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Vineyard Echoes

A monthly Magazine for the
ministry of the Word and tidings
of the Lord's work in India

THE SEED IS THE WORD



THE FIELD IS THE WORLD

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Objectives of the ministry of GFTI

1. To encourage the preaching of the Good News of Salvation throughout India and elsewhere.
2. To encourage the planting of New Testament-based Christian Assemblies.
3. To act as a channel to pass on to the Lord's Servants (enjoying current commendations of their home assemblies) the voluntary contributions of God's people. We now serve over 900 brethren.
4. Assistance to those in distress through natural calamities etc.,
5. To support those in extreme need such as widows, the poor and those parents in difficulty to educate their children.
6. Evangelism through Literature, Special Conferences etc.
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Note: Only Biblically sound articles are accepted for publication in "Vineyard Echoes". However, Vineyard Echoes does not necessarily endorse or hold responsibility for the views expressed by the authors in their articles and the material information furnished by the brethren for the Vineyard News column.

CHRIST AROSE

God has given us yet another year. May the New Year bring you many spiritual blessings and also material blessings to be utilized for the glory of God.

What could be better news that I could bring to you than the news that the Lord Jesus Christ rose again to live forever? I am giving greater emphasis and stress to this fact as a New Year message. Not that those who are in the Lord are not aware of this, but with the passage of time this is taken for granted. When we got into the year 2000 – the last year of that decade – there were lot of apprehensions that the world could face chaos and confusion with the possibility of the last three digits “zeros” creating havoc with the computers and their operations. Nothing much happened. Then there were many who were not sure whether they would step into a year beyond 2000. True that quite a few did not see 2001 though a large number despite their uncertainties because of

serious health problems had been given the grace to step into a historic year 2001. Some of the “unsure ones” may be still living. That is nothing but the grace of God specifically for those who are still not saved. Now we are again in the last year of the decade that would eclipse into history in a year’s time. How quickly the last ten years have passed by! And all of us, with this year gone are nearer by one year to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ or the close of our earthly pilgrim journey, whichever is earlier. The delay for His return is only for the reason that there are still some to be added to the Church. We, born-again Christians, could be catalysts for the fulfillment of this reason. Every opportunity should be seized – and this year a decision in that regard should be taken with sheer determination – to tell everyone who is known to us and still not partakers of the heavenly calling that the Lord who divided the history into BC and AD, arose to give him a hope and a future; the hope of eternal life

(Titus 1:2). To give us life, to everyone who believes in Him, God lowered the heavens and came down in the greatest display of power the world has ever known. Satan and all his demons massed themselves at the sealed tomb of the Saviour of the world to prevent His resurrection. His resurrection is greater than the creation of this universe. Therefore, we cannot and should not think of missing an opportunity to declare the salvation that the Lord has accomplished on the cross for the whole mankind.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Ps 19:1). What do the heavens declare and show? They tell about the immensity and vast expanse of the universe. It is common knowledge. The astronomers think that space may have no bounds at all. The truth is that our earth is nothing but a tiny speck in a limitless expanse. If we travelled at the speed of light that is 186,000 miles a second, it would take us ten billion years to reach the farthest point we could see with a telescope. With the naked eye, we can see about five thousand stars and with a small telescope we may see

about two million. But with a Palomar telescope, we can see billions of galaxies, what to say of the countless stars. These stars may appear to be crowded in the firmament; the truth is that the distances between them are so great. Is it not true then that the firmament shows His handiwork?

On Psalm 19:3,4, William MacDonald says, “There is no speech, no words, no audible voice, yet the sermon of the stars goes out through all the earth and its message to the end of the world...The terrifying dimensions and complexity of the universe confirm Lord Kelvin’s observation that “if you think strongly enough, you will be forced by science to believe in God”. He quotes Kant, “It is impossible to contemplate the fabric of the world without recognizing the admirable order of its arrangement and the certain manifestation of the hand of God in the perfection of its correlations. Reason, when once it has considered and admired so much beauty and so much perfection, feels a just indignation at the dauntless folly which dares ascribe all this to chance and a happy accident. It must be that the Highest wisdom

conceived the plan and Infinite Power carried it into execution". Man can know that there is a God with eternal and indescribable power, if he just simply looks up to the heavens. Isaac Watts wrote, "Nature with open volume stands to spread her Maker's Praise abroad".

All these pale into insignificance when we would think of the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the eternal God, rose again on the third day for the justification of man; and that too against all the formidable forces of darkness under the command of the Devil and his demons who wanted to prevent the Lord's resurrection. Grave could not hold Him back. Peter spoke to the men of Israel, "Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God (as His own Son) among you by miracles and wonders and signs which God did by Him in the midst of you, as you yourselves also know, Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken and by wicked hands, have crucified and slain: whom God has raised up, having loosed the pains of death; because it was not possible that He should be holden of it" (Acts 2:22-24).

Peter then continued saying that even David foresaw that God would not leave His soul in Hades, nor would He allow His Holy One to see corruption. William MacDonald writes, "In other words, the soul of the Lord Jesus would not be left in the disembodied state, neither would His body be permitted to disintegrate". Peter declared this truth emphatically again in the house of the Cornelius, "Him God raised up the third day and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with Him after He arose from the dead" (Acts 10:40,41). As far as we know, the Lord Jesus was not seen by any unbeliever after His resurrection. But the apostles not only saw Him, they ate and drank with Him. This by all means proves that the Lord's body was tangible, material and physical. In the Acts of the Apostles, this fact is asserted, "He showed Himself alive after His passion, by many infallible proofs being seen of them forty days" (Acts 1:3). The Apostles saw, "Him taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9). The power of God is at its height in the raising of Christ

from the dead. To quote, "Greater than the might that created the universe, greater than the strength that delivered Israel from Egypt, God's resurrection power drove back the hosts of principalities, powers and wicked spirits on that first Easter morning".

Let the New Year be a year of courage and conviction. We saw earlier that the Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. He lives. If He lives, we also will live; we will live even after our temporal departure from this world. We, being saved by the grace of God, should have the courage to show the living one. That courage will come from our conviction that Jesus Christ arose on the third day as our forerunner. Our faith in Him and consequent result will help us to lead many to the Lord. We could assuredly and safely say to the world, "He that

raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom 8:11). The moment someone is captivated by the resurrection of the Lord, tell him the simple truth, "If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved (Rom 10:9). Apostle Paul re-emphasises this truth, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom 10:13). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit". He bore in His body our sins, paid for it through His death and conquered the power of sin. May this message be our only message throughout the year, "He arose. And He lives again".



HAPPY NEW YEAR- 2010

"Vineyard Echoes" wishes all its esteemed readers and patrons a very happy and prosperous New Year-2010. May the Almighty God crown you with His choicest blessings throughout the coming year.

*"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."
(Isa.41:10).*

REPENTANCE, TRANSFORMATION & RENEWING.

E.J. Mathew

It is felt necessary to give some thought to three basic facts included in the salvation of a believer. The phrase “born again”, “saved”, faith in Jesus Christ’s sacrificial death on cross are becoming too common that many people use them without appreciating the significant purport of such terms. Repentance, transformation and renewing are perhaps the least talked about topics in connection with salvation of human souls. Let us examine briefly what the Scriptures have to tell us about these three topics:

REPENTANCE. In Is.40:3,4 the prophet foretold about the coming of John the Baptist saying: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a high way for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, every mountain shall be made low and the crooked shall be made straight. And when John came, he proclaimed: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Mt 3:2) He went out to exhort the Pharisees, Sadducees and the other Jews to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God. In the present world, even among the so-called educated people including nominal Christians, sin has abounded to unimaginable new heights and is at its zenith. But is

there any real concern among the people at large? Very few preachers talk about the imperative need for true repentance of sins and turning back to the living God. Western Christendom has degenerated to such abominable levels that fornication of all forms, cheating, killing, suicides, cyber crimes etc, are so commonly being practised among nominal Christians with impunity and without any qualms. In Kerala, which is the largest evangelized State in India, liquor consumption, bribery, cheating of various sorts, killing of fellow beings and prostitution are very much on the increase. Recently it was heard that among seven people baptized together in Kuwait, one is now languishing in a jail in Canada. Similarly, a young brother in Bahrain was deported back to India for violating certain immigration laws of that country. Lack of consciousness of sin and non-resistance against sin and other evil practices are becoming rife among our Assemblies. The Lord said in Lk 13:5, “I tell you Nay, But except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish. The inevitable need to resist sin and temptations to sin need not be over-emphasized. Elders in Assemblies need to be alert about the sins among its members and should

take appropriate corrective measures well in time. It is reported that in a certain Assembly, there are about fifteen known addicts to liquor ! Forgiveness of sins offered by the Lord Jesus is no license to continue to commit further sins. Rather, it is accompanied by the Lord's command "to sin no more".

TRANSFORMATION: When a person is in Christ, he is a new creation, says II Cor 5:17. The experience of being "born again" should bring about a radical change in the character and conduct of a believer. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (Jn 3:6) Children of several believers are being brought up in a spiritual atmosphere but that does not mean they need no second birth experience. David said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me (Psalm 51:5). No person born of a woman is a saint but rather everyone is a sinner. Believers' children also belong to the same category and hence they need Repentance and Transformation by confessing sins and accepting the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Do we observe a significant change in the life of new believers? Transformation means a U-turn (or about-turn) in the life of a sinner. Saul on his way to Damascus had designs to persecute Christians there and the assemblies of Christians. But when he heard the words of the Lord Jesus, "I am

Jesus whom thou persecutest, his whole life underwent a radical change and he became a disciple of the same Jesus and was willing to surrender his whole life for Him. Ultimately he counted everything that was gain unto him as dung/loss and he became a martyr for the Lord Jesus. Today ,we find believers (including evangelists) seeking to acquire as much material gains as possible for themselves. Concerning Moses, Hebrews epistle says "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt (Heb 11 :25,26) Oh! what a contrast we see today: Even, many known evangelists - not to speak about ordinary believers- seek the treasures and pleasures of the world for themselves. Rather than serving the Lord, some seek to acquire secular degrees (Ph.D etc) from cheap Universities from here and abroad to earn a name & fame for themselves. They also resort to unfair and foul means to acquire wealth from fellow believers from here and elsewhere. Such a behaviour is hardly compatible with the transformation experience which they profess. Billy Graham when he started the ministry he was known as Dr. Billy Graham but since the last many years, he is referred to simply as Billy Graham.

If after coming to the Lord and undergoing transformation, one is tempted to pursue after the lust of the eyes and pride of life “one should’ seriously suspect the bona fides of such persons transformation. The Lord Jesus said in Jn 3 “Except a man be BORN of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God; that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit” The Lord emphatically asserts that, that which is born of the flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. The believers’ baptism denotes that he is identified with the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. He continues to live because Christ lives in him. Can Christ who lives in a believer influence him to pursue after the riches and the fame of this world to which he is declared as crucified? Onesimus was a runaway thief and unprofitable servant to Philemon; but there was such a round-about turn in him when Paul sent him back to Philemon. Paul said about Onesimus that hereafter he would be profitable to Philemon. The gospel had wrought such remarkable change in Onesimus. The experience of transformation is a recurring experience in a believer. So Paul says in Rom 12:2 “be ye TRANSFORMED” by the renewing of your mind. We need to eschew/oppose all temptations to conform to the world and renew

continuously the process of transformation in our lives.

RENEWING: A Christian life is a renewing experience. It is not to become stagnant or stunted after sometime. Israelites became weary at Hormah because of the way. (Num 21:4) How can we have renewing experience?

(a) Is 40: 31 says “they that wait upon the Lord shall RENEW their strength” Waiting upon the Lord to hear His voice and the direction of the way by which to go is an absolute must for a believer. While in the wilderness, Israelites moved according to the position of the cloud (shekinah) on the ark (Ex. 40:36,37) God spoke through Isaiah, “and thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, this is the way walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left” (Is 30:21). The Lord Jesus said “My sheep shall hear my voice and they follow me”(Jn 10:27) A believer who is anxious ‘to hear the Lord’s voice throughout his Christian journey shall never become weary but rather his life will be one of continuous renewal. (b)Eph 4:23,24 says “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new man...and true holiness” A believer’s mind should mortify the deeds of flesh and walk in the newness of life. In so doing his person will get renewed and put on the new man. If so, when a believer falls into sin, his mind &

conscience will awake to the reality of sin and he will confess his sin and receive the cleansing of God's word, or of the blood of Jesus Christ which ensures in the renewing of the mind. The unawareness of sin in a believer destroys his sensitivity to sin.

(c) In II Cor 4:16, Paul says "though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." It is our experience that as we advance in our age, the outward man physically becomes weak. We cannot help it.

But a believer should keep on renewing his inner man. Several years ago a man in his 90's was interviewed by a BBC reporter, questioned him whether he was weary of his Christian life especially in view of the deteriorating Christian standards in Britain. He replied emphatically in the negative and confirmed that he was eagerly looking forward to his meeting with the Saviour. The writer to the Hebrews exhorts us to lift up the hands which hang down (weak) and the feeble knees (Heb 12:12).

(d) Rom 12:2 says that ye be transformed by the renewing of your mind. In respect of a believer, it is a regularly recurring experience to be transformed in the inner man by the renewing of one's mind. When Moses was in the mountain of Horeb with God, his face was shone so much that the Israelites had to cover their faces. How can this

transformation take place? We need to submit our bodies as a living sacrifice holy & acceptable to God. Further, we need to know the good, acceptable & perfect will of God by the renewing of our minds and transforming them by gazing upon the glorious face of our Lord (2 Cor. 3:18). But it is regretted that believers are becoming more conformed to the world than our blessed Saviour. May the Holy Spirit enable us to examine our lives and to bring about necessary changes.

(e) In this context, the Psalmist's statement in Ps. 103:5 regarding renewal of our youthfulness like the eagle is very pertinent. Naturalists say that eagles are the longest lived birds in the world. When they become about 100 years old their feathers are cast away and a new set of feathers appear in them. After that, the eagles live for almost equal number of years after which they die. The Psalmist says that your life-inner man- can similarly be renewed even after you have become old.

To sum up, (a) let us repent of our lifestyles and return unto the Lord. (b) let us transform our precious lives unto the image of our Lord and (c) let us renew our hearts and lives. May our Lord enable us to achieve this goal in our daily lives and glorify our blessed Lord. Amen.



SPLENDID TREASURES

(EPHESIANS STUDIES)

Koshy Zachariah

11. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11)

In our last issue, we saw how all things will be reunited in Christ; restored to the original state, not to be undone again. That is God's plan, altogether bigger and grander; a mystery now revealed to us. Now in verse 11 the word "whom" refers to someone already referred – the Lord Jesus – and the word "also" tells us of something additional. Let us look at this verse more closely.

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance

A general reading of verse 11 may convey the meaning that the word "we" speaks of the Jews and the Gentiles. But reading together verses 11 to 14 (these verses form an entire statement) will give an insight that the term "we" means the Jews. We note that verse 13 reads, "In whom ye also trusted". The "we" in verse

11 is in contrast to the "ye" in verse 13. We and you; we the Jews and you the Gentiles. The Gentiles are the Ephesians and the various other Churches. This will become clearer to us if we refer to the second part of verse 12, "who first trusted in Christ" or "who had before hoped in Christ (the English revised version)". Who trusted in Christ first? Obviously the answer is "the Jews" If we look at it chronologically and historically; they believed in Christ before "Gentiles" began to do so. The Lord told His disciples, who were Jews, that they were to be His witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Now the astounding fact is that Jews and Gentiles are brought together in Christ Jesus. That is what we read in chapter 2 verse 6, "that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs and of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel". This fact is complete by reading, "In whom also we have obtained

an inheritance.....and in whom you also trusted after that you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation” (vv 11-13). D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones affirms, “This.....is not only the great theme of this particular Epistle, it is the theme of the whole of the New Testament and particularly of the New Testament Epistles. In this particular Epistle, it is preeminently the theme”.

As for the Christians of Jewish ancestry, Paul says, “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance”. The inheritance is to them that believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Jews got the first privilege when they believed in Christ. The moment Gentiles also believed Christ, the same inheritance became theirs also. That is what we understand from verse 13, “in whom ye also trusted”. When Paul wrote to the Galatians he said, “if ye be Christ’s (whether Jews or Gentiles) then are ye Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise” (Gal 3:29). It is the spiritual seed in Abraham and Christ that counts in God’s sight. The Christians are God’s people. To be a Christian means to be in a new relationship to Christ. What a splendid revelation, “In whom also we have obtained an

inheritance.....in whom ye also trusted”. Now “there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28). The division of Jew and Gentile is gone.


After (according to) the counsel of His own will

With the division between Jew and Gentile gone, because of the faith in Christ, the Church has come into existence. The Church is the new Israel, the spiritual Israel, the true seed of Abraham. Jews and Gentiles by faith in Christ form the Church. This is according to the counsel of His own will. He thought with Himself; He deliberated and mediated with Himself. It was not suggested to God by anyone as we read, “Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord or being His counselor hath taught Him” (Isaiah 40:13). We read more or less the same in Jeremiah 23:18. All His works of creation were performed without outside help. His decisions are unsearchable. No created being could be superior to Him to give counsel. Paul says, “His ways are past finding out”. We read in Romans 11:33-36, “Oh, what a wonderful God we have! How great are His riches and wisdom and

knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His methods! For who can know what the Lord is thinking? Who knows enough to be His counselor? And who could ever give Him so much that He would pay it back? For everything comes from Him; everything exists by His power and is intended for His glory. To Him be glory evermore” (LASB version). The Almighty God is self contained. Everything originates in God. He planned everything before the foundation of the world as we already saw in verses 4 and 5. “According as He hath chosen in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love; having predestinated (predetermined) us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will”.

This grand plan that was with Him even before the foundation of the world was announced by saying, “the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent’s head”. God then worked out His plan meticulously. God brought the flood but saved a remnant - one family of eight. Then He called out Abraham from

his pagan background and made him a nation – the children of Israel. They became slaves in Egypt but God delivered them out of Egypt through the memorable Passover, a pointer to the shedding of blood of His Son to liberate people from their sin. From Egypt they were brought to Canaan. Since they did not listen to Him and even the prophets through whom God spoke, they were taken captives to Babylon. Being gracious, He brought them again to Canaan. Then “when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Gal 4:4,5). The Son came to work out our salvation. He fulfilled the law, gave His sinless body to bear our sins and died a wretched death. But He rose from the grave and went into heaven to send down the Holy Spirit. It is all God’s works and according to the counsel of His will. It is God who works it all from the beginning to the very end.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (Rom 11:33). 

Vineyard News

The news items are dated to help those who pray regularly for those labouring in the Lord's Vineyard.

ANDAMANS

01/01/10 **M.K. Sunny, Garacharma**
The Lord's ministry in this island during the last two months has been helped by a few servants of God visiting them to encourage and involve in the various activities going on here. A small Assembly is growing here, mainly through the children's Bible club. Prayers are solicited.

02/01/10

G. Selvakumar, Campbell Bay
They had a successful follow up work in three new places where they conducted special meetings earlier last year. Meetings were held for both adults and kids. Many participated. Continue to pray for the Campbell Bay Assembly hall construction.

ANDHRA PRADESH

03/01/10

Narayana Swamy, Madakasira
They are working in Andhra and Karnataka border. This area is drought

hit and most of the people poor. At present they are working in two mandals. They conduct prayer meetings on every Thursday at Sira, where some families are regularly attending the meetings. Prayers are solicited.

04/01/10

A. Daniel, Anantapur
Prayers are requested for the following matters: for the construction of an Assembly hall, for new people to be added to the church, for baptism of a few believers who are willing and also for the blessing of the special meeting conducted from 19-20 December.

05/01/10

G. Jacob, Choukacherla
They express gratefulness to God and His people for the blessing of ongoing Lord's work in this part of the country. The elders and evangelists of this area came together to proclaim the gospel from November 12- 14th. They are overwhelmed by the good response they have received. They trust in the Lord for the salvation of many.

06/01/10

S. Yohan, Vavilla
The ministries here in seven villages of Vidavalur mandal are going on well. They had conducted two days special meeting in this region and 20 people from non-christian background

expressed their desire to obey the Lord in water baptism. Please pray for the spiritual growth of these believers.

N. Krupadanam, Bitragunta

Here the Lord's work is going on. Prayers are requested for the growth of this Assembly.

CHATTISGARH

07/01/10 **Souri Rajan, Raipur**

Despite several oppositions and sickness, the Lord's work is progressing here. He has been down with sickness and now is slowly recovering. He values your prayers.

PUNJAB

08/01/10 **Madan Paul, Ludhina**

They had three days special meeting at Ludhiana from 25-27th September. Bro. Roland Pickering from UK was the main speaker. God gave them many contacts through this meeting and two of them were baptized. As his wife got retired from her work they had to vacate the hospital quarters. Now they are searching for a home. Since the cost for a good house is beyond their limit, they are looking for a cheaper one.

KARNATAKA

09/01/10

Christophber G. H, Belgaum

Our dear brother informs that his wife Mrs. Mrunalini Leena was called Home

by the Lord on 20th September. She died due to liver problems. They had a memorial service in Asha Kiran Planetarium on the next day of her death. It was a great time to proclaim the good news of Christ to the mixed crowd gathered. Please continue to uphold this family in your valuable prayers.

10/01/10 **John Paul, Bhadravathi**

The ministry in the school is progressing well. This year they are supporting 25 poor children, providing them uniform and books and free education. They take Bible classes on every Saturday at the school. Please continue to uphold this ministry in your prayers.

11/01/10

R.D. Rathnakara, Kalyan Nagar

Here the Lord's ministry is progressing through personal contacts and Emmaus Bible Correspondence ministry. At present many from Karnataka and Andhra border are doing Emmaus course. Further the regular hospital and jail ministries are going on. Pray that through these ministries many may come to the Lord.

12/01/10

Simon. S, Shimoga

God has graciously provided them a piece of land for the Assembly hall construction. As the Lord continues to add new souls to His church, they are planning to start the Assembly hall construction very soon. They need the prayerful support of the saints.

13/01/10 **G. Kumar, Sagar**
Here the various activities of the Assembly are helping to win over many souls. The assembly hall needs renovation the Assembly hall to accommodate the new brethren who are being added to the church.

14/01/10 **R. Yesurathnam, Gandiwada**
They had two blessed revival gospel meetings. One in the month of Sep-09, where Bro. Raju K. Mathew from Bangalore ministered the word. Seven believers took baptism in this meeting. Second in the Month of November and Bro. Jose Mathew, Mangalore gave God's messages. The rent of the house they stay has gone up. He values our prayer support for the ministries here.

KERALA

15/01/10 **K.M. John, Ezhimala**
The ministry started here in the Ezhimala Naval Academy is continuing with the blessings of God. They have bible study meetings on every Sunday evening 5 o'clock. Earnest prayers of God's people are coveted for the establishment of an Assembly testimony here in the New Year.

16/01/10 **R. Soman, Sasthampara**
God willing they are planning to start a new ministry at Vattamattan near Sasthampara in the New Year. Please pray for the blessing of the ministry in this new place.

17/01/10 **T. P. Kanakaraj, Santhipuram**
Praise God for the marvellous healing of our dear brother who had been suffering from spondilosis for last one year. Continue to uphold him and the ministries here in your valuable prayers.

MADHYA PRADESH

18/01/10 **Ranjith K. Bagh, Gwalior**
In the month of August six believers were baptized from this Assembly. On 2nd October they had a blessed day of sharing gospel to 285 nursing students from various nursing colleges. Moreover 13-17th October they had SBS leaders training programme. Prayers are coveted.

ORISSA

19/01/10 **R. Sreedhar, Angul**
By God's grace His work is going on well here. In the month of October they had three days special gospel meeting and 14 people obeyed the Lord in the water baptism. Bro. Mohan from Chennai delivered the messages. Please pray for the growth of these dear ones.

20/01/10 **Georgy Jacob, Berhampur**
These days the Lord has been helping them to visit many villages as a team of 3-5 persons from the Assembly. They were able to tell the gospel with the help of a chart on 'the heart of man'. Praise God, they are getting

many good response from the villagers. Please continue to bear this ministry in your prayers.

21/01/10 **K.A.Dominic, Gopalpur**
They are happy to inform that they have started an orphanage here for the orphan children and named it as "Grace Charitable Trust". Their aim is to provide care, shelter, food, education, medicine, etc. to the orphan children and bring them up in the fear of the Lord. They have four orphans from Kandhmal, an area severely affected by the recent persecution in Orissa. They are planning to admit six more children to the home. Prayers are requested.

22/01/10 **D.C.Nayak, Kendrapara**
Our brother informed that he had to shift to a new house as he was forced to vacate from the house by the owner. God in due time provided another house near by. Here all the Assembly activities are going on under the protection of God. A sister named Anita and her husband accepted the Lord recently. Prayers are coveted for their spiritual growth.

23/01/10
Pratap Kishore Garada, Laxmipur
Our God wonderfully works among the people here more than what we think or imagine. They are prayerfully planning for a revival meeting from January 14-16th. Bros. Koshy Mathew and Mishra have given their consent to share God's word on this occasion. Prayers are solicited.

Prasanta Pani, Jhari Gumma
They continue to invest their service for the Lord among the two Assemblies in this area. At Jharigumma 30 believers are gathering for the worship service. At present they are gathering in one of the brethren's house. They prayerfully look to the Lord for the need of an Assembly hall here.

TAMIL NADU

24/01/10 **G. Sam Edwin, Puzhal**
Here the Assembly activities are going on well. On 19/09/09 they had special gospel retreat in their assembly. On that day eight evangelist joined together to reach out Vinayapuram area with the gospel. Now one family is coming to the Assembly from that village. Pray that God may bring many souls from this village to the light of His gospel.

25/01/10
Joshua Daniel, Oomachikulam
They are greatly encouraged by what the Lord is doing in the small church here. Some new people are regularly attending the meetings. On 02/10/09 they had a special meeting in their Assembly. All the participants are immensely blessed by the Lord. Continue to uphold this growing church in your prayers.

26/01/10
L.C. Samuel, Thumichampatty
Here the church is greatly encouraged that God regularly brings some new people to their gatherings. They

present the word of God every time one walks into the church, with the hope that God will speak and change his heart. Please continue to remember the efforts like hospital ministry and village evangelism, they are taking to reach out the people.

27/01/10 **R.Jeyapal, S. kovil**

The Lord's work in Sankarankoil and Veeriruppa is going on well. Regular Sunday school ministry, hospital ministry and Tuesday gospel works are being blessed by the Lord. His wife is undergoing treatment from CMC Vellore. She is very weak and earnestly covets the valuable prayers of the saints.

28/01/10

Thomas Koshy, Dharapuram

By the grace of God, here the ministry is going on well. They had one day outreach work on 16th November and twelve evangelists and some of the Assembly members participated in this ministry. Prayers are requested for the seed sown that it may bear fruit.

UTTAR PRADESH

29/01/10 **K.P. Abraham, Lalitpur**

They had an outreach from September 21-24th with the help of Jhansi Brethren Assembly. They could reach many interior villages with the gospel. On 27th October Bro. George Varghese from Kerala came and preached the word in two villages. They now serve the Lord in more than

six villages. They need a two wheeler for the furtherance of the gospel since the villages are too far from Lalitpur. Please prayerfully support this ministry.

WEST BENGAL

30/01/10 **Anjan Sarkar, Kalna**

The Lord has been graciously giving them many opportunities to witness Him among the people at Kalna. All the activities of the Assembly are regularly carried out. Pray for the growth of this Assembly.

Raju Halder, Bankura

In the month of November they had shown Jesus' film through a local cable channel for the whole Bankura town. They had their Sunday school children's special programme in the month of December. Moreover they are prayerfully planning for an outreach work in February-10. They covet prayers for the needs of this outreach and also need of a new rented house

OTHER MATTERS

31/01/10 **Nungshibabu, Manipur**

God willing he is planning to move to a new place named Charangpal, 75km away from his town, with his family. At present 14 people including 4 new converts are attending the worship services. Please uphold this ministry in your prayers.



KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC

Anbudasan

Born to a Brethren Believing family in Karnataka, I grew up under the influence of my godly parents and the truths from the word of God. As I began attending the services of Gethsemene Brethren Assembly, where my family attend, I understood the love of God from the servants of God who lovingly taught me the word of God. I accepted the Lord as my personal saviour on 4th May 2001, during a VBS camp at Malavalli. Later 18.05.2003 I was baptized. Not many days from then, I was convinced that God is calling me for His service.



But my plan was to serve the Lord along with a secular job, by which I would be a help to my family. I was praying for God's leading and also for an opportunity to study in a Bible College. The Lord opened the door to study His word systematically here in Stewards Bible College. Now I am doing my first year study. Prayers are solicited for my studies and future ministry.

HOME CALL

1. Mathew Abraham, (70) evgt, Jagdalpur, Bastar, (Chhattisgarh) went to be with the Lord on 18th Nov-09, around 9am. He had suffered a brain stroke on 14 February 2007. Thereafter he lost his speech and was paralyzed on the right side. He was unable to attend to any of his personal needs. The funeral was held on 20th. He is survived by his wife, Chinnamma and three sons (Sam, Shim & Jim) & their families. Sam Mathew serves the Lord with Bethel Assembly (Santacruz). Jim Mathew serves the Lord in Jagdalpur.

(Note: The Editor, when he spoke to sister Chinnamma to comfort and console her, she paid rich tributes to her late husband's exemplary living and commendable labours for the Lord.)

2. Bro.M.P.Solomon, (91) Evgt of Sankeshwar Christan Assembly, Belgaum Dt, Karnataka, went to be with Lord on 1st Dec 2009. It pleased our Lord to take him to be with Him. The funeral was held on the same day at 7 pm in Sankeshwar in the presence of relatives and a large number of believers, Lords servants of Belgaum district and friends. He served the Lord faithfully for nearly 41 years. Prayers of the saints are coveted for his dear wife Esther Solomon and children and their families,

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The last date for submission of filled in application is 31.04.10.

Moriah Literature Available:

"**Believers' Bible Commentary**" by William MacDonald (imported) is available for sale for Rs.1350/- including Registered post. Kindly contact their office at No.1, West Club Road, Shenoy Nagar, Chennai-600 030. Phone: 044-26645010; Email: moriahministries@gmail.com.

Other books published by them are also available with them for sale: "**The Vessels of Honour**" by Alf Chote (Rs.45); and "**Be Wise**" by William MacDonald (Rs.150).