

(For private circulation only)



Bethel Tidings

A BILINGUAL MONTHLY BULLETIN OF BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 6-1

January 2012

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old man has passed away and the new has come!" II Corinthians 5:17



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Pastoral Letter

PUTTING 'NEW' INTO THE YEAR



Dearly beloved,

On a new year's day, the sun is not going to rise in the west nor is a special star going to appear on the sky to mark it! It will be like any other day with the regular features. Then what really will make the New year? Who is going to put the "new" into the year?. Scripture alone has the answer!

God who made the planet earth to revolve around the sun in the solar family once in 365 ¼ days can have something to say about this. Look at this verse: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old man has passed away and the new has come!" II Corinthians 5:17

God looks at a person as a new creation, even in the middle of his / her life. If Christ who brings new creation is present in a person, the newness comes in. Then, where is the old gone? It is gone fully, when God removes it from us. He forgets our misdoings and the regretful things of our past, throws them behind and removes its memory from his mind. When we seek new things and come to him, he offers a new life with a fresh start.

Therefore, year becomes 'new' as God offers a 'new and fresh opportunity' to begin life anew. Let's forget our past worries and regrets by confessing it to Christ, quickly make some good decisions, lay at his feet and try to practice them, as he offers this new opportunity to bring in a new creation in us. Jesus puts the 'new' into the year. Wishes to all of you for a meaningful new year!

Pastor

Rev. T . David Livingston

போதகரிடமிருந்து

கிறிஸ்துவுக்குள் பிரியமானவர்களே!

வருடத்தை புதிய வருடம் என்று ஏன் நாம் அழைக்க வேண்டும்? ஜனவரி 1 ஆம் தேதியன்று எந்நாளும் போல் தான் சூரியன் உதிக்கும், நம் கடமைகளும் இருக்கும். அப்படியிருக்க, அந்நாளை "புதிய" 'என்று அழைக்க காரணம் என்ன? யார் வருடத்தை புதிதாக்குவது? என்ன அர்த்தத்தில் அது புதுவருடம் என்று அழைக்கப்படுகிறது என்பதை சிந்தித்திருக்கிறீர்களா?

ஆண்டவரையும் அவர் செய்யும் நற்கிரியைகளையும் அறிந்தால்தான் இதின் அற்புதமான உண்மைகள் நமக்குப் புரியும். காரணம், அவர்தான் ஆதியிலே வானத்தையும் பூமியையும் சிருஷ்டித்து, சூரியக் குடும்பத்தின் மூன்றாவது கோளாகிய பூமியை 3651/4 நாட்களுக்கு ஒருமுறை சூரியனைச் சுற்றி வரச்செய்து, அதின் வருடக்கணக்கை தொடங்கி வைத்தார். வருடத்தைப் படைத்த கரங்களால்தான் அதில் புதியவற்றையும் சேர்க்கமுடியும். இவ்வசனத்தை கவனியுங்கள்!

'ஒருவன் கிறிஸ்துவுக்குள் இருந்தால் புது சிருஷ்டியாயிருக்கிறான், பழையவைகள் ஒழிந்தன, எல்லாம் புதிதாயின. 2.கொரிந்தியர் 5 : 17. கர்த்தரின் சிந்தையில் இருப்பது என்னவென்றால், நாமெல்லாரும் புதிய சிருஷ்டிகளாக உற்பத்தியாக வேண்டுமென்பதுதான். ஒருவன் கிறிஸ்துவுக்குள் வரும்போது புது சிருஷ்டியாகும் வேலைகள் தொடங்கிவிடுகின்றன. அப்படியே அவர் தயவால், பழையவைகள் ஒழிந்து புதியவைகள் உண்டாகிவிடுகின்றன. பழையவை எப்படி ஒழியும்? புதியதை விரும்பி நாம் ஆண்டவரிடம் வரும்போது, நம் பழைய பாவக்கறைகளையும், பழைய கவலை சிந்தைகளையும் அவர் முதலாவது ஒழிக்கிறார். அறிக்கை செய்வற்றை பின்னாக எறிந்து போட்டு, மறந்துவிடுகிறார். பின்பு எல்லாவற்றையும் புதிதாக்குகிறார். இப்படித்தான், புதியவற்றை ஆண்டவர் ஒவ்வொரு நாளும், ஒவ்வொரு ஆண்டும் நம் வாழ்வில் சேர்த்து வருகிறார்.

ஆகவே 2012-இன் தொடக்கத்திலேயே, நாம் பழையவற்றை மறப்போம், முற்றிலும் ஒழிப்போம். வேண்டிய புதிய நன்மைகளை ஆண்டவரிடம் முன்மொழிவோம், புதிய விதத்தில் வாழ, நல்ல தீர்மானங்களையும் செய்வோம். கிறிஸ்துவுக்குள் வாழும் நம்மில் இவ்வருடம் நல்விஷயங்கள் புதிதாக சிருஷ்டிக்கப்படும் என்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. உங்கள் அனைவருக்கும் எனது புத்தாண்டு நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள்!

போதகர். டேவிட் லிவிங்ஸ்டன்

பிறந்த நாட்கள் - ஜனவரி மாதம்

திருமதி. ஜெயலக்ஷ்மி	- 1
திரு. ராஜ்பால் (ஆஞ்சநேயலு)	- 1
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பிறந்த நாள் காணும் அனைவரையும் சபையின் சார்பாக வாழ்த்துகிறோம். கர்த்தர் உங்களை ஆசீர்வதிப்பாராக!

தன் கூட்டைவிட்டு

- தொடர் சாட்சி

தன் வேலையை ராஜினாமா செய்துவிட வேண்டும் என்ற தீர்மானத்தோடு படுக்கையை விட்டு எழுந்த அவள் அன்றைய தியானத்திற்கான அன்றன்றுள்ள அப்பத்தை திறந்தாள். அன்றைய தியானத்தின் தலைப்பு 'தன் கூட்டைவிட்டு'

கர்த்தர் உங்களை ஒரு ஸ்தானத்தில் வைக்கும்போது அதை உறுதியாய் பிடித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். அலைந்து திரியாதிருங்கள். ஏற்ற காலத்தில் கர்த்தர் உயர்த்தும்படி அவருடைய பலத்த கரத்தில் அடங்கியிருங்கள். தேவ சித்தத்திற்கு ஒப்புக் கொடுக்கும்போது கர்த்தர் நிச்சயமாகவே உங்களை உயர்த்தி மேன்மைப்படுத்துவார். சிலர் இக்கரைக்கு அக்கரை பச்சை என்பதுபோல எந்த வேலையிலும் நிலைத்திராமல் ஓடிக்கொண்டிருப்பார்கள். சின்ன பிரச்சனைக்காக தங்கள் வேலையை தூக்கி எறிந்துவிட்டு பிறகு கூட்டை விட்டு அலைகிற குருவியைப் போல காணப்படுவார்கள்... இது அந்நாளின் கருத்து (11-06-2006 அன்றன்றுள்ள அப்பம்).

இந்த ஒவ்வொரு கருத்தும் அவளை தேவன் கன்னத்தில் அறைந்து புத்தி சொல்வது போல் இருந்தது. வேலையை விடுவது தேவனுக்குச் சித்தமல்ல என்பதை உறுதியாய் புரிந்துகொண்ட அவள் கர்த்தாவே இனி எந்த ஒரு சூழ்நிலையிலும் நான் வேலையைவிட்டு மட்டும் போக நினைக்கமாட்டேன். இந்த கடினமான சூழ்நிலையில் இருந்து விடுதலை தாங்க. சத்துருக்களை மேற்கொள்ள பலன் தாங்க என்று ஜெபிக்க ஆரம்பித்தாள். பவுலுக்கு ஒரு முள் இருந்தது. பவுல் ஜெபித்தபோது, தேவன், என் கிருபை உனக்குப் போதும், உன் பெலனினத்தில் என் பெலன் பூரணமாய் விளங்கும் என்று சொன்னது போல அவளுக்கு அங்கு ஒரு முள். சத்துரு என்ற முள். தேவன் பெலன் மட்டும் தந்தார். ஒவ்வொரு முறை அந்த முள் குத்திய போதும் அப்பா வலிக்குது, இயேசுப்பா, இந்த முள் என்னை விட்டு நீங்க கிருபை தாங்க என்று ஜெபிப்பாள். பாஸ்டர் ரிச்சர்ட் என்ற ஒரு போதகர், இவளின் இந்த நிலைமை நீங்க அதிகமாக ஜெபிப்பார்கள். அவர்கள் வேத வசனம் ஒன்றை அனுப்பினார்கள். எசேக்கியேல் 2:6 'மனுப்புத்திரனே நீ அவர்களுக்குப் பயப்பட வேண்டாம்; அவர்கள் வார்த்தைகளுக்கும் அஞ்சவேண்டாம். நெரிஞ்சில்களுக்குள் னும் முள்ளுகளுக்குள்ளும் நீ தங்கியிருந்தாலும், நீ தேள்களுக்குள் வாசம்பண்ணினாலும், நீ அவர்கள் வார்த்தைகளுக்குப் பயப்படாமலும் அவர்கள் முகத்துக்குக் கலங்காமலுமிரு. அவர்கள் கலகவீட்டார்'.

அந்த வசனம் அவளுக்கு அதிக தைரியத்தை கொடுத்தது. எந்த முள்ளைப் பற்றியும் அவள் அதின் பிறகு கவலைப்படவேயில்லை. அந்த முட்களின் குத்துதலைப் பற்றி விவரித்தால் பக்கம் கொள்ளாது. அவளை என்றாவது நேரில் சந்தித்தால் நாம் அதை நேரடியாக கேட்போம். எந்த நிலையிலும் அவள் வேலையை விட்டு நீங்கவேயில்லை. இன்றைக்கு உங்களில் யாராவது, அல்லது உங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்தவர்கள் யாராவது இப்படி வேலையை அடிக்கடி மாற்றுகிற நபராக இருந்தால், அப்படி செய்யாதவாறு அறிவுரை கூறுங்கள். ஒரு இடத்தில் நிலைத்துநிற்கும் போது தேவன் உயர்த்த வல்லவராயிருக்கிறார். ஆம்! கர்த்தர் அவளையும்கூட ஆசிரவதித்தார். சாதாரண ஆசிரியையாக சேர்ந்த அவளை இன்று அதிகாரத்தில் வைத்திருக்கிறார்.

அவளை குத்தின அந்த விஷமுட்கள் ஒன்றுகூட இப்போது இல்லை. ஆமான் மொர்தேகாயுக்காக செய்த தூக்கிலே எப்படி அவனே தூக்கப்பட்டானோ அதே விதமாக அவளுக்கு விரித்த வலையிலே விரித்தவர்களே விழுந்தார்கள். வேலைநீக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டார்கள். கர்த்தருக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம். தேவனை விசுவாசித்தவர்கள் ஒருபோதும் வெட்கப்பட்டு போவதில்லை.



இல்ல வழிபாடுகள் - ஜனவரி மாதம்

பகுதி / ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர்	நாள் (நேரம்: மாலை 6:00 – 7:30)	இடம் / இல்லம்	வேதபாட தலைவர்
ஹூடி திரு. அருள்	8 ஆம் தேதி	திருமதி மேரி ரீட்டா	திருமதி. மேரி ரோஸலின்
	22ஆம் தேதி	திருமதி மேரி ரீட்டா	திருமதி. மேரி ரோஸலின்
தேவசந்திரா திருமதி. ஆஷா ராஜ்பால்	8 ஆம் தேதி	திருமதி திலகவதி	திரு. ஜான்.
	22ஆம் தேதி	திருமதி ராணியம்மா	திரு. ஜான்.
கொடிகேஹள்ளி திருமதி. சசிகலா,	8 ஆம் தேதி	திருமதி. சசிகலா	திரு.ஜேபஸ்
	22ஆம் தேதி	திருமதி. சசிகலா	திரு.அன்பன்
பிரியங்காநகர் திரு. ரூபன் காந்தி	8 ஆம் தேதி	திரு. ரூபன் காந்தி	திரு. சுந்தர்
	22ஆம் தேதி	திரு. ரூபன் காந்தி	திரு. சுந்தர்

மாதாந்திர பெண்கள் ஜெப கூடுகை - ஜனவரி

நாள்

8 ஆம் தேதி (ஞாயிறு)
காலை 8:45 மணிக்கு

இடம்

பெத்தேல் மெத்தடிஸ்ட் ஆலயம்

ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர்

திருமதி.ஆஷா ராஜ்பால்



ORISSA FIELD VISIT

- Bro. P. Rajan Abraham

My visit to Kandhamal district in Orissa was not an accident! It was the will of God.

We travelled as a group of six brothers and visited some of the destroyed churches and the persecuted people of God. First and foremost, It was a very tough journey to the place called **Konjamendi**, a town in Kandamal district. We stayed there in a Roman Catholic pastoral center called '**DIVYA JYOTHY**', which like most Christian setups has been rebuilt after being burnt to ashes. Two pastors and a nun had to flee for their lives as the beautiful camp site with stay-in rooms and a dining hall was burnt to ashes by an angry mob led by Hindu fundamentalist factions. The whole campus had to be renovated by investing about 20 lakh rupees. As the mob approached, one of the pastors, being a young man, fled into the nearby forest. The other pastor being elderly along with the nun couldn't flee and a certain influential Hindu leader of the village gave refuge to them by hiding them in one of his storerooms. Unfortunately, the mob tracked their location when someone overheard the pastor talking on his phone, as he was trying to get information out to the various news agencies. They were pulled out from the storeroom and beaten up. **The nun was tied to a post, abused and beaten up.** It is a miracle that they survived as the mob was intending to burn them to death. Un-understandably the mob waited for night to arrive, maybe they felt the burning would then be a more terrifying sight. As they waited, the other pastor who fled was able to come back with a team of police and rescue them.

The leader of the group with whom we visited Orissa, **Bro. Michael Raja**, has visited these churches a few times before and has been distributing kitchen wares and clothes, as every Christian home was looted and destroyed during the riots. This time the whole trip was to meet the suffering people and strengthen them in Spirit and in Truth. Every village is surrounded by dense forest and mountains. When the riots started, the people had to leave everything behind and flee into the jungles for safety. They then stayed in the relief camp for months as the Government after much delay took some measures to bring back these people from their hideouts in the forest. We visited 6 to 7 villages, and each village has about 20 to 30 Christian homes. Every one of these families had to run and stay in the forest for days. We could not believe how they survived in the forest hiding for days and weeks with little children and no food and water, but it was God's miraculous hands that did it for His children.

For the glory of God, I just want to share two of the many witnesses I heard from those personally affected during the persecution.

A young mother of two children, a 4-year-old boy, and 1-year-old girl, when she was threatened with the prospect of the murder of her son and husband, did not deny our Lord and Saviour. She has declared to them, **"even if you kill my husband and son, I will not deny Jesus Christ my God"**. The same family when they fled for their lives into the forest, all they had were two biscuit packets and a bottle of water. They had to hide for 6 days, and they faithfully declare that God protected them from hunger and thirst, and they **had biscuit and water to spare**. Halleluiah!

In another village called Rupagan, a 35-year-old physically challenged man was burnt alive on the 24th of Aug 2008 as he could not flee. The other 39 families of the village with men, women, and children fled into the forest and had to hide for more than a week. They then walked across the forests, from forest to forest through the mountains, covering about **350 kms on foot** and reached Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa. They resolutely declare that the Lord gave them strength. When they returned after a month to their village, they saw the charred remains of the man burnt to death. They have resolved to build a church exactly where their brother had been slain.

We conducted prayer meetings in 4 villages and strengthened the believers in Christ. We found them to be very strong in the Lord and their faith is commendable. But, I found them to be very very sad in their hearts. Their food was even **poisoned in the relief camp** twice. There are **secret killings of pastors still going on**. We visited two widows of such very recently secretly slain pastors. The smoke is still very much there and our Christian brothers and sisters and their children are living in constant fear of terror.

All of us were deeply touched and one of the six who travelled with us called home and cancelled his daughter's first birthday celebration which was planned in a grand manner. Another who is a pastor himself decided to support a local pastor family working in Baradikliu village. The destroyed churches are slowly being reconstructed, but there is still a **lot of work that needs to be done**. God in His mighty ways is doing miraculous things in these places. In one of the villages a big church is being planned and built. We asked them the reason for such a big church. The answer we got was that they believed God will increase the number of believers after the persecution.

Let us all pray together and join God's army in rebuilding these suffering Christians and the Christian Churches in Orissa. My request to you all is that, **'let us not forget the suffering churches out there while we enjoy the peaceful situation here**. We can still send some relief supplies to them.'

I praise God for these experiences.

Missionary Profile

- By Mrs. Hannah Selvin

Ann Hasseltine Judson— Missionary to Burma



Ann Hasseltine Judson was the first wife of Adoniram Judson, the missionary we read about last month. She was born in Bradford, USA on December 22, 1789. She received a thorough education, and early in life became deeply interested in religious matters. Upon graduation, she worked as a teacher. She met Adoniram Judson in 1810, when he was preparing to go as a missionary. Following is an excerpt from the famous letter that Adoniram wrote to Ann's father seeking permission to marry

her: "I have now to ask whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world; whether you can consent to her departure for a heathen land, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life; whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death? Can you consent to all this for the sake of Him who left his heavenly home, and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing immortal souls; for the sake of Zion and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with a crown of righteousness brightened by the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Saviour from those saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?"

They were married in 1812 and only two weeks later sailed to India, being one of the very first missionaries. They were not allowed to remain here long and they sailed for Burma. The story of the Judsons and their missionary service in Burma is difficult to summarize in a review. There is just so much to say and so many memorable events that occurred in a relatively short period of time. The Judsons arrived in Burma in 1813, and Ann died in 1826, only 13 years later, at the young age of 37. But what transpired in those 13 years makes for an incredible story and a testimony to the love, grace, and faithfulness of God. Their labours were intensive, their trials painful, and their faith tested in the fires of persecutions. As Ann laboured alongside her husband in both evangelism and translation work, she saw her primary role as evangelizing and teaching women.

A baby boy Roger was born to them in 1815 but tragedy struck when little Roger was taken from them when only 8 months old. Ann and her husband translated the Scriptures into the Burmese language. They began with the book of Jonah, which was especially attractive to the Burmese mind. Ann soon adopted the Burmese dress. They showed incredible patience as six years passed before they saw their first convert. A dedicated missionary, Ann formed a society of native women who met together on Sundays to pray and read the Scriptures and conducted classes for women. Her greatest contribution to the cause of women and missions was her inspirational writing. She wrote enthralling stories of life on the mission field and the struggles they faced

Besides her history of the Burman mission, Ann translated the Burman catechism, and the Gospel of Matthew into Siamese and assisted in the preparation of a Burmese grammar and made some translation for the use of the Burmese.

They were trapped in the capital of Burma when war broke out in 1824 between Britain and Burma. This resulted in Adoniram being arrested, tortured, and imprisoned in horrible conditions. Adoniram's imprisonment began in June 1824 and continued until February 1826. During this period, Ann gave birth to a daughter, faithfully carried on the mission work and tirelessly interceded with government officials to procure better conditions and treatment for her husband, as well as coming into the prison to care for him as often as she was allowed. Her faithful ministry continued even though her own life was in considerable danger. Without her intervention and care, Adoniram would almost surely have died. And Adoniram was not the only prisoner to owe his survival to Ann: "One of his fellow-prisoners, an Englishman, later described the 'ministering angel,' who supplied him and other prisoners with food and clothes, and who constantly interceded on their behalf."

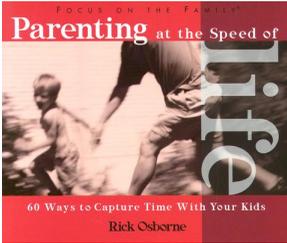
As the tide of war turned in Britain's favour, Adoniram obtained a temporary release from prison, and when he rushed to their home, he found Ann in severe distress, having contracted cerebral spinal meningitis a month before. Upon seeing Ann's emaciated, pale, shrunken form lying there, he later described it as follows: "There lay the devoted wife, who had followed him so unwearily from prison to prison, ever alleviating his distresses." His final freedom a few months later was obtained when Britain made release of the Judsons one of the terms of peace. Barely weeks after Adoniram's release and the end of their long separation, Adoniram was invited to the capital on a six-month trip to negotiate for freedom to evangelize the portion of Burma controlled by the Burmese government. As always, Ann put her own desires and needs behind and urged her husband to go for the sake of the Burmese people. When Adoniram waved goodbye to his dear wife and daughter, little did he know that he would never see his wife again. Just a few weeks later, Ann contracted a serious fever and died on October 24, 1826, and six months later, baby Maria also succumbed to illness at the age of 2 years, 3 months. Following Ann's death, Adoniram went through a period of deep depression from which he emerged to plunge into work in writing the Burmese - English dictionary and translation of the Bible in the Burmese language.

The Judsons' careful translation of the Scriptures into Burmese is still the standard version in that land. Although both her own children did not live past the toddler stage, many of the Burmese converts regarded Ann as their spiritual mother. Her writings demonstrate "an overwhelming awareness of the majesty of God and her own unworthiness." She believed that what happened to her was of secondary importance. She trusted in the Sovereign God and her religion was God-centered, not man-centered.

Book Review

- By Mrs Edith Sundar

Parenting at the Speed of Life - Rick Osborne



With various time saving devices available, we still seem to run out of time before we run out of tasks. Life seems to be busy and mechanical. Amidst all the activity, it is definitely challenging to play our various roles perfectly. One such role is that of a parent. The general scenario is that a good parent is the one who takes the kids on big vacations, buys them big gifts and who gives them big amounts of time. But most often, the 'big' chunks never show up.

Rick Osborne in his book "Parenting at the Speed of Life" brings out ways by which small moments can be made meaningful by doing small things. In this book he brings out 60 ways to capture time with the kids. On the face of it, the book would just look like a collection of simple ideas that any parent would come up with. Though Rick agrees that they aren't rocket science, he says that the difficulty lies in the consistent application of them.

The book is a simple one which does not have long chapters but just points along with an incident or occasion that made the difference. It is written in simple language and does not take long to finish. The author is a believer and the book is a part of the series of 'Focus on the Family'.

In the book, Rick calls attention to some of our day to day activities and goes on to say how most of us often walk into the house with our heads already having rehearsed what we will do and therefore are not able give the needed attention to the kids. He points out that simple thing like laughing at the jokes of your little one, complimenting his/her looks and acts, saying encouraging words, looking at them while talking or listening all make a difference. He also emphasizes on the parent's participation in the spiritual growth of the child. Rick encourages us to pray with the kids and share our own experiences, answered prayers and miracles with them.

Now, not every moment can be made a teachable or meaningful moment. But handling the moments well consistently is what is good parenting. Dear Parents, let us we recognize the great responsibility that God has entrusted us with in growing our children in a Godly way, before it is too late.

Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries

Birthdays

Mr. Tony (Francis Antony)	2 - Jan
Mrs. Leana Binu	6 - Jan
Ms. Sharon Rebeka	13 - Jan
Ms. Rachel Kalpana J	13 - Jan
Mr. David Anand	14 - Jan
Ms. Rachel W	19 - Jan
Mr. Ashish Stanley. J	23 - Jan
Mr. Wilfred	25 - Jan



Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. Publius – Mrs. Rita 27 - Jan

New born

Praise God for the blessing of a baby girl to Jeevan and Indira on 3-Jan-2012

Congratulations!!!
Birthday and Wedding anniversary Wishes
on behalf of the Congregation.

Quotes - New Creation

- God became man to turn creatures into sons: not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man - C.S.Lewis
- It is one thing to have sin alarmed only by convictions, and another to have it crucified by converting grace. Many, because they have been troubled in conscience for their sins, think well of their case, miserably mistaking conviction for conversion - Joseph Alleine
- My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great - John Wesley

Prayer Diary

MONDAY:

Compiled by Mrs. Giftlin Clement

Pray for a country: Algeria - Capital: Algiers, President: Abdelaziz Bouteflika,

"Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told." - Habakkuk 1:5

- a) Population(2010 est.): 34,586,184 .Algeria is the second-largest country in Africa.
- b) Major protests broke out in January 2011 over food prices and unemployment
- c) Algeria, a gateway between Africa and Europe, has been battered by violence over the past half-century. The country ranks fourteenth in petroleum reserves. The fossil fuels sector is the backbone of Algeria's economy.
- d) Pray that the Algerian government might serve and govern with humility and wisdom. Pray that the people of Algeria may experience genuine freedom and an improved quality of life.
- e) The unfinished task in Algeria is still huge. Outside the Kabyle mountains, there are 30 million unreached peoples. There may be around 1,000 believers gathering in 25-30 mainly small fellowships.
- f) Pray for the Kabyle church to send out effective witnesses to the rest of Algeria. Pray for several local Bible schools that are training believers to serve in the church and around the country.
- g) Pray for increased freedom to worship & proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ. Recently, government has established laws prohibiting evangelization and "illegal" religious meetings.

Pray for BMC:

- a) KR puram Area fellowship & its members(families of Atheejoe, Jayant,Jeevan, Ashok/ Leena, Vivek, Swaroop,Naveen Warren)
- b) Tamil congregation families(Hoodi T AF & its members: Durai, Madhu , families of Mary Rita, Jyothi, Shyamala, Sarah, Arulkumar/Jeniffer
- c) BMC Sunday school & other area Sunday schools at Hoodi, W.field – for all the children to grow in Christ, wisdom for the Sunday school teachers .

TUESDAY:

Pray for India: Judiciary

- a) Today as judges hear cases about broken families, abused children, tragic vehicle accidents, crimes of all sorts, and business disputes, pray that God's wisdom and knowledge will help them to take correct decisions.
- b) Pray for each one of them and their families to experience the true love of God and come to the knowledge of the living God

Pray for BMC:

- a) Bethel Nagar AF & its members (Daniel,Yoa, Yapo, families of Publius,Peter,Anand,Navin, Vijay,Sharon,Kalyan, Prabhu, Padma,Pastor, Sathiya Deep,Bernard, Uma Deaver, Rajkumar, Dieudonne, Paul Ganesh)
- b) Tamil congregation families (Devasandra TAF & its members: families of Rajupaul, Philip, Wilson, Ruth, Sekar, Latha, Das, Stephen Babu, Pastor)
- c) Missions dept (Whitefield outreach, Irula outreach), Properties dept., Finance dept.
- d) Church construction project: Praise God for the funds collected so far. Pray for Isaac and pastor who coordinate, for good supervision at site & good quality work of masons

WEDNESDAY:

- a) **Pray for a state: Andhra Pradesh** – Capital :Hyderabad, CM – N. Kiran Kumar Reddy
- b) This state seems to be having good growth in the IT, Software industry and found to be the first. 60% of people are literate. Murder and other illegal practices happen commonly in this state. The Naxalites are more in this state.
- c) Pray that God's love should touch the Naxalites. The Andhra Pradesh and Telungana issues should end up soon

Pray for BMC:

- a) Whitefield AF & its members (Families of Irwin, Jabez, Ronald, Anban, Sanjay, Rajan Abraham, Sheldon, John manoah, Darwin Kiruba, Binu George)
- b) Tamil congregation (Priyankanagar TAF & its members: Families of Rueban Gandhi, Nithya, Latha, Inbaraj, Swamidas)
- c) WSCS (monthly Bible study, Raichur home support, Vishwavani support, Finance support to phase 2 by sales), Lay activities team

THURSDAY:

Pray for a missionary organization: GEMS: GEMS ministers in the unreached areas of Northern India, primarily concentrating Bihar state and spreads across Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. It has also crossed borders and started its service in South Asian Countries

Pray for BMC

- a) Hoodi Area fellowship& its members (Meril Joseph, families of Arun, Isaac, David Anand, Tony, Shibu, David Jabez, Kingsly, Vivek banger, Paveen)
- b) Tamil congregation families (Kodigehalli TAF& its members: Families of George, Prabhu, Jeyamma , Jashua Devadas, Juliet)
- c) MYF (Weekly Bible studies), Music dept (Choir, Kids Choir, Worship team, Music class)

FRIDAY:

Pray for the Sick and needy:

- a) Pray for the people who are suffering from Cancer, Heart related problems, Kidney problems and various other health problems.
- b) In Bangalore there are around ~2000 suicides every year. Pray that such people should find the true living God and live for Him and that God will use us in lives of these friends around us

Pray for BMC:

- a) Marathahalli Area fellowship& its members (Kiran, Families of Ashok, Wilfred, Clement, Frank, Selvin, Vadivel, Sathiya, Sundar)
- b) Prayer dept (Monthly prayer on 1st Friday, Tamil prayer meet on 3rd Friday, Men's prayer meet on 3rd Sat, Area ladies prayer cells)

SATURDAY:

Pray for our Spiritual Leaders:

- a) Pray for our Bishop and his family, our District Superintendent and his family, our Pastor David Livingston and his family.

Pray for BMC:

- a) White field outreach (Sunday school, Adults fellowship/Bible study on Sunday, Visiting team)
- b) Christian education dept (Seminar on Mentoring on 26th Jan, Teens fellowship, friends prayer fellowship by young adults)
- c) Sunday services -Tamil & English: God's presence & Unction, God's touch on every worshipper, No distraction thru the service

SUNDAY:

Pray for All the Churches:

- a) Pray for all the Churches(our mother church IMC), Missions & its leaders.

Pray for BMC:

- a) BMC would be mission minded; to support many missions; To reach out to SEA college & Garden city college and other needy areas;
- b) Social concerns department (Bethel shale, poor & needy fund), Literature dept (Bethel Tidings, Planned library), membership & records dept, IT dept, Ushering, Peace & discipline team, PC & its meetings.

Badaga Christians

- By Mrs. Nitya Ashok

I come from the beautiful hill town of Ooty in the Nilgiri district, Tamilnadu. I belong to a community known as Badaga and the people are known as Badagar. Through this article I am going to share a few things about my people and about the growth of the Badaga church and the persecution it is facing today.

Badaga people are known for their love, kindness, hospitality and their willingness to adapt to changes. The Nilgiris district is a cluster of a few hundred villages and a few towns and the important ones are Ooty, Coonoor, Kotagiri and Aravankadu. The British missionaries established many churches in Nilgiris and after they left, the local people both badagar and non-badagar started to worship in the church. But there was not a single church where the worship was held in badaga language.

Thirty five years ago one man named Belliraj accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour and had a vision for the Badaga people and he started preaching the Gospel to his village people. Naturally, there was opposition and he was sent out of his home. An English missionary offered a place in his church to stay and encouraged him to start a prayer group for badaga people in the place where he stayed and also helped him to join a Bible training institute. Slowly the prayer group grew and my parents were the first members as a family to join this prayer group for worshiping the Lord. Though I was born in a Christian family, my parents are both from Hindu families. My dad accepted the Lord when he was in college at Salem and my mother accepted the Lord during the time of their marriage. They faced a lot of opposition but the Lord was with them throughout and guided them every single day and even today the Lord is true to his promise and guiding my family every single day.

The small prayer group has grown and it is known as Union church because all the three services (English, Tamil & Badaga) are held in the same church. Many youth from different villages surrendered their life to God and they went from village to village spreading the good news. The church grew very big and many branches were opened in different villages. We could see God's miracle in many peoples' lives and people were ready to leave their home for God and Evangelism. People with the vision and the call were sent to Bible colleges and they were given training by theologians and pastors through the Hebron School which is situated in Ooty.

As I said, badaga people are ready to accept changes but when it comes to religion there is opposition. There was opposition in the community from the beginning, but it was only from their respective families. But now the opposition is from the whole Badaga community. Many churches in the villages have been forced to close and people are not allowed to meet for worshiping and praying. Every now and then there is a procession against the Christian people, particularly against the Badaga Christians. There are many police complaints against many pastors and evangelists.

Do you know why I am sharing this? Because I grew in this church spiritually and the foundation of my belief is laid in this place and by these people and when they are in trouble and going through this difficult situation it is my duty to pray for them. I may not feel the pressure directly, but when I get news about their troubles I cannot keep quiet also. One thing I believe is that when we join together and pray, surely there will be a change in the situation. So please pray for my people.

KIDS INSPIRATIONAL

The story of the blind songwriter Fanny Crosby

- By Jessica Selvin

Frances Jane Crosby, commonly known as Fanny Crosby, was born in Brewster not far away from New York City on March 20th 1820.

When Fanny was six weeks old, she developed an eye infection which was treated wrongly and led to her blindness. When Fanny was only 8 months old, she lost her father and was then raised by her mother and grandmother.

She wrote her first poem when she was eight years old:

***Oh! What a happy soul I am, although I cannot see!
I am resolved that in this world, contented I will be.
How many blessings I enjoy that other people don't
To weep and sigh because I'm blind, I cannot and I won't.***

This shows her attitude towards her blindness. She spent long hours memorizing the Scriptures with help from her godly grandmother. By the age of 15, she could recite the books of Ruth, the four gospels, the Pentateuch, Proverbs, and Psalms. Kind nurturing from her mother and grandmother and her love for nature during her childhood led to her poetical thinking and hymn writing later on in her life.

When she was 15, she enrolled at the New York Institution for the blind where she remained 12 years as a student and 11 years as a teacher. When she was 38, she married Alexander van Alstyne who was also blind. Their only child was born the following year and sadly died when only a few months old. Fanny was deeply grieved and wrote the hymn, Safe in the Arms of Jesus. It was at this point in her life that she seriously began her Christian Hymn writing and wrote over 10,000 hymns, many of which we sing today in our churches – Blessed Assurance, Pass me not O Gentle Saviour, Jesus keep me near the cross, Rescue the Perishing, Faith of our Fathers and many many others.

She was known to remark, "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life" and "Don't waste any sympathy on me. I am the happiest person living." At 90 she declared, "My love for the Holy Bible and its sacred truth is stronger and more precious to me at ninety than at nineteen." Asked about her long years, she said her secret was that she guarded her taste, her temper, and her tongue." Fanny Crosby died on February 12, 1915, aged 95. She lived a selfless life and one of her last acts in this world just a few hours before she died was to dictate a letter of comfort to a friend in grief. Her grave bears the simple words, 'Hath done what she could.'

BMC News - Christmas outreach

- By Mr. Atheejoe

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Foremost we thank God for His grace during the Evangelistic Christmas Programme. This year, we had planned to have Christmas outreach programme in a mission field and few apartments close to our church.

The first programme was at the Irula Mission field near Hosur. A team of seven members from our church accompanied by the IEM missionaries visited the Irula Mission field on the 10th of December. The team proclaimed God's word through singing, stories and puppet show. The programme was attended by close to 200 local people and children. The team also visited homes of the local people after the outreach Christmas programme.

We had Christmas programme at three apartments, Goldenstar near Hoody circle, Sun City in Outer Ring Road and Golden Blossom Apartment at Kadugodi. More than 400 residents of these apartments attended the Xmas programme. We proclaimed the word of God through singing, skits, puppet show and thought by our Pastor. All the three programmes had active participation by the residents through carol singing, skit, games and dance.

We also had a special Christmas programme at the Whitefiled Outreach Fellowship. God helped us to reach out through singing, skits, puppet show and thought from the pastor. The programme also had a special performance by kids coming to this fellowship. We were able to reach out to more than 70 kids and adults through this programme.

We thank God for the participation of our church members who were involved in these programmes. Special word of thanks to the families of Mr. Isaac, Mr. Tony, Mr. Arun, Mr. Sathiya Prabhakar, Mr. Rajkumar Gell, Mr. John Wesley, Mr. Irwin and Mr. Christopher Vasa who helped organize the Christmas programmes in various apartments. Sincere thanks to the guidance and ministry of our Pastor, Rev. David Livingston in all the programmes and especially the puppet show.

Our prayer is that God would touch the souls who heard the gospel through these programmes and God would help and use us to reach the unreached in the coming year.

Christmas outreach Snippets



BMC News - Carol Service & Carol Rounds

- By Mr. Isaac Peterson & Mr. Sathiya Prabhakar

A great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests'. - Luke 2:13&14

The proclamation of the good news of birth of Christ is still as refreshing and charming as that of the first angel to the shepherds. More so when the news is shared through melodies of voice. Hence it is common to take the opportunity in every Christmas season to share the gospel through songs. This year we had planned a single Carol service encompassing participation from all groups - Sunday school kids to Adults and Carol round visits to homes. We glorify God for enabling these events towards salvation and edification of the participants

The Carol service was held on 11th of December at our church, the date which also marks the anniversary of our church. The tiny-tots in red and white set the stage alive through a dance, followed by a spectacular performance by the kids choir. The kids from the Whitefield outreach shared the Christmas message through a dance followed by songs from the Tamil Congregation. The BMC choir then stole the show through a medley of English and Tamil songs, signifying the birth of Christ. Sunday school kids took the audience back to Bethlehem through their nativity scene performance. Finally the event closed with a fellowship dinner. Several friends and visitors from the neighborhoods attended the Carols Service

The Carol round visits happened on the 13, 19 & 20 of December. This time, the onus was on each area fellowships to coordinate and visit the individuals from other areas. A well laid out plan helped the members of each fellowship to visit homes at much ease. In many visits, even kids braved the inclement weather and joined the carol visits.

In addition to the carol service, the kids choir sang the Christmas message in the FMPB Christmas program at St. John's high school on the 3-Dec and enthralled the gathered audience. Also, a team of choir sang for a Christmas program telecast by Kannada Doordarshan channel Chandana.

We record our sincere thanks to all the families and youth who have strenuously put efforts in practicing and participating in these events amidst several pre-occupations. We praise god for encouragement and support from the pastor and the commitment of these dear ones in our church and pray for God's blessing upon them.

Carols - Snippets



Project



BUILD BETHEL Phase II

PRAISE

For the good and talented contractors God has given us.
For the quality materials purchased - like sand/ cement/ steel
For the generous contributions made till date

For God's guidance in purchasing the materials
- Tiles / Elevator / Electrical Fittings / Paints
For the construction labourers' health and safety
For the need of 22 lacs (Including Parish Hall)

PRAY

Through this Project BUILD BETHEL - our hope is that this will make a significant contribution to the spiritual and social wellbeing of our community and a place in which we will be able to welcome you soon.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your curtains wide. Don't hold back: lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes!" Isaiah 54 v 2

For further details, or if you'd like to make a contribution, please contact us.

UPDATES
UPDATES
UPDATES
UPDATES

One day Seminar for Bible Study leaders / teachers

- ◆ Handling Small groups
- ◆ Starting & Nurturing
- ◆ Christian Mentoring

Venue

Bethel Methodist Church

Date

26-Jan-2012

Speaker

Mr. Franklin Ebenezer, Coimbatore

Most of us are handling small groups in several capacities - Bible study leader, Coordinator for Area Bible Study Group, Sunday School Teacher etc. Quite often our learnings are based on what we have seen others do. Here is a formal teaching session to teach & train us from the Scripture and practical life experience.

Register NOW! @ <http://bmcbangalore.org/reg.aspx>

Contact: Dr. Rajkumar 99860 37366

Bible Studies—Jan 2012

	Date	Study Topic	Study leader	Venue
Youth fellowship(MYF) Mentor: AtheeJoe & Jenita AtheeJoe	8 th Jan Sun 8.45-9.30am	Character Study	Jonathan & AtheeJoe	BMC (Dept: MYF)
	15 th Jan Sun 8.45-9.30am	Sharing and prayer	Jenita	
	22 nd Jan Sun 8.45-9.30am	Character Study	Jonathan & AtheeJoe	
	29 th Jan Sun 8.45-9.30am	Sharing	Sahadevan	
Teens fellowship Mentor: Clement & Giffiin Clement	8 th Jan Sun 8.45-9.30am	New Year Resolutions	Clement	
	15 th Jan Sun 8.45-9.30am	Character Study – Adam	Giffiin	BMC (Dept.: CE)
	22 nd Jan Sun 8.45-9.30am	Biology	Clement	
	29 th Jan Sun 8.45-9.30am	Character Study – Eve	Giffiin	
Friends prayer fellowship (Young adults) Mentor: Selvin	15 th Jan Sun 11.30-12.15pm	Holiness	Selvin	BMC
	29 th Jan Sun 11.30-12.15pm	Compassion	Ronald	(Dept.: CE)
	15 th Jan Sun 11.30-12.15pm	Thought for the new year	Pastor	BMC
W5CS (Sweetlin Frank)	14 th Jan Sat 6.00 pm	Overview of Haggai	Rajkumar	Publius' house
	28 th Jan Sat 6.00 pm	Overview of Zechariah	Rajkumar	Ashok Dodanna's house
	22 nd Jan Sun 5.00 pm	Study on Romans	Irwin	Irwin's house
	14 th Jan Sat 6.00 pm	John Chapter-21	Angelin Isaac	Tony's house
Area fellowships (Ph: 9448852570)	28 th Jan Sat 6.00 pm	Joshua Chapter-1 (Discipleship)	Anina David	David's house
	14 th Jan Sat 5.30 pm	Handling Temptation	Ashok	Selvin's house
	28 th Jan Sat 5.30 pm	Richman, Poor man	Clement	Ashok's house

Prayer Meetings –Jan 2012 (Overall Coordinator: Giftlin, Prayer Dept.)

	Prayer meet name	Date	Co ordinator	Venue
Ladies Prayer cells	Monthly fasting prayer (1 st Fri.)	6 th Jan Fri 7.30-9.30pm	Giftlin Clement	BMC
	Hour of power (Third Sat.)	21 st Jan Sat 6am-8.00 am	Selvin	Mr.Isaac's house
	Sunday morning prayer	All Sundays 9.15 am - 9.30 am	Bernard	BMC
	Women's Fasting prayer	20 th Jan Fri 4:30 pm	Sasikala	BMC
	Hoodi -East	Monthly once	Selina Ronald	Mahaveer apt.
	AECs layout	Monthly once	Nithya ashok	Giftlin's house
	Bethel Nagar	Monthly once	Rita Publius	Rita's house
	Hoodi -west	Monthly once	Rachel Tony	Golden star apt.
	Whitefield	Monthly once	Jachin Joel	Jachin's house
	SEA college area	Monthly once	Sharon	Sharon's house
	KR puram area	Monthly once	Suprima Jayanth	Suprima's house

Sunday Schools – Jan 2012

	Name	Date	In charge	Venue
BMC	BMC Sunday school	All Sundays 8.45 -9.40 am	Anina David	BMC
Area Sunday schools	Hoodi Sunday school(Kannada)	All Sundays 11.00-1.00 pm	Gracy	Arull's house
	Marathahalli Sunday School	All Saturdays 2-3 pm	Hannah	Selvin's house
	Whitefield Sunday School	All Sundays 4.00 - 5.00 pm	Mala	Mala's house

Regular & Special Programs—Jan, Feb & Mar 2012

	Program	Date	In charge	Venue	Department
Regular programs -Jan 12	Bethel Shaale	All Saturdays 4.00 - 5.00 pm	Nithya Ashok	BMC	Social concerns
	White field Outreach	All Sundays at 5.00-6.00pm	Joe, Franklin, Clement	Whitefield	Missions
	Inula field monthly visit	28 th Sat 8:00 am	Athee joe, Pastor	Nr. Hosur	Missions
	PC meeting	22nd Jan Sun 12.00 noon	Pastor	BMC	Pastor
Special programs	Seminar on mentoring (Speaker: Mr. Franklin Ebenezer, Kovai)	26th Jan. Thu 9am - 4pm	Rajkumar	BMC	CE dept.
	Old age home visit	4th Feb Sat 3.30 - 6 pm	Anina David	BMC	S.School dept.
	Quiz on Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi (Arun & Joyce)	18 th Sat 6.00pm	Rajkumar	BMC	CE dept.
	WSCS Sunday	19 th Sun (Both services)	Sweetlin Frank	BMC	WSCS
	Ash Wednesday	22 nd Wed 7.00 pm	Pastor	BMC	Pastor
	VBS teachers training (Eng. & Kannada)	3 rd Mar Sat 10 am - 3 pm	Mrs. Anina David	BMC	S.School dept.
Field Visit	17 th Mar Sat 7 am-5pm	Athee joe	TBD	Missions dept	

Pulpit Calendar

Monthly Theme :

“New creation”



Date	Time	Speaker
8-Jan-2012 (Sunday) Testimony Sunday	7:00 am (Tamil)	Pastor
	9:45 am (English)	Pastor
15-Jan-2012 (Sunday)	7:00 am (Tamil)	Mr. Jeyaseelan
	9:45 am (English)	Mr. John Savage
22-Jan-2012 (Sunday)	7:00 am (Tamil)	Pastor
	9:45 am (English)	Dr. Rajkumar Gell
29-Jan-2012 (Sunday)	7:00 am (Tamil)	Mr. A.G Rajan
	9:45 am (English)	Mr. J.S.A Julius

Praise & thank God for the year 2011



Commit the year 2012 into His mighty hands

Editorial Team : Pastor, Asha,
Selvin, Hannah & Arun
Coordination : Wilfred

**Happy New Year
2012**