



Church of St John the Baptist

Church of South India, Diocese of Medak



THE PARISH MESSENGER

Monsoon Edition- August 2022

Church of St John the Baptist
Church of South India Diocese of Medak

THE PARISH MESSENGER



A stunning panoramic view of St John's Church. (Photo: courtesy Lenny Emanuel)

MONSOON EDITION

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Table of Contents

From the Editor's Desk —Mrs Sheila Kurian	1
Presbyter's Greetings —Rev.U Daniel	2
A Few Words about Rev.Dr Undunty Daniel	3
REPORTS	4
Honorary Church Secretary's Report —Mr Mesa James Samuel	4
Property Matters —Mr Ajit Alexander George	6
St John the Baptist's Outreach Programme —Mr Ajit Alexander George	10
Men's Fellowship —Mr PF Augustine	11
Women's Fellowship —Mrs Angelina Clement	12
FOG: In His Continued Service —Ms Beulah Supriya	14
Vacation Bible School —Mrs Sujatha Madhukar	15
VBS 2022 —Mrs Suhasini Cecil	16
Bible Quiz —Ms Joyce Thompson	23
Parish News —Compiled by Ms Sheeba Roy	24
Announcements —Compiled by Dr Maneesha Mohanthy & Ms Sheeba Roy	26
Introducing New Members —Compiled by Ms Sheeba Roy	27
ARTICLES	
A True Calling —Rev.Sumalatha	30
A Musical Treat —Dr Simon D I Fleming	31
Under His Wings (Safe in His Arms) —Mrs Yashodhra Desappa	32
Living by Faith —Mr Sunil Kumar B	34
New Beginning —Dr Govardhini Chellapathy	35
A Beautiful Home —Dr Maneesha Esther Mohanthy	36
Our Bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit —Mr Amos Philip	37
Preparation for a God-Ordained Marriage —Capt. IN AJ Manohar	38
Let's Make a Difference —Dr Anthony David	39
GETTING TO KNOW OUR PC MEMBERS	41
My Work, My Life —Mrs Yashodhra Desappa	41
Family History —Ms Joyce Thompson	42
Making a Difference —Mr David Sam Roy	44

TRIBUTES Error! Bookmark not defined.

Mrs Suguna Prabhavathi Bunyan — <i>Indira Borusu</i>	45
Mrs S Sumathi — <i>Ms Sunitha David and Ms Beulah Supriya</i>	46
Kuchipudi Simon John — <i>Dr KS Suchitra</i>	47
Capt. Martin H Sunder Reddy — <i>Ms Lillian Deepa Reddy</i>	48
Betty Pamela Oldbury — <i>Mrs Veronica Pereira</i>	49
Rev. Dr Dondapati S Satyaranjan — <i>Mrs Kamala Satyaranjan and Bishop Surya Prakash</i>	50
Pereji Nitya Seraphina — <i>Mr Perej Noel and Mrs Subasini Noel</i>	52

TESTIMONIES

Monsoon Fevers — <i>Dr Mrs Priyadarshini John</i>	54
Your Voices	58
ART WORK — <i>Nathan Andrew and Joshua Bennet</i>	59
RECORDS -Church of St John the Baptist — <i>Compiled by Mr Sumanth Kumar</i>	60
<i>Baptism Records</i>	60
<i>Marriage Records</i>	61
<i>Death Records</i>	62
Events at the Church of St John the Baptist	63

From the Editor's Desk

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

The monsoon season washes our world, making everything bright and new. Buildings and roads look washed and clean. Trees and plants, dusty with months of dirt and traffic fumes, look fresh and green again; new shoots begin to appear, where there was barren land. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, dried up springs and river beds are full again, bringing with it freshness, new life and new beginnings.

The predictability of the seasons in our world is a miracle in itself and we look forward to each changing season with anticipation and tremendous hope! At the same time, each season brings its own set of responsibilities. If we don't sow, wisely and in time, we can't hope to enjoy a rich harvest and, if we don't harvest and store the produce prudently, we can't enjoy the fruits of our labour in the cold winter months, when fields are barren. It's all one wonderful cycle with a miracle around every corner, if we humans don't destroy it with our selfishness and greed. Life happens around us, and it is essential for us to pick up and, indeed, anticipate the clues, to be in harmony with God's plans for us. In every aspect of our lives, we need to do our part to nurture our homes, families and friends and, importantly, our relationship with God.

In this context, we remember anti-vaxxers who refuse to take the Covid Vaccine with the belief that one cannot be forced to take the vaccine and that God will protect them from all harm and illnesses. Our God certainly is a protector and healer and, while we depend on Him to look after us physically, mentally and psychologically, it is important to remember that we need to play our part, by taking all the precautions and medical advice necessary, to safeguard our lives and that of others around us, especially doctors and health workers. Jesus said, "It's not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick." (Mark 2:17)

The Health Corner first introduced in the Easter Edition of the Parish Messenger is a step in this direction with hands-on advice from a practising doctor from St John's.

In this edition, we have introduced new sections— *Introducing New Members*, *Parish News* (news snippets about our members, past and present) and *Your Views* section, where we look forward to receiving your comments and feedback.

We hope to make the *Parish Messenger* a vibrant platform where we come to know each other more closely and share the joys, sorrows and achievements of ourselves and our family members. This will help the St John's family stay connected.

In the context of new beginnings, we also welcome to our Church our new Presbyterian-in-charge, Rev. Dr U Daniel and the newly-elected Pastorate Committee, who will surely take St John's Church forward from strength to strength.

He covers the heavens with clouds; He prepares rain for the earth; He makes grass grow on the hills.
(Psalm 74:17)

Mrs Sheila J Kurian

Presbyter's Greetings



Rev. Dr U Daniel Presbyter-in-charge

I greet you all in the name of God Almighty.

Dearly beloved people of God, let us remember the mercy of God during the critical days of 'COVID' and His continuing grace in our lives. It is always important to trust in the Lord and continue to depend on His mercy at all times. In Psalm 91:9 we read, "You have made the Lord your defender, the Most High your protector and so no disaster will strike you, no violence will come near your home. God will put His angels in charge of you". Indeed, God is trustworthy and we are privileged to be the people owned by God.

As Christians, we all acknowledge with thankfulness that God has revealed himself in the history of the people of God in the Old Testament and in Christ Jesus, His son, who is the mediator between God and humans. God's mercy and His glory are the beginning and the end of our own history. God reminds us that we are His body, for His mission. As the body of Christ, we are called for the mission of the kingdom of God. The Lord Jesus Christ, through His word and spirit, called His church from the world. He forgave our sins, delivered us from the Lordship of the power of destruction and gathered out of this broken world, the one people of God, the community of the justified and sanctified, whose citizenship is in heaven and whose life is a witness with Christ in the God.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, through His word and Holy Spirit anointed and sent us into this world to be the light and salt in this dark world. By calling and sending His people, by granting with manifold spiritual gifts for the ministry, Jesus Christ builds up His church as the living Temple of God.

May God Almighty bless and inspire each one of us to be the living Temple of the Lord and prepare everyone in this world as His Temple for His Glory for everlasting His Kingdom.

I am happy to join the blessed pastorate of church of St John the Baptist for the ministry of our Lord and for the strengthening of His kingdom. It's a new experience, bringing new challenges and a different fellowship. In the midst of this situation, I request for your prayerful support, that I have the grace and strength to serve you all for the glory of God Almighty. I am always available for your invitation for any prayers and any pastoral counselling.

We congratulate the newly-elected Pastorate committee and I appreciate their commitment to cater to the needs of the congregation and especially their great generosity in giving of their time and money towards the church construction at S Kondapur village. We also appreciate the members of the church for their generous contribution towards this project.

Good wishes from the officers, Pastorate committee and the pastors.

The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

Yours in His service.

Rev.Undunty Daniel, BSc, BD, M Theology, (D min) is the Treasurer Medak Diocese and has recently taken over as Presbyter-in-Charge of church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad.

A Few Words about Rev.Dr Undunty Daniel

We are pleased to introduce Rev.Dr U Daniel who has recently been appointed Presbyter-in-charge of church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad. Rev.U Daniel comes to our church with wide and rich experience, having served the Church of South India in various key capacities.

Rev.Daniel, did his schooling from Wesley School, Secunderabad and BSc from Osmania University, Hyderabad. He then went on to complete his Theological studies with a Bachelor's and Post Graduate Degree in pastoral care and counselling from United theological College, Bangalore and also obtained a Doctorate in Ministry at ACTC.

Rev.Daniel served at Wesley church Secunderabad, Ramakrishnapuram and other rural areas as presbyter over several years. He also served as Presbyter-in-charge in Mancheral, Nizamabad, Wesley Church, Ramkote for 11 years and St George's Church, Hyderabad for nearly 10 years.

Rev.Daniel's special contributions in the Ministry at Medak Diocese, include the following key posts:

- *Youth Director
- *Socio-economic Secretary
- *Professional Board Secretary
- *Ministerial Secretary

At present, he holds the prestigious post of *Treasurer, Medak Diocese*.

On the personal front, Rev.U Daniel is married and has three sons. His wife, U Rosy Chrisolite, is a teacher at St George's School, Hyderabad. Their eldest son, Stevenson and his wife Esther, live in New Zealand. His two younger sons, U Manorathan lives in the UK and U Suraj Paul studying in St Joseph's India.

We warmly welcome Pastor U Daniel to St John's Church and look forward to his ministry with us.

Honorary Church Secretary's Report



Mesa James Samuel, Honorary Church Secretary

Dear St John's family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we already are entering August, we realise that we have successfully gone through half the year of 2022.

A series of events have taken place in the recent past. Pastor Rev. Cecil James has been transferred to Wesley Church, Secunderabad and Rev. Dr U Daniel has replaced him as Presbyter-in-charge.

Earlier, we had successfully gone through the Lenten period and Easter.

Our VBS this year, evoked tremendous response with more than 100 children participating. We thank Pastor Amma, Mrs Suhasini Cecil, for a wonderful job done as Director of VBS.

We have had our share of sorrows too. Unfortunately, seven of our esteemed members left for their heavenly abode in the last three months. They are:

Mrs S Sumathi, Mrs Suguna Prabhavati Bunyan, Mrs Betty Oldbury, Ms Pereji Nitya Seraphina, Mr Kuchipudi Simon John, Rev.Satyaranjan and Capt. Henry Martin Sunder Reddy.

We extend our heartfelt condolences, sympathies and prayers to the bereaved families.

Our sexton, Mr Philip was hospitalised for some time. By God's grace, he has recovered now and is keeping well.

God has been gracious to many of us, all through this year and has been taking care of us.

We held our pastorate elections in June 2022. A new team for the Triennium 2022 to 2025 is in place and functional.

The pastorate committee comprises the following members:

Mr Mesa James Samuel	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
Mr Norman Isaac	<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>
Mr Maju George	<i>Hon. PASTORATE Steward</i>
Mrs Yashodhra Desappa	<i>Hon. Church Steward</i>
Mr Ajit Alexander George	<i>Hon. Property Secretary</i>

R

Ms Joyce Thompson	<i>Senior Citizens and Help Desk</i>
Mr Micah Mrinal	<i>Cross bearers in-charge and outreach ministry</i>
Mr Sunil Johnson	<i>Poor Fund Secretary</i>
Dr M. Udaia Kumar	<i>Member</i>
Mr Rajkumar Miriyala	<i>Counting of Offertory</i>
Mrs Chrisolite Daniel	<i>Women's Fellowship President</i>
Mrs Angelina Clement	<i>Women's Fellowship Secretary</i>
Mr P F Augustine	<i>Men's Fellowship Secretary</i>
Mr David Sam Roy	<i>Member</i>
Dr Mrs Maneesha Mohanty	<i>Member Editorial Board.</i>

E

P

Additionally, we have:

Mr Joshua Veerender	<i>Chief Organist</i>
Mrs Sheila Kurian	<i>Chief Editor, Editorial Board</i>
Mrs Grace Didla	<i>Sunday School Superintendent</i>
Ms Beulah Supriya	<i>Youth Secretary</i>

O

We are trying to initiate a few new projects to make the Church even more vibrant. We have introduced a *Help Desk* headed by Ms Joyce Thompson, which is sure to be of tremendous use to the congregation members. A lot of information is available for members who wish to know the availability of the Church annexe, The Parish Hall and their tariffs for personal functions. Members may also enquire about the availability of Pastor U Daniel for prayer meetings, memorials and other similar programmes. Also available is a wide range of information for the benefit of the members.

R

The *Poor Fund Ministry* which is already in existence, is being streamlined. Mr Sunil Johnson will be in-charge of this ministry and will ensure that all needy and deserving people are properly cared for.

T

It is our endeavour to see that the Church as a family is looked after well and we are able to serve them better every day. May God bless and guide all our efforts.

S

Mr Mesa James Samuel is the Honorary Secretary at church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad. He has been worshipping in this church for the last 50 years and he and his family are active members in the church.



Property Matters



Mr Ajit Alexander George, Honorary Property Secretary

“O Lord open thou our lips and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.”

These words (Psalm 51:15) engraved on the chancel steps of our church are a prayer for divine guidance asking the Holy Spirit to carry us rejoicing, into the Father’s presence. One experiences peace and tranquillity as one enters the holy sanctuary at church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad.



A view of the chancel steps

It has always been our endeavour to maintain the sanctity and holiness of this historic church, constructed approximately 210 years ago. Listed as a heritage structure, this church requires regular maintenance and upkeep to retain its grandeur and magnificence. We have been consulting conservation architects specialised in the preservation and conservation of historic buildings, to ensure careful maintenance and to prevent any deterioration.

Extensive repair work on the Church was last carried out in 1997/98, under the able guidance of Mr I P P Prabhakar Rao and late Mr Y S Purushotham. Some of the projects undertaken in the recent past are as given below:

Electrical rewiring

As per the available records, even though completed in 1813, church of St John the Baptist was electrified only in 1914.

Subsequently, several light fittings and electrical gadgets were installed over the years, including heavy duty tower air conditioners. A few years ago, the rewiring of a major portion of the church was carried

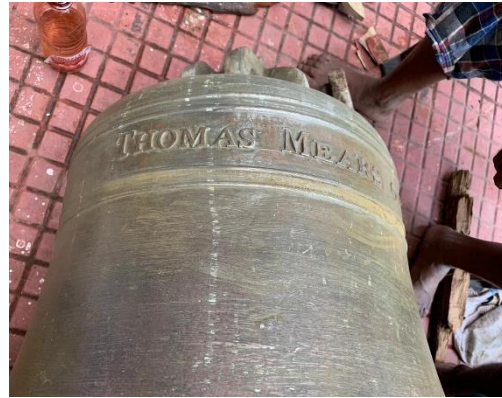
out using flame-proof cables. Section-wise switches for lights and fans were provided, to facilitate proper control.

Belfry restoration

The decayed wooden structure on the belfry was replaced with a steel structure, while retaining the original design. The belfry holds a historic bell, which weighs approximately 400 kilograms. As per the inscription on the bell, it was manufactured in 1836 by *Thomas Mears of London Bell-Founder*.

Cross on the belfry

The cross on the belfry, which had an old neon light (gas-filled), was replaced with a much safer and power-saving LED light. The Blue Cross announces the presence of the holy sanctuary to the passers-by and is a powerful symbol to remind everyone of the price paid by Jesus for our redemption. The wooden trusses on the belfry were decaying and were replaced by a suitable metal structure.



The old wooden trusses which have now been replaced and the historic bell with its original inscription

New signboard

A new graceful and elegant LED signboard has been erected at the St John's rotary.

Annex roofing

The fiber sheets on the roof of the Church Annex were replaced with sturdier and long-lasting, colour-coated, Galvalume profile sheets. An additional layer of insulation made of bobble ram with double-sided aluminum foil was fixed below the profile sheets, for temperature and noise reduction.



Repair and restoration of the Annex roof

Preservation of records

We have many registers (marriage, burial and more) and books, some of which are more than 150 years old. Most of these records were hand-done, in a truly admirable calligraphic style. We have been getting these valuable records treated at the State archives, periodically, to prevent insect infestation and to ensure proper preservation.

Minton tiles

We have encaustic (painted in ceramic) Victorian floor tiles, in several areas in the Church. These are authentic *Minton** tiles with varied patterns. Some of the tiles have developed cracks and others are broken or have gone missing over the years. Since these tiles are no longer available locally, with the help of a conservation architect, we procured heritage tiles, to replace the tiles, where required. These were individually hand cut and fixed by highly-skilled artisans from Mumbai.

We also restored a few tiles near the baptism font and on the main aisle.



Exquisite Minton tiles

**Minton was a major ceramic design company producing pottery and tiles from 1793-1968*

Landscaping

The landscaping of the Church was aesthetically modified, with a generous contribution from Col S D Chandrasekhar. The guidance of an expert horticulturist was taken for this venture. As part of the beautification, with the active participation of our Youth group a fountain was also erected in the garden.



Landscaping and modification of the Church gardens

R

On-going plans

The Pastorate Committee has decided to take up the following projects:

E

1. Renovation of church of St John the Baptist Cemetery

The church of St John the Baptist cemetery is on defence land and serves the congregation of two churches. In fact, there are several graves in this cemetery which date back to the 1800s, and some of these are graves of British and Indian soldiers. Because of their historical importance, 9 of these graves are monitored by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, headquartered in Pune.

P

A subcommittee has been constituted to study and propose a master plan for the upkeep and improvement of the cemetery. The subcommittee will also propose guidelines and rules for allotting graves, standardising the size of graves, etc. It is also planned to construct a bitumen-topped, approach road from the main road to the cemetery which would help easy movement of vehicles and people visiting the cemetery.

O

Army officials have also been requested for their support and assistance in maintaining the cemetery.

The renovation work of the cemetery is proposed to be taken up in phases in consultation with experts.

2. Renovation of toilets and Sexton's quarters

R

It is proposed to renovate the toilets as well as the Sexton's quarters at the earliest. The Diocesan engineer is being consulted in this regard.

T

Mr Ajit George has been a member of church of St John the Baptist for over 30 years. Has held various positions in St John's Pastorate Committee and recently he was appointed as Hon. Property Secretary. He has been seriously taking up various pending property matters which needed urgent attention.

S

Mr Ajit George is a Chartered Accountant by profession and currently works as Vice President-Treasury of a large corporate in the private sector.

St John the Baptist's Outreach Programme



R Mr Ajit Alexander George

In 2021, as part of our Church's outreach programme, we identified a rural village —S Kondapur in Wadiaram pastorate, to adopt and to build a church.

E Shankaraj Kondapur (S Kondapur), is a small village about 16 kms from Chengunta, on the Medak Road. From Secunderabad, it is about 65 kms to Chengunta, on the Nagpur highway. The villagers are mostly farmers.

P We were informed, that about 20 families (45 to 50 members) from the village gather for prayer in the nearby community hall on Sundays. Since there are no churches in the area at present, the Diocese of Medak has assigned a Pastor to shepherd this village community.

P The Pastorate Committee proposed that a Church could be built for this village community. Fortunately, and by God's grace, a plot of land with an area of approximately 3 guntas (~ 365 sq.yds.) was available with the CSI Church. It was decided that we construct a small church on this land and the plan and necessary approvals were given by the Diocese.

O As per the estimate, the total cost of construction should be around Rs 18 lakhs. The local villagers, with their personal contribution and with some loans, spent about Rs 2 lakhs for the foundation work of the Church building.

R It was agreed that church of St John the Baptist should contribute the rest of the required amount to complete the construction work. We could also extend support to the locals through our various Fellowships, as part of our outreach programme. We have been receiving generous contributions from our members and funds are being released based on the progress of work, through the Diocese.

Incidentally, our Presbyter-in-charge and a few of the Pastorate Committee members have been visiting this village periodically to review the progress of construction. .

T The local members are always very welcoming and receive us with lots of warmth. We also have lunch, specially prepared by them, at the community hall. It is a heartwarming experience and inspires us to ensure that this project is completed at the earliest.

S *Mr Ajit George has been a member of St John's for over 30 years. He has held various positions in St John's Pastorate Committee and recently he was appointed as Hon. Property Secretary. He is a Chartered Accountant by profession and works as Vice President-Treasury of a large corporate in the private sector*

Men's Fellowship



P Francis Augustine — Men's Fellowship, Secretary

After the Lenten break, the Men's Fellowship commenced its weekly online meetings on every Tuesday from April 26 onwards, as per the standard format— which included hymns, prayers, scripture reading followed by a message, discussion and Bible quiz. These online meetings are being continued. The major change that took place in May was the change of Presbyterian-in-charge of our church. We place on record our thanks and gratitude to Rev.K J Cecil Victor for his leadership and encouragement of the Men's Fellowship. We look forward for the same from our Presbyterian-in-charge Rev.Dr U Daniel.

The possibility of having offline meetings has been discussed in our meetings and all the members agreed to having such meetings periodically. Consequent to the decline of COVID-19 and the withdrawal of the extant restrictions, the Fellowship met on July 17 and 31 (immediately after the Sunday morning service) and took the following decisions for immediate implementation. We will:

1. meet on the last Sunday of every month, immediately after the morning service, to review/plan the ongoing activities. We will continue the Tuesday 7 pm Zoom Meetings.
2. conduct "inspirational programmes" that will help not only in the spiritual growth of the congregation, but will motivate and attract more men to join the Fellowship and thus strengthen the same.
3. raise need-based funds for the sick, the poor and the needy and help them through the existing arrangements in place in the church for such people. Brother Sunil Bunyan, a member of the Fellowship (and Pastorate committee member) will coordinate the activities in this regard.
4. aid and assist outreach work in rural areas, for which Brother Micah Mrinal, also a member of the Fellowship (and pastorate committee member) will act as a nodal person from the Fellowship.

As a follow-up of the first point above, it has been decided to conduct a seminar/retreat at the earliest by enlisting the services of an appropriate person. Necessary arrangements are being made for the same.

Henceforth, the activities of the Men's Fellowship will focus on the objectives as stated above. We look forward to and appeal to more men to join the Fellowship to strengthen it and also receive God's blessings. Please uphold the Men's Fellowship and its activities in your prayers.

Mr P F Augustine is a Geologist. He worked in the Geological Survey of India, Government of India for 35 years, where he held the prestigious position of Deputy Director General before he retired. He has been a member of church of St John the Baptist for over 25 years.

Women's Fellowship



Mrs Angelina Clement — Women's Fellowship Secretary

Vision and mission

We bid farewell to Rev. James Cecil Pastor and our Women's fellowship President Mrs Suhasini Cecil Pastorama as they have taken up a new responsibility to shepherd another congregation. We extend a warm welcome to Rev. Dr U Daniel Pastor garu and our Women's fellowship President Mrs U Rosy Chrisolite Pastorama to our church family, as they take charge to shepherd us.

The theme chosen for the triennium year is VISION AND MISSION.

Our main aim is to inspire, equip, support and disciple women to live according to God's purpose. We will fulfil our vision by creating opportunities and resources for women to discuss their gifts and be empowered to fulfil His purpose.

"When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power and you will be witnesses for me." (Acts 1:8)

What a great reminder to us that we have been given the Holy Spirit to be a witness! We are called to be Gospel carriers everywhere we go. We encourage you to spend time in prayer, as empowered by the Holy Spirit for you to seek the Lord for opportunities to be a witness for Him. Jesus commanded his followers and all of us too, to go into the world and preach the Gospel. We know that this was His great commission to us. We have given serious thought as to how we are going to accomplish what God has called us to do. Our agenda is as follows:

Discipleship and evangelism which includes:

- Serving the poor and needy
- Visiting the sick and the suffering
- Visiting orphanages and old age homes
- Teaching students and spreading the Gospel to non-believers

I would like us to engage our minds for a while and share the importance of having a clear strategy. There's a philosophical component to starting a strategy— a strategy which plots the best path from where we are, to where we are going.

The best strategy, is to making the most significant impact we can in another person's life.

We all know the parable of the talents. How a master gave his servants resources, commensurate with their abilities and instructed them to go and do business to occupy until he returned.

Let us ask ourselves: What are we going to do with what He gave us?

Let us be obedient to His great commission. Let us come together to achieve a common goal—advancing the kingdom of God. We must make an honest evaluation and do what is best for the people we are trying to serve. We need to continually ask the hard questions, seek the Lord for insights and move forward. It's not about us, it's about Him and them.

It's powerful to think that the women of St John's, united by the challenges to worship Jesus Christ, seek His heart and will for their lives and be encouraged, equipped and sent out to flourish in the world for the sake of His Gospel.

We look forward with great anticipation to our Women's Fellowship meetings and activities. There is so much on the horizon.

DO JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY!

Let us connect women to Jesus!

Let us create a vibrant community!

Let us capture the lost!

Mrs Angelina Clement has over 25 years of teaching experience and is presently working in the English Department at St Andrew's School. She is currently the Women's Fellowship Secretary for Church of St John the Baptist and is committed about doing God's ministry.



FOG: In His Continued Service



Ms Beulah Supriya— Youth Fellowship, Secretary

Hello Church family, I'm Beulah Supriya, a long-time member of St John's Church and now youth secretary of FOG for the term 2022 – 2025.

I grew up in our vibrant Sunday School and the transition to Youth Fellowship seemed to be the next logical step. Under the leadership of Mr Maju George and the support of Ms Junia Sucharita several members of the youth fellowship, including myself, were able to hone our talents while growing in the knowledge and love of God. As you know, the teens and early twenties are a time of change, challenges and growth and having a community of young believers plays a vital role in the faith journey.

It reminds me of Hebrews 10:24, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Going forward the group will continue to meet in-person on Saturdays and resume online mid-week prayers led by Mrs Nidhi Pranay — long-time youth member and Sunday School teacher. Currently, in our weekly sessions we study books from the Bible and discuss pressing challenges faced by the younger generation through a biblical lens. For those who find it difficult to commute and want to attend the fellowship, Ms Sheeba Roy and Mr Maju George will arrange transportation.

In future, we look forward to our youth stalls for the Harvest festival. Another observance that we are excited about is Youth Sunday, where we will get to share more about what we are doing and inspire the congregation through our presentation. In Church, the team continues to serve both in the audio and graphic design. To help our youth members grow in their talents and leadership, we will continue to encourage the youth to volunteer for the worship team, social media and design. The group seeks to equip young believers with the word of God and provide them with skills that will help the youth be the light and salt, wherever life takes them.

God is good and He does good! I am so grateful to be part of talented and capable team whose united vision is to glorify God through all that we do. Thank you for your continued support.

Beulah Supriya has been a member of St John's for two decades. Apart from being a part of the youth, she is an active member of the choir. Every harvest festival you can find her surrounded by cakes at the desserts' stall. She completed her Master's in Communication Studies from ASU.

FOG welcomes new members



Left to right : Adit Mohanthy, Carolyn Paul, Kanthi Ratna, Jonathan and Cyrus



Left to right : Amos Philip, Rahul, Simdan Daniel, Joanne Aliza, Martina



Left to right : Hazel Zachariah, Carine Benjamin

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Vacation Bible School



Ms Sujatha Madhukar

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (III John 1: 4)

Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sunday School celebrated its Annual day function on March 20, 2022. After a short vacation of one month and with God's grace we are able to conduct VBS--2022 (offline) from April 30, 2022 to May 5, 2022. We closed with a Valedictory Programme on May 6, 2022.

Pastor amma, Mrs Suhasini Cecil Victor was the Director for VBS 2022 and Mr Benjamin Franklin was the Associate Director. This year, we followed the VBS syllabus prepared by CSI Medak Diocese Christian Education Department. The VBS 2022 theme was **Rejoice in Hope**, taken from Romans 12:12.

I thank Mrs Suhasini Cecil Victor, Pastor amma and Mr Benjamin Franklin for conducting VBS-2022 so grandly.

Sunday School was closed for vacation from May 7, 2022 to June 12, 2022.



VBS 2022



Mrs Suhasini Cecil

This year's VBS started with a prayer followed by short devotion by our pastor Rev. Cecil James and, subsequently, the VBS was declared open. Registrations were handled by an efficient and dedicated team every day. Each day began with a singing session from 7.30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. ,which was managed by the vibrant and dynamic singing team (along with appropriate lively actions). This was followed by a general devotion for 30 minutes, led by different people from within our church and outside.

Leading us in General Devotion were the following:

Day 1: Rev. James Cecil Victor

Day 2: Dr Grace Sunder

Day 3: Mrs Junia Sucharitha

Day 4: Mrs Salomi from CSI Chilkalguda Church

Day 5: Cancelled because of heavy rain

Day 6: Mrs Mary Manjula Krishnan

I appreciate and thank each one of volunteers for taking a lot of effort to come and lead the devotion based on different themes. After the general session, the children were sent to their respective classes for Session 1, where they learnt lessons from the Bible for 45 minutes that is from 8.30 a.m. to 9.15 a.m. From 9.15 a.m. to 9.45 a.m., we served different varieties of breakfast and refreshing juices, ably assisted by volunteers, who served the food and made various other arrangements.

After breakfast, the children were sent to Session 2 where they learnt about different inspirational people like Nick Vujcic, Graham Stains, Fanny Crosby, and so on. This year's VBS material was prepared by our St John's diocese and I appreciate all the content writers specially the Diocesan Sunday School Secretary, Mr Samson Katamalla and the team for putting so much effort into preparing the material.

After the Session 2, the children were called to assemble again in the parish hall for the closing session where the participants enjoyed singing lively numbers. They were given small gifts for learning the memory verses and there also were few 'early bird' gifts given to the children who came first to the VBS class each day.

Apart from every day's schedule, we conducted few competitions like singing, enacting characters scenes from the Bible or taking on the roles of various Biblical characters, drawing (for primary children) and class inspection.

The following members from our Church were requested to judge these competitions:

Ms Jennifer, Mr Joshua Manuel, Ms Nikitha Sherlyn, Mr Noel Nicholas, Mrs Sushma John, Mr James Samuel, Mrs Vinolia, Dr Grace Sunder, Mrs Mercy Roy, Mrs Sulochana James, Ms Joyce and Mrs Yashodhra Desappa.

I thank all the judges for taking time to be with us in spite of their busy schedules.

We also observed few special days like:

Friendship day: The children were asked to bring one friend to the VBS.

Day of giving: The children were asked to bring in one small and inexpensive gift. These will be given to the little children at S. Kondapur.

Ecological Day: Along with the children, we planted few saplings in St John's Church school premises.

Because of unforeseen weather condition, we had to cancel the VBS on May 5, but with the help of our committed teachers we were able to manage two days activities on May 6. We had to extend the time till 1 p.m. to cope with activities originally planned for two days.

I appreciate our teachers for putting extra effort to complete the given tasks. The last day's breakfast was sponsored by Mrs Yashodhra Desappa and lunch was sponsored by Arman Jetti, son of Jac Gladson and the cakes for the children was sponsored by Mrs Ratna Manjari. I thank all of them for their kind gestures.

We have also received few donations from our church members, which helped towards defraying expenses. The following were the donors:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. A family | 12. Col SD Chandrashekar |
| 2. Mr and Mrs B Vinod Kumar | 13. Stephen Anand Chandrahas |
| 3. Ms Shonna and Mr Marcus | 14. Mr MI Paul |
| 4. A family | 15. Sujay and Suchitra |
| 5. Mr Veenu Michael | 16. Mrs Manidela Pramila |
| 6. Mr Jonathan Annaladas | 17. Mr Madhukar David and Family |
| 7. Mr Srinivas Rao E | 18. A family |
| 8. Mr Sampath E | 19. Anna Faith Cassidy |
| 9. Nathan Andrew Pabbathi | 20. Mr David Sam Roy and family |
| 10. Rithika Rao | 21. Mrs Prema Christian |
| 11. Mrs Yashoda and Mr Sanjeeva Rao | |

Mr Devadanam donated 24 LED lights for the Parish Hall. We appreciate all the donors for their contributions and kind gestures. May God continue to bless you all abundantly.

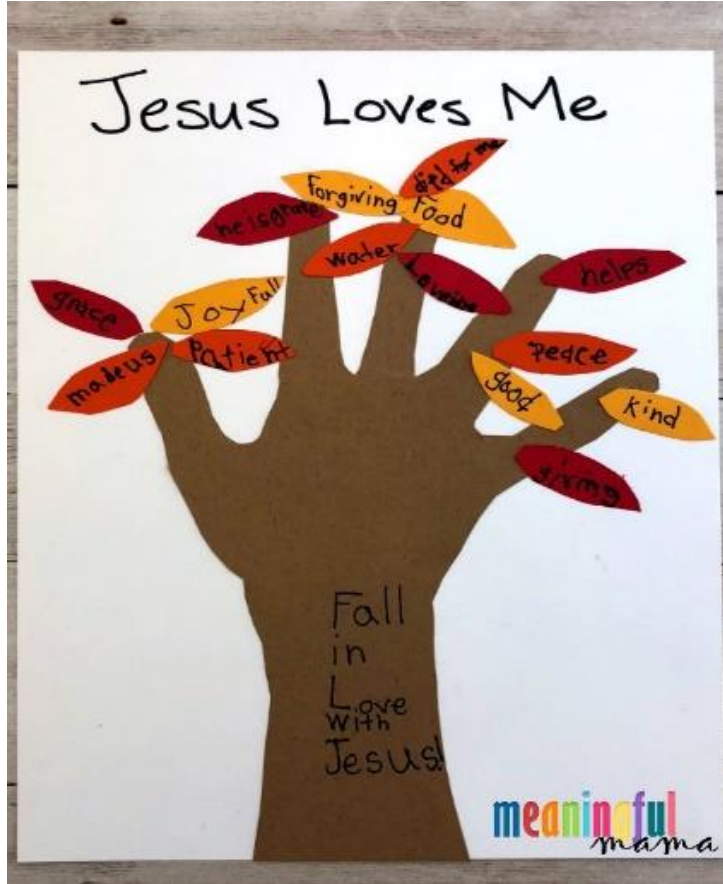
Last but not the least, we had the VBS Feast on May 6, 2022 which was sponsored by Dr Uday Kumar and family on the occasion of Rushil Uday's birthday. I would like to thank Dr Uday and family for their generosity.

I also would like to state that the principal of St John's school, Mrs Rose Mary extended her full support and cooperation to conduct the VBS programme in the school premises. VBS 2022 was possible only with the cooperation of a dedicated group of people and the Associate Director Mr Benjamin Franklin, who shouldered the responsibility of organising the VBS equally and effectively.

Mrs Anna Alexander, the treasurer of VBS, and Rev. Sumalatha, our assistant pastor have extended their fullest cooperation, too. I extend special appreciation to all the volunteers, who worked really hard to conduct the VBS so successfully.

A special word of appreciation to the teachers who have volunteered to buy the gifts. I acknowledge the support given by pastorate committee especially the office bearers in making this year's VBS a grand success. May God bless us all.

Mrs Suhasini Cecil was the Director for VBS 2022.



I praise and thank God for giving me this great opportunity to serve the Sunday School Ministry for the term 2019 to 2022. I sincerely thank our Pastor, Pastor amma and Pastorate committee members for their encouragement and prayer support. I thank the parents of our Sunday school children for making their children to attend Sunday school classes regularly and encouraging them to participate in the competitions. Praise be to God

Mrs Mary Sujatha Madhukar was the Sunday School Superintendent, 2019 – 2022 at St John the Baptist Church, Secunderabad. She is also a lecturer in Chemistry at Nrupatunga Junior College.

VBS 2022



Opening Day



Praise and Worship



Early Bird Prize Winners

General Devotion

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Beginners Class



Primary Class



Juniors Class

Inters Class



Seniors Class



Ecological Day



*Model Making Competition
Ayaan Mathew- Jerusalem City*



Singing Competition - Beginners



Models made by our VBS teachers as tools to enhance our children's learning experience.

VALEDICTORY EVENT



Beginners Class



Primary Class



Juniors Class



Inters Class



Seniors Class



Worship Team



Volunteers



Teachers



Pastorate Committee

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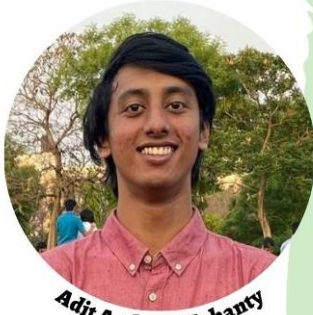
Bible Quiz

Look at the clues given in each of the boxes given below to name each of these Biblical Characters

Hidden in a Basket	I offered the best to the Lord	The sun stood still when I prayed	Peter raised me from death	I sat under the palm tree to judge. My husband's name is?
Lived the Longest	I married Othniel	I am the commander of the army of the king of Aram	I sat under the fig tree	Priest of the God most high
I received my sight in Jericho	I am a Moabite	Though I was a prostitute, yet I was considered righteous	Who was given this blessing- "Your eyes will be darker than wine, your teeth whiter than milk."	I lived for 777 years
I framed a riddle	When I was five years old, I fell and was disabled	A donkey spoke to me	I was addressed as "a true son in faith"	Who saw chariots of fire all around
I had 14000 sheep and 6000 camels.	A prophet and a Judge	I was paralyzed and bed ridden for 8 years before being healed	A man full of faith and holy spirit, God's grace and power	A dealer in purple cloth

Find the answers to the Bible quiz on *page 59*

Parish News



Adit Andrew Mohanty

The past four years flew by as I completed my Bachelor of Engineering from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad campus. Despite the fact that I could not stay on campus for nearly two years, I cherish every part of my college life. By God's grace, I got placed as a business analyst at an analytics firm called Merilytics towards the end of the four years. I thank God for His countless mercies. I request you to continue upholding me in your prayers.

Ashwin George, son of Ajit and Anna Alexander George and Divita, daughter of Ajeet and Sonia Narang of Jabalpur, were married on June 5, 2022 in Toronto, Canada.

Shared by Mrs Anna Alexander George



Ashwin George and Divita

A CHILD IS BORN: Evelyn Natalia, born July 15, 2010, just 12 years old, 7th class at St. Andrew's School, Marredpalli has been installed as the 'School Choir Captain'. She is a miracle and mighty to be praised. We thank God for this abundant blessing on this beautiful daughter of Rev. Cecil and Suhasini, who is a gift to them from God after 10 years of marriage an answer through prayers of patience, trust, and faith in Jesus Christ.

Shared by Mrs Prema Christian



Evelyn Natalia





Joash Sherwin Kurkunda

This year during my summer holidays, I had an opportunity to play for the CAMP organized by Youth For Christ (YFC,Hyd). It was a meaningful time of worship and glorifying God outside of my Church and playing with some really talented musicians. I've made lots of new friends and improved my skills as a musician and also more importantly learnt God's word more deeply and how to be more like Jesus and walk in His ways everyday .

Sandy (Cassandra Samuel) is the People's Warden (Secretary) of The Wellington Cathedral of St Paul.
Shared by Mr James Samuel



Cassandra Samuel



Ms Cassandra representing the Indian Christian Community at the inauguration and blessing of the new building of the Indian High Commission

Announcements

FOG – Force of God

St. John's youth fellowship meets every Saturday for a time of worship, devotion and fellowship.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Parish Hall in the St John's School premises.

For those who would like to attend but find travel difficult, do reach out to any of the following members:

Mr. Maju George: +91 9885012980

Ms. Sheeba Roy: +91 9550735973

Ms. Beulah Supriya: +91 7731031202

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH

The Men's Fellowship of St. John's Church meets every Tuesday at 7 PM through Zoom App for a time of

PRAISE AND WORSHIP through:

* SINGING HYMNS

* PRAYERS

* BIBLE READING & DEVOTIONS

* BIBLE QUIZ

We appeal to all men (above 40 years of age) to make it convenient to attend the meetings to strengthen, encourage and enrich the Fellowship for the glory of God and also receive blessings apportioned to each.

PLEASE PRAY AND PARTICIPATE

Coming Soon!!!

Harvest Festival

October 2022

Interested members are requested to plan ahead and inform the Pastorate Steward, Mr Maju Matthew George

Choir Practice for

The Festival of Nine Lessons

Begins on 28th August.

Interested members may contact the Choir Director, Mr Joshua Virendar



Introducing New Members

We happy to welcome the following new families to St John's church fold.

Compiled by Ms Sheeba Roy

Herbert Domathothi and family



Herbert Emmanuel Domathothi and wife Priyadarshini Bethapudy with their children Hansel and Gretel

Greetings in the name of Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

I bring greetings from CNI St Paul's Church, Pune, where I have been worshipping for the past two decades. I am now in Secunderabad happy to be associated with St John the Baptist Church to worship the Lord along with my elder brother Dr Harrison Domathothi and family and my loving mother.

The Lord has blessed my wife, Priyadarshini and me with 2 kids Gretel, who is in Class 10 and Hansel who is Class 5 at St Andrews School. I work for CAPGEMINI in Hyderabad.

I thank The Presbyter-in-Charge, the Church Committee and all others for us a part of this 200+ years old St John the Baptist Church family. I am sure that this church will be a blessing to me and my family. We hope to participate in all the church activities proactively

Thanking you all,
Herbert Domathothi

Naini Samuel Sushanth

We are a family of 3. My wife and I work in the IT industry and we are blessed with a beautiful 3-year-old son. Our Lord has always been with us and shown us His path.

As a family we are happy to be a part of St John's church family and also happy that our son will be learning and actively participating in Sunday School.



Naini Samuel Sushanth and Nikitha with their son Samson Abdiel

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Jeswin Joseph and family



Jeswin Joseph and Pauline Priyadharshini Jeswin with their daughters—Kathryn Ella Jeswin, Jerlyn Natania Jeswin

Praise be to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I'm Jeswin Joseph from Chennai. I work as a Principal Consultant in Syniti technologies, an IT firm. I'm very glad to introduce my family. The Lord has blessed me with a wonderful wife, Pauline Priyadharshini Jeswin, who is working as a Manager in CAPGEMINI technologies.

The Lord has blessed us with two beautiful daughters, 8-year-old Jerlyn Natania Jeswin and 3-year-old Kathryn Ella Jeswin, both studying in Genesis international school, Madinaguda.

We live in Hafeezpet, Hyderabad. We thank St John's congregation for welcoming us warmly and giving us an opportunity to worship the Lord in this prestigious Church.

Regards,
Jeswin Joseph and Pauline Priyadharshini Jeswin



Abhishek and Thripti

Abhishek and Thripti began coming to St John's Baptist church from March, 2022. They hail from Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Abhishek is employed in NIRD while Tripti works for an IT firm. They stay in Kondapur, Hitech city.

They are grateful to Lord almighty for providing such a good fellowship at St John's Baptist, Secunderabad

Chalanti Henry Paul and family

Greetings in the name of almighty God

I convey greetings from St Peter's Church, Krishna Godavari Diocese of CSI, Gannavaram , Krishna district AP. I have been a part and parcel of this church since my birth. I retired from St Joseph's High School as a senior teacher at Nagarjuna Sagar.

About my family, my wife Gundugollu Sarala (Sister of Gundugollu Prasad Director, BSI Bengaluru) also retired in Hyderabad from Gurukula's as a Senior teacher.

The Lord has blessed us with two children — daughter, Chalanti Rashvi, who is married to Chappidi Naren Manohar (Senior Bank manager -BOB) Bengaluru and they have a son (Pratik Dev) and daughter (Roshini) and son, Chalanti Rohan, a Software Engineer who has been working in Hyderabad for 7 years. My son's marriage with Seedarla Nikhitha took place in St John the Baptist Church on August 30, 2018. They also blessed with a girl (Prekhsa Heleena).



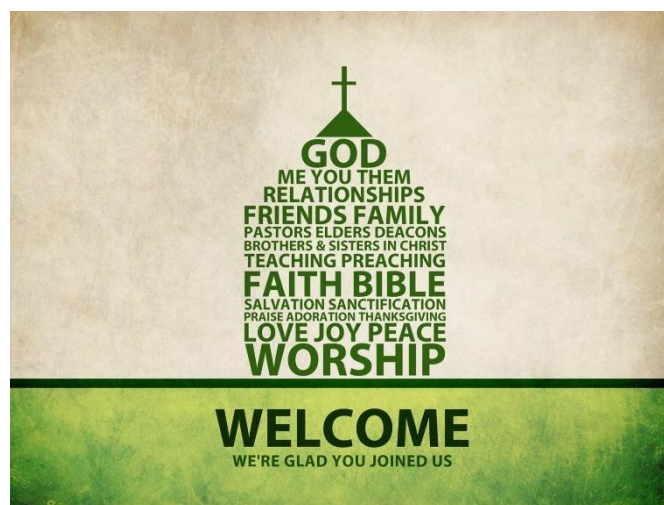
My heartfelt thanks to the Presbyter -in-Charge, the Church Committee and all relatives and friends for making us part of one of the most prestigious churches in the city.

We believe this church is a boon to me and my family. We assure you that we will render our services to the church.

Thanking you all,
Chalanti Henry Paul

Top; Chalanti Rashvi, Chappidi Naren Manohar, Roshini, Prekhsa Heleena, Chalanti Rohan, Seedarla Nikhitha.

Sitting: Chalanti Henry Paul, Prateek Dev, Gundugollu Sarala



A True Calling



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Rev.Sumalatha

It is a very lengthy story but, I want to keep it very brief. I sincerely thank God for all His wonderful plans for my life. Right from a very young age God had placed in my heart a deep desire to be a part of Church and its ministry. From being an active Sunday School student and Youth Fellowship member of Wesley Church Ramkote, Hyderabad, God helped me take on responsible roles in the Youth Fellowship and the Sunday School Ministry.

I strongly believe that my initial ministerial formation began at this very place where, I realised God's plan and purpose for my life. I had promised myself to be a part of full-time ministry, after I graduated and worked for about 10 years, so that I could support my family financially and help my younger siblings settle down in life. To my wonderment, it was exactly 10 years after my graduation that I joined United Theological College, Bengaluru. All praise and glory to God for helping me achieve this.

One of the youth leaders who had always motivated and inspired me asked me, "What made you join the full-time ministry and do you have a word from God?" I narrated the entire story to him, but he still said, "Please seek God for His word so that your decision is in line with God's will for your life and later on when you face challenges in life it is that very word that will make you move forward".

My immediate resort was to reach for God's word and to my joy, my regular Bible reading portion for that very day was John 15. I was thrilled at the fact that it was not me who chose God, but God himself chose me and appointed me to go and bear fruit. Since then, at all times and particularly in my toughest times, John 15:16 has helped me gain new perspective on everything that I do for my Lord. God has been faithful to me and is guiding my footsteps thus far and I am confident that He has much greater things in store for my life.

The most important reason for me to get into full-time ministry is the love of God's people, to be faithful and obedient to Him and His plans for their lives—particularly, to help young boys and girls on the cross roads of their lives, who want to know God and His purpose for their lives, while struggling with the temptations of the world. They earnestly seek God's direction and come to Church for answers

I felt this need and wanted very much to be in the ministry to help, guide and bring the young generation to God's fold.

Born in 1983, Rev.Sumalatha is the daughter of Mr Kanakaraj and Pramila. She completed a BTech (ECE 2006) and BD (2020) and is presently working at St John the Baptist Church, Secunderabad. Her brother, E Prabhu Kumar, and her younger sister, Swarnalatha, are married with two children each. She has an unmarried brother, Prabhu Charan, who teaches at Slate School.



A Musical Treat



Dr Simon D I Fleming

It has been a real blessing to worship with you all in person for the last three Sundays in July 2022. Indeed, on two occasions I played the organ at your morning service. It was both an honour and a privilege to have been asked, and I appreciated your kind and positive comments afterwards.

St John's church is incredibly fortunate to have a working pipe organ. Most others in India either do not work and stand silent, or have been removed completely. I have only seen three other working pipe organs during my travels in India, and only previously played that in St John's Church, Kolkata. I was told that your organ requires some maintenance. I pray that the organ may continue to be used for God's glory for many more years.

Even though this was the first time I had visited your church I feel that I have gotten to know you through the live broadcasts posted on YouTube. I have been worshipping with you online since I came across your channel in Holy Week 2022 and have joined with you every week since then. It is a real blessing to be able to worship with you from such a great distance, and I hope that you will continue to broadcast your worship for the foreseeable future.

Having married a girl whose family comes from Hyderabad, I will be returning to your city every couple of years, and look forward to worshipping with you again in person in 2024.

I am grateful for the warm reception I have received at the Church St John the Baptist, but particularly that given by your minister the Rev. Dr U Daniel, and your talented organists Joshua and Sujay. I pray that you will all continue to walk in the fellowship of Christ and that you will grow as a church. May God be with you all, always.

Dr Simon D I Fleming– Organist, St Nicholas's Church, Durham. UK



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Under His Wings (Safe in His Arms)



Mrs Yashodhra Desappa

A

R

Our eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God had a plan. As we look back in the Old Testament, we see God giving the blueprint for the tabernacle, to Moses. In it was to be placed, the Ark of the Covenant. God instructed Moses, to tell the children of Israel, "I will commune with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims" (Exodus 25:23).

T

Jesus is the mercy seat, that allows us access to God's presence. Under His wings we find mercy and refuge.

I

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me!

For my soul trusts in You;

And in the shadow of Your wings, I will make my refuge,

Until these calamities have passed by." (Psalm 57:1)

C

"We who are weak can find refuge, as His Mercy endures forever." (Psalm 136:23).

"Under His wings we find help, in our time of need and rejoicing." (Psalm 91:4)

L

"Because You have been my help,

Therefore, in the shadow of Your wings, I will rejoice." (Psalm 63:7)

E

Under His wings, we find HEALING

'But unto you that fear my name the Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in His wings.'

(Malachi 4:2) The first time the Lord came was to heal our sin-sick souls; the second time He comes He will heal us— body, soul and spirit.

S

Under His Wings is a place of SECURITY for the believer

"The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath is His everlasting arms." (Deuteronomy 33:27)

"As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, and beareth them on her wings. So, the Lord alone did lead him." (Deuteronomy 32:11,

12) God bears us on His wings, so that He can bring us to Himself.

Under His wings is a place of renewed strength

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40–31)

"Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles."

(Psalm 103: 1-5)

"He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler." (Luke 13:34)

Under His Wings of Mercy, we will abide in His Tabernacle forever



“How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.” (Luke 13:34)

David says, “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”. (Psalm 23)

Yes, safely abiding forever, as believers taking shelter in the shadow of His Wings. From mere gleaners like Ruth, we become heirs to everything with Boaz (Jesus), our kinsman and redeemer. The arrows of the evil one, will whiz past us, but when we accept Jesus as our Saviour, the blood Jesus shed for us at Calvary, becomes our everlasting covering and a ticket to life eternal, "Safe in the arms of Jesus".

Our prayer: Lord Jesus, hide me under the shadow of Thy wings. Let me find refuge in Thy mercy, healing, help and comfort forever. Amen.

Mrs Yashodhra Desappa is an Ambassador for Christ, Pastorate Committee member and a Steward in St John the Baptist Church, Secunderabad and also a Business Woman.



Living by Faith



Sunil Kumar B

Repentance is the path for turning from sin and unbelief. It is not easy to repent, and if we feel a sense of negativity then faith is the positive answer. “Faith leads to salvation, but only if we remain centred on our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 4:10–12) Having faith in Jesus Christ means relying completely on Him and trusting in His infinite power, intelligence, and love. It includes believing His teachings.

We believe that even though we do not understand all things, He does. He has experienced all our pains, afflictions, and infirmities, and He knows how to help us rise above our daily difficulties. He has “overcome the world” (John 16:33) and prepared the way for us to receive eternal life. He is always ready to help us and we should look unto Him in every thought; without doubt or fear.

Faith is much more than passive belief. We need to express our faith through our actions (James 2:18). Our faith can lead us to do good works, obey the commandments, and repent of our sins. Our faith can help us overcome temptation. The Lord will work miracles in our life according to our faith. Faith in Jesus Christ, helps us receive spiritual and physical healing through His atonement. When times of trial come, faith can give us the strength to press forward and face hardships with courage. Even when the future seems uncertain, our faith in the Saviour can give us peace.

Billy Graham an American evangelist once said “Our faith grows by expression. If we want to keep our faith, we must share it. We must act”.



Mr B Sunil Kumar is a Learning and Development Consultant. He completed his Masters in Mass Communication and Journalism. He has a passion for writing. He is pursuing a Ph D from the department of Mass Communication and Journalism,Osmania University.



New Beginning



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Dr Govardhini Chelapathy

T

Anuradha had sent a message in my WhatsApp chat box in our school friend's group. It was about the events that take place in the home following the death of a family member, just after the funeral is over and a short period after that, including the big celebration that takes place at the first death anniversary. A very real account that conveys the 'average' picture, a fair and just report, I would say. The dead person is now consigned to the realm of memories and life goes on as always for those who are alive.

I

I am inspired to compare this narrative with what God has designed for those who die in Christ. They breathe their last here on earth only for their soul and spirit to soar to its heavenly rest. Among the grieving relatives, there is a living hope that stays with their anguished minds, reminding them of the truths of resurrection and eternal life. Many things about the way in which death is handled is the same—the rituals of funeral, burial and so on, but instead of the gloom or practised indifference, there is a strength and peace that comes from knowing that their loved one is actually in the glorious presence of their Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. This is a blessing indeed!

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The golden paths and the flowing river of life we read about in the Revelations becomes a part of the memories of our loved one. The eternal hope that one day we will be united with them leaves no room for endless sorrow. This eternal hope actually binds the bereaved families into a closer relationship with God, now more than ever. For their loved one is now in His presence. This difference is literally a chasm that separates believers in Christ from the unbelievers. So, for those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, physical death is not "the end" but the beginning of life everlasting.

E

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Dr Ms Govardhini has been an active member of St John's for over 10 years. She is committed to disciple the next generation for God's Kingdom. She is a paediatric doctor by profession.

A Beautiful Home



Dr Maneesha Esther Mohanty

A few years ago, when we were undertaking the interiors for our new home I was introduced to a plethora of materials—granite, coral, quartz, engineered stone for the kitchen platform, high density, medium and low-density fibreboards for cupboards and acrylic, PVC, veneer for the lamination. It was certainly confusing, and we had to make choices keeping in mind the strength, durability and cost. We did all this to make a home, where we would be comfortable for a long, long time.

Then, what about our eternal home? How much effort do we need to invest for designing the interiors of a home that will be ours for eternity? The answer is simple. We don't need to worry! Our gracious and most merciful heavenly Father has done everything. "The Holy City, the New Jerusalem is prepared as a bride beautifully dressed" (Revelations 21:2). "It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like a jasper, clear as a crystal" (Revelations 21:11). "The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass" (Revelations 21:18).

This vivid description leaves me contemplative and inquisitive about the materials. Owing to my background in Chemistry, I reason with myself, that a crystal is a solid material whose atoms (or ions) are arranged in a highly-ordered lattice structure, which is very hard and strong. The crystals allow all the light to pass through, making it transparent. In nature, gold exists in its pure form, because it does not react with any other element—it is unreactive. The Holy city is certainly a place of purity and durability — it will last forever.

When we plan to visit someone's home, a social gathering or any special event the first thing that comes to our minds is to look for an appropriate attire, so that we look presentable and appealing. We make sure the garment is clean, crisp and ironed. What kind of clothing is required for our eternal home? This reminds me of a hymn that says, "are your garments spotless are they white as snow, are you washed in the blood of the lamb?" Colossians 3:2 says, "Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience". "We should clothe ourselves with good deeds instead of expensive clothes and jewels" (1 Timothy 2:10).

Galatians 3:26-27 says "In Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." 'Clothed yourselves with Christ' – unworthy as we are Jesus has paid the cost to make it a priceless gift for us. Let us thank and praise God for designing our life and our life-after so beautifully.

Dr Maneesha worked as project scientist at IIT Madras and IICT Hyderabad and currently teaches Chemistry at Glendale Academy. She is actively associated with St John's Church and is a member of the Pastorate Committee.



Our Bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit



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Master Amos Philip

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:19 and 20)

We all know that our Lord Jesus Christ had cleansed the temple.

“Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.” “It is written,” He said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.” (Matthew 21:12 & 13).

Are we allowing Jesus in to cleanse His temple once again?

(Here temple refers to our bodies which are temples of the Holy Spirit.)

Or,

Are we making our bodies a den of robbers (devil's) workshop? (Here devil's workshop = corrupting our bodies with worldly junk.)

How can we corrupt our bodies with worldly junk when Apostle Paul reminds us “to think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy”. (Philippians 4:8)

Philippians 4:8 is the blueprint to our entire household, which not only filters but will purify us from the worldly junk. If the wrong kind of friendship or television or movies, magazines or internet is causing you to get corrupted then get rid of these immediately.

If the source of fuel (sin) is stopped then the supply of fuel (sin) will be cut off automatically.

So let us stop whatever is causing our bodies (temples) a den of devil's workshop and allow Jesus to do a thorough cleansing once again by applying His Word in our day-to day-lives.

Master Amos Philip is from the Sunday School Intermediate Class, at St John the Baptist Church.



Preparation for a God-Ordained Marriage



Captain IN AJ Manohar

Of late, I have been receiving distress calls, from parents regarding a sudden strike of cupid on their child, after which the child announces that he/she is madly in love with someone and marriage is the only way forward. Absolutely nothing wrong with such a predicament? What could go wrong in such a situation? Is it wrong to fall in love or choose a life partner?

Of course, there is nothing wrong in that. The distress might be because the child has chosen to marry an unbeliever! Paul in his letter to the Corinthians specifically stated in, “Do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever” (2 Corinthians 6:14). Logic and reasoning also support this view on account of our spiritual fervour getting compromised when a believer marries an unbeliever. The question for some of us maybe, ‘Who is an unbeliever?’

The answer is straightforward. Anyone who has not accepted Jesus as a personal saviour. No amount of Christian behaviour of going to Church, reading the Bible or praying, can compensate if one has not accepted Jesus as a personal saviour. At the core of our spiritual being is the fervour of being a child of God. If one marries an unbeliever the spiritual fervour will become lukewarm. Satan has won!

God commanded the Israelites to not intermarry and compromise their identity. God even instituted the covenant of circumcision, to separate the nation of Israel from the gentile nations. This was done to make His people be set apart to serve God with purity and sanctity.

Therefore, my dearly beloved, the way ahead is to teach our children young. We are embroiled in seeking good education through academic pursuits and ignore the heavenly pursuits to qualify for a place in His kingdom? Most often parents fret over academics so much, that they easily give up Sunday school, youth fellowship, Bible studies and even regular family prayers, in the pursuit of academics. Academic goals are important but eternity is a bigger goal. Would you like your child to miss the mark by making wrong choices? Absolutely no way!

Initiate the orientation towards choosing a God-ordained way of marriage by teaching them when they are young. I end with this quote from Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he has to go and when he is old, he will not depart from it”.

Send your children to Sunday school classes, Bible studies, prayer fellowships and a good youth fellowship. I strongly implore the church leadership to conduct regular seminars on Christian marriage and give proper orientation to our youth. There is a tsunami of worldly cultures waiting to invade our churches and compromise our youth. The west has already found the new normal with live-in relationships, gay marriages, broken homes, divorces and dysfunctional families. It is time to give a clarion call to the young generation to embrace spiritual values and act decisively. May God protect and preserve the young generation to be set apart and sanctified for His service.

Capt. IN AJ Manohar has over 4 decades of experience in serving youth fellowships at many churches. He is serving as a Children's leader in Student Programmes of Bible Study Fellowship International for many years.



Let's Make a Difference



Dr M Anthony David

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“There is a healing crusade going on in town. Shall we go?” says Rachel with hope glimmering from her eyes, her frail body racked with disease.

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No other word evokes such a strong emotional response in us as does ‘healing.’

I

It is a blessing for those of us who have been healed to recall our experience. To others, who are constantly seeking healing and are not fortunate enough to get it, it is pure agony. They ask themselves constantly, eyes clouded with tears, “Why was I not healed? Do I lack faith? What will happen to me, then?”

C

Our God is the God of healing. He heals not only the blind, but also the unjust societal system and brings deliverance and healing to society. We see this in Isaiah 42: 1-9.

L

Is such a holistic healing a possibility in this day and age? We need to reflect and listen to the Lord’s answers. Surely, final fulfillment of this prophecy will be in the millennial reign that we hope to share with the Lord in His second coming.

E

The episode of the healing of Naaman, the Aramean army commander, debunks the modern understanding of the so called “healing crusades”. There was no advance publicity; no charismatic presence of the ‘healer’; no dramatic gestures; no slaying in the spirit.

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The ‘healer’, Elisha doesn’t even deign to appear. He simply sends a message through his servant. “Dip in the Jordan seven times and you will be healed.” (2 Kings 5:10). Feeling insulted, the Aramean official walks off in a huff . Then, persuasion by a servant, perhaps a slave, makes Naaman turn back. And, lo and behold, he is healed of his leprosy! Not just healed. His skin is restored like that of a little baby! What a miracle?

Even amidst His busy ministry, Jesus finds time for a solitary sufferer. The dear ones of this unfortunate deaf-mute man, lovingly bring him to Jesus who has mercy on him. He reaches out to place His hands and fingers on his ears and tongue and restores speech and hearing to him by uttering a single word: “Ephphatha, be opened!” Instantaneously, the man hears. He began to open his mouth and speak too! (Mark 7 :32 -35)

Perhaps you ask, “How does all this matter to me now?” Does the sight of sickness, misery, injustice and oppression move you and me? How do we respond?

Have we become callous? Or, are we moved with love, by compassion? Moved to action? Moved to stretch our hands to touch and relieve these affected people? The Lord wants each of us to be moved by compassion.

To respond and reach out.

Peter told the lame man at the Gate, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you...” (Acts 3:6).

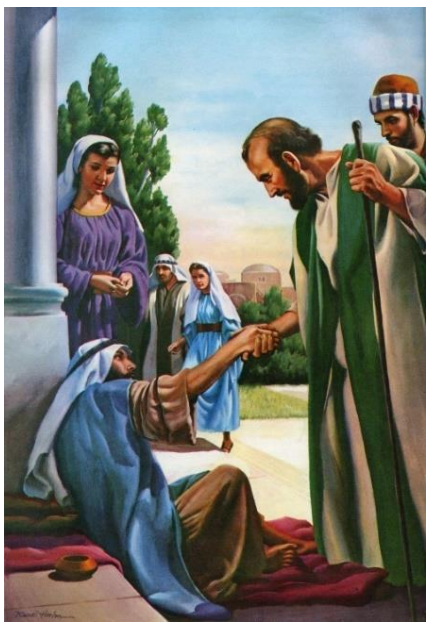
It doesn't take much. Perhaps, your smile, a pat on the back, an encouraging word, a positive WhatsApp message, a 'like' in Facebook, a hope-giving picture in Instagram a hurried whispered prayer. Just a simple act, done with love and compassion does wonders for our brothers and sisters.

Mark my words; I have seen lives changed! Folks have been delivered miraculously from disappointment—entranced by the joy of the Lord! All by simple gestures of love and care.

As she hobbles to the vast stadium to seek healing for her tortured body, Rachel's face shines with expectation, faith, and hope. Will she come out healed and brimming with confidence? Or else....

Shall we step out today with a smile? Look for chances to encourage, empathise with, and bless others? Yes, God wants you and me to be co-laborers with Him in His business. The business of love, compassion and healing. Let's go ahead and make a difference.

Dr M Anthony David, a creative communicator for Christ, teaches in a private medical college, for his bread and butter. He writes, preaches, facilitates, and counsels, all for the extension of God's kingdom.



Getting to Know Our Pastoral Committee

Getting Acquainted

We had requested our Pastorate Committee Members to write a little about themselves, their family members and their work. We have received write-ups from three of our members which we have published in this edition.

There will be more, in future editions.

My Work, My Life



Mrs Yashodhra Desappa

I am a partner of Threadaid and Splinetech, where we manufacture machines to produce components for the automotive industry like Maruti, Honda and German Brake system for metro trains etc. Mr Desappa designs the machines and rolls (tools) that are used to produce the components.

As part of Prayer ministry, I network prayer requests, organise prayer-related activities, like 10 minutes Encircling Arms prayer, Families in the Gap Intercessory Prayer, conduct Quiz Competitions etc for the whole church and I take up several other activities.

Serve the Lord with gladness is my vision and mission as a Pastorate Committee member and a Church Steward.



Family History



Ms Joyce Thompson

This a little record of the history preserved by my ancestors.

In December 1873, missionaries Henry Little and William Burgess came to Secunderabad from Madras. William Burgess was the founder of the Wesleyan Mission in Hyderabad and laid the foundations of missionary work in the now famous Clock tower, Wesley Church pastorate, Secunderabad. Their Indian colleague was Benjamin P Wesley, a well-educated man who came from Cuddaph, who had been sent by the Madras Synod to help the Burgesses.

The first Methodist Telugu service was held in Ramkote in December 1879, in the house of a Telugu layman, Mr Joseph Cornelius. The Tamil congregation of the Church of Scotland Mission was also handed over to them. It is interesting to note that the present Wesley Girls School in Secunderabad, with its missionary bungalow, was purchased in 1884.

William Burgess stayed with his family in a dak* bungalow, as there was no Church to receive him and there was no house ready for his accommodation. He first began his work with British soldiers and was assisted in his work by his Indian counterpart, Mr Joseph Cornelius. The first Baptism was administrated by William Burgess on January 25,1880. His first convert was Andrew, son of Chakkariah who was one of the fore-runners of many Christians in the Medak Diocese. Burgess rode on horseback, like John Wesley and preached in the Telangana regions. In 1880, a church building was erected in Ramkote, which is the existing old Wesley Church, Ramkote. Another church was built in Hyderabad in 1883. Tamil and Telugu congregation would meet in the Wesley Hall, Market Street, Secunderabad.

Benjamin P Wesley was ordained as a Wesleyan Minister in 1882. Rev. Wesley along with Mrs Burgess set about establishing educational institutions in and around Hyderabad and Secunderabad. In 1882, Burgess purchased some shops, which were subsequently used to set up rooms for a school. In 1880, another missionary, Rev. Benjamin Pratt also arrived in Secunderabad. This trio, Burgess, Pratt and Benjamin Wesley would travel on cart, and bullock wagons to preach the Gospel in the surrounding areas. It is documented that they often had adventures with wild beasts.

Pratt surveyed the Karimnagar area and, subsequently, he established the Wesleyan headquarters there. This laid the foundations of the current Karimnagar diocese of the Church of South India. During those days, the district headquarters was Ellagandala, which was eight miles away from Karimnagar. Around the same time, Benjamin Wesley made Siddipet his headquarters, laying the foundations for the Diocese of Medak, where later, the great cathedral at Medak was built. The regions of Hyderabad and Secunderabad were ministered by the Burgesses.

**dak bungalow or dak house was a government building under the East Company rule and the Raj. They still exist in some cities.*



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/garrisonwesleychurch/posts/rev-william-burgess-half-torn-old-photo-from-the-vestry-restored-to-its-glory-wi/736362686496279/>

About my family and myself:

I'm a dedicated and results-driven person and have pursued my education and gained work experience both in India and abroad.

Born into a Christian family and blessed with a rich spiritual heritage, my mother's paternal side was a descendent of Rev. Benjamin Wesley mentioned above, who laid the foundational work for the Diocese of Medak. My mother's maternal side too were first generation Christians. On my father's maternal side—the Paul family and his paternal side—the Thompson family are also from missionary ancestry.

My father, Mr Thompson Joshua Kamal Kumar has been attending and associated with church of St John the Baptist since 1972. Our family has been members of this church for the past 40 years.

“A righteous and God-fearing person will be blessed and their offspring will be blessed for generations.” (Psalms 112: 1-4)

We as a family truly believe and acknowledge that we have been blessed immensely by His amazing grace.

Ms Joyce Thompson is an active member of church of St John the Baptist. She is a member of the Pastorate Committee.



Making a Difference



Mr David Sam Roy

Mr David Sam Roy has been a member of Church of St John the Baptist since 2013.

Over the course of his career, he's been closely associated with UNICEF, World Bank, NAP, NORAD, ILO, CARE, NIFT Hyderabad. He also headed the SAARC Decadal Girl Child Programme and worked as a special officer for the combined states in sensitising senior functionaries on gender issues. He trained 3000 Muslim adolescent girls for various vocations.

He was instrumental in the restoration of Taramathi Baradari, a 400 years monument and Jagirdar Block Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet.

He has been an advisor to NGOs on various developmental issues, training programmes, income generation activities etc. He led the Reproductive Child Health (RCH) State Management Team.

He provides advocacy support to pastors. He conducted the millennium celebrations for teens and twenties (Christmas). Interestingly, he also organised Golf Tournaments as a way to spread the Gospel. He is a Life member of the YMCA and an active member of Gideon and of the Lions Club.

In the recent past, he worked as the Registrar, HPS Begumpet, The Head of Operations, Aga Khan Academy and is currently the Director for Finance and Operations at International School of Hyderabad (ISH), ICRISAT.



Mrs Suguna Prabhavathi Bunyan



1946-2022

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My mother, Mrs Suguna Prabhavathi Bunyan was born into a God-fearing and educated family on June 13, 1946. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree with highest honours. She then worked in Rayalseema region and later moved to Dornakal, after her marriage to my father, late Mr Augustine Bunyan (1942-2013). She worked for more than 35 years in Dornakal Diocesan school and retired as its Headmistress. She also served as the Women's secretary and contributed to various organisations Dornakal Diocese Church pastorate.

Growing up, I remember my mother as a very loving, cheerful, and simple lady. She balanced her personal life and work efficiently by taking care of us— husband, three children, parents-in-law and her work in school. She was a good host and enjoyed large family gatherings. I used to call her a social butterfly. She was highly-respected and regarded as an exemplary teacher and colleague in her school. Most of her co- teachers and her students were in touch with her, on regular basis till her last day

After retiring from their teaching responsibilities, both my parents worshiped at St John's Church, Secunderabad for more than 20 years. My parents loved and enjoyed meeting the church family, Sunday after Sunday, and would diligently sit in the third pew in church by 8 am for every service. My mother was fondly remembered for her hugs and warm greetings. As a wife, she did a commendable job of taking care of my father until he slept in the Lord.

"A gracious woman will be honoured with a splendid reputation." (Proverbs 11:16) My mother was very graceful, patient and forgiving. She was God-fearing person and spent long hours reading Bible literature and praying.

Mom, you were my friend and sister with whom I shared all my little joys and sorrows, I am honoured and privileged to have been your daughter. Proverbs, 1:8,9 states "...never forget your parent's instructions. For their insight will bring you blessings and success...".

You were precious, a gift from God. Your passing away impacted me in ways, which I can't begin to describe, but the memories of the years we spent together and especially the days towards the end of your journey, are the times that will keep me going. Miss you dearly, Mom! I thank God very much for my parents' beautiful life, please grant them grace and peace in your eternal Kingdom!

Indira Borusu, eldest daughter of Mrs Sugana Bunyan. Indira and her husband, Venkat Borusu, have a construction business. They have been worshipping in St Johns for more than 10 years. Their three children were baptised in this church. They have a large family in the church and enjoy worshipping here.



Mrs S Sumathi



1936-2022

In memory of my mother and wife of late Mr S J K David, Mrs Sumathi who passed away on May 13 2022, aged 86 years. A shy, sensitive person, she had an abiding love for animals, plants and children not necessarily in that order!

I think her outstanding feature was her radiant smile, especially the one she had on Sunday mornings. She loved seeing all the dear members of the congregation, who, in turn, stopped to greet and cheer her up. This made her week, till the coming Sunday.

Her passing away was with a loud shout of faith "Yesu rakhtam jayam" and she closed her eyes with an Alleluia. I praise and thank God for her faith journey.

I close with the line "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

Written by Mrs Sunitha David (daughter) and Ms Beulah Supriya (grand-daughter). Sunitha is the Head of the Department, English at the St. Ann's College for Women, Mehdhipatnam. Beulah the Youth Secretary at Church of St John the Baptist. She is also an active member of the choir.



Kuchipudi Simon John



1933-2022

An honourable tribute to late Kuchipudi Simon John garu

“The memory of the righteous is a blessing.” (Proverbs 10:17)

My father, the late Kuchipudi Simon John lived a truly Christian life, especially among non-Christians, and set an example in society.

Simon John's life started at St Joseph's hospital, Guntur, on July 4, 1933. Born to the late Kuchipudi Daniel and Suvarthamma, his early childhood was at Timmapuram, near Chilakaluripeta. His father was educated and worked as a head clerk at a Lutheran mission school, Peddapuram, Kakinada. Agriculture was the family livelihood.

He studied at Lutheran school, Peddapuram and then did a diploma in physical education from PR College, Kakinada. Later, he also did an MA in English. Subsequently, he worked in Orissa, Narsapur (West Godavari), and then took up a government job in Cuddapah. A few years later, when he was working in Madras, his career took a sharp turning when his talent and skill in sports was appreciated. This led to his next post as a Physical Director in REC (NIT), Warangal. He was a trained athlete and a national javelin thrower. He was in the NCC and associated with the YMCA.

Before his retirement, Simon John was a member of St. John's Church CSI, Kazipet. He conducted prayer meetings at home and presented Bibles to his non-Christian friends. He participated in the Haggai institute convention Singapore in 1982 and discussed Christian spirituality within Indian culture. At 82, he was baptised in the river Jordan, Israel, although he had earlier been baptised at a Lutheran church, in Peddapuram).

Years passed. He fell ill recently and left for his heavenly abode at the age of 89, amidst prayers—leaving behind his wife, Bangaru Pramila Rama Devi, his daughters Dr Suchitra and Sumitra, son Sunil (based in Florida), and their families.

Tributes poured out from church family, REC (NIT) Warangal, and relatives, mainly from Kuchipudi, Bangaru, Gera, Pullagura, Karyamshetty, Sirimavilla, Telagathoti, Billa, Janumala, Regulagadda, Prathipati, Gurram, and Madhavaram families.

Written by Dr KS Suchitra (daughter of Mr Simon John). She is an obstetrician, gynaecologist and freelance practitioner. She has been worshipping in St John's since 2003.



Capt. Martin H Sunder Reddy



1939-2022

"Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear."

July 1, 2022, 11:45 a.m. was the day you left us for your heavenly abode. You will always be in our hearts, our minds and our prayers.

My father was born on June 6, 1939, the fourth child to his parents. He was a respected retired Army Officer, and eventually retired as Assistant Commissioner of Mumbai Customs, IRS. A man who commanded respect and valued relationships, he taught us to be independent, dedicated and hard working in whatever we do. He was a strong and optimistic person, who never believed in giving up.

Most people knew my dad as a stern and tough man, but to me he was the sweetest and gentlest person, with a heart of gold. He lived for others and always helped everyone, be it financially or emotionally.

He was a regular churchgoer and insisted that the whole family attend Sunday morning worship service dressed in our finest outfits.

He loved being surrounded by family and friends and always celebrated every festival with great pomp and gaiety. He always wanted to host parties and celebrations, as an excuse, so he could bring his family and friends together. He enjoyed eating good food, always experimented with new cuisines and restaurants. But, most of all, he loved mom's home-cooked biryani.

Dad was a lover of sports, especially tennis, swimming and golf and achieved many accolades in tennis. He taught my brother Samson and me to play state-level tennis and we made him proud by being top ranked in AITA tournaments. He was a music and dance lover; and encouraged me to learn the piano.

He was a remarkable husband to my mother, a doting father to my brother and to me, a wonderful father-in-law and a loving grandfather to his four special grandchildren. Daddy, your loss will always be irreplaceable. I know you are happy and peaceful, up in heaven, and looking down upon us. I love you and miss you every day. Life will never be the same without you.

Rest in peace my guardian angel, until we meet again.

Your dearest daughter Deepa.

Mrs Lillian Deepa Reddy is the daughter of late Capt. M H Sunder Reddy. The family have been active members of the Church of St John the Baptist since 1997. Deepa is married and is a mother of two pretty girls. She has lived in US and Botswana. She is presently residing in Hyderabad with her mother.

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Betty Pamela Oldbury



1949-2022

This is a tribute to my beloved mother, Betty Oldbury

We have been members of St John's Church, Secunderabad for the past three generations—beginning with my great grandmother, my grandmother, Mrs Morrisca Catherine Roderick and my mother, Mrs Betty Oldbury.

My mother was born in January 31, 1949. She was baptised and received her First holy Communion and was also married at St John's church. Our family have been members of St John's till date.

My mother struggled a lot to raise us kids. My father had passed away, and she was left to manage as a single parent. She was very kind-hearted, soft-spoken and prayerful.

In spite of her problems, she was very content and thanked God for what she had.

My mother was a great pillar of strength to me during all the good and bad times in my life and she continued to support me even after my marriage. She stayed with us and took care of my daughter from the time she was born till she entered her teens.

There is no way I could ever quantify the importance she held in my life.

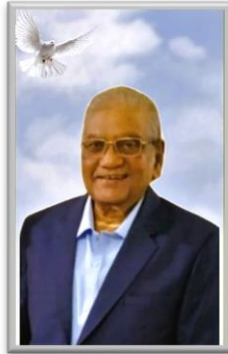
I would like close with these few words to my 'dearest mom':

"As you leave me, let me cry, let me say my mom was my hero, leading me to do right always, forgiving and loving, a shining star, making my life bright. As I lose my support, my light, dear mom, you are far away from me but always near in my heart. Until we meet again. Love you mom."

Veronica works at a Venture capital firm at Gachibowli. Her husband is Johnet Pereira—who took care of Mrs Oldbury like his own mother. Mrs Oldbury looked after Veronica's daughter, Nathania Glynnis Pereira, as Veronica had to get back to work within three months. Veronica thanks the church members, the Women fellowship members and Pastor for the loving and caring help during their hard times.



Rev. Dr Dondapati Samuel Satyaranjan



1939-2022

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My father Rev. Dr D S Satyaranjan was a man of strong unwavering faith, integrity, resilience and excellence. He was the strongest man I've ever known. Everything he did, he did with excellence and he set a very high bar for us.

B

I had the privilege of calling him Baba, Father in Hindi. He was kind and genuine and had a special way of connecting with people. People remember his kindness and how important he made them feel. He taught me that the way you treat people is important to God. He was a man of integrity and that there was no room for compromise.

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I learnt from him that you have an audience of one, your creator, and you are accountable to Him alone. This drove everything else he did and how he lived his life. He also instilled in me the faith that God fights your battles and with God on your side there is no mountain you cannot climb and nothing to fear.

T

Everything he accomplished during his 25-year term as the Registrar of The Senate of Serpore College is a testament to his unwavering faith in God. He was a man of purpose and determination. He instilled in me the belief that greatest purpose of our life is to serve God. Above all, I was blessed to be his firstborn and had the privilege of experiencing his unconditional love. I can still feel his strong hand holding mine as a little girl. He was my pride, my joy, my cheerleader.

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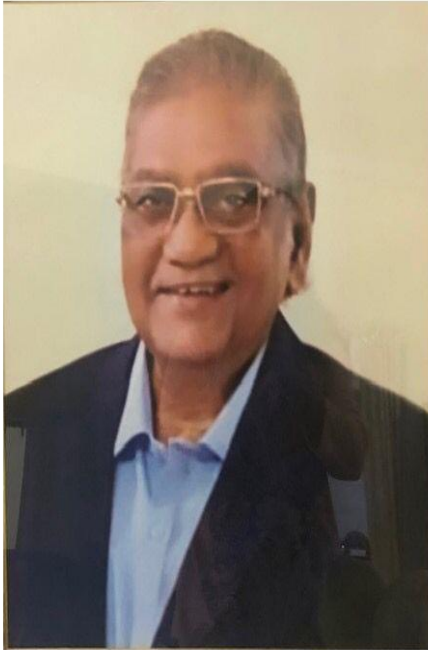
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I am honoured to call him Baba. I thank God for his beautiful soul, that touched so many lives and look forward to the day I will see him again.

Rena Mason

Rena Mason is the elder daughter of Rev. Dr D S Satyaranjan and Mrs Kamala Satyaranjan. She has a degree in commerce and Master of Divinity Degree from San Francisco. Her husband, Rev. William Scott Mason serves as the Pastor of Beaumont Presbyterian Church, California. They have served in Pastoral Ministry for 29 years. Her sister, Anne Dondapati Allen was ordained through the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains and is currently Staff Chaplain at the University of Colorado.





Rev. Dr. D. S. Satyaranjan
January 19, 1939 – June 13, 2022

Rev. Satyaranjan, lovingly known by his friends as 'Satya' and 'Sam' received his home call, on June 13, 2022, in Secunderabad, India, following a brief illness. Rev. Satyaranjan is survived by his wife of fifty-five years Kamala Satyaranjan, daughter Rena Mason, daughter Anne Dondapati Allen, son Sujith Andrew Dondapati, sons-in-law Rev. Scott Mason and Rev. Dr. Ellis Allen, daughter-in-law Dolly Dondapati and grand daughters Kavya Mason and Ellisia Allen.

Rev. Satyaranjan served as the Registrar of the Senate of Serampore College (University) from 1978-2004 and was one of the architects of theological education in India and South Asia over his twenty-five year tenure. He completed his BD from Serampore College, Serampore and his M.Th. From United Theological College, Bangalore. Rev. Satyaranjan earned his D.Min from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2006, following a long break, thanks to the unwavering support of Dr. Walt Davis and Rev. Warren Lee and under the guidance of his 'guru' Dr. Charles Bartow. His Dissertation "*The Preaching of Daniel Thambirajah Niles (D.T.Niles): Homiletical Criticism*" was Published by ISPCK in 2009. Over his forty-year service Rev. Satyaranjan shaped theological education in the Indian diaspora and South Asia. He artfully navigated the ecumenical and evangelical impetus of theological education, worked tirelessly to create a more inclusive theological education for mainline, indigenous and tribal churches, and developed extension education to accommodate non-traditional learners who were serving the church. On the eve of his retirement, his colleagues published "*Essays in Honor of Rev. D. S. Satyaranjan: Together with the People*" to commemorate his forty-year service. Through his leadership, theological education became more inclusive, contextual, accessible and relevant reinforcing his commitment to standing "Together with the People".

In his last years he fondly remembered his time at SFTS and wished that he could see the Redwoods again and take a drive through Yosemite. He was a scholar, an administrator, visionary leader and always a pastor at heart. Nothing gave him more joy than to bring the word of God from the pulpit. On March 7th, 2022 he brought the Ash Wednesday message to his 1970's United Theological College cohort on Zoom bringing him full-circle to the place where his aspirations for theological leadership first took root. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

Kamala Satyaranjan and Family

A professional and religious tribute by Bishop Surya Prakash

Rev. Dr D Satyaranjan had a distinguished career in theological education in India. Having served as the Registrar of the United Theological College Bengaluru, he was invited to be the Registrar of the Senate of Serampore College Kolkata, where he served over 25 years.

With his initiative, a number of new courses were introduced, especially for the laity.

He is known for the expansion of external studies, which have become very popular among the people of God.

After retirement, the family moved to Secunderabad and became members of the Church of St John the Baptist of the Church of South India. Occasionally he preached and also was involved in the Bible studies at the church.

We pray for his wife Smt. Kamala Satyaranjan and daughters Reena and Annie in US and son Sujit and their families.

May his noble soul rest in peace.

The Rt Rev. Dr Surya Prakash is Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Karimnagar, CSI

Pereji Nitya Seraphina



2008-2021

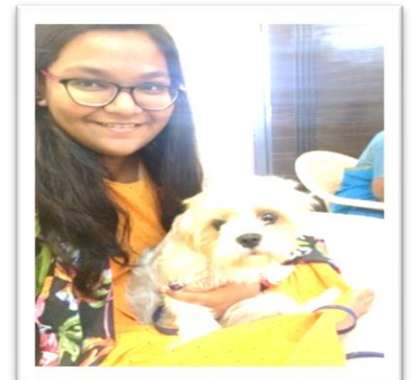
“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever...” Daniel 12:3

Pereji Nitya Seraphina Lovingly called Sparkle ... was our most precious gift from the Lord for a very short time. Though she was only a baby, at the age of three, Sparkle wiped our tears and brought solace to us when Twinkle, our elder daughter was taken to the Lord in 2011. Sparkle was full of life, a wonderful child, well-mannered, and shy. Yet also like children of her age, playful, mischievous, determined, strong-willed, yet loving and caring, with plenty of latent talent.



She was a beautiful child in and out, tender and stylish, a great singer with good sense of music. She played the keyboard and even began to learn and play the guitar earlier this year. She was a quick learner and was extremely tech-savvy. She spoke fluently, was a voracious reader and loved to be with books all the time. She also had a natural talent for drawing, painting, swimming, roller skating, skate-boarding and horse riding. She learnt to driving in 2021 and would even assist her father on the highways. She loved carrying little children, feeding them, and caring for them. As a child, she would hand-stitch garments for her Barbie dolls. This year she began to pick up knitting. Our energetic, high-spirited daughter also enjoyed interfering in the kitchen and very soon, learnt to make sandwiches, noodles, omelettes, cakes, and so on. She enjoyed kitchen gardening as well.

Sparkle loved to watch her favourite talk shows, documentaries and movies on TV, and enjoyed watching F1 car racing and cricket along with her father. She was fond of meeting prominent people in society and Church. She got along very well with the young and old alike — and left a mark of her presence with them. Sparkle was loved by loads of cousins, uncles, aunts, grandparents, grandmothers and friends from all over the globe. She was very friendly, affectionate, loved to have fun with her friends and enjoyed sharing her snacks and time with others. She was ever-ready to help, encourage and support her classmates when they were in need.



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Sparkle understood God's love for her at very tender age. She would sing songs spontaneously making up her own words. As a teenager, she learnt to be regular in her quiet-time. From her fifth birthday onwards, for every birthday she would recite a Psalm appropriate to her age. Along with her secular study time, she delighted in reading four to five chapters from the Bible regularly.

In the short span of her life, Sparkle had the opportunity to travel widely. In fact, she was more familiar with air travel than road and railways. She had been to Philippines on a mission trip from the Grace Outreach Church, Riyadh. She enjoyed travelling, as her father would take the family with a Prayer to carry the Power of Salvation around us. In every prayer she always mentioned, "Lord, let our names be there in the Book of Life".

R

Sparkle has sparkled in our lives. Every day of her very short span of God-given, fourteen years, we believe was never wasted. With her energy, mischief, love, stubbornness, determination and bright smile she always up to some concrete activity. She wanted to become a journalist and also understood the importance of Jesus Commission as her mission too.

I

It's being so difficult of each passing day, without our dear little one Sparkle around us. We miss Twinkle too. We are left with a silent home... undisturbed things...no books left on the table, swing, washrooms, kitchen ... and most of the absence of her noise for every small thing. All these running images in our hearts and souls pierce through as a thorn and a sword within us. With tears rolling down we need all our strength to gaze up to Jesus, for His Grace is all sufficient. Jesus, come soon. Maranatha.

B

We miss you around us ... Sparkle.

U



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E

S

Mr Pereji Noel, was the Bursar in The Pestle Weed School, Dehradun. He and his family have been members of St John's, since 1991. His confirmation as well as his wedding took place at St John's. He was the usher from 2001 to 2007 and cross bearer from 2007 to 2009, for both the services. Mrs Subhashini (MA. M Ed) has been a member of St John's since 1997. She was a Sunday School and VBS teacher from 1997-2007.



Testimonies

All Praise to God for His faithfulness in our lives. Both of us carry a great testimony of how miraculously God has brought us thus far in our lives and held us together to have a new beginning to serve Him as a couple. As the Bible says, two is better than one; we thrive to serve God twice as much as we used to individually in and through all we do in our lives. With God's help we would love to be a blessing to individuals and families in our Church the way our Church has been more than a blessing to us and our families. Trusting that God will use us in our workplace and everywhere He takes us and make us shine His light.



Aaron Pranay & Chris Nidhi

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
There is no testimony without a test
In our factory , about 5 weeks ago as the band saw machine was in operation, one worker's finger got hurt and after stitching it up, the doctor said that they would wait for a few days to see whether the finger needs to be amputated or not.
The prayer warrior's lifted up this request in prayer . miraculously the finger was healed and the worker is back to work.
Nothing is impossible with God. Praise Jesus.!!
All glory and honour to Jesus alone.

Mrs Yashodhra Desappa

Monsoon Fevers



Dr Priyadarshini John

Greetings to everyone in the marvellous name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

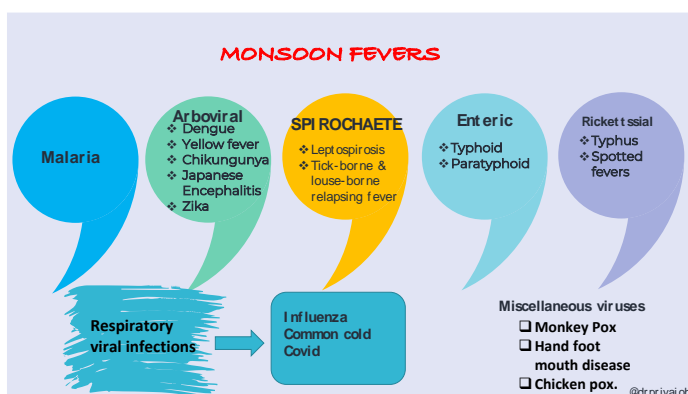
“If you diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in His eyes, and give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord your healer.” (Exodus 15:26)

Every year, different parts of India are hit by seasonal fevers in the post-monsoon period. These illnesses include, dengue, malaria, scrub typhus, leptospirosis, typhoid and other fevers, leading to very high morbidity and mortality, which may require intensive-care stay for a long period. Most of these fevers are difficult to diagnose due to overlapping clinical presentations, and need early empiric treatment, solely on the basis of clinical evaluation during presentations. Early evaluation by the physician is the key to lessen the severity of the disease spectrum.

Knowledge of areas with recent outbreaks, is very helpful in recognising the clinical entity. The onset of illness in relation to known incubation periods and the event of possible exposure can help to include or exclude various infectious diseases. The history of the current illness should pay attention to the duration (acute or chronic) and pattern of fever and geographic and travel history, both within and outside the country, to any specific endemic zone of some particular disease.

Localising clinical symptoms and signs are very crucial. Clues like headache, altered sensorium, myalgia and arthralgia, confusional states, seizures, photophobia, conjunctivitis, skin rashes or lesions, decreased urine output, abdominal pain, jaundice and lymph node enlargement will help in further evaluation.

The following infographic illustrates the common monsoon fevers.



H

So, what symptoms do we look for?

E

Most common symptoms include fever, with or without rash, malaise, easy fatiguability and myalgias. Respiratory infections cause cold, cough and breathing difficulty. Sometimes these benign fevers can get complicated when organ dysfunction sets in and the red-flag signs include, yellowish discoloration of eyes associated with jaundice, increased respiratory rate, increased heart rate, seizures and kidney failure.

A

What are the potential exposures?

- Transmission through insect or mosquito bites lead to several infections (malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Zika, scrub typhus, murine typhus, spotted fevers, relapsing fever).
- Ingestion of contaminated food and water, may cause enteric fever and hepatitis viruses to entering our bodies.
- Contact with body fluids or products of animals or contaminated water and soil, through skin abrasions or conjunctiva is linked to leptospirosis.
- Walking barefoot, working in paddy fields, and flooding in urban areas are other possible exposures

L

T

Who are at high risk of monsoon fevers?

H

Though everybody who gets exposed to the vectors are likely to get infected, the risk is greater for those in certain age groups like geriatrics and children, due to their immature immune status. Diabetes mellitus could lead to respiratory, urinary and other blood-stream infections. Pregnancy is a state of relative immunosuppression and pregnant women are at risk for malaria and viral infections, like dengue which demands immediate attention in order to mitigate the risk to the fetus.

C

Management of febrile (with fever) illness

O

Patients who are clinically stable, with no red-flag features can be managed at home. Hydration and antipyretics with cold sponging, as per physicians advise is the key to cure. Paracetamol in the therapeutic dose of 3-4 gram per day is safe, but higher doses should be avoided.

R

N

Over the counter medications like mefenamic acid and other anti-inflammatory drugs are absolutely contraindicated as these drugs are known to cause decreased platelet count and deleterious bleeding episodes. Appropriate antibiotics should be prescribed as per the diagnosis. Again, certain drugs are contraindicated in pregnancy and physician approval is necessary to use any medication. Severely ill patients, must be immediately hospitalised and treated accordingly. Few viral infections like monkeypox, hand, foot and mouth disease, Covid and influenza are highly contagious and require isolation, from the rest of the family.

Can we prevent these febrile illnesses?

E

Yes, to a certain extent. Not only monsoon fevers, but few other infections can also be prevented with universal hygienic measures and vaccinations. Universal hygienic practices include:

R

- Following strict hand hygiene
- Maintaining food hygiene (includes cooking with clean water, eating warm food and food rich in antioxidants, like a wide variety of fruits and vegetables)
- Insisting on water hygiene (treated RO, warm water is recommended)
- Following basic toilet and good hygiene practices, especially in children to prevent infections
- Insisting on and following cough etiquette
- Isolation in case of skin lesions and respiratory symptoms
- Control the vectors of infection like mosquitos and ticks

H

Vaccination Practice:

No doubt vaccinations are a boon to prevent disease and severity as well. Each vaccination has individualized course and doses are administered as per the schedule.

E

Some vaccines offer lifelong immunity while few require booster doses. The following infographic shows the recommended vaccinations.

A

VACCINATIONS

PREVENTION OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

- ❖ Hib Vaccine
- ❖ Flu vaccine
- ❖ Pneumococcal vaccine
- ❖ Covid vaccine



Miscellaneous

- ❖ MMR Vaccine
- ❖ Varicella Vaccine
- ❖ Malaria vaccine
- ❖ Yellow fever Vaccine

Prevention of food borne diseases

- ❖ Cholera Vaccine
- ❖ Typhoid Vaccine

Prevention of hepatitis virus

Hepat it is A&B Vaccines

@drpriyajohn

L

T

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C

Take home message:

Exposure to various vectors transmitting the diseases is often inevitable and the best way to mitigate the spread is by following universal hygiene measures, taking recommended vaccinations, not delaying the physician consultation, avoiding self-medication and ensuring the patient being isolated, whenever suggested.

O

Dr Priyadarshini John is a Consultant Nephrologist and Renal transplant Physician, AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad.

R

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Your Voices

These are some messages we received after the Easter Edition of the Parish Messenger was published.

We look forward to receiving more such messages.

Dear Chandrika,

I am going through the wonderful articles of the Parish Messenger. What a joy to read and ponder on different thoughts. A word about your editorial note. It is such a beautiful expression of the ongoing situation. Yes, we are all rebellious like Israelites, Yes God is bringing everyone on their knees. This is the only weapon. A powerful weapon which changes things. Beautifully depicted in English. Congratulations.

Mrs Prameela

Dear Chandrika,

Congratulations for the monsoon magazine of the St. Johns wonderful. Thank you and each of you on the editorial board who worked really hard to bring out this beautiful magazine. God bless each one of you

Mrs Prema Christian

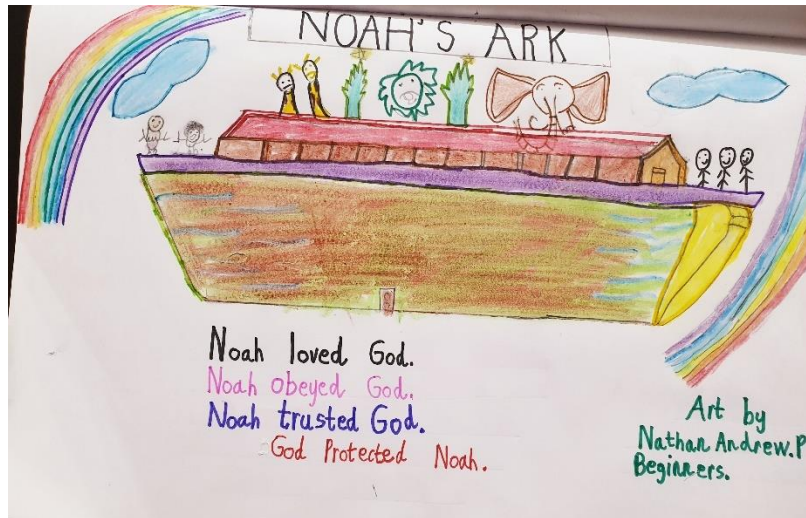
Hi Chandrika,

Got a copy of the Parish Messenger, the Editorial is well written. With the passing years, the messenger presentation is getting better and better—Cover page, printing board members etc., Good Job.

Mrs Sweety Rajkumar



ART WORK



By Nathan Andrews

Joshua Bennett Eeda - Primary



By Joshua Bennett Eeda

Answers to the Bible Quiz

Moses	Abel	Joshua	Dorcas/Tabitha	Deborah, Lappidoth
Methuselah	Achsah	Naaman	Nathanael	Melchizedek
Bartimaeus	Ruth	Rahab	Judah	Lamech
Samson	Mephibosheth	Balaam	Timothy	Elisha and his servant
Job	Samuel	Aeneas	Stephen	Lydia

Records-Church of St John the Baptist




April to August 2022

Compiled by Mr Sumanth Kumar

Baptism Records



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	<i>Date of baptism</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Photographs</i>
1	June 12, 2022	Zach Wilson <i>(son of Mikhail and Maya Wilson)</i>	
2	June 19, 2022	David Wesley Vampu <i>(son of Moshe Dayan and Ashritha Sudeepthi)</i>	
3	July 17, 2022	Shama Gangulu Samu Dheeraj Simon Jaden <i>(sons of Shyam Sunil Kumar and Beula Vuppalapati)</i>	

4	July 29, 2022	Ovadhya Shanahan (daughter of Hansel Shanahan Philips and Deepanthi Bakshi)	
5	August 7, 2022	Iain Wyatt Moss (son of Darian Kenrick Moss and Sukrija Rapala)	

Marriage Records



<i>Date of marriage</i>	<i>Names of the couple</i>	<i>Photograph</i>
July 9, 2022	Aaron Pranay Bandlamudi & Chris Nidhi Anthea Mesa	

Death Records



	Date of death	Names	Photograph
1	May 13, 2022	Mrs Sumathi S	
2	May 16, 2022	Mrs Suguna Prabhvathi	
3	May 31, 2022	Mrs Betty Oldbury	
4	June 6, 2022	Nitya Seraphina Pereji	
5	June 13, 2022	Rev. Dr D.S. Satyaranjan.	
6	June 13, 2022	Simon John Kuchipudi	
7	July 1, 2022	Martin Henry Sunder Reddy	

Events at Church of St John the Baptist



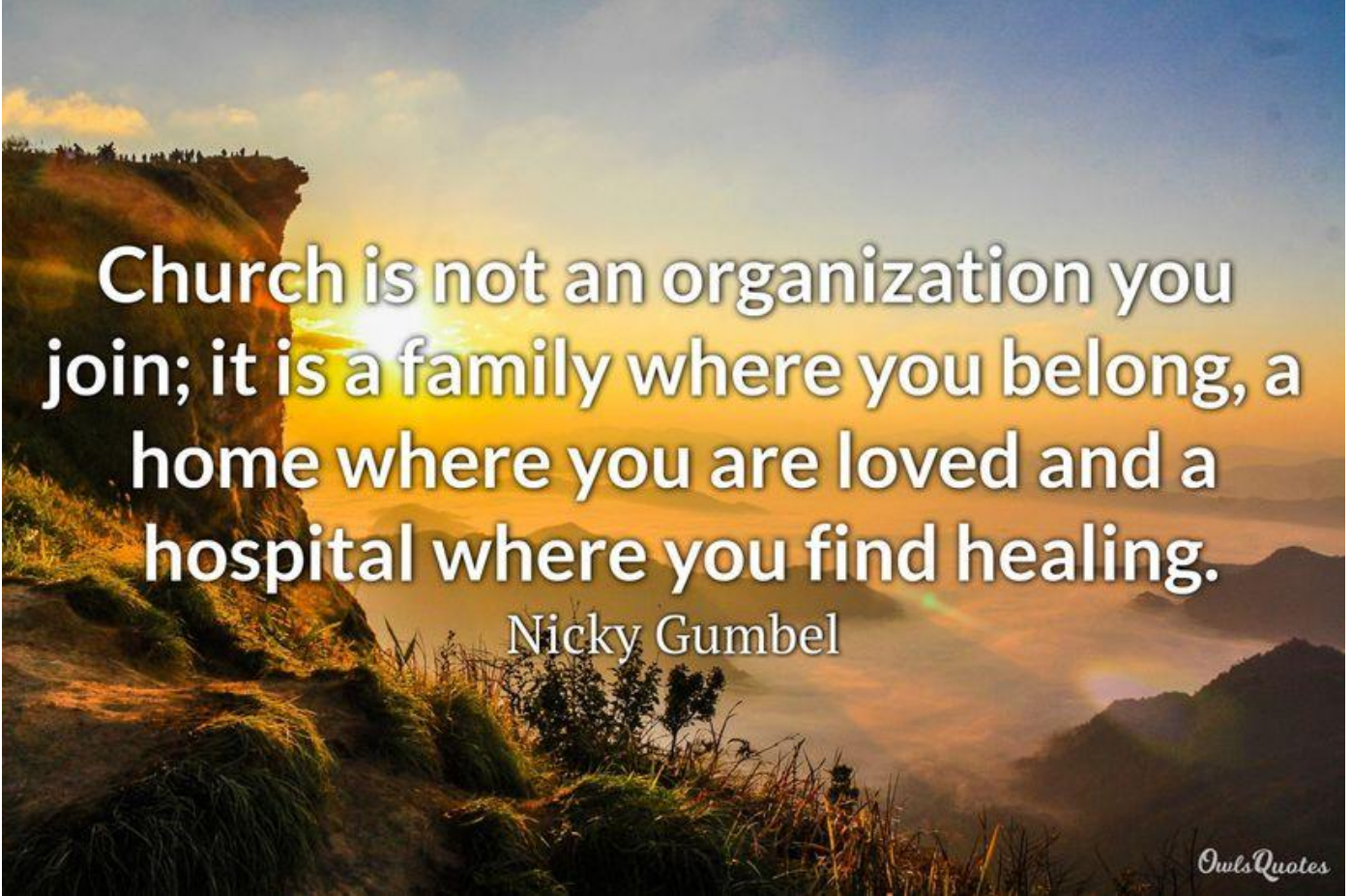
Bidding farewell to Rev. K James Cecil Victor and Mrs Suhasini Cecil



Celebrating 75 years of India's Independence

E
V
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N
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S





Church is not an organization you
join; it is a family where you belong, a
home where you are loved and a
hospital where you find healing.

Nicky Gumbel

OwlsQuotes



