

# 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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# OUR BLESSED HOPE

Koshy Zachariah

**W**e, Christian believers, firmly believe that God will bring all things to a glorious consummation in Christ Jesus. This firm belief is based on the statement, "Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the Power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet 1:3-5). Doesn't it define our hope? We have the strong conviction that hope is the work of God from first to last. This hope is an assurance in two ways. Firstly, it takes us back in faith to what Jesus Christ did in His cross and resurrection. Secondly, it takes us forward to the promise of Christ and its fulfilment in the future.

When genuine hope is at work in our lives, positive and creative forces are released within us. We strongly feel that we belong to God. John tells us in his first letter, "Beloved now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him, purifies himself just as He is pure" (John 3:2,3). William MacDonald opines, "It has long been recognised by Christians that the hope of the imminent return of Christ has a sanctifying influence in the life of believers. He does not want to be doing anything that he would not want to be doing when Christ returns". Look at the blessedness of this wonderful hope in Christ Jesus. Every man who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as His personal Saviour is sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13b) and has this hope in him. The blessed thought of being with Him in the future is the hope. This hope is like an anchor. That is what the writer to the Hebrews says. We read, "We have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure and steadfast (6:18,19). What an unfailing hope based upon His word and His oath is given in us! Paul says, "We rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom 5:2). That takes us to the fact that we joyfully look forward to the time when we ourselves will be manifested in glory, while we gaze on the splendour of God.

Some may say, "The Christian hope is the result of a blind faith. Assume for a while that we concede this argument. If my hope in Christ Jesus liberates

me from all the cares and concerns of this world transporting me into a different realm of peace, joy and happiness in the Lord, am I not on a better footing? Even if my hope beyond this world is belied (it would never be so), still I am not the loser, as I have lived in this world in peace. If my hope in the other world comes true (and it would), I am the biggest gainer. I have the benefits of both the world – earth and heaven – peace in the world and fellowship with the Lord in the heaven. On the contrary, the one who does not have hope beyond this world is a loser all the way – no peace in the earth and no hope in the heaven; lost everything for eternity.

Look around us. What the human hearts lack is peace and happiness. Happiness always is the end result of peace. Why should a Christian believer enjoy peace in his life? That is because "Being justified by faith", we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 5:1). Therefore, "the peace of God which passeth all understanding keeps our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:7). Faith gives us hope and hope gives us peace.

Unseen negative forces are at work in the lives of people. Worry and anxiety take a good toll. These lead to depression and despair. The world over, depression is a common problem. The pharmaceutical companies reap large revenue from medicines meant for depression; untreated, people develop fear and they find helplessness and meaninglessness in life. Dejected, they develop a tendency to end life; weakness in all faculties makes them to despair of lives. Over against these chilling experiences stands one word – hope. Because of our apathy, many are deprived of the blessedness of this living hope.

What is our role? How about people who are known to us and die in despair? Could we not share what Paul wrote, "I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any creature shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:38,39)? William MacDonald says, "No wonder these words of triumph have been the song of those who have died martyr's death and the rhapsody of those who have lived martyr's life". Our living hope in Christ Jesus stands out.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

E.J Mathew, Trivandrum

I enjoyed very much reading your editorial on Commitment in the March issue. However, it constrained me to write the following for your kind consideration. I fully agree with you when you say there is lack of commitment among our brethren and they do not contribute substantially for the Lord's work. Recently I was reading a number of articles in The Hindu about the causes of recession in the USA. Secular writers say that there was a lot of greed & covetousness and living beyond one's resources among the Americans. Their thirst for luxury was so patent that Obama had to reprimand top bosses of some companies who were seeking financial assistance from US Govt.

Coming back to our brethren, they go to various places and acquire material wealth regardless of whether it comes by means of fair or foul or with right scruples or without it. As they move out to unfamiliar situations, they will stoop to any level to earn money black or white. They will bribe or receive bribes if that will suit them. Ethics are no concern for them. I can quote quite a few instances which have come to my notice. Same is the case with many evangelists who send reports and visit other countries with a view to amassing maximum wealth.

Now, may I draw your attention to a few portions Scripture where the Lord & His Apostles decried the dependance on material wealth by His children:

Ps 49:6,7,11,16,17 Jer 17:11,9:23; Mt 6:19-21,8:20,10:38,16:24,13:22 6:33,34,24; Mk 4:18,19 8:34,10:21; Lk 9:58,12:15,21 14:26,27,32 16:23,25 6:20,24; Ac 3:6 8:20 20:33-35; Phil 4:12,13,19 IThes.2:5; ITim 6:6-10 Heb 13:5 11:24-26 Phi13:7,8; Ja 5:1-3 Rev 3:17,18

If we carefully go through the above quoted Scriptures, they patiently enjoin upon every believer to eschew greed and covetousness and to lead a life of contentment with the benefits God has provided to each one. Today, our believers seek mammon and its comforts more than anything else and also in a half-hearted manner seek to serve God. Such Christian lives do not meet with the approval of

God. Moses counted the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. Paul says "But what things were gain to me those I counted loss for Christ, I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus." Throughout Church History, many like C.T.Studd, Hudson Taylor, Norris Groves, Lord Congleton and countless Missionaries renounced their wealth for the sake of the Gospel. What a contradiction that many Malayalees use their knowledge of Christ to acquire more of material wealth and possessions. It is one thing that God will bless the believers for their integrity and faithfulness; But, if they set their eyes upon Sodom as Lot did, the Judgment which came upon Lot & his family will fall on our believers. Should we insist upon a portion of Balaam's riches for the Lords work?

I was constrained to write the above as my heart was grieved reading your fervent appeal for funds from worldly rich. There has been great degeneration in the attitude of our evangelists. One evangelist lives in his home assembly gets his pension and in addition gets assistance from three Assembly funds besides his own assembly's contribution. How do we correct him? These thoughts are for your prayerful consideration

**Editor's Note:** -There are many who hold the views of Bro. E.J Mathew. They all have come to this conclusion based on what they have seen with their own very eyes. There are many believers and evangelists (some of the evangelists have shocked me with their unbecoming attitude-leaving India for years and still receiving money from funds as if they are in their place of work, non-accounting for the money entrusted for relief etc..) who have no scruples.

My editorial "Committment" (March-09) is definitely not aimed at the so-called brethren believers whose love for money has no limit (one cannot expect them to part with resources also) but a reminder to those believers who still hold the Lord close to them, but are not fully awakened to their committment of spreading the Gospel.

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# THE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Things which have been most surely believed among us,  
as the ministers of the word delivered them to us

James Varghese, Brahmavar

*Contd from last issue*

## **A Holy Priesthood**

We are made priests (Rev. 1:6), a 'holy priesthood' worshipping God through Jesus Christ (1 Pet.2:5).

When Heb. 10:1 says Israelite worships were shadow, we must not take it to mean that they are of no value for a Christian. Looking at the shadow, we have a lot to learn about the true thing, just as we learn from types, parables and signs. We learn from these OT sacrifices manifold efficacies of the sacrifice of Christ. Exodus ch.29 [also in Lev. ch. 8] shows the sacrifices offered for the priests at their appointment. Three animals were sacrificed at the occasion: one as *sin offering*, vv.10-14; the second as *burnt offering*, vv.15-18; and third as *consecration offering*, vv. 19-21. Any Israelite could offer a sin offering and burnt offering while the consecration offering was exclusively for the appointment of priest. All these three sacrifices are types of sacrifice of Christ. Christ did not offer three sacrifices but the one sacrifice He offered became for us a sin offering, a burnt offering and a consecration offering.

A Sin Offering- Leviticus 4:1-6:7 describe various sin offerings and trespass offerings the people of Israel were to offer. About them it is written, "So the priest shall make atonement on his behalf for his sin which he has committed and it shall be forgiven him" (Lev. 5:10). The sin offering required in Ex 29 for the priest is not for the forgiveness of any particular sin that he has committed and has come to his knowledge (cf. Lev.4:23) but a condition for his appointment as priest to minister God. When we enter into the sanctuary of God as priests ministering Him our first qualification is that our sins are atoned and forgiven by the sacrifice offered on our behalf. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who took away our sin (cf. Jn. 1:29) is our sacrifice. His soul was made 'offering for sin' (Isa. 53:10).

A Burnt Offering- While sin offering is for forgiveness of sin, a Burnt Offering is purely an act of worship seeking to please God. It is 'a sweet aroma to the LORD' ( Lev. 1:9, 17; Exd. 29:18). For an Israelite a sin offering was

mandatory when he committed sin, but a burnt offering was voluntary, 'of his own free will' (Lev.1:3). As for a priest, the burnt offering was integral to his appointment to the office. Christ became such an offering for us when He gave 'Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma" (Eph. 5:2). Because of this sacrifice on our behalf God is pleased in us. When we come into the presence of God acknowledging Lord's death on our behalf, it is a 'sweet-smelling aroma' to God.

A Consecration Offering- In consecration offering, blood of the slain animal was applied on the tip of the right ear, on the thumb of the right hand and on the big toe of the right foot. This may, possibly, signify consecration of our doctrine (ear) ministry (thumb) and walk of life (toe). Also blood and anointing oil were sprinkled on the priests and on their garments. Both the person and office are consecrated to God. Sacrifice of Christ is a consecration offering by which we are appointed as priests of God. The blood of Christ has not only washed us from our sins but also made us priests to God (Rev. 1:5-6). God has anointed us (2 Cor. 1:21). We are sprinkled of the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:2) in our hearts (Heb. 10:22). Thus the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross became a sin offering, a burnt offering and a consecration offering. Our sins are forgiven, God is pleased in us and we are appointed as priests to God to truly worship Him.

We have only considered briefly three sacrifices offered at the appointment of priests. In fact a Meal Offering was also made along with the consecration offering (Lev.8:26-28). There are quite a few sacrifices ordained for the Israelites as we can see in the early chapters of Leviticus. Levitical sacrifices have their significance as types of Christ offering Himself as sacrifice. C.H. Mackintosh's 'Notes on Leviticus' and V.D. Green's "Love's Uttermost' have very valuable thoughts on this aspect. Meditation of the Book of Leviticus would be immensely edifying for us the NT worshippers as it would help us to perceive many a marvel of the glory of our blessed Lord and to appreciate the value of His sacrifice on

our behalf. We must allow some variations in interpretations of their details and lessons drawn out of them providing they are consistent with the sound doctrines taught all through the Holy Scriptures (cf. Phil. 3:15). But let no one think that typological significance of levitical sacrifices and the spiritual lessons we draw out of them as farfetched. The fact is that we have not yet gone far enough and fetched enough of the truths these sacrifices can teach us. The Book of Leviticus remains a worshipper's treasure-house.

We worship God by Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. Hebrews 13: 15 (RSV) says, "through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name". There is remarkable truth here: our worship is *through* Christ who became sacrifice for us; and we worship by *acknowledging His name* or confessing His name (NIV). A paramount aspect of worship is making confession acknowledging the sacrifice of Christ offered on our behalf and praising God for that. We make a simple but most profound confession, "God I worship you by the sacrifice of your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ, offered on my behalf".

Leviticus 9:22-24 has one of the most glorious occasions in the whole of OT, when the various sacrifices prescribed for Israel were offered. "Then the glory of the LORD appeared from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar". "When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces". This manifests great spiritual joy and deep reverence in their hearts for the fact the sacrifices of worship on their behalf is accepted by God. It is with such a spirit we can and must come to God in worship.

#### **Giving God the Glory due to His Name:**

Glorifying, praising and thanking God constitute the most important constituent of our worshipping of God. Glorifying is acknowledging the glory of God. The psalmist says, "Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name" Ps. 29:2 (96:8). In glorifying, we are recognizing the person and glory of God and make our confession before Him of what we have so recognized. Another word employed in this sense is 'magnifying'. It is saying to Him what He is, "O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with honor and majesty" (Ps.104.1). When we comprehend His divine attributes, His power, wisdom and

knowledge, holiness and love and realize that He is our creator and Lord, we glorify Him for all that. We reverently say to Him He is all that. We say to Him, 'You have all the power, You have all the wisdom and knowledge, You are a Holy God; You are the Creator' and so on. We tell Him about Him. Just for example in Ps 8, a song of worship, examine how many times the second person pronoun, 'You' and 'Your' are used. We see a magnificent worship of God by David in 1 Chr. 29:10-13 rendering unto God what actually belong to Him. The names, qualifying adjectives, designations and descriptions given to God in the Scriptures must be taken note of and form part of our confession of worship. God is revealed and perceived in the Scriptures as, Lord, Lord of Lords, King of kings, Shepherd of His people, Savior, Redeemer, Father, God who is kind and merciful and full of grace, and so on. We must tell Him He is all that. There are many descriptions of God that His people confessed when they came to Him. There are things about God as to how He is personally disposed to us. David says of God, "my rock and fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" (Ps.18:2). Even with whatever little we know about God, there is no end to what we can tell God about Him. Psalms are full of glorifying of God. We can see many such glorifying of God with reverence and marvel in the NT. See Rm.11:33-36 and 1Tm.6:16.

Praising, blessing and thanking God are essentially the same except that praising is more for the greatness of God, blessing is more for His goodness and thanking is more a response to favors personally received. The psalmist praised God for the marvels of God's work (Ps.148,150) and thanked Him for His care and sustenance of His people (Ps.136). We may say that Psalm 104 is more in the nature of praising God for His greatness and Ps.103 is more in the nature of blessing and thanking Him for His goodness.

In the Psalms, describing the works of God also is an essential feature of worship, 9:1; 73:28; 77:11-12. Psalm 104 describes God's work in the creation while Ps.136 describes God's work in the history of His people. Psalm 22 prophetically describes our Lord's suffering on the Cross. And as evident in Ps.22: 22, describing what Lord accomplished on the Cross is important aspect of worship.

(To be contd..)

# SPLENDID TREASURES

## (EPHESIAN STUDIES)

### 3. BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER

Koshy Zachariah

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed in with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph 1:3)

#### 3 (a). BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

As he starts this verse, Apostle Paul is overwhelmed at the profundity of the rich and wondrous blessings so profusely and extravagantly lavished on the believing Christians. And before stating the blessings, he makes the glorious and staggering statement, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”. What Paul means is “Praised be God”. In all his epistles, the first thing always is praise and thanksgiving. They are welling up out of his heart. We all will have no hesitation to accept that praise and thanksgiving are the great characteristics of the Christian life. When we realize truly what “grace and peace” mean, (as we saw in the earlier series) we cannot help but praising.

God is to be praised since He sent His own Son into the world to give us “grace and peace” and the manifold blessings. We should be filled with gratefulness for what God has done for us. That would lead us to worship Him and the highest point of all worship and prayer is adoration, praise and thanksgiving. Then we would be lost in wonder, love and praise. For that, worship should be of the heart and mind. We should not get a view from what is stated above that God only ought to be praised and worshipped. Our God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our blessings come through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our worship and praise be offered and ascribed to the three blessed persons. Apostle Paul delights to ascribe, praise to all the three blessed persons. The Christian position is inevitably Trinitarian and therefore a true worship must be Trinitarian. Many a people make errors in mentioning only one of the blessed persons in their worship and prayer. We are to worship the Father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit. And we should always be careful to see that the Three Persons are in our minds. We must be equally careful about the order in which they are introduced – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

These three blessed Persons planned our salvation. They accomplished our salvation. God, before time and before the world, seeing our wretched state, entered into an agreement with His

Son, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes, “God has taken an oath, He has signed, He has pledged Himself in a covenant, He was committed Himself. Everything is in Christ. He is our Representative, He is our Mediator, He is our Guarantor – all blessing comes in and through Him. We can realize what all this meant to the Father, what all this meant to the Son and what all this meant to the Holy Spirit. But that is the gospel and it is only as we understand something of these things that we shall begin to praise God”. Let us also say with Apostle Paul, “Blessed be the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

#### 3 (b). HE HAS BLESSED US WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST

A great truth is brought before us, “God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”. This fact is the centre of the entire Epistle. The first verse has told us that we are saints and the faithful ones in Christ Jesus. And in this third verse we are told that the spiritual blessings are in Christ to the saints and the faithful ones. These blessings being spiritual are entirely different from the material blessings. The evil as well as the good, the unjust as well as the just enjoy common material blessings. Many a believers also hold the view that the material blessings are offshoots of the spiritual blessings. This could be so to a limited extent and should be sidelined when we comprehend the spiritual blessings. In the case of the children of Israel, their obedience to God brought all material blessings. We read in Deut 28:2-8, the blessings, a faithful Jew, will receive if he is obedient to the Lord. Harkening diligently unto the voice of the Lord God, observing and doing all His commandments would ensure that he is set on high. Long life, a large family, abundant crops and protection from enemies are assured to such a one. No doubt, these are all material or earthly blessings. In contrast, the blessings of Christianity are completely spiritual. The Christians to-day enjoy spiritual blessings that were unknown in previous times. We should always be conscious of the fact that spiritual blessings are only in Christ. Christ is the beginning as well as the end. He is Alpha and Omega. Apart from Him there are no spiritual blessings. The Lord Jesus Christ procured these blessings through His finished work at Calvary. In

order to receive the blessings we must be united to Christ by faith. The moment one is in Christ, he becomes the possessor of them all. Chafer writes, "To be in Christ, which is the portion of all who are saved, is to partake of all that Christ has done, all that He is and all that He ever will be". In other words, a Christian believer is what he is because he is joined to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord is the head and all believers are members. D. Martyn Lloyd Jones writes, "All the life in every part of the body comes from the Head; it is our mystical union with Him, our mysterious relationship to Him that accounts for what we are. The Christian is a sharer in the life of the Son of God. All life comes from Him and we all simply draw from Him".

These spiritual blessings come through the Lord Jesus Christ and it is implied that they come through the Holy Spirit. When the Lord Jesus Christ was setting out upon His public ministry, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Lord was living His life in the world as a man and the Holy Spirit enabled Him for His great task. The same Holy Spirit dwells in us as Christians. And all our blessings are in and through the Holy Spirit.

The spiritual blessings are not restricted to a few exceptional people. They are for all Christians – for

you and for me. These blessings are not to be received in the future. What was necessary to procure these blessings has already been done. We enjoy these during our earthly pilgrim journey. All the blessings come to us in a progressive manner.

We are blessed with spiritual blessings in heavenly places. The heavenly place is the third heaven where the Lord Jesus Christ in His resurrected body dwells. That is the place where the glory of God is manifested (Rev 5). The angelic dignitaries and powers hath their abode there. The "Spirits of just men made perfect" also dwell there. Our spiritual blessings come from the realm where the Lord risen from the dead, is in His glorified body. By our regeneration we are joined to the Lord Jesus Christ. We become part of Him, sharing and participating "in His life and in all the blessings that come from Him"; all the blessings flow out of Christ who dwells in the heavenly places.

Let us all say with all exuberance, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ".

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*SBC's Graduating Students along with the teachers, Board members and the Chief Guest: Mr. Paul Thomas (sixth from left, sitting), on 04/04/09*

# VINEYARD NEWS

## ANDHRA PRADESH

01/05/09

**V.Moses, M'palem**

In Gudipallipadu local assembly the ministry is going on well. On 7/1/09, seven believers were baptized and added to the assembly. Bro. E Joseph of Kovur, helped in the ministry. They are planning to conduct special Gospel and Revival meetings on 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> May-09. Prayers will be valued.

## BIHAR

02/05/09

**Jitendra Kumar, Deona**

The Bible studies conducted during the week in the villages are being attended by around 25 people. The worship service is being attended by around 70 people. Prayers are requested that the believers may be strengthened so as to be able to penetrate into new areas.

03/05/09

**P.J. Tomy, Patna**

Regular activities of the assembly are going on well. God enabled them to conduct a one-day Bihar workers meet here on 5<sup>th</sup> March-09. In all 38 servants of the Lord came together for prayer and fellowship and sharing of testimony. They had a good time of fellowship. Prayers requested,

## JHARKHAND

04/05/09

**Francis Hansda, Bena**

Brother informs for prayer and praise that in the month of February a few believers were baptized and added to the assembly. Please pray for their spiritual growth and also for the good health of his wife Sushila.

## KARNATAKA

05/05/09

**James Varghese, Brahmavar**

The Brethren in the Uduppi Assembly are happy in the Lord and ministry in this part is progressing amidst limitations and difficulties. Brother was

able to visit many places and minister along with Bro. Mark of Attappady. Prayers are solicited.

06/05/09

**A.S Sabu, Arasikere**

God has enabled them to construct a small house here. They are also planning to build a small hall. Brother has a burden to start a children's home by taking ten poor children and do ministry through this. Prayers are coveted.

07/05/09

**Parmesh B, Mysore**

God is wonderfully leading in the ministries here. On 14<sup>th</sup> March-09 a baptism service was held in which five believers obeyed the Lord in water baptism. Please pray for these new believers and also for all the other ongoing ministries.

08/05/09

**K.V Varghese, Holalkere**

The ministry in this district was started in 1998. At that time there was no gathering here. But in 1999, a small gathering was started. Now there are more than 75 believers. In January-09, nine believers were baptized. Due to the recent persecutions, they were not able to gather for worship for six weeks. And the house owner is asking to vacate and it is very difficult to get a house for rent; In this context, they have bought a small piece of land for hall construction. Please pray for this endeavour.

09/05/09

**Junia Jayaraj, Kadur**

The ministry is going on well and also all the activities of the assembly. He requests prayers for his wife who is in the family way. There seems to be some complication and she would need a C-section as per doctor's advice. Please pray for safe delivery.

10/05/09

**Ravinandan, Nagavally**

God is using our brother wonderfully for His work. As the school re-opening time is coming near, our brother is finding it difficult to meet all the high school fees of his children. Please pray for the education of his two daughters.

## KERALA

11/05/09

**M.A. Jose, Trichur**

By the Grace of God the work is going on well. The anniversary function for the children's club was

held recently in a Christian orphanage; there were around 74 children in various age groups. Brother was away in Vizak for three days of special meetings. Prayers are needed.

12/05/09

**K.M. John, Taliparamba**

During the last two months our brother was not well due to the failure of both his kidneys and was admitted in hospital. Through surgery the stones in the kidney were removed. Brother is back home now and is recovering but still under treatment. Prayers are requested for full recovery.

### MADHYA PRADESH

13/05/09

**Benny Charalil, Sehore**

The ministry is going on. They want to re-print a booklet in Hindi which was an inspiration to accept the Lord and read the Bible regularly. In the second week of May they want to hold the VBS. A short term Bible school is going on from 26<sup>th</sup> March-09 to 29<sup>th</sup> June-09, Prayers are needed for these ministries.

14/05/09

**K.J. Koshy, Indore**

The activities of the assembly are going on well. On 30<sup>th</sup> Dec-08, our brother met with a scooter accident and a finger in the left hand was fractured and was in plaster for five weeks. The other fingers are also having only restricted movement. He is now recovering. Prayers are requested.

### MAHARASHTRA

15/05/09

**C.D.Thambe, Bhingar**

By the Grace of God the ministries here are going on well. The marriage of his daughter and also his son took place in the month of December-08. Later his father fell sick and also his wife had a burn injury. Now she is recovering. Prayers are needed.

### MEGHALAYA

16/05/09

**P.T.Chacko, Nongpoh**

The Lord is blessing the work here. From 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March they had a special outreach program, the first one of its kind done after they started the ministry here. Brethren from Assam and Nagaland came and helped in the work. Prayers are requested for the blessings of the ministry.

### ORISSA

17/05/09

**Georgy Jacob, Berhapur**

This year, during summer, they are planning to hold VBS in a few places in and around Berhampur. Your valuable prayers are solicited for this effort among children.

18/05/09

**K.C Thomas, Lamtaput**

By the Grace of God the outreach started on 2<sup>nd</sup> February-09 is going on well. They were able to cover about 100 villages by now. As the Lord allows it will continue upto 6<sup>th</sup> June. From 31<sup>st</sup> August-09 to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb-10, they plan to conduct a 6 month Bible school, especially for local born again young people. They plan to admit 15 people. Prayers are requested.

### PUNJAB

19/05/09

**Vijaya Raju P, Amritsar**

The YMEF team was here from 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb-09 and was able to cover many places with the Gospel. In the month of September last year, they covered some 40 villages. The Workers meeting of North West area was held here; about 30 evangelists came together. Prayers are requested.

20/05/09

**Johnson Titus, Jalandhar**

From 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March they held a Gospel crusade, as a result of two years of prayer and preparation. Bro. Shalu T. Nainan shared the Word. Prayers are requested for the seed sown. On 15<sup>th</sup> March-09, they had a baptism service in which two believers were baptized.

21/05/09

**Madan Paul, Ludhiana**

In the outreach that was held at Amloh they were able to reach out to many people and distribute about 1000 gospel portions. On 17<sup>th</sup> March they had distribution in a Sikh Mela, where thousands of people came. The YMEF follow up team was with them from 31<sup>st</sup> Jan to 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, and their ministry was a blessing. On 25<sup>th</sup> Feb-09, they had a good time of fellowship in Jammu, when many full time workers came together. Prayers needed.

22/05/09

**Larsen Lazar, Nangal Township**

They are kept busy in the Lord's work. He takes two home Bible studies and his wife helps with studies among sisters. Prayers are requested that these efforts will produce results. Also pray for his daughter Jasper who often falls sick. They also

face acute financial strain finding difficult even to pay the rent in time.

### TAMIL NADU

23/05/09

**John Jacob, Pangudi**

On 27<sup>th</sup> Dec-08, our brother had met with a bike accident and was under treatment for 50 days. Due to deep wounds, a plastic surgery was done on his left leg. Now he is at home resting as there is pain in the broken leg. Prayers are requested for speedy and full recovery.

24/05/09

**Rajasingh Simon, Tirunelveli**

By the Grace of God the Lord is enabling him to continue with the various ministries of the assembly, Sthanapathy Magazine, Steward Association and Courtallam Camp Centre and Old age Home project. Recently a boy named Juno got saved; but is down with chicken pox. Prayers are needed for him as well as for our brother's wife who is suffering with back pain and loss of vision even after the cataract operation.

25/05/09

**P. Joseph Vivian, Poonamallee**

They had three days of outreach and meetings in and around Poonamallee recently. Seven full time servants of God from different places participated. During these efforts 14 people have committed their lives to Jesus. Several new contacts have been made and are being followed up. Prayers are requested for the new believers. Kindly note his present address: *P.V. Joseph Vivian, Poonamallee Christian Assembly, No.14/16, K. Nagar, Poonamallee, Chennai-56.*

26/05/09

**S. Krupanadam, Kannikapuram**

Special meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> March-09 in which bro. K. Paul from Madhavaram shared the Word. During this meeting seven believers were baptized. Prayers are requested for these new believers and for the ministries here.

27/05/09

**Joshua Daniel, Oomachikulam**

The Lord is blessing the work here. Recently a sister from RC background accepted Christ and was baptized and added to the assembly. This year they plan to do intense evangelism. They have team work, film shows in villages, and special meetings. Prayers are coveted.

28/05/09

**P. Johns, Erode**

After many months of gap, brother was able to move out for ministry. He visited Kaveripetta, north of Chennai and took meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of March-09. By God's grace he is keeping fairly

good health and regular activities are going on well. Prayers are coveted.

29/05/09

**D. Ebenezer, Kodungaiyur**

By the Lord's grace, the Lord is blessing the ministry at Manali area. Recently two believers were baptized. Praying to start a worship meeting soon. Prayers are requested.

### WEST BENGAL

30/05/09

**Billy P. Jacob, Siliguri**

They had a baptism service held on 11<sup>th</sup> April-09 along with three days of special meetings. And it was ablessing to see the new believers being added to the church. Last year, in total they had 57 baptisms. Prayers are requested for the on going projects and assembly hall constructions.

31/05/09

**Bablu Shah, Asansol**

The ministry is going on well, here as well at Durgapur. They were able to conduct a Sunday School anniversary recently, in which many children came together and were benefitted. Brother is in need of literature both in Hindi and Bengali. Pray for this specific need and also for the regular activities.

### OTHER MATTERS

**V. Pandian** from Madhavaram Christian assembly informs that on 21<sup>st</sup> March a baptism service was held in which a few new believers testified the Lord. Bro. K.A. Mathew helped in this ministry. About 30Kms from here in a place called Kavanur, they have started a new ministry, in which they conduct regular Bible classes and children's programmes. Prayers are coveted.

### Walterick Ministries, TVM, India

For the students of the Bible, following books written by William MacDonald are available at affordable prices:

1. Justification by faith (Romans) 200 pages Rs.30
2. Separation –False & True, J.M.Davies (100 pages) Rs.30
3. Fundamental, important and non-essential issues(A suggested method for resolving the differences in the assembly) (16 pages) Rs. 10
4. To what should we be loyal? (30 pages) Rs.10; Postage extra; Order your copies from *Mr. A.V George, TC 2/3003; Panachamood Lane, Pattom P.O, Trivandrum, Kerala-695 004; Phone: 0471-2447823; Mob: 09895283747*  
*In Chennai contact Anil Rajan@09940277665; Email: pattomjacob@gmail.com*

## KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC

Jacob Soren



I come from Adra in West Bengal. I was born and brought up in a Hindu Santhali family. When I was studying in 7<sup>th</sup> Std, a preacher came to my village and spoke about the Lord Jesus Christ. I got a copy of the New Testament from him and began to read. Later a brother-Samuel Das started coming for Bible study in our village; I grew interested in that class. One day he took class on Gal.5:6 “what a man shall sow, that will he reap...” That made me to think and see my actual condition. I realized that I was a sinner and would go to hell without Christ. That day on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.2000, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour . Then I received a new life from Him. I was baptized in 2004 and was in the assembly fellowship at Adra.

While in fellowship there I realized the call of God for full time ministry. So I joined the Bengal Bible Training Institute and studied for two years. My desire to study more brought me to Stewards Bible College and am now going to second year of my studies. Please pray for my studies and also for the salvation of my family members.

## PRAY FOR

### The Gospel Fellowship Trust of India

(Regd. Society No.183/1968)

No.1, Bethesda Centre, Kodungaiyur P.O,  
Chennai-600 118. India.

(Legal Jurisdiction: Madras)

### 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.
7. To Support Assembly-based Bible Education.

*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.*

**All Correspondence, Articles and contributions for the Ministry may be sent to: The Gospel Fellowship Trust of India, No.1, Bethesda Centre, Kodungaiyur P.O, Chennai- 600 118, TN, INDIA.**

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