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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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1. To encourage the preaching of the Good News of Salvation throughout India and elsewhere.
2. To encourage the planting of New Testament based Christian Assemblies.
3. To act as a channel to pass on to the Lord's Servants (enjoying current commendations of their home assemblies) the voluntary contributions of God's people. We now serve about 1050 brethren.
4. Assistance to those in distress through natural calamities etc.
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In this Issue

1. The Lord's Supper- Part-II.....*Koshy Zachariah*..1
2. Ephesians (18).....*Cliff Jones*...5
3. Exposure to Christian Basics (III).....*Koshy Zachariah*..7
4. Facts from the Field.....*Vineyard News*.... 12
5. Know your friends in SBC.....*Satish Kumar*....cover.. 3

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Editorial

Koshy Zachariah

THE LORD'S SUPPER – PART - II

In our last issue, we considered “the nature of the ordinance of the Lord’s Table; it is distinctively a feast of thanksgiving. It is a link between the Lord’s death and His second coming. Now in this issue, we shall consider first the circumstances under which the Lord’s Supper was instituted.

The Lord had before Him, a terrible morrow; the fiercest battle that had ever been encountered by man or angel. It was a night of profound sorrow. He was to be betrayed shortly by one of his disciples. To add fuel to the fire, one of the three disciples who was with Him on the mount of transfiguration, rather a very close one, was going to deny Him; what to say of desertion by all of His disciples. And the Lord was about to enter into dreadful conflict with all the powers of darkness. He was to meet the deadly enmity of man; and to drain to the dregs, the cup of Jehovah’s righteous wrath against sin. It was a night of His agony and bloody sweat. Despite this, we read “He took bread and

gave thanks and broke it and gave unto them, saying “This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise also the cup after Supper saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:19, 20). The loving heart of Jesus was full of thoughts about His Church. And He instituted the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper. “He appointed the bread to be the emblem of His body broken and the wine to be the emblem of His blood shed and such they are, to us now, as often as we partake of them, for the word assures us that “as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till He come”. (CH Mackintosh).

The ordinance of the Lord takes our souls to the eventful night already referred to. And we see the reality of the cross and the passion of the Lamb of God. His unselfish love and devotedness are before us in the most impressive manner. The Lord’s Supper is both the expression of our connection with Him and with all the members of

His body. Our connection with Him, the selfless person should elevate to unselfish nature in its true sense. And our connection with the members of the body, the Church, constituting fellow believers should dispel all hatred if any, schisms and divisions that creep in to spoil the sanctity to which we are lifted. Let every believer examine himself before he partakes of the Lord's Table. He who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body (1 Cor 11:28,29).

Another point worthy of notice is the fact that the Lord's Supper was instituted in relation to the passover. The passover is the great feast of Israel, first observed on the memorable night of the deliverance from the bondage of Egypt. The passover points forward to the cross and the Lord's Supper points back to it. Unlike the passover where a lamb was sacrificed, here at the Lord's Table, we see the bread broken and wine drunk in commemoration of a perfect sacrifice once and for all offered – the efficacy of this sacrifice was eternal. No more periodical repetition. The bread and wine speak of certain cardinal truths;

they speak of the broken body and the shed blood of the Lamb of God. At the Lord's Supper, with our inner eyes, we see the Lord presiding. And we realize that His redeemed ones, yes we, are meeting Him in holy fellowship and brotherly love. The emblems bring all these into remembrance.

Now having considered the circumstances under which the Lord Supper is instituted, we shall for a while ponder on the stress "For whom alone the Lord's Supper was instituted". It was instituted for the Church of God – the family of the redeemed. "All the members of the family should be there, for none can be absent without incurring the guilt of disobedience to the plain command of Christ and His inspired apostle; and the consequences of this disobedience will be positive spiritual decline and a complete failure in testimony for Christ" (C.H.Mackintosh).

That fact necessitates the coming together of all the members of the local church without fail. It shall be the endeavor of every member to ensure that he is present except for reasons beyond control like serious sickness or away from the station for unavoidable

reasons. "All the congregation of Israel" were commanded to keep the passover (Exodus 12). The instruction on this is clear in Num 9:13. Similarly, there should not be lightness and indifference in the minds of the members of the Church, concerning their attendance at the table of the Lord. Hopping in from assembly to assembly, for whatever reason is detrimental to the testimony of Christ, as every member of a local church belongs to that church.

The observation of C.H. Mackintosh is valuable; "Beloved Christian reader, if you are in the habit of absenting yourself from the assembly of Christians, I pray you to ponder the matter before the Lord ere you absent yourself again. Reflect upon the pernicious effect of your absence in every way. You are failing in your testimony for Christ; you are injuring the souls of your brethren and you are hindering the progress of your own soul in grace and knowledge. Do not suppose that your actions are without their influence on the whole Church of God: you are at this moment helping or hindering every member of that body on earth. "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it".

This principle has not ceased to be true, though professing Christians have split into so many different divisions. Nay, it is so divinely true, that there is not a single believer on earth who is not acting either as a helperto or drain upon, the whole body of Christ. If there be any truth in the principle already laid down (viz. that the assembly of Christians and the breaking of bread in any locality is or ought to be, the expression of the unity of the whole body), you cannot fail to see that if you absent yourself from that assembly or refuse to join in giving expression to that unity, you are doing serious damage to all your brethren as well as to your own soul".

We already saw in this issue the circumstances under which the Lord's Supper was instituted and the stress "For whom alone the Lord's Supper was instituted". Now we shall consider a third issue "the time and manner of its celebration". In Acts 20:7, we read "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, "Dake's Annotated Reference Bible gives 10 reasons why Christians should observe the Lord's Supper on Sunday,

some of them are: 1) To commemorate the resurrection and the finished work of Christ 2) The Lord's manifestations to the disciples were on Sunday 3) Christ ignored completely the Old Jewish Sabbath 4) The outpouring of the Holy Ghost came on Sunday etc. William MacDonald observes "It is certainly clear from verse 7 that it was the practice of the earlier Christians to gather together on the first day of the week in order to observe the Lord's Supper. The Scripture is clear that it is not once a month or once in three months.

The moral fitness is on the first day of the week; it is the resurrection day- the Church's day. CH Mackintosh observes "If then, the first day of the week be the day on which Scriptures teach the disciples to break bread, it is clear that man has no authority to alter the period to once a month or once in six months". However, whenever Sunday is not a day available for worship, in certain counties, believers come together on another convenient day but the desirable day is the first day of the week. This much as to the time. Now concerning the

manner. The breaking of bread being the primary object in coming together, it is the work of Christ that should be in focus; it is not the time for preaching and teaching. The Holy Spirit shall be in control to exalt the name, the person and the work of Christ.

"The breaking of bread ought to be the distinct enunciation of the fact that all believers are one body; but the professing church, by splitting into sects and by setting up a table for each sect, has practically denied that fact" (CHM). We conveniently forget the truth "we being many, are one bread and one body, for we are all partakers of that one bread" (I Cor 10:17).

May the Holy Spirit help us, to remember through the Lord's Supper all the truths covered in the two articles. The nature of the ordinance of the Lord's Table; the circumstance under which the Lord's Supper was instituted; the persons for whom the Lord's Supper was instituted; and the time and manner of its celebration.



Epistle to the Ephesians 3:20,21 (18)

Cliff Jones

ABLE TO DO EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK

v.20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"

In the two final verses of the chapter we have a wonderful doxology. In v.20, Paul seems to be finding it difficult to express, in a language designed for use on earth, the consequence of inexhaustible, infinite power which has no limitations and for which nothing is impossible. He says that God is "*able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think*". God is able, if it is His will, to do not only what we ask, but also infinitely more than we are able to conceive of. The limitless power of God is unimaginable because, as human beings, we are accustomed to being limited in so many ways. We read that "with God all things are

possible" (Matt.19:26). God is able to do absolutely anything which is consistent with His attributes, that is, He cannot do anything which is evil.

God has, from before the foundation of the world, been using His infinite power for His glory and our eternal blessing. God can shower blessings upon us because of the completed work on the cross of the pre-eminent, all-sufficient Lord Jesus Christ. The words, "*according to the power that worketh in us*", are a reference to the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer from the moment of salvation. The Spirit is constantly working to guide us, enable and empower us to do the will of God. The Holy Spirit would have us produce and reveal more of "the fruit of the Spirit", which is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance" (Gal.5:22,23). He will guide us as we read the Word of God, and empower us as we endeavour to obey the truths He reveals to us. The Spirit will direct us if we truly

and honestly seek to do the will of God (Prov.3:5,6; Ps.37:23). He will lead us in prayer, reveal our sins to us and cause us to confess them, repent and turn from them, so that we might be forgiven (1Jn.1:9). He will guide and direct our service, seeking at all times to reveal and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn.16:13,14). The mighty power of God can change us so that we gradually become more and more like His "altogether lovely" Son (S. of S. 5:16). God can do infinitely more in our lives, for His own glory and our eternal blessing, than we could ever imagine.

The mighty power of God raised His beloved Son from the dead and "set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places" (Eph.1:20). This amazing power worked for us when we were "quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph.2:1), and "raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph.2:6). That same power is protecting us and gradually changing us so that we might increasingly become "partakers of the divine nature" (2Pet.1:4).

v.21 "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

The church, the Body, of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head, will give glory to God eternally. The Lord Jesus and the church will reveal the glory of God and the grace of God.

Today, the church shows the many-sided wisdom of God to angelic beings. As believers meditate on the Word of God and obey what the Holy Spirit reveals to them, God will be glorified on earth, not only before angelic beings but also before living men and women. The church, that is, all the redeemed, whether Jew or Gentile, whether, at the present time, on earth or in heaven, reveals the wisdom, power, grace and love of God, and will render praise and glory to God through the Lord Jesus Christ and be for His glory for ever and ever.



EXPOSURE TO CHRISTIAN BASICS-III

Koshy Zachariah

3. BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Believer's baptism is a basic command of the Lord. The Lord's words in this regard are found in Mathew 28:19 and Mark 16:16. "Teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". "Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned (LASB). "The words "believes and is baptized will be saved" as found in Mark 16:16, are taken by some to support their view that baptism is a "must" for salvation. Though the scriptures as found in Acts and Epistles, speak otherwise, here itself, "the words "anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned" endorse that baptism does not save; a man who believes shall not be damned but his belief in Christ saves him. This is affirmed in Romans 10:9 "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (LASB). As we read through the

Acts of the Apostles, we see that the first Christians were taught this and they faithfully obeyed this commandment. (Please see Acts 2:41; 8:12;9:18;10:47;16:15;22:16 in addition to the verses dealt with further)At Pentecost, we see, Peter telling the people "Repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38). Then in Acts 8:36,37, we see the case of the eunuch asking "what hinders me to be baptized" and Philip's answer "if thou believest with all thine heart". Another passage in support of the believers' baptism is found in Acts 18:8 "many of the Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized". Those believers were willing to take the bold step of public demonstration of their identity with the Lord and His command.

There is no record in the New Testament, of any one receiving baptism before he is saved by God through faith in Christ. However, today, many denominational churches practice infant baptism; that is baptism of an infant of 2 or 3

months old. This practice has mainly arisen from the fear that a child unless baptized and added to the church, cannot go to heaven. In such churches, if an infant dies before his child baptism he will not be buried in the church cemetery. The practice of infant baptism finds its vague support in Acts 16:31-34. The verses "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved and your house" (V31), ".....was baptized, he and all his straightway" (V33). The words underlined above are taken for the argument that once a man believes the Lord Jesus Christ, he and his house will be saved; so, all including children should be baptized. But one should read verse 34 also. There, we are told "rejoiced, believing in God with all his house". Rejoicing on believing cannot be done by infants and therefore the usage "all his house" indicates that the house is comprised of only adults.

Why Baptism?

Baptism is an outward expression of one's identification with the Lord's death, burial and resurrection. William MacDonald

writes "Water baptism gives a visual demonstration of baptism into Christ. It pictures the believer being immersed in death's dark waters (in the person of the Lord Jesus) and it pictures the new man in Christ, rising to walk in newness of life. There is a sense in which a believer attends the funeral of his old self when he is baptized. As he goes under the water, he is saying "All that I was as a sinful son of Adam was put to death at the cross ". As he comes up out of the water he is saying "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me (See Gal 2:20)". The above thoughts emanate from Rom 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so, we also should walk in newness of life". The note on Verse Rom 6:1-4 (LASB version) reads "In the church of Paul's day, immersion was the usual form of baptism; that is, new Christians were completely "buried" in water. They understood baptism to symbolize the death and burial of the old way of life. Coming up out of the water symbolized resurrection to new life with

Christ. If we think of our old, sinful life is dead and buried, we have a powerful motive to resist sin. We can consciously choose to treat the desires and temptations of the old nature as if they were dead. Then we can continue to enjoy our wonderful new life with Jesus (See Gal 3:27 and Col 2:12 and 3:1-4, for more on this concept)."

The NT contemplates and assumes "that those who are converted, submit to baptism right away. Thus our Lord could speak of faith and baptism in the same breath: he who believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16). Though baptism is not a requirement for salvation, it should be the invariable public sign of it" (William MacDonald).

Does Baptism Save?

These are some who advocate that water baptism saves a person. The first verse in support of their claim is Mark 16:16 "he that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved". But the same verse adds "but he that believeth not, shall be damned". Water baptism is in relation to the death and burial in the NT and

not the spiritual birth. It is an outward expression of belief; rather a proclamation to the world of his salvation through faith. There are as many as 150 passages in the NT that salvation is by faith alone. A few passages could be considered in this regard. The thief on the cross was not baptized but the Lord assured him that he would be with Him in paradise. Another instance, is of the Gentiles mentioned in Acts 10:44-48. Verse 47 reads "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Christ, as well as we?" Much more clear is the baptism of the eunuch in Acts 8:30-39. Verses 36b and 37 read "And the eunuch said, see, here is water; what doeth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, "if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God".

It is desirable to see some of the passages quoted by those who advocate baptismal regeneration. They refer John 3:5 meaning that regeneration came from water baptism "The verse reads "Jesus answered,

verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God". The correct version of the above underlined words is "born of water, even the Spirit". The usage "water" is the symbol of the Holy Spirit "as seen in John 7:38-39". He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water (But this spoke He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)". Another passage is Titus 3:5 "He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit". This verse refers to "washing of regeneration" but the word "baptism" is not used. The word washing is not from the Greek word "baptismos" but rather from "loutron", used of bathing. A third verse is I Peter 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us". The setting of the verse speaks of the water of judgment in Noah's days. There we see the destroying of the earth, lifting the ark of safety (V20). Christ is the ARK OF SAFETY. He went through the

waters of death in our place. The note in the "Dake's Annotated Reference Bible reads "The like figure of baptism in water also saves us. How does it save us? Is it the water that saves or the thing that it is a figure of? It was not the water that saved the 8 persons of verse 20. It was the ark that saved them from drowning in the flood. So baptism in water does not save the soul, but the faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that which baptism is a figure of, does save the soul (Rom 6:3-5, I Cor 15: 1-4; Eph 1:14; Col 1:20-22). A mere figure can have no power to save, but the reality of the figure can. Peter, lest some should trust in water baptism, to save the soul, makes it very clear that baptism does not save one from the filth or moral depravity of the flesh. He shows it to be only the answer of a good conscience toward God, one that has been made clear by faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ (V21). It is clear here that at baptism, the conscience is already supposed to be good and clean and baptism merely answers to it."

THE MODE OF BAPTISM

From the Bible, it is clear that the first Christians were baptized by immersion (Examples Mathew 3:16, Acts 8:38-39). The root meaning of the term baptism implies immersion or dipping beneath the water. The verses in Romans 6:11 and Col 2:12 mention the term "Buried". Burial is always "interring or placing corpse etc". two or three feet beneath the surface of the earth. If baptism is a symbol of the burial of the old man and his nature, then it has to be by immersion. It appears that the practice of pouring and sprinkling water started in the second century and became widespread by the thirteenth century. This method is convenient when an infant is to be baptized. Probably, the verse in I Cor 7:14 has been relied upon to justify the infant baptism. "The verse reads" For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean but now are they holy". If an infant is holy (sanctified; the correct version),

then he could be baptized and the appropriate mode is "sprinkling". An incorrect practice gets accepted very quickly quoting the "convenience and logic". However, had the spirit of God meant to the practice of sprinkling, the word "RHANTIZO" would have been used. The symbolism of baptism calls for immersion. In Acts 8:38-39, the words "they went down both unto the water" and "when they were come up out of the water" clearly show that baptism is by immersion.

The pronouncement at baptism is "in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mathew 28:19) The mention "In the name of Jesus" and in the name of the Lord, are abbreviated reference.

The baptizer shall be from the ranks of the believers and no qualification like elders or deacons mentioned.

CONCLUSION

Baptism is the command of Lord Jesus Christ. The early Christians practised, believed in baptism by immersion. Therefore, it is necessary for obedience. Definitely it does not save a person from his sins.



Vineyard News

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

ANDHRA PRADESH

01/08/14 **B. P. Prakasham, Armoor**
They had revival meeting in Varni from 24th to 26th March 2014. Pray for the effectiveness of such meetings. On their way back from Varni, he had a stroke, which paralyzed his right side and mouth. He underwent treatment at NIMS (Hyderabad) till April 5th (2014). And he is on medication now. Please pray for his recovery.

02/08/14 **Samuel John, Adilabad**
Nine believers obeyed the Lord in water baptism recently when bro Job Das, Hyderabad helped in the ministry. Prayers are requested for these new believers and also for the completion of Sunday school rooms, toilets and compound walls of the assembly hall.

03/08/14 **B. Stephen, Nachupally**
Pray for the spiritual growth of seven believers who obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism on 11 April 2014. Pray also for his son Isaac Babu who has suffered from Malaria and Typhoid fever.

04/08/14 **Jogi Moses, Tangutur**
By the grace of God, their ministries are going on well. He requests us to continue praying for their ministries and

their need to have a four-wheeler for their ministry in various places in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh.

05/08/14 **K. Joshua, Cumbum**
Pray for their ministries – they serve in a rural and backward area where many have never heard the Gospel. Pray for his wife who accompanies him as he goes for village outreach and helps him in his ministry by reaching out to the womenfolk. Pray for her health as she is suffering from diabetes.

06/08/14 **P. Paul Raju, Tanuku**
Pray for those who heard the Gospel through the Gospel camp that was held in Andamans in February (12–24 February 2014). Pray also for his wife Annie and for his daughter Prizilin as they are suffering from diabetes and dependent on insulin/high dose of medicines on a daily basis.

BIHAR

07/08/14 **Ramjee Sahni, Muzaffarpur**
He is doing his ministry in a new place called Bochahan. He requests us to pray for his ministry and his family. His address for further correspondence: *Ramjee Sahni, Rusulpur Salim (Vill), Bhikhanpur Kothi, Muzaffarpur – 842004, Bihar.*

CHHATTISGARH

08/08/14

Atulya Prashant Masih, Rajnandgaon

He requests us to pray for their hospital, jail and village ministries. Pray for the children who attended the VBS they conducted during the summer vacation. Pray also for Ganesh Ram Gwal and Rajkumar Santape (both from their assembly) who have dedicated their lives for full-time ministry.

09/08/14

Jim Mathew, Bastar

Pray for their ministry in Dantewada. Through their ministry in this place, Brother Suko Mandavi and family have accepted the Lord as their personal Savior. Pray for their spiritual growth. Pray for the assembly hall construction that is going on in Choknaar.

JHARKHAND

10/08/14 **P. M. Skariah, Tatanagar**

He requests us to pray for their ministries, especially for the Brethren Bible Training School. God has been guiding them in this ministry for the past 16 years. From 28 June 2014, they have started the next batch for the 6-month course. Pray for the students and the faculty members.

KARNATAKA

11/08/14 **A. S. Sabu, Arasikere**

They have started a new ministry in a village called Hosur, which is 60 km from Arasikere. The temple priest and head of this village, Rama (along with his family), accepted the Lord as his

personal savior. Please pray for his family and for some other families here who have shown an interest in the Gospel.

12/08/14

Christopher Hukkeri., Belgaum

They conducted VBS from 1st to 5th April 2014. Pray for the children who did attend as most of them are from a Hindu background. They were also able to visit some villages in the Karnataka–Maharashtra border area and distribute some literature also. Please pray for their outreach ministries.

13/08/14

J. Samson, Chamarajanagar

They had VBS from 21st to 24th April 2014. Pray for the salvation of the children who attended this. They also had a Bible study series from 19th to 24th May 2014. Pray that such programs have the intended results.

14/08/14

John Prasad, Bangalore

As they face space and parking constraints, they are planning to build a first floor for their assembly hall (and convert the ground floor space also for parking). Pray that God may provide all that they require to get this started. Pray also for their ministries and assembly activities.

15/08/14

Joseph A., Raichur

Pray for their village outreach ministries. A few souls have been added to their assembly through their ministries by the grace of God. Pray also for the ongoing assembly hall construction in Kalathimmanadoddi village. Pray that all their needs in this regard may be met by our Lord.

16/08/14 **M. Prasad, Bellary**
On 13th December (2013) and 1st January (2014), they conducted Gospel outreach in four places (in and around Rupanagudi village). Pray for those who heard the Gospel through this ministry, especially for the four believers who accepted our Lord as their personal Savior. Pray also for the spiritual growth of three believers who obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism on 22 March 2014.

17/08/14 **Silas Hoganur, Dharwad**
He has mentioned the following matters for prayer: a few young men in their assembly who are ready to obey the Lord in the waters of baptism; salvation of Sudheer (who is a seeker) who comes for their meetings; the salvation of their new contacts; their need to have their own assembly hall.

GUJJURAT

18/08/14 **Xavier Antony, Bharuch**
Pray for the spiritual growth of ten believers who obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism on 27 April 2014 (some of them are from Hindu backgrounds). Pray also for their outreach ministry in tribal villages and for their jail ministry in Bharuch.

MAHARASHTRA

19/08/14 **S. L. Abraham, Shahapur**
While we continue to pray for their ministries in Thane District of Maharashtra, he also solicits our fervent prayers for believers in their assembly

who face a lot of opposition for their faith and thus have their own emotional struggles. Pray that their faith might not only remain strong but also increase as they go through such times.

MADHYA PRADESH

20/08/14 **Bhaiyalal Masih, Gwalior**
By the grace of God, they were able to conduct children's club in Banmore and Gwalior. They also conducted contact programmes for children and for families in this place. Pray for the salvation of those who heard the Gospel through these ministries.

21/08/14 **Joseph Varghese, Gwalior**
By the grace of God, they were able to conduct VBS from 11th to 13th April 2014. Pray for the children who did attend. Brother Joseph Varghese was able to accompany a team from NIBI (Alwar) for a month-long ministry. Pray for those who were reached out to through this ministry.

ODISHA

22/08/14 **Mangaraj Behera, Rambha**
He requests us to pray for their need to buy a piece of land so as to build their own assembly hall (they now gather for worship in a believer's house). Pray also for his wife who is in the family way.

PUNJAB

23/08/14 **Madan Paul, Ludhiana**
On 26 March 2014, they went to a village called Jurg, which is about 60 km from

Ludhiana. There was a big mela going on here and they used the opportunity to distribute tracts. Pray for such ministries. Pray also for the spiritual growth of those who obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism on 29 March 2014.

Thomas Koshy, Dharapuram
Pray for their personal evangelism and village ministries in Dharapuram. Pray also for two Hindu families who attend their worship and other meetings. Pray for their salvation.

TAMIL NADU

24/08/14 **E. James, Coimbatore**
On 30 March 2014, three believers obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism. Pray for their spiritual growth. They also had a special Gospel meeting that day and a few people made a decision to accept the Lord as their personal Savior. Please pray for them.

25/08/14 **R. Jeyapal, Sankarankovil**
They have started a new ministry in a place called Ariyoor. Pray for two families here who have shown interest in the Gospel. In March they had gone to Orissa as a team, with other evangelists from South India joining them. They were able to visit places like Talcher, Balanda and Jharduguda and distribute New Testaments and other literature. Pray for those who heard the Gospel through this ministry.

26/08/14 **S. Madasamy, Manaparai**
They have village ministries covering the villages in and around Manaparai every Sunday (evening). Through this ministry, in the recent past, a young man named Durairaj accepted the Lord as his personal Savior. Please pray for his spiritual growth as he faces opposition from his family. Pray also for his health as he has a nerve-related health issue which sometimes makes it difficult for him to even walk.

UTTAR PRADESH

27/08/14 **Benjamin Singh, Lucknow**
Pray for those who heard the Gospel through the outreach ministry they had in April, which covered Hardoi, Barabanki, Gosaiganj and Unnow. Also, they are prayerfully going to start the construction of their assembly hall. Pray that God may provide all that they require for this.

WEST BENGAL

28/08/14 **Sanjay Mondal, Siuri**
By the grace of God they were able to conduct VBS programmes from the end of May to the second week of June (2014). They were able to reach out to almost 500 children, most of them from non-Christian backgrounds. They are also prayerfully planning to reach out to the parents of these children. Pray for this ministry.

Achintya Ghosh, New Asanol
In the recent past, the Lord has added some new souls to their assembly at Jhanjra. He requests us to pray for their spiritual growth and to continue to pray for their ministries.

29/08/14 **Bablu Shah, Asanol**
He requests us to pray for Brother Rajib Das who is helping them in their

ministries in Durgapur and Andal. In the recent past, they had an outreach in eastern Durgapur. As a result of this, they now have a few families gathering for meetings there. Please pray for them.

30/08/14 **Nagen Narjinary, Falakata**
Pray for the regular Bible classes they conduct for children (in three villages). A total of 130 children attend these. They also have similar Bible classes for youths and adults. Pray for the salvation of those who hear from the Word of God through these ministries. Pray also for their requirement of a proper place to conduct these meetings.

31/08/14 **Purnendu Jha, Burdwan**
They are doing their outreach ministry in a place called Chinakuri. They conduct children's club in four places here. They also conducted VBS in June 2014. Pray for these ministries and for those who heard the Gospel through these ministries.

OTHER MATTERS

Laxmiraj Bag (Evg), Orissa says that the Lord's work is going on well in three places-Kushkela, Srirampur and Kotagarh. Brothers, Bishikeshan Chhura, Sudarshan Sika and Hushanta Mangaraj are labouring hard for the extension of God's kingdom in these places along with with him. For the Assembly Prayer Hall at Kushkeka, they are purchasing a piece of land costing Rs.200,000/- including Registration. An advance of Rs.50,000/- has been paid. Prayers of saints coveted. Laxmi Raj, Orissa. Mob.09438523649, Email.Id-laxmiraj.odisha@gmail.com

SICKNESS

Evangelist Manasseh S, Sayalgudi, TN, is diagnosed with cancer and is under treatment in Chennai. Earnest prayers of the saints is requested for the Lord's intervention upon his health that the ministry in Sayalgudi may continue. (Mohan)

HOME CALL

Bro. Bapi Dafadar went to be with the Lord on Sunday (June 15, 2014) morning. He was serving the Lord at Katwa. During the past few months, he was residing at Asansol.

He was admitted in a hospital at Asonsol with Kidney problems. He had been under treatment for several months.

He left his wife and a 10 year old daughter. Please pray and support this family.

Bro. Ch.Raja Rao, Evangelist at Vinukonda, A.P, went to be with the Lord on 15.06.2014. Prayers are requested for the bereaved family.

Fond Remembrance of
Late M.V. Mathew, Trivandrum

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints” (Ps.116:15).

Bro. MV Mathew (born on July-26, 1924) was promoted to glory on 22nd January 2014 in Chennai. He had the joy of accepting the Lord when he was 23.

He was the beloved husband of late Valsa Mathew and loving father of three daughters. He leaves behind six grand children. Affectionately called “Pfizer Mathew”, he joined that company in Vellore and was instrumental in starting the first Brethren Assembly



in that area and also had a Sunday school at home. He then moved to Ernakulam and was active in the assembly. After retirement in 1985, he served TMM as honorary Administrator for nine years. He was with us in Trivendrum for nearly 18 years and lovingly called as “Appacha” by more than 30 families in Green Valley, where he was living with his youngest daughter Molly. He is fondly remembered for his sense of humour and words of wisdom, much of which is penned in the book “Nuggets on the Way”. In Trivandrum he was in fellowship with the Assembly at Pattom and was an immense blessing to all. For the last two years he was with his second daughter Annie Philip in Chennai, where he was in fellowship with the Assembly at Tambaram. He was very particular to attend the worship meetings and would meticulously prepare for it from Saturday. His ministry was characterised by brevity, clarity and challenge and of course laced with some humour.

He was never bed-ridden, although became weak at times. The last ten days of his life he spent in hospital and he breathed his last On 21.01.2014. The funeral was held the next day in Tambaram.

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KNOW YOUR FRIENDS IN SBC
SATISH KUMAR

I come from Chennai. I was born and brought up in a non-Christian family. By God's grace when I was six years old, my parents came to know the Lord Jesus Christ and believed Him. Now my father is doing the Lord's work full time in Sharma Nagar, Chennai. I had the privilege to know about Jesus from childhood, being taught by my parents. When I was studying in 9th Std, I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour and after two years, I was baptized. I was then participating in the local assembly and all the activities. After completing my degree, I had a desire to study the Bible. Then I got the opportunity to study in SBC. While studying in the first year, I could sense the call of the Lord for full time ministry. Now I am studying in third year. Please pray for my studies and for my father's ministry and also my future ministry.



DETAILS OF ACCOUNTS

Account Name	The Gospel Fellowship Trust of India	Stewards Bible College Trust	Bird Memorial Children's Home
Indian Remittances <i>(from Indians residing in India)</i>	A/c.No.57001901274	57001901387	57001901536
Foreign Remittances	A/c.No.57001901728	57001901310	57001901321
FCRA Number	0 7 5 9 0 0 2 8 5	0 7 5 9 0 0 3 9 1	0 7 5 9 0 0 3 9 0
Bank Details	State Bank of Travancore, Kilpauk, Chennai IFSC Code:SBTR0000297, Swift Code:SBTRINBB 644		