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# 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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**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.

## THE LORD'S FINAL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS DISCIPLES - II

In our last issue in the latter part we considered the Lord's words in John 14:12-14. The promise "If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it". The Lord, then, tells "If you love me, obey my commandments. Those who obey my commandments are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will reveal myself to each one of them" (Vv 15, 21, LASB). What are the commandments? They are the instructions given in the Gospels and the rest of the NT. Obedience to the Lord's commandments is the proof of a Christian's love to the Lord.

The Lord, knowing that His disciples will be discouraged in His absence, assures His disciples "And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit who leads into all truth" (Vv16, 17 LASB). The KJV uses the word "Comforter" instead of "Counselor". Dake's Annotated

Reference Bible gives the footnote. "Gr.PARAKLETOS, only used by John in the NT, rendered Comforter in Jn 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7 and Advocate" in 1Jn 2:1. It means one called to the side of another for help or counsel. The spirit is our paraclete or helper in heaven". In the absence of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit would abide with believers in earth. And He is called the spirit of truth because His teaching is true and He glorifies Christ who is the truth. The second Part of verse 17 reads "for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you". The Holy Spirit came upon men and dwelt with them before Pentecost, but since then, the Holy Spirit takes His abode in a man when he believes on the Lord Jesus. W.M states "In the OT, the Holy Spirit came upon men at various times, but often left them. Now He would come to remain forever. The Holy Spirit is never taken from a believer although He may be grieved or quenched or hindered".

From verses 27 to 31 (Chapter 14) we notice that Jesus leaves His peace with the disciples. This peace is forever. This gift is like a testator who writes a will for his heirs. "This peace I give is not like the peace the world gives" (V 27 LASB); the world gives sparingly selfishly and for a short time. The peace which the Lord gave was "inward peace of conscience that arises from a sense of pardoned sin and of reconciliation with God" (WM). Naturally they don't have to be troubled or afraid (V 27b).

Now in unselfish concern for the fearful disciples, the Lord reveals the future events. This was done, since He knew that they would be offended, disillusioned and disheartened. Before He leaves the Upper Room with His disciples, the Lord says to His disciples "The time of my betrayal is at hand. I shall go voluntarily to the cross. This is the Father's will for me. It will tell the world how much I love my Father. That is why I am now going without offering any resistance" (V31, Paraphrased). The rest of the discourse took place as they walked along.

The Lord continues His discourse saying "I am the true vine and my Father is the

gardener. He cuts off every branch that does not produce fruit and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more" (15:1,2 LASB). In perfect fulfillment of all types and shadows, the Lord presents Himself as the true vine and God the Father as the gardener or vinedresser. The one, who has put his full trust in the Lord, yes the true Christian, is the branch that bears fruit and grows like the Lord Jesus. The Lord prunes him, cleanses him from mildew and fungus so that he is clean, clinging on to the Lord, producing fruit. The word of God is like cleansing agent. The branch that does not give fruit is the backslider, the one who knew the Lord once, but buckled under pressures from world. He fails to manifest the fruit of the spirit – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal 5:22). The branch bears fruit only when it abides in the vine. Thus, it could draw nourishment from the vine. What does the term abide mean? It means our constant contact with Him, fully conscious of our union with Him; spending time in prayer, learning and obeying His word and fellowshiping with His people.

That is the only way to exhibit the likeness of Christ to the world. Thus God the Father will be glorified. The Lord said "Herein is my Father glorified that you bear much fruit. So shall you be my disciples" (V8). When we exhibit "Christ-likeness in our life, the people around us are forced to confess that God is a great God who could transform such wicked sinners into such godly saints. Now V8 shows that there is a progression in bearing fruit-fruit (V2), more fruit (V2) much fruit (V8). Through such fruit-bearing only we could be called "true disciples"

Next, the Lord commands His disciples to love one another (Vv12-17). Verse 12 is a "Standing Order" – "Love one another as I have loved you". With His departure to take place shortly, ego and self could creep in to their fall; contention is the order of the day, that time and this time also. There can be no fight among people, more so among believers, if everyone is willing to die for one another. The Lord brings to their attention the greatest truth "Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends" (V13). This love could be exhibited either by laying down one's life in the literal

sense or spending his life in untiring service for the Lord's people. The Lord is the perfect example on this. Though He was the Master, He did not call or treat them as servants; rather He treated them friends. The Holy Spirit helps Apostle Paul to magnify the superiority of the Lord's love "But God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). "This act of divine love was unique and unparalleled by anything in human experience. The average man's life is precious to him and he would not think of throwing it away for an unworthy person....The love of God is completely supernatural and otherworldly" (W.M).

And the Lord now takes them to the state of affairs they would encounter in the world. The Lord predicts the world's hatred in verses 15:18 to 16:4. The world hated the Lord and the situation would in no way be different for the disciples. This reality is predicted in Psalm 69:4 "They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head". In verse 20, the Lord uses the term "servant"; here servant literally means slave. He being the Master, the disciples were His

servants. In that position, a disciple should not expect any better treatment than what their Master received in this world. "Men of the world love those who live as they do – those who use vile language and indulge in the lusts of the flesh or people who are cultured but live only for themselves. Christians condemn them by their holy lives, therefore the world hates them"(WM). The disciples, probably, fondled a hope just like the Jewish people that Messiah would set up His kingdom and that the power of Rome would be broken. But the Lord told them that He was going to die, rise again and go back to heaven. In His absence, the Holy Spirit (Comforter: 15:26) would come and He would testify the Lord. The disciples would be greatly strengthened to go out to the whole world as witnesses (V 27).

In their ministry for the Lord, the disciples would be offended; they would be hated and persecuted, making them to stumble, shocked and disillusioned. Being Jews, they could be excommunicated from the synagogues; such an action was always considered to be one of the worst things (16:1,2). Most of the time, the people who resort

to hating the preaching of the gospel could be those who are sincere, zealous, so called Christians who think that they are pleasing God; they try to stamp out the Christian faith. This is due to the failure to recognize the deity of Christ. The Lord warned the disciples of this in advance so that they would not be moved by the oppositions and afflictions. When it really happened, they would remember the prediction of the Lord on this and that as such is part of His plan for their lives. The necessity of telling this at this juncture became necessary as He was going away from them, to His Father's place, the heaven.

We, who have put our full trust in the Lord, are His disciples and shall encounter persecutions in this world. We should remember His words to His disciples "But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you" (John 16:4). May the Lord's Upper Room discourse be sounding in our ears all the time.



## Epistle to the Ephesians 2:14-18 (13)

Cliff Jones

### HE IS OUR PEACE

*v.14 "For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us"*

Both believing Jews and believing Gentiles were saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and all saved Jews and Gentiles could say that He Himself, the risen, glorified, exalted Lord Jesus Christ, "is our peace". Through Him they had "peace with God" (Rom.5:1), and could enjoy "the peace of God" (Phil.1.4:7), but the peace Paul is writing of in Ephesians 2:14 is peace between saved Jew and Gentile. He "hath made both one": He united believing Jew and Gentile. Saved Jew and Gentile are both "in Christ", they are one in Christ, national barriers are no longer relevant. Now, people are either unsaved Jews, unsaved Gentiles or part of the Church, the Body of Christ of which He is the Head (1Cor.10:32). Paul, writing to the Galatians, said "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal.3:28). They were all "in Christ" through their union with Him.

The Lord has "broken down the middle wall of partition between us". The wall of partition brings to mind the wall which separated the court of the Gentiles from the court of the

Jews in the Temple. On the wall was written a warning to the Gentiles that they would suffer death if they went beyond the wall (Acts 21:28,29). The Mosaic Law, with its commandments, regulations and ceremonies, created a barrier between Jews and other people.

v.15 "Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace"

The "law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" (Rom.7:12), but the Jews became proud of having the Law and regarded the Gentiles with contempt, and the result was mutual enmity between Jew and Gentile. But "God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal.4:4,5). "God was manifest in the flesh" (1Tim.3:16). He, the holy, sinless One, sent by God His Father, "in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom.8:3,4). The Lord, through His work on the cross, destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall between believing Jews and Gentiles. They had peace with God and with each other. The Lord made peace between them:

they were united together “in the bond of peace” (Eph.4:3).

The Lord paid in full the penalty for sin that the law demanded, and now, believing Jew and Gentile are “in Christ”, they “are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom.6:14), and should live to do His will, to please and serve Him. Both believing Jews and Gentiles are part of a new creation, the Body of Christ, the Church of which He is the head. The old enmity and hostility has been destroyed. The Lord made “in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace”. Believing Jew and Gentile are reconciled to God (v.16), in the Church, and at peace with each other.

***v.16 “And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby”***

The Lord Jesus Christ reconciled both believing Jews and Gentiles “unto God in one body by the cross”. The reconciliation was achieved through the cross, and God can now “be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Rom.3:26). Through the cross, where the Lord suffered, shed His precious blood and died, the enmity between believing Jews and Gentiles has been slain. Formerly, there was enmity between them, but now, through the work of the Lord on the cross, peace has been made, and they are “one

body”, the church, of which He is the Head (Eph.1:22,23). They are reconciled to God and to one another (Col.1:20-22). They are no more under the wrath of God (Eph.2:3; Jn.3:36). Those of us who are believers can rejoice to know that “being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Rom.5:9,10). The enmity which had formerly existed between Jew and Gentile was caused by sin, but now, believers, whether Jew or Gentile, have been delivered by the Lord Jesus Christ from the penalty, power and dominion of sin. They have peace with God and with each other.

***v.17 “And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh”***

Peace is in the will of God (Isa.57:19). The Lord Jesus Christ made peace and proclaimed peace. Announcing the birth of the Lord, angels proclaimed “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Lk.2:14). Peace is not simply the cessation of war and hostilities. This can be achieved by force, by the domination of the weaker by the stronger. The absence of hostilities is a negative thing. True peace is positive, and is based on love, righteousness, unity, grace and mercy. The believer can rest in the promise



that “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Isa.26:3). God is the “God of peace” (Rom. 15:33). There will be no true peace in this world until, in the Millennium, (Rev.20:1-6), the Lord Jesus Christ reigns over the earth in righteousness, for there can be no peace without righteousness. Righteousness and peace always go together (Isa.32:17; Jas.3:18; Ps.85:10). On the cross, the Lord shed His precious blood (1Pet.1:18,19), which cleanses us from all sin (1Jn.1:7). He “made peace through the blood of His cross” (Col.1:20). The blessed truth is that in this chaotic, suffering, stressful world, the believer can enjoy, as a present reality, both peace with God and the peace of God (Rom.5:1; Phi1.4:7). There is peace to be found in meditating on the Word of God (Ps.119:165), and in obeying God (Phi.4:9). Peace is part of the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:22,23), and to be “spiritually minded is life and peace” (Rom.8:6). God is the God of peace, the Lord Jesus Christ is “The Prince of Peace” (Isa.9:6), and the promises in the Scriptures are given so that we might have peace of heart and mind, for “The LORD will give strength unto His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace” (Ps.29:11).

We are enjoined to “live in peace” (2Cor.13:11), to follow peace, live peaceably with all men (Heb.12:14; Rom.12:18), and to be at peace among ourselves (1Thess.5:13; Eph.4:3). If we

trust God, letting the peace of God rule in our hearts (Col.1.3:15), and work for peace among ourselves (Rom.14:19; 2Tim.2:22), then we can be channels of blessing within the assembly in which God has placed us and will be enabled to witness to those we meet. The Lord said to His disciples, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (Jn.14:27). After His resurrection, the Lord appeared to His frightened, worried disciples and said to them, “Peace be unto you” (Jn.20:19,21). He bestowed on them a peace which was not dependent on surrounding circumstances. The Lord brought peace, proclaimed peace and, ever since, His servants, in the power of the Spirit, have been proclaiming peace through faith in Him and His finished work on the cross. He “is our peace” (v.14); He made peace (v.15), and His peace was proclaimed (Acts 10:36) to Gentiles who were “afar of!” and to Jews who were “nigh”. His peace is still being proclaimed in obedience to His gracious command (Matt.28:19,20).

***v.18 “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father”***

Both believing Jews and Gentiles have been reconciled to God (Gal.1.3:28), and now, through the Lord Jesus Christ, “we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father”, without needing priests or ceremonies. How amazing it is that, because of all that the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ

has done for both believing Jews and believing Gentiles, we can now address God as Father (Jn.20:17; Eph.4:6). Believers have peace with God their Father, and can pray to Him directly at any time, through the Lord Jesus Christ, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim.2:5). In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can bring to God our praise, worship, thanks, prayers and supplications. God gave believers to His Son (Jn.6:37; 17:9); sent His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to make redemption possible (1Jn.4:14; Gal.4:4,5; 1Tim.1:15), and the Holy Spirit was sent (Jn.14:26; 15:26), to bring salvation to the lost (Jn.3:5; Eph.1:13,14).

We “have access by one Spirit unto the Father”. The Holy Spirit helps us, both Jews and Gentiles (1Cor.12:13), and guides us as we seek to pray (Rom.8:26). Prayer honours God, for it shows that we are aware of our total dependence on Him for all things (Jas.1:17). We should pray always (Lk.18:1), and without ceasing (1Thess.5:17). We are enjoined to make our requests known to God “by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving”. If we do this, we will experience the peace of God (Phil.4:6,7). When we pray, in faith, for what is in accordance with the will of God, and not simply from self-centred, selfish motives (Jas.4:3), our prayers will be answered (1Jn.5:14,15; Mk.11:24). To know what is in accordance with the will of God, we need to seek the guidance and

enabling of the indwelling Holy Spirit as we study the Word of God, meditate on it and seek to obey it.

Those of us who are believers have been, and will be, richly blessed (Eph.1 :3), but we need to pray for further blessing so that we may serve God more and more. God is willing and able to answer the prayer of faith (Jas.5:15; Isa.65:24). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb.11:6), and we should pray for our faith to be increased (Lk.17:5); that our spiritual maturity, love for God and obedience to His revealed will might increase, and that we might show in our lives more of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22,23), undertaking those good works “which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph.2:10). We need to pray that we might be kept from sin, evil and conformity to the world (Jn.17:15). God can do infinitely more than we might ask or imagine, (Eph.3:20), and He is faithful and can protect us from evil (2Thess.3:3). The Lord Jesus Christ loves us (Eph.5:25; Gal.2:20), and “gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world” (Gal.1:4).

Believing Jews and Gentiles are now at peace with each other, and are “both one” (v.14); “one new man” (v.15); “one body” (v.16), and “have access by one Spirit unto the Father” (v.18). All believers, whether Jew or Gentile, now have access to God the Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit.



## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT HELL

Viju Zachariah.

(Part-II)

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, we read in Luke 16:19-26 YLT

<sup>19</sup> And — a certain man was rich, and was clothed in purple and fine linen, making merry sumptuously every day,

<sup>20</sup> and there was a certain poor man, by name Lazarus, who was laid at his porch, full of sores,

<sup>21</sup> and desiring to be filled from the crumbs that are falling from the table of the rich man; yea, also the dogs, coming, were licking his sores.

<sup>22</sup> And it came to pass, that the poor man died, and that he was carried away by the messengers to the bosom of Abraham — and the rich man also died, and was buried;

<sup>23</sup> and in the hades having lifted up his eyes, being in torments, he doth see Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom,

<sup>24</sup> and having cried, he said, Father Abraham, deal kindly with me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and may cool my tongue, because I am distressed in this flame.

<sup>25</sup> And Abraham said, Child, remember that thou did receive —

thou — thy good things in thy life, and Lazarus in like manner the evil things, and now he is comforted, and thou art distressed;

<sup>26</sup> and besides all these things, between us and you a great chasm is fixed, so that they who are willing to go over from hence unto you are not able, nor do they from thence to us pass through.

In this passage we clearly read that the rich man was in hades and not hell (Gehenna). When Lazarus died we read that he was taken by angels to Abraham's bosom. Please notice that Lazarus did not go into the presence of God i.e. into heaven itself. In 1 Samuel 28, we see Saul consulting a medium and she tells Saul "Then said the woman, whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel" – 1 Sam 28:11. Please notice, the medium does not say whom shall I bring back or bring down and we see Saul also saying bring up Samuel. As we read along we see Samuel also saying to Saul "And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?" The Medium, Saul and Samuel all indicate that Samuel came up to the surface of the

earth to talk to Saul. Samuel also indicates that he was resting as indicated by his inquiry to Saul. The souls of the redeemed before Calvary went to the comfort side of hades called paradise. When the Lord Jesus hung on the cross, he told the repentant thief "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" ~ Luke 23:43. Did the Lord Jesus go to heaven on that very same day as soon as He dismissed His spirit? The answer is No – He did not go to heaven on the same day. We can safely state that based on the scriptural evidence as recorded in the Lord Jesus' response to Mary Magdalene when she saw the risen Lord.

John 20:11-17 "11 But Mary stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher,

12 and seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and

saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."

If we remember in the Old Testament on the Day of Atonement, after the High Priest offered the sacrifice on the altar he was to enter the Holy of Holies, with the blood of the sacrifice. Nothing impure was to touch him and he had to be ceremonially clean, until the sacrifice was delivered in the Holy of Holies. If something impure touched him, he would have to start the sacrifice all over again lest he die in the presence of a Holy God. In keeping with this type, nothing impure was to touch the Lord Jesus before He ascended to the Father and He had delivered His blood sacrifice, sprinkled it on the mercy seat,

before the Throne of God, and forever settled sin, and delivered us from the curse of the law. If Mary Magdalene or anyone else had touched Him they being impure would have broken the type. That is why Jesus said to Mary “do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father.” As far as Jesus asking Thomas to touch him, because he doubted.....that event occurred after Jesus had ascended to the Father.

Clearly from the passages in Luke 23 and John 20, we can infer that the thief went to paradise and the Lord Jesus too went to paradise but the paradise we are talking about here is clearly not heaven where the throne of God is. It was only after the Lord Jesus resurrected on the third day did He go into Heaven into the presence of God itself.

This is consistent with what the Lord Jesus said in Mathew 12: 40 “for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Please notice the expression – in the heart of the earth. It does not say on the surface of the earth. The Jews buried their dead in tombs cut out of the side of a rock, and people

walked into the tombs. The Lord Jesus was placed in a grave that you could walk into. Lazarus was buried in a cave and a stone was rolled on it. These were caves you could walk into and were on the surface of the earth. These were certainly not in the heart of the earth. The Lord Jesus was not in the heart of the earth as to His body but I say this most reverentially that the Lord Jesus descended into Hades, not in the side of torment but rather into the side of comfort in Hades. Peter said in Acts Chapter 2 that David was speaking as a prophet when he stated in Acts 2:27 “because Thou wilt not leave my soul to hades, nor wilt Thou give Thy Holy One to see corruption” The Lord Jesus’ soul was not left in Hades nor did His body see corruption. Peter is telling us that the Lord Jesus soul was in Paradise (the comfort side of hades) but He rose from the dead on the third day and now He lives in the power of an endless life.

*(to be contd..)*



# Vineyard News

*The news items are dated to help those who pray regularly for those labouring in the Lord's Vineyard.*

## ANDAMANS

01/03/14 **M. Joseph, Port Blair**  
He requests us to pray for the ministries. He also requests us to pray for his and his wife's health. He suffers from chest pain (he had an operation in October 2010) and his wife had a heart attack recently. Pray that God may give them some relief in the days to come.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

02/03/14 **A. Charles, Addanki**  
They had a ministry in a place called Kuchipudi (in Krishna District, where Brother Raghu is serving the Lord) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Please pray for those who heard the Gospel through this ministry, especially for the spiritual growth of two people who accepted the Lord as their Saviour during this time.

03/03/14 **P. Wilson, Vijayawada**  
Pray for the state of Andhra Pradesh as there is constant agitation related to the Telangana turmoil. By the grace of God, he has been able to travel to many parts of Andhra Pradesh,

including Rajahmundry and Srikakulam, to minister from the Word of God. Pray that the believers in these areas may be strengthened through such ministries.

04/03/14 **T. Jacob, Utukur**  
By the grace of God, they were able to dedicate their new assembly hall in August. They thank all those who prayed for the completion of the assembly hall construction. Pray for their outreach work in coastal villages Peddapalem and Pallipalem. Pray also for the ongoing construction of a 'prayer house' in Chelikala village.

## BIHAR

05/03/14 **Ashok Kumar, Motipur**  
Their ministries are going on well by the grace of God. They have started a new ministry in a place called Sahebganj. Please pray for this ministry and that an assembly testimony may be established.

06/03/14 **Abadh Bihari Lal, Bariarpur**  
He requests us to pray for the following: those who attended the special Gospel meetings in September and the special Bible study classes they conducted on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November; Gospel convention scheduled to happen in

March (24–25 March 2014); his wife is taking treatment for kidney failure and she is in need of a kidney transplant.

07/03/14

**Benny Chackochan, Begusarai**

He solicits our prayers for their need to have their own assembly hall and to have a hostel for their village school. Pray also for his wife Priscilla who has been diagnosed to have low blood hemoglobin. Pray that God may open doors for them to reach out to more villages with the Gospel.

08/03/14 **Prem Kr Sah, Jamalpur**

They have started a new ministry in Dharhara. Pray for the contacts they have in this place and that God may enable them to have continued progress in this ministry. Pray also for those living in the flood-affected areas of Munger district of Bihar. His new address for further correspondence: *Prem Kumar Sah, Chhoti Keshopur (Nalapar), Dharhara Road, Jamalpur – 811214, Munger District, Bihar.*

#### CHHATTISGARH

09/03/14 **Babu Thomas, Jagadalpur**

He has mentioned the following for praise and prayer: ministry and believers at Tokpal village (an assembly testimony has been established here last year); better health in the days to come (as he was taking treatment for prostate cancer last year); the 284 children (and 20 staff) in their Child Development Centre.

10/03/14 **Robinson Roat, Raigarh**

They had conducted VBS in October (14–16 October 2013). It was attended by 40 children, mostly from non-Christian families. Some of their families were contacted and invited for Gospel meetings held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Please pray for the salvation of those who heard the Gospel through these ministries.

#### KARNATAKA

11/03/14 **David Kandath, Bangalore**

He solicits our prayers for the spiritual growth of those who obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism in October 2013 (four on 12<sup>th</sup> October and five on 13<sup>th</sup> October). They are all from non-Christian families. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

12/03/14

**Venkatesha Murthy, Mysore**

They are in touch with many new 'contacts' through their recent ministries and some of them even attend their worship and other meetings. Please pray for their salvation. They had a special Christmas programme on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 for the CSI Victoria School children (approximately 300 children). Please pray for these children and the salvation of their families. Pray also for their need to have their own assembly hall.

13/03/14 **Herald M. C., Kumta**

Their ministries are going on well by the grace of God. He requests us to pray for three believers who obeyed

the Lord in the waters on baptism on 28 December 2013. They are from non-Christian families. Please pray for their spiritual growth and for the salvation of their families.

#### KERALA

14/03/14 **C. K. Isaac, Ernakulam**  
He requests us to pray for the following: those who were catered to through their outreach ministry in January (along with Bro. Sameer Jha from Tinpahad, Jharkhand); their open-air ministries at Kakanad (every Sunday); their requirement of Bibles (Oriya, Assamese, Hindi, etc.) for ministry.

#### MADHYAPRADESH

15/03/14 **Joseph Varghese, Gwalior**  
He requests us to pray for Brother Suresh and his family. They are from a non-Christian background and are now ready to obey the Lord in the waters of baptism. Pray also for their 'contact programmes,' that those who hear the Gospel and those who are catered to through the follow-up work may accept the Lord as their personal Savior.

16/03/14

**Rajendra Singh Masih, Datia**  
Their ministry currently covers 20 villages. Please pray for this ministry, as they plan to cover another 10 villages in the near future. Pray also for their ongoing assembly hall construction.

#### MAHARASHTRA

17/03/14

**David Bandarkanti, Sirtioncha**

They are focusing on two villages nearby as far as their village outreach ministries are concerned: Bamni and Venkatapure. Please pray for these ministries as they have faced opposition in these villages before. Pray also for the salvation of family members of believers in their assembly and for the youth who attended the youth camp they conducted in Allapali.

#### GUJARAT

18/03/14

**Jose Dali, Vapi**

Pray for those who attended the three-day Bible Training Programme they conducted for men from tribal areas (25–28 November 2013) and for the 300 people (approx) who attended the three-day special meetings conducted at Bhandarpada village (26–28 December 2013). Pray that such meetings and programmes may have the desired results. Pray also for the bereaved family of Brother Nelson (38 years) who passed away a few months ago due to ARDS-Pneumonia.

#### ORISSA

19/03/14 **C. S. Thomas, Berhampur**

He requests us to pray for those who were adversely affected by the recent cyclone. Two sisters in their assembly lost their house as a result of the



cyclone. Pray for them and others who have suffered losses. Pray also for the outreach work they have been doing in the cyclone-affected areas.

20/03/14 **Panchanan Paul, Balasore**  
By the grace of God, they were able to pull through a tough time as Balasore was one of the areas adversely affected by the recent cyclone and floods. He requests us to pray for the families who suffered losses and he also requests us to pray for their ministries in Mayurbhanj District.

21/03/14 **Prasant Pani, Jhorigam**  
Pray for their ministries at Jharigumma, Kushumi and Koksera. Their ministries at Koksera started only recently. They visit this place (45 km from where they stay) twice a week, one of which is for a worship service. They are planning to conduct a special Gospel meeting in this place. Please pray that people may attend and that God may touch some lives through it.

22/03/14 **Umakanta Behera, Angul**  
He requests our earnest prayers for the following matters: Emmaus Correspondence course in Odia, Hindi and English; follow-up of village ministries; need for an assembly hall for Tentolai assembly.

#### PUNJAB

23/03/14 **Sam P. Jacob, Pathankot**  
He has mentioned the following matters for prayer: spiritual growth of four believers (from Hindu families) who have obeyed the Lord

in the waters of baptism on 20 October 2013; ministries in Azizpur and Bhilawar (many believers in assemblies in these places have been baptized in the recent past); two of their local believers, Raj Kumar and Mukesh Kumar, have been 'separated' for full-time ministry with a burden to serve in Himachal Pradesh; those who attended the special meetings held in the last week of November (speaker: Abraham Kurien).

#### RAJASTHAN

24/03/14 **Joseph John, Dholpur**  
He requests us to pray for one Sister Esther who is suffering from Diabetes Insipidus and is taking treatment at Sir Ram Ganga Hospital (Delhi). He also requests us to pray for Abhishek, a boy they have adopted. He has some serious health issues. Pray that God may give him better health in the days to come.

#### TAMIL NADU

25/03/14  
**Cherian Johnson, Thanjavur**  
While he requests us to continue praying for their ministries in Thanjavur, he also requests us to pray for their upcoming ministries in Bathinda and Rajsingh Nagar.

26/03/14  
**L.C. Samuel, Oddanchatram**  
Pray for their ministries in Oddanchatram. By the grace of God, a few people have started attending

their assembly meetings regularly as a result of their outreach ministry. Please pray for them and for the spiritual growth of three believers who obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism on 27 November 2013.

*27/03/14* **Sam Thomas, Udamalpet**  
From 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013, they had special Bible study meetings (speaker: Daniel Varghese, Kerala). Pray that such special meetings may have the desired results. Also pray for the spiritual growth of three believers who obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism on 9 November 2013.

*28/03/14*

**Thomas Koshy, Dharapuram**  
He requests us to continue to pray for their outreach ministry and personal evangelism in Dharapuram. In the recent past, by the grace of God, 10 people have accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour by reading the tracts that they have distributed. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

#### UTTAR PRADESH

*29/03/14* **P.P. Philipose, Jhansi**  
Pray for the 200+ people who attended the Seekers' Camp and Family Conference conducted from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Fifteen believers were baptized on 13 October 2013. Pray for their spiritual growth. As a praise point, he also mentions that on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013, a new assembly hall was dedicated at Laxmanpura Village by the grace of God.

#### WEST BENGAL

*30/03/14* **Anjan Sarkar, Kalna**  
They had conducted VBS from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December (2013) and it was attended by more than 70 children. Please pray for the salvation and spiritual growth of these children.

**Samuel Das, Adra**  
They were able to conduct the Short-Term Bible Course for Bangladeshi believers from 15 August to 20 October 2013. During this period, two of the students obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism. Also, three believers took a decision to do full-time ministry in Bangladesh. Please pray for all the students who attended this course.

*31/03/14* **Siji Varghese, Durgapur**  
Pray for those who attended the Gospel Camp they conducted in November 2013 (13–16 November 2013), that the seed sown in those who heard the Gospel may not be in vain. Pray also for their requirement of tracts and booklets as far as their ministry is concerned.

**Weleston Kisku, Burnpur**  
The ministry at Burnpur and surrounding places is going on well by the Grace of God. They are specially working among the Santallis. They have started a work in a village nearby where about 20 people attend Bible study regularly. Prayers are requested for them.



**KNOW YOUR FRIENDS IN SBC  
RAJKUMAR**

I come from Chennai in Tamil Nadu. I was born and brought up in a Christian family. From childhood, I used to go to church and attend all meetings. But while I was growing up, I was attracted to the world and began to live an ungodly life. Once I went to attend a youth camp in Chennai, where bro Abraham shared the Word of God to me and I realized that I am a sinner and that I need to be saved to go to heaven. So accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour on 16/01/2007. Then I was continuing my secular studies. On 09/07/2011, I was baptized in my local assembly and was added to the fellowship. Although I thought of doing some secular job, my uncle encouraged me spiritually. They also suggested that I study the Bible systematically. So I prayed and applied to Stewards. God in His grace has given me an opportunity to study here. Now am studying in 2nd year. Please pray for my studies and also for my future.



**HOME CALL**

**Philip G. Samson, Mumbai (73)** It pleased the Lord to call him home while he was in his sleep on 14th January 2014. About 35 years ago, in his young age, when the Lord called him, he left his secular job and came into the full time ministry to serve among the Marathi Christians in Mumbai and in many parts of Maharashtra as well. Please remember the bereaved family in your prayers.

**Evg. Sukro Khillo (33)** has gone to be with the Lord on 6th February, 2014. He was suffering from kidney related problems for some time. Please pray for his wife Laxmi and son Amit.

**Sister Winnie Jacob (91)** Pondicherry, has gone to be with the Lord on 07 FEB 2014. She arrived in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu from N. Ireland on 15th October 1948 and had spent the last 66 years of her life as a missionary in India. She worked in different parts of South India before settling down in Trichy. She was married to (late) Bro. P.I. Jacob who went to be with the Lord 15 years ago. Her funeral service was held in Bethel Hall, Pondicherry on Saturday, 08 FEB 2014

**Silas Thomas (44)**, Evangelist and son of Evg. M.S Thomas of Tiruvalla has gone to be with the Lord on 23/10/2013. The funeral took place on 25/10/2013 at the Kariyamplavu Brethren Assembly burial ground, in the presence of many relatives and friends. Prayers are requested for his bereaved wife and son who is studying.

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**NEW ADMISSIONS TO SBC OPEN !**

**Stewards Bible College** is a unique institution of its kind in teaching the Word of God systematically. Anyone who is born again, baptized and in fellowship with a local Brethren assembly, committed to the Lord's work and desiring a serious study, and deeper understanding of the Bible could apply. The medium of instruction being English, the candidates should have a working knowledge of English preferably +2 or its equivalent.

Applications are invited for its next course which will start in the first week of June-2014. SBC offers a three year programme leading to Bachelor of Theology (B.Th). We cover almost all aspects of the Bible including various disciplines in Systematic Theology and related subjects. Write immediately for prospectus and application form to: **Stewards Bible College, 1, Bethesda Centre, R.V Nagar, Kodungaiyur P.O, Chennai-600 118, Tamil Nadu. Phone: 044-2555 0598; 9444366863, stewardsbiblecollege@gmail.com**

**NEW ADMISSIONS TO BMCH OPEN !**

**We are glad to inform that there are a few vacancies in the Bird Memorial Children's Home for the coming academic year. Parents of deserving girl children could apply immediately, as the seats are limited. The children are given free food, accomodation and also good care. Those children who meet with the standards are sent to English medium school for their education. BMCH, 1, Bethesda Centre, R.V Nagar, Kodungaiyur P.O, Chennai-600 118, Tamil Nadu.**

**FACILITY FOR MONEY TRANSFER**

**Those who desire to make contributions to GFTI ministry could use our online account number for fast remittances. Please use the details below:**

**Account Name: The Gospel Fellowship Trust of India**  
**S.B.A/c No. 57001901728 (Foreign); 57001901274 (Indian)**  
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**[gfti.india@gmail.com](mailto:gfti.india@gmail.com)**