

Dear Fellow-worshippers,  
 Welcome to the New Year 2009!



Doesn't it seem so recently that the world was spent in the busy-ness of welcoming the new millennium with all the fanfare that one could think of?? And already we are welcoming the penultimate year of the decade that has gone by... life has just flown us by and we are looking at ten years in *no time*.

A good thought to start the year with, will be to ask "What have we achieved in the years that have gone by since the December of 1999 and the present year. Have we spent ourselves in making His kingdom grow or have we just ended up having our families and our bank balances growing? What have we gained for His Kingdom in comparison to what we have contributed to the world/ourselves/our families/things that have to do with the selfishness of humankind?"

However, getting back to the series that is continuing regarding the Fruit of the Spirit, we just looked at the first three characteristics of the *Fruit of the Spirit* (love, joy and peace - that have to do with a Christian's relationship to God) and now we look at the next triad of characteristics that Galatians 5:22-23 talks about. These are patience kindness and goodness which have to do with one's relationship to his/her fellow humans (as pointed out by Dr. John Stott in his commentary of the Letter of Paul to the Galatians<sup>1</sup>).

This month we look at **Patience, Goodness and Kindness**. Stott rightly comments on the three characteristics saying "These are social virtues manward (sic.) rather than Godward in their direction. 'Patience' is long suffering towards those who aggravate or persecute. 'Kindness' is a question of disposition, and 'goodness' of words and deeds." The point to be noted is the fact that whether we are pleasingly pre-disposed to our *neighbours* or not, whether we feel like being kind

<sup>1</sup> John Stott, Essential Freedom - The Message of Galatians, (Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press), p.148f.

or not, we are to be kind. A life that is controlled by the Spirit of God is meant to be enduring in hardship/affliction (being patient), it is meant to be compassionate and benevolent in his/her surroundings and also positively affirmative in thoughts words and action.

Now when we speak like this, I am sure there are doubts in our minds if anger and its manifestations of whichever type are sin in itself... we need to remember that the Bible makes it very clear that anger in itself is not sin (Ephesians 4:26), but this very verse also points to the fact that anger could easily lead to sin and also warns that we should not dwell long on our anger.<sup>2</sup> Righteous indignation has its place as Jesus Himself proved during the clearing of the temple and other times especially when confronted with the Pharisees and zealots in specific and hypocrisy in general. Therefore the Christian's calling doesn't necessarily prevent him/her from being angry but definitely not in letting it go out of control and dwelling therein and letting it lead to bitterness and losing health over it.

Also patience does not mean that there is no place for taking action on wrong, but that there is a time for it, and that *things have to be dealt with at the right time*.

Moving on to Goodness, the word is one that is widely used and a basic concept taught even to very young children and hence requires very little explanation. Goodness refers to the essential sense of wellbeing and benevolence and in our case it is primarily aimed towards fellow beings and also toward God.

Kindness comes close to goodness and goes a step further than being good in itself. It is goodness in action and manifests in our relationships to fellow beings. Goodness can be expressed in harshly/ roughly, but kindness negates that option too.

We do trust that this New Year finds us expressing the Christian virtues of Patience, Goodness and Kindness and thereby winning many over to Him.

With Loving greetings for a Blessed New Year,

**Immanuel & Myra Theodore**

<sup>2</sup> Psychological studies have proved the negative effects of living in anger and how it could affect even one's physical health if left unattended and not dealt with.

## Pulpit Calendar - Jan. 2009

MONTHLY THEME : Hebrew Names of the Lord  
*Sunday Services: 9:30 am*

Date	Speaker	Theme
4th Jan 09 (Communion)	Rev. ImmanuelTheodore	Run the Race
11th Jan 09	Rev. N. Jayawant	Jehovah Jireh - Lord the Provider
18th Jan 09	Rev. Moses Mamdapur	Jehovah Rapah - Lord that Heals
25th Jan 09	Mr. Malcom Athishtam	Jehovah Raah - Lord our Shepherd

## Happenings This Month

### Area Fellowships - Jan 09

(Overall Co ordination : Selvin-9448852570)

Bethel Nagar area fellowship	17.Jan.09 (Sat) At 6.30pm	At Sanjay's house. For details Mrs. Rita Publius 9632388200
AECS layout area fellowship	17.Jan.09 (Sat) At 6.00pm	At Arun's house. For Details Irwin 9731944666

### Area prayer cells - Jan 09

(Overall Co ordination : Jabez-9980014729)

Kundanahalli area prayer cell	31.Jan.09 (Sat) At 6.30pm at Clement's house	Co-ordination: Gifflyn Clement 9986506231
Hoodi area prayer cell	31.Jan.09(Sat) At 6.30pm at Isaac's house	Co-ordination: Isaac 9845232807
Whitefield area prayer cell	31.Jan.09(Sat) At 6.30pm at Jabez's house	Co-ordination: Jabez 9980014729
Bethel Nagar area prayer cell	31.Jan.09(Sat) At 6.30pm at Sanjay's house	Co-ordination: Jachin Joel
KR puram area prayer cell	31.Jan.09(Sat) At 6.30pm at Jayant's house	Co-ordination: Rev. Immanuel Theodore

## Other Programs - Jan. 2009

Women's fellowship	11.Jan.09 (Sun) At 11.30am	After Sunday service. For details 9886426287 (Angelina)
Weekly Prayer	Friday 6:00 PM (Weekly)	At BMC from Second week.
Sunday School (English)	Every Sunday at BMC at 8.30 am	Contact Iris for details (41215655)
Sunday school (Kannada) At Hoodi	Every Sunday at 2.00 pm at Arul's house	Contact Arul (9731293243) for details
Choir practice	11.30 am	After Sunday service. Isaac(9845232807)
Youth Meetings	11.Jan.09 (Sun) & 25.Jan.08 (Sun) at BMC at 1200 noon	Contact Frank Jeyakar (41693701) for details
Core group meeting	10.Jan.09(Sat) 3.30 pm At BMC	Rev. Immanuel Theodore

- Praise God for all the Christmas programs especially the Church Anniversary celebrations and the Christmas Choir Service. Praise God for His grace to plan and present one year & 3 year goals for BMC during 1st anniversary celebrations.
- Praise God for helping the church grow and be a blessing to all.
- Praise God for His healing touch on our pastor Rev.Immanuel's mother. Please continue to pray as she is recovering.
- Praise God for enabling peace in Orissa and in other parts of the country.
- Praise God for all the Sunday school children who attend it regularly and pray for more students to attend.



- Pray that each department of BMC would be able to achieve the targets and the goals that are set for this year.
- Pray for our pastors Rev. Immanuel, his wife Mrs. Myra Immanuel, and son Lemuel & Rev. Ramesh Christopher, his wife Mrs. Arulvimala, and children Helen and Dorothy.
- Pray for our mother church IMC and the Pastors Rev. Moses Mamdapur and Rev. Paul Royappa and their families
- Pray for our pastors Rev. Immanuel, his wife Mrs. Myra Immanuel, and son Lemuel & Rev. Ramesh Christopher, his wife Mrs. Arulvimala, and children Helen and Dorothy.
- Pray for our mother church IMC and the Pastors Rev. Moses Mamdapur and Rev. Paul Royappa and their families

## Church Needs

Please pray for the following church needs.

- Additional Hymn Books
- Keyboard
- Audio Mixer
- Shelves for the Sound system.
- Books and almirah for library
- Phase II project of the church

If you would like to take part in these needs/contribute please contact Ronald 9845610877

## Missionary Story

### The Small Woman - The story of Gladys Aylward

Born in England in the year 1903, Gladys Aylward was a fearless missionary who gave her life for the sake of Christ and the beloved people of China. She was converted at the age of 26 when she was working as a waitress in England. She was inspired by a God-given compulsion to 'preach the gospel of Jesus Christ' and within a year of her conversion was on her way to the Shansi province of



China. Having been rejected by the China Inland Mission due to concern over her lack of theological training and ability to master the difficult Chinese language, she set out as an independent missionary and travelled by train across Europe and Russia amid the perils of the ongoing Sino-Russian war and arrived in the town of Yangcheng in 1932 to work with a 73-year-old missionary by name Jeannie Lawson. Together they opened an inn and shared the gospel to the people visiting them and they also travelled to many surrounding villages preaching. After the death of Mrs. Lawson, she carried on the work alone and was also appointed as 'Foot Inspector' by the local Mandarin (village chief) where she had to visit the villages and untie the bound feet of little girls (the Chinese then had the custom of tightly binding the feet of the female folk to make them 'beautiful' which often crippled them for life). Her work gave rise to many groups of believers meeting together forming small churches in many villages. Gladys is best remembered for her care for orphans. She bought her first child from a child-dealer for nine pence and before long had almost one hundred boys and girls under her care. In 1931, the Japanese army invaded China and advanced into the Shansi province. With 2 soldiers to act as guards and food for 3 days, she set off with her children to travel across the perilous mountains to escape the ruthless Japanese massacre. During the travel, as a lone adult she ferried the children across a dangerously overflowing river to save them. After 5-1/2 weeks of weary and dangerous travel, they reached their destination and Gladys collapsed, near to death. She recovered in the Baptist Hospital in Sian and stayed on there to start a church for the refugees pouring into the city.

Worn out after nearly 20 years without a break, she returned to England due to ill health though very reluctant to leave her beloved China and her 'family' there including five legally adopted children. Unable to return to China due to the Communist take-over, she spent 8 years travelling across England preaching and telling the people of the church in China. In 1957, Gladys went to Taiwan where many Chinese had fled during the war. She spent the remaining years of her life caring for a second family of orphans and died in Taiwan in 1970 among the people she loved and for whom she had spent her life.

*(Compiled by Hannah Selvin)*

## When I Grow Up

Author: Unknown

Lord, when I grow up, do You want me to be pretty ?  
Of course, I want you to be very very pretty.

Your eyes spread friendliness  
Your face squirt out sincerity  
Your lips coloured with honesty  
Your hair adorned with humbleness  
Your gown is joy

Lord, when I grow up, do You want me to be clever ?  
Of course, I want you to be very clever  
Clever enough to do worthiness and good things in life  
Clever enough to differentiate what is right and wrong.  
Clever enough to control your lifetime  
Clever enough to develop your talent

So that you may bear fruit for Me  
Lord, when I grow up, do You want me to be rich ?

Of course, I want you to be very rich  
Rich in goodness  
Rich in generosity  
Rich in affection  
Rich in love

Lord, when I grow up, will You always be with me ?  
Of course, My dear child, I will never ever leave or forsake you  
Why is it, Lord ?  
Because you are worth much in My eyes and glorious  
And you know what ? I LOVE YOU SO MUCH !!!

*(Contributed by: Mrs. Myra Theodore)*

## Children Bible Quiz

### Know Your Bible

1. Which of the following is the longest book in the Bible?  
a. Psalms b. James c. Job d. Joel
2. Which of the following is the shortest book in the Bible?  
a. Either I John or II Peter b. Either II John or III John  
c. Either II Peter or Obadiah d. Either Acts or Mark
3. How many chapters are there in the Bible?  
a. 1001 b. 1288 c. 1189 d. 1890
4. How many verses are there in the Bible?  
a. 11001 b. 21007 c. 3100 d. 31,173

5. The word "Bible" means:  
a. Soul b. Book c. Pure d. Christian
6. Which of the following is the oldest book in the Bible?  
a. Job b. Revelation c. Jonah d. Micah
7. Which of the following is the youngest book in the Bible?  
a. Malachi b. Matthew c. Mark d. Revelation
8. Which of the following is the right combination of books in the Bible?  
a. 39 in Old Testament and 27 in New Testament  
b. 38 in Old Testament and 28 in New Testament  
c. 37 in Old Testament and 29 in New Testament  
d. 36 in Old Testament and 30 in New Testament
9. How many chapters are there in the Old Testament?  
a. 990 b. 800 c. 929 d. 850
10. The last word of the Bible is "Amen." Which language does it belong to?  
a. Hebrew b. Aramaic c. English d. Koine Greek

### Answers

1 A 2 B 3 C 4 D 5 B 6 A 7 D 8 A 9 B 10 C

*(Compiled by Arun)*

## Contact Us

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