

# 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**

**JUNE 2008**

Vol. 2

Issue : 6

## THE CONQUEROR

**T**his world has known only One Man, who could conquer the whole world, without the loss of one life and that too without an army, without human aid, without human strategy. That One Man is the Lord Jesus Christ. I did mention that He accomplished this without the loss of one life; but I am wrong when it comes to Him. He gave His own very life; He shed His blood; He endured agony and suffering to conquer this wicked world. We know from history that great empires have arisen to fling their armies ruthlessly on their fellow beings to claim universal dominion and power. But none has ever succeeded; none ever will. But THIS MAN, "When He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb 1:3).

Though the words "conquer", "conquering" or "conqueror" are used only in three places. Revelation 6:2 (two times) and Romans 8:37, the whole Bible is filled with Him as conqueror. Someone said, "From the day that man fell in the Garden of Eden, the authority of Satan as god of this world was never challenged. Weapons stronger than man could forge, were needed. No man born of a woman could hope to succeed. As every child is born into the world, Satan could lay his hands on its head and say, "mine". But help was forthcoming, and in due time a baby lay in a manger at Bethlehem. The birth of that child caused the greatest joy in heaven and the greatest consternation (dismay) in hell. For the first time, Satan found he could not claim a child as his own, for this child has been born sinless".

Satan marshalled all the powers of hell to destroy Him. He miserably failed. The child grew and waxed strong. From the moment of His birth, every weapon that hell could forge was levelled at Him. But Satan could not prevail. He stood alone in the wilderness enduring every form of temptation that Satan could devise; he offered Him the whole world. But the sinless one would not break down. Christ could say, "The Prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in Me" (John 14:30). The Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect, holy, sinless life. He was the only one who could offer Himself without spot to justify the ungodly. J.

Stanley Collins writes, "Behold Him as He hangs naked, bleeding and alone. He conquered, not with force of arms, not by riding over the bodies of His enemies, not by taking the lives of others, but by giving Himself. Heaven looked down, hushed to silence; more than twelve legions of angels stood by to come to His aid; all heaven watched while one Man, single handed and alone, engaged all the forces of Satan. Then from the darkness of the Cross, the cry of the mighty victor arose, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

For three days he lay in the tomb. They sealed His tomb. The grave could not hold Him. As the sun rose on a Sunday morning, He stood in that Garden. No doubt, He was there as the Conqueror. From the world He had redeemed, He ascended to the heaven. As a Man He entered into heaven clothed with vesture dipped in blood; His hands, His feet, His side and His brow bore the wounds suffered in the fiercest battle. This was the first time in the history of the universe that a Man made His entry into heaven. No one stopped Him. The everlasting doors were thrown open. He proceeded through the exulting millions. He approached the very Throne of God. The seat He vacated for 33 years remained empty and He ascended the throne and took His place at the right hand of God. O' What a conquest!

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the sepulchre. And behold there was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it.....And the angel answered and said unto the women, "Fear not ye: For I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: For He is risen as He said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead" (Mathew 28:1-7). Thereafter the Lord met His disciples. "And they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him" (Math 28:9). Later He spoke to them, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (28:18). Since His death and resurrection, He had the authority to give eternal life to all whom God had given Him (John 17:2). Being the first born from the dead, He had the authority because in all things He had the pre-

eminence (Col 1:18). He rose again from the dead, not to die again. He has conquered death, sin and Satan. "He showed Himself alive after His passion, by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). The disciples saw Him being taken up, as a cloud received Him out of their sight (Acts 1:9). And two men who stood by them in white apparel proclaimed, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (v 11). He is the owner of both heaven and earth. He is the Conqueror.

Peter with great boldness declared, "David seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses. Therefore, being by the right of God exalted, and having received of the Father, the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this (Holy Spirit) which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens; but he saith himself, "The Lord said unto My Lord, sit Thou on My Right Hand until I make Thy foes Thy footstool. Therefore, let all the houses of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:31-36). They had crucified God's Anointed One and the coming of the Holy Spirit was the evidence that Jesus had been exalted in heaven. When the rulers and elders and scribes (Acts 4:5) questioned, "By what power or by what name have ye done this" (v 7)? Peter filled with the Holy Ghost said unto them, "ye rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we this day be examined of the good deed done to this impotent man, by what means he is made whole; be it known unto you all and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole.....Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:8-12). The Lord Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. This was affirmed by Paul when he spoke to the Jailor, "Believe on the Lord

Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house" (Acts 16:31). Paul put the gospel with great force to King Agrippa, when he stood before him, "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come; that Christ should suffer and that He should be the first that should rise from the dead and should show light unto the people and to the Gentiles" (acts 26:22,23). This is the man who said, "I count all things but loss for the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil 3:8). "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present nor things to come no height nor depth nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:38,39). For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day (2 Timothy 1:12). What a witnessing? Peter and Paul knew that the Lord in whom they had put their trust is the Lord of heaven and earth – the Lord and Christ. Everyone who has put his trust in Him believes Him to be the King of kings and Lord of Lords. He is God Himself. "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me and every tongue shall confess to God" (Rom 14:11). Paul says, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:10).

"And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea and all that are in them heard I saying, "Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever and ever. And the four beasts said "Amen". And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped Him that liveth forever and ever" (Rev 5:13,14). He had conquered sin and death.

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# THE BREAD OF LIFE

(An exposition of John 6)

James Varghese Brahmavar

**T**he miracle of feeding five thousand is narrated in all the four Gospels. No reader of any Gospel should miss it. To get the full picture and the significance of this great sign, we must compare all different accounts in the Gospels. Mark tells us that Jesus told His disciples to come apart to a quiet place and rest a while (Mk. 6:31-32). There were at least two things that demanded rest for their body and mind. The disciples had just come after their long missionary journey by themselves without the Lord accompanying them. Secondly, they were informed that the prophet and the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist was beheaded. Matthew [14:13] shows this as the context Jesus departing to a deserted place. It was a time of emotional anguish and they needed to calm their minds. God knows that man needs rest. That is why He instituted the Sabbath. However, what followed here was harder work. They had to serve food to 5000 men and probably as much or more women and children. And when that was over they had to sail in the rough sea risking their lives. Rest is necessary; but when urgent challenges come in one's way rest will have to wait. Though the miracle is described in all the four Gospels, it is for John to give us the true meaning of the sign, that Jesus is the Bread of Life. It is this Bread people need to have. Rest or no rest, His disciples must work hard to give this Bread to the people.

## A Multitude around Jesus 6:1-4

Jesus saw a great multitude coming to Him. He had compassion for them (Mk.6:34). We must see this event in its sequence to the descriptions of Jesus meeting a number of individuals in the previous chapters in John's Gospel, Nicodemus, Samaritan woman and the man by Bethesda. What He offered to those individuals He is ready to offer to any number of people who would come to Him.

John points out that it was about the time of Passover. The multitude should have been largely pilgrims rather than the natives. Today they are here; tomorrow they may not be around. It could be a now or never situation. What happened there also had something to do with the Passover. If Jesus' next trip to Jerusalem was at the time of festival of Tabernacles (7:1), it would mean that He was not in Jerusalem for that Passover. And instead Jesus was

having a massive feast in the wilderness of Galilee. The discourse followed had relevance to the true meaning of the Passover.

## Challenge and Response 6:5-15

When Jesus saw the multitude coming, he wanted to preach them the Gospel and also to feed them. The latter task was entrusted with the disciples. Harmonizing the accounts in John and Mark we may presume that just as the multitude was beginning to gather, Jesus told the disciples of the need of feeding them (Jn. 6:5). Rest of the discussion on this and the subsequent miracle took place after the preaching was over (Mk. 6:34-38).

The disciples are just back after an effective spiritual ministry. Twelve of them divided into groups of two each, travelled through the length and breadth of their land without their Master accompanying them. Lord had taught them not to be concerned about their food and shelter and told them how they would be provided (Lk.9:3-5). Now Master is involving them in another level of ministry. They are asked to feed others and the number is not just two, not twelve, but more than five thousand.

Food for the people was the challenge set before the disciples. There were three suggestions or responses from the side of the disciples to this challenge.

The first suggestion is from the whole group of disciples. They say: let the people find food for themselves (Mk. 6:35). It is unlikely that such a large multitude will find food in the villages and towns near by. Probably the disciples were waiting for the crowd to disperse for them to have their own food quietly. Mark notes that they did not have time to eat.

Jesus' reply- You must give them (Mk. 6:37). The second response is from Philip: 200 denarii's worth bread is not sufficient to feed the multitude before them. One dinarii is wage of one day's labor. His mind was stuck at what could not be done; he had no vision of what could be done. We might wonder why Philip did not say that they would need, say, 1000 denarii to feed them. Probably in his economy, 200 was the largest sum he could imagine in his mind. However, as we would see, funds or lack of it was not the real issue.

Jesus' reply- See what you have with you (Mk.6:38).

The third response is from Andrew: There is

a lad here with five loaves and two fishes (Jn.6:9). The smallness of the whole proposition is brought out by several facts. Andrew is introduced here as Simon Peter's brother, sort of not-so-known person. The Gk word for 'lad' [used only here in the NT] who spared the food parcel also signifies smallness. It may be better rendered as a 'little boy'. The word has been used in the language with connotation of a 'servant'. What he had brought was barley loaves, bread of cheap kind, and food of the poor. That he had two fishes we actually understand from other Gospels. The Gk word for it in John's Gospel, only means some pieces of cooked food to eat with the bread. Two 'small fish' (NIV) may be more appropriate. Leon Morris says that it is 'something of a titbit which would make the coarse barley bread more palatable'. An ordinary unimpressive man is saying about a poor small boy having a little cheap food. The real issue is not who you are or how much you have; the real issue is what you can share. The boy was willing to share all he had. Jesus' reply- Right, make the people sit down to eat (Jn. 6:10).

In fact, they were not without any resources to face the challenge. There was place to sit (6:10), some people to serve and a little food and there was the Lord of all sufficiency. We can begin the ministry entrusted with us if we have the willingness to put to use whatever little resources we have and have the assurance that the Lord is with us.

Where the disciple talked in terms of every one having a *little* (v.7); Jesus gives 'as much as they wanted' (v.11). But Jesus also asks them to gather up the fragments that remain. The abundance of supply should not make its value depreciated in our minds. Every bit of it is precious and must be preserved.

#### **The Prophet and King 6:14-15**

People saw Him as 'the Prophet who is to come into the world' evidently meaning the Messiah as Moses foretold (Dt.18:15). They wanted to have Him as their king. They were right in perceiving the Messiah as both the Prophet and King. They were 'about to come and take Him by force to make Him king'. In fact, as Luke records, Jesus had 'received them and spoke to them about the *kingdom* of God' (Lk.9:11). Obviously they had not understood the spiritual nature of the Kingdom Jesus was speaking about. Many people held sumptuous 'food and drink' (cf. Rom. 14:17), for a characteristic of messianic kingdom. As Calvin observes, "It is astonishing that five thousand men should have been seized with such a daring presumption, that they did not hesitate, by making a new king, to provoke against themselves

Pilate's army and vast power of the Roman empire; and it is certain that they would never had gone so far, if they had not, relying on the predictions of the Prophets, hoped that God would be on their side, and consequently they would overcome". However their perception of Messiah and His kingdom was wide off the mark.

The kingship of Jesus *is* a theme in this Gospel as it is in the entire Bible. We see in the first chapter Nathaniel saying to Him, "You are the King of Israel". But it was not a political kingdom but a spiritual kingdom. So, to Pilate Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world". Nevertheless what He had made known to him was that He was a king (18:36,37). The Cross proclaimed His kingship having a title on it, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews". The King lifted on the Cross where He is 'exalted and extolled very high' (Isa. 52:13) is reigning the hearts of His people like no other king has ever been able to. His resurrection also has to do with His kingship when He is given 'the nations for His possession' (Ps.2:8). After resurrection the King, having all authority given to Him, gave commandment to His army for a universal spiritual conquest (Mt. 28:18-20).

#### **Meaning of the Sign 6: 22-35**

Lord's discourse in this chapter has three parts divided approximately as- the first section from v. 22 is addressed to the people who witnessed the miracle and now gathered at the lakeside; the second section starting somewhere around verse 31 takes place in the synagogue in Capernaum (v.59) where mostly the religious Jews are the audience; and the third section in vv. 60-71 deals with His followers.

That the spiritual meaning of the sign is paramount is evident in 6:27. Mark shows that the motivation of the ministry was the compassion Christ had for the people when He saw them as sheep without shepherd. Evidently, then, the challenge was leading people to the true Shepherd, Lord Jesus Christ. He can lead them to the green pastures and the still waters. Preaching the gospel and feeding the people may signify two aspects of the ministry of cherishing the souls and nourishing the body.

The people were so impressed about the miracle that they sailed across the Sea of Tiberius to Capernaum to meet Jesus there. But they could see only the physical side of Lord's mighty work that He could feed them. Jesus came to give them something more than the 'food which perishes'; He came to give food of eternal value.

(to be contd...)



# THE KINGS OF JUDAH (10)

## JOTHAM

Koshy Zachariah

Jehovah perfect

2 Kings 15:32-38; 2 Chr 27

Contemporary Prophets – Isaiah, Micah, Hosea

**J**otham the son of Uzziah was twenty five years old when he took over the Kingdom. He was the tenth of Judah's Kings. Though the record of Jotham's reign is brief, it is full of brightness. He reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. He lived up to his name: the meaning of the name Jotham is "Jehovah is upright". His mother's name was Jerushah, "inherited or possessed". She was the daughter of Zadok – the name meant "Just". Not only Jotham inherited the good qualities of his father Uzziah, but also the godly instructions, training and guidance of his godly mother who inherited the nature of her father – Zadok, the just. And we read, "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord according to all that his father Uzziah did" (2 Chr 27:2). When Uzziah became a leper through his disobedience and unlawful act of entering into the temple to burn incense contrary to the commandment, Jotham had to be regent over the Kingdom. "And Jotham his son was over the King's house judging the people of the land" (2 Chr 26:21). That gave him the experience to rule a country righteously. We are not sure whether Uzziah had appointed him regent much before his leprosy. Since Jotham was only twenty five years, even if he was appointed to be regent, it could not have been for more than five or six years old. Jotham was a very intelligent young man with a keen sense of observation. The moment his father became a leper by entering into the temple, he made a correct decision not to meddle with the temple of God. We read, "Howbeit he entered not into the temple of the Lord" (2 Chr 27:2). We all have to learn from our mistakes. But it is the normal tendency that we soon forget all the mistakes that we have committed and the earlier lifestyle continues after sometime. In fact the lives of all the past Kings of Judah, covered earlier, show that they also have easily slipped from doing the right things, which they have done in the initial years. But Jotham, all through his life as a King,

remained spotless at least as it appears from the scripture, keeping closely the lessons he had learnt.

We read, "The people did yet corruptly" (27:2). We see that when Uzziah took over the Kingdom, though "he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done", he did not take away the high places; the people sacrificed and burned incense still on the high places" (2 Kings 15:3-4). Probably this increased rapidly toward the close of Uzziah's reign. And we read, "Howbeit the high places were not removed; the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places". What is continued for sometime cannot that easily be removed and no worldly wisdom will endorse stern action if contemplated. It could be true that the sacrifices and incense were offered to Jehovah in the high places, but scripture was very clear that Jerusalem was "the place where men ought to worship". The departure from the instructions probably was for convenience sake and they, thus over a period, lost its significance. For all people to come to Jerusalem, was practically difficult and with human deliberations they built up high places in other places for people to worship and offer sacrifices. In this practice, many unnecessary formalities would have crept in in line with human imaginations. We see this, in denominational Churches, facilitating constructions of worship places at every nook and corner and with many vain imaginations contrary to scripture finding place. We the Christian believers need to be conscious of the dilution that can take place if we relax Church doctrines and truths for man's practical convenience and easy compliance. We should adhere carefully and closely to the very letter of the word of God.

Jotham was conscious of the importance of worship and the holiness of the temple where one worshiped. "And he built the high gate of the house of the Lord and on the wall of Opel, he built much" (2 Chr 27:3). In 2 Chr 23:20, we note that the high gate led from the King's house to the temple. C. Knapp says, "The high gate between

the palace and the temple was better than a Chinese wall around his Kingdom. All real prosperity and power is found in communion with God". Now Jotham's rebuilding the place was to facilitate his free access from his own house to the house of the Lord. He knew that he would be blessed in all his matters, if he kept a close link with the house of the Lord. How true it is of the believing Christians! If they hold the Lord close to them, getting instructions and wisdom from the scripture, they will be the blessed of all the people. But in the present day world, the relationship with the Lord has breaches and needs to be mended.

Further, we read that he built cities in the mountains of Judah and in the forests he built castles and towers (v 4). In principle, he gave importance to all places for the material prosperity of his people and thus fortified his Kingdom and Judah all around. And he prospered well, all the days of his life. We read, "Now the rest of the

acts of Jotham and all his wars and his ways, lo, they are written in the book of the Kings of Israel and Judah" (v 7). The mention "all his wars" implies that he was actively engaged in battles with his enemies repelling their invasion. He fought also with the King of the Ammonites and prevailed against them. This could include Pekah King of Israel and Rezin King of Syria.

He became mighty because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God V 6). Jotham is the only one of Judah's King's against whom God has nothing to record. He was perfect and blameless like Daniel. When we read Micah 7, we would think that Micah had Jotham's death in mind when he wrote, "The good man is perished out of the earth" (v 2). C. Knapp records, "He was the tenth of Judah's Kings and God always claims His title; in Jotham, the "Jehovah perfect", it was found". It is a life worthy of emulation for a clean Christian life.



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## KIND ATTENTION!

**The 17th All India Workers' Conference** is planned to be held at the OM Centre in Secunderabad, A.P from 16th to 19th October 2008. We expect several international speakers including J.B.Nicholson (Jr) and Kurian Parayil. We are expecting speakers from UK and Canada also. This conference would need substantial resources. Prayer and support would be valued. We would appreciate many Lord's people all over the world who have a great burden for the ministries in India, setting apart their time and joining the conference. We would be extending invitation to 350 English knowing Evangelists. They may communicate their participation well in advance. Please uphold this matter in your valuable prayers so that it will be a time of great blessing.

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## HOME CALL

**Prof. Cherian Mathew (52)**, *Chengannur*, went to be with the Lord on 19th April-08. He was ailing for quite some time and was under treatment. His mortal remains were interred at the Brethren Cemetery at Pauthencavu on 21st April, in the presence of a large gathering of believers and friends. Bro. Cherian Mathew was working as professor of Chemistry in Kayamkulam. He took the initiative to restart the worship meeting in Kayamkulam and in the construction of a new hall for Puthencavu Brethren Assembly. He served the Lord faithfully in various capacities, as the Secretary of SBS Camp Centre Puthencavu, Treasurer of the TMM Nursing College, Thiruvalla, Governing Body Member of the TMM Hospital Trust. As an educationalist he had a great passion for the training up of our young children and played a great role in the SBS teens camps. He is survived by his wife and four children. Kindly remember the bereaved family in your prayers.

# Vineyard News

## ANDAMANS

01/06/08

**M. Joseph, Port Blair**

The ministry is yielding encouraging results, particularly now with the help of Ebi and family. Brother is not keeping so well and hence will be coming to the main land for a check-up and treatment. A few others in the assembly are also suffering from various ailments. Prayers are needed for their good health and also for the blessing of the ministry.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

02/06/08

**S.Prakasham, Pathikonda**

By God's grace the ministry is going on well. They had a Gospel crusade for three days in which they worked along with the nearby assembly. They were able to cover 36 villages in three mandals. Prayers are coveted that the Word sown may bear fruits.

03/06/08

**A.Aseervadam, Veldurthy**

The ministry here is going on well. Recently they started worship service at Kallur in Kurnool dt. There are about 40 people gathering for meeting. Outreach work is being carried out in the surrounding villages also. Prayers are coveted.

04/06/08

**A.G Jacob, Vizak**

Brother informs about the Believers' Family Conference to be held from 29th May to 1st June-08 at Visak. Brother John Kurien, Dr. Mitta Devadanam and Mr. K.A Mathew will be the speakers. Prayers are requested

## BIHAR

05/06/08

**Ravishankar Prasad, Munger**

The assembly activities are going on well. They did outreach work in a place about 70 kms from here, distributing the Gospel of John and other Biblical literature. Many people opened their hearts to receive the Word. Prayers are requested that they may all turn to the Lord for their salvation.

## CHATTISGARH

06/06/08

**Harrison Roat, Bilaspur**

During the last two months, the Lord enabled them to distribute many Bibles, NTs and gospel tracts; follow up work is also going on. Prayers are solicited for the blessing of the on going ministries.

07/06/08

**Benjamin Roat, Laibunga**

Brother informs that he has shifted his residence to this new place recently, as an assembly testimony was formed here in Feb-08. Prayers are requested for his son Ashish who is not able to adjust to this new place and getting sick often. Kindly note his new address: *Benjamin Roat, House No.10, Vijay Colony, Rudukela vill, Laibunga P.O, Raigarh dt, CG-494 113*

08/06/08

**P.G Unnikrishnan, Balod**

The ministries are going on well. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March-08, five believers were baptized and added to the assembly; a few others are getting ready for baptism. The Bible studies going on in two places are progressing well. Prayers are requested.

## JHARKHAND

09/06/08

**Shailendra Murmu, Sahibgunj**

More than 150 people came together to hear the Word of God in a special meeting that was held recently. 24 believers obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism from the local assemblies. Brother P.M. Skariah helped in the ministry. Prayers are requested.

10/06/08

**Rajendra Rajwar, Jealgora**

The work in this area is going on well. In the month of March two believers were baptized. Personal evangelism and outreach works are going on. Please pray for the VBS held in eight places in May. In the Lodna area around 20 people are regularly learning the Word.

## KARNATAKA

11/06/08

**G. Kumar, Sagar**

The ministries are going on well. He informs that

recently they have started an outreach work in a new place called Thygarthi, which is about 16 kms from here. Prayers are requested that an assembly testimony may be formed in this place.

12/06/08

**Vasanth R Pai, Challakere**

They had a special spiritual conference from 10th -13th April-08 in which brother Jacob Thomas and P.K. Verghese from Bangalore shared the Word. Around 500 people came together and were richly blessed by the fellowship and hearing of the Word of God. Prayers are coveted.

13/06/08

**C.A Baby, Siddapur**

The Lord is blessing the ministry here. On 10<sup>th</sup> Feb-08, six believers were baptized and added to the assembly fellowship. Prayers are requested for these new believers.

14/06/08

**A.D Rathnakara, Bangalore**

By His grace personal evangelism and Emmaus Bible Correspondence ministry are going on well. A few have accepted the Lord in the jail. Kindly pray for the follow up work. The children outreach work at two places: Kalkere and Kormangala is progressing well. Kindly pray for this ministry that it may reach the parents with the Gospel.

15/06/08

**ADJ Ebenezer, Kolar**

On behalf of the Carmel Brethren Assembly, Kolar, brother informs about the VBS-2008 programmes held at different places. From 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> at Vinobha Nagar, 28<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May at OTF Layout, 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May at Vadalur and 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May at Salem. Prayers are coveted that these efforts may produce some lasting results.

16/06/08

**Paramesh B, Mysore**

The assembly is growing in strength spiritually. On 30<sup>th</sup> March-08, five believers obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism and were added to the fellowship. A few others are getting ready for baptism. Prayers are needed for these new believers.

17/06/08

**Sam Mark Harry, Bangalore**

The Sunday school in his neighborhood was started in 2003 and is going on well. On 30<sup>th</sup> March an RC lady accepted Christ. The Tuesday hospital outreach is going on well. Prayers are requested for these ministries as well as for the meetings arranged in various places in summer.

18/06/08

**Wilson K., George, Ratnagiri**

The Lord's work in this area is going on well. About 26 people are in fellowship. Two new families are showing interest to learn the Word. The effort of the Konkan Gospel outreach ministry is showing

encouraging results. Prayers are coveted especially for the need of an assembly hall.

## KERALA

19/06/08

**Babu Varghese, Trichur**

The ministries are going on as usual. He was away in Punjab for a month long ministry. He was able to visit around 200 villages and speak at many cottage meetings. Two people came to the saving knowledge of Christ. Prayers are requested for the seed sown.

20/06/08

**K.K. Varghese, Kodanad**

The ministry in this and surrounding areas are going on well, by God's grace. In the last week of April they held VBS and gospel meetings. Prayers are coveted for the ministries as well as for the good health of his two year old, third son Job, who is still not normal,

## HARYANA

21/06/08

**Samuelkutty MC, Hissar**

By the grace of God they are well, except some sickness for which our brother is under treatment; he is suffering from Diabetes and prostate gland infection. Prayers are requested for speedy recovery and also for some new believers who are getting ready for baptism.

## NAGALAND

22/06/08

**O. Georgekutty, ARTC**

The ministries here are going on well. Many who showed interest are being followed up regularly. More than 30 children are attending the Sunday school. Prayers are requested for the furtherance of the ministry.

## ORISSA

23/06/08

**Sankar Kumar Mail, Surala**

In the month of March-08, they held outreach activities for ten days; while they were preaching the Gospel, some anti-christian people came near and beat up the brethren severely. Due to such persecution two families went back from the faith. Kindly pray for the work here that it may not be hindered because of persecution..

24/06/08 **Rosen Bagh, Nowrangpur**  
God is wonderfully using them in this difficult area for the furtherance of the Gospel. They are concentrating in two villages namely, Mohuli and Thumbarla. There are 15 people gathering at Mohuli; six of them have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; and the others are keenly interested in the faith. Some youngsters are gathering at a place called Majhiguda. Prayers are requested for all these efforts.

### PUNJAB

25/06/08 **P. Vijaya Raju, Amritsar**  
They had Bible classes cum children's camp at Amritsar from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April. Around 100 participants came for the Bible classes and about 60 children. During those days they were also able to visit the central jail and provide them with spiritual and physical food. Prayers are coveted.

26/06/08 **K.K. Oommen, Pathankot**  
Two days of evening Gospel meetings were arranged on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March-08, when Mahinder Singh, serving the Lord at Ludhiana helped in the ministry. The Emmaus ministry is going on well, with four Punjabi course books for distribution. Prayers are requested.

### TAMIL NADU

27/06/08 **P. Stephen, Coimbatore**  
Brother mentions that he has been in full time service since 1973. The Lord blessed his ministry, gave him a family and an assembly at Ganapathy, CBE. The Lord blessed them with three children all of whom are nurses. Marriage of their first daughter Stephilla with Gladwin took place on 5<sup>th</sup> May-08 in Coimbatore. Prayers are requested for their blessed family life. Kindly continue to remember the ministries here in your valuable prayers.

28/06/08 **T. Ramesh, Namakkal**  
Brother is doing the Lord's work in this place for the past eight years. 23 believers were baptized and added to the assembly. The Lord is blessing the ministry. He writes tracts and distributes them in 15 different languages. Those who require tracts may contact our brother. Prayers are requested.

29/06/08 **J. Simon, Chidambaram**  
It pleased the Lord to establish the 4<sup>th</sup> village

assembly here in a place called Paravoor Chavady, near here. 14 believers were baptized on 15<sup>th</sup> March-08. Prayers are requested for this new assembly

**Paul C. Stephen, Pappanaikanpatty**  
An outreach work was held on the Pachai hills from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April. Ten brethren were involved in the outreach and were able to reach many people with the Gospel. Brother Moses also is helping in the work in Sembur and is in need of a house. Prayers are requested.

### WEST BENGAL

30/06/08 **Baljit Paul, Banke**  
Brother informs that from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb-08 to 1<sup>st</sup> March-08, they did outreach work in 40 villages as a team of eight people, going on two wheelers. On 2<sup>nd</sup> March seven believers were baptized and added to the local assembly here. Prayers are coveted for their spiritual growth.

**Purnendu Jha, Chinakuri**  
The assembly activities are going on well. They have started outreach in a village called Mithani. Around six evangelists gather periodically and do door-to-door ministry. Children ministry is going on three places. Prayers are requested.

### OTHER MATTERS

**Courtallam Christian Camping Centre** and Old age Home. The building measuring 100x50 is under construction on 61 cent piece of land registered in the name of SAI. The facility here would be able to accommodate about 1000 people, to conduct conference, meetings and camps. The entire project would cost about 1 crore and they look to the Lord for His gracious provision. The people of God everywhere are requested to extend their helping hand for this noble venture.

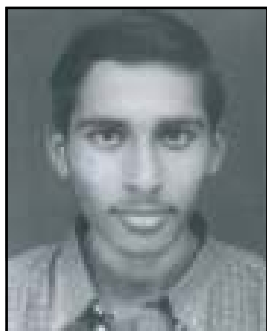
**Saroj Lepcha, Arunachal**  
The special meetings held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April were of great blessing. Brother Sabu Varghese from Kerala shared the Word and the messages challenged the gathering. On 7<sup>th</sup> April-08, twelve believers testified the Lord in the waters of baptism. Prayers are needed for these new believers and also for the on-going regular activities.



## KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC

Rajendra Behera

I come from the state of Orissa, born and brought up in a nominal Christian family, but did not have a personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ; and I lived in the wicked ways of the world. One day I read in the Bible the verse from Jer.4:1, and was convicted of my sins and turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for my salvation. And was baptized on 02.01.2005.



According to Mathew 28:19-20, I understood the Lord's call for the full time ministry; for that I wanted to equip myself with a systematic study of the Scripture; For this need I joined the Stewards Bible College and have finished my first year of studies. Kindly pray for my studies and also for my future ministry.

**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.

**All Correspondence, Articles and contributions for the Ministry may be sent to: The Gospel Fellowship Trust of India, No.1, Bethesda Centre, Kodungaiyur P.O, Chennai- 600 118, TN, INDIA.**

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

## PRAY FOR

**The Gospel Fellowship Trust of India**

(Regd. Society No.183/1968)

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

(Legal Jurisdiction: Madras)

### Objectives of the ministry of GFTI

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.,
5. To support those in extreme need such as widows, the poor and those parents in difficulty to educate their children.
6. Evangelism through Literature, Special Conferences.
7. To Support Assembly-based Bible Education.

## WHAT DID HE DO ?

*In Chemistry, He turned water into wine (Jn.2:9)., In Biology, He was born of a virgin (Lk.1:34), In Physics, He overcame the law of gravity by ascending into heaven (Lk.24:51), In Economics, He multiplied and fed 5000 (Mtt. 14:19), In History, He is the beginning and the end (Rev.21:8), In Politics, Government shall be upon His shoulders (Is.9:6), In religion, no one comes to God the Father except through Him (Jn.14:6) He is **JESUS CHRIST !***