

# 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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In every circumstance of life, we should resort to the Lord in prayer. Our earnest entreaties will not knock at a deaf ear without response. Because the One in whom we have put our trust, is the living God, whose eyes and ears are open to the prayers of His people. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers" (1 Pet 3:12). Peter is referring to Psalm 34:15. James says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

David was well aware and conscious that an honest prayer to His God would not go unanswered. He needed God's deliverance as he knew death was close on his kneel. The only way was through prayer to the God who chose him out of nothing to become the ultimate King of Israel. David poured out his heart to Jonathan saying, "There is but a step between me and death" (1 Sam 20:3). David was constantly being pursued by Saul and his men. One slip was enough to cost his life. Several times the enemies had surrounded him, but he escaped by the hand of God. As trouble and danger to life were always before him, he felt the need of an open line to Heaven, a prayer line, so that he could use that line constantly. Psalm 59, begins with his prayer, "Deliver me from my enemies, O, my God: Defend me from that rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity and save me from bloody men. For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul: The mighty are gathered against me" (vs 1-3). This prayer was a constant one from him, as we could see in Ps 22:20; 25:20; 31:1-2,15; 35:17; 40:13; 43:1 etc. The Psalms he wrote are the outcome of his prayers. His whole life reflects the life line of prayer to which he resorted to persistently and consistently. Look at Psalm 59:3. "For lo, they lie in wait for my soul: The mighty are gathered against me: Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O Lord". The title of Psalm 59 goes, "when Saul sent and they watched the house to kill him".

Saul knew that David would be the ultimate King of Israel. This is evident from what Saul said

to his son Jonathan, "as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established nor thy kingdom" (1 Sam 20:31). Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning and abide in a secret place and hide thyself" (1 Sam 19:2). Now David becomes a man of prayer. God acknowledged, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after Mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will" (1 Sam 13:14, Acts 13:22). God chose a King in David, who would in all his life depend on God for everything. That is evident from David's life. We read, "David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord and turned not aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite" (1 King 15:5). We all know that David confessed his sin saying, "I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, "The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die" (2 Sam 12:13). David was upright and righteous before God and he said, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile" (Ps 32:1,2). Psalm 101 is a reflection of his sterling character and attitude. Only a man perfect before God could pen this Psalm, "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart" (v 2). The Psalmist says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me" (Ps 66:18). What the Psalmist says of, in all probability is true of David – a man after God's own heart.

Now coming back to the earlier paragraph, where David's life was in danger being under constant vigilance of the men of Saul, who were given the commission to do away with him. David poured out his heart to the Lord God who chose him from nothing. "I took thee from the sheep cote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight and have made thee a great name like unto the name of the great men

that are in the earth” (2 Sam 7:8; 1Chr 17:7). When David submitted his cause before God with great tears and supplication, God helped him to get out of their net in a wonderful way. “And Michal, David’s wife told him saying, ‘if thou save not thy life tonight, tomorrow thou shalt be slain. So Michel let David down through a window; and he went and fled and escaped” (1 Sam 19:11,12). He felt himself secure in the company of Samuel and came to Samuel and told him all that Saul had done to him” (v 18). In times of difficulties, one will be better off in the company of God’s children, especially men of God who value the prayer line with God. They both dwelt in Naioth and the enemies – the men of Saul and even Saul personally coming to kill David – could not prevail. God was at work and the prayers stood a wall around them. O, what fervent prayers can do!

David had to go through many difficulties and all the encounters that would have cost him, his life, were overcome with prayers. To make him a man of prayers God made him to face all perilous encounters, so that he could be a righteous King under the full surveillance of God. David never put his trust in any one except his God. Despite saving the inhabitants of Keilah from the hands of Philistines, he did not believe in the stronghold of Keilah (a town that hath gates and bars – 1 Sam 23:7). He sought the directions of God through the prayer line he had with God. “Then said David, “O, Lord God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? Will Saul come down as thy servant hath heard? O, Lord God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant”. And the Lord said, “He will come down. Then said David, “Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the Lord said, “They will deliver thee up” (1 Sam 23:10-12). What a sure word we have in the scripture, which is mentioned in the beginning, “His ears are open to their prayers” (Ps 34:15). And we read, “And Saul sought him (David) every day but God delivered him not into his hand” (1 Sam 23:14). God’s wonderful deliverance could be seen in 1 Sam 23:14. The Ziphites came out against David to help Saul and

they sent words to Saul accordingly. Fearing the worst, “David came down into a rock and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon, And Saul went on this side of the mountain and David and his men on the other side of the mountain; and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them” (Vs 25,26). Desperate situation from which no escape. We recall Psalmist’s words, “But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped” (Ps 73:2). But God would not forsake his children; yea His prayer warriors. Look at the instant help. “But there came a messenger unto Saul saying, “Haste thee and come; for Philistines have invaded the land. Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David”. We could fully endorse the views of David, “Thou hast enlarged by steps under me, that my feet did not slip” (Ps 18:36). “And thou hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: Thou hast set my feet in a large room” (Ps 31:8). In all difficult encounters, He resorted to supplication and prayers to his God. Even when he was cursed and mocked by Shimei, his answer was, “Let him curse, because the Lord hath said unto him”. What forbearance? All because he was putting his matters to the Lord in prayer. That was true when David did flee for the fear of Absalom, his son. He did not allow the ark of God to be carried with him saying, “If I shall find favour in the eyes of the Lord, he will bring me again” (2 Sam 15:25). This man of prayer knew the mind of God.

The Psalmist says, “Thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel.....whom have I in heaven but Thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee.....But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Thy works” (Ps 73:23-28). These are words that come from the heart of a praying man. How true is Jame’s statement of facts in 5:16?

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## The Righteousness of God

(Dan.9:7, Rom.3:21)

J. Victor Sunderaraj

**R**ighteousness (heb-zedec) means straightness. It means right relationship between God and man. Righteousness promotes well being and bring peace. Righteousness in Greek means conformity to the will of God. We come into right relationship with God by faith in Jesus Christ. Then our will and action will conform to the will of God; and our lives will be righteous lives.

### **I. God deals with people in Righteousness (Jer.11:20):**

The Lord of hosts, judges righteously testing the mind and heart. He judges us according to our thoughts and intentions, not only according to our actions. God is righteous. He will do right always. Abraham pleaded with God for Sodom, where Lot lived. With that confidence he asked, "shall not the judge of all the earth do right? There is so much injustice in the world, even among God's people. We can be quite sure that God will always do right. The Messianic rule will be in righteousness. Behold the days are coming says the Lord, that I will raise to David, a Branch of Righteousness. A king shall reign and prosper. He will execute judgement and righteousness in the earth (Jer.23:5). Apostle Peter describes "Coming of the day of the Lord in which heaven will be dissolved and elements will melt. According to God's promise we look forward for new heaven and new earth in which righteousness will dwell (2Pet.3:12,13). Everything in heaven and in the earth will be in right relationship with God. There will be well being and peace. We look forward for that day.

**II. God imputes righteousness to those who believe in Jesus Christ:** God promised a son to Abraham. He also promised that Abraham's descendants will be numerous like the stars of heaven (Gen.15:5). Abraham had no son, when that promise was given. Yet he believed in the Lord and His promise and God accounted that belief to him for righteousness. Abraham and Sarah were advanced in age, yet Abraham believed in God and His word. Thus, this righteousness of God is given to us by faith in Jesus Christ (Rom.3:22). Righteousness cannot be earned by merit or by works. It is given free to those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

**III. God is just (righteousness). He justifies sinners:** God is just (righteous) and He justifies those who have faith in Jesus (Rom.3:26). This is possible because of

the redemption that Christ had earned for us. Those who believe in Christ are justified freely (without any cost) through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Rom.3:24). God has set forth Jesus Christ to be the propitiation (mercy seat) by the blood of Jesus Christ. He took the punishment (death) for our sins. So God is just (righteous). When He justifies a person (make a person righteous) who believes in Jesus Christ. God justifies a sinner in a just and righteous way. The wages of sin is death (Rom.6:23). Christ died for our sins. He rose again for our justification. Life of the flesh is in the blood. Blood makes atonement for the soul (Lev.17:11). Blood shed is life given. Christ shed His blood and gave His life on the cross for our sins. Christ Himself is the propitiation for our sins (1Jn.2:2). The sacrifices of the old covenant and the blood shed covered the sins. But the blood of Christ His Son cleanses us from all sins (1Jn.1:7). The Tax collector prayed "God be merciful (be a mercy seat) to me a sinner". He went home justified (declared righteous). So God declares a believer in Christ as righteous for right reasons. So God is just and is a justifier of those who believe in Jesus Christ.

### **IV. Righteous person should live a Righteous life.:**

When we believe in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. We are justified freely by God's grace (Rom.3:23). This is a great blessing. We become the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ (II Cor.5:21). Christ paid a great price for this. He bore our sins in His own body. So we are obligated to live a righteous life. Paul explained the spiritual meaning of believers baptism. A believer going down into the water and coming out of the water, signifies death to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom.6:11). We are to present the members of our bodies as instruments of righteousness to God (6:13). In our fight against unrighteousness we should be protected by the breastplate of righteousness (Eph.6:14). We are to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt.6:3). God expects us believers to live a righteous life pleasing to Him.

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# THE KINGS OF JUDAH

## (14) AMON

Koshy Zachariah

### **2 Kings 21:19-26; 2 Chr 33:21-25**

Amon the son of Manasseh took over the Kingdom at the age of twenty two and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His reign was short and so also the record of his reign. In 2 Kings 21, only eight verses are there about him and in 2 Chronicles Chapter 33, his reign is mentioned in five verses. The opportunity to be righteous and right with the Lord God was more in his case than any other kings. He had heard with his own ears the wickedness of his father Manasseh when he took over the kingdom. His father did all evils in the sight of the Lord. He saw the punishment meted out to him by the Lord for his wilful acts of disobedience and dishonour and the reestablishment of the kingdom on his repentance. At least, Amon had seen with his own eyes or at least heard how his father had humbled himself greatly before the Lord and how he took away, “the strange gods and the idol out of the house of the Lord and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the Lord in Jerusalem and cast them out of the city” (2 Chr 33:15). Any wise king would have turned to the Lord in the light of the episode of his father. Unfortunately Amon did not, for his own destruction. His mother’s name was Meshullemeth (means Repaying). She should have been a godly woman, repaying her gratitude for the goodness of the Lord to her husband. Probably she thought the young son would learn from the experience of his father. But her instructions would have fallen on his deaf ears. The name given by her to her son indicates that she wanted her son to be faithful to the Lord – the name Amon means “faithful” or “Nourished. From the reading of the record given in 2 Kings, it appears that he initially was in the way of the Lord. But he forsook the Lord God of his fathers (2 Kings 21:22). He should have been faithful to the Lord God for restoring the kingdom to his father Manasseh and in that process to himself. He should have nourished himself with the experience of his father and also the nation. He was a shame to the nation and even to his mother. There is not one bright spot in this king’s character.

The record of him is “And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord as his father Manasseh did. And he walked in all the way that his father walked in and served the idols that his father served and worshipped them” (2 Kings 21:20-21). In 2 Chronicle

chapter thirty three, we additionally read, “Amon sacrificed unto all the carved images which Manasseh had made and served them and humbled not himself before the Lord, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

God put an end to his reign at the end of two years. “Amon’s servants conspired against him and slew him in his own house (2 Chr 33:24). He was buried in his sepulchre in the garden of Uzza; and Josiah his son reigned in his stead” (2 Kings 21:24).

## 15. JOSIAH

### **2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chr 34-35**

#### **Contemporary Prophet – Jeremiah**

At the tender age of eight, Josiah was saddled with the rule of Judah. We saw how his father Amon was slain after two years of rule by his own servants as he did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was too young to understand the responsibility and burden of the country. His name means “Given of Jehovah”. He lived to his name. And it is recorded, “And like unto him was there no king before him that turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him” (2 Kings 23:25). In fact, he was the last good king to sit on the throne of David. His mother’s name was Jedidah (means “beloved”) and grandmother’s (mother’s mother) name was Adaiah (means “Jeh has adorned”) and they appear to have had considerable influence on Josiah. And these mother and grandmother lived to their names. How wonderful to have a godly grandmother and a godly mother in succession. When Jedidah named her son as Josiah, it was of the Lord to fulfil the prophecy of the name mentioned in 1 King chapter 13:1,2. “And, behold there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Bethel:.....And he cried against the altar.....”, “O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord; Behold a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee and men’s bones shall be burnt upon thee”. This prophecy was in BC 975. And as generation after generation passed, no Prince of that name appeared. And many righteous wondered whether God has forgotten the promise. And 345 years later, the

promise was fulfilled in Josiah as recorded in 2 Chr 34:3-7. How wonderful of God to keep to his word! We read of Josiah, "Josiah was eight years old, when he began to reign and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord and walked in the ways of David his father and declined neither to the right hand nor to the left" (2 Chr 34:1-2). We note that he started the cleaning of the places in the twelfth year as mentioned in 2 Chr 34:3 and it took six years labour to complete this job (v8-12<sup>th</sup> year to 18<sup>th</sup> year). In the eighteenth year of his reign, he positioned his men to repair the house of God. "The king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah and Maaseiah, the Governor of the city and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder to repair the house of the Lord his God. And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim and of all the remnant of Israel and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem. And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the Lord and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the Lord to repair and amend the house: even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone and timber for couplings and to floor the houses which the king of Judah had destroyed. And the men did the work faithfully" (vs 8-12).

In the meantime, "Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses. And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan. And Shaphan carried the book to the king" (vs 14-16). At first Shaphan did not say anything of the book of the law. He gave an account of the work and of the money. He said, "All that was committed to thy servants, they do it" (v 16). "And Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, "Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book". He did not give any importance since he thought that it was just a book. Many nominal Christians consider Bible a great book and the intrinsic value of its contents is not making any difference to them since they do not read it. In the case of believing Christians also, this is true and as a result many of them remain pygmied in spiritual stature. The king made Shaphan to read the book. How wonderful it is to have a desire to read the word of God! And when the king heard the words of the law, he rent his clothes. Then he commanded his men including Hilkiah the priest and Shaphan the scribe. "Go inquire of the Lord for me and for them

that are left in Israel and in Judah concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do after all that is written in this book" (2 Chr 34:21). "And Hilkiah and they that the king had appointed went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college) and they spake to her to that effect. And she answered them, "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me, Thus saith the Lord, Behold I will bring evil upon this place and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah; because they have forsaken me and have burned incense unto other gods that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place and shall not be quenched (2 Chr 34:22-25).

However the Prophetess said that all the evil that was to come would not be in the days of Josiah, because his heart was tender and he humbled himself before God. God took note of his weeping and the renting of his clothes. The Lord God is a gracious God, compassionate and merciful to them that breakdown before Him and confess. And the king immediately called all the elders of the land together. "And the king went up into the house of the Lord and all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites and all the people great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord" (34:30). "And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and with all his soul to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book" (v 31). "And all the people stood to the covenant (2 Kings 23:3).

The flesh is weak. In the Bible we have several instances of the children of Israel going back on the covenants they made. On the part of king Josiah, this covenant was real anyway. We in our Christian journey make several promises and covenants but we slowly go back to our old ways. We need to be resolute in our minds just like Josiah to keep our covenants and promises, so that the Lord may bless us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. "And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel and made all that were present in Israel to serve even to serve the Lord their God. And all his days, they

departed not from following the Lord, the God of their fathers" (2 Chr 34:33). And the work of reformation continued. These are given in detail in the book of 2 Kings 23:4-20. He brought out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal and for the grove and for all the host of heaven. He burned them outside Jerusalem. Then he put down the idolatrous priests who burned incense in the high places and to Baal, to the sun, and to the moon and to the planets and to all the host of heaven. He brought out the grove from the house of the Lord and burned it at the brook Kidron and stamped it to small powder. He broke down the houses of the sodomites. He made sure that no man did make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. He took away the horses given to the sun and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. "And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz which the king of Judah had made and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord, did the king beat down and brake them down from thence and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron" (2 Kings 23:12). And the high places which Solomon built for Ashtoreth, for Chemosh and for Milcom, were broken down. The altar at Bethel and the high place which Jeroboam had made were broken down. "And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount and sent and took the bones out of the sepulchres and burned them upon the altar and polluted it, according to the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed" (v 16). But he spared the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria. "And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria which the king of Israel had made to provoke the Lord to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel. And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars and burned men's bones upon them and returned to Jerusalem" (v 19-20).

Now Josiah began proceedings to commemorate the forgotten feast in Jerusalem. "And the king commanded all the people saying "Keep the Passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant" (2 Kings 23:21). "And he set the priests in their charges and encouraged them to the service of the house of the Lord and said to the Levites that taught all Israel which were holy unto the Lord, "Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David, King of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: Serve now the Lord your God and his people Israel and prepare yourselves by the house of your fathers after

your courses according to the writing of David King of Israel and according to the writing of Solomon his son" (2 Chr 35:2,4).

From the reading of the verses 5 to 17, we get an idea how minutely Josiah had planned for all things because his heart fully cleaved unto the Lord. Everything was done according to what was written in the book of the law. The first thing that he did was the placement of the ark of God in its right place. And he asked them to kill the passover and sanctify themselves and to prepare their brethren so that everything was done according to the word of the Lord. Josiah gave to the people of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the passover offerings for all that were present. Similarly the princes also willingly gave to the people. The priests and the Levites prepared themselves to do their duty. The singers were set in proper place. And we read, "And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the king of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept and the priests and the Levites and all Judah and Israel that were present and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah, was this passover kept" (2 Chr 35:18,19).

He was a wise king and did well because he was after the Lord's matters. However, he did one thing foolishly. Probably God wanted to take away such a good king Josiah to be with Him. When Necho, king of Egypt went to fight against Carchemish (Assyria), Josiah went to fight against him. There was no need since Necho was not trespassing his territory. He sent words to Josiah, not to meddle with unnecessarily. But he would not listen. He should have remembered "He that passeth by and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears" (Prov 26:17). He may have suspected that Necho may have some ulterior motive. He did not seek the Lord's consent. He disguised himself and he was shot by the archers. And he died. He was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers.

"And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentation to this day and made them an ordinance in Israel and behold they are written in the lamentations (2 Chr 35:24, 25). The memory of this just king is blessed.

# VINEYARD NEWS

## ANDAMANS

01/10/08

**M. Joseph, Portblair**

The ministry is going on well in this part of the country. Prayers are requested for the recovery of the following sick ones: young Bro. Velu, hospitalized for treatment of T.B., Sister Leela suffering from Brain Tumor and also for Sister Aleyan ailing with cancer.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

02/10/08

**Akula Jeevadanam, Tanuku**

The ministry here is fruitful as God added some new souls into His Church. Recently seven believers obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism. They had prayerfully conducted gospel meetings on 19th and 20th of July. Prayers solicited for the continued growth of this Church and also for his good health as he is suffering from high blood pressure.

03/10/08

**D. John Moses, Kurnool**

They had an outreach ministry with three teams of the brethren from the local Assemblies of Kurnool, Mahabub Nagar, and Prakasam Districts. In the evening meetings conducted at Tanduru town, 22 people accepted the Lord as their saviour and God. They have reached almost 120 villages with the gospel and out of these 60 villages are new to gospel. Now they are planning to concentrate on these villages. Please pray for the blessings.

04/10/08

**P. Paul Raju, Tanuku**

They as a family continuing here in the Lord's ministry. Outreach ministries are done in hospitals, prisons and in tribal areas. Pray for the blessings.

## ASSAM

05/10/08

**Aby Sam, Chabua**

Assembly work began here in the year 1995 by a few believers who served the Defence Service and Bro. Aby Sam came in 1996 and continued the ministries. There is a well established Church here in Chabua. They had extended the work and another Assembly testimony was established in Balijan and Assembly hall was constructed here in 2003. Since past few years they have been praying for a piece of

land to construct an Assembly hall. God enabled them to purchase a suitable plot and are planning to construct an Assembly hall which would cost around 9 lakhs rupees. Since the believers here are from poor background they request the prayers and support of God's people in this regard.

## BIHAR

06/10/08

**Ramdrash Kumar, Narkatiaganj**

By God's grace the Assembly activities are going on well here. At present there is small gathering here in Narkatiaganj. God has opened a door to Nepal and there are three small gatherings in three different places. They started the construction work of an Assembly hall in Chitwan district of Nepal. Prayers are requested for the completion of this work and also for the furtherance of the gospel in these areas of Nepal.

07/10/08

**Samson D'cruz, Khagaria**

Our brother informs that it was his prayer to get a fellow worker from this place to work along with him and now Bro. Chandren who had accepted the Lord four years back has committed his life to serve the Lord as full time evangelist. Pray that God may use him mightily in His vineyard.

08/10/08 **Ravi Shankar Prasad, Chottikeshopur**

They had conducted a VBS from June 23-28 in Shanhkund Pachrukhi and was participated by 300 children from various backgrounds. Moreover they had a special gospel meeting and baptism service on June 29 and six brothers and sisters testified the Lord in the water baptism. Prayers solicited for the growth of these new believers and also for his daughter who is suffering from heart problem.

## CHATTISGARGH

09/10/08

**Pramod Paul, Kondagaon**

The ministry here in Kondagaon and in Orcha are progressing by the grace of God. At Orcha around 40 believers are gathering for the meetings and they are tribals and illiterate. Here an Assembly hall is being built for the gathering of His people, but the work is stopped due to the financial insufficiency. Please prayerfully support this ministry and also pray

for our dear brother's wife who had a major operation in the month of April and taking rest at home.

10/10/08

**Benjamin Raot, Rudukela**

Here Bible study in Khendhama, Jharah and Rudukela are going on well. Recently a family from RC background heard the gospel and are regularly attending the meetings. Prayers are coveted for the spiritual growth of this family and also for the Children's Club they are planning to start in nearby places.

11/10/08

**Robinson Raot, Raigarh**

In the month of July two brothers and four sisters from non-christian background obeyed the Lord in the waters of Baptism. In the month of June they conducted a five day Sunday school teachers training programme and more than 25 brothers and sisters participated. As the believers increase in number they desperately need an Assembly hall. Please pray for this ministry.

12/10/08

**Sibu Thomas, Padamanabhpur**

Our brother informs that recently there was persecution against the church in this area. Nevertheless a few more people have come forward and are ready to take baptism. At present around 50 believers are gathering here for the Sunday worship. Some believers are coming from a near by locality called Rajiv Nagar and now he has moved to that area for the furtherance of the gospel.

### JHARKHAND

13/10/08

**Francis Hansda, Budhudih**

Recently they had a two months outreach ministry in the unreached areas, distributing New Testaments, Gospels and tracts. Some are showing earnest interest to the gospel. Pray that God may convict these people of their sins.

14/10/08

**Rajendra Rajwar, Digwadih**

Here God opened some new doors for the gospel through the VBS conducted in different places., Bible studies are going on in these houses. Prayers are coveted for the blessings of the ministry in Putki area where some are really interested in the gospel and for their salvation.

### KARNATAKA

15/10/08

**John Prasad. K.V, Bangalore**

For many years God has given him burden about North Karnataka areas where there is no Assembly testimony. Finally he as a family has moved to Bijapur district. There are five Taluk in this district but not a single Assembly there. Earnest prayers are

requested for the establishment of an Assembly testimony here.

16/10/08

**Paramesh B, Mysore**

They had a special gospel meeting on June 15. God blessed this meeting by adding two families who attended the meetings into His Church. They were baptized in the following month. Earnest prayers are solicited for the growth of these new believers.

17/10/08

**K.V. Varghese, Holakere**

In the month of June they conducted VBS in five different places and was attended by more than 185 children. Assembly work here is going on well and some new people are regularly coming for the meetings. Now they have shifted to their new rented house, please note the address: K.V. Varghese, Christian Brethren Church, Kumbara Beedhi, Holakere, Chitradurga Dist, Karnataka- 577 526.

18/10/08

**R. Yesurathnam, Chalukyanagar**

They praise God for the four young men who have accepted the Lord recently through a youth retreat conducted. Prayers are solicited for the salvation of two families from non-christian background who are regularly attending the meetings; also for the ministry of the singing team "Gospel Trumpets".

19/10/08

**Simon A, Ujjanipura**

The Church here keeps growing as God adds new souls into it. Through the meetings and Bible study in Hasa Bullapura, some people came forward accepting Lord Jesus Christ as their saviour and master. And some others shown keen interest. In addition to the ministry here, he has started a new ministry in Gurupura in Shimoga. There a family received Jesus Christ. Prayers are solicited for the blessings of these ministries.

20/10/08

**S.N. Daniel, Mysore**

Our blessed Lord is enabling them to continue in the ministry. In the month of May they had conducted a short term Bible course at Mysore and it was a great blessing. Moreover they conducted a gospel campaign and Bible studies in different areas of Mysore and Bangalore. Pray that these ministries may be fruitful.

### KERALA

21/10/08

**C.T. George, Vaikom**

The ministry is being blessed by the Lord. Regular house visiting, outreach ministries and all other meetings are going on well. Pray for the blessings of these ministries and also for his good health.

## ORISSA

22/10/08

**Umakant Guru, Balangir**

Here the ministry is going on among seven non-christian villages. One of the brethren (Mr. Ajay Kumar Nanda) who has completed his BTh recently is a great help in the ministry. Three families from non-christian background are regularly attending the meetings. Please pray for their salvation.

## TAMIL NADU

23/10/08

**S. John Jacob, Panagudi**

A special gospel meeting was conducted in the month of June and Bro. Sam Kumar from Mumbai preached God's word. In addition to the ministries here they have started a new ministry at Vallor in the house of a brother. There are gospel meetings here every Friday evening. They are also involved in reaching out the people through Assembly outreach ministry on every Sunday evening.

24/10/08

**J. Joshua Daniel, Oomachikulam**

They had a one day outreach programme in the month of July and a group of 25 people have spread the gospel in different areas. Prayers are coveted for the stability of new people attending the meetings.

## WEST BENGAL

25/10/08

**Paul Varghese, Kolkatta**

Christian Assembly, kasba (Kolkata): God in His sovereign will has raised an assembly testimony in Kolkata, about two years ago. Presently, there are about 18 believers from various backgrounds gathering at Bro. Paul Varghese's house. He covets earnest prayers of the saints. Any one who desires to join them for worship/ fellowship may kindly contact for more details: PAUL VARGHESE, FB-53, EKTP, NARIKAL BAGAN, RAJDANGA MAIN ROAD, KOLKATA-700107. Mob.09433246228, E-mail:ebcckolkata@yahoo.com

25/10/08

**Anajan Sarkar, Kalna**

Our Lord's work is in progress here. Regular outreach and personal evangelism are going on. Some new brothers are interested and are regularly attending the meetings. Pray that God may work in their hearts to repentance.

27/10/08

**Raju Halder, Bankura**

Regular Bible studies are going on in Bankura and in Sanamukhi. 75 children from the non-christian families are attending the Sunday school. Prayers are coveted for the following matters: For Bro. Ananta

Das who has recently come forward from non-christian background and is studying God's word in Jamtara; for the need of an assembly hall; and for the outreach ministries they are planning to start in the month of November.

28/10/08

**Samuel Das, Kantaranguni**

By God's grace they are getting good response from the local people, recently 20 people have accepted the Lord as their personal saviour and five of them obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism in the month of August. Prayers are requested for his wife's health and also of for the growth of these new Christians.

## UTTAR PRADESH

29/10/08

**Philipose P.P, Jhansi**

Our brother is slowly recovering from his illness, but still one more operation to be done for his complete recovery. Nevertheless the ministry here is being continued in various villages through team work. Here in Jhansi believers who had come from non-christian background face much opposition from their villagers. Please uphold these matters and also the special meeting they are planning to conduct for the edification of the believers on Nov. 7-9. Please note his address: Believers Brethren Assembly, C/o. Philipose P.P, 196. C.P. Mission Compound, Jhansi, U.P- 284 003.

30/10/08

**Beharilal Benjamin, Dehradun**

Brother informs that by God's grace they were able to construct an Assembly hall. The total amount of the construction came up to 12 lakhs rupees. Now they need around 2.4 lakhs rupees payable to the contractor. Please prayerfully support this ministry.

## OTHER MATTERS

31/10/08

**Believers Brethren Assembly, Raigarh**

The Assembly here had been established by the work of Bro. Robinson Raot on 9th January 2000. The Assembly had been praying for a piece of land and Almighty God answered the prayers and enabled them to purchase an ideal plot for the assembly hall. Now they are in need of 15 lakhs rupees to complete the Assembly hall building. They humbly request prayerfull support as the Lord leads.



## KNOW YOUR FRIENDS AT SBC

### Prasanna Babu

I come from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. I was born and brought up in a Hindu family. Once my parents were invited to attend a Gospel meeting in Vijayawada. It was in that meeting my parents received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; They realized that He alone is the way of salvation. Later they were baptized and were in regular fellowship of the local assembly.



As the parents were going to church, the children also followed them to the assembly meetings. Once an evangelist conducted a Gospel meeting in front of our house, in the street. And I was convinced that Jesus is the way of salvation and I received Him into my heart on 23/12/2003. Bro. P. Wilson of Vijayawada assembly baptized me and I was in fellowship with that assembly since then. While I was doing my secular studies, once I heard a message about the need of workers in the Lord's Vineyard. I felt that the Lord is calling me. So I committed myself to serve the Lord. When I shared this matter with my parents and assembly, they were happy and suggested that I should study the Bible in a Bible College. So they sent me to NIBI, Alwar. I have completed two year Diploma there and wanted to study further; so I applied to SBC for their BTh course. I am studying in the second year. Please pray for my studies and also for my future ministry.

**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.**

Phone: +91-44- 2555 0598 / 2555 0295

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

*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.*

## HOME CALL

**KOORAN ABRAHAM TOMMY (73)** second son of late Mr. K.A Varghese, North Parur, Kerala, went to be with the Lord on 5th Aug-08, He is the younger brother of Mr. Abraham Varghese, one of the Trustees of GFTI. After graduating from Union Christian College, Alwaye, he took his B.Tech and M.Tech from Bombay University. He was a brilliant scientist and had authored over 40 papers on plastic technology. He was a technology consultant for the government of India and visiting professor to the prestigious IIT Bombay. After his migration to the USA, he took up the position as a Senior research Chemist with HB Fuller and later rose to the position of Director- Technical Service with Asia Pacific Automotive group. Tomy is survived by his wife Achamma and two children-Jebby ad Joyce; Jebby himself a GFTI Prayer Partner. He loved travelling and gardening. He was a wonderful brother with a sense of humour gladdening the hearts of friends and family alike. His mortal remains were interred in Troy, Detroit, in the presence of a large number of believers and friends.

*Editor's note: I met Tommy way back in 1964 when I joined Philips India Ltd as an executive trainee at Calcutta where he was then an Officer. He had been a great help, especially in spiritual matters to a person like me who came from a denominational background. He was an authority on the subject of Plastic Technology. Our association was only for a year. However, later I ran into him in Detroit a few years ago and renewed our friendship. He was a thorough gentlemen and a good Christian steward. I had the opportunity to see him in the USA before his demise and also take part in the funeral service. We will miss him.*

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**Evg. V. T. John (82) Chandigarh, Punjab,** was called Home to His eternal rest on 08/Sep/08. The funeral took place on 10th. Let us uphold the grieving family members to the Throne of Grace, especially his wife Deena , who is also not well. The Lord has used Br. V. T. John to establish three Assemblies in North India during the last 52 years of his labour in the Lord's vineyard. He has been a man of faith, and the word of God. During Fifty two years of his full time ministry life he has tasted the Lord's faithfulness and his testimony is that "the Just shall live by faith" All glory to God.

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