

Front Cover

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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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**PRAY FOR**

**The Gospel Fellowship Trust of India**

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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.,
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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**

### **EVANGELISATION – PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES**

I am prompted to write on the captioned subject while reading through the small booklet titled “Anubhava Kurippukal” (Experiential Jottings) in Malayalam written by Mr. M.A. Jose. His labour as we observe, for the Lord, is commendable, especially during the period of his labour in North India. What seized my attention is his observation in Page 48 under the caption – A Rethinking on Village Evangelization. He records, “Many years later, I had a relook/review about the scope of Village Evangelization. It is my conviction from my personal experiences that nothing much is achieved from the ministry of an itinerant evangelist. Those in the interior village are not able to grasp and hold on to what they have heard. Even if they have heard the gospel messages several times in the past, yet when one asks them later whether they have heard the gospel, they will aver that they

have never heard. Initially I was under the impression that I was bringing the gospel to them for the first time and as such excited. Later I realized, though they had heard the gospel earlier, they could not grasp it and retain. As a result, everything they hear is fresh topic and in that sense they are not making false statement deliberately”.

Now in Page 51 under the caption, “New resolution on Village Evangelisation”, Mr. Jose mentions the following lines. “No one can deny that the gospel has not reached every nook and corner of this country; it is continuing to reach them. The role of OM Team, Every Home Crusade, Campus Crusade, Radio etc. is worth mentioning. Even in interior villages, there will be hardly any home without a Radio. The villagers resort to listening to the Radio once they have their meals on returning from the fields at the end of the day. They listen to all Programs.

I have observed them listening to the gospel message also. As they listen to the gospel, if one asks whether they have heard about Jesus, the answer will be in the negative. If one asks them what then they are listening to, the answer will be “we do not much bother about it” and what all are spoken through the Radio, we keep on listening to (understanding void). In the light of many experiences of this nature.....I have come to the realization that the New Testament pattern is evangelization with the aim of planting Church. There is no point in itinerant preaching sowing the seed everywhere without anyone tending”. Many from Kerala and towns/cities may not fully comprehend the state of affairs in many remote villages of this country, especially North India and to them the observation of Mr. M.A. Jose will be relevant.

Despite opposition and hindrance here and there, considerable efforts are being made to reach the nook and corner of this great country with the good news of salvation so graciously provided by the Lord

God, through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many itinerant preachers. We hear of large turnout in gospel meetings; so also the distribution of tracts and literatures. But the number of committed Christian believers, as a result of such preaching and efforts, is hardly any significant. If all the reports of the commitment from the audience are reckoned, this country should have had several thousand faithfully serving the Lord. One should ask where does the problem lie? My considered view is that it is the lack of grass root level efforts. The people who live in remote villages and tribal areas – these form a large number – are naïve. They are enclosed and practically shut up in their own world. Education has not touched them much. Medical facilities hardly reach them. They work for food and therefore the children are not sent to school even if facilities are there; the reason being, that children are also earning members. If they are to be touched, we need committed men with a vision and call to integrate with these less privileged ones, talk as they talk, live as they live, love them as they

love to be loved – and lift them up to be part of the main stream. And that would help them to know the truth – the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of us do not have the call for a ministry like this and therefore we do whatever best we could do in places where we are appointed to be, to demonstrate the love of our Lord in our lives so that we could be examples to attract men to the truth. But we consistently mobilize our resources to support those men who have the call for a meaningful ministry. Many a Missionaries had come to India with a zeal that surpasses human ingenuity, to integrate themselves with the people with whom they were involved – they learnt the local language, they ate the food that they ate and made themselves part of the stream. They sacrificed their comforts and life for the cause of the gospel; most of them were highly educated, with the necessary resources to lead a very cozy life. Their contribution to the society at large was commendable, what to say of the rich contradistinction in the spiritual realm. They are men and women who valued Christian truths above their lives.

Paul said, “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you” (2 Cor 12:15).

During the last GFTI Workers Conference in Secunderabad, I was all in appreciation for a brother from Madhya Pradesh, quiet, simple and unassuming, who does a wonderful ministry, integrating himself with the people of the village. He hardly has any opposition for preaching; he is accepted by the village chief as his own family member. Further in the literary sphere, he is accepted at all levels in the Government circle. This may appear a contrary situation in the present scenario of widespread opposition and persecution reported in the various parts of the country. There are quite a few evangelists who hold the view that there is no hindrance in preaching the gospel; this was the view I heard from a senior local evangelist when I had the opportunity to join a family conference of evangelists in Indore a few years ago, organized by a brother from a Western country. Bro. George David from Mhow who also attended this

family conference resort to Homeo-treatment to reach the people with the good news of salvation and this way he integrates with the people. On the other hand, there are situations reported of the lack of co-operation from Postmen, with the result cheques and letters sent by post, never reach them. In a way that probably speaks of lack of testimony and lack of identification with the people – I am not rushing to a hasty conclusion. Everyone who has a call from the Lord for full-time ministry should only look to Him for sustenance and the needed grace to be used for the extension of His Kingdom. Villages are hardly reached and even if reached the messages of gospel go over their head. That is where greater efforts and sacrifice are called for. A large part of the Lord's servants have their base in towns, reaching the villages as often as possible and consequently, the absence of assembly testimony in villages, especially in North India.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "And to the Jews, I became as a Jew that I might gain

the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law that I might gain them that are under the law. To them that are without law, as without law (being not without law to God but under the law to Christ) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak, became I weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means, save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you" (1 Cor 9:20-23). We have an expression, "when in Rome, do as the Romans do". Paul says that when he was with the Gentiles, he adapted himself to their manner of living (But we must keep in mind that the passage deals with cultural things and not with doctrinal or moral matters). That is exactly what needs to be done for evangelization of the large many villages in the North – they are entirely different from what we see in Kerala or villages closely bordering towns in India. If extensive evangelization is to be done, the full-time servant of the Lord has to be one with the villagers, fully occupied with.



## ABRAHAM THE FRIEND OF GOD (7)

Cliff Jones, U.K

*(Contd from last issue-7)*

**T**he Lord Jesus Christ was made “to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21). We read concerning Abraham’s faith that “it was imputed to him for righteousness”. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:22-25). Believers, “being justified by faith” (Rom. 5: 1), are “children of God”: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8: 16,17).

God had promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous “as the dust of the earth” (Gen. 13:16). The dust would refer to Abraham’s natural descendants, that is, the Jews (Jn. 8:37). The stars referred to in Genesis 15:5 would refer to his spiritual descendants, for “they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham” (Gal. 3:7).

### **The Lord made a covenant with Abraham.**

God reminded Abraham that He had brought him “out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it” (Gen. 15:7). Abraham asked God how he would know that he would inherit the land (v.8). In response to this question God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham who was told to bring an heifer, a she goat and a ram, each of them being three years old. He was also to bring a dove and a young pigeon (v.9). Abraham brought these animals and, with the exception of the birds, cut them in two and placed the halves opposite each other (v. 10). The custom of the time was that, when making a covenant, both parties to the covenant would pass through the divided pieces of the animals which had been killed, thereby indicating that the same would be done to the party who broke the covenant as had been done to the animals. Only God, represented by a smoking furnace and a burning lamp, passed between the pieces because the covenant with Abraham was unconditional and

only God could fulfil it" (v. 17). Animals had been sacrificed, blood shed, and God bound Himself by an unconditional covenant to fulfil the promises made to Abraham concerning his seed and the land. Birds came down on the carcasses and Abraham drove them away (v. 11). The fulfillment of the covenant under which Abraham would possess the land was not going to be straightforward. Hostile nations would want to prevent Abraham from obtaining the land and Abraham would have to drive them away.

When the sun was going down, Abraham fell into a deep sleep and experienced terror, horror and a great darkness (v. 12), all of which indicated the severe and awful bondage, suffering and oppression the Israelites would experience during four hundred years in Egypt (v. 13; Exod. 12:40). God would judge Egypt and the Israelites would come out with great possessions (v.14; Exod. 12:35,36). Abraham was promised a long life (v.15), a promise which would be reassuring to him when he was passing through difficulties and dangers. Abraham was told that the Israelites would come again to Canaan "in the fourth generation"

when the iniquity of the Amorites was complete and ready for divine judgment (v. 16). God would use the Israelites to carry out judgment upon the inhabitants of Canaan.

God made a covenant with Abraham laying down the boundaries of the promised land, and said to him, "Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites" (Gen. 15:18-21). These ten tribes would occupy the land God was giving to Abraham and his descendants. The tribes would be overcome by power given by God to His people whose faith and trust would be in Him.

Up to the present time, the land promised by God has not been occupied by Israel. Solomon had dominion over a large area of the land (1 Kgs. 4:21,24), but the Israelites did not occupy and possess the land. The covenant will be fulfilled completely in the Millennium when the Lord Jesus Christ will reign from the throne of David (Lk. 1:32,33; Isa. 9:6,7).



## SPLENDID TREASURES

(EPHESIANS STUDIES)

Koshy Zachariah

### **15. WHEREFORE, I also after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all saints (Ephesians 1:15)**

In our last issue, we have seen that subsequent to the sealing with the Spirit, “we have the earnest of the Spirit until the redemption of the purchased possession”; we are the purchased possession. That is the truth, conveyed to us in the last part of a grand statement starting with verse 3 to verse 14 without interruption.

The verse we are considering now starts with the word ‘WHEREFORE’. Apostle Paul apparently is linking “what has gone before” with “what is to follow”. The fame of the Christian believer’s faith has travelled across the borders and reached the ears of the Apostle. He knew them well because it was he who had taken the Gospel to Ephesus;

a large number were saved as the result of his ministry. At the time of writing of this epistle it could be that many more would have been added to the Church since Paul had been at Ephesus; it is quite natural therefore that he will not know many of them personally. But what he had heard of them was quite encouraging. The testimony was highly commendable and worth noting; we read, “I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus”. D Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes, “They were still exercising their faith; it had not been some passing emotion which had come and gone; they had gone on believing, they had continued as Christians”. This was to be brought to their attention to encourage and strengthen them more. We must bear in mind that this Epistle is a pastoral Epistle and the purpose is to encourage them to continue exercising their

faith. The early Apostles believed that the Christians should be aware of the great doctrines of the Faith and these doctrines should have full application to their very lives; then only others could have an appreciation of the essence of Christianity. The believers in Ephesus are the “called out ones” from among the Jews and Gentiles. They are the first fruits of the great harvest to come, they being sharers together in Christ.

What did Apostle Paul hear of the Ephesian Christians faith? Before we consider this issue, let us look at what Apostle Paul had written to the Corinthians in the matter of faith. “Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves” (2 Cor 13:5). Everyone should be conscious of the need of proving his own Christianity; he should examine whether he be in the faith. The Christian life needs to be constituted of “love for holiness, love of the brethren, practical righteousness, obedience and separation

from the world”. Lack of these amounts to lack of testimony. Apparently, the Ephesian believers demonstrated these characteristics and as a result, these spoke of their solid faith, reaching far and wide.

In this context, we need to look at what we are told in 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:2 and 4. “By this we know that we love the children of God.....and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”. The lines underlined convey about “Practice and belief”. These are the tests provided for the Christians. Apostle Paul is also emphasizing the same in 2 Corinthians 13:5; our belief and practice. We could state that these are two acid tests. This is what James asserts “faith and works”. “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.....I will show thee my faith by my works” (James 2:17,18). For a while, look at 1 Corinthians Chapter 13. Apostle Paul says that it is useless for a man to say that he has faith, if he is lacking in love. He may speak with the tongues of

men or of angels; it could be so that he has certain unusual gifts. These things are of no avail. The proof of true faith is that it shows itself in practice; otherwise faith is nothing but an intellectual belief.

Apostle Paul speaks about the Ephesian believers “after I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all the saints”. The first fact concerning them is their “faith in the Lord Jesus”. This refers to their personal, individual faith in the Lord Jesus and is the most vital thing. Christianity is differentiated from other religions on this count; “Faith in the Lord Jesus”. Christianity speaks of an exemplary living as a result of the faith in the Lord Jesus; not of benevolence as a result of being very good people, very moral people. In God’s sight “there is none righteous, no, not one; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:10, 23). But by faith in the Lord Jesus one is made righteous (Philippians 3:9).

“In the realm of Christianity, the acid test is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. A Christian is a man in whose life and in whose whole outlook the Lord Jesus Christ is at the centre. He sees everything in Him. He starts with Him, he ends with Him. Jesus Christ has become the controlling factor everywhere. The Christian is a man who sees and finds everything in His Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (D. Martyn Lloyd Jones). If a person says that he has faith in the Lord Jesus, he acknowledges and confesses that he has no faith in himself and that all his righteousness is nothing but filthy rags. He believes that Jesus Christ came into this world to save him and that it is He Himself who saves him.

Apostle Paul says in verse 15, “faith in the Lord Jesus”. Why this usage “Lord Jesus” is different from what he has used several times in chapter 1 itself. He refers to Him as “Christ Jesus”, as “Jesus Christ”, as “the Lord Jesus Christ” and so on. The reason is obvious. He brings

the essential truth. He is the Lord and also Jesus; He is God and also He is man. Lord and Jesus are the two poles. As Lord, He is the second person in the blessed Holy Trinity and as man he is the Babe in His utter helplessness, the Man, the One who went to the Cross, the One who was buried, the One who rose again. All is included in "Lord Jesus". God was manifest in the flesh. One cannot separate the Lord and Jesus; the Person is one.

Now, we turn to the second aspect "love unto all the saints". The one follows the other. Peter in his first epistle chapter one verse 22 asserts "see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently". Prior to this passage he says "you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love". By nature we all hate each other. We read in Titus 3:3, "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving diverse lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating

one another". This is the natural state of man. But what of the Ephesian believer? Paul has heard that the Christians in Ephesus have love unto all the brethren. That is enough for him to come to the conclusion that the Ephesian believers were genuine in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a proof that the Holy Spirit was in them. We cannot love the brethren unless the Holy Spirit is resident within us. He produces love and especially for all the saints. God is love and it is quite natural that a born-again Christian exhibits this characteristics in him; a feature of the new nature. He loves the worldly people but not their sins. But the worldly people will try to distance themselves from the Christian believers because they find them dull and uninteresting; but they recognize the new nature and inherent love in a Christian believer. But the Christian believers find tremendous pleasure in the

company of each other; like attracts like: birds of same feather flock together. Why this? Blood is thicker than water; we are of the same blood because we are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and are made members of the body of Him. We feel that we belong to the same family. If we love the brethren, the saints, it generalizes a "renewed life" and is an all-inclusive test. Apostle John holds, "This is His Commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another" (1 John 3:23).

A Christian's love for all the saints is also a proof that he loves God. He loves them because they are in the same relationship to God; if he loves God, he loves also the fellow Christians. All Christians make the body of Christ but differ in function (1 Cor 12:3-8; Eph 4:7-16). Members of the body are organically related (Eph 2:19-22). The Christians walk together in the direction of heaven. In this regard, "A good story is told in connection with Philip

Henry, the father of Matthew Henry, the commentator. He and a certain young woman had fallen in love with each other. She belonged to a "higher" circle of society than he did but the young lady had become a Christian and therefore social standing no longer counted with her or constituted any kind of obstacle to their marriage. Her parents however were not pleased and expostulating with her they said, "This man Philip Henry, where has he come from, to which she gave the immortal reply, "I don't know where he has come from but I know where he is going" (Taken from D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones book "God's ultimate purpose"). We love the fellow Christians (believers) because we know that together we are marching to Zion, the abode of the same "Father"; our God. How do people hear of our faith and our love for the saints? Ponder anew this point.



# Vineyard News

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

## ANDHRA PRADESH

01/06/10 **V. Elia, Mulpur**  
Our brother is being sustained and kept safely by the Lord for the last 50 years in His glorious service. He was called into full time ministry in the year 1959. Now he has began the work of a small house; but suspended due to financial problems. Prayers are requested.

02/06/10 **G. John, Vidavalur**  
On 3rd April they had a collective gospel sharing day. Around 50 members as a team shared the gospel in this area and God granted them 11 new souls on that day. Prayers are solicited for the growth of these new believers.

## ASSAM

03/06/10 **Biren Goyari, Tamulpur**  
By God's grace the ministry here is going on well. They have regular village outreach work, Bible studies, prayer meetings, and Emmaus Correspondence course ministries. Please pray that the Word of God may

be powerfully communicated to the people of this area.

## BIHAR

04/06/10 **P.J. Tomy, Patna**  
Recently four families have come to the Lord. Moreover 18 people are attending the Bible classes regularly. In the villages they are showing Jesus films for the better understanding of the gospel message. They desperately need a generator for this purpose. Please pray for this special need.

05/06/10 **Bhagwan Paswan, Motipur**  
The ministry is progressing here. God continues to open many new doors for His glory in this area. Door to door village ministry and market outreach are going on well. Prayers are coveted.

06/06/10 **Johny Joseph, Hajipur**  
They had an outreach and VBS at a place called Sonpur from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Brethren from different parts of Bihar led the meetings. Many who attended these meetings were immensely blessed. Prayers are solicited for their salvation.

07/06/10

**Abadh Bihari Lal, Munger**

They had a day's gospel meeting at Munger town on 31<sup>st</sup> March and Bro. Jeby K Simon shared God's word. Around 150 gathered together to hear the gospel and some of them accepted the Lord. At present around 50 people are gathering for the Sunday service and 17 of them taking part in the Lord's Table. They also had VBS in four places in the month of April and May. There are 25 children regularly attending children's meetings. Prayers are solicited.

### GUJARAT

08/06/10

**V.P. Mathew, Kutch**

Our brother underwent an operation in Tiruvalla Medical Mission and on bed rest for another one month. Please pray for his complete recovery and good health and also for the furtherance of God's work here.

09/06/10

**Joseph T.L., Jamnagar**

By the grace of God all the believers of Jamnagar Assembly are keeping well. Special meetings and gospel outreach works are being carried out regularly. Prayers are coveted for the growth of this Assembly.

### JHARKHAND

10/06/10

**Sushil Hansda, Jamtara**

Here the Lord's ministry is going on well. Our brother got married on 5<sup>th</sup>

May. Prayers are solicited for the blessing of this new couple, so that they can serve the Lord as a family.

11/06/10

**Rajendra Rajwar, Dhanbad**

Through an outreach work carried out in the month of April, many new doors are opened for the gospel and two new believers were added to the church. Two other young men Rajesh Turi and Rameshwar Turi are eager for the word of God. Please pray for their salvation and also for the spiritual growth of the new souls.

12/06/10

**Shailendra Murmu, Sakrogar**

Assembly activities are going on well here. They had a three days special meeting for the spiritual growth of the believers at Sahibganj from 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> April. More than 100 believers gathered and 26 new believers obeyed the Lord in waters of baptism at this occasion. Prayers are solicited for the spiritual growth of these new believers and also for his house construction.

### KARNATAKA

13/06/10

**Rachaiah, Santhe Marahalli**

Here a new Assembly testimony started in the town and is now gradually increasing in number. Various ministries are being done here regularly. Please pray for the growth of this Assembly and also for all the activities..

14/06/10 **Simon A, Bhadravathi**  
Prayers are requested for the Lord's work in Hosabullapura, Ujjanipura and Ayanner gate. Some people from these areas believed on the Lord and a few are very keen in studying God's word. Three sisters expressed their desire to take baptism. Prayers are also coveted for the recovery of sister Martha who is under treatment for her severe headache.

15/06/10 **Koteswara Rao, Bellary**  
He had a fruitful time with the believers at Tenali at the dedication service of their new Assembly hall and gospel meetings. At Bellary some believers expressed their desire to take baptism. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

#### KERALA

16/06/10

**Peter Philip, Vadakkencherry**  
Our brother is slowly recovering from his sickness. Now he is actively involved in the meetings in the Assembly. At present he is not able to involve in outreach ministry due to his ailment. Pray that God may give him full strength to go out for the ministry in good health and be His witness.

#### MAHARASTRA

17/06/10 **Simon Anose, Andheri**  
The Lord's ministry is continuing here through regular house visiting, Bible

study meetings, prayer meetings, and outreach works. Prayers are coveted for the blessings of these ministries.

18/06/10 **K.A. Poulse, Pune**  
Recently he visited Kerala to meet his relatives and the Lord kept him safe during the travel and the ministry in different Assemblies. They had a blessed VBS here from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Many children attended and were blessed. Bro. Jeby Simon from Bihar took the classes.

#### ORISSA

19/06/10 **Susanth Dukhi, Jaypore**  
Our Lord's ministry is progressing here. They have planned outreach and VBS in 11 villages this year. They have also started a village evangelism ministry in the month of March and will continue till the end of June. Earnest prayers of the saints everywhere are solicited.

20/06/10 **B.B. Hanoch, Rayagada**  
They had conducted two days special meetings at Rayagada. They also had a short term Bible school for the Assembly brethren in the month of May. In addition to the ongoing ministries here, they have started a work, in a village 65 kms away from Rayagada. They were able to make some contacts in this area. Prayers solicited for the blessings of the ministry.

## PUNJAB

21/06/10 **Vijaya Raju P, Amritsar**  
They had profitable Bible study classes at Amritsar from April 21- 23<sup>rd</sup>. They also had special Bible classes for the teenagers during this time. All the attendees were blessed. Please continue to pray that the Assembly would be strengthened with some more local believers.

## RAJASTHAN

22/06/10 **Thankachan, Bhilwara**  
By God's grace His work is progressing here. God enabled them to start a new work in a village, namely Manjrop, where the gospel is not heard. Now they have started a regular Bible study here and many are attending. Prayers are solicited for the furtherance of the gospel here and also for his good health as he is suffering from different ailments.

## TAMIL NADU

23/06/10  
**R. Parandhaman, Sholinghur**  
Outreach and Sunday school ministries are going on in many nearby villages. There are 40 people attending the Sunday worship and 30 of them partaking from the Lord's Table. In a new Assembly at Srikalikapuram, there are 15 members ready to take baptism.

Weekly gospel meetings are going on in two other villages also. Prayers are coveted.

24/06/10 **Babu J, Erode**  
For the last 44 years the Lord's work is going on well here. Now there are 92 believers partaking from the Lord's Table. They have started a new project to visit 502 villages in Erode district. As the result of this work, thus far 6 persons believed in the Lord and are baptized at Kodumudi. At a place known as Gopichettipalayam, a family of 8 members accepted the Lord were baptized on 28<sup>th</sup> January. A New Testament Assembly testimony was established here on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Prayers are solicited for the growth of these two new Assemblies.

25/06/10 **R.Jeyapal, Sankarankoil**  
By God's grace the Lord's work at Sankarankoil and Veeriruppu is going on well. They had a gospel outreach programme in the month of February, and they had visited 20 villages, and preached the gospel in 55 places. They also had a one day follow up work at Perumputhur. In the weekly Bible study at Sankarankovil around 20 people regularly attend to study the Word of God. Pray for the growth of this Assembly and also for his good health.

26/06/10 **Jayalal Thomas, Kovai**  
Due to a stroke on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> he has been sick and was bedridden for more than two months. His daughter's wedding was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> January and God gave him enough

strength to attend. On 16<sup>th</sup> February he had undergone a surgery and now by the prayers of the saints, he is recovering slowly. Please note his residential address for communication: *Jayalal Thomas, 43, Co-operative Colony, TVS Nagar Road, Kavundamplayam, Coimbatore- 641 030.*

27/06/10 **P.P Thomas, Udumalpet**  
He was admitted in the hospital due to sun burn and kidney failure. Now taking rest at home, but unable to move his legs properly. Earnest prayers are coveted.

28/06/10 **S. Samuel, Madurai**  
By God's grace the ministries of Southern Gospel Team are going on well. They had a special work at Kenguvarpatti on 27th March and at Chennai in the month of May. Prayers are solicited for the blessings.

29/06/10 **N. Nagendran, Manamadurai**  
Brother has been suffering from chest pain for a long time; so he was admitted to a hospital in Maduari where he underwent Angiogram, which showed that he has five blocks. Need urgent treatment.

#### WEST BENGAL

30/06/10 **Billy P. Jacob, Siliguri**  
Brother mentions that his mother Gracy Jacob, w/o P.V Jacob, passed into glory recently. Prayers are coveted for the bereaved ones in the family. He requests earnest prayers


of the saints for the need of a van for effective ministry in these North-eastern parts of the country. By God's grace the ministries are progressing.

**Molay Kanti Das, Kolkatta**  
Ministries here are in progress especially the children ministry. Every Wednesday they gather for Bible studies in Sajirhat. During this summer they have planned VBS in many places. Prayers are needed.

#### OTHER MATTERS

**Christian Brn Church, Thrissur**  
Brother Jayan Cherussery of this Assembly resigned his job and started full time ministry in 2004 in obedience to the call of God. The Assembly was convinced of his call and has commended him in 2006.

**Sujith Kumar Sune, Jeypore**  
His mother had a stroke and got paralyzed on her left side. He has completed his Biblical study from BBI Pathanamthitta and now is involved in full time ministry.

**Bethesda Christian Assembly, Imphal,** informs that during the special meetings which were held from 21-25 April-2010 at Uripok Assembly, seven believers were baptized and added to the fellowship. Prayers are solicited for these new believers and for the growth of the assembly ministries in these parts. (*Jefry/Joychandra*) 

**KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC**

**P. Yakkobu**

I come from Tiruttanni in Tamil Nadu. I was born and brought up in a Christian family. I came to know the Lord through an evangelist working with CMCT, in 1996. It was brother Samson Jayakumar who led me to the NT principles of the Church. And after baptism I was in the fellowship with the Assembly at Kallikuppam, Chennai. The Lord gave me a burden for the perishing souls. So I committed my life to the ministry. In 2003, I resigned my job and came out for the ministry, being commended by the Kallikuppam Assembly. However, I wanted to get some training in the Scriptures and so joined the Stewards Bible College as a dayscholar. I finished one year of studies. I am labouring for the Lord at Tiruttanni for the past eight years. And by God's grace, a small assembly of 26 believers are gathering there. I am married to Girija and have a daughter by name Priscilla aged nine. Please pray for my studies and also for the ministry at Tiruttani.



**EVANGELIST MURDERED !!**

**Ravi Murmu** (28), Evangelist, Jamalpur, Bihar, was brutally killed on 2nd May, while coming back after a film show in Laxmanpur (Bihar). He went along with a team and on return he was alone as others had left little early. When he didn't reach home late night, a search ensued whereby they found his severally lacerated dead body. His one hand was severely cut, and there were deep wounds on his neck and other parts of the body. The reasons for the attack is still unknown. His belongings at the time of attack were found intact including his motorbike, cell phone, watch & Bible. He is survived by his wife Rinku, 8year old daughter - Celesty and widowed mother. Ravi Murmu is the younger brother of Evangelist Shailendra Murmu, Sahibganj, Jharkhand. He was a commended worker of Bethel Assembly (Jamalpur) where Yunus K Mandal is the evangelist. The Funeral was conducted on 3 May at 5pm. Let us remember the grieving family members in prayers. May the Lord bestow upon them Heavenly Grace, Peace and Strength and console them with the Word of God. May the PEACE that passeth understanding rule over their hearts.

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**SOME DAY !**

Some day all doubt and mystery  
Will be made clear;  
The threatened clouds which now we see  
Will disappear

Some day what seems a punishment  
or loss or pain  
Will prove to be God's blessing sent  
For very gain

Some day our weary feet will rest  
In sweet content  
And we will know how we are blest  
By what was sent;

And looking back, with clearer eyes,  
O'er life's short span,  
Will see with wondering, glad surprise  
God's perfect plan;

And knowing that the way we went  
Was God's own way,  
Will understand His wise intent  
Some day-some day !