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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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**The Gospel Fellowship Trust of India**

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

Phone: 044- 2555 0598 / 2555 0295

Email: [admin@gfti.org.in](mailto:admin@gfti.org.in)

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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.,
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## **Editorial**

**Koshy Zachariah**

### **THE WIDOW WHO PERSISTED IN INCESSANT PLEADING**

**T**he parable of a widow seeking justice from an unjust judge is recorded in Luke 18:1-8. Her appeals were not heeded by the judge for a long time. He is termed as an unjust and unrighteous judge. How could such a person be a judge, rather appointed to that position, is not clear. It is possible that he is a heathen. This unrighteous judge in the parable was quite unmoved by fear of God or regard for his fellow men. There are plenty with that sort of attitude in the world. But then why should God bring a heathen judge to teach people of the power of praying persistently. Moses charged the judges that they should judge righteously and that they should have no respect for the stature of the persons being judged (Deut 1:16-18). The judges were to judge the people with just judgment. "Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons nor take a gift.....That which is

altogether just shall thou follow" (Deut 16:18-20).

In Jesus days (even today in some parts of our country), widows were often in a bad fix financially and they needed special help to survive. The widow in this parable has taken someone to court. The validity of this widow's case did not move the Judge's stony heart; even the fact that she was being treated unjustly went unheeded. However, the regularity with which she came before him ultimately bore fruits; he relented and her importunity and persistence made him to take a decision in her favour. The widow's prayer shows that she kept on "seeking, knocking and asking". That is what prayer is. The Lord also teaches that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. Though in a general sense, the need for persistent prayers is emphasized but the special sense in which it is used here is that people should pray for God's deliverance in times of trials and afflictions.

Then the Lord explained to the disciples how much more the just God will intervene on behalf of His own elect. This is true of all oppressed believers in every age, though in this we are able to see how God will answer to the incessant prayers and supplications of the Jewish remnant during the "Tribulation Period".

These days, we are quite moved by the prayer requests that come on the internet. Many are sick and they covet prayer support beside material support. The internet facility has helped us to be current, to be in time to support the distressed and afflicted through prayer. There are many who seek cure for cancer. Death sentence stare on them and unless possessors of an enriched spiritual life – a few only who could claim this - they are shattered and broken despite being good believers. We have the record of a sincere prayer and its answer in Daniel 9:3-23. When Daniel realized that the seventy years of captivity, as foretold by Jeremiah, must have nearly run out and the day of the deliverance of the Jews must

have drawn very near, he was on his knees before God praying. The prayer and supplication are incessant, sincere and consistent. "We have sinned and have committed iniquity and have done wickedly and have rebelled, even by departing from Thy precepts and from Thy judgments; neither have we hearkened unto Thy servants the prophets which spake in Thy name" (9:5-6). What a wonderful prayer, sincere and to the point. Note the earnestness and pathos of verses seventeen to nineteen with which he concludes his touching petition, "O, our God, hear the prayer of Thy servant and his supplications and cause Thy face to shine upon Thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. O, my God, incline Thine ear and hear; open Thine eyes and behold our desolations and the city which is called by Thy name". Prayer of such a nature and intensity can never ever fail. Despite the fact that Daniel was a very righteous person, he identified himself with his people, a people who were recalcitrant and disobedient and whose

ways were unjust, sinful and provocative.

We have the record of the 1992 Nobel peace winner, Rigoberta Menchu, who pleaded non-stop for justice for her people, the Native Americans of Guatemala. These people were there even before Columbus arrived. The Government had killed her parents and brother. The Central American country has a terrible human rights record, especially against Native Americans. Rigoberta was 33 years old when she peacefully and patiently waged a non-aggressive war for years. Ultimately recognition came and the cause of her people was heard, but not before countless peaceful demonstrations, pleadings and cries. She is just like the widow in Luke 18.

Our God is merciful and kind. His ears and eyes are open to His saints. Not even one "just prayer" will go unanswered. Therefore, the unjust judge is representing the present day wicked and corrupt world. God, just like the widow, keeps on knocking at the door of every unjust and wicked man;

rather at all men and women who still remain un-reconciled to Himself. "Behold I stand at the door and knock" (Rev 3:20). Mary Harris Todd writes, "God prays without ceasing. God seeks and knocks and works for what is right all the time. God's Holy Spirit constantly prays and groans with sighs too deep for words" (Rom 8:26 N RSV). "Through prayer, God talks with us and walks with us and knocks on the doors of the world with us. The One who sagged in exhaustion on the cross can help us when we sag with exhaustion".

God knocks on the doors of troubled and abusive homes; even on the doors of Churches boasting of the large number of their members – nominal Christians – who silently look the other way while injustice goes on amongst themselves. He is knocking on the doors of every country which does not allow its people to accept the Lord Jesus Christ; South Africa, where if your skin is black or brown, you could not vote, Japan, if you are a Korean, you have to have a special ID Card, Yugoslavia, where some groups of people are trying to wipe out others. What to say

of many other nations, China, Russia and so on!

Even think of what has happened in India recently - atrocities upon the minorities and innocents. The latest is the one perpetrated on the miniscule minority of Christians in Orissa (may be less than 1%) assigning the killing of a Hindu leader, and what took place is barbarous by all standards. Despite a secular Government, justice at High Court or Supreme Court level and many great secular and prominent men at all levels, people were butchered, forcing a large exodus from certain areas. What comes to my mind is the speech of Edmund Burke (which I read at the degree level), "For men whose minds are tinctured with humanity, this is not mild and merciful". Nothing much in terms of help could be done decisively by the earlier UPA Government, because of the factions among its constituents. In that context, we saw some move among our people – only among a very few – to have even a confederation of the brethren people (The editor always opposed such a move sacrificing the local entity

of the Church). We all looked to the Lord God for deliverance and justice. And the result of the recent election is a proof of the supremacy of the One who sits on the throne – the living God of the universe. The UPA Government was voted back to power with a decisive majority despite all predictions of surveys and of even so called astrologers, of a hung Parliament. And these predictions were nothing but mockery; God works in a mysterious way and His ways are unknown to human minds. We may see delays in answering our prayers – sometimes resort to human ways – but God knows the right time to deal with our prayers. Therefore, we should always pray for authorities and rulers (as we are told in the Scriptures) and all the rulers are under His direction and guidance ultimately.

God prays in us, with us, for us. Let us, with hearts, minds, bodies and voices, steadfastly pray without ceasing, like the incessant plea of the widow; plea to the unjust world.



## WHO IS A CHRISTIAN ?

E.J Mathew

**A**ll over the world there are more than 100 crores people known as Christians. But a pertinent question is, are they all Christians? If we make a scrutiny of such people in the light of the Scriptures, soon we come to the conclusion that perhaps, only one percent of them are genuine Christians. That is a very disturbing situation. Many bear a Christian name. But if we question them about their Christian faith, soon we will know they are not bona fide Christians. Let us look to the Holy Scriptures to find out who is a Christian and what are his characteristics:

(i) Who is a Christian? Acts 11:26 says that "the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." That is the first mention of the word Christian in the Scriptures. It means that Christians are the disciples of the Lord Jesus. Who is a disciple? A disciple is a follower of Christ. Mt 4 :18,19 says that the Lord Jesus saw Peter & Andrew casting a net into the sea and the Lord said unto

them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men; and they straightaway followed Him. About John & James, Mt 4:22 says they left the boat (which includes their nets) and their father and followed Him. Same is the case with all the other disciples. The Lord Jesus said (Mt.16:24) unto His disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself and TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME. That means a disciple who is a follower of Christ must renounce himself, take up his cross and follow the Lord Jesus. Discipleship of the Lord Jesus is a very expensive experience. First, one should give up his hold on material possessions and then take up his cross - which means the enduring of any hardship that may come up in following Him. To some disciples, it meant the forgoing of their livelihood thro' their fishing or tax collection. To Paul it meant the giving up of substantial worldly income and other benefits. But what is the ground reality today? Rather than renouncing material income and fame or position in

this world, many disciples work extremely hard to acquire as much wealth and material benefits of this world. There is a blessing that the Lord gives to His disciples but today, we are seeking material prosperity far more than what the Lord would give us and that too by unfair or foul means. Are such people really Christians? A sincere, honest scrutiny of our Christian faith is rightly warranted in today's context.

Seeing that many nominal Christians in Western countries pursue the acquisition of immeasurable wealth, many believers in this land and elsewhere pursue the acquisition of vast wealth for a luxurious life. Fellow Christian, neither the Lord nor any of His disciples ever sought large wealth for themselves. The Lord also said "Ye cannot serve both Mammon and God" (Lk. 16:13) Large number of Christians ignore this principle and their lives are spent for acquiring MAMMON. Are they true Christians?

(ii) Who is a Christian? Children born and brought up in believers' homes are taught from young days to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and they testify to

that effect in the Assemblies and they are reckoned as saved ones. Whereas it is a good thing for such children to become saved from young days, it can also happen that many such children are not really saved. Recently a book came to me titled "We thought we were saved" which spoke about five persons who thought they were saved but not really saved. By God's grace they could realize that matter and in due time could come to the real experience. But quite a number continue with the same experience and end up in eternal damnation.

Now, before a person could experience the joy of salvation, a prerequisite is to have the experience of REPENTANCE of his sins and acknowledgment of the fact that he is a sinner both by birth and by deed and that his future is eternal condemnation (Ps. 51:5 Rom 3:10-12,23; 6:23 Jn 3:36). Having been convicted of this fact, he should accept the Lord Jesus as his personal Saviour and the death of the Lord Jesus for his sins on his behalf. (Acts 16:31) On doing so, the work of regeneration takes place in his heart and soul and he enjoys the experience of being

born again as stated in Jn 3:3,5. A sinner who is born again by confession of his sins and trusting in the Lord Jesus is a bona fide Christian.

(iii) Who is a Christian? A Christian is one whose very self has been crucified with Christ and in whom Christ liveth. He lives by faith in the Son of God who loved him and gave Himself for him. Gal. 2: 20. In most human beings there is an "I" which rules his thoughts and minds, viz., the proud "self". When a person becomes a Christian, he should reckon himself as dead with Christ and his further life should be depending upon the risen Christ indwelling him. A person who is controlled by his self cannot lead a true Christian life. Many of the strifes among believers are caused by the proud self which has not been identified with the crucifixion of Christ. In the Christian baptism, Romans 6 tells us that a Christian has been identified with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thereafter, he should reckon himself dead unto sin and his fleshly desires and alive unto God. (Rom 6:11) The hymn writer says:

He lives, He lives,  
Christ Jesus lives today,

He walks with me  
and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way  
You ask me how I know He lives  
HE LIVES WITHIN MY HEART;

(iv) Who is a Christian? A Christian is a transformed person. II Cor 5:17 says "If a man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." What a great transformation has taken place in him! He has bidden good-bye to his old sinful life.

God's holy Spirit has been imparted into his person and consequently as Ezek. 36:26 says, he shall receive a new heart and a new Spirit and the stony heart will be taken away out of his flesh. When a person repents of his sins, accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord & Saviour, there should be a genuine and perceptible change in that person's character and conduct. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) like love, joy, peace, long-suffering etc will be very patent in him. But alas! the real ground situation in this regard is far from what the Scripture says about it. There has to be a turn-around in this matter among Christians, especially those known as believers.

(To be contd..)



## SPLENDID TREASURES

(EPHESIANS STUDIES)

Koshy Zachariah

**13. In whom you also TRUSTED, after that you HEARD the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after that you BELIEVED, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise (Eph 1:13)**

In the above verse, the words in bold – heard, believed and trusted – tell us the means which God used to place us in His son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In our earlier issues we have seen that we are Christians because of God's plan that is in place even before the foundation of the world. This plan has reckoned the means, "hearing, believing and trusting". These "means" come into action by the preaching of the word of God.

**The word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**

In verse 13, Paul says, "In whom you also trusted after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation". And the Lord used a few of His disciples to declare the word of truth before He ascended into heaven as we see in Acts of the Apostles. These ordinary men could do nothing unless they were empowered with the Holy Spirit and the Lord therefore asked them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit was come upon

them. The disciples obeyed the Lord and the moment, the Holy Spirit indwelt in them, they preached the word of truth – the truth that the Lord was crucified and that He rose again (because God raised Him up with His Power) (Acts 2:22-24). This word of truth is the gospel or the good news that tells of salvation in Christ through believing and trusting. The Christian is one who believes in the heart of heart that his entire change is because of the Person and work of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. One does not become a Christian because he is born in a Christian family. He may follow all the rituals meticulously – reading the Bible and praying morning and evening- but that will not make him a Christian. The Old Testament Jews believed in God, tried to keep His Commandments, worshipped Him and offered sacrifices; the Pharisees fasted twice a week and gave tenth of their goods to the poor. But they did not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ despite the fact that all the scriptures spoke to them that Jesus is God. But those Jews who believed in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ became devout Christians. And now, look at the people who

really became Christians because they believed in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul mentions this in 1 Thess 1:9, 10, "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come". By nature we are all under the wrath of God because we are all sinners. We need to be delivered from this wrath. And the good news comes to us through preaching that the Lord Jesus Christ has borne the wrath Himself on our behalf. We read, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor 5:21). That is the message of salvation; that is the word of truth.

The preaching of the word of God alone is not enough. The application of the truth of the word is made by the Holy Spirit. The gospel of salvation is preached to all but all men do not receive it. The work of the Holy Spirit helps one to receive the word of truth. Then he is saved and accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. He confesses this truth to the world. No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost (1 Cor 12:3). Paul emphasizes this in 1 Cor 2:12. "Now we have received not the Spirit

of the world, but the Spirit which is of God that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God". The work of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. There comes a change in us as the result of God's operation by the Holy Spirit upon us. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes, "We have been given the ability to comprehend and to understand. We have been given an "anointing, an unction by the Holy Spirit as the Apostle John says" (1 John 2:20, 27).

#### **Sealed with the Spirit**

The fact that we are sealed with Holy Spirit is yet another extraordinary statement. Apostle Paul introduces to us for the first time, the Holy Spirit Himself. We saw earlier that a man accepts Jesus as Lord because of the operation of the Holy Spirit. Here we are told that one is sealed with the Holy Spirit after he receives Jesus Christ as Lord.

We read, "In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise". This "sealing" needs to be looked into from an ordinary sense. A seal is an absolute confirmation of an agreement or action. When a firm decides to purchase a land or any property, it enters into an agreement with the seller and that agreement becomes final when they sign and seal it. You need a seal in addition to the signature; it brings in authenticity, validity and

authority. That brings into effect the mark of ownership.

When exactly does the sealing come in the life of a Christian? Does this take place at the same moment he believes or is it subsequent to belief? The Authorised Version reads, "In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise". The "sealing" follows "believing" and definitely not part of "believing". Is there a time gap? Need not be but could be also. Then if there is a time gap, should one wait for? Should there be a visible appearance of sealing? Is the sealing with the Spirit "sanctification" or the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit or assurance of salvation? The answer to this last question is, it is not sanctification; neither the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit nor the assurance of salvation.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones is of the view and belief that "sealing with Spirit" is something subsequent to believing – something additional to believing. He refers to Acts 1:4, 5 to prove the point; that the disciples should not depart from Jerusalem because they were to be baptized with the Holy Ghost. The disciples were believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Lord had breathed the Spirit upon them (John 20:22). It was at Pentecost they were sealed; it was where that the authentication was given to them.

He asserts that the same was the case with the Samaritans in Acts chapter 8. The Samaritans were believers, but yet the Holy Spirit was not fallen upon them (v 16). Another case in point is the conversion of Saul. He believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as the result of what happened to him on the way to Damascus; it was not until three days later that he was filled with the Holy Ghost as the result of the ministry of Ananias. In the above cases, being in the beginning, it may have been factual, but the subsequent events or facts as instructed in the epistles, speak of the sealing as soon as the believing happens.

Hence I hold the view that the sealing of the Spirit happens soon after the belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. It may not be so that believing and receiving the Holy Spirit are synchronous. We should be clear on one thing; apart from the operation of the Holy Spirit, we cannot believe – the awareness of the need for redemption and the receiving of the redemption do not happen without the influence of the Holy Spirit. "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost" (1 Corinthians 12:3). If any man has not got the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His (Rom 8:9). The verse we consider, v 13, says, "In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise". Once a person

believes in the Lord under the influence of the Holy Spirit, soon after he is sealed with the Holy Spirit; the salvation is settled through the “sealing”. Sealing is an experience, something that God does to us and we know it when it happens. The redeemed person shall know the “sealing” in the following ways. One of the results of the sealing with the Spirit is, among a few, the experiencing of the joy of salvation – this, one should definitely experience without fail. Take the case of the Eunuch in Acts 8:39 – He went on his way rejoicing. Every Christian should be full of joy and of peace and of happiness. The lack of these makes our Christian life ineffective; and the moment someone is in that state, then the sealing of the Holy Spirit probably has not taken place. Another way is the blessed assurance in our hearts that we are the children of God, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:16, 17). Yet another way is the one that is mentioned in Romans 5:5 – “the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us”. The question is not whether we believe in the love of God but whether that love has been poured into us by the Holy Spirit. Let me quote one more verse concerning the experience of “sealing”. We read in 1 Peter 1:8, “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom though now ye see Him not,

yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory”.

Now someone may ask whether when a person is sealed with the Spirit he receives spiritual gifts just like those who were baptized by the Spirit, as in Acts 2. The main controversies are about tongues and healings. The answer to this is in 1 Corinthians 12 and there the teaching is that the Holy Spirit is the Lord of these gifts and that He dispenses them and distributes them as He sees fit. All do not have the same gift and He gives “this man a gift and to that man another gift”. Paul asks, “Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Do all work miracles? We know many other gifts beside these. This subject needs elaboration and at this point I am not dwelling on that. But regarding “tongues” let those who claim to have “tongues” see whether they are complying with the conditions laid in 1 Corinthians 14:27-28 – two or three and that by course; if no interpreter, let him keep silence in the Church. God is not the author of confusion but of peace (1 Cor 14:33).

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes, “The central truth concerning the sealing with the Spirit is that it seals the inheritance to us that it gives the assurance of son-ship and the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry Abba, Father”.



# Vineyard News

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

## ANDAMANS

01/04/10 **M. Joseph, Port Blair**  
Here the ministry is going on well, though many are suffering different kinds of sickness. Our brother informed that he is undergoing severe chest pain and back pain. One of the young men in the Assembly met with an accident and is undergoing treatment in Apollo hospital at Chennai.

02/04/10  
**G. Selvakumar, CampBell Bay**  
Here a few people recently accepted the Lord and are baptized. Many youth and children in this area are given much attention. This year they plan to establish many New Testament Churches in various places in this Island, where there is no Assembly testimony. Prayers are coveted.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

03/04/10 **Paul Junju, Markapur**  
Recently he was down with Chikun Guinea and is slowly recovering. After

him all the members of the family also were affected by this disease. He still has pains in his body. Prayers are coveted for their complete recovery.

## BIHAR

04/04/10  
**Niranjan Paswan, Nawagadhi**  
Here at Nawagathi some people are eager to listen to the word of God, but are not ready to step forward because of some hindrances. They are prayerfully planning for a VBS at Nawagathi in the month of April-May. Prayers are requested for the need of teachers and materials for this VBS and for the salvation of above mentioned people.

05/04/10  
**Shambu Kumar Shah, Pirpainti**  
Through regular outreach work in this area, some people are showing interest to spiritual matters. One family is regularly attending the meetings. Prayers are solicited for their salvation.

06/04/10  
**Ravi Shankar Prasad, Sulatanganj**  
Since 1996 our brother is working here. Now there are two assemblies in this area. Bible study is going on in

four villages. Three brothers are commended from here for the Lord's work. They are Awadhesh Paswan, Abadh Bihari Lal and Binod Kumar Das. Prayers are solicited for the blessing of these ministries.

### GUJARAT

07/04/10 **Xavier Antony, Baruch**  
Our brother met with a bike accident in the month of February, when he was returning with his wife after taking Bible class in a village, in the night. He broke his right hand, but sister was kept away from danger miraculously. Now he is under medication. Nevertheless the ministry is going on well.

### HARYANA

08/04/10  
**Richard Daniel, Ambala Cantt**  
Here the ministry is going on well. Our brother's three children have accepted the Lord as their personal savior and are ready to take baptism. Along with them one sister also expressed her desire to obey the Lord in water baptism. God willing they are going to conduct a baptism service in the month of April.

09/04/10 **David Jose, B'gargh**  
With the consent of the brothers from Bihar Evg. David Jose has been able to contact some of their relatives living

in Delhi and preach to them the gospel. By God's grace 4 members from a family accepted the Lord and were baptized. Now they have started a new Assembly testimony, namely North Delhi Brethren Fellowship, in a place called Buradi. They have bought an Omni van for the ministry here. Please pray for the need of this Assembly.

### MADHYA PRADESH

10/04/10 **Ranjith Bagh, Gwalior**  
Some people are showing definite interest to the gospel in this place. Recently one MBA student accepted the Lord and now he is bringing his parents also to the meetings. Prayers are solicited for the collective efforts of these brethren to bear fruit.

11/04/10 **Shaji Varghese, Khandwa**  
By the grace of the almighty the ministry is going on well here. All the Assembly members are happy in the Lord. Please do remember the activities of the Assembly, such as VBS, Bible studies and outreach ministries.

12/04/10 **Gabbar Singh, Dabra**  
They had a blessed outreach ministry in the month of January, in three villages; seven brothers, worked together, distributing tracts and booklets. They covered Datia, Shivpuri and Gwalior areas. His father in law is suffering with cancer. Prayers are coveted.

## MAHARASTHRA

*13/04/10 Babu Varghese, Bhaynder*  
For the last three years they have been working in a new place, 40 kms away from Bhayander, namely Virar. The Lord has blessed this ministry. They had a baptism service here on January 31<sup>st</sup> and an Assembly testimony has been started; now there are 20 people partaking in the Lord's Supper. Please do uphold the Virar Assembly in your prayers.

*14/04/10 A.S. Babukutty, Manpada*  
For the last eight years they have been gathering for the Sunday meetings in a school and for the other meetings at believers' houses. But now the Lord has provided them an Assembly hall for the believers to gather in answer to prayer. The hall was dedicated in the month of February. Pray that the Lord may fill this hall with many new believers.

## ORISSA

*15/04/10*

*Anusarana Pani, Ashapally*  
Here the Lord's work is going on well through various Assembly activities. They had great rejoicing when three elderly people obeyed the Lord in water baptism recently. Br. Ganesh, one among the baptized, is struggling between life and death due to cancer.

Prayers are solicited for him and for Br. Anusarana Pani's wife who is suffering from BP and Diabetes, an also for the need of an Assembly hall since they have been gathering under a flood-damaged shed. They need around Rs. 3,50,000/- for this task. Please prayerfully support.

*16/04/10 Debendra Harpal, Sirtol*  
Here the Lord's ministry is progressing. Recently a new family from NC background is regularly attending the Assembly meetings. Prayers are solicited for the salvation of this family and also for the ministry here.

*17/04/10 P.M. Skariah, Tatanagar*  
They are running a Mercy home for the last three years for the children of poor believers in their Assembly. Now there are around 40 children in this home. They are building a house for these children. They need a good amount to complete this work. Please prayerfully support this ministry.

## TAMIL NADU

*18/04/10 S. Barnabas, Sivaganga*  
The Assembly testimony here had started ten years ago and has at present around 30 people gathering together for the Assembly meetings. They are asked to vacate the rented house where they are conducting the meeting. Now God enabled them to buy 5 cent plot to build an Assembly

hall. They need more than 6 lakh rupees to complete this work.

19/04/10

**J. Joshua Daniel, Oomachikulam**

They had a special sisters meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January and many sisters from nearby assemblies have attended and are being blessed. They also had a one day special meeting for the Assembly members on 20<sup>th</sup> March. They have regular youth ministry on Saturdays. They are praying to the Lord for a piece of land and an Assembly hall for the believers to gather together (now they conduct the meetings in a rented house). Please pray.

20/04/10 **T.P.A.Srinivasan, Musiri**

They had conducted the seventh thanksgiving and special meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Regular activities are going on well inspite of problems and difficulties. Prayers are solicited.

21/04/10 **Shaji J. Paul, Pollachi**

The condition of our brother is getting better. He is still undergoing treatment for his heart problems. Prayers are solicited for the complete recovery of this young brother and the Lord's ministries here.

22/04/10 **V.K. Williams, Theni**

The Lord has kept our brother in His Vineyard for the last 34 years. Now he works at Bodinaykannur and Theni. In both of these places there are Assembly Halls and good number of people gathering for the Assembly meetings. Regular Bible studies, Assembly meetings, and outreach

works are being carried out in both places continually.

23/04/10 **Daniel Raj, Madipakkam**

Here the ministry is progressing. He had the privilege of visiting Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh in the month of February for one week. He is planning to visit Bro. Pankaj Kumar Mandal in the month of April for ten days. Please pray.

24/04/10 **Ramesh T, Namakkal**

In the year 2000, Bro. Ramesh came to Namakkal with his family and started the ministry. An Assembly testimony was started here when three believers came from Kerala for their studies. By God's grace, now the Assembly has grown to 35 believers. Here the Malayalam service for the college students is being conducted on Every Sunday morning 8 am and Tamil worship at 10 am. The Assembly gathers at a rented house where the evangelist also stays. By the prayers of the saints God enabled them to purchase land for the Assembly. Please prayerfully support this ministry.

#### WEST BENGAL

25/04/10 **Raju Halder, Bankura**

They thank the Lord for making the Bankura out-reach work from 1-15<sup>th</sup> February, a great blessing. They could reach around 25000 people with the gospel. Many booklets and tracts were distributed. God blessed this effort by bringing two new souls to the

Assembly. Prayers are coveted for the continued blessing of these ministries.

26/04/10 **Purnendu Jha, Chinakuri**  
The assembly outreach is going on in Bejdih village which is a coal field area. Many people from this area have eagerly heard the word of the Lord. This year the children's club annual meetings were held in five places. The regular Bible study is going on in three places. Prayers are coveted.

27/04/10

**Shyam Prasad Biswas, Banikanta**  
They had a baptism service in the month of January and three people from non-christian background obeyed the Lord. In addition to the ongoing ministry here, he is now working in a new place, three kms away from the present church. Here the regular Bible study and children's school are going on. Prayers are solicited for all these ministries.

28/04/10

**Pradeep Kumar Dey, Gazole**  
They regularly invite people to their house and share the word to them. They could get some new contacts through this ministry. Some are ready to take baptism. One of the new believers completed his Bible study in Jamtara. Pray that the ministry here may grow constantly.

## OTHER MATTERS

29/04/10 **New Commendation:**

*Nelliahudikeri Brethren Assembly*  
The Assembly at Nelliahudikeri, Karnataka has commended bro. V.S. Stany for the Lord's work. He, after his studies had gone to Daichur for the Police training. During this time he had the privilege of working with Evg. T.J Mathew in the Lord's vineyard. There he had the burden for the Lord's ministry and he was called for His ministry. For the last one year he is in the ministry. His parents and two brothers are dependent on him.

30/04/10

**Brethren Assembly, Valakom**  
Here the Assembly at Valakom has commended Bro. K.J. George as a full time evangelist of this Assembly. He had his Bible training from Kumbanadu and Pattanamthitta. He has started Ebenezer Gospel Ministries along with the Assembly ministries. Now he is working in a place, called Nedunchery near Kadammanitta to establish an Assembly testimony. Prayers are solicited.

### Correction

*In the Feb-10 issue of Vineyard News, news item under Beharilal, wrongly carried the news that they require an assembly hall. Infact they have a hall already, but have some dues to be paid. (Regret the error-Ed)*

**KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC**

**Rajesh Das**

I come from Dhanbad in Jharkhand. I was born and brought up in a nominal Christian family. From my childhood onwards, I used to go to Sunday school classes and attend church regularly. After a period of time through my Sunday school teacher, I was convinced that I am a sinner and need salvation through Jesus Christ to go to heaven. He alone died for me on the cross of Calvary. So in the year 1999, I received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. Later on in the same year I was baptized and joined the fellowship of the assembly at Kalyanpur. Since then I have been actively participating in the various activities of the assembly. The Lord gave me opportunities to teach the Sunday school children. During this period, I felt a strong desire to study the Bible systematically; so I applied to SBC and got admission. By God's grace I could finish one year of my studies. I am married and have a child. Please pray for my future.



**BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE, PATHINAMTHITTA**

Applications are invited from born again, baptised and dedicated bachelors who are 17 and above for admission to the following courses commencing from 1st May, 2010. A) Regular Courses: 1). B.Th. Programme: BBI offers a three year Bachelor of Theology programme in English medium. Those who have passed Pre-degree/Plus Two/Intermediate or its equivalent may apply for the B.Th. programme. Those who have successfully completed a two year Bible School training in English medium after passing their S.S.L.C. also will be admitted to the B.Th. programme. In exceptional cases Plus Two failed candidates also will be considered for this course. There is no fee for this programme.

2. P.G. Programmes: BBI offers a two year residential Master of Divinity (M.Div.) programme and a three year residential Master of Theology (M.Th.) programme. Those who have passed B.Th. or its equivalent with C+ (75% Marks) may apply for these programmes. Those who have passed a secular degree with a second class may also apply for the M.Div. Programme. There is a nominal fee for this programme.

B) Distance Mode: 1. M.B.S. (Two years); M.Div, 2/3 years, 3. M.Th. Duration: 2/3 years. All courses are offered only in English medium. Prospectus and application forms can be had from the REGISTRAR, BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE, P.O. BOX. 46, PATHANAMTHITTA, KERALA, INDIA - 689 645 by paying rupees 50 by means of M.O. Those from abroad need to send rupees 150 by crossed demand draft in favour of "Brethren Bible Institute," Pathanamthitta. Prospectus and Application forms can be downloaded from our web site <www.bbpta.com>. The last date for submitting the application is April 5, 2010. For more information contact +919447265500 (M.T. George, Secretary)

Postal Reg: No. TN/CCN/304/10-12  
LICENSE No.TN/PMG(CCR) WPP-74/10-12  
RNI-Regn. No. TNENG/2007/20153

## **STEWARDS BIBLE COLLEGE**

The Graduation Service & Farewell function of the Stewards Bible College will be held on 10th April-2010 at the SBC campus at 10.30 AM. Brother Polson Poulouse, from Bangalore will be the Chief Guest for the occasion. 15 students will be graduating this year which includes 10 from Third year, 3 from second year and 2 from first year. God willing, the next accademic session will start on 7th June-2010. Prayers are solicited.

## **BIRD MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S HOME (BMCH)**

By God's grace, all the children in the Home are keeping well. There are 17 children in the home now and all of them are doing reasonably well at school. They also have a tuition teacher to help with their studies in the evening. After they finish their final exams, they will go for summer vacation.

God willing we are planning to take in a few more deserving children into home next year. Prayers are coveted.

**SBC** is a unique institution of its kind in teaching the Word of God systematically. Anyone who is born again, baptized and in fellowship with a local Brethren assembly, committed to the Lord's work and desiring a serious study, and deeper understanding of the Bible could apply. The medium of instruction being English, the candidates should have a working knowledge of English preferably +2 or its equivalent. Applications are invited for its next course which will start in the first week of June-2010. SBC offers a three year programme leading to Bachelor of Theology (B.Th). We cover almost all aspects of the Bible including various disciplines in Systematic Theology and related subjects. Write immediately for prospectus and application form to:

**Stewards Bible College,**  
1, Bethesda Centre, R.V Nagar, Kodungaiyur P.O,  
Chennai-600 118, Tamil Nadu.  
Phone: 044-2555 0598 / 2555 0295  
Email:admin@gfti.org.in

**The last date for submission of filled in appliacion is 30.04.10.**