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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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PRAY FOR

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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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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.

Editorial

Koshy Zachariah

THE THREE CROSSES: (Part-II) **THE CROSSES ON EITHER SIDE**

We considered in our last issue the Centre Cross on which the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified and dwelt upon, God's heart toward man, man's heart toward God and Christ's heart toward God. We shall now turn to the other two crosses to see what lessons we could learn from the inspired record – the Bible. The two men who were hung, one on His left side and the other on the right are two samples of the two classes or groups into which the human family belongs to. This fact is evident from the beginning to the end of the time. The groups are Receivers and Rejecters of the Christ of God; plainly speaking, those who believe in Jesus Christ and those who believe not.

The foremost truth evidenced is that there is no essential difference between these two men. In nature and in their circumstances, they were one. The scripture is totally silent on any good works to the credit of one of them who turned to the Lord in the last minute. To the very last moment, he was like his fellow on the other side-engaged in railing or reviling the Lord. We

read "The thieves also, who were crucified with Him cast the same in his teeth" (Mathew 27:44) "They who were crucified with Him reviled Him" (Mark 15:32). The two thieves were bent upon reviling the son of God. There was no difference between them; in their nature and frame, in their guilt, in their criminality and in their profane wickedness. These two men in a way represent the nature of the men of the world. Paul explains this to the Romans in no uncertain terms "For there is no difference: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (3:22,23). These verses are the conclusion of verses 10-18. "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: There is none who understands, there is none who seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable: there is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and

misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes". Since all have come short of the glory of God, the only standard by which men are to be measured is the "glory of God". Everyone should be ruled by the "glory of God" and thus ruled, he is deficient.

In a moment something happens to one of the malefactors. The arrow of conviction enters to the soul of him whom we call "the penitent thief". Here the sovereign grace of God shines out in all its blessed brightness. In Paul's words, as moved by the Holy Spirit, "The Lord is rich to all who call upon Him" (Rom 10:12). C.H. Mackintosh writes "The riches of the grace of God are such as to reach down to the very deepest depths of human ruin, guilt and misery. If the light of divine glory reveals – as nothing else could reveal – man's utter ruin; the riches of divine grace, as displayed in the person and work of Christ, have perfectly met that ruin and provided a remedy in every way adequate to meet the claims of the divine glory. —Mathew and Mark present him as a blaspheming malefactor. We can hardly conceive a deeper shade of moral turpitude, than that which he,

according to their inspired record, exhibits to our view! There is not so much as a single relieving tint. All is dark as midnight – dark almost as hell; yet not too dark to be reached by the light that was shining straight down from Heaven, through the mysterious medium of that Centre Cross". What happened to the penitent thief is what has happened to every one of us. We might not have been malefactors by outward appearance, but inside we were probably worse than them – hideous, repulsive and revolting in every sense. Our hearts were seed plots in which may be found the seeds of every crime and depravity. If the seeds have not germinated, it is simply because of circumstances around us and definitely not because of our good nature. Man may try to make distinctions projecting the measure of self-righteousness – he is better than the other. One may not like to be clubbed with Magdalene and Barabasses. But the fact is everyone is no way different from them. If we are saved, it is in the Company of the Magdalene and Barabasses and if we are lost, it will be in company with such likewise. The scripture is very clear about every one's heart. "For out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts, murders,

adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies (Mathew 15:19)".

Whenever the Holy Spirit works on the heart and conscience of man, He produces confession in that man. The convicted soul would realize his total ruin and confess "In me, that is, in my flesh dwelleth no good thing" (Rom 7:18). The divine light shining in upon him reveals the hidden things in him and he will confess "O wretched man that I am" (Rom 7:24); "I am a sinful man O' Lord" (Luke 5:8). That is what exactly happened to the thief on the cross. He had no good works to his credit; neither had he done any deeds of charity in the past; he knew nothing of the baptism and the Lord's Supper. Here on the cross he lies a helpless and hopeless one. At this stage what could he do or where could he turn for help? His hands and feet were nailed fast to the cross. His heart and his tongue were only free. In a religion of faith, these two are only called to exercise. The penitent thief did that. That is what matters. The Apostle Paul writes "For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom 10:10). "There are no two ways to Heaven. There is not one way for the religionist, the moralist, the

Pharisee and another way for the malefactor. There is but one way and that way is marked from the very throne of God to where the guilty sinner lies, dead in trespasses and sins with the foot prints of redeeming love and from then back to the throne by the precious atoning blood of Christ" (C.H.Mackintosh).

The penitent thief having realized his predicament and being aware of the two members of his body - the heart and the mouth - to his rescue, turned toward that blessed one who hung beside him - that One whom he had just been reviling. He cast his repentant gaze upon Him for a moment and the Holy Spirit told him then and there that the one hung beside him was the eternal son of God. That realization was enough. Now he turned to the other thief and said "Do you not fear God, seeing you are in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due rewards of our deeds: but this man had done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (Luke 23:40-42). This marvelous utterance is the essence of everything; true repentance, "This, the judgment of himself, the condemnation of his ways, the sense of his guilt. And this was right. It was the sure

precursor of conversion to God. It was the fruit of the Spirit's work in his soul and enabled him to appreciate God's salvation. It was the hearty acknowledgement of his own condemnation" (C.H. Mackintosh). The penitent thief's confession was a message to the whole world that it had made a terrible mistake in crucifying the Lord of glory. And to crown it, he also owns Him as Lord and King. A savior and sinner linked together is everlasting salvation. What is the Lord's answer? "Today shall you be with me in paradise" Matchless grace. We read "A broken and a contrite heart, O, God, you will not despise" (Ps. 51:17).

Now for a brief moment, let us fix our eyes on the third cross. The malefactor on this cross, even at the last moment, would not like to be benefited by the wisdom leading to confession of his fellow prisoner. Even though he heard the Lord's emphatic assurance to the penitent thief that he would be with Him in paradise that did not change his mind. C.H.Mackintosh writes "There was grace in the heart of Jesus to meet the one as well as the other. But he did not want it, would not have it. He remained impenitent and unbelieving until the dark shadows of death gathered round him and the darker horrors of hell

burst upon his guilty soul. He perished within arm's length of the savior and salvation". There was no difference in their nature, but on all a sudden, difference occurred; one was enabled to say "Lord remember me" and the other said "If thou be Christ". What an awful chasm between them!

Basically, the two thieves represent the two great classes into which men of the world (women included) could be divided. This is right from the days of Cain and Abel, down to this moment. The thieves point out the difference between the saved and unsaved. The question is simple at this point; which side are you? One's eternal weal or woe hangs on his answer to this question. May the scriptures sound in your ears "If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with heart man believes into righteousness and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation...For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:9,10,13). The Centre cross is your only source for salvation.



Epistle to the Ephesians 5:15-21 (25)

Cliff Jones

WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY

v.15 "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise"

In verses 15-21, specific reference is made to things believers should do and those they should abstain from doing.

Firstly, the Ephesian believers were told to "*walk circumspectly*", that is, to be careful regarding the way they lived. They were to live "*not as fools, but as wise*". The believers were enjoined to walk carefully, to live in love and light, as children of God, and not to live as those who had not been saved. Believers are to walk wisely, in accordance with the will of God. We read that "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments" (Ps.111:10), and "the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy"

(Jas.3:17). Such wisdom will seek to know and do the will of God, serving Him and walking in the light He gives.

v.16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil"

Believers are not to waste the precious resource of time. We are stewards of all the resources God gives us, such as time, money, health and strength, and "it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1Cor.4:2). If we are careful to be always "*Redeeming the time*", making the most of every opportunity and walking as children of light, we will not misuse our God-given time, but use time and opportunities to learn more of the will of God and serve Him.

We are to use our time wisely (Col.4:5), to do what will please God, "*because the days are evil*". Sin abounds on every hand, and, for as long as the day of grace lasts, believers are to be holy, kind, merciful and helpful to other believers and those who are not saved. Life is brief and

we should seize and buy up every opportunity and occasion to use time wisely and well.

v.17 “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is”

Sin flourishes all around us, and it is vital that believers should be spiritually wise, possessing spiritual discernment, and “*understanding what the will of the Lord is*”. We need to prayerfully learn of God and, from continuous study of His Word, learn His will and do it in the power of the Spirit.

We live in evil days and are to walk as those who are wise, recognizing, and being sensitive to, evil in its many guises, learning and obeying the will of the Lord. Those who are unwise do not see things and events as they really are. They lack the ability to discriminate between that which is good and that which is evil. The believer must endeavour to learn what is, and what is not, in the will of the Lord and what will please and glorify Him.

v.18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit”

Consumption of alcohol can produce short-lived excitement and pleasure but, ultimately, can lead to evil. Many believers abstain completely from alcohol. Those who abstain may be mocked and criticized by unbelievers for not joining in their revels (1Pet.4:3,4). The Ephesian believers were told, “*be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess*”, and there are, in the Scriptures, warnings concerning the consumption of alcohol (Prov.20:1; Lk.21:34; Gal.5:21; 1Tim.3:3).

The believer has to exercise extreme care and caution before deciding to consume alcohol. It can seriously affect a believer’s testimony (Prov.23:29-35; 1Cor.6:12), and have a bad influence on other believers (Rom.14:13; 1Cor.8:9). Alcohol affects the mind, walk, words and sight. Getting drunk can lead to debauchery, and Paul contrasts this with being “*filled with the Spirit*”. When believers are filled with the Spirit, all their thoughts, words, affections and actions are under His control (Acts 6:5; 11:24). Their behaviour will be gracious and manifest the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal.5:22,23).

All believers were sealed with the Spirit when they were saved (Eph.1:13,14; 4:30), and all believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1Cor.6:19), but not all believers are filled with the Spirit, all the time (Acts 2:4; 4:31). The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is holy and sensitive, and being filled continually with the Spirit requires the submission of every area of a believer's life to His control. The believer will then fulfill the will of God and live for His glory.

The Holy Spirit can be grieved, quenched and resisted, and the believer should always respond to, and obey, His leading, and so do the will of the Lord (v.17). Un-confessed, un-forsaken sin in the life of a believer will grieve the Holy Spirit. The believer's life must not be "conformed to this world" (Rom.12:2). He must meditate on the Word of God and obey the truths revealed by the Spirit (Col.3:16).

v.19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"

The results of being filled with the Spirit are brought before us in vv.19-21. The Holy Spirit produces joy in a believer which may be expressed in singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, and giving thanks to God. Believers have an inner peace and joy (Acts 13:52), and this finds expression in "*singing and making melody*" in their hearts "*to the Lord*".

Those who are full of the Spirit want to speak to one another of things concerning the Lord. They can encourage, edify and exhort each other, and can use "*psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*". We are told, in Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord".

The Psalms may well refer to those writings found in the Book of Psalms. The hymns could refer to songs which can be used to praise and worship God. Spiritual songs could be those which are based on truths found in the Word of God. Believers worship and praise the

Lord by singing, but it must all be done, as led by the Spirit, "*to the Lord*", and not for entertainment or the exaltation of any persons.

v.20 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Those who are filled with the Spirit give thanks to "*God and the Father*". They are constantly aware of, and grateful for, the blessings, spiritual, mental and physical, that God bestows upon them, knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom.8:28). They thank God "*always for all things . . . in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*".

v.21 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God"

Spirit filled believers graciously submit themselves "*one to another in the fear of God*". Submission to other believers, thinking of others in genuine meekness, lowliness, humility, longsuffering and forbearance,

is evidence that a believer is filled with the Spirit. We are told, in 1Peter 5:5, "all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble". There will be no self-centredness or self-assertion in such a life (Phil.2:3). The Spirit filled believer's life will be lived in accordance with the will of God, for His glory, "*in the fear of God*", and in reverence for God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All believers are members of one Body, the Church, of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head. They are inter-dependent and should be subject to, and submit themselves to, one another. However, the submission of believers to one another must never be at the expense of absolute submission to God.

"*Submitting yourselves one to another*" is enlarged upon in relation to wives and husbands, children and parents and servants and masters in 5:22 – 6:9.



THE PRINCE OF LIFE

(Acts 3:15, Mark 15:39) (Roy Samuel)

The people were filled with wonder and amazement at what they had just seen. A man lame from his birth, who lay helpless, daily at the gate of the temple had entered through those gates: now up on his feet, walking and leaping and praising God. He was healed of his infirmity. Peter had taken him by the right hand and lifted him up; commanding him to 'In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk'. The people who saw this awesome event, wondered about the man Peter. Who was he ? How did he possess such great powers to heal ? They marveled, greatly wondering.

But to the bewildered crowd, Peter says: " Men of Israel.....why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we have made this man to walk ?..... God has glorified His Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth : faith in His name has made this man strong."

Then Peter uses three phrases to describe the Lord Jesus. They are titles that

eloquently describe the Person and the Character of Christ: The Holy One; The Just and the Prince of Life. These titles bestow upon Him honour and glory that cannot be claimed by mortal men. It is to the description of Him as the Prince or Author of Life, that I would draw the reader's attention.

The Centurion at the Cross

A centurion was more than a soldier; he was a leader of soldiers. He was a hardened task master who was seldom swayed by the gruesome nature of his tasks. Alfred Tennyson in his poem, 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' talks of soldiers of the British Army in the War of Balaclava of 1854, who knew that someone in the chain of command, had blundered in ordering an assault against an invincible enemy. Nevertheless the soldiers, soldier on and make the charge, as it were into the Valley of death, as soon as the command was given, asking no questions that brooks no answers.

'Not tho' the soldier knew
Some one had blunder'd:

Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die,
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred'

Just like these soldiers: so was the centurion. He was just about done putting to death the Author of Life. Jesus had been crucified unjustly: the powers that be, had ordered the crucifixion. As a soldier, he asked no questions. He was standing over against the Cross, watching the events unfold before his eyes. He was not appalled by the injustice nor was he shaken by the wickedness of the crucifixion. But he was taken aback by the darkness over all the land at high noon: he was amazed at the earth quake and must have heard of the veil in the temple that was rent from top to bottom. Questions clouded his mind as to the identity of the One who hung on the center cross. Who is He ?

There were two things, that pushed that hardened heart of the centurion into a profound confession as described in Mark 15:39. 'And when the centurion which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God'

A Voice like no other

Firstly, it was the cry of the Lord Jesus with a loud voice: it was not the voice of a feeble man, greatly drained out of energy by the loss of blood or from the excruciating pain of the Cross. Mark records that 'He cried with a loud voice'. It was a Voice that was different from any that the centurion had heard before. Psalms 29 enumerates the glories of that divine Voice; it is powerful and full of majesty. It could break the cedars of Lebanon and divide the flames of fire. It could shake the wilderness; make the deer to give birth and strip the forests bare. It was a Voice that thundered like the voice of many waters. If ever people hear the voice of God, and live....the centurion was one of them. He recognised that loud Voice of the Lord of Glory.

A Death like no other

The second and even more amazing recognition was the way the Lord Jesus dismissed His Spirit: He gave or yielded up the spirit. This death was different from that of any other that the centurion witnessed. Normally death by crucifixion was slow. The two thieves who were crucified with Christ were not dead: so the

soldiers brake their legs, to hasten their death. But they found that Jesus was dead already. He had yielded up the ghost. Mark notes in 15:44 that Pilate marveled that Jesus was already dead. So much so, he called in the same centurion to verify. And what a story he would have told Pilate that day. It must have been in an incredulous and hushed tone, that he would have narrated the goings on.

No one could take His life from Him, except as He was willing to permit it. Jesus said, "... I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:18). To the grieving Martha, reeling under the grief of a brother who had died, presumably because the Lord Jesus had delayed in coming: the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed in John 11:25: "I am the resurrection and the Life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet he shall live". If Martha believed, she would see the glory of God: the Prince of Life.

Truly... The Son of God

The centurion makes a profound confession in Mark 15:39b "Truly this man was the Son of God". This confession may have been instinctive: one does not

know. Even an unconverted centurion must confess the diety of the Lord Jesus, after having seen him face to face. Even nature speaks: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handy work." (Psalms 19:1). The centurion could not hold his peace: for if he did even the stones would cry out: He is the Prince of Life. He is the Son of God.

John the Apostle concludes his First Epistle thus: " And we know the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true.....even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life"(1 John 5:20). The Lord Jesus Christ is the Author of Life: Eternal life. The centurion was moved to confess the diety of Christ after having seen His command over life: both to give up and as he was to find out in three days: to take it back again. That life of God, is imparted (in a new birth by the Holy Spirit, to any one acting upon the Word of God) to every believer: who then is a new creation. Forever His children. "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory" (Col 3:4)



Vineyard News

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

ANDAMANS

01/03/15

G. Selvakumar, Campbell Bay

They had a ministry among children (and adults) from the second week of November to the first week of January. Pray for those who heard the Gospel through this ministry. Pray also that the tracts and booklets distributed may be read by all those who received them.

ANDHRA PRADESH

02/03/15

Paul Raju, Tanaku

In the recent past they had 17 'outreach campaigns' in 'needy areas.' By God's grace, the ministries went on well and a few people accepted the Lord as their personal Savior. Please pray for their spiritual growth. Pray also for Brother Paul Raju's wife as she is suffering from diabetes and taking two insulin injections every day.

03/03/15 **Nehemiah, Kudithipalem**

Brother informs that on 13th of last month, he became ill suddenly due to heart attack and was immediately rushed to hospital. He was diagnosed with four blocks in heart and had to undergo bypass immediately. The surgery was done well and he is now recovering. Prayers are requested.

BIHAR

04/03/15

Bharat Bhagat, Damodarpur

Pray for their ministries in Pipra and Ramgadwa (60 km from Pipra). Pray for their ministry among leprosy patients and pray for the spiritual growth of leprosy patients who have accepted the Lord as their personal Savior. Pray also for their need to have their own assembly hall.

05/03/15

Prakash Paswan, Muzaffarpur

Pray for their ministries in Muzaffarpur. Pray also for Sister Neelam Devi, a sister in their assembly suffering from kidney damage. She has undergone a surgery (for the same) last year.

Pray for her complete recovery and her health.

HARYANA

CHHATTISGARH

06/03/15

Jim Matthew, Jagdalpur

Last year their VBS was attended by 325 children, many of them from non-Christian backgrounds. Pray for their ministry among children. Pray for Jaibend Dubay, Kanvalsahai Besra and Kumar Baghel who are taking care of the ministry in various places. Pray also that the ongoing assembly hall construction in Choknaar may proceed smoothly.

07/03/15

Atulya Masih, Rajnandagaon

The ministries are going well. During the Christmas outreach they were able to cover many villages with the Gospel. Prayers are requested.

GUJARAT

08/03/15 **David P Isaac, Rajkot**

The Lord's work is going on in three districts of Mrbi, Rajkot and Junagadh. Recently they conducted a special program for non-Christians; about 110 people gathered from various denominations and bro Sanjay Parmar delivered the Gospel Message. And it was a blessing. Prayers are requested.

09/03/15

Samuel Kuttty M. C., Hissar

He requests us to pray for those who heard the Gospel and those who received the tracts and booklets through the village outreach ministry they had on 29 November 2014. Pray for Subash, Manoj Devi and Narendir who accepted the Lord as their personal Savior on 30th November 2014. He also requests us to pray for his health as he is suffering from diabetes and a disc-related health issue.

10/03/15

P.S. Sunny, Rohtak

Brother informs that for the past 22 years they have been gathering in their rented house for worship and other activities. God has provided a piece of land for the Assembly hall. They need 25 lakhs to raise a hall. Prayers are requested for this need and also for new believers.

JHARKHAND

11/03/15 **P.M.Skariah, Tatanagar**

They had a leadership training programme from 23rd to 26th October 2014. Brother P. M. Skariah informs that 300 assembly leaders (approx.) benefitted from this programme. Pray for the effectiveness of such programmes.

Pray for the Gospel meetings they are planning to conduct from 28th October to 1st November 2015.

12/03/2015 **Somir Jha, Tinpahar**
Pray for those who were reached out to through the outreach ministry they had in January and February (2015) covering Sahibganj, Godda and Pakur districts of Jharkhand and Bhagalpur District of Bihar. Pray also for their need for Hindi and Santhali literature and a four-wheeler for ministry.

13/03/15

Rajendra Rajwar, Dhanbad
Brother mentions that many new souls came to the Lord in the last year and they are growing Lord. Prayers are requested for their spiritual growth. The current political scenario being not so favourable for the Gospel, earnest prayers are requested.

KARNATAKA

14/03/15

J.Samson, Chamarajanagar
By the grace of God, their outreach ministry, which they do on a daily basis, is going on well. Many hear the good news through this ministry and in the recent past two individuals have accepted the Lord as their personal Savior. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

15/03/15 **Paramesh B., Mysore**
They have regular Bible study in four different places. Pray that these may serve to help new believers grow spiritually. Pray also for their ministries in K. R. Mill Colony, Mandya, Elwala and K. R. Nagar. Pray that an assembly testimony may be established in K. R. Nagar.

KERALA

16/03/15 **R. Soman, Kallippara**
Pray for their ministries in Murickassery in Idukki District. They had an outreach ministry from 21st to 23rd December (2014). There were open-air outreaches during the day and Gospel meetings in the evenings. Pray for those who heard the Gospel through this ministry.

MADHYA PRADESH

17/03/15 **Sibir Kumar, Shivpuri**
Brother informs that he has shifted his place of work to a new location and requests prayers for the ministry in the background of many problems being faced from fanatics. Kindly note his new address: *Sibir Kumar Bagh, Khedapati Colony, P.B No.20, Shivpuri, M.P-473 551. Mobile: 08602319424.*

18/03/15

Babu Varghese, Bhayander

The ministry in Bhayander and Virar is going on well. They are planning to start a short term Bible course in Virar. In the last month they were able to go for village outreach in Sholapur and Chandrapur. They were able to make many contacts, which are being followed up. Prayers are requested.

ODISHA

19/03/15 **K.C.Thomas, Lamtaput**

They had a week-long (special) Bible class to encourage evangelist and others from Koraput, Kandhamal and Malkangiri (speaker: C. S. Thomas, Berhampur) from 1st to 5th December (2014). Pray for those who attended this study and that such programmes may produce the intended results.

TAMIL NADU

20/03/15

A.P.Easuraja, Rajapalayam

They had a Gospel outreach in Rajapalayam from 8th to 12th December (2014). Pray for those who were reached out through this ministry. They also had a one-day Gospel outreach on 20 December 2014. Pray for those

who heard the Gospel through this outreach.

21/03/15

J. Cherian Johnson, Thanjavur

Pray for their ministries in Thanjavur. Pray for the salvation of those who heard the Gospel through the outreach ministry they had in January (22-25 January 2015).

22/03/15

L.C.Samuel, Oddanchatram

Pray for their ministries in Oddanchatram. On 26 October 2014, five believers obeyed the Lord in the waters of baptism. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

23/03/15 **M.Ramesh, Dharmapuri**

He mentions in his letter that by the grace of God their ministries in Dharmapuri are going on well. They had special Gospel meetings on 17th and 18th December (2014). Pray for those who heard the Gospel through these meetings. He requests us to pray for their assembly activities and for the members of their assembly.

24/03/15 **R.Jeyapal, Sankarankovil**

Pray for their ministry in a place called Pariya Kovilangulam (near Sankarankovil). Pray also for an outreach ministry they are planning to have in Bathinda, Punjab (23rd March to 2 April 2015). Brother Jeyapal also requests us to pray for his health.

25/03/15

Spurgeon Bose, Chennai

Please note his new address for further correspondence: *Spurgeon Bose N, Michael Enclave, Old No. 157, New No. 124, F2 (first floor), 12th Street, Raghava Nagar, Moovarasampet, Near Madipakkam Koot Road, Chennai – 600091.*

26/03/15

Thomas Koshy, Dharapuram

He requests us to pray for four people who have started attending their assembly meetings. They are from non-Christian families. Prayers are requested for them and a new ministry they have started in Somunooth village.

27/03/15

V. S. Muralidharan, Melur

He requests us to pray for those who heard the Gospel through the special Gospel meeting they had in Lotol Law College on 17th December and through the outreach ministry they had from 22nd to 24th December (2014).

29/03/15

Achintya Ghosh, Asansol

On 25th Dec-2014, they were able to organize a Gospel campaign in Shristinagar. More than 250 people from NC background attended. Bro Santosh Thomas from Jamtara shared the Word along with a few others.

30/03/1

Timothy Das, Canning

In 2014, by the grace of God, they were able to conduct VBS in five different places. Pray for the children who did attend these. Our prayers are also solicited for those who attended the Gospel meeting at Talsi on 20th December and the one at Canning on 21st December (2014).

31/03/15

Anjan Sarkar, Kalna

Brother informs that they are suffering much because of the absence of the assembly hall. The assembly hall is under construction and has reached roof level. They are in need of a four wheeler which will help much in the ministry.



WEST BENGAL

HOME CALL

28/03/15

Purnendhu Jha, Burdwan

Door to door evangelism is going on well. In the special Gospel meeting held on 25th December-14, many people heard the Gospel. The children's club anniversary was held in five places, and it was a blessing.

Evangelist **Paul D. Peters (77)**,

Aynavaram, Chennai, was called to his heavenly abode on 14th Feb-2015. He served the Lord faithfully in Chennai for over three decades. The funeral was held on 15th at Kilpauk Cemetery. Prayer is needed for his bereaved wife.

**KNOW YOUR FRIENDS IN SBC
LINGARAO T.**

I come from Andhra Pradesh. I was born and brought up in a non Christian family. From childhood onwards, I was very curious about God and spiritual matters. Although I took some elementary training under a priest, I had a firm conviction that God is only One and He should be holy.

But as I was growing up, my youthful desires and sinful habits overtook me. While I was studying for my B.Sc degree, a classmate of mine introduced me to Christ as Saviour and only God. I could not accept that and so kept arguing with him for about 18 months.

But on one fine day, that was on 20th Nov-2011, Jesus opened my eyes and heart to receive Him as Lord and Saviour. I confessed my sins to Him and received forgiveness of sins. Then I was baptized on 01/01/2012. I had a desire to learn the Bible and do ministry. So I applied to SBC and got admission. Now I am studying in second year. Please pray for my studies, salvation of my family members and the future ministry.



**STATEMENT ABOUT OWNERSHIP
AND OTHER PARTICULARS ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER**

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I, Shaji Philip, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
(Chennai- 01/03/2015)

Sd/
Shaji Philip

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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 with preferably +2 or its equivalent.

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DETAILS OF BANK ACCOUNTS

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