

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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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.
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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**

### **Propriety, I mean Rightness**

**M**y topic as above is chosen in the light of the increasing tendency of our sisters to be more inclined to fall in line with the women of the world when it comes to dressing, especially in congregations. Men are not exempted; sometimes they can be worse. We are fond of making our children showpieces. I am avoiding my personal opinion, by quoting from William MacDonald's "Believers Bible Commentary". "Propriety means avoiding anything that would cause shame. It carries the thought of being modest and discreet. Moderation means that a woman will be moderate in her dress. On the one hand, she will not seek to attract attention to herself by expensive, conspicuous fashions. These might tend to provoke admiration or even jealousy from those who should be worshipping God. On the other hand, she should avoid attracting attention to herself by wearing clothes that are drab or old-fashioned. The Scriptures seem to teach moderate, middle of the road policy in regard to clothing" (W. MacDonald on 1 Tim 2:9). "The clothing which makes a believer genuinely attractive is the beauty of the hidden person. Fashionable

coiffures, costly jewelry and fine clothing are perishable. In presenting this vivid contrast, Peter challenges us to make a choice. F.B. Meyer notes, "Plenty are there whose outward body is richly decked, but whose inner being is clothed in rags; whilst others, whose garments are worn and threadbare, are all glorious within" (W. MacDonald on 1 Pet 3:4).

Now, referring to 1 Pet 3:3, William MacDonald speaks:

#### **CHRISTIAN DRESS**

In the matter of clothing and jewelry, there are guidelines that apply to all believers, men as well as women. A first principle is expense. How much do we spend on clothes? Is it all necessary? Could the money be spent in better ways? First Timothy 2:9 forbids expensive clothes: "not with ..costly clothing". It is not a matter of whether or not we can afford them. It is a sin for a Christian to spend money on expensive clothes, because God's Word forbids it. Compassion forbids it too. The desperate plight of our neighbours in other lands, their enormous spiritual and physical needs

point up the callousness of spending money unnecessarily on clothing.

This applies not only to the quality of the clothes we buy, but to the quantity as well. The clothes of some Christians look like branch clothing stores. Often when they travel on vacation, a rod stretched over the back seat of the car holds an array of dresses, shirts and suits that rivals the samples of a travelling clothing salesman. Why do we do it? Is it not a matter of pride? We love to be complemented on our good taste, our fine appearance. The expense involved in buying clothes is only one principle that should guide us in its choice. Another is modesty. Paul says, "With propriety and moderation". One meaning of the word propriety is "decent". One of the functions of clothing is to hide man's nakedness. At least, that is the way it was in the beginning. But now clothing seems to be designed to reveal increasingly large areas of the anatomy. Man is thus glorying in his shame. It is not surprising to find ungodly men doing this, but it is rather shocking when Christians imitate them.

But modest can also mean attractive. This suggests that the Christian should dress neatly. There is no virtue in shabbiness, in untidiness. Oswald Chambers said that slovenliness (carelessness, unmethodical) is an insult to the Holy

Spirit. The believers' clothes should be clean, pressed, in good repair and well-fitting.

In general, the Christian must avoid fashions that attract attention to himself. That is not his function in life. He is not on earth as an ornament, but as a fruit-bearing branch of the vine. We can attract attention to ourselves in many ways. Wearing clothes that are old fashioned will do it. The Christian should also avoid wearing clothes that are uncommonly plain or loud or odd.

Finally the Christian – and this may be a special problem for the young believer – should avoid clothes that are suggestive or provocative. We have already referred to fashions that are "revealing". But clothes can cover the whole body and still arouse unholy lust in others. Modern fashions are not designed to encourage spirituality. On the contrary, they reflect the obsession with sex in our age. The believer should never wear clothes that incite passions or make it hard for others to live a Christian life.

The great problem, of course, is the enormous social pressure to conform. Christians need plenty of spine to resist the extremes in fashion, to swim against the tide of public opinion and to dress in a manner that befits the gospel. **If we make Christ the Lord of our wardrobe, all will be well.**



## ABRAHAM THE FRIEND OF GOD (10)

Cliff Jones, U.K

### She is a man's wife

Abraham, the friend of God (Jas. 2:23), and man of great faith, was a sinner, for "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). Once a person has been saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8), he is saved eternally and cannot lose that salvation (Jn. 3:36; 5:24; 10:28,29; Heb. 7:25). A believer's complete and absolute assurance of salvation is not based on feelings but on a knowledge of God, belief in the eternal efficacy of the work of the Lord on the cross, and the witness of the Holy Spirit. We may fail and sin, but if we repent, confess and forsake that sin and, in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit strive to keep His commandments, then this is evidence of our regeneration and salvation. We are told that "a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again" (Prov. 24:16). Peter failed his beloved Lord but he did not lose his salvation, and, by grace, was forgiven and restored to service (Lk. 22:54-62; Jn. 21:15-22). After each time Abraham's faith failed he was graciously restored to the path of separation and served, worshipped and glorified God.

### She is my sister.

Abraham journeyed on southwards and "sojourned in Gerar" (Gen. 20:1). Gerar was on the border

of Egypt and was occupied by the Philistines. There followed a repetition of what is recorded in Genesis 12:10-20. Abraham "said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister" (Gen. 20:2). Abimelech, king of Gerar, used to take unmarried women into his harem and, as a result of Abraham's deception, the king sent for Sarah and took her into his harem. We see in these circumstances another example of God being gracious to His children for "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:20), and God spoke to Abimelech in a dream telling him that he would die because he had taken a man's wife. Abimelech pleaded his innocence and that of his nation, stressing that Abraham had said that Sarah was his sister and that Sarah had claimed that Abraham was her brother. God told Abimelech that He knew that the king had acted with a dear conscience and said that He had kept Abimelech from sinning against Him and had not allowed Abimelech to go near or touch Sarah (vv.3-6).

Abraham's faith had failed despite all the trials and testing he had passed through which had strengthened his faith. Abraham was not living in the light of what the Lord

had said to him in a vision, “Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward” (Gen. 15:1). When Abraham exercised faith in God he was confident and without fear, but as soon as his faith wavered, Abraham, the man who had followed the path of separation from the world, fell into sin, deceived Abimelech, and risked Sarah being put to shame in order to safeguard his own life. The deception and conduct of Abraham and Sarah at this time dishonoured God and was a bad testimony before Abimelech, before Abimelech’s people and also before those who were with Abraham.

#### **He is a Prophet**

Abimelech was told by God that if he did not return Sarah to Abraham then he and his people would die. God said concerning Abraham, “he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine” (Gen. 20:7). God’s children fail, as did David and Peter, but they are still His children and He watches over them and protects them. We read concerning God that “He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not my anointed, and do my prophets no harm” (Ps. 105:14,15). God told Abimelech that Abraham would pray for him. Despite the fact that his faith had failed, and despite the deception he had practised, Abraham was, by

grace, still a prophet of God and had power with God. We have here the first occurrence in the Scriptures of the word “prophet”. Abraham, the prophet of God, interceded for Abimelech.

Sometimes when we fall into sin God has to chasten us, and “no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (Heb. 12:11). Let us always remember that “the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1Jn. 1 :7), and “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1Jn.1:9). We read that, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Prov. 28:13). We must confess our sins to God and forsake them. Abimelech’s response to God’s command was immediate and showed that he feared God. He “rose early in the morning”, told his people what had occurred, and they were all afraid (v.8). Abimelech then reprimanded Abraham and said to him, “thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done” (v.9). It is particularly sad when men of the world exhibit higher standards of behaviour than believers, and when a believer is justly rebuked and reprimanded by an unbeliever.

When Abraham was asked why he had behaved as he had he said that he was afraid that Abimelech and his people did not fear God and that they would kill him because of his wife. Abraham then said that Sarah was his half-sister. Despite the truth of this statement, Abraham had lied because, at the time of saying that Sarah was his sister, his intention was to deceive and mislead (vv.9-12). Abraham went on to admit that when they had left his father's household Abraham and Sarah had conspired together and agreed that, at what they considered to be appropriate times, Sarah would say of Abraham, "He is my brother" (vv.13; Gen. 12:1-9,13). They had not trusted in God to keep and protect them and, despite all their experiences of God's love, omnipotence and omniscience, had retained this intention to sin by deceiving and lying when they should deem it necessary to do so. Abraham and Sarah had feared men more than God, and "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe" (Prov. 29:25). Abimelech feared God. He was convinced that Abraham was a man of God and that Abraham and Sarah were watched over and protected by God. He restored Sarah to Abraham and was very generous to Abraham, giving him cattle and servants (Gen. 20:14). Abimelech told Abraham that he could settle anywhere in his land. He told Sarah that he had given Abraham a thousand

pieces of silver. By doing these things, Abimelech showed his respect and high regard for Abraham and Sarah and the esteem in which they were held. They were vindicated, and there was no stain on their reputations in the eyes of other people (vv.15, 16). Abraham prayed to God and, as a result of his intercession, Abimelech and his people did not die, and "God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife" (vv.17,18).

Abraham had decided to journey towards, and live close to, Egypt (v. 1). Egypt was the place of his previous lapse of faith and deceit which had had such disastrous consequences for Pharaoh and his people (Gen. 12:10-20). Egypt is symbolic of the world and believers are called to live lives which are separated from the world and to God (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Ps. 1:1-3). We should "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5 :22), and avoid, as far as possible, contact with evil. Samson went to worldly places and became closely involved with worldly people with tragic results (Judges 14:1-20; 16:4-21). We must be careful not to live close to the world but rather to stay close to God, and "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1Cor. 10:12).



## SPLENDID TREASURES

(EPHESIANS STUDIES)

Koshy Zachariah

18. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18)

Paul is praying for the Ephesians that the eyes of their understanding being enlightened may know three things. Two of these are in verse 18 and the third in verse 19. Each one is introduced by the word "what". (1) What is the hope of his calling (2) What the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints (3) What is the exceeding greatness of his power. To know these three things, Apostle Paul prays that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened.

In our last issue, we saw Paul praying for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Here he is praying for the enlightenment of their understanding. Are they not more or less the same and as such an instance of tautology. There is a difference. The Spirit of wisdom and revelation is the central thing to know of God. But one can receive these three things – we may call subsidiary things – only to the extent

to which his understanding is enlightened by the Holy Spirit. Why is Apostle Paul is praying on matters above. Simple. Though we are in Christ, we are in the world. Scripture tells us that we start as babes in Christ. As every day passes, we grow and garner knowledge. Peter advised, "As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby" (1 Pet 2:2). "The ultimate goal toward which all spiritual growth in this life is moving in conformity to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ" (William MacDonald). We should always ponder, "Is our spiritual knowledge greater today than it was a year ago? It is neither the memorizing of a large number of biblical verses nor the knowledge of the letter of the Scripture. The evaluation should be on the growth of spiritual knowledge and understanding. Do we discover fresh treasures of wisdom and knowledge? Paul's prayer is that the Ephesians must have the spirit of wisdom and revelation to know more of God and the enlightenment of their understanding to know fully the three blessings mentioned in verses 18 and 19.

The prayer is for Christian people – those who are already in Christ Jesus. As long as they are in the world, they need enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. We have a tendency to backslide. If we begin to backslide, then the Word of God never speaks to us as it did. This is a truth, an invariable law. We cannot take a spiritual holiday. We can never go on living on our accumulated reserves. As it was with “manna” in the wilderness, so spiritual understanding needs to be collected freshly day by day. Our constant desire should be to grow in the grace and in the knowledge of God. With the Spirit of “wisdom and revelation” and “the enlightenment of understanding”, the word of God will speak to us. If we read the Word of God without praying for enlightenment, nothing much could be assimilated. John wrote on this, “But you have unction from the Holy One and you know all things. But the anointing which you have received of Him abideth in you and you need not that any man teach you” (1 John 2:27).

#### **A. What is the hope of his calling?**

The two words here are “hope” and “calling”. Though there is a dispute as to the meaning of the word “hope”, the meaning here is “assurance of salvation”. But the term “calling” has two meanings.

There is a *general call* and there is a *particular call*. The gospel of our Jesus Christ gives a general call to all mankind to repent and believe the gospel. Paul said to the Athenians, “But the times of this ignorance God winked at but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). This is the general call and is not always effectual. But the call here is to the Ephesians who have already believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. So naturally this is a special call to those who have already believed. This can be understood from the following passage. “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom He did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called them he also justified” (Rom 8:28-31). This refers to the special calling: those who are called have been justified. This is not true of the man of the world who has received a general call. The called are the Christians and the Christians are the called.

Now, Paul’s prayer is that the Ephesians may know the hope of this calling, the assurance of it, yes the certainty of it. Peter puts it this way, “Make your calling and election

sure" (2 Pet 1:10). The individual Christian knows that his salvation is certain. He knows the Christ whom he has believed. He knows that his calling and election are sure. Assurance and certainty are indeed his possession. To attain this assurance, it is necessary that the eyes of our understanding be enlightened. It comes through the mind and then works through our whole being. It is true that the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Rom 8:16); that happens when we are sealed with the Holy Spirit on believing. But when we are in the world, we tend to forget this experience and truth. In the process we doubt our assurance, especially when in adverse circumstances. The devil is looking for an opportunity to prompt us to shake our confidence. That is where the need arises to get enlightened in our understanding so that we know the hope of his calling. To have sure hope, we should seek deeper knowledge of God and His character. He is eternal, immutable and everlasting. He never changes. "He is the Father of lights with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). Is it not a great assurance? We also should be aware and conscious that our whole position rests upon God's covenant. That covenant – the covenant of Redemption – He made even

before the foundation of the world. Further, God has taken an oath. That is what we read in Hebrews 6:13-20. He has sworn by Himself as there is none greater than Himself. That makes our hope steadfast and sure. No one can pluck us out of His hand (John 10:28). What an assurance and hope we have in Rom 8:30, "Whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.....If God be for us, who can be against us". Yet another assurance is that being born-again, we shall not lose our salvation. We cannot fall away; we cannot be in and out of Christ. Paul wanted us to know fully the hope of his calling and for that he prayed for enlightenment.

#### **B. The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**


We see superlative on the top of superlative, when the apostle speaks of the riches of the glory. The reason is the transcendent glory which is beyond the reach of our imagination. This second view can be comprehended only by those who have "the eyes" of their understanding enlightened. We observe in this verse of His inheritance in the saints.

There are two main views on this. The first one is that it refers to

God's own inheritance. What comes to support this view is the Old Testament statement that "the Lord's portion is His people" (Deut 32:9). The New Testament usage by Apostle Peter, "a peculiar people" as found in Authorised Version really means "a people for God's own possession". D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones view on this is, "Everything belongs to God; the whole universe is God's. So it seems to me to be inappropriate to use the expression "God's inheritance" in that sense". I am also inclined to accept this view. Now the second view is that Paul is speaking of the inheritance which God is preparing for us. Paul's mention in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" gives credence to this view.

There is always a feeling that what Paul speaks of is other-worldly view. They are not seen. But we have a galaxy of godly men, who were the greatest benefactors the world has even known, in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. They did not fix the eyes on this world; these heroes of faith started with the unseen world and then in the light of that they applied themselves to the present world. "When men forget the next world and concentrate only on their present

life, the world becomes a kind of living hell with confusion and lawlessness and immorality and vice rampant" (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones). Someone could ask, "Why should I trouble myself in knowing something about the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints? One sufficient answer is the comfort it brings. Paul says, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). Further we are told, "Our light affliction which is but for a moment worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor 4:17). We have our promise from the Lord, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.....I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3). That is enough – to be with Him.

To conclude, let us pray to God by His Spirit, "to enlighten the eyes of our understanding", that these things may become real to us so that we shall not spend all our time in thinking about this world and this passing life, but rather about that which is to come for certain and which is so glorious. "The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints". 

## “LOVEST THOU ME ?”

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in one of His post-resurrection appearances to His disciples asked Peter the question “Lovest thou me more than these?” After having seen the risen Lord and the wounds on His hands, feet and his side, it was grossly inappropriate for Peter to have told his colleagues “ I go fishing”. At the bidding of the Lord, Peter had forsaken his boat and the fishing net and followed Jesus.(Lk 5:11)

He took back the forsaken equipments and sought to go fishing. We see here futility of doing things without the guidance of the Lord whose support is absolutely essential to make any of our efforts successful. In his attempt Peter failed to catch anything. In the morning, they saw the Lord Jesus standing on the shore but they could not even recognize Him. Afterwards, the Lord told them to cast the net at the right side of the boat and then there was a great catch of 153 great fishes. There are many believers who also act similarly according to their own plans and ultimately realise their discomfiture. Regardless of the disciple’s failure, the Lord provided them with bread and fish and fed them sumptuously. The disciples must have felt so ashamed about the whole episode.

After dinner, the Lord asked

Peter “lovest thou me more than these?” Instantly, Peter replied: “I love Thee”, He did not say “more than these.” It is said that the Greek word used by the Lord “*agapao*” meant to love deeply. On two occasions, the Lord used the word “*agapao*” but Peter used the word “*phileo*” which means “love of a lesser degree”, to be fond of”. The third time, the Lord also used the word *phileo* to which Peter replied “Lord thou knowest all things; thou knowest I love (*phileo*) thee”. Peter was very much humbled in this dialogue. That Peter had earlier denied the Lord three times have come to his mind and hence he could no more affirm a deeper love for his master. The Lord Jesus does ask every believer this question: Do you *love* me? Do you love me more than these? Some servants of God assume that the phrase “more than these” may also refer to the fishes caught, implying material benefits/material things.

The Lord Jesus in the parable of the two debtors (Lk. 7:40-47) asked Simon which of them will love the creditor most? Simon answered: I suppose, he to whom he forgave most. The Lord Jesus forgave the multitudes of our sins-our sins which were like crimson and scarlet-which calls forth immense love to our Lord. No sacrifice we may suffer for the

sake of our Lord for the spread of the Gospel will match the love wherewith our Lord has loved us. The vastness of His love is immeasurable and it is everlasting. The Scriptures enjoin upon us to love Him to the utmost. Our whole lives should be controlled and characterized by our responding love to Him.

We may look to some other Scriptures on the subject: (i) Peter says in IPet1:8 “whom having not seen ye love”

(ii) John says in IJn 4: 19 “; We love Him because He first loved us”

(iii) Again John says in Rev 1:5, "Unto Him that loveth us and washed u from our sins in His own blood and has made us a kingdom of priests unto God...to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. (iv) Paul says “The love of Christ constraineth us” (II Cor 5:14) and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20)

May we examine ourselves about the degree of love we have to our Lord Jesus. Do we love the world more than the Lord Jesus? Do we love mammon more than the Lord Jesus? Towards the end of his life , Peter had such love and gratitude to the Lord Jesus that he was willing to be crucified by the Romans for his faith and love to Christ. Further ,Peter refused to be crucified head upside like his Master and he offered to be crucified head downwards and legs upwards. Thus his love and devotion

to the Lord was manifested by becoming a martyr of outstanding distinction. He proved that his love for the Lord was most exemplary.

What is happening around us today? So many declare themselves to be full-time evangelists not because they are constrained by love to the Lord or concern for lost souls but rather to earn a livelihood. For many believers their love for the Lord is superficial if not superfluous. There is urgent need for many of us to search our hearts and to come back to our eternally loving Lord renewing our commitment to love Him and serve Him to the best of our ability.

To the Church of Ephesus, the Lord said, “thou hast left thy first love”: What a deplorable situation: Around the world, believers belonging to Brethren Assemblies (some are the 8th generation, some others 4th) have left their initial love towards the Lord and are busy in labouring hard for material possessions, worldly fame and achievements. The Lord calls us to repent and come back to the first love. Jonathan loved David as his own soul. Does our Lord deserve anything less? May the Lord stir our hearts and fill our hearts with genuine love to Him. To Him be all glory Amen

*(late E.J.Mathew )*



# Vineyard News

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

## ANDAMANS

01/09/10 **M. Joseph, Port Blair**  
They returned home from Kerala, after a short visit, to continue the wonderful ministry here. His son Aby is working at Maya Bunder, 250 kms away from Port Blair. He is looking for a room for the furtherance of the gospel there. Prayers are solicited for his good health and also for the recovery of Bro. Velu and sister Leela who are suffering from T.B and brain tumor respectively.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

02/09/10 **David Rajkumar, Guntur**  
From 23<sup>rd</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> June, he along with his family and a few brothers of the Assembly could go and do ministry in 18 places covering 6 districts. In the night they had gospel meetings under the auspices of various local Assemblies. Many committed their lives to the Lord. They also had special classes for children and youth from Acts 1:8. Prayers are coveted.

03/09/10 **Jogi Moses, Jammulapalem**  
They conduct outreach ministry every Sunday evenings as a church in various

places. On one such occasion he met with a bike accident and his right leg got fractured. Since he is a diabetic patient, the recovery is getting delayed. Prayers are solicited for his recovery and his needs.

04/09/10 **K.P.S. Samuel, Cuddapah**  
By God's grace His ministry is going on well here. They are planning to reconstruct the old church at Sanjeeva Nagar because in the rainy season water rushes inside the church as the building is lower than the new road level. They need Rs. 80,000/- for this project. Please prayerfully support this ministry.

## BIHAR

05/09/10 **Rudal Mandal, Jhamalpur**  
In the month of June they conducted VBS in two places and more than 600 children attended. Lord graciously led 30 young children to accept Him as their personal Saviour and Lord. Through the door to door evangelism, two people are agreed to come for the Bible study and prayer meetings. Prayers are coveted for the salvation of these dear ones and also for the college needs of his daughter who is doing her final year B.Sc. Nursing.

06/09/10 **P.J. Tomy, Patna**  
God is enabling them to reach out new villages with His gospel. They had a very

profitable Bible study camp from August 23-25 for the evangelists and responsible brothers of various Assemblies in Patna and surrounding places. Fervent prayers are coveted for the blessing of the ministries here.

#### HARYANA

07/09/10 **Vinod Kumar, Panipat**  
After his marriage with Priya from Haryana, God gave them a vision to do ministry in Haryana. Now they have shifted to Panipat in Haryana to start a new ministry here. Prayers are solicited for the blessing of the ministries here. Please note his new address: *Vinod Kumar K, P.O. Box. No. 75, Panipat 132103, Haryana.*

#### MAHARASHTRA

08/09/10 **B.D. Balid, Ahmednagar**  
They had conducted a special meeting in the last week of January and Bros. Koshy Mathew and George Mathew ministered the Word to the non-Christians and nominal Christians who were gathered. The gospel work is progressing here through door-to-door evangelism and tract distribution in the nearby villages. Prayers are coveted for the blessings.

09/09/10 **A.S. Babukutty, Thane**  
The new Assembly hall construction is completed and was dedicated to the Lord's service on 21<sup>st</sup> February. They are grateful to the Lord and all those who prayed and supported this ministry.

Continue to pray that the Lord may increase the strength of this assembly.

#### MADHYA PRADESH

10/09/10 **Ranjith Kr Bagh, Gwalior**  
This year they could conduct 3 VBS and around 600 children gathered to study God's word in different schools. Now the Lord has given them a new Assembly testimony in Datia. Bros. Rajendra Singh and Bisksen Kachop are working for the Lord in this place. At Datia many locals are coming forward. They have started the work of an Assembly hall here and are hoping to gather for God's service from September 14. From 14-17 they are planning to conduct the Gospel Penetration Camp here. Please uphold this matter in your prayers.

#### KARNATAKA

11/09/10 **G. Kumar, Sagar**  
Here the Lord's ministry is going on well. Pray that Lord may continue to increase the strength of His church here and also establish the believers in the scriptures.

12/09/10 **Pramesh B, Mysore**  
Our brother visits regularly new houses and conducts Bible studies wherever the Lord opens a door. By God's grace one family is getting ready for baptism and another family is eagerly studying God's Word. Please pray for the spiritual growth of these two families.

13/09/10 **C.G. Hukkeri, Belgaum**  
Almost every week they visit one or two schools with some new information about the universe and teach the

students that God created this universe. They also invite them to Ashakiran Planetarium to see the wondrous work of the Lord and share with the message of His gospel. In the month of July from 15- 17<sup>th</sup>, they had the privilege of sharing gospel to the pilgrims at Pandharpur in Maharashtra. Prayers are solicited for the blessings.

14/09/10 **Sabu A.S, Arasikere**

A few new believers are attending the fellowship now. In the month of August they had a special baptism service and 7 people obeyed the Lord in water baptism. By the prayers and support of God's people they could furnish a building for the children's home and prayer hall. Now there are 13 children in the home. Now they need some finance for the wiring and plumbing. Please prayerfully support this ministry.

15/09/10 **John Prasad K.V, Bijapur**

The Lord's ministry in Bangalore and Bijapur is going on well. Two new families have been added to the Assembly from non-Christian background. They had one day fasting prayer at Bijapur for the growth of this Assembly. Please note his new address: *John Prasad K.V, C/o. Dev Kumar, 2/0 Near Ayappa Temple, Devavabesanattalli Denne, Bellandur P.O, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore- 560 103.*

#### KERALA

16/09/10 **K.K. Varghese, Kodanad**

Here the two Assembly activities at Kodanadu and Vappalasserry are going on well. Every Tuesday, Wednesday,

Friday, and Saturday, from 10.am to 1 pm, they visit houses of Kodanadu, Imury, Thattuva, Koovapaly and other surrounding places of Vappalassery, sharing gospel personally. They have arranged a special meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept for the evangelists of Ernakulam district. Please pray.

17/09/10 **R. Soman, Madapra**

Madapra Assembly is kept safe in the hand of God. Due to heavy rain the Lord's ministry is getting interrupted. Pray for the growth of this Assembly.

18/09/10 **P.G. George, Kilimanur**

Our dear brother had a stroke recently and is taking treatment in the hospital. Now he is not able to walk. He covets your earnest prayers for his recovery, so that he may be restored back to his ministry.

#### ORISSA

19/09/10 **Nirmal Sharma, Jhasuguda**

As a result of the Lord's work here in Jhasuguda for the last one year, God enabled them to start a new Assembly testimony on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010 with the baptism of eight people. Totally thirteen believers partake from the Lord's Table now. At present they are gathering in a rented house. They are praying for a piece of land and for an Assembly hall. Please note his new address: *Nirmal Sharma, Industrial Estate P.O, Orampada, Jhasuguda, Orissa- 768 203.*

20/09/10 **Umakant Guru, Balangir**

They are working on a number of new initiatives here at Bolangir. An

orphanage, registered in the name of "Share and Care Association" started on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The focus of this is to give shelter for semi-orphan and destitute children. At present 10 boys are in this rented home. Prayers are coveted for the smooth functioning of this new institution.

21/09/10 **C.S. Thomas, Berahampur**  
Here the Lord's work is progressing. They have regular village ministry. Pray for the growth of the village Assemblies and also for the smooth functioning of God's services here.

22/09/10 **Debendra Harpal, Sirtol**  
The Lord's ministry is going on well here. All the regular activities are functioning smoothly by His grace. Some people are getting ready for baptism and praying for the baptism service. Prayerful support is also requested for the educational needs of his daughter, who is doing diploma studies in Maharashtra.

#### RAJASTHAN

23/09/10 **V.M. George, Goverdhan**  
In Udaipur, Nimbahera and Nichal Goyara the Lord's work is going on well. They conducted a youth meeting at Nichal Goyara and 22 children and youth attended the meeting. At this place the Assembly is gathering in a rented home.

#### TAMIL NADU

24/09/10 **D. Ebenezer, Kodungaiyur**  
By God's grace on June 20<sup>th</sup> 5 people obeyed the Lord in water baptism. Bro. M.G. John delivered God's Word at this

occasion and gave baptism to the believers. Please pray for the spiritual growth of these dear ones. Please note his new address for further communication and prayer: *D. Ebenezer, Plot No. 3/B, V.O.C. Street, Annai Indira Nagar, M.M.C. P.O., Chennai- 600 051.* 25/09/10 **L.C. Samuel, O'chatram**

The Lord's work in Oddanchatram and surrounding places is going on well. On 12<sup>th</sup> July they had a one day outreach work at Oddanchatram and 10 evangelists from neighboring Assemblies participated in this work. Regular hospital ministry and Bible study is going on in various places. Please pray for the blessing of these ministries.

26/09/10 **E. Nagaraj, Vridhachalam**  
Every Tuesday he has a very profitable Bible study at Grace Paramedical Institute and around 30 girls attend the studies. Moreover the Lord has opened three new places for Bible study. In the months of July and August he was invited to deliver God's message in three meetings. Pray that God may establish His church in these places.

27/09/10 **A.P. Easuraja, Rajapalayam**  
They had special meetings at Kundairuppu Assembly from July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> and Bro. Ravikumar ministered the word. They also had a special meeting at Rajapalayam Assembly from August 27 to 29<sup>th</sup>, where Dr. Koshy Mathew delivered God's word. Many attended both meetings. Pray that the Lord may bring some new souls from those who heard the gospel. Prayers are also requested for the good health of his wife.

28/09/10 **R. Jeyapal, Sankarankovil**  
They had a special meeting in the month of June and Bro. Joseph Rajan gave them inspiring messages from the Word to the 500 people who were gathered. They also had a special meeting on August 26 & 27, where Bro. Ravikumar ministered the Word. Prayers are coveted for the spiritual growth of the attendees.

29/09/10 **T. E. Easow, Tambaram**  
Due to his old age infirmities, now a days he is limited to the Assembly activities, which is conducted at his home itself. Recently he had a fall in the bathroom and got his right hand fractured. Though the plaster is removed, he is still not able to write or do other activities. Nevertheless he has written three Malayalam books with the help of a scribe. Please pray for his complete recovery.

#### WEST BENGAL

30/09/10

**Achintya Ghosh, New Asansol**  
God willing they are prayerfully planning for a VBS camp at Asansol from Oct. 19-21. They expect 100 children for the three days meeting. At present there are 16 non-Christian children regularly attending the Children's club. Since last year, his wife has been suffering from severe ear pain and infection. Doctors have suggested for a surgery in the first week of September. They solicit earnest prayers for her complete recovery.

**Purnendu Jha, Burdwan**

By God's grace here at Chinukuri the Assembly activities are going on well. They had a baptism service in the month of April and nine believers obeyed the Lord in the waters of Baptism. Bros. Samuel Kurian and Santhosh Thomas ministered the Word. Please pray for the spiritual growth of the new believers.

#### ORISSA BRETHREN ASSEMBLIES FAMILY CONFERENCE

The Brethren in Orissa gathered at Gopalpur, alongside of the SBS Training programme on 14th April 2010. They prayerfully decided to have a family conference for the believers in Orissa from 19th to 21st Oct. 2010. Bro. Alexander Kurian and John Kurian will share the Word of God. They have formed an organizing committee with Bro. Ajay Kumar Chhatria as the coordinator and Brs. P. Selvanayagam, C.S.Thomas, Sunny T.Daniel, C.P. Mathew, Joseph M. Das, Anusarans Pani, etc. as members. They request the Brethren elsewhere, to join with them in prayer for the proper place, arrangements and blessing of the conference.

*Ajay Kumar Chhatria*

*(Coordinator)*

*For further information kindly contact;*

*Bro.C.P.Mathew, Gospel Hall,  
Sabarsahi Lane, Kalpana-P.O.*

*Bhubaneswar -751 006, 0674-  
2311702, Mob: +91(0)9437630568,*

*Email: cpmaori@sancharnet.in*



**KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC**

**K. SURESH KUMAR**

I come from Tiruttani in Tamil Nadu. I was born and brought up in a Hindu family. I lived according to the fashions of this world. In the year 2003, when I was 16 years old, I joined a job in my uncle's shop. Since my uncle was a christian many pastors used to come to his shop, I could hear the gospel through them. Slowly I came to know about Jesus Christ and the Salvation He offers freely to every one.



As I was coming to Tiruttani from my uncle's house, Bro. Yakkobu, an evangelist came to visit my family and he used to come often to my house and used to tell me about God's love and the salvation. According to Rom 10:9, I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and after a few months I obeyed the Lord's command in waters of baptism. My family also came to know about Christ. During the years 2005, 2006, when I was working in Chennai, I used to take part in all the ministries along with Bro. Yakkobu. At that time God gave me a desire to work for him and he gave me a burden to win souls for him. I was praying for God's will to be fulfilled in my life. 'One day Bro. Yakkobu was sharing with me about North India and I had a great burden to go and work among them (North India). In a missions conference, I committed myself wholly for this. In the year 2007 God called me for full time ministry. I had great tasks to fulfill in my family and my whole family depended on me. When I was praying to God about that, he showed me a verse from (Isa 52:7) and a song, "I want to live for Jesus" inspired me most. During that time I left my job and shared my burden with Bro. Yakkobu and he asked me to fast and pray. Two days I fasted and prayed and came to a conclusion to do the Lord's work in North India. After that I served the Lord in my local assembly for one year. Then I began to learn Hindi and went to Chhattisgarh for a one year course in the Bible School. Then I had a desire to study more, so I joined SBC in Chennai and am studying now in the second year. My only desire is to serve the Lord in North India. Please pray for me.

**HOME CALL**

**Evg. George S. Ponnaiah**, Sulur, Coimbatore, was called to his eternal rest on 26/July/2010 after serving the Lord faithfully for many years in Tamil Nadu. Prayers are coveted for the bereved family.

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

**Post of Principal  
CLARENCE SCHOOL,  
Bangalore.**

Clarence High School, a 100-year-old Christian minority institution based in Bangalore, affiliated to the Council of the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi, is looking for a suitable person, to fill the position of Principal shortly. The candidate must be about 40 to 45 years of age, with proven leadership qualities, sound academic background, Post Graduate with B.Ed., [preferably with a Ph.D.], who has taught High School/Tertiary students for about 10 years in a senior position. He must possess, effective communication skills, some administrative experience and should be computer savvy.

He must be good in inter- personal skills, be a motivator, capable of leading a team of motivated discerning and result oriented staff. The candidate must be a communicant member of a brethren assembly / church, capable of handling spiritual duties with a sense of calling.

While the right candidate will not be denied the best terms offered by the best educational institutions in the country, he must not seek this position motivated only by monetary considerations and prestige. Interested candidates are requested to furnish their detailed Curriculum Vitae with two references, a photograph and a one-page resume on his vision for Clarence High School for the next ten years. Kindly submit your application within **30** days of the appearance of this advertisement, but not later than **October 30,2010**.

**Apply to:** The Secretary,  
Board of Management,  
Clarence High School, Richards Town,  
Bangalore 560 005. INDIA  
Email: [Clarence@bgl.vsnl.net.in](mailto:Clarence@bgl.vsnl.net.in)