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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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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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**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.

## *Editorial*

Koshy Zachariah

### **PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD**

**T**he children of Israel were chosen by God to be a special class of people to stand out as a model. "For you are a holy people who belong to the Lord your God. Of all the people on earth, the Lord your God has chosen you to be His own special treasure" (Deut 7:6). Further we read, "You have been set apart as holy to the Lord your God and He has chosen you to be His own special treasure from all the nations of the earth" (Deut 14:2 LASB). Having chosen them, God gave them laws and regulations to enable them to be a holy nation. Laws and regulations no doubt, were to ensure that they feared God and obeyed His voice. That is what we read in Exodus 19:5. "Now therefore if you will obey my voice indeed and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me a kingdom of priest and a holy nation". God wanted the whole world to look at them and say, "For what great nation has a God as near to them

as the Lord God is.....? And what great nation has laws and regulations as fair as this body of laws" (Deut 4:7). "Israel was holiness unto the Lord" (Jer 2:3). Despite His affectionate and compassionate dealings with them, the children of Israel turned their back to God; all His corrections were futile and His communications through His own prophets and servants fell into their deaf ears. God wanted His chosen people to be testimonies and examples; His aim was "perfecting holiness in the fear of God". God sent John the Baptist as the forerunner to Jesus Christ, the savior of the world. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself spoke to them but they would not listen. Their eyes were blinded and ears shut to the truths concerning the Lord given in the Old Testament. The marvelous deeds He did and unfathomable wisdom in the words He spoke could not enlighten them. They hated Him and their hearts were all out to

find fault in Him. When He said He was the Son of God, they leveled against Him blasphemy and sought His crucifixion. Instead of they becoming holiness to God, they became filthiness to God. We read, "God has given them the Spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear" (Rom 11:8). This is exactly what the Old Testament predicted would happen (Deut 29:4, Isaiah 29:10). William MacDonald comments as follows on Rom 11:8. "God abandoned them to a state of stupor in which they became insensitive to spiritual realities. Because they refused to see the Lord Jesus as Messiah and Saviour, now they lost the power to see Him. Because they would not hear the pleading Voice of God, now they are smitten with spiritual deafness. That terrible judgment continues to this very day".

God's purpose is that as a result of their fall (Jews), salvation might come to the Gentiles. The fall of the Jews has meant riches for the world and Israel's loss has been the Gentile's gain. When Israel was set aside as God's chosen earthly people, the

Gentiles were brought into a position of privilege with God. We Christians were Gentiles, "without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (Eph 2:12). "Now we are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God" (Eph 2:19). Therefore Peter says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people (1 Pet 2:9). What did God do to elevate us to this prestigious position? We read, "For as much as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold.....but with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world" (1 Pet 1:18-20). Why has He made us a special people? "That we may be blameless and harmless, the Sons of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom we shine as lights in the world" (Phil 2:15). The word '*blameless*' conveys that no

charge can be leveled against a person. And the word *harmless* means sincere and guileless. Children of God should be without fault so that they could stand out as testimonies.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “Dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor 7:1). But he used the statement “having therefore these promises” before his appeal to them in this verse. And that brings to our attention that this verse is linked with what has gone before. From chapter 6:14 to chapter 7:1 is one paragraph. The promises mentioned in verse 1 are referring to verses 16 to 18 of chapter 6. We read of sevenfold promises, (1) You are the temple of the living God (2) I (God) will dwell in them and walk in them (3) I will be their God and they shall be My people (4) you shall be a holy people separated from the world (5) I will receive you (6) I will be a Father unto you and (7) You shall be my sons and daughters. These promises and privileges call upon us to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and Spirit. William

MacDonald opines, “Defilement of the flesh includes all forms of physical impurity, whereas filthiness of the Spirit covers one’s inward life, motives and thoughts”. We read in Gal 5:19 to 21 the works of the flesh; also in Col 3:5-10. The notes in Life Application Study Bible reads “Cleansing is a twofold action turning away from sin and turning toward God. The Corinthians were to have nothing to do with paganism. They were to make a clean break with their past and give themselves to God alone”.

“Perfecting holiness in the fear of God” stresses the needs on our part to put aside all those things which defile us and a sincere desire and earnestness to become increasingly conformed to the Lord Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We ought to bear in mind that it is not at all possible to become perfectly holy while on this earth. William MacDonald states, “Practical sanctification is a process that goes on through our lifetime. We grow in likeness to the Lord Jesus Christ until the day when we see Him face to face and then we shall be like Him throughout all eternity. It is as we have a

reverential fear or awe of God that we have a desire in our hearts to become holy. May we all learn to say with the godly McCheyne, "Lord make me as holy as it is possible for a man to be on this side of heaven". Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "He has chosen us in Him, before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Eph 1:4). The very purpose of our Lord coming into the world is "that He might present it (the Church) to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph 5:27). We read, "to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight" (Col 1:22).

We have before us the commitment of the Rechabites in Jeremiah chapter 35. They maintained a true pilgrim character. Though we cannot identify the Rechabites to-day, their identity will become known in the Millennium. The "Brethren Group" should always emulate the example of the Rechabites. To-day the "Group" does not know the commitment when the name "VERPADU" was chosen;

though the earlier believers, a hundred years ago, knew what it meant. The deterioration in the spiritual condition of this "Group" in the last four decades stands out. No realization that "they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Gal 5:24). Perfecting holiness in our lives is a process all through by staying close to God. Not only we should keep distance from sinners but should avoid worldly entertainments; we should see how we spend our time and money. "In our daily life, we must regularly crucify sinful desires that keep us from following Christ. This too is a kind of dying with Him" (LASB – Notes on Gal 2:20).

All gatherings with Schisms and divisions with power mongers, with people who have no time for spiritual matters – be it worship, Bible study or prayer meetings – and men who cling on to material possessions and riches and look at this way or that way when it comes to the financial needs of Lord's ministries, can never ever expect or aspire for "perfecting holiness in the fear of God".



## ABRAHAM THE FRIEND OF GOD (9)

Cliff Jones, U.K

**God remembered Abraham.** The believer whose life is separated from the world and to God knows a peace that transcends all understanding (Phil. 4:7). As a result of learning more and more of God and obeying His will, that believer will come to know God better and love Him more.

**Lot sat in the gate of Sodom.** The two angels who had come with the Lord Jesus Christ to speak to Abraham had gone on towards Sodom while the Lord remained with Abraham to speak with him (Gen. 18:16,22). The two angels came “to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom” (Gen. 19:1).

When the Lord and the two angels came to Abraham he was sitting in the door of his tent (Gen. 18:1), separated from Sodom and all its evil. Lot, on the other hand, was sitting “in the gate of Sodom”, a position associated with status and authority. Lot had settled down in Sodom, and, from a worldly point of view, had been successful, but he and his family had not prospered spiritually. Sometimes we may be allowed to have what we work for, and strive to obtain and achieve, but suffer spiritually and backslide as a consequence (Ps. 106: 15). Lot received the angels courteously and invited them to spend the night in his house. When Abraham had offered hospitality to the Lord and the two angels they had accepted readily (Gen. 18:5), but the two angels were reluctant to enter Lot’s

house and said, “Nay; but we will abide in the street all night” (Gen. 19:2). Lot pressed the angels to stay and ultimately they agreed and he prepared a meal for them (v.3). The men of Sodom, a place famous for its homosexuality, surrounded Lot’s house, calling on Lot to bring out his two visitors so that they might have sexual relations with them (vv.4,5). Homosexuality, although it might not be against the laws of a country, is a sin against God (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26,27; Jude vs.7). The men of Sodom did not hide their sins or feel ashamed. In the same way, many people today talk and joke about sin and openly practice sins with no sense of shame. Showing great courage, Lot “went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly” (Gen. 19:6,7). Lot offered his two daughters to the men surrounding his house. This shows the terrible influence living in Sodom had had upon Lot (v.8). Lot was threatened with violence and they said, “This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door” (v.9). The angels pulled Lot into the house, shut the door and struck the men around the door with blindness (v.10). Lot had gone to Sodom seeking prosperity and position, but the men of Sodom had no

respect for him and the wealth he had acquired was about to be destroyed. The angels told Lot to get his family out of Sodom because the Lord had sent them to destroy the city. Lot warned his sons-in-law but they did not take him seriously (vv.12-14). Lot's testimony was so feeble. His sons-in-law refused to listen to Lot and his warning of coming judgement. Lot was leading an un-separated, worldly life: he had separated from Abraham, dwelt in the cities of the plain, pitched his tent toward Sodom, dwelt in Sodom and finally sat in the gate of Sodom (Gen. 13:10-13; 14:12; 19:1). He had gradually settled down and his testimony had been destroyed. Lot's life was not consistent with his words concerning coming judgement. Believers are sometimes told that they should "compromise a little"; "move with the times", or "change with the changing standards and practices of society". It is argued that if they would do these things then unbelievers would listen to what they have to say about coming judgement and the way of salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The truth is that it is the separated believer who can intercede with God and witness effectively to unbelievers. Abraham was leading a separated life outside Sodom, and it was he who had power with God. When Lot decided to go and live in Sodom neither Lot nor Abraham knew that God was going to destroy Sodom. Lot, the carnal believer, had no influence for good either in Sodom or with his family. The angels

tried to hasten the departure of Lot, his wife and daughters out of the doomed city (Gen. 19:15). Lot was reluctant to leave Sodom and the angels "laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city" (v. 16). Lot was very involved in Sodom and found it very difficult to leave behind the things for which he had worked so hard. All he had given his energy and time for was about to be destroyed. Lot, his wife and his two daughters had to be forced out of Sodom by the angels. If we get very tied up with the things of the world we shall be slow to move in response to God's commands.

**Escape for thy life.** Lot was told to "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed" (v. 17). Lot continued to argue: he did not want to go to the mountain, the place of refuge provided by God, but he wanted to go to Zoar, a small city nearby. The angel allowed Lot and his family to go to Zoar and said that this little city would not be overthrown. The angel stressed that God's will, that is, the destruction of the evil cities, could not be carried out until Lot was out of danger (vv.18-22). Lot still wanted a city, even a small one. After all his chastening experiences he wanted as much of the world as he could retain. He did not want to go where God wanted him to go, but to a place he chose for himself. God's will is best. A believer

may say concerning a particular sin, “it is only a little thing” or “there is no real harm in it”. Sin is sin and we should ask ourselves regarding the things we do, and the places to which we go, not “is there any harm in it?” but “is it the will of God?”. When Lot entered Zoar it was a pleasant day and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were pursuing their normal lives unaware of God and of coming judgement (v.23; Lk. 17:26-30). Sadly, many people in the world today live in the same way.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God (Gen. 19:24,25). Lot’s wife “looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt” (v.26). Lot’s wife disobeyed the angel’s command, “look not behind thee” (v. 17). She was now outside of Sodom but her heart was in Sodom where her possessions and friends were. Lot had chosen to take his family to Sodom because of covetousness and now he had lost his possessions and his wife. In Luke 17:32, we have the Lord’s solemn words, “Remember Lot’s wife”.

Lot’s wife had been taken out of Sodom but looked back. Some people are disturbed and moved when they hear the gospel message. They become concerned, start to study God’s Word, attend meetings, may even make a profession of faith and be baptized, and yet, if their profession was a false profession then, sooner or later, they will tum back to the attractions of the world. Other people, when some tragedy affects them or their loved ones, may for a while, give serious consideration to the things of God. However, when,

with the passage of time, things start to improve they may well turn back to their old way of life.

Lot’s wife would have known of godly Abraham’s way of life. She was affected by the angel’s warning and actions and by the anxiety of Lot. She was privileged to know a great deal, compared with the majority of people, about God, His ways and His intentions, and yet she perished, for her heart was in Sodom and she disobeyed the angel’s command.

There are some people who hear the gospel message week after week and yet, sadly, make no open profession of having been saved. There are others who are privileged to know the gospel and, while believing that the gospel message is true and that an awful eternity lies ahead for those who reject God’s way of salvation, deliberately choose not to be saved so that they may continue to enjoy what the world has to offer in this life.

Abraham was not unaware of God’s intentions regarding Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:23-33), and got up early in the morning and went “to the place where he stood before the LORD: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace” (Gen. 19:27,28). God, in His sovereignty, was merciful to Lot for Abraham’s sake, “And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities

in the which Lot dwelt” (v.29).

**He dwelt in a cave.** Lot moved from Zoar because, for some reason, he was afraid to stay there, and he and his two daughters went to live in a cave in the mountain (v.30). In what follows, we see further evidence of the polluting influence that living in Sodom had on Lot and his family. On two successive nights Lot’s daughters gave wine to him, and, under the influence of alcohol, Lot committed incest (vv.31-36). The eldest daughter gave birth to a son and named him Moab, that is, “from a father”. The youngest daughter also gave birth to a son and named him Ben-am-mi, that is “son of my people” (vv.37,38). After this we hear no more concerning Lot. The last we hear of the man who lived by sight and not by faith, who did not lead a separated life and who made his choices on the basis of covetousness instead of seeking the will of God for his life, is living in a cave and, as a result of incest, having two grandsons whose descendants, the Moabites and the Ammonites, became enemies of the Children of Israel. Lot lost his possessions, his position and his wife. He himself was “saved; yet so as by fire” (1 Cor. 3:15). As a result of not seeking and doing the will of God for his life, Lot and his family experienced loss, fear, suffering and disgrace.

Lot had no true peace in this world. Although he loved the world, the “just” and “righteous” Lot was, like many a backsliding believer, distressed by all he heard and saw around him

(2Pet. 2:7,8). Although he was sensitive to, and upset by, the sin around him, Lot still preferred the position and possessions he had in Sodom to the path of separation and obedience being followed by Abraham. There is no record of Lot having any good influence in Sodom but a great deal to indicate that the standards and morals of Sodom influenced Lot and his family. Lot had not been sent to Sodom by God to witness there. Had God sent Lot to Sodom then he would have been preserved by God from the corrupting influence of Sodom as Joseph was preserved in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon. Both Joseph and Daniel were a blessing to the people in the places to which God had sent them.

The life of Lot has many lessons to teach believers. Lot’s life and end warn us of the dangers of not honestly seeking God’s guidance when we have choices to make or when we face crises in life. Unlike Abraham, Lot did not seek to worship, serve and obey God.

Lot and Abraham went together for a while and then separated. After suffering one disaster after another, Lot disappears into obscurity. Abraham’s life, faith, mistakes, obedience and increasing knowledge of God, and love for Him, have been recorded in the Word of God for the blessing, guidance and encouragement of believers in all generations, and we read that Abraham “died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years” (Gen. 25:8).



## SPLENDID TREASURES

(EPHESIANS STUDIES)

Koshy Zachariah

**17. “May give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (Eph 1:17b)**

### **A. THE CHRISTIAN’S KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Paul’s prayer is that “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may give unto you (the Ephesian Christians) the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of “Him” (God). The primary emphasis in this Petition is that they have the knowledge of God; the word “Him” is a reference to God the Father. This fact is clear from the words “the hope of His calling” in verse 18. It is God the Father who calls us, chooses us and predestinates us. Our supreme need is to know God. But this is possible only through the Lord Jesus Christ. So there is an underlying truth that we cannot separate the Father and the Son. The references given below also affirm this truth. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself in His high priestly prayer says so, “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). Apostle Paul conveys this in his second epistle to the Corinthians. We read, “God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ” (4:6). “No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son who is

in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” (John 1:18). Our Lord (Jesus Christ) prayed, “O righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you and these have known that you have sent me” (John 17:25). No doubt, the knowledge ultimately is the knowledge of God, Himself.

The term *knowledge* envisages experiential knowledge; yes Paul means profound knowledge. This is implied, as the Ephesian Christians were ordinary people, many ignorant and uneducated. Therefore, they needed the fullest knowledge – not casual, cursory or superficial – of the One who is not only the God of our Lord Jesus Christ but the ineffable “Father of glory”. That can come only when God is real to us; rather when we are conscious of Him and His presence. We should have an “encounter” with God, yes meeting with God; we should have knowledge of God, which is personal and intimate. When we are on our knees praying, do we realise His presence? Do we feel and sense something of the glory of God? The glory fills us with “awe and godly fear”. That is what Jacob felt. “Surely the Lord is in this place; I knew it not. And he was afraid and said, how dreadful is this place? This is none other but the house of God and this is the gate of heaven” (Gen 28:16-17). Jacob did not flee for the fear of God

but He called that place “House of God”; a place where he enjoyed fellowship with God. Jacob sees God’s personal interest in him and for that reason he loves Him. So is with us. When we see His presence and His glory, we experience God’s love and we love Him with all our being. We long to have fellowship with God in a true and real sense. Apostle John writes, “Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes, “Fellowship means communion, intimacy, partnership, a sharing of the same life. That is the connotation of this great word, ‘knowledge’”.

The point is ‘Do we know God’? Have we met Him and experienced His real presence? Does He speak to us and in turn do we speak to Him? D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones observes, “‘The practice of the presence of God’ by Brother Lawrence tells us that this is possible in the kitchen while you are washing the dishes and performing the most menial tasks. It matters not where you are as long as you know that this is possible that Christ died to make it possible. He died to bring us to God and to this knowledge. Is your fellowship “with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ”? Do we have a soul that thirst for God? The Psalmist expresses “as the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O, God” (42:1).

This knowledge is open to all. Two things only control this; the realisation that this is possible and then to desire for it.

## **B. WISDOM AND REVELATION:**

Apostle’s prayer is that the Ephesian Christians might have the “spirit of wisdom and revelation”. It was not that they were not already Christians. But they were babes in Christ though they were already indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The giver of wisdom and knowledge is the Holy Spirit. He is the One to guide us into all truth.....and show us things to come (John 16:13). He is the One who teaches us all things and brings all things that are given in the Scripture to our remembrance (John 14:26). He helps us to increase our knowledge to know God more and more. One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is the word of wisdom (1 Cor 12:8). As we desire and long for wisdom the Holy Spirit sees to this. The word of wisdom is the divine power from above to learn to deal with difficult situations. Be it “solving difficult problems, defending the faith, resolving conflicts, giving practical advice or pleading one’s cause before hostile authorities. Stephen so demonstrated the word of wisdom that his adversaries were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke (Acts 6:10)” (William MacDonald).

Left to ourselves, all our endeavours can never help us to come to the knowledge of God. The world by wisdom knows not God (1 Cor 1:21). Man’s mind is too small to grasp the infinities and immensities of God because He is above us and beyond us. Apart from the Holy Spirit, man can never arrive at the true knowledge of

God; His function cuts across all our normal human way of looking at truth and at knowledge. Our Lord specifically said on this, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Math 18:3). Man's ability and learning can never know the things of God. Once he admits his utter helplessness and complete bankruptcy, setting aside his intellectual powers, he through his regeneration will make a fresh start. The Lord told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again". This is an entirely different realm; yes it is the realm of the Spirit. Without Holy Spirit, knowledge of God is impossible; He has been sent in order to give us this knowledge.

The Apostle speaks of "the spirit of revelation"; he is not meaning of fresh revelation. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones opines, "Revelation here is to be understood in the following way. Man's capacity to understand spiritual truth as the result of sin and the fall has been so greatly marred that even when you put this wisdom that God has given us through the Holy Spirit before his eyes, he cannot see it or comprehend it". The Holy Spirit must operate upon us; He must open our eyes to see what there is before us. True, the Holy Spirit has inspired and guided holy men to give the Scriptures in written form, but we being babes in Christ, are in no way different from the majority of the Jews who had no idea of what they read every Sabbath (2 Cor Chapter 3). "The wondrous and glorious truth given in

the Scriptures is only seen by eyes that have been enlightened by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit alone can give this knowledge and He does so. Even the disciples did not understand Calvary and its purpose until after the resurrection, in spite of the fact that they had spent three years looking into the eyes of the Son of God and listening to His every word. They could not take it in, they could not understand" (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones). To quote him again, "Where can I find God? There is only one solution; I must wait upon God; and God must tell me about Himself. That is revelation; and it is the function of the Holy Spirit to give us this revelation. It is only thus that we shall discover the truth about God, about God's character, about God's being, about God Himself and God as God".

We all can testify to the revelation of the Holy Spirit on Scriptures written and given to us. They are never exhausted. Though we have read the Bible several times, yet as we read a passage which we have read before, we see suddenly something which stands out and speaks to us in an amazing manner. We were blind to it before. That is how preaching is possible year after year. By the Spirit of revelation, we are led to see fresh enlightenment. And that is how we are enriched every day. Now we see why Paul is praying for the Ephesian Christians that they might have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.



# Vineyard News

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

## ANDAMANS

01/08/10 **Selvakumar, Cam'Bay**  
They had an extensive ministry at Mayabander from 25<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> May. They had a special children camp there and around 110 children and youth from non-Christian background attended. Many told that they were benefited by this meeting and a few accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour. They also conducted a VBS at Campbell way from 17-20<sup>th</sup> June.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

02/08/10 **Israel Ratnam, Buchi**  
Prayers are requested for the following matters: 'Mother Home' ministries which takes care of poor and orphan children; for the construction of Assembly hall at Pallipalem, Salmonpuram, Anasuya Nagar, and NTR. Nagar Colony.

**M. Premanandam, Medipally**  
Our brother informs that he met with a bike accident and sustained multiple injuries, and his left hand was

fractured. He has undergone a surgery and is kept under supervision for ten days. He is advised rest for four months. He had spent a good amount of money for his treatment and requests prayer.

03/08/10 **V. Elia, Mulpur**

They had conducted special gospel meetings from 10 to 12<sup>th</sup> May at Mulpur. Brethren N. Ananda Rao, Gopal Reddy, and Samuel John ministered God's Word in these meetings. It was a great blessing to all believers who gathered from surrounding Assemblies. Two young sisters accepted the Lord and two others took baptism.

03/08/10

**P. Johnson Babu, Agrapharam**

Our brother with great joy informs that God enabled them to begin an Assembly testimony (Hermon Brethren Assembly) at Agrapharam on 21<sup>st</sup> March. At present they are gathering in a rented house. Prayers are solicited

## ASSAM

04/08/10

**Simon V.K, Azara**

Our brother reports that God enabled him to work in Rangiya, Assam for 18 years. At present a good number of

people are gathering there for the church services. He has shifted to a new place, namely Azara, near Guwahti railway station. Please note his new address: *Simon V.K, Gudhuli Bazar, Azara.P.O, Near Police station, Guwahti, Assam- 781 017.*

#### CHATTISGARH

05/08/10 **K.V. Thankachan, Durg** Special meetings were held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April. Bro. Thomas V. Kapp (USA) was the special speaker. Three persons from a family were baptized on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning. Regular gospel outreach work is being conducted in the Juvenile Court Jail and Central Jail of Durg district.

06/08/10 **Harison Raot, Bilaspur** On 28<sup>th</sup> April a local sister obeyed the Lord in waters of baptism. Two more believers are getting ready for the same. The short term Bible School at Katni is a great blessing to God's people. He could teach Bible Survey & 'What We Believe' in the month of April. A few more people have joined Emmaus Correspondence course from Bilaspur.

#### JHARKHAND

07/08/10 **Bablu Das, Kalyanpur** In the month of May he visited Cooch Behar district of West Bengal and the Lord used him extensively for the spread the gospel. The believers at Kalyanpur Coalfield church are doing

well. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

#### KARNATAKA

08/08/10 **Simon. A, Bhadravathi** They have started a new work in a place called Ayanur Gate and about ten people gather for weekly Gospel meeting and Bible study. A few have accepted the Lord and others also show keen interest. They also visit two villages nearby, Buddanagara and Gurupura. Prayers are solicited for these ministries.

09/08/10 **R. Yesurathnam, Hubli** The ministry here in this part of Karnataka is progressing even in the midst of fierce opposition. Some brothers are preparing themselves for water baptism. He has shifted his residence to a new house for ministry convenience. Please note his new Address: *R. Yesurathnam, No.30, Karunya Colony, Behind Sadhashiva Colony, Gagag Road, Hubli, Karnataka- 580 028.*

#### KERALA

10/08/10 **K.M. John, Pappinisseri** Brother informs that for the equipping of potential leaders and evangelists in Malabar area, they have prayerfully started a Bible college at Nileswar in Kasargod district with the encouragement of a brother from Oman. Prayers are solicited for its blessing.

11/08/10 **Arun K. Paul, Mankulam**  
By God's grace around 350 children, including tribal children, attended VBS this year. They conducted a gospel convention which was a great blessing. Prayers are coveted.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

12/08/10 **Gabbar Singh, Dalbazar**  
Two VBS were conducted at Dabra from May 3-5. At present he also works in a new place, where some people are showing keen interest to the gospel. Pray for the need of a plot for an Assembly hall construction.

**MAHARASHTRA**

13/08/10 **Sunke John, Thane**  
Here the Lord's work is progressing in two places, at Manorama Nagar in Thane and Padma Nagar in Bhiwandi. In both of these places some believers took baptism. Special prayers are needed for the work at Bhiwandi since it is getting very difficult to go out and preach the gospel.

14/08/10 **R.C. David, Mumbai**  
Our brother informs that a triple bypass surgery had been conducted on him at Asian Heart Institute on 16<sup>th</sup> June as a medical checkup revealed that he had nine blocks and three of them being major. The cost of this treatment came to about 3.5 lakhs. Please earnestly uphold him in your prayers for his complete recovery.

15/08/10 **C.D. Tambe, Bhingar**

The Lord's ministry in Ahemdagar city and surrounding villages is going on well. Pray that God may open many new doors for the gospel in the neighbouring places.

**ORISSA**

16/08/10 **Umakanta Behera, Angul**  
By God's grace the believers here are keeping well. They had conducted VBS at eleven places of Talcher and Angul districts. Prayers are solicited for the salvation of many who attended these camps and also for the educational needs of his children.

17/08/10

**Pradeep Kr Behera, Similipada**  
They had a family conference for the surrounding Assemblies at Angul. Around 130 believers attended this meeting and were blessed. Some people have accepted the Lord during this meeting. The Assembly here, started in 2008, now have 150 believers regularly attending the meetings. They have bought a piece of land to construct an Assembly hall. Since the believers in this Assembly are from poor background, they request the prayerful support of God's children for the construction of an Assembly hall.

18/08/10 **C.P. Mathew, Bhubaneswar**  
By God's grace the situation in Orissa is better now. But still freedom for evangelism is much restricted. They could conduct a training programme for 75 Oriya youths to train them for

conducting children's meeting and VBS in different places in Orissa. Prayers are solicited.

19/08/10 **Samuel P.C, Rourkela**

They had conducted a youth camp from 6-8<sup>th</sup> May and many who participated were blessed. They also had conducted a very fruitful VBS from 27-30<sup>th</sup> May. Prayers are solicited for the salvation of all participants.

### PUNJAB

20/08/10 **K.K.Oommen, Pathankot**

Brother Lindo Thomas has come from Kerala to do full time ministry at Kathua in Jammu, which is only 26km from Pathankot. Once in a week they have ministry together in this new place. On 21<sup>st</sup> May while they were doing door to door evangelism, they were beaten badly by some opponents and asked to leave the place and not continue the ministry. Please earnestly pray for a change of situation here that the ministries may go unhindered.

### RAJASTHAN

21/08/10 **Joseph John, Dholpur**

The Lord's work at Dholpur and Bari is going on well. Our brother had a fall from his house top in the month of February and was bedridden for three months. Pray for his complete recovery and for the blessing of the Lord's ministry which are going on here.

### TAMIL NADU

22/08/10

**Cherian Johnson, Thanjavur**

They are prayerfully planning to conduct a special Bible Camp for the believers of 5 districts nearby from September 30<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. They expect about 350 believers to attend this camp. Bros. Abraham Chembolla, Dr. Joseph C. Mathuram, T.K. Kuruvila, and John Samuel gave their consent to bring God's word during this time. Kindly pray for blessing.

23/08/10

**P. Sekar, Dindigul**

The Lord's ministry is going on well here. He has requested to note his new address for further prayer and communication: *P. Sekar, P.O Box. 6, Nagal Nagar, Dindigul, TN- 624 003.*

24/08/10 **E.Nagaraj, Vriddhachalam**

Our Lord's ministry is progressing here. Every Tuesday morning 9am-10am regular Bible classes are being conducted for Para-medical students. At present around 25 girls from non-Christian background are attending this study. Prayers are solicited for the salvation of these sisters and also for the good health of his wife.

25/08/10 **R.Jayapal, Sankarankovil**

They had conducted a VBS from 18-22 June and 150 children from different backgrounds attended this camp. They had also conducted an open air gospel meeting at Sankarankovil, where Bro. Joseph Rajan delivered God's word. His wife,

who was undergoing treatment at CMC Vellore for a year was called home in April. Prayers are solicited for his ministry and also for the safe delivery of his daughter who is in family way.

*26/08/10* **Mathew Paul, C'batore**  
Our brother had a very fruitful ministry in UAE for two months. The brethren in Sharjah decided to come together on Saturday to pray for India. Moreover 31 sisters committed themselves to spend 8 hours in prayer once a month. Pray that they will be given grace to be faithful.

#### UTTAR PRADESH

*27/08/10* **Kali K.Gautam, Kanpur**  
Prayers are solicited for the Lord's ministry in Kanpur, weekly activities of the assembly and outreach work. They look unto the Lord for a piece of land to start the Assembly hall construction.

#### WEST BENGAL

*28/08/10* **Timothy Das, Canning**  
By God's grace the ministry here in Canning town is going on well. In the last six months God added five new souls to the church. They had all taken baptism at Taldi village. They conducted VBS this year during summer vacation and around 84 children, attended the camp regularly. On the final day of the programme they shared gospel to all, including 25

parents who came with their children. Prayers are requested for the salvation of these dear ones and for the consolation of a sister who lost her eight year old son.

*29/08/10* **Jonathan Jha, Kulti**  
The Lord's ministry is going on well here. The Assembly at Chalmara is growing gradually by His grace. The Sunday school ministry at Bhuiya is also being blessed by the Lord. Please pray for the salvation of many from this area.

*30/08/10* **Tanmoy Shah, C'Behar**  
They as a team of nine evangelists could reach out to 150 villages and market places in Cooch Behar district in the month of May. Several people are showing keen interest to know more. God enabled them to start a new work at place called Dhalpal, 40 kms away from Cooch Behar. Bro. Ramen Roy is helping in this ministry. Prayers are solicited.

#### 31/08/10 **OTHER MATTERS**

It is a real joy to inform you all that a ministry was started at Athipet, Ambattur (Chennai) among North Indians. It is going on for the past few years with co-operation of Athipet Brethren Assembly. God was pleased to add a few souls to His fold as a result of the outreach works. Initially four Nepali youths trusted in the Lord & took baptism last year. And recently (4/7/10) thirteen youths from Orissa, Bihar & Jharkhand, who came forward in believing in Jesus, obeyed Him in the waters of baptism. Now, they have started worshipping the Lord as a new local Assembly. Prayers are requested. (Akshaya Kumar Naik-09176359920)



**KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC**

**Sethumathavan M.**

I come from Theni in Tamil Nadu. I was born and brought up in a Hindu family. I followed my religion very fervently. One day a friend of mine took me to a church to attend a meeting. After attending that meeting I felt some kind of peace in my heart. After a few days a cousin of mine Bro. Soundarajan shared the Gospel to me. Then I realized that I was a sinner and I need salvation to go to heaven. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour in 2003 and was baptized .



I was then in fellowship with the local assembly at Theni. Seeing the change in my life my parents developed interest in the things of God and by God's grace, they were also saved. In the meantime I had a desire to study the Word of God. Our local evangelist brother V.K. Williams guided me to Stewards Bible College. By God's grace I could complete one year of my studies and am now studying in second year. Please pray for me and for my future ministry. Pray also for my mother who is sick and bedridden for the the past three years.

**HOME CALL**

**Evg.P.V. Jacob, (80)** Siliguri, went to be with the Lord on 11/July/2010. He was called home on Sunday 2.00 PM at Siliguri, where he was living with his son and family (Evg. Billy P. Jacob). Sunday morning he felt sick and could not go for worship meeting. Around 1.00 PM, his condition worsened and he passed away. His wife Sis. Gracy Jacob went to be with the Lord earlier this year on 16th Feb 2010.

Evg. P. V. Jacob served the Lord in Bhilai for more than 25 years. And then at Ernakulam & Siliguri. God has given them 6 children and all of them are actively involved in the Lord's service.

The Funeral service was held at Kakanad Brethren Assembly and the burial in Valakom Brethren Cemetery on 15th July, in the presence of many relatives, believers and friends. Let us uphold the bereaved family members to the throne of Grace.

**Postal Reg: No. TN/CCN/304/10-12  
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RNI-Regn. No. TNENG/2007/20153**

**THE CASE OF SIXTEEN SOLDIERS !**

**T**wo missionaries in Malaysia had to go to the nearest town which was a considerable distance away across rough country, to collect money which had come to a bank there for them.

They set off on foot early one morning hoping to return the same day. Having arrived at the town and collected money, they set off again on their trek across the wild and lonely country, only to find that they were too tired and too far away to reach their station that night. Committing themselves to God they bivouacked (temporary encampment without tents) there on the hillside and soon fell asleep weary with the long day. Morning came and they were surprised that they had not been disturbed by bandits or beasts, went their way and arrived safely at their mission station. Some weeks later, a man came to the hospital for treatment. He stared at the missionary who attended to him and said, "I have seen you before," "No" replied the missionary, "I don't think we have met." "Oh yes we have" said the man. "You were camping out on the hillside at such and such a place a few weeks back." "Yes we were, said the missionary. "How did you know?" We didn't see anyone." "I followed you with some of my companions from the town-we had seen you go to the bank and knew you had money on you. We waited till dark to creep upon you and rob you, but when we found you we daren't attack because of the soldiers." "Soldiers?" The missionary laughed. "There were no soldiers with us, my friend." The bandit was adamant. "There were-we counted them. There were sixteen and they had swords."

The missionary humoured the man and dismissed it as an hallucination. When he came on furlough to England some time later he was telling the incident at a gathering in his home town. After the meeting a man came upto him. "What date was it that you camped out on the hillside?" "I can soon tell you that." The missionary turned to his diary. "It was such and such a night" His questioner turned up his diary too. "That night, he said, we had our weekly meeting for prayer-your name was brought forward by someone in prayer and , he added, there were sixteen of us at the meeting that night."

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