

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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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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## CHRISTIAN LIFE – (III)

### DECREASING SELF

**O**ne of the principal objectives of a true Christian is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in his life. This calls for a process of decreasing the self. Then only the Lord Jesus Christ might be able to live His life in him. Apostle Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20). The cardinal truth is that the self in a person is crucified with Christ on Calvary. This results in absolute surrender to live a life by continued dependence on Christ and Him alone. The greatest hindrance in winning over souls to the Lord is the self; its pride, its ego and what not.

John the Baptist declared, “He that cometh from above is above all;.....He that cometh from heaven is above all” (John 3:31). The entire purpose of John’s ministry is in this verse. He kept himself in the

background to point to men the true worth of the Lord Jesus Christ. He did not want attraction to himself; he said, “He must increase but I must decrease” (v 30). These statements were made by John when there arose a question between some of John’s disciples and the Jews whether the baptism of John was better than that of Jesus – which baptism had greater power or greater value. It was quite natural, being loyal to their master, that John’s disciples argued that no baptism could be better than that of their master. We read in verse 28 the declaration by John that he had pointed out to them time and again that he was not the Christ and that he was simply sent to prepare the way of the Messiah. He was referring to his earlier testimony mentioned in John 1:23-24. He clearly told to the Priests and Levites who were sent to him from Jerusalem (His disciples would have heard it), “I am the voice of the one crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord as said the Prophet Esaias” (v 23). He did

not mind his disciples leaving him as his sole purpose was to see that the one who was before him (Jesus Christ) should be preferred (v 30), magnified and glorified. What a selfless life? The short life he lived in this earth was a life devoid of "self" and he only wanted to be a forerunner heralding the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was content with a rough coat made of camel's hair and a subsistence diet of locusts and wild honey – shunning the normal comforts and pleasures of life. William MacDonald opines, "It must have been a convincing, scalding experience to meet John – a man who cared for none of the things that people ordinarily live for. His absorption with spiritual realities must have made others realise how poor they were. His self renunciation was a stinging rebuke to the worldliness of his day".

To-day, the life style of believers has drastically changed to conform in every way to the pattern of heathens. We have almost become a denomination. Believers hardly find time to read and assimilate the scriptures. Prayer times are minimal. When material prosperity happens, spiritual poverty sets in. The worship

meetings become a ritual affair. Bible studies and prayer meetings hardly find even one tenth of the Church membership. The quest is for material possessions. Even among the few who show to be faithful, the undercurrent of ego, pride, power-monging and arrogance is painfully visible. With the result, the same problem mentioned in the Corinthian Church – divisions and contentions – is the order of the day. Amassing wealth has become an all absorbing nature of believers. The more the wealth, the more the tendency not to part with even for evangelical needs, which is the principal command the Lord has given to His disciples. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations", "For the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Tim 6:10). What evil is he speaking of? In the same verse we read, "Which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows". We have the warnings in Mathew Chapter 6. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doeth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal; for where your treasure is there will your heart be also" (vv 19,21). How can we live a selfless life? When we are

content with what the Lord provides. If the provision is more, the more the desire to utilize it for the Lord's work. Paul wrote about himself, "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil 4:11). The writer to the Hebrews says, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have" (13:5). We read in Mathews Chapter 6, "Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what shall ye eat or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the meat and the body than raiment" (v 25)?

One may think that I have digressed from the topic in the earlier paragraph. I was only highlighting how we are led astray from a simple and selfless life – a life that may live for the glory of God – by the riches and pleasures of this world. We ought to be conscious of the pitfall before us. When we are materially blessed, we should not assume that this is a part of the spiritual blessings. When this happens we tend to be self centered instead of leading a simple and humble life enriched with the humility of our Lord." We should derive the major strength and inspiration for a selfless life

from the Lord Himself; and also those who were His faithful witnesses. The Lord did not cling on to His rights as God. "But made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men and being found in fashion as man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death even the death of the Cross" (Phil 2:7,8). We are supposed to have this mind, which was in Christ Jesus. Paul says about himself, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ, yea doubtless and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung that I may win Christ" (Phil 3:7,8). We always ought to be conscious that we are "always bearing about in the body, the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (2 Cor 4:10). The life of the servant of God is one of the constant dying to manifest the life of the Lord in his body.

The very life of Apostle Paul is a wonderful example for us to consider. Every moment from his conversion on the way to Damascus, he made use of for the Lord and His glory. We

read, "But when it pleased God who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son to me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood" (Gal 1:15,16). He wrote to the Romans, "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service" (12:1). No one with a "self" in him can be a living sacrifice. Paul's selfless service for the Lord could be seen in Acts 19. In Ephesus, for three months, Paul visited the synagogue speaking to the intellectuals of the people (v 8) and then in the school of Tyrannus he taught the disciples for two years to equip them to teach others (v 10). The selfless life is evident in his zeal and commitment. When Agabus warned Paul of the dangers in Jerusalem, he would not be persuaded to cancel his visit. "Then Paul answered, what mean ye to weep and to break mine heart; for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13). In 2nd Corinthians Chapter 11 verses 23-30 we have a glimpse of Paul's suffering in the service of

the Lord. "In labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths often. (Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep); in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers...in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness... if I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern my infirmities". What an example? What a pattern of life? "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you, though the more abundantly I love you the less I be loved" (2 Cor 12:15). William MacDonald writes, "Here we have a beautiful glimpse into the unquenchable love of the Apostle Paul, for the people of God at Corinth. He was willing gladly to give himself in tireless service and sacrifice for their souls, that is, for their spiritual welfare". May the Lord help us to ensure that day by day the self in us decreases for the glory of God.



## THE HIND OF THE DAWN

Merwin Wishart, Ireland

The Lord Jesus expounded to the two disciples as they walked on the road to Emmaus 'in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself' Lk 24:27. In John 5:39 speaking of all of the Old Testament, He said 'They are they which testify of me'. Doubtless on every page of Scripture as the Spirit of God illuminates our minds to understand, something of the Person and work of Christ can be seen.

In Botany there is that which speaks of Christ. He is **The Rose of Sharon** and **The Lily of the Valleys**, Song of Solomon 2 v. 1. **The Plant of Renown** Ez. 34:29. **The True Vine** Jn. 15 v. 1. **The Root of David** Rev. 5:5. **The Stem of Jesse** Is. II v. 1. Behold the man whose name is **The Branch** Zech. 6 v 12. In Astronomy there is that which speaks of Christ. He is **The Sun of Righteousness** Mal. 4:2 and **The Bright and Morning Star** Rev. 22:16. The Sun of Righteousness in relation to Israel and the Bright and Morning Star to the church. In Geology He is **The Rock** 1 Cor. 10:4 and **The Foundation Stone** Is. 28:16. In Zoology He is **The Lamb** Is. 53:7 **The Lion** of the tribe of Judah Rev. 5 v.

The name that we will now consider is found in the title of Ps. 22 Ajeleth Shahar **The Hind of the Dawn.**

### 1. THE BIRTH OF THE HIND

Reference is made to the birth of the Hind in the Book of Job Ch.39:1-3. In these verses Job is being questioned by the Lord to emphasize to him the limit of his knowledge. Questions are asked in relation to the Hind. 1). v. 1 Canst thou

mark when the hinds do calve? 2). v. 2 Canst thou number the months that they fulfil?

It is clear that to Job there was mystery in connection with the birth of the Hind. How it speaks to one of whom we read 1Tim.3:16 Great is the mystery of Godliness God was manifest in flesh.

The incarnation of Christ is clearly taught in the Word of God and we believe it with all our hearts but it is beyond our understanding. Adam came to the world by creation. We were born by generation. The Lord Jesus came into the world by incarnation.

We bow in wonder as we remember the words of the Angel to Mary 'that Holy thing which shall be born of thee shalt be called The Son of God' Luke 1:35.

In Bethlehem God was not born but the one who was born was God and at Calvary God did not die but the one who died was God.

### 2. THE HIND GROWING UP

In Job 39:4 we read of the young hind growing up. Their young ones are in good liking, they grow up with corn.

Isaiah in Chapter 53:2 speaks of the Lord Jesus growing up as a tender plant and as a root out of a dry ground. Surrounded by all the weeds and briars of this world of sin there grew up a tender plant exquisite in its beauty, emitting a fragrance that ascended to heaven bringing infinite pleasure to the heart of God.

In Luke 2:52 'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man'. During those years before the beginning of his public ministry very little is revealed to us in Luke. He was subject to Mary and Joseph. How wonderful that the Divine comment on those years given in Matt. 3:17 was 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased'.

### **3. THE HIND-SURE FOOTED**

Ps. 18:33 He maketh my feet like hind's feet. v. 36. My feet did not slip. The Hind with grace and agility can move safely on high mountain crags and terrain that would be inaccessible to other animals.

All of humanity are included in Isaiah's statement in ch 53:6. All we like sheep have gone astray and turned everyone to his own way. There is one who stands alone unique in that every step he took on earth was in fellowship with God Jn. 8:29. I do always those things which please him.

1 Pet. 2:21 Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example that we should follow his steps. Peter does not say that we should follow in his steps we can never walk perfectly as he walked but it is our responsibility to follow his steps. Surely the sum of all the teaching of Christ if it had to be condensed into few words would be 'Follow Me'. Solomon in Song of Solomon ch 1:8 speaks of 'The footsteps of the flock'. Peter speaks of the footsteps of the Shepherd.

### **4. THE HIND FORSAKEN**

Jer. 14:5. The Hind also calved in the field and forsook it because there was no grass. Jeremiah records how that the

Hind because of the severe drought did that which was contrary to its nature and forsook its young, speaking to us of one who on the Cross was forsaken by God. Peter denied him, Judas betrayed him, the disciples forsook him and fled. From the Cross we hear the heart rending cry piercing through the darkness My God My God Why hast thou forsaken me?

In the context of Ps. 22 the tender hind was surrounded by ferocious beasts all seeking to make it their prey, v. 12 the Bulls of Bashan, v. 16 dogs, v. 21 the Lion. These doubtless referred to human and infernal foes which were arrayed against Christ but the psalm commences with the heartcry from the lonely sufferer. Why hast thou forsaken me? We remember with gratitude that He was forsaken that we might never be forsaken. He was rejected that we might be accepted. He went outside the city that we might be brought to the inside of Heaven. He suffered that we might not suffer. He died that we might live. How wonderful that we as Christians can live in the enjoyment day by day of his unfailing promise in Heb. 13 v. 5 I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.

### **5. THE HIND LOOSED**

In Jacob's prophecy concerning his sons he said of Naphtali Gen. 49 :21 Naphtali is a hind let loose he giveth goodly words.

This same word is used by Peter on the Day of Pentecost referring to the resurrection of Christ Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up having loosed the pains of death because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

He is the invincible Christ. Herod could not kill him. Satan could not defeat

him. Death could not destroy him. The grave could not hold him. On the third day God raised him up having loosed the pains of death. Notice it was utterly impossible that death could hold him, it could exert no claim whatever on the sinless spotless Son of God. The only man who ever lived over whom death had no claim yet of his own will he could say 'I lay down my life of myself I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again.' John 10:18.

It is further said of Naphtali that he giveth goodly words. How precious are the words of the Lord after his resurrection sending his disciples to preach the gospel and to teach all that he commanded. Matt. 28:19-20. Words of challenge and commission to Peter when he said 'Lovest thou me' and 'feed my sheep' John 21:15-17.

#### **6. THE HIND IN HIGH PLACES**

Ps. 18:33. He maketh my feet like hinds feet and setteth me upon high places. Because of the surefootedness of the Hind and its agility it can climb to high places. A wonderful picture of him who was given the lowest place on earth. Herod with his men of war set him at nought Luke 13:11 but now occupies the highest place in heavenly glory. The prophecy written centuries before his birth was 'He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high,' Is. 52:13. God has highly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name, Phil. 2:9.

In Eph. 1:21, Paul reminds us He is far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named not only in this world but also in that which is to come. How amazing to

remember that **at this moment** He appears in the presence of God for us. He is our Advocate with the Father, Our Intercessor and our Great High Priest.

#### **7. HIND OF THE DAWN**

Christ as the Hind of the Dawn reminds us of the approaching morning when the Lord will come. Song of Solomon Ch. 2:8,9 The voice of my beloved, behold he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills My beloved is like a Roe or a young Hart. V. 17 Until the day break and the shadows flee away be Thou like a Roe or a young Hart upon the mountains of Bether. When a believer dies the Scripture says he falls asleep. This term is used of Stephen even though he suffered a violent death as a martyr yet we read 'He fell asleep'. But the believer sleeps in view of the morning when the Lord will come. In 1 Cor. 15:51 Paul wrote Behold I show you a mystery we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed in moment in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump.

A beautiful picture of this great event is seen in John ch. 11:11. When Lazarus died the Lord Jesus said 'Our friend Lazarus sleepeth but I go that I may awake him out of sleep.'

When the morning comes when the Lord returns every sleeping saint will rise and together with the living saints be changed, given glorified bodies and caught up to be forever with the Lord. The night is far spent The day is at hand.

May this seven fold view of Christ on the 'Hind of the Dawn' draw out our hearts further to our beloved Lord.



## 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 no,

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.*

## ANDHRA PRADESH

*01/03/10* **V.Ramana. P, Srikakulam**

The Lord has enabled them to start assembly work at four places in Andhra - Orissa border. In the month of December they had a special open air gospel outreach at Gajapathi a village. Now in Andhra border there are two Assemblies and around 80 people partake in the Lord's Supper. Now they face opposition from the people, as they do not have a place to gather. Now they are prayerfully considering to build an Assembly hall for these two Assemblies. Prayers are needed.

*02/03/10* **G. Israel, Pagidala**

Here the ministries are going on well. Bro. D. John of Nandikottur helps in the ministries here. The house in which Bro. Israel stays has many cracks due to heavy rains. Now they are desperately in need of a house. Please prayerfully support this ministry.

**V. Moses, Macherlavaripalem**

Here the Lord's ministry is progressing. Recently six people believed on the Lord and were baptized on 17/01/10. Prayers are solicited for

the spiritual growth of these new believers.

*03/03/10* **Joseph Narsiah, Bheemgal**

They had a very profitable meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, when four neighboring Assemblies came together to praise God and begin the new year with the Lord and the Lord blessed this day a memorable day as 4 new believers obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

*04/03/10* **Paul Gandhi, Modukur**

Here the Lord's ministry is being carried on with much prayer and diligence in this New Year. In the month of November-09, seven people obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism. Pray that many more might be added to the church this year.

*05/03/10* **A.G. Jacob, Visak**

God enabled them to conduct a discipleship programme for new workers at Visakapatanam from Oct. 25-31; around 20 people attended. In a similar meeting conducted at Srikakulam from Nov. 23-26, around 50 people attended, mostly locals, and all were challenged to serve the Lord with more concern and commitment. Prayers are solicited.

### BIHAR

06/03/10 **Sanjay Ram, Kuanwa**  
Here the small Assembly with fifteen members taking part in the Lord's Table, is being blessed by the Lord. They stay and conduct meetings in a rented house, where around 25-30 people regularly attend. They continue regular outreach in the villages and the work is progressing. Please uphold this Assembly in your valuable prayers.

### CHATTISGARGH

07/03/10 **K.V.Thankachan, Durg**  
They conduct regular meetings inside and outside the church to reach out the people with the gospel. In a special gospel meeting conducted from December 25- 27<sup>th</sup>, Bro. Babu K. Varghese preached the gospel in Durg Assembly hall, Durg central jail and Durg Tripathi Hotel. Some believed on the Lord. In another meeting conducted in the Durg town, Bro. Varghese John preached the gospel on January 29, 30, 31<sup>st</sup>. Prayers are coveted.

08/03/10 **Benjamin Raot, Laileenga**  
Here God's ministry is going on well. Prayers are solicited for the following matters: for his son Ashish, who is suffering from Esnophil, for a sister who is being persuaded by her family to marry an unbeliever who is a drunkard and for his ministry trips.

### DELHI

09/03/10 **G.A. Dawson, New Delhi**  
God has immensely blessed our dear brother and sister in His ministry. In this New Year they had special meetings in Chirala (January. 21-24) and at Chandigarh (January. 29-31). Please continue to uphold them for the blessing of the ministry throughout this year.

### JHARKHAND

10/03/10

**Shailendra Murmu, Sahibganj**  
In the year 2009, the Lord had blessed them spiritually and physically. Many people had heard the gospel and thousands of literatures had been distributed. In February-10, seven people took baptism at Sahibganj and were added to the church. In the month of June last year, God enabled them to start a new Assembly Testimony at Paktari. And they also had a special gospel meeting in December. Prayers are requested

### KARNATAKA

11/03/10 **Junia J., Ananda Pura**  
Here the ministries are going on well. Please note his new address: *Junia Jayaraj, No. 180 Jesus Nivas, 1<sup>st</sup> Cross Ananda Pura, K.R Puram. P.O, T.c. Palya, Bangalore- 560 036,*

12/03/10 **R. Yesurathnam, Hubli**  
Here the Lord's ministry is going on well. Our dear brother requests earnest

prayers for the need of another house, since the present house owner has asked him to vacate the house immediately

13/03/10

**Albert Anandaraj**, *Siddianapuram*

The E.B.C. courses are being learned by more than 300 students in different parts of this state. In the month of November, two persons took baptism. They also conducted E.B.C.C. Seekers Conference for these 300 students at four places in the month of January. Prayers are coveted.

#### MADHYA PRADESH

14/03/10 **Abraham K. P.**, *Lalitpur*

In the various special meetings which were held at the close of last year, many people from non-Christian background who attended were immensely blessed. On 19<sup>th</sup> December they had a special gospel meeting, in which around 350 people including Govt. officers, bank employees, politicians and neighbors came to hear the gospel preached by Bro. V.K. Abraham and Samuel B Thomas. Ten people accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour and one of the attendees

#### NEPAL

15/03/10 **Sam G. John**, *Dharan*

They had a special meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December in which around 125 people attended. They trust in the Lord to do more in 2010 for the Lord in His

vineyard. Please pray for the continued blessings of the Lord for his ministry here.

#### ORISSA

16/03/10 **Sunil Kr B.**, *Bandha Guda*

In a meeting conducted here on January 1<sup>st</sup>, many people heard the Word of God eagerly. Prayers are solicited for the blessing of the marriage of our dear brother, which God willing would be solemnized on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

17/03/10

**Panchanan Paul**, *Bhubaneswar*

Here the work is progressing well. They have prayerfully shifted to a new place of work in the northern side of Orissa, called Balasore. They have already got a few new contacts. Please pray for the blessings of the ministry in this new place. Please note his new address: *Panchanan Paul, C/o. Mrs. Sandya Shah, Angar Gadia, Dr. H.K Mahatab Sarani, Balasore, Orissa-756 001.*

18/03/10 **Sankar Kr Mali**, *Surala*

Here steadily and slowly God is opening new doors for the gospel in new villages. Recently they have started a children's club in Andhra border, in a place called Tota street and around 20 children from non-Christian background are regular attendees. Two of them accepted Lord as their personal Saviour. Please pray for the further blessings of this ministry.

19/03/10 **K.C.Thomas, Lamtaput**  
The Bible training in Oriya medium, which was started in the month of June-09, was successfully completed in the month of December. Students were challenged by these studies and they have decided to stand for the Lord. Prayers are solicited for the blessings of ongoing outreach programme which was started on 4<sup>th</sup> January. They are planning this programme up to 29<sup>th</sup> March with eight brothers working together to reach out the villages in and around this area.

#### PUNJAB

20/03/10 **P. Vijayaraju, Amritsar**  
Since the beginning of the Lord's ministry here, it has been their prayer that the Assembly should be strengthened by the local believers. God has done wonders in the year 2009, by adding five local families into the church. Praise God. Now there are around 25 people Breaking the Bread on Sundays.

#### RAJASTHAN

21/03/10 **James Paul, Banswara**  
In spite of threats and oppositions, the Lord has enabled them to finish the roofing of the Assembly hall in a village called Saredi. By the prayers of the saints, our Lord healed Bro. Chamana and he is attending the meetings. Continued prayers are solicited for the ministries here.

#### TAMIL NADU

22/03/10 **R. Job, Mallur**  
Here they are doing fine in the Lord's ministry. They prayerfully held three days gospel meeting in the month of February 2010. Bro. Roy T. Daniel was invited to share God's word at the meeting. Prayers are requested.

23/03/10 **T.P.A.Srinivasan, Musiri**  
Here the regular activities are going on well. Please note his new address: *T.P.A. Srinivas, Christian Brethren Assembly, 5/211A, thirumurugan Nagar, Musiri, Tamil Nadu- 621 211.*

24/03/10 **G. Sam Edwin, Puzhal**  
Here the Kathirvedu Assembly activities are going on well. They had a baptism service on 27<sup>th</sup> December and some new believers took baptism. They also had a gospel outreach on 23<sup>rd</sup> January in Vinayagapuram area. Around 20 people from neighboring assemblies came together to proclaim the gospel. Prayers are solicited.

25/03/10 **Joshua Daniel, Oo'kulam**  
God continues to bless their efforts in this part of the country. They had a special social service programme for the poor in their village on 21<sup>st</sup>, a gospel meeting on 25<sup>th</sup>, and a special thanks giving meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> of December. They also had a one day sisters meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The believers are blessed and the gospel is proclaimed in these meetings.

**Jayalal Thomas, Coimbatore**  
God in His grace has given a suitable life partner for our dear brother's

daughter and the marriage was solemnized on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Please pray for the blessed family life of this new couple.

26/03/10 **P. Johns, Erode**

Our dear brother had an angioplasty at Vellore in the month of November. By the grace of God everything went well and he is far better now. Prayers are solicited for his good health and for the blessings of his ministry.

#### WEST BENGAL

27/03/10 **Billy P. Jacob, Siliguri**

Our dear brother requests valuable prayers for the following matters: They are planning a baptism service in Siliguri on 18<sup>th</sup> April. For the settlement of the disputed land in Haidrapara and the construction of Haidrapara Assembly hall. For the need of a jeep, as with one vehicle they find it difficult to meet the needs of the ministry.

28/03/10 **Jonathan Jha, Kulti**

They had an outreach from 7-12<sup>th</sup> of the month of December at Bokaro and Dhanbad districts, along with eight brothers. They got a new contact in a village in Dhanbad. Please continue to pray for the blessings.

29/03/10 **Jayanta das, Kolkatta**

From 17<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Nov-09, he was with the team of eight members to cover the entire Hoogly district with the Gospel. They had a wonderful time of ministry. Prayers are requested for the seed sown to bear fruit. In February, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> they have

planned to cover the east Midnapur district with the Gospel. Prayers are requested.

#### OTHER MATTERS

30/03/10

**Philip Pandian, Madhavaram**

They have started a new work in a place called Kavanur, a village near about 30 kms from here. Four people had accepted the Lord and were baptized on 7th February by brother M. G. John. A new Testament Assembly testimony was started that day. Prayers are solicited for the growth of this assembly.

31/03/10 **Sanjith Roy, W.Bengal**

He had the privilege working in Assam with brother Aby Sam for a few years after his studies in SBC. Now God has enabled him to start a new work in a village of West Bengal. They are planning to conduct an outreach here from March 1-15. Prayers are solicited.

#### HOME CALL

**Mrs. Jainamma Samuel, (81)** Kishvaramannil, Peroorkada, Trivandrum was called Home on 08/02/2010. The funeral was held on 12th Feb-2010. Her visit to Chennai to stay with her daughter Reji and family, is fondly remembered with her zeal to attend all the assembly meetings. (Editor)

**KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC**

**Manish Daniel**

I come from Durg in Chattisgarh. I was born and brought up in a Christian family; being born into a Christian family I was hearing the Word of God from my childhood onwards. But as I grew up in life I did not have any peace in my life. I finished my studies, got a good job and still there was no satisfaction. I was going far away from the Lord. Many a time, I was about to meet with dangers and accidents, but the Lord protected me miraculously.



One day brother N.S Borde came and shared the Good News about Jesus Christ and the need to be born again to get peace of mind and go to heaven. I came to know that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood to save me from sin and hell. One night as I considered these things, I accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour on 17th April-2006. Then the Lord changed my life and made me as His child, being assured of eternal life. As I joined the fellowship of the believers in the local assembly, I began to grow spiritually, knowing more about Christ. The Lord gave me a great desire in my heart to know the deep things of the Scriptures. It was then by the help of my elders, I applied to Stewards Bible College and joined for a three year study. I am now in the first year of my studies and covet the prayers of saints for the successful completion of my course.

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I, Shaji Philip, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
Chennai- 01/03/2010

Sd/  
**Shaji Philip**

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Tamil Nadu. Phone: 044-2555 0598 / 2555 0295  
Email:admin@gfti.org.in

The last date for submission of filled in application is 30.04.10.

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DIPLOMA	TENTH PASS	TWO YRS.	ENGLISH

Applications with all documents should reach on or before 30th March 2010 to the following address. Director NIBI, 148, Lajpat Nagar, ALWAR, 301 001(RAJ.) 0144-2336249,2330223 Email: tjil48@gmail.com