

Dear Fellow-Worshippers,



February! The mention of the month brings the matter of love to most young minds. The commercial world capitalizes on the matter and tries to nudge most adults to express his/her love for his/her partner (usually with merely emotional/physical connotations). But really it is **True Love** which ought to be celebrated in our world, which has horribly gone wrong... and... FURTHER still; hurtling in the wrong direction... It is indeed worth actually spending time in understanding Love, and how it NEEDS to be expressed in the best way possible, and what the impact it can have on us. I do hope that, this year, as the world goes through the motions of the (so-called) celebrations of Valentines' day – with all its commercial implications, let us take time to think out what Love really is all about – expand the meaning of valentines' to include love in all its shades and understand true love better, and further, be more loving to all who we come into contact with.

As we all know we are following a series of studies on the fruit of the Spirit and have arrived at the last set of three characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit that have to do with our relationship with ourselves. We have seen the first 3 having to do with our relationship with God, the next three to do with our relationships with other humans and now we look at one's relationship with oneself as a Christian.

John Stott defines Faithfulness as: "...reliability or trustworthiness in such areas as keeping our promises and fulfilling our undertakings." The Greek word has the meaning of fidelity, loyalty, reliability, trustworthiness, dependability – in relation to other humans. But remember: Faithfulness requires an inner commitment in oneself towards that end and its absence betrays a lack of character in the inner man (or woman).

Gentleness OR **Meekness** is the second trait that we as Christians ought to develop in ourselves. Stott interprets it as, "taming ones strengths and harnessing of his/her energies." Meekness is not weakness but strength reigned in by self-control.

Self-control is self-mastery or a control over oneself – his/her actions, speech, and behaviour in general. In the context of the Christian life, it is really being God-controlled or allowing the total control of our life to the life-style that God recommends for our lives.

Trust that this month will find you introspecting and asking yourself who you really are. Examine your level of faithfulness, meekness and self-control.

With loads of love,

Rev. & Mrs. Immanuel A. Theodore

Pulpit Calendar - Feb. 2009

MONTHLY THEME : Celebration of Love
Sunday Services: 9:30 am

Date	Speaker	Theme
1 st Feb 09 (Communion)	Rev.Immanuel Theodore	Storge (Familial love)
8 th Feb 09	Mr.Gladson Anchan	Phileo (Friendly love)
15 th Feb 09	Mr.IAK Raju	Eros (Marital love)
22 nd Feb 09	Rev.Immanuel Theodore	Agape (Godly love)

Happenings This Month

Area Fellowships – Feb 09

(Overall Co ordination : Selvin-9448852570)

Bethel Nagar Area Fellowship	7 th . Feb.09 (Sat) At 6.30pm	At Sanjay's house For details Mrs. Rita Publius 9632388200
AECS Layout Area Fellowship	7 th Feb.09 (Sat) At 6.00pm	At Anban's house For Details Irwin-9731944666
Bethel Nagar Area Fellowship	21 st .Feb.09 (Sat) At 6.30pm	At Sanjay's house For details Mrs. Rita Publius 9632388200
AECS Layout Area Fellowship	21 st Feb.09 (Sat) At 6.00pm	At Jabez house For Details Irwin-9731944666

Area prayer cells – Feb 09

(Overall Co ordination : Jabez-9980014729)

Kundanahalli area prayer cell	28 th Feb (Sat) At 6.30pm at Clement's house	Co ordination: Giftyln Clement 9986506231
Hoodi area prayer cell	28 th Feb (Sat) At 6.30pm at Isaac's house	Co ordination: Isaac 9845232807
Whitefield area prayer cell	28 th Feb (Sat) At 6.30pm at Jabez's house	Co ordination: Jabez Yesudas 9980014729
Bethel Nagar area prayer cell	28 th Feb (Sat) At 6.30pm at Sanjay's house	Co ordination: Jachin
KR puram area prayer cell	28 th Feb (Sat) At 6.30pm at Jayant's house	Co ordination: Rev.Immanuel

Other Programs - Feb. 2009

Women's fellowship	8 th Feb.09 (Sun) At 11.30 AM	After Sunday service. For details (Angelin) 9886426287
Weekly Prayer	Friday 8 PM (Weekly)	At BMC For details contact Pastor.
Sunday School (English)	Every Sunday at BMC at 8.30 AM	Contact Giftyln for details (9986506231)
Sunday school (Kannada) At Hoodi	Every Sunday at 2.00 PM at Arul's house	Contact Arul for details (9731293243)
Choir practice	11.30 AM	After Sunday service Isaac (9845232807)
Youth Meetings	8 th Feb.09 (Sun) & 22 nd Feb.08 (Sun) at BMC at 1200 noon	Contact Frank Jeyakar for details (41693701)
Core Group Meeting	14 th Feb 09 at BMC 3:30 PM	For details contact Rev.Immanuel Theodore.

- Pray for social concern team as they are starting classes for slum children at the church on 26th Jan 09
- Pray for the weekly quiz on OT & also for the quarterly quiz on NT conducted by Christian education team. Pray that the entire church would participate.
- Pray for the pulpit ministry during the month of Feb 09
- Pray for the various departments of our church and for those who have taken responsibilities. WSCS, youth, choir, Sunday school, missions and outreach, Finance, IT, literature, Prayer, Ushering, Property management, Christian education. Pray that those who have taken responsibilities would have the vision and be committed to the responsibilities.
- Praise God for the weekly women's prayer fellowship at 3 places. Kundanahalli, Hoodi, and Bethel nagar. Pray that all the women of the church would become part of these prayer fellowships.
- Pray for our pastors Rev. Immanuel & family and Rev. Ramesh Christopher and family
- Pray for our mother church IMC and the Pastors and their families.
- Pray for the newly started area fellowship at KR puram
- Pray for the newly started area prayer cells.
- Praise God for the successful monthly sales conducted by WSCS for the phase II



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

David Livingstone



David Livingstone was born on 19 March 1813 in the mill town of Blantyre, Scotland, into a Protestant family. Born to Neil Livingstone and his wife Agnes, David was employed in the cotton mill working 12-hour days from the tender age of 10 until 26. His father was very religious and

this rubbed off on young David, who became an avid reader and learnt Latin and read books while working at the mill. Yearning to become a missionary after his conversion, he completed his medical education, involving two years of study in Glasgow, and was ready for some high call to which he could give his utmost.

It was at this time that Robert Moffatt with his flowing white beard and his vehement concern for Africa's perishing millions, came to speak at a meeting attended by David. The depths of his soul rose up to meet the challenge of the missionary, especially that contained in one sentence of twenty words. "I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been." The picture embodied in these stupendous words captivated his entire being and fired his soul with a passion which only death could quench. He would go to Africa! He would be a forerunner for Christ in the Dark Continent! He would search out the thousand villages, and other thousands, where no missionary had ever been.

Shortly thereafter, he received appointment under the London Missionary Society. Livingstone's parents were devout Christians and entered heartily into his missionary plan. He set off for Africa and landing at Algoa, he travelled seven hundred miles by ox-wagon to Kuruman where the Moffatts lived. After six months of diligent application, he could preach freely in the Bakwena language. It was at Mabotsa that Livingstone had his famous encounter with the lion and was badly injured. A little while later, he married Mary, the eldest daughter of Robert Moffatt. He taught the people the value of irrigation and helped them in many ways, but what he enjoyed most, he says, was "to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, for it always warms my own heart and is the great means which God employs for the regeneration of our ruined world."

When he felt the call to explore the interior of Africa, he had to send his wife and small children back to England and carried on the work of exploration and met many hardships but carried on resolutely. It was five years later that he set sail to England again to be united with his family. The happy months sped by, and he again set his face toward the far-off trail, accompanied by his wife and their youngest son. But by the time they reached Cape Town, her health was so bad she went back to Scotland, while he continued his explorations. Later, Livingstone went down to the Zambesi with much joy, knowing that at last his wife was coming to be with him and to make for him a home. But just a few weeks later, at Shupanga, she was smitten low with fever and, despite his utmost care, passed away.

After the death of his wife, Livingstone realized that he was fast nearing the end of his own trail, and dedicated

his remaining time and energies to the high task of opposing the horrors of the slave trade believing that thereby he would be rendering the largest possible service to Africa and to the cause of Christ. In 1864 he went to England for his second and last visit, to seek consolation among his children and to arouse the people of Britain to the recognition of their Christian obligation toward the Dark Continent. Returning to Africa, one day he came suddenly upon a long line of men, women, and children, chained to one another, with cruel slave-sticks fastened around the necks of the men. Slave drivers swaggered along beating the captives with whips to make them go faster. Just then the slave traders spied Livingstone and fled into the forest. With great rejoicing, he cut the bonds of the women and children, then sawed off the chains and the slave-sticks from the men. These people, of whom there were eighty-four, freed first from physical slavery and later from the slavery of sin through faith in Christ, became the first-fruits of a great harvest in this section of Africa.

David Livingstone toiled long and hard alone in his quest to bring Christ, commerce and civilization to Africa. The long years of hardship took their toll and on May 4, 1873, he was found dead, kneeling in prayer beside his bed. His servants displayed a devotion which has seldom, if ever, been equalled. His Journal, papers and instruments were carefully packed in watertight boxes. The heart of the missionary was buried in the land to which he had given all his heart, while the body, after being embalmed by native methods, was taken on the long march to the coast and then sent to England to its final resting place in Westminster Abbey. Thus was accorded to David Livingstone the highest honour which his native land could bestow.

(Compiled by Hannah Selvin)

Be Thankful - A Poem

Be thankful for this day
For God has made it in His own way
Our day might be good or bad, happy or sad
But be thankful for this day.

Every leaf that falls from the tree
Every dust that moves in the breeze
Every star that shines so bright
Is all made by God so right.

So do not worry about anything
For He has control over everything
Even the sinking ships and the movement of our lips
Are in God's control, you see.

(Written by Senalda Joyce Ronald, Class V)

Valentine's Day with Jesus

Jesus does not send perfume
To linger in the air
Instead He sends salvation, sweet
To show how much He cares.

He doesn't bring me candy hearts
In boxes of delight
Instead He always lets me know
I'm precious in His sight.

He doesn't send out pretty cards
Trimmed in shades of red
Instead He gave His life for me
His precious blood was shed.

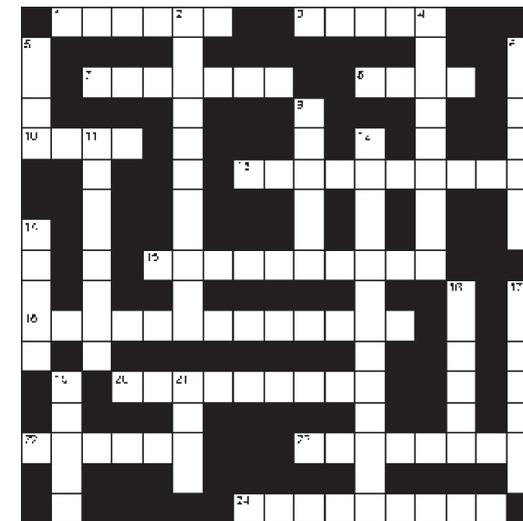
He doesn't hand out fancy gifts
Like we would send to mother
Instead He sends a message clear
To always love each other.

He doesn't give me teddy bears
That whimper, "please be mine"
Instead He gave His heart to me
I wear it all the time.

He doesn't give me roses, pink
For all the world to see
Instead He gave eternal life
That's good enough for me!

Marilyn Ferguson © 2003
(contributed by Mrs. Myra Theodore)

Bible Crossword



Across

- 1 Not to be put under a bushel. (6)
- 3 Let yours shine before men! (5)
- 7 Moth and rust will do this to your earthly store. (7)
- 8 If you do this, you will find. (4)
- 10 These should not be done in view of men. (4)
- 13 The eight sayings by Christ at the beginning of his sermon. (10)
- 15 They sound trumpets in the streets when they are being charitable. (10)
- 18 The peacemakers will be called this. (8,2,3)
- 20 They were with Jesus when he gave the sermon. (9)
- 22 You can't serve God and this. (6)
- 23 Fellow believers. (8)
- 24 The earth is this to God. (9)

Down

- 2 Jesus gave this as example of how to communicate with God. (5,6)
- 4 Don't lay these upon the earth. (9)
- 5 Whoever says this to his brother shall be in danger of the council. (4)
- 6 Those who are given happiness and good fortune. (7)
- 9 When engaging in this, you should enter into your closet and shut the door. (6)
- 11 Where the sermon was given. (8)
- 12 You should search for this first, before worrying about food and clothing. (13)
- 14 What you should do to your eye if it offends. (5)
- 16 They which do this shall be filled. (6)
- 17 The hypocrites disfigured their faces while doing this. (7)
- 19 If you are forced to go a mile with someone, this is how far you should go. (5)
- 21 The foolish man built his house on this. (4)

(Compiled by Arun)

Contact Us

Rev. Immanuel Theodore (9008243206)
Pastor, BMC
Email: immanuel@yahoo.com

Rev. Ramesh Christopher (9448803830)
Pastor, BMC Tamil service
Email : revrjchristo@gmail.com

Church Address:
BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH (BMC)
1st Main Road, Bethel Nagar,
Koddegehalli Road, Near SEA College,
K.R Puram, Bangalore – 560 036.
Email: admin@bmcbangalore.org
Visit us at www.bmcbangalore.org

'Bethel Tidings' is edited by Mr. Arun (9845919468) for BMC (English service) and this is for private circulation only. BMC is an outreach project of IMC, coming under IMC (Indira Nagar Methodist Church) administration. Rev. Moses Mamdapur (9845103829), Sr. Pastor, IMC