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# Editorial Pulse



**I**t's wonderful to be able to present you another issue of Pulse.

As we reflect on Advent and Jesus' birth, let's ponder whether He came into this broken world to heal relationships—corporate and personal! Do we try to communicate the same healing by words or actions or are we guilty of not seeing the people around us who are desperately in need of our love?

The human race is in danger of being overwhelmed by negative forces. We need to rise above this like Job who narrates in Chapter 29:12-17 -- "I delivered the poor, the fatherless and the one who had no helper. The blessing of a perishing man

came upon me. I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy..."

Two directions of healing are represented in the Bible, one vertical and the other horizontal, like a Cross. We need to receive forgiveness from God to be able to reciprocate healing horizontally towards our fellowmen. The consequences that follow are reconciliation, peace, harmony and fellowship.

May the thoughts expressed in this issue by our members inspire us to heal brokenness in this deteriorating world!

Cheers,

A shalatha J oshua

## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Mr. Rajan

**Mr. Samuel Gnanakan Rajan** was born in Hubli on June 9, 1909, and shifted to Bangalore in 1912. He was one of the first Indian students of St. John's High School, where he studied from kindergarten to standard II. Chapel was held for students every Friday in the church, and Mr. Samuel has been a member of St. John's Church since those childhood days.

He married the late Gloria Samuel (nee Moorkoth) on December 30, 1936. His immediate family consists of seven children (four sons and three daughters), 11 grand children and five great grand children. Mr. Samuel lives on Viviani Road in Richards Town - a place where he has been living since 1964!



# Presbyter's Letter



*Dear Friends,*

I thank God for giving us one more advent season to experience the Joy and Spirit of Christmas in our lives. We need to be thankful and grateful to God as more than 20 members of our Church are not with us to enjoy this advent season which is a clear indication that life is so short and our future is so indefinite. Yet we continue to nurse grudges and cultivate hatredness in spite of the fact that we do not know what tomorrow will bring. We plan and scheme like the rich man in Luke 12:13 -21 storing up for our future comfort but God challenges us saying if you have to die today what is the use of storing up treasures for yourself? Is it not important to give more thought to God and his plans for us? I feel Christmas is the time to reflect about our own lives and correct our attitudes.

This year when we were thinking about a theme for our *Pulse* magazine, we agreed on the theme "Healing relationships in a broken world" For if we look at the reasons for whatever difficult situations we faced in the past year definitely it will point us to the relationships that are strained or broken.

Our world is broken into fragments because of our attitudes of superiority, and affinity to maintain our own ethnic religions regional and linguistic identities. We are prepared to go to any length to protect and preserve these identities even if it means loss of life strained relationships and estrangement.

In order to heal the hurts and rebuild the relationships, we need to consciously make efforts. What we see in the parable of the prodigal son is a clear example of this.

Really the name of this parable should have been "loving father" (Luke 15:11-32)

We see that the healing of relationships that takes place in this parable has two components.

## **1. The son**

- He realizes that he made a wrong choice by leaving his home. He also realizes that he has made a wrong choice in choosing the way to spend his inheritance- But at the right time he comes to his senses and made the right choice to go back to his father. He had no hesitation in accepting his mistakes.

- He had no problem in accepting any status as long as he can live in his father's house.
- He has no reluctance in implementing his decision to return home once he made the decision.

## 2. The father

- The father gives him freedom to choose, hopes that his son will return and waits for it.
- When his son returns, he accepts him as he is and without any conditions and also there is no change in the status.
- When the elder son gets angry the father is very tolerant and patient with him too, which helps in healing the relationships.

Matthew 5: 23, 24 speaks about realization of another kind. If you realize that your brother or sister has something against you that is blocking the relationship (you don't have anything

against them), go set the relationship right and then give your offering to God.

In order to heal or set the relationships right we need to realize that there is a problem that exists; look for the ways and means to solve this problem, take the first step towards healing the broken relationship, be unconditional and open-minded which will set the relationships right not only with our fellow humans but also enable us to have the right relationship with God.

I feel that this is the real message of Christmas. God took the first step to heal broken relationship with humans and sent his Son without any condition so that he could heal and bridge the gap between God and humans.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a pleasant and prosperous new year.

Shalom

Nirmala Vasanthakumar

### From the Visitors' Book

*How lovely is your Tabernacle, O Lord of hosts - Psalm 84:1*

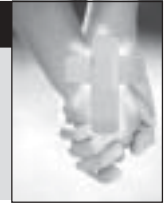
*Many who visit St. John's Church have one thing to say - It's a beautiful house of worship.*

**Dorothea and a group from Germany** enjoyed the service on February 4, 2009

**Paula Knook, U.K.** – On our visit on March 23, we fondly remembered our grandparents who were married at St. John's in February 1926.

**John and Cassandra Rundee, Australia** - The church is well-maintained and beautiful

*Compiled by Rita David and Grace Vani*



# Healing a Broken World

By Eva Bell

**T**hough Light dawned on this world two thousand years ago with the entrance of God into human history, people are still walking in darkness. The world has become a cauldron of violence, hatred and terror. Self indulgence and individualism are goading people to pursue pleasures without regard for the consequences. Corporate charlatans are peddling consumerism to gullible men and women. Technology has facilitated the manufacture of chemical and biological weapons. Religious fanaticism has spawned suicide bombers and strives to keep the fires of hatred and rage smouldering in human hearts. We are truly on the edge of Armageddon.

So is Christmas relevant to the issues of the day?

When the 'word became flesh,' the Divine broke into human history. It was an incomparable intervention of God into human affairs. He came to bring peace, heal broken relationships and penetrate the darkness of sin in this world. But Satan has been freaking out in his attempt to monopolize human hearts. He is envious

of God's provision of salvation in Christ, and wants to destroy our allegiance to God.

The reason for brokenness in the world is because people are living without God or are following false gods. Humanism is the ideology of the day, but it has only led to spiritual emptiness.

Christmas is the celebration of God's love for the world. He sent his only son to reconcile us to God and to each other. As Christians it behoves us to show love and dispel prejudice, because we are soldiers of the Prince of Peace. The people who still walk in darkness must be dazzled by the light of God's love.

The story is told of a Christmas Eve in 1914 during World War I. German and British troops were hiding in trenches on opposite sides, across Belgium and France. The soldiers on one side began singing 'Silent Night.' They were soon joined by those in the opposite trenches - enemies singing in two different languages, yet celebrating the advent of Christ. Soon they laid down their weapons and crept out of the trenches. They met in the killing zone

between battle lines, and exchanged greetings and gifts. Even in the midst of war, there was a Christmas truce.

Is it too much to hope for peace in our own beleaguered country, with Naxalites from within, terrorists from without, and religious fanatics indulging in divisive politics?

Christmas is love, acceptance and grace. The voice of God's people must

make it relevant to every individual in our fragmented society. As I Peter 3:15 says, "In your hearts, set up Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

The currency of Christian commerce is LOVE. May the light of God's love penetrate the darkness in our country and bring about peace.

## Tightening the Bonds of Love

By Joan S. Shanker

**T**he sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart. *These Oh Lord You will not despise.* Psalm 51:7.

Being the pet of the family, I was free-spirited and fun-loving. I grew up, thinking I was a sensible person. Sadly, I was unable to see my senseless, hurtful actions because I was so full of my own viewpoints and blind to the need of the others. I always blamed my loved ones for being unjust and unfair, but never saw how I was much the same.

Little did I realize the damage I was causing. I was breaking the bond of love that we all shared and filling my life with hatred. So great was the anger in me that I failed to listen to the voice of the Spirit

chiding me. For 15 years I carried a grudge against my very own family, breaking the hearts of loved ones and living with much untreated pain.

And finally I came to know the blessedness of brokenness. (Psalm 51:7)

I sacrificed all the pain, sorrow, anger and guilt, for that was all I had to offer. And I was blessed with restoration and healing, first with my Lord and then with myself. I was a soul touched by the fire of the loving Lord.

This Christmas, the heart that carried all my burdens and gave me peace is now waiting to come into your life and make you joyful. Accepting Him is the best thing you can ever do. 'Accept Jesus and Know Life through His eyes'.

# Reaching Out in a Civil Service World

By L.D. Bonnell

As a Christian in the Civil Service I had a passion for helping “lame dogs” and innocents in trouble but all within the frame work of the rules as they stood. There was a typist who was sent to the Leprosy Sanatorium. He came back after being cured and certified as ‘non-infectious’. One day, he came to me in tears because the other staff was boycotting him. He wanted to resign but was afraid that his big family would starve if he did so. My visit to that office indicated that the staff were not only ignorant of leprosy but were also scared. I gave him a job in my office as one of my secretaries. This led to the other staff accepting him.

I also came across several cases of suicide. I attended the funeral of one of my staff who had committed suicide. He belonged to the scheduled caste, while the wife was a high caste girl. We learned that the wife did not want to spend for the funeral and did not want to do anything for the family. But she wanted the money

the Department would give or even a job. I discussed the case with him and got a job for the mother of the official as she was young enough to work.

As I returned to my office after a Parliamentary Committee meeting, I saw my private secretary hovering outside the building with a worried face. He told me that a staff member had jumped from the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the neighbouring building, after he received an official reprimand for not dealing promptly with over 200 public complaints. I discovered that the man was suffering from depression, and was married off to a poor girl as a cure for his depression. Her salary as a helper in a school was meagre. So I arranged for her to get a government job with quarters.

A Christian in the Civil Service has to display his Christian Humanity come what may. If we claim to be Christians we should not find it difficult to introduce the concept of a caring community in the areas where we live and work and amongst people of other religions also.

Christmas the great event which reminds us of the liberating Love of God in sending His son into the world to heal the broken relationship between God and sinners, and reconcile us to Himself, that we might have peace with Him and through Him.

*Contributed by Beatrice Harding*

# Mission to the Marginalised and Disadvantaged

By Peter S. C. Pothan

**F**ather Damien worked among the lepers in the South Sea Islands. The inhabitants of these islands were healthy until the Europeans arrived after which diseases, especially leprosy, became a scourge of the Islands. Father Damien who worked in the Leprosy Hospital set up by the Roman Catholic Church shared his meals with the patients and ministered to them. At one morning service he began with “Welcome my Brothers” indicating that he had also caught leprosy. He continued to minister till he died there.

One of the ways that we as Christians can restore relationships in a broken world is through ‘Mission to the Marginalised and Disadvantaged’. Are we **really** concerned about these unfortunate people who are different from us? The history of the Church throughout the centuries is filled with Christians who gave their lives in their service. Missionaries came to our country and set up orphanages, hospitals, leprosy homes and special schools to serve these people. Mother Teresa set up her hospice to care for the downtrodden and the destitute whom no one else would approach, let alone care for. When asked

how she could care for these “unloved and repulsive people” she said, “I see Jesus in each of them”. Here, at Kothanur, is the Home of Hope of the New Ark Mission of Mr. T. Raja, better known as “Auto Raja” who cares so lovingly for the destitute and beggars from the streets of Bangalore. When the Men’s Fellowship visited the home, we admired his dedication, and this has become one of our projects.

In Acts 12:12-17 we have the story of Peter’s arrest and his miraculous delivery from prison. I see in this portion at least three marginalised and disadvantaged groups. First there was Peter the humble fisherman who became a leader of the Jerusalem Church; he was unjustly arrested and thrown into prison by Herod who wanted to gain political points with the Jewish religious rulers. The second are the soldiers who were bound to him with chains and had to stay there with him in the cell. They could not explain how Peter escaped. Who would believe them? So Herod ordered their execution. Thirdly, there was the servant girl, Rhoda. She saw Peter at the door and informed the

praying church but no one believed her. She had a double disadvantage – she was a servant and a woman. So who was going to believe her? When we are faced with those of lesser status how do we treat them? Do we believe them? Or do we ignore them?

What is the response of the church to marginalised and disadvantaged people?

Firstly, it is the Mark of the Mission of the Church:

Caring for the marginalised was and is a major part of the Church's ministry. The first church in Jerusalem began to feed the widows, the underprivileged members of society, of both communal groups - Hebrew Jews and Greek Jews. The apostles healed the sick, the blind, the lame, the lepers, the demon possessed and so continued Jesus' ministry to them. In Galatians 3: 28 Paul says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This talks of ethnic, financial & social differences and lastly gender difference,



which divide society today. Paul says they should not exist in the Church, as "you are all one in Christ Jesus." Is this true in our church? Do we welcome all? Are we aware of the needs of the physically disadvantaged? This is the reason that the ramp on the left of the church was built. We need to be concerned about those in the wider community too. It is not only Mother Teresa and Auto Raja who have

to care for the neglected. All Christians need to do so.

Secondly, it is the Ministry of the Church

It is not only a mark but also the **ministry** of the Church. Jesus said

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me" (Matt. 25: 40). Our church has a ministry to the underprivileged elderly in Stephen's Home and to the underprivileged youth in St. John's Hostel, and we are grateful to all who support these ministries.

But as a church body should we not do more together, even though many of our members are involved in ministries of their own to the underprivileged and

marginalised? The Socio-Economic Committee was set up in 1998 to care for the marginalised and disadvantaged people inside and **outside** the Church. “The ministry of the Christian is to be a fisher of men, but many are satisfied to be the keeper of an aquarium.” Can we share the Gospel or minister to those in prison? St Mark’s Church has a group that visits the prisons and ministers to the prisoners. Are we involved in the ministry of “Proclaiming freedom for the prisoners and release to the oppressed”? What about their families? Do we pray for them? The Prison Fellowship has a home for Prisoner’s Children in Kothanur. The Men’s Fellowship and The Sunday School have visited them. How can the Church help these underprivileged kids? How do we deal with our servants? Do we really pay attention to their needs?

Some years ago a girl in my wife’s school had finished with a first class in her Matriculation but was unable to go to college as her mother, a helper in the school, could not afford the fees. So my wife decided to help her and with the generous contributions from several at St. John’s, this girl was able to join Mount Carmel College and complete her PUC

and B.Com. Today, she has a good job and is able to support her family. This is one of the ways we can jointly help the underprivileged.

Finally, how do we deal with the beggars at the church gate each Sunday? Do we give them money or go beyond it?

Thirdly, it is God’s Method for the mission of the Church

The ministry of the Church is to aim at the whole person. It is what is termed as “holistic mission”. A human is **both** body and soul, so any mission must be aimed at meeting needs in both areas. This is particularly true when we deal with the poor in the slums and villages in India. True social concern links up with verbal preaching. Either by itself is useless but together they make the true communication of the Gospel of Christ. Social concern must be accompanied by love that a Christian can give only by the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to recognise that the mission of the Cross includes the mission to the marginalised and disadvantaged people. It is the mark of Christian mission; it is the Ministry of the Church and the method of God’s mission. Can we rise to the occasion as a church?

# An Ode to a Truth

By Sarojini Sargunraj

**W**e think we build healing relationships by being charitable. Giving material blessings to the sad and the lonely could not be a long-lasting remedy if we don't also seek their spiritual well-being. Striving to make known to them salvation in Christ, is our God-given mission to cement the brokenness around us. The following poem (author unknown) brings home to us an important truth.

## **A voice from hell**

*You lived next door to me for years!  
We shared our dreams, our joys and tears.  
A friend to me, you were indeed-  
A friend to help me when in need.  
What sadness then, my friend, to find  
That after all, you weren't so kind!  
The day my life on earth did end,  
I found, you weren't a faithful friend.  
For all those years we spent on earth  
You never talked of my second birth.  
You never spoke of my lost soul  
And of Christ, who'd make me whole.  
I plead today from hell's cruel fire  
And tell you now my last desire.  
You cannot do a thing for me-  
No words today my bonds will free!  
But do not err my friend, again -  
Do all you can for souls of men.  
Plead with them quite earnestly  
Lest they be cast in hell with me.  
Here, O, here I raise my voice in agony.*

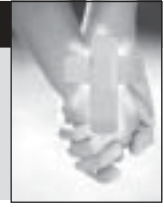
## **Speak Gently**

Speak gently; it is better far  
To rule by love than fear;  
Speak gently; Let no harsh  
word mar  
The good we may do here.  
Speak gently to the aged one,  
Grieve not the careworn  
heart;  
Whose sands of life nearly  
run,  
Let such in peace depart.

\*\*\*\*\*

We encounter God's presence in the many different experiences of everyday life – in acts of justice and compassion, in acts of encouragement, in loving relationships – such as caring and being kind to the elderly, many of whom may feel rejected and forsaken, and cast-away in the time of old-age; And so help to brighten the lives of these aged people in their sunset years.

*Contributed by*  
**Beatrice Harding**



## His Stubborn Love

**His Stubborn Love** by Joyce Landorf;  
Zondervan Publishing House, 1971

**Shirin Samuel:** *I enjoyed reading this book, which Sam picked up for me at a sale. It is very straight-from-the-heart and reminds us of God's great love for us through the ups and downs of our life. Reminded me of the poem, "The Hound of Heaven," where a man keeps running, fearing the hound that is at his heel, to finally realize that it is God who is steadfastly pursuing him and that He is not a threat, but a refuge.*

The author found the title for her book when she heard a preacher pray, "Oh, God thank you for your stubborn love towards us." She says, "His very stubborn love towards us has always been the most tenacious love, although for a time Dick (her husband) and I were so caught up in ourselves we didn't notice it, but it never discouraged God as He doggedly pursued us. This is our story – a true story – a story about His penetrating, persevering, stubborn love and its miraculous, dynamic force in our lives."

The book begins with how Joyce's husband miraculously escapes alive

after a bad accident and a kidnapping. She writes: "Out of this experience evolved an intensified concept of what really matters in life and what, at

best, is only trivial. I once again realized that my elegant marble-topped coffee table was not worth a cent to me unless Dick had his feet on it."

She then goes on to share how she was always part of a church but how, growing up, she became disillusioned. "The chasm was widening between my wonderful Christian parents, loving and serving God with quiet sacrifice and great joy, and the church with its lists of don'ts, its lack of joy, its hypocrites, and its share of religious nuts and fanatics." While remaining outwardly sweet and



charming, inwardly she rebelled against God. She shares how God slowly pruned the vines of rebellion choking her life to set her free and bring her back to Him.

She talks about falling in love and marrying Dick. She says, “Love out of physical and surface attraction, or even out of companionship or arrangement, is not enough to keep a marriage glued together. But love, with God, the author of all love, welds a unit so strong it can ride out any storm. Their marriage will hold together during any earthquake and, after fifty years of marriage, reflect that a precious love in the beginning has become even more precious as each day, each year has passed. That kind of love affair is only a miracle of God’s stubborn love!”

The early years of marriage are a total disaster and both of them want to end their lives. She is saved by a pastor’s timely call. She cries to God for forgiveness and the healing begins. The same transformation is experienced by her husband too.

Despite getting back to God, she experiences a lot of disappointments and setbacks. She recommends being still and waiting on God. She shares how she rediscovered the love and joy in their marriage, with God’s help. She says God cannot change a marriage without first changing the individuals involved.

She talks about losing her third child soon after his birth. How God’s presence was so strong at that time. She says she started looking at her two older children in a new light after this. “I dropped the phrase ‘My kids are driving me crazy’ from my vocabulary. I thought about all the mothers in the world who would give just about anything to have their son or daughter back, tearing up the place and, in general, driving them crazy.”

She says, “God transforms us, our marriage, and our children only after we really believe Him...By believing God’s Word and really practising it in daily living, the changes and exchanges are truly miraculous.”

*He came as a tiny Babe, that He might  
better understand our sufferings,  
He was born into poverty, lest we think  
Him a monarch  
He came not to dominate, but to motivate*

*not to condemn, but to forgive  
not to oppress, but to free our souls  
not to compel, but to teach us  
the truest measure of unselfish Love*

Contributed by Hope Durai

# Reconciling with God Brings Healing



By Rev. P. J ayanesan

**1. Healing** is needed when we are sick. According to the topic, the sickness is from Relationship. Relationship between created God and to humanity. And at the same time Humanity to Humanity, and Humanity to creation.

God created Adam and Eve spiritually perfect, they were created sinless, blameless, guiltless. Created in God's image and likeness' (Gen 1:26). They enjoyed good relationship with God (Gen 3:8); they were innocent. Free from all sense of moral wrong, They enjoyed inner peace and harmony. Gen 2:25. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed or embarrassed in each other, presence. The word naked refers to a life of transparency, a clean life, no secret between them, no hiding, no cheating. A plain life, trustworthy life, confident, no fear, they were not self conscious in any harmful or destructive sense. All these factors contributed to their condition of perfect health.

Gen 2:16-17. God warned them if they disobey Him, they will die spiritually and ultimately die physically too. This single act of disobedience introduced into the world every negative thing, which curses mankind today spiritually,

psychologically and physically. It is the source of –

- Dis - Ease
- Dis - Order
- Dis - Ability
- Dis - Tress
- Dis - Comfort
- Dis - Aster
- Dis - Cord
- Did - Couragement
- Dis - Harmony
- Dis - Integration

All of these negative attitudes are due to Dis-obedience to God's Command, which damaged our good Relationship, due to this we find broken world.

Brokenness' in individuals lives, between persons, between families, between states, and nations.

**MAN: DISOBEYED AND LOST EVERYTHING.** In seeking to find his life apart from God, man (humanity) lost everything. Sadly, the lie worked as well on earth as it had in Heaven. In believing the lies of satan, the women disobeyed and came under judgement. Although Adam was not deceived, he too chose to sin – and by doing so, marred the image and likeness of God.

Without God-likeness (righteousness – right acting) the dominion was lost...

“A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom” (Heb 1:8).

But satan was quick to take up the Scepter which fell from Adam and Eve’s hands.

The authority which had been given to man was now taken over by satan. Man (humanity) found himself under the authority of the kingdom of darkness and death. Many things were lost as a result of Adam’s sin and disobedience.

1. He lost his relationship
2. He lost his divine covering and God given authority.
3. He lost the image of god
4. He lost his very life – spirit, soul and body.

To heal the sick and sinful humanity God took initiative.

### **1. Created Relationship**

Gen 1:26-27 God created man (humanity) in His own image, in the image of God He created him (humanity); male and female He created them.

God created us in this image and likeness. Therefore God is ever present. God is our Creator. God is our Lord and God. God is everything to us. Because He gave us all the good things live in abundance of life. Because of disobedience

we lost it. Therefore God is more concerned about His children, rather than to give them life Eternal.

The same truth is emphasized in John 1:1-14. (John 1:1 links with Gen 1:1 in the beginning) The pre-existent logos (word) was God in essence and instrumental in the creation of everything. More specifically, what came into existence in or by the logos (word) was life (vv. 3-4). Two Greek words for life is used in John 1. Zoe, which is the Divine, Eternal, Indestructible life, and 2. Psuche, the human physical transient life. John 1:4 says, In Him was life (zoe) and that life (zoe) was the light of men.

When God created humanity(adam) he gave them the same life (zoe). Gen 2:7. The Lord God formed the man from the dust and of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. This life is effected by sinful life. The sin is the root cause for break of relationship. Now God wants to give us back the same eternal life which we lost. That eternal life we get from and through Jesus who is the source of life, by believing in Him (John 3:16).

Once when we reconciled with God, simultaneously the broken relationship get healed, between humanity and God, and humanity and humanity.

God's provision for healing:

**A. The Redemptive names of God .**

1. Jehovah Jireh (Gen 22:14)  
The Lord will provide.
2. Jehovah Rapha (Exo. 15:26)  
I am the Lord that Health you.
3. Jehovah Nissi (Exo 17:15)  
The Lord our victor.
4. Jehovah shalom Jugde (G:33)  
The Lord our peace.
5. Jehovah Raah (Ps. 23:1)  
The Lord is my shepherd.
6. Jehovah Tsidkenu (Jer 23:6)  
The Lord is our Righteousness
7. Jehovah shammah (Eze 48:35)  
The Lord is present

**B. Jesus is our healer**

1. Healing through God's atonement  
Isaiah 53:4, 53:12, 53:11.
2. Healing through Jesus.  
Mt 8: 16-17, Mt 14:14. John 9:3-4  
Lk 4: 33-37. Mt 14: 35-36.

**A THREE POINT PATTERN**

God Acts	Satan Reacts	God counter Acts
Creates	Ruins	Redeems
Plans	Destroys	Restores
Generates	De-generates	Re-generates
Forms	De-Forms	Re-Forms
Covers	Un-covers	Re-covers
Conciliates	Alienates	Re-concilles
(unites)	(Breaks)	(Re-unites).

**God is our healer**

In three point pattern we found that God is doing good to humanity and Satan does all evil and destructive things. Satan divides people. Wherever misunderstanding, doubtfulness is there, there is no relationship. Where there is no communication (speaking with one another) there is no relationship. Satan rules the people by dividing people. The main instrument for that dividing is lie, and pride. God went to heal the broken world a) Through forgiveness (Jer. 31:34) b) God heals the broken hearted (Ps. 147:3).

God expects humanity (individual people and as a collective humanity) to REPENT.

When we repent, during repentance time, we can experience the forgiveness of God.

Because our mind healed through repentance and forgiveness, automatically sickness in bodies, our sickness in relationships get healed. God as a shepherd binds our wounds (Eze 34:16). And God as saviour and healer, He heals us. (and by this wounds we are healed (Is 53:5). This healing is a global healing. It is rather a healing for the whole creation.

# From Reconciliation to Peacemaking

By Peter S. C. Pothan

**R**econciliation is the very centre of the Gospel, the true mission of God. As Paul points out in 2 Corinthians 5: 18-19 “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.” Reconciliation is therefore the very aim of the Cross and the passion of Christ. By means of the Cross God removed the barrier between God and man to allow us to come into true fellowship with Him.

However it does not stop with just God reconciling us to him but it goes further as he gives us “the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18). As Paul states, “In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). A Christian therefore is called to the “ministry of reconciliation.” This is in two ways — reconciliation with each other and helping to reconcile others (peace-making). Let us look at each of these in detail.

## **The need for us to forgive others**

Forgiveness is part of Christian life. Jesus taught that the forgiveness that is based on God’s love is useless without a further action of our forgiveness of others. After teaching this as a condition in the Lord’s Prayer he emphasizes it by saying, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6: 14-15). The New Testament insists that love must be the distinctive of all church life. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour (Matthew 22: 39), our brother (John 15: 12) and our enemies (Matthew. 5: 44 cf. Romans 5: 8-11). In fact Jesus points out that the right way to respond to hostility is with aggressive love (Matthew 5: 38-42).

**Peter S. C. Pothan** is a Bible and Theological Teacher. After working for 25 years in TAFTEE, from where he retired, he continues to teach TAFTEE BTS, M. Div. and M. Th. courses and in several other theological colleges. He is currently Assistant Director of the Distance Learning Dept of SABC. He lives in Bangalore with his wife and two children.

Romans 5:5 points out that “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” If we have this *agape* love then our actions have to involve forgiveness and reconciliation. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another”.

God’s love is the centre of all Biblical teaching. It is shown best in the “New Covenant” through Jesus’ sacrificial and redemptive death on the cross, which provides a practical demonstration of God’s love. But this has to be also seen in our response in loving others. In a Christian congregation love is the principle that protects unity and promotes growth (Phil.2: 1-2; Colossians. 2:2; Ephesians 4: 16; 1 Corinthians 8:1; John17:22-23). Gentleness, patience and restraint are love’s characteristics in a healthy Christian fellowship (Galatians 5: 13; Ephesians 4:2). In fact as Selwyn Hughes points out LOVE is the real fruit of the Spirit and all the other characteristics mentioned are facets of love. We need to remember that love comes from God (Romans 5:5) and we cannot love without his help. Yet we should strive towards this in all our dealings (2 Peter 1: 7) as it is the basis of all ethical action. Thus a Christian in response to God’s love and grace should show love and compassion to others.

### **Active Reconciliation**

The Lord Jesus in Matthew18: 15-17 gives five steps to be taken in case of

conflict between you and another member of the fellowship. They are:

**Step 1:** Make sure you are dealing with facts, not guesses or hearsay.

We must make sure we are operating on facts – not hearsay or opinion. This is the first and most important principle in handling conflict between you and another person. Operating on hearsay or assumptions usually ensures failure, when we are trying to deal with conflict. Unless we focus on the facts, the conflict can get worse, as it degenerates into one opinion versus another.

**Step 2:** Always make the initial confrontation in private between you and the person involved.

Matthew 18:15 says: “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you.” Every effort should be made to resolve the conflict in private with the other person involved. If we publicly criticize the other person involved in the conflict, this only increases the problem and undermines trust.

**Step 3:** If, when you try to resolve the conflict privately, the other person involved refuses to resolve the problem – take someone with you and try again.

Matthew 18:16 says: “If he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses”. Only involve others after you are convinced that the other person will not listen to you. At

this point, outside help in resolving the conflict does two things. First it allows a neutral party to provide input in resolving the problem. And secondly, it gives evidence to others that you are honestly trying to resolve the problem.

**Step 4:** If the person continues to refuse to resolve the conflict, you may need to bring the **problem to the whole church.**

Matthew 18:17 says: “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church” If the other person still refuses to resolve the problem, you may need to bring the problem to the church for reconciliation.

**Step 5:** If the person still refuses to resolve the conflict, you may need to terminate the current relationship.

However, if the other person is willing to correct the problem, then we are obliged to forgive and to continue the relationship no matter how often conflict continues to occur. Luke 17:4 says, “If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says I repent, forgive him”.

The Lord Jesus mentions another scenario in Matthew 5: 23-25 saying, “So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Here it is not whether you are in conflict with another member of the fellowship but rather “he has

something against you.”. How hard is it for you to make things right in a broken relationship?

## **Peace Makers**

As Christians and church leaders, we certainly don't lack the creative ability to find issues to fight about! Quarrelling in the church, especially among leaders, is a disgrace. As Paul points out earlier we are one family. Quarrelling leads to divisions and groups and can eventually split the church. The Lord Jesus in Matthew 5:9 says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” We are called to be Peacemakers. In fact Jesus goes further when he says the PEACEMAKERS **are** the “sons of God”. So a Christian has no option but to be a Peacemaker! If your life was summed up in one sentence what would it be? James 3: 18. says, “Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” Hence we have to be actively involved in Peace Making.

I give below the Peacemaker's Creed: (*Conflict Transformation Workshop, Peace Making Ministries, Billings, USA*)

“As people reconciled to God by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we believe that, we are called to respond to conflict in a way that is remarkably different from the way the world deals with conflict. We also believe that conflict provides opportunities to glorify, serve other people and grow to be like Christ.

Therefore, in response to God's love and in reliance on His grace we commit ourselves to respond to conflict according to biblical principles. By God's grace, we will apply these principles as a matter of stewardship, realizing that conflict is an assignment, not an accident. We will remember that success in God's eyes is not a matter of specific results but of faithful, dependent obedience. And we will pray that our service as peacemakers brings

praise to our Lord and leads others to know His infinite Love."

Paul entreated the Ephesians to "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4: 1-3). Since a Christian is called to be a "Peace Maker" may this be a mark of our Church life together!

## WHO STARTED CHRISTMAS?

**T**his morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable. And after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry we already crucified him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the one who started this whole Christmas Thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, Just think of how different this whole world would be.

*Sent by Anita Dumra; source unknown*

# Never too Old to Mend a Relationship



By Rebecca Keerthana, *Teacher, St. John's High School*

God created us to be in relationships so we could live together and enjoy the company of each other. But man sinned and thus relationships were broken. Humans simply cannot achieve any significant level of development outside of right relationships. Every person here today is the sum of the relationships of their lives up to this point. Whatever you will achieve in life will be the consequence of relationships. There are no soloists in life. We all work together and learn from one another, care for one another in some fashion. Due to the fact that we are imperfect people carrying distorted images of ourselves and others, and due to the fact that we seldom actually recognize the presence of God, the Incarnation, in our lives, relationships do tend to get pretty messy. But if we are open to the Spirit's work, God can use the relational messiness of this thing we call life to actually transform us.

We need to see relationships as God sees them; recognizing that they are the context in which Christian discipleship actually happens, recognizing that they are about serving rather than being served. Jesus' mission was to live out relationships and to invite us to do the same, with meaning and purpose. We, as

teachers, are surrounded by children who are waiting to learn something new from us every minute, by listening to us talk and also by our actions, so we need to follow the example Jesus Christ set for us. He was the greatest teacher to have lived on the earth. We need to live, love and serve as He did. Everyday we are faced with situations that are unexpected and it is left to us as to how we handle it. A relationship between a teacher and a student is unique and this bond needs much care and attention to sustain it. There will be many instances when we feel that things are not going the right way and relationships are breaking, we wonder why it's happening to us. We never get too old to be hurt, we never get too old to have our feelings wounded and our relationships ruptured.

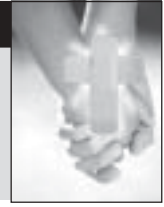
So how do we to restore broken relationships. Conflict is inevitable! WHY? It could be because of family background, personal differences, differing values and philosophies. A lot of conflict today is caused by wrong advice, listening to contradictory voices from our culture, from the media, from friends, from secular counselling and so on.

We can do some things to restore ruptured relationships. First, we must learn to deal with our own pride. Pride may not have caused the rupture, but it is pride that sustains it. Proverbs tells us that pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. I am talking about the type of pride that says: I'll live my life the way I want to live it, pride that refuses to admit fault, pride that says, I would rather maintain this broken relationship than to let others see me as a failure. The antithesis of pride is Humility. Humility is what allows us to graciously give in to the other, even when we are not at fault, even when the other party does not deserve it. Jesus is our example. He washed the disciples' feet, He submitted to the will of the Father. Humility is what allowed the prodigal son to return to his father and say, forgive me, make me a servant. Jesus said, everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. The Bible tells us do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than you. And this is exactly how the attitude of a true teacher should be in order to maintain the relationship he or she has with a student.

Secondly, we must learn to deal with our guilt. Unresolved guilt can hinder the restoration of broken relationships. First, we must admit our sins to God and to the one we hurt, and then we must be

genuinely sorry for our behaviour. This may come as a surprise, but laziness is a real problem in our relationships. It takes work, serious hard work, to heal a broken relationship. Another major reason for broken relationships is fear!! Fear keeps us from healing broken relationships. The fear of failure, the fear of rejection prevents people from restoring a broken relationship. Wanting to avoid another failure is a real stumbling block to our trying one more time to resolve the conflict and heal broken relationships. Some people think it is better to face the conflict than to face the pain of rejection again. But whether we struggle with the fear of failure or rejection we can gain a true sense of encouragement by recognizing that God did not intend for us to be caught and held in the glare of fear. What he does intend is for us to demonstrate faith. Let us remember that Jesus Christ came into this world to heal our broken relationships and strife. He taught us how to live in harmony and peace. Let us follow His example and relive our lives.

Well, how are your relationships?? How are your relationships with your spouse, family, church and others? Are there some things that need correcting? How about your relationship with God? Do you need to make some things right with Him? Remember, we never get too old to mend broken relationships. And we never get too old for a need to correct ourselves. Do you have some relationships that need correcting? Make them today ... right now!



## Fight The Relationship Drift

**Warning:** There's a cruel epidemic afflicting our families, our marriages, and our friendships. It's called the Relationship Drift. It's a very devious disease. It's like some cancers. You really don't know you have it until it's fatal. And then it's too late. And then Relationship Drift becomes Relationship Dead.

The only solution is to diagnose it early. But the symptoms of Relationship Drift are almost invisible to the naked eye. Because you're not really fighting each other. There are no screaming matches. In fact, your home is quiet. And there are no pots and pans flying in the air. And there are no nasty court cases. But little by little, your hearts move apart. Intimacy is gone. Joy is missing. In marriage, sex only happens every time Haley's comet passes planet earth. You take each other for granted. One day, you know the disease had run its full course because you wake up one morning not caring for the other person anymore.

Let me give you examples of the Relationship Drift: The father who doesn't have heart-to-heart conversations with his kids anymore. Or the wife who doesn't enjoy her husband's company anymore. Or a couple who talk to each

other functionally, not deeply. Or siblings who no longer laugh together, play together, and eat together.

Here's why: We live in a busy world. Where bills need to be paid. And cars need to be repaired. And kids need to be fed and nurtured.

My point? *It's natural that you drift apart.* You don't have to be a bad person. You don't have to be Adolf Hitler or The Joker. You don't have to be obnoxious, selfish, or evil to cause the disease called Relationship Drift. Let me give you an analogy. - Two people in a relationship are like two little boats floating on the sea.

Problem: There's a current that will slowly pull the two boats apart. Before they know it, the two boats are miles away from each other.

Friend, there's really only one way to fight the drift: *Paddle!* If you don't want to drift, you'll have to go against the flow and paddle your way to each other. You'll have to work hard, muscle your way, sweat like crazy and fight to be together. I believe that the only antidote to Relationship Drift is to *bond constantly*. If you don't, the effects can be disastrous...

**When We Don't Fight Relationship Drift** - According to statistics, children from a fatherless home in America are:

- Five times more likely to commit suicide
- Thirty-two times more likely to run away
- Twenty times more likely to have behavioral disorders
- Fourteen times more likely to commit rape (this applies to boys)
- Nine times more likely to drop out of high school
- Ten times more likely to abuse chemical substances
- Nine times more likely to end up in a charitable institution
- Twenty times more likely to end up in prison for a long period of time

We either pay now or pay later. When you pay later, it always costs more. My suggestion is to pay now. Fighting the Relationship Drift is very difficult. But it's easier paying now than paying later. Here's how to do it.

**Time Management Isn't The Answer** - Do you want to spend more time with your family? Time Management is *not* the solution. I know a company who charges \$759 per person for their Time Management Seminar. Let me save you \$759 right now and tell you it doesn't work. These guys will teach you how to become experts in multi-tasking.

While you shave, mentally plan for your day. While you drive, record your

things-to-do in an MP3 recorder. While sitting on the throne of life, make your phone calls. While talking with your boss, floss your teeth. I don't believe in any of that. Though I must admit, I'm guilty trying all of them. And believe me, these things don't give you more time. Worse, they take away your peace.

Here's a principle you can take to the bank: Anything that takes away your peace won't work in the long run. Instead of Time Management, I teach people *Biggies* Management.

**What Are Your Biggies?** - If you really think about it, you can put everything happening in your life into two categories: *Biggies* and *Smallies*. If you manage your Biggies, you manage your life. It's the secret to great success.

What are your Biggies? People who don't know their Biggies will be ruled by their Smallies. They'll be lost boats in the sea, being pushed and pulled in various directions. Your Biggies consists of the four most important parts of your life:

1. Your Family
2. Your Health
3. Your Mission
4. Your Spirit

Everything else are Smallies. If you want to be successful, focus on your Biggies.

When you make your weekly schedule, write down the Biggies first. These are the powerful ways to paddle against Relationship Drift.

**Create A List Of Untouchables** - My romantic date with my wife is an Untouchable. I told her that we'd have a romantic date every Tuesday night unless these three things happen:

- 1) President Obama calls up to consult me on high-level issues such as terrorism, global warming, and nuclear disarmament; or...
- 2) The Pope calls me to discuss some murky theological question that only I can answer like "Did Adam have a belly button?"

Aside from those scenarios, nothing can touch my date with her. Seriously, there are weeks when I'm travelling and we can't date. But I see to it that when I fly back home, the first thing I do is spend a day with my wife and two boys. Frankly, I love my romantic dates with my wife. She's my emotional home. She relaxes me. My weekly date with my boys is an Untouchable too. So is my twice-a-month lunch with my mother. And twice-a month dinners with my extended families.

I also have regular dates with my Friends. (We call them Caring Groups in my spiritual family, *Light of Jesus*.) Friend, the only way to paddle against Relationship Drift is to create your list of Untouchables. But before you invite your kids to a date, let me tell you how *not* to do it.

### **How To Have Dates With Your Kids**

One day, a teenage boy approached me

and said, "Brother Bo, can you please tell my father to stop having dates with me? I think he got the idea from you." I later learned what his father did last week. First, he invited his son to have a burger. But the moment they sat down in the restaurant, the father said, "Son, I want to talk to you about your poor grades." After a mini-sermon on "study well because I work so hard to pay for your studies," the father jumps to another sensitive topic. "Your music tastes are terrible," he said to the lad, "It's loud, noisy, and disgusting. I think you should listen more to classical music." The father goes on to other topics, such as the length of his hair, the late night phone calls, and the obscene amount of time he spends playing computer games. Poor kid. He didn't know what was coming that day. He didn't realize he was attending a multi-track conference.

After their meal, the father told him, "Son, I enjoyed our date. Let's do this weekly!" His son must have had an epileptic seizure right there. Can you imagine going through this torture for the rest of his teen age life? That's when the boy asked me to rescue him from a life of purgatory.

So I called the father and said, "Parental sermons, homilies, lectures, and full-scale multi-track conferences are banned from your dates." "Why?" the father asked. "Because the date isn't for you," I said. "It's for your son. You don't have to enjoy it as long as he does." I told him, "Play billiards. Play bowling. Go

fishing. Ride bikes together. Anything your boy wants to do.” Let me explain why this is essential. When the relationship is close, kids listen. Their hearts are supple and open. But when there’s already a Relationship Drift between the parents and the kids, their hearts are far apart. So no matter how much the parents shout, their kids don’t hear the message. **So the first goal is to bring your hearts close to each other.**

### **How To Bond As A Family**

Another Untouchable you need to create is a Weekly Family Night. The goal is to do something fun together. Rent a movie and cook popcorn for a family movie night at home. Or take a Family Walk. Or play a game together. Or read a book out loud. Or just order pizza and ask everyone to share around the table.

When you do this each week, you’re creating memories that will last a lifetime. Life is about moments. And believe me, your grown-up kids will never forget these special bonding moments as a family. It will be their anchor. It will be their source of emotional stability. That amidst the sea of change around them, they know there are just some things in life that don’t change. Like the memories of being together as family.

### **Invite Your Kids’ Friends To Hang Out At Home**

You’ve got to be the cool Mom and Dad. Even if you’re not. How? Make your home the preferred hang-out place for

your kids’ friends. I know it’ll cause a little dent on your budget. Okay, I lied. *It will make your life savings disappear.*

A group of teens are like a pack of piranha. They will eat anything that looks like food in your kitchen cabinets. And if your kids come home all tired and sweaty from a basketball game, be forewarned. You will become poor overnight. You can buy all the food in your city and it won’t be enough. They’ll just burp and ask for more.

But the rewards are incredible. First, you’re with your kids more. Second, you know where your kids are. Third, you get to know their friends. If they lack parenting, you can re-parent them. (One of the best ways of influencing your kids is to influence their friends.)

### **Two Choices: Drift Or Paddle**

I can hear you now. “Bo, this is a lot of hard work! Weekly dates with my wife and kids? Feeding a pack of piranhas? And re-parenting the friends of my kids? My gosh!” I warned you. It’s going to be rough. But let me repeat what I said at the start: You really only have two choices in life. You either Drift or you Paddle. You either pay now or pay later. I’ve decided to paddle. I’ve decided to pay now. Believe me, I’m enjoying the benefits. My relationships are deeply satisfying.

Friend, it’s your turn. *Start paddling.* May your dreams come true.

Source: **Bo Sanchez,**  
*the preacher in blue jeans, Internet*

**Juliet Thomas** was the recipient of the Lifetime Service Award from the Evangelical Fellowship of India for her contribution to the Church and Mission in India, particularly in the area of Women's Ministries (which she started in EFI) and prayer. This award was given at the EFI Missions Conference at Hyderabad in October 2009. Since she was unable to attend the function because of her injury to her foot, it was brought to Bangalore by Thomas Swaroop, who presented it to her at



the meeting of the Bible Study Writers of St. John's Church on Dec 1, 2009.

Congratulations. **Kamini Williams** and **Dr. Eva Bell**, members of St. John's Church, who were among the nine women writers of Bangalore, who contributed stories to the anthology, *Bhelpuri*, a collection of short stories. The book, published by Inklinks, was

launched on October 24, 2009, at the British Council Library by Ms. Malathi Rao, Sahitya Academy awardee. Mrs. Shashi Deshpande, noted writer, was chief guest. Williams and Bell contributed six stories.



*Kamini Williams (right) and Eva Bell (third from left) with the writers of Bhelpuri*





Pulse congratulates **Bernard Hereford** on his election as Treasurer of the Karnataka Central Diocese. He was felicitated at the 8.30 a.m. service by Rev. Nirmala Vasanthakumar



**Harsha Joseph** received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Botany from Bangalore University for his thesis entitled

*"Studies on biochemical and physiological aspects of artificial haustoria induction in higher Plant parasite Cuscuta chinensis lamk."*. He has also registered a patent to check the quality of drinking water.



**Dr. Nihal Jacob Thomas**, son of the late Dr. H. Thomas (Cantonment Polyclinic) and Mrs. Thomas, was awarded the Rev. Fr. Lourdu M. Yeddanapalli S.J. Award for 2009. This honour recognizes his contribution to research at Christian Medical College, Vellore, where he is Professor of Endocrinology.

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had All the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he Said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, Let us sing Hymn #365, "Shall We Gather at the River."

Smile, life is too short not to! See you at the river.

## Dr. Colin and Asha John

A family in harmony will prosper in everything, says a Chinese proverb. This harmony in the Johns family is built on two foundations – prayer and love – that entwine the lives of Dr. Colin John, Asha and their children Kavita and Meera, Kirk and their two children Rahael and Elisa.

Says Asha: “We have carried a legacy of daily family prayers from each of our families. We read one of the prescribed scripture portion from the Daily Reading and have a time of prayer and conclude with a hymn.” *I will never leave you nor forsake you* — Josh. 1:5, is their favourite Bible verse that they have held fast on to in hope and worry.

For both Asha and Colin, family is the most important unit of society. “It would be good if every home were Christian but we know that it is not so. We believe that the children are what the home makes them. The only way to provide the right home for the children is to put our Lord at the centre of the family, where love is practiced. Loving, despite faults, mistakes and weaknesses. Love that is deep and abiding.”

This determination to manifest Christ, is demonstrated not just within



the family circle, but in their everyday life at their jobs and in their interaction with all. Colin is a Paediatric Cardiothoracic surgeon by profession, and works at Narayana Hrudayalaya, as Professor and Head – Department of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery. In fact, most members of St. John’s feel very comfortable discussing “issues of the heart and mind” with Colin. Every time I have telephoned him about his achievement to be published in the *Pulse*, his first reaction is whether it is necessary. My insistence is followed by “Everything is possible because of His grace.”

Even their marriage of 29 years is described by them as “centred on

Christ”, and this helps them to be the right person for each other. “It is the assurance of God’s grace and our faith that helps us face any ups and downs in life with hope.”

For the Johns, the trip to the Holy Land was an “awesome and very humbling experience.” Says Colin: “I cannot describe the emotions we felt as we touched the places that Jesus had touched, walked on the paths he travelled. You realize how much walking he did in the tough terrain, how much he did for us.”

The Johns are active members of St. John’s Church. Colin has been a member for the last 40 years; he is a second generation member; his parents Dr. & Mrs. John, were members for over forty three years. His brothers and sister and their families too are members of St. John’s. Colin and Asha were married at St. John’s in 1980. Meera, their first child was also baptized here. Colin is an articulate preacher of the Word. Asha has been involved in many activities as a member of the Pastorate Committee, Stephen’s Home Managing Committee and the Stewardship Committee. The lovely floral arrangements for the Sunday services and other special occasions are regularly done by her, when she is in Bangalore.

Says Asha: “We love to be involved in Church activities as we believe that

our calling is not only to worship in the church but also to share in the various ministries of the church.” The Johns are closely associated with the CSI Hospital in an honorary capacity. Colin is Director of the hospital and Asha is the PRO.

This commitment to serve God has been inherited by their children. Meera, a business administrator, is married to Kirk who is a Chartered Accountant. Both have quit their jobs to do His ministry. They live in Kentucky, USA. And are blessed with a daughter Rahael who is three years old and new born Elisa. The John’s second daughter Kavita is also in the US, pursuing her studies in photography. When he is not taking care of his patients’ health, Colin loves to play golf and watch cricket. Asha is an avid movie and music buff, and loves to read.

For Asha and Colin John, their lives can be best described in the words of Jim Rohn, an American entrepreneur: “Your family and your love must be cultivated like a garden. Time, effort, and imagination must be summoned constantly to keep any relationship flourishing and growing.” As the song goes - “When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.”

by Matilda Yorke

## Leslie & Edna Bonnell – a caring and sharing couple

They were new to Bangalore in January 1993, having come from Delhi, and were church-hopping to find the right one for their spiritual growth. At the first church, they were ignored by the regular members and therefore did not feel at home. The second church was welcoming, but the service did not appeal to them. Then they visited St John's Church, which was furthest from their residence, and the bonding happened at once, and Leslie and Edna Bonnell felt at home.

The Bonnells had heard of St. John's from our former pastor Rev. Leslie Holder, who had baptised Leslie in Madras, gave him his name and was one of his godfathers. After the first service at St. John's which the Bonnells enjoyed, they were happy that Rev. Victor Joshua, the pastor, had identified them as newcomers and invited them to become members. As they found many friends and relatives in the congregation that morning, Leslie and Edna Bonnell decided that St. John's was the church for them. Leslie says, "What impressed us most of all was that a total stranger introduced himself to us as Mr. Thomas Varughese and introduced us to his friends. We found a church that had many activities and that it was a friendly and caring church."

I first heard of them when I was editor of the Pulse magazine in 1993. One of the



contributions "A baby with a tail" was from Leslie. I was told that he had headed the Postal Department, and was now living in Bangalore. And that's how this regular contributor to *Pulse*, and I have become close friends over the years.

Leslie was originally from Madras where his father Mr. E. C. Bonnell was retired as the Administrator of the General Hospital. Leslie mother, Mrs. Flora, worked as a teacher in the CEZM Ewarts School, Leslie Bonnell was born in Madras and was christened at St. Mark's Church at Madras, where his father was the organist. His mother had one name for him Derrick. When Rev. Holder came to know of this, he added his own and christened him "Leslie Derrick Bonnell." He also became one of his godfathers and "unlike most godfathers," says Mr. Bonnell, "he always kept in touch with me and sent me small gifts for each of my birthdays."

Leslie studied first at Ewarts School, and later at St. Paul's High school. He graduated from Loyola College and did his MA from Pachaiappas College in March 1956, as he wanted to take certain subjects for the IAS Central service exams which were available in that college. He passed the IAS exam in September 1956, and was appointed to the Central Services. He did not want to become a lawyer, and volunteered for the Indian Postal services as he felt that he could serve his fellow men, moreover, it was a service which was known for its honesty. After several postings around the country, Leslie was deputed for training in Postal Administration in England, Holland and Germany on a United Nations Fellowship, and worked in an expert in training in Brazil and Nigeria as a United Nations employee. On his return, he was Postmaster General and then Member of the Postal Board at New Delhi before retiring as Chairman of the Postal Board and Secretary Govt of India.

Leslie and Edna's meeting was by chance. Their mothers met at the IMS annual day in 1959, and discovered that both were batch mates at St Ebbas School, Madras. Leslie's mother also found that her friend had a grand daughter and, as Leslie says, "before I could say Jack Robinson we were married in December that year." Edna Bonnell was born at Palayamkottai. Her father was Prof E.S. Moses, who retired as the vice Principal of the American College, Madurai. Edna studied at the OCPM mission school and got her B. Sc degree at the Lady Doak College, Madurai, and taught there for a year, but quit because of Leslie's travel.

As the saying goes "behind every successful man is a woman", and Leslie says a considerable part of his success in his career was because of Edna's support and backing. This has continued throughout their lives and even in their retirement as I have personally seen. When Leslie was asked to take over as Secretary/Convener of the Asha Nivas at St. John's Church he said he could not do it without Edna's support. So Edna became a member of the Managing Committee and together they both looked after the home successfully for three bienniums, looking after the administration and building a personal relationship with the residents.

Leslie and Edna have had active church memberships. In Delhi the Bonnells attended the Cathedral Church of Redemption, where Leslie served as member of the Pastorate Committee. Edna has always joined the Women's Fellowship where ever they had worshiped and always was a Sunday school teacher. So when joined they St. John's Rev. Victor Joshua, invited her to become a teacher at the Sunday school. As Edna loves teaching young kids she was so happy to do so. She is now the Treasurer of the St. John's Women's Fellowship and also a SS teacher. Both have been members of the St. John's Hostel Committee for the last two bienniums and Edna shows her love and concern for the children here in many ways.

Leslie has served in the Pastorate Committee for several terms and Treasurer in the last biennium. He is an active member of the Men's Fellowship and has often spoken in our meetings. They have

been active and generous members of the Church and its various projects. Leslie was nominated to the Pastorate Committee, and thereafter has served for several terms, including that of Treasurer in the last biennium. He is an active member of the Men's Fellowship and has often spoken in our meetings.

The Bonnells have two sons and two daughters. Their sons are married and have

settled in Canada and both the daughters are employed and live with them. Pradeep, their eldest son, is a Software Specialist in Toronto where he lives with his wife and two sons. He and his wife are deeply involved in the Sunday School in their local church, following in Edna's footsteps. Vijay, their second son, is a Chartered Accountant in Mississauga, Canada. He has a son and a daughter.

## SHIRLEY and MERCY

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. But he didn't want her to walk with him. She wanted to him a feeling of independence, but was anxious to know that he was safe.

So, she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbour if she could follow him to school in the mornings from a distance, so he wouldn't notice her.

The neighbour said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as and so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following Timmy as he walked to school with another girl from his neighbourhood. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed that the same lady was following them as she seemed to do this every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?'

Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.'

The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?'

'That's just Shirley Goodness,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Mercy.'

'Shirley Goodness? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'coz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodness and Mercy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

***May Shirley Goodness and Mercy be with you today and always***

## MEMBERS OF THE PASTORATE COMMITTEE

Rev. Nirmala Vasanthakumar - Chairperson

Rev. P Jayanesan - Asst. Presbyter

Thomas Swaroop

Vinod David

Ernest Shaw

Ephraim Selvaraj-Secretary

Shanathi Chacko-Treasurer

Lalitha Vergis

Dr. Harsha Joseph

Kavitha Reuben

Ashalatha Joshua

Mel Patterson

Bernard Hereford

Ignatius D'Mello

Peter S.C. Pothan

### Conveners / Chairperson – Sub Committees

Ms. Lalitha Vergis	- Secretary	- Asha Nivas
Ms. Lalitha Cherian	- Convener	- Stephen's Home
Mr. Vinod David	- Convener	- Building & Property
Mr. Peter Pothan	- Convener	- Nurture & Pastoral Care
Ms. Mary Paul	- Convener	- Socio-Economic Concerns
Ms. Mary Selvaraj	- Convener	- Cemetery Committee
Ms. Jyothi Parker	- Convener	- Friends of St. John's Hostel
Mr. Ignatius D'Mello	- Convener	- Lease & Property
Mr. Thomas Swaroop	- Convener	- Stewardship
Mr. Peter S.C. Pothan	- Convener	- Editorial Committee
Mr. J.K. Kuriyan	- Chairman	- Finance Committee

## Remembering Those Gone Before Us

The Memorial Service was held this year on October 31, 2009, as All Saints Day (November 1) was a Sunday. Held in the Open Air Chapel at our Kalpally Cemetery, the service was attended by more than 60 members of the church who remembered their loved ones who had gone before them.

Using a specially prepared liturgy, the service was both a comfort and an inspiration to those present. Following the 'Call to Worship' by the Presbyter and the hymn "What a Friend we have in Jesus", Peter S.C. Pothan led the responsive 'Words of Faith and Hope' followed by the Confession and the Collect. The

Scripture Readings were read by the members of the bereaved families. Rev. Nirmala in her message stressed the fact that we have a host of witnesses that have gone before us, including our loved ones, and the need to live our lives as examples. The Responsive Prayer was led by Mary Selvaraj, Convener of the Cemetery Committee. The members present then came forward to light a candle in memory of their dear ones as music was played by Dr. Harsha Joseph. After the closing prayer and benediction, the members shared a cup of tea together and visited the graves of their loved ones.

Peter S. C. Pothan

# Remembrance Day Service

At 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918, during the First World War, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The Allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats over the preceding four months. In November, the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the Allied terms of unconditional surrender.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern World War conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between nine and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The Allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

At St. John's, the Remembrance Day Service was held on November 15, 2009. Brigadier P.I. Abraham, Commodore G.

Kailath and Air Commodore V. Subramaniam followed the choir, carrying the wreaths into the church, on behalf of the Army, Navy and the Air Force, respectively, and placed them at the altar. The Pioneer Corps Band was in attendance throughout the service. The service was conducted by Rev. Nirmala Vasanthakumar, Presbyter, and Rev. P. Jayanesan, Asst Presbyter. The lessons were read by Colonel Jacob, Commodore A. Cherian, and Wing Commander Corneille. Rev. Dr. Jacob Cherian gave a very thought-provoking and inspirational message.

After the service, the wreaths were taken from the altar in procession to the Cenotaph where the Presbyters, the Choir, the entire congregation and the Pioneer Band assembled. At the solemn ceremony, after short prayers and hymns, the wreaths were placed at the Cenotaph. The Last Post was sounded by the Bugler. Two minutes of silence was observed in memory of the valiant personnel who had died in action. The Rouse was then sounded, and accompanied by the Pipers, the hymn "Abide with me" was sung. The ceremony ended with the National Anthem.

The solemnity of the Remembrance Day Service reminded one and all of the supreme sacrifice and valour displayed by the men and women of the Armed Forces, who laid down their lives for the honour and glory of our great nation.

We would like to place on record our great appreciation of the presence and attendance of the Pioneer Corps Band during the entire service and ceremony. The programme was very ably co-ordinated by Colonel Thomas John.

Commodore A . Cherian

## Golden Age Fellowship

After a year, the Golden Age Fellowship was held on September 12, 2009, at Asha Nivas. In spite of the inclement weather it was enthusiastically attended by over 35 senior citizens of the Church.

The meeting opened with a prayer and welcome by Rev. Nirmala Vasanthakumar. The Men's Fellowship, who sponsored the programme, led the singing of choruses. Different members

then presented a series of readings, stories and poems interspersed with jokes and a skit on the Lord's Prayer, Our senior citizens played games and the Golden Age Fellowship cake was cut by Mr. Asirwatham. The fellowship continued after the refreshments with the enthusiastic singing of old favourites. A good time was had by all and the older members of the church greatly appreciated the programme.



# Neighbourhood Fellowship – Jal Vayu Vihar

**T**he JVV neighbourhood fellowship was started in May 2008, with four families. We shared the available database of contact numbers and each one made contact with other members in the area. We now have ten families who are regular and few members who attend occasionally.

## **We follow this pattern for the study**

- Choruses
- Opening prayer
- Study as per booklet given by church
- Brief opportunity for sharing
- Prayer requests
- Closing prayer

The meetings are held in the residence of different members by rotation. Most members lead the study in turns. We meet on the first and third Fridays of the month. During Lent we meet every Friday for Lenten study.

The briefing conducted by Mr. Peter S.C. Pothan and the handout given by him were very useful to the group. If possible, it should be continued.

The bible study by itself has been edifying. New insights, better understanding, clarifications given by

Dr. Julian Sundersingh and Dr Eva Bell, and the sharing of personal experiences related to the topic of study are some of the benefits the group enjoys.

The group has developed good cohesiveness leading to sharing and prayer requests. Members do feel that the group prayer benefits them. Very often we get prayer requests or thanksgiving — this is a great joy for all of us. Members feel supported and are ready to help each other in any way needed. This year, our Christmas fellowship dinner on November 27, 2009, was a pooled dinner.



On the whole the fellowship has been enjoyable and beneficial. We welcome other members to join us.

Air Commde. Daniel Jeyasingh

## VBS 2009 – “Come and Dine”

As parents and elders we look after the physical sustenance of our children. Do we spend enough of time and effort for their spiritual sustenance? The Lord invites us to dine with Him and therefore this year’s theme for VBS — “Come and Dine” (Josh 21:12) was apt for our children.

The teachers’ devotion starts at 8.00 am with prayer and personal quiet time. Here the teachers prepare their hearts and minds for the day ahead. The teachers’ devotions are led by members of our church involved in various ministries.

The first few days at VBS are always busy with registrations, allocation of classes, sale of song books, badges, etc., which was ably taken care of by Mel Patterson, Benny Francis, Jibu Kumar and Renuka Varughese. As we stood at the entrance of the church, it was heart-warming to see the special interest the parents and family members took to bring their children to VBS.

The music team comprised our talented youth who started off the morning with a time of action filled joyful singing. They were accompanied by Sam on the piano and Harsha on the drums. The children waited eagerly for this time of songs and praise. It was indeed great to listen to them sing with great gusto and do the actions as well.

After singing the children marched off to their respective classes for their first session of classes. Our enthused band of volunteers did their rounds by taking attendance, distributing books and helping the teachers. After the first session it was time for the refreshments. Rani Samson assisted by Lalitha Vergis and Sylvia Gaaneous and her group of energetic volunteers, distributed the eats during snack time which was followed by the second session and devotions.

During the devotion time the children got to learn a bible event and a missionary story every day.

On the Day of Cleanliness and Beauty, the children decked their classes with flowers, charts and decorations, thereby we got to see the talent of each child; be it painting, drawing, flower arrangement, etc. The judges went around the classes and were amazed at the beautified classes. During Witness Day the children were taught to propagate what they learnt at VBS to their family and friends. The Inspection Day saw the children answer questions posed by the judges based on the lessons. The children were prompt in answering and reciting the memory verses.

On the Love Feast Day, children brought their lunch and shared it with friends; it was a good time of feasting, fun and fellowship. Mr. Steve and his power team gave a power packed message through muscle power and vibrant

singing. The children had a wonderful time of learning that our bodies are the temple of God and we should take care of it.

The finale was at the Community Centre. Each class put in a lot of effort in such short period of time to come up with memory verse recitation, skits, songs and choreography. They put up a great show and were applauded for their efforts. Bimla Philips and Rani Samson gave away the prizes to the children for all their performance. The teachers presented a special song on the occasion.

The children were taken for a picnic to Sambaram Roost, where they had a rollicking time playing, making friends and splashing in the pool.

We give our thanks to God almighty for his leading, guidance and strength. Thanks to our pastors Rev. Nirmala Vasanthakumar and Rev. P. Jayanesan for their guidance, support and encouragement. Special thanks to our team of dedicated and committed teachers, talented music team and our cheerful volunteers. Special thanks to the principal Rani Rajkumar, the parents and donors for their contribution towards daily bread. As parents and elders we should take special interest in imparting God's word and spending quality time with our children.

Vinod David, *Director VBS*

## Harvest Festival 2009

*And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never*

Every year, Harvest Festival reminds us that all we have comes from God and that we are His stewards. The decorations and the offerings taken to the altar display the diversity of God's creation.

This diversity was also vividly seen in the colourful stalls around the basketball court. Individuals, families, the wings of the church and St. John's School dished up an array of tasty and succulent food. The stalls vied with each other to tempt the hungry parishioners who were eagerly looking for their favourite eats. All the stalls did brisk business and the ice gola stall was a big draw. Then there were the games of skill and chance which both the

children and the adults enjoyed. The highlight, course, is always the auction with its entertaining auctioneers and charming models and enthusiastic bidders who lovingly donated many items to the Hostel and Stephen's Home. The morning came to a close with the much awaited biriyani and this year many will find it hard to forget the wait.

As congregation members of all the three Sunday services came together, the Harvest Festival once again provided an opportunity to renew bonds of fellowship and to contribute generously to the various outreach projects of our church.

Anna Varughese

# Do Dreams Come True?

By SErnest Gurupatham

**W**hat is a dream? According to the Biblical dictionary, dreams are ideas presented to the mind in sleep - dreams are employed by God for the purpose of His kingdom. They are intended to affect the spiritual life of an individual.

Joel 2:18 says, “Old men shall dream dreams and the young ones will see visions.” In Genesis 37, we read of Joseph the Dreamer. Not only did he dream, he was also blessed by God to interpret other people’s dreams. All that Joseph dreamt came true, when all his eleven brothers bowed down to him, as he had dreamed when he was just a kid. But his dreams did not come true all at once. He had to suffer for no fault of his – thrown in a dark, deep, dry pit by his own brothers and imprisoned for many years because he did not give in to his boss’s wife. But in all his struggles, God was with him, guarding, guiding and giving him the confidence and ability to achieve the dream He had given him - to save his people. Through the dream God gave him, he was able to forgive and forget all that his brothers did against him and looked forward to saving

them, his father Jacob, his family and tribe in a time of great tribulation and famine in their land. He was obedient and truthful in all his undertakings. Joseph, an Israelite dreamer, became a great governor with immense authority and power in the land of Egypt. “Wait patiently on the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart” was Joseph’s motto and should be ours too.

In the Old Testament, we read about Daniel. Unlike Joseph, he was not a dreamer but had the gift of dream interpretation. He also went through a lot of pain and struggle. He was put in the lions’ den for not obeying the command to worship King Darius. As he was faithful to the living god, he came out unscathed. He became the governor in Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar. He interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s strange dream. From a king with a vast empire, Nebuchadnezzar was brought down and he ate grass like an animal. When the king realized his folly, he looked up to heaven and asked God for forgiveness. God forgave him and reinstated him as king. Nebuchadnezzar bowed down and worshipped Daniel’s God.

On August 28, 1963, the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr, made his famous “I have a dream” speech. The Civil Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B Johnson on April 11, 1968. But Martin Luther King Jr was not able to see his dream come true. He was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968. However, his impossible dream set in motion a chain of events in South Africa, where Nelson Mandela dreamt of the abolition of apartheid. Nelson Mandela’s dream and speech “Long Walk to Freedom” came true in 1991 when he became the first Black President of AMC in 1999. He went through a lot of suffering, pain and scorn in prison in S Africa to fulfil his dream.

In recent times we have just witnessed the impossible dream of Martin Luther Jr come true in the life of Hussein Obama, who had an impossible dream. Born of a Muslim Black father and a White mother, he was brought up by a devout Christian grandmother in faraway Hawaii. Obama’s impossible dream came true in spite of the many odds against him. He created history by becoming the 44th President of the USA. With his slogan “Yes We Can” he fulfilled his impossible dream.

Mahatma Gandhi, father of the Indian nation, also went through a lot of pain and trials in life to get our freedom from

the British. His impossible dream came through in 1947 when India got its independence. But he did not live long to see the progress as he was assassinated.

All of us have dreams. Some have fulfilled their dreams to become doctors, scientists, engineers and priests. Yet there are many like Martin Luther King Jr, who could not see his dreams come through - because God had some other plan. All we have to do is commit our dreams, desires and thoughts to the Lord and He will definitely direct and give us the desires of our hearts. When we put our trust and faith in Him, if He closes a window, He is able to open a door somewhere. And when He closes a door, he will open the floodgates of His blessings from His storehouse of plenty. He has said, in His word, “Try me and see if I will not open the flood gates and pour my spirit and blessings on all who believe and trust in me.” Though some of our dreams have come true in many of our lives, they have not gone according to God’s will. We see in this wicked world we live in - doctors who do not serve the poor, needy people but exploit them, engineers who put more sand than cement in the mix, bringing many high rise apartments and flyovers crashing, teachers who don’t teach good values and preachers in every country and religion, who do not practise what they preach.

As I write this, I am in Houston, Texas, working on an honorary basis in my wife Jean's church - Long Point Baptist Church. It is very disheartening to counsel the many young and old who come for assistance because of lost jobs and inability to make mortgage payments. As I move about in Houston, I am saddened to see that many stores and eateries which I had frequented have closed down due to the recession. Many people's dreams have been shattered - a very sad situation in the land of milk and honey.

Like Joseph in the Old Testament and Nelson Mandela and Obama in our time, let us pray to God for direction that each one of our good and impossible dreams will come true and that we glorify God in all our vocations. It only

takes a spark to set the fire going. It only takes an impossible dream to set your life aglow. Let your impossible dreams be a beacon to brighten someone in this dark gloomy world. Dreams do come true - so dream a beautiful, impossible dream and let the impossible become possible in our lives by His strength and mighty power. Always brighten the corner where you are — let's make the world a better place by living a life pleasing to God.

*To dream the impossible dream  
To fight the unbeatable foe  
To bear with unbearable sorrow  
And to run where the brave dare not go.  
To right the unrightable wrong  
To love pure and chaste from afar  
To try when your arms are too weary  
To reach the unreachable star.*

(From The Man of La Mancha)

### **The power of “thank you”**

*“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High.” – Psalm 92:1*

Think about the power of these two little words—thank you! One sincerely spoken thank you can change a person's demeanor from morose to merry almost as quickly as you can say the words.

Thanksgiving releases gratitude in our hearts and immunizes us from the pessimism and cynicism that is all around us. There is nothing more important to our mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Here are ten things for which you can be thankful: Answered prayer on your behalf; Habits, good ones formed and bad ones broken; Sins forgiven; Healing from the secret hurts of your heart; Life's storms, those you've gone through and others that have passed you by; Friends, old and new; Impossibilities that became achievements; Gifts given and received; Possibilities yet to be discovered; and Hope that springs eternal.

Make thanksgiving an essential part of your life! Take time to share with friends and family the things for which you are thankful. And don't forget to say “thank you” to God for all his blessings in your life, too.

Source: *A Positive Minute from the Hour of Power*

### Asha Nivas

**I**t's the time of advent, when we think of the coming of Jesus into the world to heal the relationship between God and humankind. It has to do with the understanding the other person's point of view, forgiving not only the other person but ourselves, and praying for each other. We need to say to ourselves "Love keeps no record of wrongs". God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting man's sins against them (2 Corinthians 5:19) Residents of Asha Nivas have very cordial relationship with one another and help one another wherever possible.

Asha Nivas had its share of joys and sorrows in the last six months. Percy and Saro Williams, members of St. John's Church joined Asha Nivas in October this year. The necessary facilities are being made available to the residents to make their stay as comfortable as possible. Recently railings were fixed to help the residents. The residents enjoyed the

cooking demonstration organized by the Women's Fellowship of our church.

Problems of health worry them. One of the residents Mary Ambrose, who has been admitted to the geriatric ward at the CSI hospital, is improving. The residents are indeed very grateful to Dr. Lily John who visits them and renders necessary help. They are also thankful to the medical team of the CSI hospital who extends necessary medical treatment to them.

Many residents have passed on to be with our Lord. Recently, Ms. Yvonne Chander on October 11, and Ms. June Corneille on November 23, 2009. The number of residents in Asha Nivas has reduced. Especially during such times residents would greatly appreciate your visit and your encouragement. On December 15, the Christmas celebration was held for residents.

A few rooms are vacant at Asha Nivas. Please contact Church office for details.

Lalitha Vergis, *Convener*

***Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.***

– Henry Ford

## Choir

*'All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voices'*

The Choir took active part during Harvest; we had one stall this year. Every first Sunday of the month, the choir leads the worship through a time of praise and worship. The fifth Sunday of every month is observed as Choir Sunday, where the choir members are involved in reading the Scripture portions, collection of offertory and leading in the intercessory prayer.

We are all geared towards the highlight of the year — 'Carols by

Candlelight' on December 20, 2009. The Choir practices every Sunday after service as well as on Friday at 7:00 p.m. We are looking forward to the success of the programme and we pray that in every thing we do, we bring Glory to God. The choir also visits the homes of the congregation members during our carol rounds. This year the carol rounds will be on December 21, 22, 23, 2009.

May the Joy and Peace of Our Lord's birth fill our hearts this Christmas Season.

Frank Aron, *Choir Director*

## Men's Fellowship

It's good to see younger men joining the Fellowship this year. Twenty members attended our 19th Annual General Body Meeting on April 19, 2009. The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports with the audited Accounts Statement and the Budget were presented. The new committee was elected - Peter S.C. Pothan (President), Ernest R. Shaw (Secretary), Mel Patterson (Treasurer) and Benny Francis and Jehu Kumar, members.

As usual we have had a series of interesting meetings on various topics. On World Environment Day, Rev. Prem Mitra spoke on *Who are our neighbours*. Rev. Vincent Rajkumar spoke on Father's

Day. Members shared memories of their fathers. Dr. Siga Arles helped us to look forward to the World Missionary Conference in 2010 and consider missions today. Dr. John Parry shared on mission to the Sikhs. We held our Independence Day Social on August 20 with quizzes on India. Pastor Samuel Koshy shared on *The Role of Christians in Independent India*.

Rev. T.S. Rajasekar spoke on *Gandhiji today* on October 1 to mark Gandhi Jayanthi. Rev. Dr. Dexter Maben spoke on *Karnataka and Christians* on November 5 as part of our Rajyotsava celebrations. Mel Patterson shared about the Friend-in-Need Society, which is one of our

projects. A freewill offering of Rs.2,450 was collected.

During our bi-monthly meetings, we greet members celebrating their birthdays or wedding anniversaries with specially designed cards signed by all the members, and pray and sing for them. They respond by hosting refreshments.

We hold Bible studies on the first and third Sundays of each month. Vinod David is leading these studies on *Fundamentals of the Christian Faith*.

The Men's Fellowship was in charge of coupon sales at the Church Harvest Festival. As usual our Dosa Stall was a great hit. We donated several saris and other items for the auction as well as the vegetables and fruit to decorate the church.

At the Vacation Bible School, Men's Fellowship members manned the registration on all the 10 days besides helping with the judging of competitions for the classes. We donated money for the one day's refreshments at VBS and for Women's Fellowship Sale.

Several of our members attend the Men's Fellowship meeting of the First AG Church on the first Saturday morning of each month. This ecumenical co-operation and fellowship is greatly appreciated.

We all look forward to our Christmas social and dinner with spouses on December 10.

We welcome all the men of the Church to join us for fun, fellowship and learning together.

Peter S.C. Pothan, *President*

## MISUNDERSTANDING

*When you are misunderstood  
in what you say or do –  
do not let the situation  
hurt or anger you...Pray about it.  
Time will straighten out  
The tangled thread  
Say no word to worsen matters  
Think kind thoughts instead  
If you know that you have always  
Tried to do your best*

*Do not be embittered or disgruntled  
Let it rest  
If things done or said were done  
Or said with good intent  
Leave it for the moment.  
Things are worse with argument  
Often times, misunderstandings  
have a happy end-  
and one we thought an enemy  
is turned into a friend.*

by Patience Strong

## Stephen's Home for the Aged

*Then the righteous will answer Him, Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger & invite you in...." "The king will reply, I tell you the truth; whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me..."*

**I**t is in this, we believe we find the reason, the motivation for the origin and the continued functioning of Stephen's Home, which has continued to be a refuge for the homeless. The ten residents are looked after with care and compassion by the dedicated warden Shyamala and her helpers. Alva and Luther continue their regular visits to conduct prayers and devotions. The pastors and the Stephen's Home

Committee ensure the smooth running of the home. St. John's family responds readily to the requirements whenever the chart is put up on the notice board. Manohar Mason and his staff at Pentagon Communications have been preparing these charts for several years. The residents and committee members convey their thanks to all the above contributors.

Christmas was celebrated on December 5, 2009. In her own inimitable way, Juliet Thomas, Director of THARA, an NGO, involved in the empowerment of women, who was the speaker on this occasion, got the residents to be children again with an action song.

*Stephen's Home Managing Committee*

## Women's Fellowship

**J**une to December is rather a busy term for us, with interesting programmes and important events. We have been enriching ourselves with regular Bible studies, devotions and quizzes, debates on current issues and the sharing of our experiences. People of God do come to our Women's Fellowship and help us to understand the word of God and equip us for greater ministry and challenges ahead of us. Among them was the Bangalore Aparna team who spoke to us on "Prayer"

and enriched our walk in faith. Our visit to members who are home-bound has been greatly appreciated. Our outreach programme strengthens our mind and spirit because we are able to spend time with the less fortunate people, by singing, praying and sharing God's message.

Our picnic in July to the Baneragatta National Park refreshed us in body and mind. On the safari we saw lions and tigers. KEA people entertained us with



delicious lunch and their school children with their dance. Picnics are indeed a welcome respite from the drudgery of work.

Our Annual Sale this year was a great success. We raised Rs. 1.5 lakhs. We collected good jumble, and raised Rs.21,000. We sincerely thank the congregation, our friends and well-wishers for their support. Our funds are distributed to social and evangelical organizations. A big thank you to all the ladies, who helped us on the sale day.

Chicken Chettinad, a cooking demonstration by Sylvia Nirmal filled us with enthusiasm to try it at home.

On Women's Sunday, September 21, we had a special programme in church. Juliet Thomas was our speaker. At the breakfast sale after service, we collected

Rs. 10,000. At the Harvest Festival we put up five stalls, and raised Rs.35,000.

On November 21, 2009, we went for a full day retreat to SIACS (above photo). Our two resource persons shared God's message with us. In the afternoon, there were quiz programmes, games and a skit on Ida Scudder.

The Women's Fellowship brought Christmas joy to the patients in the geriatric ward of the CSI Hospital, and residents of Friend In Need Society.

We had our Christmas Party on December 8, 2009, at the community centre. We will re-open in January 2010.

We thank God for the many new members who have joined the fellowship, and the wonderful way in which He leads us.

Rani Samson, *Vice-President*

## St. John's High School

The young leaders of the junior and high school were sworn in on June 15, 2009. Rev. Nirmala Vasanthkumar, Presbyterian, St John's Church, said the opening prayer. The chief guest, Mr Ravi V. Melwani, exhorted the students to dream and turn their dreams into reality. The school choir sang 'Make me a channel of your peace.'

The colourful Sports Day was conducted on July 31, 2009. Mr. Syed Ulfath Hussain, DIG, Police Recruitment & Training, CID, Bangalore, was the chief guest. He emphasized the need for a sound mind in a sound body and said healthy citizens make a healthy country. The ISC students performed aerobics in step with 'Jai Ho.' The middle school students displayed their Taekwondo skills.

On Prize Day, the chief guest was Mr B. R. Muthukumar, a retired ambassador. Mrs. Anuradha Muthukumar gave away the prizes. Mr. Muthukumar said that it

is important not only to turn out doctors and engineers but also economists, chartered accountants and scientists. The choir sang 'Oh worship the Lord.'

The combined celebration of KCD Teachers' Day was held on September 5, 2009, at the Bishop Cotton Boys' School. Our Bishop, Rt. Rev. Vasanthkumar, spoke.

On October 29 and 30, 2009, the school organised an English language festival with events like Spell Well, debate, an Elizabethan fashion show, theatrics, verse speaking, portrait drawing and a quiz. Students from Frank Anthony Public School, Cathedral High School, Bishop Cotton Girls' School and St Joseph's Boys' School participated. St Joseph's were the winners and Frank Anthony, runners-up.

On Children's Day, the teachers put up a special show to entertain the students and tell them that they are special.

## St. John's Hostel

I had a blessed and rewarding two years of being involved in the life of the hostel boys. We, as St. John's members, are thankful to God for His unconditional love that has inspired us to share the love, money and time with these boys who have been entrusted to our care.

We especially want to remember all those who happily and voluntarily donate finance, mattresses, Christmas gifts, and good provisions for nutritious food. Our thanks to Ajit and Susie Verghese for the computer and printer, and Leslie and Edna Bonnell for the inverter which is

very useful when there is no power. St. John's Sunday School takes special care to spiritually nurture the boys.

Our gratefulness to our volunteers Deepak Abraham, Anuradha Pole, Greta Sigamani for coaching the boys in their studies, and to Chowler from Asha Nivas for teaching them western music and Daisy in taking scripture classes. Their day to day activities are taken care of and supervised by the warden Veda Vimala Das

It was encouraging to receive assistance from the members of the sub-sommittee of the last biennium who met regularly, the Presbyters and the office staff. The new sub-committee, which was formed in August for the biennium 2009-201, is equally encouraging.

Five new boys have been admitted this year. The boys attend different schools — St John's, Methodist Mission and St Aloysius. They all do fairly well in academics and excel in sports and extra

curricular activities. Ramakrishna and Romeo finished their Xth in April and they are doing their PUC at Tumkur College.

The boys receive extra care, concern, love and encouragement and counselling from the staff of St John's under the leadership of the principal Rani Rajkumar.

We plan to renovate the hostel kitchen during the Christmas holidays and to cover the open space of the roof with fiber glass.

We are mindful of our Lord's provisions. There's lots to be done. He showers on and surprises His children - both those who give and receive.

As we celebrate Christmas- I feel that everyday is Christmas day for the boys because the members of God's family share God's love salvation the boys – "Love was born at Christmas".

J yoti Parker  
*Convenor*

**Do you know your HYMNS?**

Dentist's Hymn.....	Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn.....	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's Hymn.....	The Church's One Foundation
The Golfer's Hymn.....	There's a Green Hill Far Away
The Politician's Hymn.....	.....Standing on the Promises
Optometrist's Hymn.....	Open My Eyes That I Might See
The Doctor's Hymn.....	The Great Physician
The Realtor's Hymn.....	.....I've Got a Mansion Just over the Hilltop



# Milestones

## NEW MEMBERS



Narasaiah & Jemime Samuel and children Naresh & Dharshini from Benson  
Yuing Pushpa from Kalyan Nagar  
Israel & Seema Betgeri and son Ryan from Kammanahalli  
Nitin & Marlyn Advani and daughter Soniya from Banaswadi  
Joshu & Ruth Madan and children Anthony & Timothy from Domlur  
George David and children Nisha & Ashwin from AECS Layout  
Ramya Thomas from Frazer Town  
Peter & Renuka Seelan and son Joel from K.G. Halli  
Ruban and Indra Richard and daughter Rani from Kalyan Nagar  
Moses Packiyaraj from Hutchins Road  
David & Prema Salagundla and son Satish from Vimanapura  
Amrit & Sneha and son Abraham from U B City  
Frank & Anita Robert and children Hannah & Joash  
Chakko & Rebecca from Cooke Town  
George & Beena Korula from Kalyan Nagar  
Arun & Cheryl Christopher from Vignananagar  
S.J. Amalan & Angeline and daughter Maria from Kalyan Nagar  
Justin and Primrose Solomon and children Joseph & Bron from Banaswadi

## BAPTISM



**Nirmala Nancy, daughter of Sheela & Rabboni Rajan**  
**Ryan Jonathan, son of Seema & Israel Beigeri**  
**Shannon, daughter of Merlyn & Stanley Benjamin**  
**Soniya Rachel, daughter of Marlyn & Nitin Advani**  
**Tushara Miriam, daughter of Jaya & Paul Samuel**  
**Immanuel, son of Annie & Merlin Moses**  
**Sakshi, daughter of Priya & Clement Williams**  
**Mica, daughter of Florence & David Swaminathan**  
**Jayden, son of Suman & Vijayaanand**  
**Aryan Peter, son of Girija & Vikram Peter**  
**Harshita, daughter of Glory & Ameet Kumar**  
**Simanrha Ruth daughter of Becky & Immanuel Solomon**

## WEDDING



**Jeeva Anna George & Deepak Abraham**  
**Ranjeetha Racheal Gokuldas & Dan Barnabas Inja**  
**Benita Maria Eapen & Biju Varghese**  
**Reetu Amrita John & Manbha Lamare Rymbai**  
**Irene Suhasini Daniel & Vinod Aaron**  
**Annie Vaseekaran & Vimalraj Alexander**

## Remembering Mrs. Edith Mullins

When I entered St. John's campus in 1964, I was greatly impressed with the reception I received from the organisers of the first VBS. At the end of the VBS programme, there was a general and sincere invitation from St. John's to join the Sunday School. My memory goes back to that year when I joined St. John's Sunday School under the leadership of Rev. Joe and Mrs. Edith Mullins and the band of dedicated teachers. The present Parish Hall was venue for the assembly and classes.

Mrs. Mullins was very kind to us. Her gentle smiles attracted all the children to listen to her intently. She played the piano and taught us simple choruses and hymns from 'Golden Bells'. Rev. Mullins would join us on the accordion, and made sure we sang correctly and joyfully. I was encouraged and inspired to memorize Bible verses week after week and understand biblical stories on obedience, faith, trust and love. It was an honour to receive the best student award in 1968 Mrs. Mullins was the SS Superintendent.

Every Saturday, I would show up in the church to help the sextons Mr. Abraham, Mr. David and later Mr. Joseph with the cleaning of the pews, choir benches and polish the brass items. Mrs. Mullins would come in with a flask of coffee and biscuits for all the volunteers. Few members of Women's Fellowship would be there to help in arranging flowers, sewing and mending choir robes, etc. Mrs. Mullins



would make sure all of us had our refreshments.

She was a mother figure at St. John's Church. Along with Padre Mullins, she would pay special attention to the needs of poorer members of the congregation. Many children and young people were assisted and encouraged to continue their studies and training because of their help and compassion. I am one such recipient of their kindness.

Though my parents were not members of St. John's, Rev. and Mrs. Mullins were the only people to visit my home on Osborne Road to comfort my mother and our family when my father passed away suddenly because of a heart attack in August 1970.

There was emptiness when they moved to Australia. But they kept in touch with me and sent their family prayer letter every year. In the year 2000, I happened to be in Melbourne for a Conference. Rev. and Mrs. Mullins invited me over to Canberra to spend a few days with them

in their retirement village. Mrs. Mullins made sure I was most comfortable. She prepared a temporary bed, cooked good meals, took me shopping and for a picnic in the woods.

She introduced me to the people in the infirmary closer to her residence that she visited regularly to pray and encourage them. Most of them were confined to their wheelchairs and cots. My greatest impression of her was her prayer life. She would rise early in the morning and kneel

down beside her bed to pray for long duration. She had a prayer list that had names of individuals, organisations and missions. She even gave me few booklets she wrote.

I truly thank God for such a saintly person like Mrs. Edith Mullins who made a significant impact on my life, as in others too. May the Lord Almighty grant her the long expected peace.

Thomas Swaroop

## Healing Thoughts

**James 1:19** – My dear brothers, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry

**Proverbs 18:13** – What a shame, what folly to give advice before listening to the facts.

**Proverbs 17:14** – Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** – Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Matthew 7:12** – So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

**Romans 12:20** – On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

**2 Peter 1:5-6** – For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness

**Proverbs 25:15** – Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

**Ephesians 4:32** – Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Mrs. Edith Mullins (84 yrs) Died on October 30, 2009



On October 5, 2009, I sat with Mum and Dad and asked them “What do two old soldiers who are close to Heaven want me to say to the congregation

of God’s people at St John’s Bangalore?”

Mum said, with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye, “How could we ever forget St John’s? We loved our work there. Twelve years is a large part of your life. Our six children grew up there.” Mum loved seeing the Sunday School grow. I think there were around a hundred children. I can still picture Mum up the front leading the singing. . . .”I’m on my way to Heaven, my heart is bubbling over with its joy, joy, joy.” She loved training up the Sunday School teachers. She also loved leading the Women’s Fellowship, and seeing women grow to understand and love God’s Word, and to love and obey Jesus.

Mum came to put her trust in Jesus as her Saviour and Lord as an 18-year-old University student. A year or two before, when she heard of someone going to be a Missionary, she had said “What a waste!” Jesus turned her around and laid on her heart His call to her — to be a missionary!!

After training, God opened up the way for her to come to India to be a Bible

teacher. She was at language school near Dehra Dun in North India studying hard to learn Hindi so that she would be able to teach the Bible well in Hindi. It was 1954. She was single and felt that was how she would stay. God had other plans!! Joe Mullins, also single and working for Scripture Union visited “Edgehill” and heard Edith Gooding pray. She was the one for him!! Edith took a bit of convincing as she only wanted God’s will for her!

Since Jesus called Mum, she has not stopped teaching the Bible. She had a Scripture Union group of around 200 at her old school in Barbados, where she taught for two years following her undergraduate degree in Canada. After formal training in the UK, she worked alongside Dad in India holding missions in schools, first in North India and then in the south. She taught her six children, she taught Sunday schools in Bangalore, Canberra and Goulburn. She taught women in Women’s Fellowships in Bangalore, and in Australia. During their ‘retirement’, she wrote seven little booklets explaining Biblical truth, simply so that anyone could understand. So her teaching still goes on!

On October 30, 2009, after a short seven-week illness of liver secondary cancer, Mum was ushered into Heaven by her Lord.

*Jennie, Daughter*



**Mrs. Kusam Dennis** (99 yrs)

Died on 29-12-08



*Our beloved Nanna  
She spent every minute of her 99 years  
Living life to the fullest.  
She loved, she cared, she nurtured  
She adored, she laughed, she reproved, she prayed  
and she sang  
She made herself unforgettable and irreplaceable.  
If we could, Nanna  
we would have loved to keep you with us till the  
end of time,  
But Heaven too needs an angel like you,  
We understand.  
Though our hearts ache when we realize you have  
left us forever,  
We know you are still watching over us  
And we will all one day be there with you in the Lord.  
That's our consolation.  
We love you, Nanna.*

*Tribute from sorrowing children,  
grandchildren and great grandchildren*

**Mrs. Mercy Kalappa** (74 yrs)

Died on 18-04-09

**Mrs. Sheila Isaac** (72 yrs)

Died on 24-04-09



My mother stood for certain values. She believed in helping people by doing certain helpful actions rather than just prayer. She went to work faithfully right till the end. She retired as a Professor in Nutrition from Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science. After retirement and moving to Bangalore, she had a voluntary job with the SDA Hospital where she would help with the nutrition of diabetic patients especially diabetic pregnant mothers. She was a regular church member of St. John's and paid up her dues every year. My mother Sheila would regularly visit Asha Nivas and the St. John's Boys' Hostel with her home-made brownies and sit and chat with the residents. She was financially careful and planned well in advance and would carry it through right till the end. She was a generous yet private individual. She was strong, yet weak. She looked after the guests who would come to visit the home very well. In other words she was a hospitable person. She was also a truthful person — honest in her dealings with others.

She was a good person, and I and the extended family miss her. May her soul rest in peace.

**N ita I saac, daughter**

***Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep,  
or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.***

***1 Thessalonians 4:13***

**Mr. Ronald Yates** (49 yrs)  
Died on 08-05-09

**Mrs. Lily Jeyapalan** (75 yrs)  
Died on 07-06-09

My mother was born in 1933 in a very God-fearing family. Her father the late Mr. G.A. Samuel was the President for ToCH, a service society that met at St. John's Church regularly during 1950-60. So she had exposure to St. John's as early as 1950's. She became part of the Lutheran Church after her marriage and then after retirement both my parents became members of CSI Divya Shanthi Church, Lingarajapuram. She was an active member of the Women's Fellowship. She became a member of St. John's only in 2007 after her illness when she had to move to live with my sister, Esther Arul and family, who are members of St. John's.



My mom was a teacher by profession. She displayed every quality of a teacher by being patient in her hearing, gentle and caring towards everyone she came across in her life. She could withstand any amount of pressure or troubles without a murmur or grumble. Many people will stand witness for her caring nature.

During her terminal illness, she displayed tremendous courage and helped us the family to accept her sickness. Many a time, it was I who always use to break down and could not come to terms with my mother's illness and the very thought of losing her.

Even today her presence is so strongly felt by each one of us every day. Her grandchildren adored her for her love, affection and guidance in their lives.

She was a very social person, always able to adapt to new surroundings quickly. She had large circle of friends both at work and wherever she lived. This was evident by their presence at her funeral.

Her strong advice to us as children is to forgive one another and live in peace and harmony not only with our own family but also with every one we meet in our life's journey.

**Manjula Swaroop, *Daughter***

**Mrs. Susheela Sunderraj** (86 yrs)  
Died on 17-06-09

She was a regular worshipper at our Church died on June 17, 2009. She was 86. She will be remembered by many for her instant smile that would greet just about everyone whom she'd see after Sunday morning services. Of her three children, two of them, Usha Barnabas and Sudarshan Raj worship at St. John's. May her soul rest in peace.



**Capt. Oswald Allen** (82 yrs)  
Died on 28-06-09

**Mr. Eugene Titus** (52 yrs)  
Died on 04-07-09

**Mrs. G. Eling** (80 yrs)

Died on 16-08-09



**Denzil Bentley** (66 yrs)

Died on 22-08-09

Naval veteran Denzil Bentley was a well-known jazz musician, who had been playing the trumpet since the 1960s. He performed at the international Navy Meet at Osaka, Japan.



He did studio recordings for 10 years. He played live around the country - at Cochin, Vizag, Pune, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore. He played with various bands like Shades, Avengers, the Mystyx, Fantabs and the C Street Band. He regularly played at Java City on Church Street. Though influenced by Miles Davis and Louis Armstrong, he evolved his own unique style. Other musicians admired his ability to improvise instantly. He was a regular at the 6.30 am service.

*When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more,  
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;  
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.*

**Jeremy O'Kelly** (13 yrs)

Died on 09-09-09

*He left the world knowing he was loved.  
Nothing in life could be a more precious gift.  
You'll always be in our heart, son*

Jeremy was born on July 9, 1996. His grand- mother, Linda, brought him up as both of us were working. She loved to take care of him, and also had the help of my sister Christine and a close friend Thelma King.



Jeremy was a very loving child — he used to be all over with his nana Linda. In 2003, she was called to be with the Lord. Jeremy missed her a lot and used to talk to her as if she was still around. Jeremy then became very close to his dad.

Jeremy went to St. John's High School from LKG to the VI standard and for the next school term, we put him in St. Paul's High School in the VII standard. He enjoyed going to school. Loved to play games like football, basketball and kabbadi. All the rough games, Jeremy was ready to play. He loved animals and birds alike, and showed kindness to them. He loved little children and old people too. He used to be with friends who did not have much so that he, in his little way, could try to help them and make them happy. He did not like to see anyone sad, crying or sitting alone. He would always go and cheer them up. He loved being with his dad and always wanted to be the one to help him out.

There was a very strong bond between Dad and Jeremy. Dad was everything to him. His strong Dad, he used to say - and that is very true even today. To his Mama, he was a great support. Always there to do little things for her and make her proud and happy.

We remember Jeremy for his kindness towards animals, birds, children and old people and to his mama and dada. He was always a happy child. We have spent a lot of time pondering over why this had to happen. The December 16 devotion in Our Daily Bread encouraged us — when the One you entrusted with your child allows the child to be taken, it would be easy to stop trusting, serving, and pointing others to God, but the person who fears God will never be shaken ...His heart is steadfast.(Ps.112:6-7) and so we — and you, no matter what you are facing — can continue to be steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

We are greatly touched by the support from our dear members of St. John's Church, our family and friends, and we thank you for it. Your prayers and contributions for Jeremy's hospitalization will always be remembered.

*When God calls little children to dwell with Him above,*

*We mortals sometimes question the wisdom of His love.*

*For no heartache compares with the death of one small child,*

*who does so much to make our world seem wonderful and mild.*

Joshua and Gerri

**Mrs. Rosey George** (88 yrs)

Died on 12-09-09

When I remember Ammachi, I remember her as a tower of strength. None of 6 children ever did anything serious, without getting her clearance. because, we



believed in her ultimate wisdom. Since Achan's departure early in the lives of at least the last three of us children, Ammachi was the sole refuge and source of inspiration for us.

In each and every single matter concerning our lives, she took decisions that proved to be balanced and enduring. As some of us children moved away to different parts of the country for work, she expected all of us to write to her regularly at least once a week. In her inland letters crammed even to the sides, writing sideways in the margin finally, she would have included the profoundest of matters along with titbits and trivia concerning our many relatives near and far, living in far-flung places within the country and abroad. Reading her letters weekly. Later on when the telephone became more convenient to use, she expected us to call her regularly. I was aware who did what, what was happening to the elderly members, who was marrying whom, whose son or daughter got a job, who moved away or who came back recently from abroad, who visited recently.

As Ammachi was the eldest and the most responsive of the family members surviving in the two branches of our family for the last several years - on Achan's side and

Ammachi's side - there would always be our relatives dropping by, who paid respects to Ammachi. She became a rallying point for several of our relatives living in different parts of the globe. In situations that called for astute judgement, Ammachi's high sense of justice would prevail. Without fear or favour, she used to speak her mind. To some such frankness and firmness would have appeared to be a little harsh and uncomfortable. But later on, they all would come around - proving that her stand on that particular issue was correct and just.

It is true that some of us gave her a hard time sometimes, through our behaviour and our approach towards certain problems. Even when she would have been disturbed initially due to such happenings, she would eventually forgive and forget and hold us close to her heart. I think she would have submitted all that to the Heavenly Father at the end of the day as she read the Bible just before going to sleep - a practice she never gave up till the very last, as was her Friday fast.

I would like to mention that Ammachi was a great cook and has inspired me to explore in that area.

Prema George, *Daughter*

**Mr. Albert Paul** (72 yrs)

Died on 17-09-09

**Mr. Albert Paul** was a member of St. John's for a very long time. He came from Secunderabad as a boy and studied in Bangalore. After his graduation he worked in Bangalore and for a short time in EFICOR. However, he was best known as an insurance agent with United India Insurance Co. Ltd. especially since he sold policies to the members and the church. He travelled long distances on his scooter for this and was very particular to see that the claims of his clients were settled quickly. Mr. Paul and his wife regularly attended the 8.30 a.m. service. Both their daughters were christened and confirmed in our church. Albert was an active member of the Men's Fellowship and an Executive Committee member for several years. After a long sickness he passed away on October 14, 2009. He was a committed husband and father and a very good friend to many of us.



***I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.***

***2 Timothy 4:7***

***I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Philippians 1:3***

***The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit***

***Psalms 34:18***

***Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.***

***Matthew 5:4***

**Mrs. Molly Fenn (78 years)**

Died on 14-07-09

**Mr. Abraham Fenn (84 yrs)**

Died on 21-09-09



**Mr. Abraham and Mrs. Molly Fenn** lived in their own house in Ramakrishna Layout, Cox Town, and were regular members of St. John's Church for several years. They come from the well-known Fenn family in Kottayam. After Mr. Fenn became house bound a few years ago, Mrs. Fen continued to attend the 8.30 a.m. service each Sunday. Mrs. Fenn suddenly fell sick and passed away on July 14, 2009 Mr. Fenn was heartbroken and passed away on September 21. They leave behind their two sons who are abroad.

**Mrs. Yvonne Chander (68 yrs)**

Died on 11-10-09



**Ms. Grace Benjamin (84 yrs)**

Died on 05-11-09

**She** retired as Registrar in 1983 at the Trade Marks Registry in Chennai. After her retirement she stayed with her brother, E.D. Benjamin, and moved with him and his family to Bangalore in 1995.



**June Roselyn Hyacinth Corneille (70 yrs)**

Died on 23-11-09

*TENDERLY, God's Love will heal our sorrow.  
GENTLY, the Prayers of Friends will ease our hurt  
SOFTLY, God's peace will replace our Heartache with warm and loving memories.*



June was the second daughter of Noel & Isabelle Corneille. She studied in Bangalore and did her Governess Training at Dr. Graham's Home, Kalingpong. She travelled to England, Europe and West Indies in her job. When she returned to India, she worked in the Nilgiris at St. Hilda's and Cliff Schools as a Matron. In Bangalore she worked in the Bishop Cotton's School, till she retired in 1999. Her unfortunate stroke in 2004 left her bedridden. Her many friends and well-wishers visited her and cheered her up. Her passing away has left a void in our lives. Her suffering of five years was patiently borne. Now she is at rest.

### **Asha Nivas Remembers...**

Although it may be very late, I honestly feel that it is a God-given opportunity for the residents of Asha Nivas to record their feelings/respects, through the Pulse magazine, for the services rendered by late Dr. Mrs. C. Aaron and Mrs. Sheila Isaac. It is a token of our affection, appreciation and admiration of two well-known departed souls for their untiring and memorable service, willingly and devotedly rendered by them to us. Both served in the management committee of Asha Nivas and contributed to the welfare of Residents.

**Dr. C. Aaron:** When she entered Asha Nivas every Sunday evening, she did so, as a mother not as a professional doctor. Her devotion to her medical profession is well known to everyone; but, how many of St. John's Church congregation knew of Dr. Aaron's care, concern, and compassion for the health of Asha Nivas residents. This cannot be expressed in words. Her calm, quiet, genuine involvement in medical check-up and counselling is incomparable. How, can we, the residents of Asha Nivas

forget her relentless and untiring efforts and endeavours relating to treatment of the late Mr. Balraj for cancer at Kidwai Institute.

**Mrs. Sheila Isaac:** Her association with Asha Nivas was in a different capacity. By nature, she too, like Dr. Aaron was a service-minded lady. She never hesitated to extend a helping hand to any resident. When Beatrice Harding was not keeping well and was physically very weak, Mrs. Isaac used to send soup for several days; in fact on most days, she brought it herself.

She took pleasure in taking residents to her farm house. She always provided a sumptuous lunch or high tea on the birthdays or wedding anniversaries of her family members. Being an experienced and knowledgeable dietician, she used to give valuable and useful suggestions for the menu of Asha Nivas. Right through, she was social, jovial and congenial, at the same time respectful to residents.

M.S. A sirwatham

*Resident Representative, Asha Nivas*

### **STOP PRESS**

It is with great sadness that we include this in Pulse. Nineteen-year old **Joshua Pavan Martin**, son of Martin and Keren Rajendran and brother of Rachel, suddenly passed away on **December 18, 2009.**



*One step starts each journey  
One word starts each prayer  
One word raises our spirits  
One word frames our goal  
One word will speak with wisdom  
One heart can know what's true  
One life can make the difference  
... You see it's all up to you*

This poem was penned by Joshua as President of the Interact Club when he was in the ninth class.