and am overjoyed with the concern of many brothers in this church. God's messages, spoken through our Bishop and Clergy have been an encouragement each week. I enjoy participating in the Lenten cottage prayer meetings which gives me happiness and the burden for gospel work.

- Mohan Dass





Transformation in the families

FAMILY – the nucleus of society; created by marriage, and embracing populace with the title 'relatives'.

The Psalmist sang, "Oh! How good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity". God fashioned us individually, and therefore He alone understands us completely. To hold such individualism together and to make a godly family, what our God wants it to be, is possible only if hearts and wills work in tandem. It requires transformation and it starts right at the individual level with a commitment towards God.

And where is such commitment to God learnt? At the family altar. Today, in many homes there is no such thing. However that was God's plan for the family. Parents were commanded to educate their children about God and His commands. Deut 6:7-9 says "Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again. Tie them to your hands as a reminder and wear them on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (NLTV). It was to be drummed into them so that they would not forget or stray, that there would be a framework of laws within which was absolute freedom and safety.

Passing the faith along to the next generation was important in God's sight. Joshua challenged the Israelites and asked the Israelites to decide whether they would obey the Lord, who had proven His trustworthiness again and again, or obey local, man-made gods which were idols (Josh 24:14).

Asking ourselves this question today would prove to be a worthwhile check in our walk with Christ. Are we going to remain firmly committed to Him and His kingdom principles or are we going to live a compromised life? It's easy to slip into a quiet rebellion – going about life in our own way. As needs are seemingly met by

the availability of multiple diversions, materialism and much more; pulling in different directions, tearing the fabric called family, we must choose who or what will control us. Will it be God? Our own limited personality? Or another imperfect substitute?

The time to decide is well nigh. We must choose to be controlled by God's Holy Spirit and reaffirm our choice everyday. That is why family prayer is important. It helps inculcate the discipline of focusing on God. Many a times it is these songs and scripture that strengthen us in our time of spiritual need. The family altar bolsters our resolve to make a definite stand for the Lord; for the way we live, shows others the strength of our commitment to serving God.

St. Paul in his Ephesian epistle chapter 4 shows us how to live in unity and to live as children of the light. We are to be spiritually renewed in our thoughts and attitudes (vs.24). Such regeneration is possible only if practised everyday.

It is then that we, holding on to the truth will become more and more like Christ, who is the head of the body, the Church. Under His direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly as each part does its own special work, it helps other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love (Eph 4:15, 16, NLTV).

In the end, should the world not know of our God? Should they not know we are Christians by our love? And should we not be able to say with the saints, that we have run the race and kept the faith? And how else would it all begin but by the transformation of families!

- Deborah Stephen



இயேசு கிறிஸ்து மூலமாய்

குடும்பத்தில் முழுமையான மாற்றம்



இயேசு கிறிஸ்து தம்மைத் தாமே தேவனுக்கு பலியாகவும், காணிக்கையாகவும் ஒப்புக் கொடுத்தது போல் (எபேசியர் 5:1:2) நாமும் நம் குடும்பத்தில் ஒவ்வொருவரும் தேவனைப் பின்பற்றி நம்மை முதலாவதாக தேவனுக்கு சுகந்த பலியாக ஒப்புக்கொடுக்க வேண்டும். அப்படி நம்மை ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கும் போது அவர் தம்முடைய பிள்ளைகளாய் நம்மை மாற்றுகிறார். ஜெபம், இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமான குடும்ப மாற்றத்திற்கு மிகவும் அவசியமானது. ஜெபிக்கும் குடும்பம் அன்பிலும், கீழ்ப்படிதலிலும் செழித்தோங்கும் என்றால் அது மிகையல்ல.

ஜெபம்: (மாற்கு 1:35) அவருடைய பிள்ளைகளாய் மாற்றப்பட்ட பின் இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் மாதிரியின்படியே நாம் ஆவிக்குறிய ஜீவியத்தில் வளருவதற்கு ஒவ்வொருவருடைய குடும்ப வாழ்க்கையிலும் தனிப்பட்ட வாழ்க்கையிலும் ஜெப ஜீவியம் மிகவும் முக்கியமானது. நேரம் கிடைக்கும் போதெல்லாம் ஜெபத்தின் மூலம் ஆண்டவரோடு இடைப்படும்போது குடும்பத்தில் ஒரு மறுபிறப்பின் வாழ்வு அமையும்.

அன்பு : (1 யோவான் 4:9) தேவன் நம்மேல் வைத்த அன்பின் நிமித்தம் தம்முடைய ஒரே பேரான குமாரனை இவ்வுலகத்தில் அனுப்பினார். 1 யோவான் 3:16 ல் இயேசு கிறிஸ்து நமக்காக தன்னுடைய ஜீவனையே கொடுத்ததினால் அவர் நம்மேல் வைத்த அன்பை அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். நாமும் நமது குடும்பத்தில் கணவன், மனைவி, பிள்ளைகள் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் அன்புகூர கடனாளிகளாயிருக்கிறோம். அப்படி அன்பினால் இணைக்கப்படும்பொழுது குடும்ப வாழ்க்கையில் ஒரு முழுமையான மாற்றம் ஏற்படும்.

கீழ்ப்படிதல் : (எபிரேயர் 5: 8 & 9) இயேசு கிறிஸ்து பட்ட பாடுகளினாலே கீழ்ப்படிதலை கற்றுக்கொண்டு, பிதாவின் சித்தம் நிறைவேறுவதற்கு தம்மைத்தாமே தியாக பலியாய் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து கீழ்ப்படிந்ததால் யாவரும் நித்திய இரட்சிப்பை அடைவதற்கு காரணானார். நாமும் நமது குடும்பங்களில் பிதாவின் சித்தத்திற்கு (எபேசியர் 5:24,6:1) கீழ்ப்படியும்போது நமது குடும்பத்திலும் ஆசிர்வாதம், நம் வாழ்க்கையை பார்க்கும்போது அது மற்றவர்களுக்கும் ஆசிர்வாதமாய் இருக்கும்.

- சுகந்தா னியல்



Transformation of the Family

The Greek word for “transformation” is metamorphoo, from which we get the English word metamorphosis which means a complete change, such as a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. Biblical transformation has to do with both the spiritual and physical aspect of human life. Life starts at home and home is where our story begins. Family is the base and foundation of human life where identity and destiny is formed, shaped and future success is established. The quality and success of life is based on the foundation that a person receives from the family.



As I toured and visited most of the families in the Bible, I wanted to highlight some families to relate and relay the transformation of our families.

TRANSMISSION TO TRANSFORMATION

Unfortunately, the first family of the Bible does not stand as an example for transformation. Instead, they transmitted their sin and guilt to their children. Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command. Their children went a step further from disobedience to murder, affecting the whole earth and the generations to follow. Thus the earth was filled with wickedness and violence that God had to wipe out human race through the flood sparing Noah and his family. Parents, beware, our sins of commission and omission affect our own children and what they do ripples down to others in the society.

Many families in the Bible stand as models for the transformation of family. The family of Noah is very impressive. He was a righteous and perfect man

in his generation. When the earth was filled with wickedness and violence, his family lived a holy life and obeyed God. God spared only Noah and his family to multiply and transform the families of the earth. Noah was not only a preacher of righteousness, he walked with God and made his family walk with God. (Gen 6: 8, 9. 2Pet 2: 5.) A family that practices holiness is a family that God uses to transform others. We are called not to transmit enmity and hostility but to transform human life.

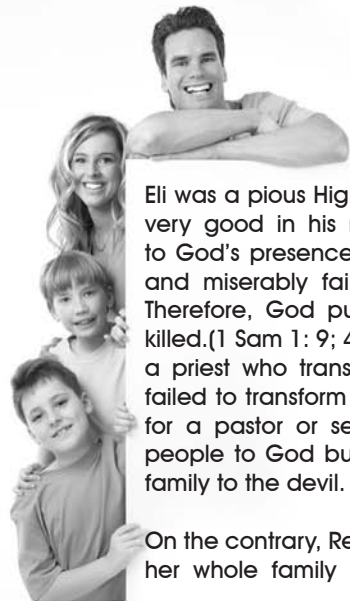
PATRONIZATION TO TRANSFORMATION

Traditionally, Isaac and Rebecca are seen as an ideal couple and family. But does it stand as a model for family transformation? I doubt. There were politics within their family - father patronizing and siding with the eldest son Esau and mother patronizing and supporting the youngest son Jacob, even to the extent of coaching him to deceive his father! It was a tug of war within the family - parents pulling children to their side from two opposite ends! Interestingly, God seemed to have an alliance with Rebecca and Jacob as the Bible says that God loved Jacob but hated Esau. (Mal. 1: 2, 3; Rom. 9: 13) This patronization of parents caused a great enmity and hostility among Esau and Jacob, and thereby conflict and friction between Isaac and Rebecca.

This pattern of behaviour was passed down to Jacob who patronized Joseph more than any of his other sons. He loved him so much so that his own brothers plotted to kill him and sold him in a desperate attempt to do away with him. (Gen 37:20) Jacob did this because he was the product of that tradition. What Jacob experienced at home, now, he is experimenting with his sons. His past experience has become his present experimentation. Let the past of your past remain the past of yours not the present of any others. Remember patronization does not lead to transformation and alimentionation, but alienation. Do we aliment or alienate transformation?

TRANSACTION TO TRANSFORMATION

Ananias and Sapphira died on the spot because they agreed to lie together against the Holy Spirit (Acts 5: 3, 9). They were not concerned about the transformation of the families of the Early Church but were enslaved by their love for money. Many times in the name of transforming the socio-economic status of the poor and the marginalized, we are busy with transaction of money rather than transformation of many.



Eli was a pious High priest and a judge who was very good in his religious duty, leading others to God's presence. But he neglected his family and miserably failed to correct his own sons. Therefore, God punished them and they were killed. (1 Sam 1: 9; 4: 18.34; 4: 11). Eli, though was a priest who transformed the lives of Israelites, failed to transform his own family. It is a tragedy for a pastor or servant of God to lead many people to God but lose their own children and family to the devil.

On the contrary, Rehab, a prostitute, transformed her whole family from destruction through her

faith in the God of Israel and her deal with the two Israelites spies. Like Noah and his family, Rehab and her family alone was spared from total destruction. She became a worshipper of Jehovah and the wife of Salmon, a prince of the tribe of Judah She stands as a model for transforming lives and families. (Ru 4:21; Mt 1:4. Joshua 6: 17 – 25.).

Let these families be our 'Signboards' towards the transformation of our families!

– Rev. R. Jeyaraj



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We invite you to Plan, Prepare and Participate in our special services to Discover, Determine and Do as the Lord leads.

13th May - Ascension Day - HCS at 7:30 am

23rd May - Pentecost Sunday - HCS at 8:00 am

30th May - Trinity Sunday - HCS at 8:00 am

2. The Annual General Body Meeting for the year 2010 will be held in June. We look forward to your presence and participation as we thank God for His gracious and wonderful leading throughout the past year. Please look forward to the announcement of the exact date during our Sunday Services.

3. Happy News for all the Young and Old who look forward to this time of the Year ! Its VBS time once again !!!!!!!

The last week of April is a time for Singing, Sharing, Stories, Skits, Competitions, Fun, Memory verses, Colouring, Making new friends, Volunteering, Inspection, Introspection & Commitment above all knowing our loving God better each day.

Children, you can start telling your friends about your favourite place each summer and bring them too !

Dates: 24th April - 6th May 2010

A FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER



Why all this importance to transformation?? And why family? That's not a big unit. And definitely Christian families are not significant in society. So, why are we focussing so much on this topic? Here are some answers.

Somebody defined church this way – “Church is a body consisting of godly families living in harmony and love, with one another testifying to the truthfulness and power of God in building godly relationships that bring about transformation within communities.” This definition shows a beautiful link between church, family, members, God and the community. And if we read carefully, the family lies at the bottom of the strong church structure. So, if you want to do something for the church, the place you have to start is your home.

God planned the importance of families in the Garden of Eden and He purposed for that to be the foundation of the society. After the Fall, man's purpose in society and family was lost. Sadly, we still find it lost in many families. So, if there is one way we can rebuild the society and the church, we need to transform our families.

Throughout this issue, we will be gathering many suggestions and tips on how we can transform our families. Here are some quick notes to keep in mind.

- Love should be the centre of all relationships. Love for God and love for our family members.
- Recognizing God's role to each member of the family will give clear directions on how we steer our family boat.
- Your family has a purpose and plan that God has ordained. No other family can accomplish this, but yours. What are you doing as a family for His Service?
- A family that prays together stays together. Let this be a resolution for your family from now on. You will see God's Hand at work
- Everyone fails at one time or the other. Let's learn to show forgiveness and move on

- Aaron Melchishedec



ASH WEDNESDAY

HISTORY, MEANINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Easter are moveable feasts, unlike Christmas, which falls on a fixed day, the 25th of December. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter (including six Sundays on which early Christians did not fast) and ends on Good Friday (so Lent is only 40 days). Ash Wednesday can occur as early as 4 February or as late as 10 March. Ash Wednesday has never occurred on the Leap Year Day (29 Feb.), and it will not occur as such until 2096. In 2688, 2840 and 2992, Ash Wednesday will fall on Feb. 29.

Ash Wednesday marks the onset of Lent and was originally called as dies cinerum, from the name, "day of Ashes", as found in the earliest Gregorian Sacramentary. In the early days, the ashes produced from the previous year Palm Sundays were poured on the body and later the priest would put the sign of the cross on the forehead of Christians, saying, "Remember, O man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return." In the blessing of the ashes, four prayers are used, all of them are ancient. The ashes are sprinkled with holy water and fumigated with incense. Many Christians choose to leave the ashes on their forehead for the rest of the day, not to be showy and boastful, rather, to witness that all are sinners, in need of repentance and that through Jesus all sins are forgiven by faith. Let us see three implications of Ash Wednesday for us, today.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS A REPRESENTATION OF DAY OF ATONEMENT.

The Day of Atonement was one of the celebrations of the people of Israel. That day, the high priest would enter the most Holy Place, with blood in his hand and will pray on behalf of Israel. We read in Exodus 30:10 that it is 'most holy to the Lord.' Romans 3:25 says, "God presented him (Jesus Christ) as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in his blood". The High Priest would do this only once a year and in Hebrews we read that Christ offered himself for the sins of the whole world, once for all. Ash Wednesday invites

us to seriously look at the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Today we can remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ with the sacrifice of praise.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF REPENTANCE FOR SINNERS

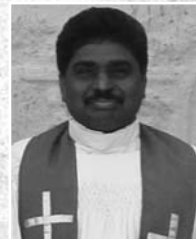
The pouring of ashes on one's body (and dressing in sackcloth) as an outer manifestation of inner repentance or mourning is an ancient practice. It is mentioned several times in the Old Testament. Job confesses: Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes. Other examples are found in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1 and 3, Isaiah 61:3, Jeremiah 6:26, Ezekiel 27:30 and Daniel 9:3. Ash indicates our humility. It is a day for us to come to God in humility and repent for our sins. Like Moses, Nehemiah and Daniel, we can confess the sins of our family, church and nation. Let Ash Wednesday take us to God through repentance.

Ash Wednesday is a day of Renewal of Spirituality

Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent is one of the opportunities for God to visit us and this season enables us to renew our spirituality. Ample opportunities are provided in our Cathedral through the Holy Communion Service every morning, the litany prayer every afternoon, the Lenten prayer meetings in the evening, meditation service every Friday, etc. We can renew our spirituality by participating regularly in these activities, by visiting, sharing and praying for the members of our Cathedral. We should set out specific spiritual goals and attain them before Easter. If we are able to fast during these days, it would enable us to renew our spirituality. We can visit the poor and the needy and this is another form of renewing spirituality. We can witness to people, the love of Christ, especially to the people of other faith. God has provided us with ample opportunities to renew our spirituality. Let us use them. Like any festival, Ash Wednesday and Lent can become just another ritual, but it depends upon our attitude. It could be used as an opportunity to bring us close to God; by repenting and renewing ourselves. It is possible.

May the good Lord, enable us to come closer to Him, during this Season of Lent. God bless us all.

- Rev. Dr. Dasan Jeyaraj



WORSHIP PLAN

FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL- JUNE 2010

<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
<p>1st</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 am - HCS 6:30 pm -HCS Theme: Do this in Remembrance of Me</p>	<p>2nd</p> <p>4th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 8:00 am - HCS 6:30 pm - HCS Theme: Honor Your Father and Mother</p>	<p>6th</p> <p>1st SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8:00 am - HCS 6:30 pm - HCS Theme: Have a blast while you last (Eccles. 9:10)</p>
<p>2nd</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 -3:00 pm Meditation Service on the 7 Words Theme: The Victory of The Cross</p>	<p>9th</p> <p>5th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 8:00 am - HCS 6:30 pm - EVENSONG Theme: The Spirit of Love and Truth is Promised to the Church</p>	<p>13th</p> <p>2nd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8:00 am - HCS 6:30 pm - EVENSONG Theme: On the Victory side (2 Corin 2: 12 -17)</p>
<p>3rd</p> <p>HOLY SATURDAY 7:30 am Anti - Communion Service Theme: He went down to the hell and Proclaimed the Good News</p>	<p>13th</p> <p>ASCENSION DAY 7:30 am - HCS Theme: The Son of Man is exalted to the Right Hand of God</p>	<p>20th</p> <p>3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8:00 am - HCS 6:30 pm - HCS Theme: A life dependent on God - (2 Cor. 3: 4-6)</p>
<p>4th</p> <p>EASTER DAY 4: 00 am - 8: 00 am - 6: 30 pm Holy Eucharist Theme: The Lord is Risen, He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!</p>	<p>16th</p> <p>6th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 8:00 am - HCS 6:30 pm - HCS Theme: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the O.T. and His need Today</p>	<p>27th</p> <p>4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8:00 am - HCS 6:30 pm - EVENSONG Theme: How to make the best of a bad situation (Jer.29:1-140)</p>
<p>11th</p> <p>1st SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 8:00 am – HCS 6:30 pm – EVENSONG Theme: Did not our hearts be kindled within ourselves?</p>	<p>23rd</p> <p>PENTECOST SUNDAY 8:00 am – HCS 6:30 pm – EVENSONG Theme: The Gift of the Holy Spirit</p>	
<p>18th</p> <p>2nd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 8:00 am – HCS 6:30 pm – EVENSONG Theme: Stop Doubting and Believe</p>	<p>30th</p> <p>TRINITY SUNDAY 8:00 am – HCS 6:30 pm – YOUTH SUNDAY Theme: The Trinity</p>	
<p>25th</p> <p>3rd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 8:00 am – HCS 6:30 pm – EVENSONG Theme: Do you Love me more than these?</p>		

His MERCY
STRENGTHENING
ME TO DO
His WORK

My association with the St. Thomas (SPG) Tamil Cathedral is from my childhood. My grandparents served as teachers and my grandfather, Late Mr. Y Moses, also served as the hostel superintendent. My father was a student of the SPG School, while my mother studied in Keyes High School. It was in the year 1963, in the month of June, when my father was transferred to Secunderabad as SPG Health Inspector, after serving in the districts of Andhra Pradesh, was he seeking admission for me in the 11th class Late Mr. I. Jaganathan, the then Principal, Manager & Correspondent of SPG Boys High School was happy to see my father and knew the reason of his visit to the school, and asked him if I would also sing, as my father used to sing. My father made me sing before the principal in his office, and I was embarrassed. Mr. Jaganathan, an embodiment of discipline and dedication to church, had asked my father to pay the fees and asked me to join the church choir. That is how my association, as church chorister, had started.

Over the period of time, god chose me to be the convenor of St. Thomas SPG young men society and the convenor of youth fellowship. I had the privilege of being the youngest member of the Management Committee during the time of Rev. Samuel Roberts, the then presbyter-in-charge. I served as children's mission secretary and also as a VBS Director. In the year, 1999, God in His providence had selected and called me to be a Deacon. In all this I can say that I was associated with the church and friends, who are dedicated to church activities. As David says, in Ps 27:4 "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life ..."

My wife Jayashree is the granddaughter of Late Rev Y. Devasirvatham, who happened to be the first priest of Wesley Tamil church, Secunderabad. I am blessed with two sons, Ebenezer – who helps in youth fellowship, VBS and the children mission and Emmanuel, who helps in Sunday school activities in singing and in other church activities. I am glad both my sons are being used for the Lord in our Cathedral.

My mother, who was a very prayerful lady, had this prayer of Joshua, "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." My wife volunteers to set up stall at the time of harvest and other sales being held in the church, from time to time. All my sisters and brothers are regular choristers of the church choir. My youngest brother, Rajan, is a member of the MC and is at present, the children mission secretary. It was my parents' desire, that I, being the eldest son, serve the church always.

Apart from the above church activities, God is also using me to serve a charitable Christian organization called 'The Good Samaritans,' in 'The Tabernacles,' a gospel singing group and also in the Secunderabad YMCA.

As Paul says, 'I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me,' so also, God in His mercy is strengthening me to do His work, day after day. ALL PRAISE AND GLORY TO GOD.

- Deacon George Cornelius



God is Wonderful and Merciful



It has been 50 long years, since we moved from Madras to Hyderabad. After our wedding, I was offered a job with HPCL which brought us to this city. At first, we worshipped in various churches around Secunderabad and then we were introduced to this wonderful Church, the St. Thomas' (S.P.G) Tamil Church. The then priest In-Charge, Rev. G.D. Samuel welcomed us. He and the congregation were very warm and friendly and we felt relaxed in the new environment.

We have been married for 56 years and have had our share of ups and downs. Life was difficult in the early years, but with our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and prayers, we overcame every problem. We never aspired or prayed for riches, all we would ask of the Lord was to bless our family. The Lord has been merciful and has abundantly blessed us more that we could comprehend. We have been blessed with four wonderful children, two boys and two girls, who are happily married and have 7 grand children.

It was our desire to open a school in our area to educate the poor children in our locality. We started with just one room, a few children and with God's blessings, today, it has become a High School. We thank God for the many gifts He has showered upon us. He has been so wonderful and merciful to us - What more can we ask for!

- Henry David Satyanandam & Lucy Satyanandam

Thy will be done!

It was with great gusto and eagerness, this couple Mr. Stanley Paramanandam and Mrs. Lily Stanley relate their 45 years of association as a family, with this church. Mr. Stanley's parents came to Hyderabad on a transfer in 1933 from Palayamkottai. Mrs. Lily's parents were serving the Lord in the Dornakal diocese. They were married in 1965 at St. Thomas' Church by Rev. G.D. Samuel. Mr. Stanley served with the army, the Central Railway and then retired from the South Central railway. Mrs. Lily taught at the Keyes High's school for girls. They have been blessed with 3 daughters.

Initially it was the fellowship and the language that kept them worshipping in this church. It was also the fact that most of the families have been migrants from down south, which they were able to easily relate to them. They have experienced great guidance by being a part of this church, which is now ably led by our Bishop and Pastors, who are truly concerned for the spiritual growth of its members.

"We are happy to see the younger generation growing in the Lord and has been an encouragement to the congregation", they said. "God presence has been surrounding us and He has been good to us, all these years and we look forward for His will be done in the days to come as well. May His name be glorified!" - They proudly testify for the Glory of His Name.

- Stanley Paramanandam and Lily Stanley



Worshipping Together as a couple for over 44 years in St.Thomas' is unique, though as a family we were in and out of the country since 1975. The association of Mr. Daniel with the Church spans four score years. Both Mr. Daniel and I have served the Church in various capacities. Mr. Daniel was Secretary and Treasurer of the Church in the sixties. Those were very challenging and difficult days in the history of St.Thomas'. Mr. Daniel is on the Management Committee of the Church and has been Manager and Correspondent of St.Thomas' (SPG) School since 2001. I was H.M. of St.Thomas' (SPG) Girls High School from 1967 to 1977. It was during this tenure that the school, which was a middle school, got upgraded into a full-fledged, fully aided Telugu Medium High School. Currently, the School has also parallel English Medium sections till class 10. I continue to assist schools in as many ways as possible.

When I became a member of St.Thomas' my priority was to work with the young men and women to make church life enriching and rewarding. I had a thoroughly enjoyable time organizing the then youth (now grandparents!) into a vibrant group that has had a salutary effect on them. Many plays were staged both secular and religious. Memories still linger in the minds of the star performers! The Late Rev. Russeliah and I initiated the Church Magazine in the 70s and named it "Arunodhayam", in keeping with our Tamil heritage. It was a hand written cyclostyled paper then! We've been married for 44 years now. Our only son, daughter-in-law and grandson are in the US. We experience and appreciate God's love in our life each day and endeavor in humility to share that love with others.



- Priscilla Daniel

TRANSFORMATION IN THE ATTITUDE OF ABRAHAM'S FAMILY LIFE

Each one of us would like to make our family life joyful, pleasant, exciting and colourful. We have our own varying tastes, we look for different recreational activities, a variety of entertainment and seek different colours in our family. There is no doubt about it. Often, we want to lead our family life according to our own convenience, comfort, money, status quo, wish, desire, love, and so on. There is nothing wrong in it, provided, it matches with God's mission and purpose for you and your family.

Let us take a look at Abraham and his family, to understand the significance of God's role in one's family life. God had blessed Abraham enormously (Gen 13:14) but then, Abraham did not have a child. When the word of the Lord came unto him, Abraham puts forth Eliezer as his inheritance (Gen 15:2-5), saying the one born in his house is his heir. He is comfortable with that servant boy, but not ready to wait for his own offspring. At the age of 99, he once again pleaded with God for Ishmael (Gen 17:18), because now he had his own offspring through Hagar, the Egyptian maidservant. But, God promised him. Isaac, the son of Sarah, because He wanted to establish His everlasting covenant with him and his descendants after him. Now, we

get to understand the mission of God, in the family life of Abraham and his generation. However, Abraham, took time to learn such an amazing lesson from God's own hand.

Today, we are living in a fast track world. We are well aware about the gift of eternal life and we get to hear the word of the Lord, at least once a week. But, the problem with our modern Christian family is that we are not seeking His will, instead, we are seeking our own will on this earth. It is the big mistake to seek our own interest, as we often misinterpret His mission in our family life.

Then comes the instant hard-hit question – How do we know His plan and His purpose in our family life? The answer is simple, Submit ourselves whole heartedly unto the Lord, so that he can transform our thinking - to know better on what God wants us to do, as Apostle Paul says in Romans (12:2 NLT),

"Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good pleasing and perfect His will really is." Amen.



- Prince Vijai



பெண்களாகிய நாங்கள்

இல்லாளாக, அந்நியரை விசாரித்து, நற்செயல்கள் செய்து, ஊழியக்காரரை உபசரித்து, (பிரிஸ்கில்லா, லிதியாவை போல) எளிமையானவர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்து, சேவைகள் செய்து, (தொற்களைப் போல) சிரேஷ்டை போல அல்லாமல் எஸ்தரை போல துணிச்சல் கொண்டபெண்ணாக வாழ ஆசைப்படுகிறோம்

“ நீங்கள் அடுப்பினடியில் கிடந்தவர்களாயிருந்தாலும், வெள்ளியால் அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்ட புறாச்சிறகுகள் போலவும், பசும்பொன் நிறமாகிய அதின் இறகுகளின் சாயலாகவும் இருப்பீர்கள் “
---- சங்கீதம் 68:13

பெண்கள், மகள், மருமகள், மனைவி, தாய், மாமியார், பாட்டி என்று பல பொறுப்புகளில் அழகான மலர்களை போல இருந்து, மற்றவர்களை சந்தோஷப்படுத்துவதுதான் எங்களின் எண்ணம். நடப்பது கடனம் தான்.

மகளாக: பெற்றோருக்கு கீழ்ப்படிந்து, உதவிகள் செய்து, சகோதர சகோதரிகளிடம் அன்பாக இருந்து, நட்பிற்கு அடையாளம் கொடுத்து, நன்றி, மன்னிப்பு என்ற சொற்களுக்கு இடம் கொடுத்து, ஜெபித்து, விசுவாசத்தில் உறுதியாய் நின்று, எங்கள் உடலை தேவனுடைய ஆலயமாக வைத்து, பயத்தை நீக்கி, பரிசுத்தத்தை காத்து, ஆண்டவருக்காக எங்கள் கொடியை ஏற்றி, சங்கீதம் 144:12 - ல் உள்ளதை போல சித்திரந்தீர்ந்த அரமனை மூலக்கற்களைப்போலவும் இருக்கிறோம்.

மருமகளாக: மாமியாரிடம் அன்பு செலுத்தி, தேவைகளை சந்தித்து, புத்திமதிகளை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, நற்குணங்களை தெரிந்துக் கொண்டு. அவர்களை முதிர்வயதிலும் பராமரித்து, ஜெபித்து, வீட்டை அமைதியாகவும் அழகாகவும், வழி நடத்துகிறோம். ரூத்தைப் போல கீழ்ப்படிந்து வழி நடக்கிறோம்.

மனைவியாக: நீதி மொழிகள் 19:14 - ல் புத்தியுள்ள மனைவியோ கர்த்தர் அருளும் ஈவுகணவனிடம் ஒளிவு மறைவின்றி, கணவனை நேசித்து, பாராட்டி, உதவிகள் செய்து, மதித்து, புரிந்துகொண்டு,

தாயாக: பிள்ளைகளை முன் மாதிரியாக வளர்த்து, வேதத்தை நேசித்து, குடும்பமாக ஜெபித்து, குறைபாடுகளை அறிந்து, உழைப்பு, முயற்சியை கற்றுக்கொடுத்து, கண்டிக்க வேண்டிய நேரத்தில் கண்டித்து, பிள்ளைகளோடு பிள்ளையாக சேர்ந்து விளையாடி, பிள்ளைகளுக்காய் முழங்காலில் நின்று ஜெபித்து, தியாகம் செய்கிற தாயாக நிற்கிறோம்.. தீமோத்தேயுவிற்கு வேத எழுத்துக்களை கற்று கொடுத்த தாயாகிய ஐனிக்கேயாளைப் போலவும், சாமுவேலுக்காக ஜெபித்த அன்னாளைப் போலவும் நிற்கிறோம்.

மாமியாராக: மகளை போல நேசித்து, மருமகளின் வாழ்க்கையிலும் நன்மையை தேடுகிற மாமியாராகவும், தேவையானதை கற்றுக்கொடுத்தும் ஆலோசனைகள் கொடுத்தும், அவர்கள் வாழ்வில் தலையிடாமலும் தனி குடும்பம் சிறந்தது என்று எதையும் எதிர்பார்க்காமல் வாழவும் கற்றுக் கொள்ளுகிறோம்.

பாட்டியாக: தீமோத்தேயுவின் பாட்டியாகிய லோவிசாளைப்போலபேர்பிள்ளைகளை வேதத்திலும், விசுவாசத்திலும் நிலைத்து நிற்க கற்று கொடுத்து, மற்றவர்களுக்கும், சபைக்கும், ஊழியங்களுக்கும், ஜெபிக்கவும் கற்று கொடுக்கிறோம்.

பெண்ணாக பிறந்ததில் பெருமிதம் கொண்டு தேவனை துதித்து என்றென்றும் நன்றி செலுத்துகிறோம்.

- நிருபா சுந்தர்



Great ARE THY TENDER MERCIES Oh Lord!

'Be exalted oh God above the heavens; Let your Glory be above all the earth.' We thank and praise God for all the wonderful ways He has been leading us. Our dear Heavenly Father has also saved us from a terrible train accident.

Great are thy tender mercies, oh Lord!! – Psalms 119:156 We had a “wonderful” experience while travelling from Hyderabad to Chennai by Charminar express, some years ago. I call it “wonderful” because of the wonderful way we were saved by our Heavenly Father.

It was on the 30th of September, early morning at 3 AM, our train, which was running at top speed suddenly derailed and in another 5 minutes our coach, along with 8 other coaches overturned and came to a grinding halt. We found ourselves thrown out of our seats and sitting down in the train, and very surprisingly unhurt. We realized then that the windows and doors were now on top and we could see the

bright stars in the sky through the windows, which were above! Getting out of the train was not an easy job since the door was on top and on the other side. The villagers there came to our rescue and everyone was helped out of the train.

God was very merciful and very much awake to send His Angels to help us. Not one of us had a fall. We remembered again and again the promise in the Bible, 'He will not suffer thy foot to be moved, He that keepeth thee will not slumber' – Psalms 121:3

Our Heavenly Father has been with my husband in his job, which he loves (tyres and tubes) for the past 40 years. In our sickness and our happiness, our loving Heavenly Father has been with us. We had to pass sometimes through troubled water, sometimes like the train, our life almost got derailed; but our loving Heavenly Father was there to calm the storm, to set everything right and to bring relief to our wearied souls, through friends in the church and outside.

Thus far, He has helped my husband, me, our two daughters and their families and we believe firmly, He will carry us through. 'Bless the Lord, oh my soul and forget not all His benefits; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies.' – Psalms 103:2, 4

I like to tell everybody only this, 'Taste and see that the Lord is Good. Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.' To God be the glory!



- Thelma Roberts

TESTIMONIES

On 11th January 2010, I was on my way to the office at Jeedimetla. I got down at the bus-stop and started walking. Suddenly I felt that someone was pulling my saree. Within a fraction of a second I was overturned and while I was still turning, two ladies in the bus cried out loudly saying, "Stop, Stop". Only then did I realise that my saree had got stuck in the bus. Had not the ladies shouted, I would have been dragged along with the bus. It was God's timely grace which kept me alive. He reminded me with the verse psalm 46:1 God is my refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble". I praise God for that.



- Selvi Asirvatham

Being born and brought up in an orthodox Hindu family, I was a devotee of Hindu god's. I studied in a Christian school and got a chance to know about Jesus Christ. Though I got a chance to read the Word of God, it was just another subject that I needed to pass. I didn't experience God's love.

I came to Hyderabad to pursue B.SC. Microbiology & while looking out for a good college, I got admission in Kasturba Gandhi Degree college [W.Marredpally]. Initially I stayed at my aunt's house and was unable to concentrate in my studies as there were problems. While I was pursuing Degree 2nd year, financial crisis came my way because of which I couldn't meet my educational needs & personal needs as well, due to which I planned to end my life. It was a very lonely period. One of my roommates saw my condition & told me that God [Jesus] loves you.

Then I started to fast & pray every Friday asking Lord Jesus to send a person, who can communicate with me in Tamil. God heard my request & sent a Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) staff, Ms.T.Sasikala who shared with me. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" particularly touched my heart. Since I could experience God's love, I surrendered my life and accepted Christ in July 2006.

As days passed, I could see that there was a solution coming my way to each of my troubles. Phillippians 4:19 says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus", This came true in my life.

I started attending many camps organized by CCC, which helped me to grow spiritually. The year 2009 was a turning point in my life. God spoke to me through Isaiah 60:1, "Arise, shine for your Light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you", which enlightened my heart with a burden to give hope to others & tell them that there is a living God who is beyond our imagination.

I committed my life on May 1st of 2009 to serve the Lord. I am now serving God through Campus Crusade for Christ. It is a faith ministry through which I experience the faithfulness of God in my life, each day. Kindly pray for me & for my family's salvation.



- Suhasini Parthasarathy

ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR *Church School Students*

Two students from St. Thomas' (SPG) Girls High school were selected to participate in the National Science Day Celebrations 2010, held under the auspices of the Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi, and organized by NCSC, Hyd Dist, in Association Yardstick. The Competitions were held in Essay Writing and Debating. The Focal Theme was "GENDER EQUITY for PROSPERITY with PEACE." Eight students from Classes 7, 8 & 9 participated. Jhansi Rani of Class 9th was awarded a gold medal for the best essay while T. Shanti and M. Rajitha were awarded gold and silver medal in the Debating competitions.

At the State Level Quiz Contest on "NEW and RENEWABLE ENERGY" organized by xSri Adhikari T.V. Network, T. Shanthi and Jhansi Rani both of Class 9 participated.



Jhansi Rani

Shanti

Rajitha

Of the 500 students who participated, Jhansi Rani excelled. She was selected for the Semi Finals and Finals held in Mumbai. Jhansi Rani made it to the Semi Finals but lost out in the Final Round. She was presented with a beautiful Solar Lamp.

- Saroja Justin
I/C H. M. St. Thomas' (SPG) Girls High School



Our Sunday school visits the Orphanage at Rampalli

On the 7th of February, 2010, we had the privilege of visiting an orphanage in Rampalli, which houses about 29 inmates. Our Mission Secretary, the Sunday school children and the teachers sponsored gifts and distributed eatables to the children. The children there, enjoyed the time of singing, the puppet show, story time, etc and were overwhelmed seeing the gifts and eatables. We thank the Lord for this great opportunity for us to be with these children, interact with them and make them happy.

- Vijaya Samuel, Sunday School Superintendent

10 Principles for a Happy Marriage



This is a wonderful book written by Selwyn Hughes, as a part of the 'Discipleship Series.' I encourage all married couples, and those waiting for marriage, to read this book.

THIS BOOK

- ✿ Is an engaging approach to marriage, God's way
- ✿ Has a healthy marriage check list
- ✿ Contains practical advice and help

HERE ARE THE 10 PRINCIPLES AS LAID OUT IN THIS BOOK

- ✿ Keeping God-centred, as you build your relationship
- ✿ Maintain the proper Scriptural roles
- ✿ Keep the lines of communication continually open
- ✿ Understand the concept of basic personal needs
- ✿ Live within your budget
- ✿ Establish clear guidelines for handling friction
- ✿ Cultivate a good sexual relationship
- ✿ Extend common courtesies toward each other
- ✿ Seek to become emotionally mature
- ✿ Share together in daily Bible reading and prayer

There is also a marriage check-up that can help in strengthening/re-building our marriage

A. COMMUNICATION

1. Do we have enough time for quiet talks together?
2. How much do we listen to each other, and hear exactly what is being said?
3. How often do we make the mistake of attacking each other's personality rather than the problem?
4. How can we build a better communication system between us than we have at present?

B. LOVE

1. In what ways do we honestly try to please each other?
2. Have we yet reached that 'sacrificial love' of which the Scripture speaks, in which we delight more to be a giver than a receiver?
3. In what ways do we show we are truly concerned for each other's hurts?
4. How can we develop an even greater love for each other?

C. FINANCES

1. Are we happy with the way we are managing our finances?
2. Does God have His share in our weekly or monthly outgoings?
3. Are we living within a properly constructed budget?
4. What can we do to improve the handling of our finances?

D. TEMPERAMENT

1. Do we recognize that God has designed us with different temperaments?
2. Are we trying to change each other, rather than improve ourselves?
3. Are we mature enough to realize that marriage needs constant adjustment and compromise where temperament is concerned?
4. Are we miserly with our criticism and lavish with our praise?

E. SEX

1. Does love-making bring us pleasure and a feeling of unity and fulfilment?
2. Are we concerned, when love-making, merely in getting something for ourselves, rather than giving to the other?
3. To what extent are we aware of each other's individual variations and differences regarding sexual needs?
4. Have we learned to distinguish the difference between lust and love? (Lust can never wait to get; Love can always wait to give)

F. IN-LAWS

1. Is there any resentment, or bitterness, against our father-in-law or mother-in-law?
2. Do we maintain a happy and meaningful relationship with them?
3. Can we listen to what they say without being over-influenced by their remarks?
4. Are there ways in which we can help them without compromising our necessary independence?

G. RECREATION AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

1. Are we happy about the ways in which we seek to relax?

2. Are our social activities causing us to spend more time with friends than with each other?
3. Do we plan our holidays well ahead?
4. Do we respect each other's likes and dislikes in relation to the matter of recreation?

H. SPIRITUAL

1. Do we spend enough time together in prayer?
2. Is the Bible reading and church attendance, what it should be?
3. Are we open and honest with each other in everything, maintaining a clear and clean conscience on all matters?
4. Is there anything more what we can do to improve our spiritual relationship with the Lord and with each other?

I. CHILDREN

1. Are we presenting a good parental image to our children?
2. Do we discipline them effectively, or are we guilty of under-discipline, over-discipline or don't discipline at all?
3. Do we make sure that we have time for them and make them feel loved?
4. In what ways can we be better parents?

J. OUR EMERGING FAMILY PATTERN

1. Have we clarified and accepted our respective roles as husband and wife?
2. What definite family goals are we working towards?
3. Do we remember birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions?
4. What more could we do to contribute to the success of our family relationships?

- Editorial Board





Republic Day ↑
Celebrations
26th Jan. 2010



← Our Outreach
ministry work at
Ammuguda &
Triumalgherry
(Part of Vision 2020) ↓

Fund Raising
Breakfast Sale
for Church Extension ↓





Choir Picnic - Jan. 2010