

# THE PARISH MESSENGER



Church of St. John the Baptist  
Secunderabad



(For Private Circulation only)

## From Presbyter's pen



Dear people of God,



Greetings in the most blessed name of our lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Let us praise God for the new season and for all the precious good gifts.

Last two months, our spiritual journey was nurtured by various activities like mothers' and fathers' day celebrations. We have been reminded of the responsibilities towards our parents. All praise and glory to our Almighty God for giving us our parents as precious gifts in this universe.

I would like to congratulate our children who have settled in family life. May God bless them and shower upon them all the blessings and guidance to build their new homes.

Congratulations to Dr. B. Vimal Sukumar who achieved the doctorate degree and made every one of us feel proud of his caliber and achievements. I also extend my congratulations to Mr. Deepak Paul, S/o. Paul Guzzula, who acquired seat in M.B.B.S. at C.M.C. Vellore as a sponsored candidate from our Medak Diocese.

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The Most Rev Dr B P Sugandhar  
Presbyter-in-charge

Rev G Suresh Kumar  
Resident Presbyter

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Theme

*Possibilities and  
pitfalls for youth*

Many of our young and dynamic children have fared well in their academics and some have secured admission in overseas universities for further studies. Congrats and best wishes to Ms. Sheeba Pritika Uday and Ms. Reena Nirmal Dass.

While acknowledging and placing on the record of the efficient work, which was contributed by the previous pastorate committee members, I whole-heartedly congratulate and welcome the newly elected members and the office bearers for the biennium 2007-2009. The modern world challenges our spirituality in all spheres. But I hope that, this ensuing biennium with the sacrificial services and the contributions of the various talents of these committee members will enable us to envision new things in the mission and ministry of God so as to be faithful to our Master, who has extended His call to us.

Parish Messenger Editor, Mr. D.J.S. Sekhar has to be applauded for his untiring and efficient work in bringing out the bi-monthly bulletin. Like wise, the Sunday School, Men's, Women's & Youth Fellowship secretaries deserve all the appreciation for their dedicated participation in the church ministries.

It's a great challenge for the youth life in this modern world. Meddling in between the changes in the socio-cultural values, family system and economy on the one hand and on the other, the threat of dreadful diseases, abuse of alcohol, child labor, exploitation of the poor and the marginalized.

Youth life is always at a threshold of danger. As believers' community, God has given us an opportunity to give the right direction at the right time to achieve a great change. The right direction will emerge from the word of God. Prov. 3:6. ***"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."*** Jesus Christ is our model, at a young age, influenced the fisher folk men and inspired them to be His disciples to strive hard for the transformation of the socio-cultural structures, which were oppressive in nature during His time. He inaugurated God's kingdom and strived hard to bring people of all realms into the Kingdom of God. By committing our ways and acknowledging him in our lives, let us anticipate God's intervention to give us the direction to bring forth the fruit of our labour. The youth is the backbone of nation, church and families, let us use this stage of life in a resourceful way to bring glory to God and to be a blessing to our co-existents.

Let us remember the departed Souls, Late Sri Joab Vijayanandam & Late Smt Kamala Somasundaram and their bereaved families in our daily prayers so that, God may continue to strengthen the grieving families to over come the lost-ness of their beloved ones.

May God bless you and all our congregation members with His glorious guidance in our lives.

Yours pastor

**Rev. G. Suresh Kumar**



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There would be no crown - wearers in heaven had Christ not been the cross -  
bearer on earth. - *Our Daily Bread*

## From the desk of the editor...

Dear congregation members,



I thank God Almighty for being gracious enough to assign me with this task. I take pleasure in thanking our beloved pastor, Rev. Suresh Kumar, the pastorate committee and all the editorial board members for their support and encouragement. I look forward for a fruitful tenure with my focus being only on glorifying the Good Lord. I request utmost participation from all of you for me to achieve this.

Coming to this month's topic, today's youth is under tremendous pressure than any other time. Be it workplace, college or home, everybody expects a lot from the youth. And when we look at the external influences, the world presents him/her with a platter of temptations and traps. Many a times a youth's rise and downfall depend on the decisions he/she makes.

So, how can the youth overcome all the pressure and temptations ? How can they prove themselves to the world ? Young men and women, having Jesus in your hearts, holding on to the principles and teachings in the Bible, being filled with the Holy Spirit and asking for God's mercy in every step you take, YOU can break any barrier and achieve any feat which would look impossible in the human eyes.

May God bless you all abundantly.

Prayerfully yours,

*Neema Rajakumar*



### *Ten Commandments*

An enthusiastic church member said to her pastor, "I'm so anxious to make a trip to the Holy Land, climb to the top of Mount Sinai, and shout the Ten Commandments."

The pastor replied, "I've got a better suggestion : stay at home and keep them."

The secret of success is constancy to purpose. - Benjamin Disraeli

## Secretary's Corner



Dear congregation members, on the occasion of independence day on 15<sup>th</sup>, I would like to wish all of you 'HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY.'

I wish to highlight some of the events that have taken place in the last two months.

### **Congratulations :**

Dr. B. Vimal Sukumar for securing the doctorate.

Mr. Deepak Guzzula S/o Mr. Paul Guzzula who secured admission at CMC Vellore for the MBBS as a sponsored candidate of our Diocese.

### **Wedding Bells :**

Ms. Havila David with Shrish Kumar

Ajoy Khone Winson Jetti with Karuna Munganti

Lionel P. Prakash with M. Ramya Rebecca

Bijoy Mathew with Maria Studden

### **Baptisms :**

Ms. B. Deepa

G. Austin Anirodh S/o G. Alexander

Levi Jordan Walter S/o P.D. Walter

Carine Benjamin D/o Benjamin Franklyn

### **Obituaries :**

Mr. Joab Vijayanandam

Mrs. Kamala Soma Sundaram

### **WE WELCOME THE NEW EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS**

**Rev. G. Suresh Kumar** - Chairman

**Ms. Neema Raj Kumar** - Editor

**Ms. Lalitha Christian**

**Mr. Samson Gandhi**

**Mr. Bharat Kumar**

**Mr. V.P.S. Parimala Rao**

**Mr. M. James Samuel**

**Col. Surender Pavamani**

- *James Samuel*



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Too many Church members are starched and ironed, but not washed. - *Vance Havner*



## From the Treasurer's Desk...

Dear friends in Christ,

It gives me immense pleasure to present some of the important aspects of the budget of the Church of St. John the Baptist for the year 2007-08. Over the years, our Church has been growing in terms of membership, outreach and providing for the spiritual needs of the congregation. During the past year, we were able to reach out to the community and society at large by contributing to the construction of two churches that cater to the spiritual needs of remote villages, namely Nuthankal and Sathevally. The wooden roof of our beautiful and elegant Church was repaired, arresting the leakage of water. Few benches were added to give more seating facility. A green fence was erected and electrical wiring work had been taken up. The sextant's housing facility has been upgraded through provision of toilet facility, an additional room, and a compound wall. Most importantly, a family retreat and a Sunday school picnic were arranged for the bonding, fellowship and deepening of faith of our Church members. All these initiatives would not have been possible if not for your generous offerings and inputs.

During this financial year, the Pastorate Committee, under the able guidance of our Moderator-Most The Rev. Dr. B.P. Sugandhar, would like to continue this tradition of serving, providing and creating a genuine impact within the Church and the community at large. I would like to present some of the important provisions in the Budget that have been planned and approved for the financial year 2007-08:

### 1. *Spiritual Strengthening of our Church members*

- **Sunday School:** Regular Sunday School is conducted with utmost dedication from the Superintendent and Teachers. There are more than hundred children who participate actively every Sunday. These children are the future of a strong and vibrant Church. This year, we plan to equip the Sunday School by acquiring the following items:
  - ◆ PA system along with 3 mikes (Rs. 28,000)
  - ◆ Key Board (Rs. 30,000)
  - ◆ Tape recorder (Rs. 15,000)
  - ◆ LCD Projector & Screen (Rs. 60,000)
- **Family Retreat:** A family retreat has been planned, which would be an opportunity for building togetherness and stronger relationships within our St. John's Church family. Such a time of fellowship would be a source of spiritual refreshment along with fun and enjoyment. The last retreat organized has brought out the importance of such bonding of the Church members. The budget allocated for this program is Rs. 45,000.
- **Youth Programs:** The youth being an integral part of the Church need to be trained with the right skills and knowledge to lead and set examples to the world around them. An amount of Rs. 28,000 has been set-aside for the youth programs.

### 2. *Extending our ministry and outreach*

The Church of St John the Baptist has contributed to the construction of two village Churches during the past year. It has been proposed to contribute to the

construction of one more village Church in this financial year. An amount of Rs.50,000 has been budgeted.

3. ***Maintaining the Church infrastructure***

The windows and doors of the Church need to be repaired and painted. An amount of Rs. 3,50,000 has been allocated for the purpose. The second phase of electrical wiring would also be taken up during this year. Further, it has been decided to purchase a new Generator and a Computer for the Church.

4. ***Initiatives to maximize the impact of the Church Ministry***

- Church Website: The Church has planned to launch a website that would communicate the values of our Church and be a platform for fast and easy communication among the Church leaders, Church members, visitors and others. It would be a resource of readily available information, which would improve connectivity with the interested individuals within and outside the country. The estimated cost will be Rs. 10,000 per annum.
- Parish Messenger: The bi-monthly Parish Messenger has been appreciated and recognized as an effective source to communicate and provide updated information to the Church members. It has welcomed the members to express their views and discuss current issues. It costs about Rs. 4,500 every bi-monthly to produce the Parish Messenger.
- Weekly Bulletin: The weekly bulletin has been introduced for the members' convenience. This would require Rs. 550 per week.
- The Church office is planned to be equipped with a Computer and Printer (Rs.25,000/-)
- The need for fixing up a Generator for the church has been approved.

Your continued support and encouragement will enable the Church to undertake these activities. We encourage members to volunteer with their technical skills and dedicated leadership so that, we can work together for the Glory of God. Your advice and time will be greatly appreciated. Your generous contributions can be specifically made to the designated activity or project. Your continued devotion in supporting through financial contributions will help in achieving the desired plans. 2 Cor 9:7 says- "*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart;.... For God loves a cheerful giver*", and verse 11 says- "*While you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.*"

Those individuals/families interested in contributing to any of the items listed above may kindly contact the Resident Pastor- Rev. Suresh Kumar (Ph: 98491 76552), the Treasurer- Mr. Udaia Kumar (Ph: 98480 13513), or the Secretary- Mr. James Samuel (Ph: 93962 00057). Any suggestions regarding the budget are welcome. Let us together work for the extension of God's Kingdom.

God Bless,  
In His Service,

**M. Udaia Kumar**

Treasurer

Church of St. John the Baptist

Church of South India, Medak Diocese





## Possibilities and Pitfalls for Youth

Jayamani Abhishekam\*

The word 'adolescence' usually means 'becoming adult.' From this stage, the life extends from the crisis of puberty to the attainment of full physical maturity. Usually it happens from the 12th year to 24th. Till adolescence, our children depend for everything on elders. They love, walk and talk with them and are very obedient in everything. But as they enter teens, they wish to be independent and have individuality.

Adolescence is the beginning of youth and this period is a very important one, because at this age tremendous forces begin to work with their future and it starts worrying them.

**Physical changes:** Physically their arms and legs grow rapidly. The muscles give pain as they grow. As a result of this growth, the youth become lazy, moody and a bit slack and they don't mind being shabby. Because of rapid physical growth, they are constantly hungry. Change in their voice, extra hair growth etc is noticed by all. Tremendous physical changes take place in females.

Sometimes bewildered and misguided by these changes, teenagers may do wrong things and are needed to be corrected. The parents and elders need to explain their changes, tell them how to adjust to them and comfort them through prayers. In the 6th chapter of Deuteronomy, God is telling us, "Thou shall teach diligently unto your children." Teaching and leading young people are the duties of the elders in the families and in the churches.

**Mental changes:** Regarding the mental changes in early stages, youth feels for himself to be walking into a new life. He awakes in his personality and tries to understand his new world and new environment. He realises that his life is developing. But if the growing adult humbly depends on God and work hard to keep

himself away from bad things, he will be blessed. Individual temperament, innate capacities and life's opportunities help or hinder in life. The adolescent usually feels himself as a new being. Some can make a new discovery namely the value of his own self. The new impulses, desires and feelings appear in them, so that tastes of childhood values change.

The mental development and the expansion of self-hood appear in various ways. The youth gets filled with new senses of power. Sometimes this brings them to conflict with friends and elders. In some instances, young people run away from home on account of misunderstanding or maltreatment. The spirit of independence and their own power of judgement make them to do mistakes.

Altruism, which means 'feelings for others' makes them to rush in wrong ways. It is shown a lot for opposite sex. Being just friendly with the opposite sex is ok. But in these days, the youth are tempted a lot and yield to them. Many magazines with immoral literature and pictures which drag the youth into dangerous dungeons are available in these days. In 2 Tim 4:3-4, we are clearly warned how people will not listen to sound doctrine but follow their own desires.

We can win back the youth with God's help. The religious injections, biblical truths and loving treatment can bring them back to God's family. Through our prayers, we can direct them to walk through the narrow way (Math 7:18).

God's principles to keep youth safe and sound : 1) Praying everyday and anytime, especially when we feel the presence of Satan. 2) Reading the word of God, which directs us to walk in the proper way. 3) Walk hand in hand with the Holy Spirit to live as purely as possible. ■

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\*Mrs Abhishekam is a former Dean of Women, Hindustan Bible Institute, Chennai

# The JPC Worshipper

Abraham Mathews\*

Like Schools have a wide array of student types, churches too have their own wide array of worshippers. My student carrier is long over but my stint as a worshipper continues. Most schools have a few excellent students who are distinction holders, some first class students, many average students, some just-pass students and lastly a few failures. It is about the Just-Pass category of worshippers that I can write about with some confidence and with some regret too, because I belong to the Just-Pass category (JPC).

Like students have class tests, quarterly, half-yearly etc., we as worshippers are also tested at regular intervals by our Lord God. For the JPC student, "no-exam" time is fun time with friends, food, films and everything except studies. Ditto with the JPC worshipper in his "no-trouble" time. There's time for all good things of life except practice God's word. Days breeze past happily for both JPC's and all's groovy till the exam dates are announced and invariably, the time's too short to study and pass. This is when they are gripped at the throat by the vicious hand of panic and worry. The trauma of regret, fear, worry, shame and all other negative emotions make a good concoction for positive thinking and the JPC student decides to talk to his teacher and the JPC worshipper decides to talk to his God.

The dialogue between the JPC student and his teacher begins with a lament about how he could not study because of his good-for-nothing friends. He blames

circumstances, ill-health, lack of parental guidance, and many other reasons for his plight... all except himself. Ditto with the JPC worshipper.

Then starts the promises galore. The JPC's promise instant-reformation. He'll be a different person with only one goal... never will walk a step away from the straight line path towards his goal. They even accept to bear any penalty should their words not be supported by concrete action.

By this time the JPC student's teacher has a smile (how many times have I not heard all this ?) and though I don't know for sure I feel the JPC worshipper's Lord also might have a smile on his bright face. That's when the punch line comes. The JPC student pleads for a few grace marks this one time... only this time... and I'll get a distinction the coming exam. The JPC worshipper's punch line is similar too... help me get over this one trouble Lord... I promise I'll never again stray from your will. Just this once Lord...

The student's teacher and the worshipper's Lord both being eternal optimists, decide to give the grace marks required. The JPCs pass their exam and its NO-EXAM / TROUBLE time again !!! And there go our JPCs again... breezing past life again on the fast lane and forgotten is the prayer... Give me this day my daily grace...

**- Abraham Mathews**

*Member of Pastorate Committee*



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\*Mr Abraham Mathews is the Technical Director of Indus Cooling Towers



## Women's Fellowship : A Report

Mrs Yashodhra Desappa\*

It's an awesome responsibility, to own a Bible. Understanding scriptures, places on us the responsibility to put it into action. The Lord has made His word available to us not just for interesting reading, or good listening, but He is preparing us for action. On judgement day we will find that **taking God's word lightly, carries with it, weighty consequences.**

Some night, take a walk down your street and observe the homes. They all draw electricity from the **same source**, but some houses are dim but others are brilliantly lit. So also the **Saviour's power is available to all believers, yet, only some respond by spending that extra time at his feet.** At St. John's, the ladies of the Women's Fellowship like to **Praise & be raised**, as every Sunday, after morning worship service, the ladies meet for a 15 minute prayer fellowship. Yes, **prayer is the back bone of our activities.** Through prayer, we can go on far reaching errands without leaving our homes.

The best way to influence people for God is to go to God, for people. **There are no perks without works. Mom's in the Gap - the intercessory prayer group to pray for various needs**, meets once in a month at one of the ladies' homes from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Lunch is provided by the hostess of the month.

The ladies also have a **chain prayer fellowship.** People are requested to give their prayer request to us and chain prayers go up by telephone or email. We are witness to many answered prayers. **Thanks to our Almighty God.**

The next time you reach out to help fellow believers, we need to remember, we are

actually ministering to Christ. What a privilege! One way to do great things for Christ, is to do little things for His children. We, at St. John's **have a Dorcas Ministry - reaching out to help the needy, the under privileged and the orphans and visiting the sick to name a few.** Last year, we from the Women's Fellowship were able to collect Rs.1,20,000/- to get an artificial hand for one of our members, who tragically lost her hand in an accident.

When we meditate upon God's Word, reflect upon it, analyse it and digest it, its message becomes part of our being. **Psalm 1:2 says "In His law doth he meditate day and night." There is no gain without pain. The Spiritual development journey meeting is held every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at St. John's. It's a wonderful invitation for families to gather, for a quality time of singing, testimonies, quiz, Godly humour, intercessory prayers and searching the Scriptures.** This is held from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the side chapel of St. John's Church. **All are welcome to "feast on fresh manna."**

We also have Bible Study every Saturday at 6.30 pm.

A London lady, who was quite deaf, met the speaker for the big evening Evangelical Meeting. The speaker asked the lady, 'and what part do you have in this work.' 'Oh!', she answered, 'I smile them in and I smile them out again.' She had one talent and she used it well. How about you ? **If you cannot do great things, you can at least do small things in a great way.**

Thank you and a **special blessing** on every active lady of the Women's Fellowship. **Won't you too be a part of us here at St. John's Women's fellowship ?** ■

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\*Mrs Yashodhra Desappa is a business woman & Secretary St. John's Women's Fellowship

# Youth : Pitfalls & Possibilities

Mrs Vasantha Purushotham\*

The Bible says that "...even the youth shall be weary and the young men shall utterly fall." Youth can easily yield to temptations and fall into the net spread out by the evil one.

King Solomon, the Preacher in his book, Ecclesiastes, gives good advice to young people. His exhortation to the youth is :

1. Rejoice in your youth.
2. Remove sorrow and evil from your youth.
3. Remember God in your youth.
4. Reflect upon what is going to come.

Many young people love the first exhortation. They rejoice well in their youth. They are happy to let their hearts cheer them. They walk in all the ways of their hearts. They do whatever gives joy in the sight of their eyes. But to reflect upon what is to come, the final judgment will make them sad. So they avoid thinking about it.

They need to remember these things :

1. They have no guarantee of their future life. Death is no respecter of age. Almost every day in the newspapers we read about the untimely death of young people. Some in road traffic accidents, some committing suicide due to depression, disappointments or failures. Some youth succumb to terminal illnesses like

cancers, heart attacks and kidney failure. No one can be sure of a long life. The Bible says that life is like a vapor which appears for a little time and then vanishes away. (James 4:14-17) You may plan to repent at the eleventh hour, but you may die at 10:30 !

2. The Lord is coming to judge, according to II Peter 3:7, 9-11. There will be young people also in the judgment. These are those who died when they were young. They didn't make the time to repent and turn away from their sins. So youth should well remember that in this world they are travelers and sojourners. They need to accept the Lord as our Saviour. Only then can they be ready to face the Lord without fear when he comes as the Judge of the world.
3. Some young people who waste their youth will curse their future. The word of God is clear about this. It says, "You reap what you sow..." (Galatians 4:7,8). Your actions of today will affect not only your future life, the years to come; they also affect your eternity !
4. Young people should avoid the following if they want to escape from danger to their souls.
  - a) **REBELLION** : They are inclined to rebel or disobey their parents, teachers and

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\*Mrs. Vasantha Purushotham is Retd. Principal of Wesley Girls High School - Secunderabad.

elders. God has ordained these people in your lives. We must obey all those in authority over us. This is Biblical teaching.

- b) LYING : If you tell a lie, people will never trust you. They will always think twice before believing what you say. Your word will lose its value. Moreover, the father of lies is Satan. While the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour is Truth !
- c) STEALING : God is watching over whatever we do. It may be just the office supplies or that software you are copying. "Everybody does it" is not an excuse. God seeks integrity and wholeness. Practically speaking, you may lose your jobs and self respect.
- d) FORNICATION : This makes young people get into real trouble. They can contract diseases such as HIV/AIDS

and other Sexually Transmitted Infections. Young girls can suffer from unwanted pregnancies leading to abortions and a guilt trip. Their families and God will have to bear the disgrace.

Youth ought to remember God even while they are young. No one can force them to do this. Parents, Pastors, Sunday school teachers will point out the dangers that youth will face if they do not remember their God in their youth.

One thing is certain. God will remember all their actions and attitudes. He will bring them all to judgment. (Eccles 11:9).

Dear young people, you will only live once. Make the right choice. Remember God in the days of your youth. Then you will surely enjoy eternity with the Lord.



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## Speed Singing

Our country has some very good roads now.

As you drive along these expressways the following hymns are recommended for your singing.

At 60 km per hour	-	"God will take care of you"
At 85 kmph	-	"Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah"
At 100 kmph	-	"Nearer My God to Thee"
At 120 kmph	-	"Nearer Still"
At 135 kmph	-	"This World is Not Mine"
At 150 kmph	-	"Lord I am Coming Home"
At 160 kmph	-	"Precious Memories"

A good selection to choose from !! Be a Christian on the road --- always.

Adapted from '*The Galilfan*' (Mar-Apr 2003)

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Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance. - Ruth E. Renkel

## My Victory !

**Here are some testimonies from the young champions of our church.**

The first level of Insurance Exam, which I wrote, was very tough. I attempted with my hope only on God. Only 6 out of 49 passed in our class. I praise God that He enabled me to clear the exam. I request all of you to pray for me to clear the other levels too.

- *Candy*

I was going through very difficult situations in choosing the right job. God led me through the right path and helped me get into one of the best companies “Genpact” as a manager. Praise the Lord! I request for your prayers to help me to be successful in this job. “O...Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

- *Merlin Harris*

I got a job related to both of my PGs, MBA and MSc Biochemistry, even before finishing my MBA. What a wonderful God we serve!

- *Megha*

I was very down and depressed. Everyone thought that I’m capable of nothing. But now God has made me play music with famous bands in many occasions. I keep getting invitations from far and near. Praise the Lord!

- *Kapil*

I completed Engineering successfully amidst many difficulties.

- *Mikhail*

I was the first person in my class to get a job.

- *Sandy*

Two months back, I was blamed for nothing. People were talking bad about me. I started praying sincerely. God answered my prayers. People who spoke against me are now speaking well of me. Thank you Lord!

- *Edwin*

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**Note:** The views expressed in the columns of this Parish Messenger are purely those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the church. However, care is taken to ensure scriptural integrity.

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I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know : the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. - *Albert Schweitzer*



## But He Endured

M Anthony David Swaroop Kumar\*

Of all his brothers, though he was younger and not so brawny, he was Dad's favorite. He had visions of what the future could be for him and his family. He saw prophetic and mind - blowing visions. His family laughed when he shared those visions with them. No one took him seriously.

But he endured all of it patiently.

All his elder brothers hated him. They thought that, being Dad's blue-eyed boy, he must have been telling tales on them. Their hatred peaked when they saw the beautiful new coat of many colors, which his dad bought only for him.

He patiently endured their hatred.

One day as they were far away from home grazing their father's flocks, they got a chance. Father sent his favorite son to them. They seized him and tore his multicolored coat from off his slender shoulders. They conspired to tell a lie to their dad and threw him into an unused well. They got a bright idea when they saw some travelling slave traders and sold him off to them for a pittance.

Still, the young man endured it all.

On their journey, the traders reached the kingdom of Egypt along with their slave. There they sold him as a slave to Potiphar, Captain of the King Pharaoh's guard.

He endured being a slave in that new environment.

But God was with him. And he was such a faithful slave that Potiphar trusted him with everything in his home. He became chief of all of Potiphar's slaves. But then a problem arose. Mrs. Potiphar lusted after this youthful slave and tried to seduce him. He refused. She turned tables on him and complained that he tried to seduce her. Her husband threw him into the Pharaoh's prison. There he languished for some years. Wrongfully confined for no

fault of his with no hope of a fair trial or release. In all these tribulations, did he relent ?

No rather, he endured patiently.

But God continued to be with this young man of endurance. So, he became the trusted helper of the prison warder. He was asked to look after the welfare of all the other prisoners. A job he did with great endurance. One of them, the King's cupbearer was reinstated to his position after a dream interpreted correctly by this young man. Before he left the prison, this young man asked him to put forward his case to the Pharaoh. But this cupbearer forgot completely about him, for nearly a couple of years.

But he endured, still patient, still without any grudge !

Then, in the fullness of God's time, this enduring young man Joseph was elevated to the second highest position in all of Egypt. Due to the worldwide famine and due to his prophetic ability, he made Egypt the source of food for all nations during the famine. He had power both over his brothers and over his parents and his brothers. He forgave them heartily and tried to help them.

He continued to endure.

His endurance was beyond his grave. Even before his death, he gave command that his bones were to be taken to the promised land of Canaan, when they all shifted back. Something, which was fulfilled by his descendents, some 400 years later.

A prophetic endurance indeed !

Joseph was a young man with a lot of patience, a lot of endurance. A faithful, foresighted, forgiving and fruitful man indeed. An embodiment as it were of endurance ! May we all in this day and age endure our little hardships with a smile and grow in the favour of Our Lord !

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\*Dr David is Professor in Physiology, Deccan College of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad

## Naga - The Evil thought

Neema Rajakumar\*

**Dear kids, I'm Naga the snake. Thanks a lot for choosing to read my story. I'm sure you will enjoy my adventurous story. You can read Genesis Chapters 1-3 to know the relevant story in the Bible. Happy reading!**

It was a beautiful garden with many fruits and flowers of different colours. There were a lot of animals running around the bushes and playing. I too loved playing. So I glided on the trees and swung around. God who created us was always in the garden and His presence made us tremble. I noticed that he was busy making something with mud. After He had made a figure out of mud, He blew inside, and Walla... the mud figure became a man ! It looked like magic when the next day He made the man to sleep and took out a bone from the man and made a woman. They were called Adam and Eve.

I started wondering how God was able to do all this. I too wanted to do something like that. But how ? I was overcome by this feeling of doing something more than I was supposed to do. I saw God taking Adam and Eve to a tree in the middle of the garden and tell them, "Do not eat this fruit."

At that time I felt a dark power get into me and the power made me glide to the tree. The fruit was very good to see. Then my thought of doing something different grew more and more. I struck upon an idea. "Why can't I make Adam and Eve eat the same fruit? But how? What if Adam harms me when I try to convince him? What if he tells God?" So I chose to play my game on Eve. I was waiting for her to be alone. As I turned back and saw the tree, the fruits looked like glittering weapons of victory to me.

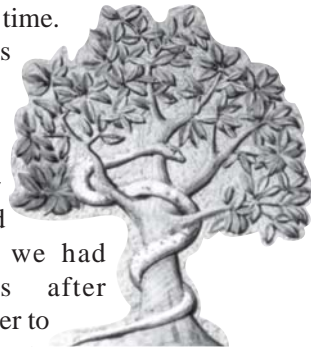
The next day, she woke up early and was wandering around. I thought that that

would be the right time.

So I glided towards her and danced on the trees. She saw me and was amazed by my beauty. We started

to play. When we had become friends after sometime, I took her to the shade of the tree to rest. I asked, "Hey Eve, have you eaten this fruit?" She said, "No, God has asked us not to eat this fruit." Then I said, "Oh no, this is the tastiest fruit of all. Just eat one. God will not know." To make her desire for the fruit, I pretended to eat one. She was too tired to think about the consequences. So she plucked one and ate. She liked it a lot. She said, "Oh, how sweet this is ! I will ask Adam also to eat." Saying so she plucked another fruit and took it to Adam and he also ate.

I felt very proud of myself. God made man to rule over the animals and now I have made him obey me ! I felt like a king ! But in the evening when God came, I was scared if he would find out what I had done. So I went inside a hole in a tree and hid myself. But when God learned what had happened, He called me. My body was shivering when I bowed before Him. He cursed me saying, "The son of Eve will stamp you and you will bite his heel." Even today I'm scared of people. I try to run away and hide if I see one. If they come near me I try to bite them and kill them before they could kill me. ■



\*Ms Rajakumar is a freelance writer on Christian themes

## **Our New Pastorate Committee Members 2007 - 2009**

### **Elected Members**

Mr. N. S. J. Devadattam  
Dr. B. Vimal Sukumar  
Mr. M. James Samuel  
Mr. M. Udaia Kumar  
Mr. R. Samuel David  
Mr. H. W. A. Hartwig

### **Bishop's Nominees**

Ms. Lalitha Christian  
Col. Don Blewitt  
Mr. Ch. Bharath Kumar

### **Floor Nominees**

Mr. Norman Isaac  
Mr. Martin David  
Mr. Abraham Mathews

### **Christ Church representatives**

Mr. David Dorai Raj  
Mr. Dass Nirmal Kumar  
Mr. K.S.K. Srinivas Rao  
Mr. K. Vivekananda

### **Office Bearers**

Mr. M. James Samuel	Pastorate Secretary
Mr. M. Udaia Kumar	Pastorate Treasurer
Mr. N.S.J. Devadattam	Property Secretary
Mr. Ch. Bharath Kumar	Church Steward

### **Sectional Secretaries**

Sunday School Superintendent	:	Mrs. N. Usha Sagar
Youth Secretary	:	Mr. Martin David
Men's Fellowship Secretary	:	Mr. Jason Wilson
Women's Fellowship Secretary	:	Mrs. Yashodara Desappa
Editor – Parish Messenger	:	Ms. Neema Rajakumar

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*Articles, Testimonies, Book Reviews, Anecdotes, Prayer requests, Praise items, etc., are welcome from the Church members.*



## Wedding Bells



*St. John's Church wishes*

Ms. Havila David *with* Shrish Kumar  
Ajoy Khole Winson Jetti *with* Karuna Munganti  
Lionel P. Prakash *with* M. Ramya Rebecca  
Bijoy Mathew *with* Maria Studden

*A Happy Wedded Life!*

*Theme*

For the next edition of

*The Parish Messenger*

**Children - Gift of God,  
handle with care**

### You are cordially Welcome to Services in our Church



#### SUNDAY :

Holy Communion Worship Service	:	8-30 a.m.
Sunday School	:	8-30 a.m.
Men's Fellowship	:	10-30 a.m.
Women's Fellowship	:	10-30 a.m.
Youth Fellowship	:	10-30 a.m.
Holy Communion Worship Service	:	6-30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY :

Mid-week Holy Communion Service	:	7-30 a.m.
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### Please pray for the Forthcoming Events

- |     |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 1.  | 9 <sup>th</sup> September, 2007                   | - | Family Retreat                                |
| 2.  | 27 <sup>th</sup> September, 2007                  | - | C.S.I. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations           |
| 3.  | 29 <sup>th</sup> September, 2007                  | - | Retreat for Senior Citizens (Church Premises) |
| 4.  | 30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2007                  | - | Senior Citizens Sunday                        |
| 5.  | 7 <sup>th</sup> October, 2007                     | - | Harvest Sunday                                |
| 6.  | 14 <sup>th</sup> October, 2007                    | - | Visit to a village church                     |
| 7.  | 21 <sup>st</sup> October, 2007                    | - | Confirmation Sunday                           |
| 8.  | 4 <sup>th</sup> November, 2007                    | - | Sunday School Sunday                          |
| 9.  | 18 <sup>th</sup> November, 2007                   | - | Girl Child Day                                |
| 10. | 9 <sup>th</sup> December, 2007                    | - | Carols (Sunday)                               |
| 11. | 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec, 2007 | - | Carols team visit to houses                   |
| 12. | 22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2007                   | - | Christmas Tree                                |
| 13. | 24 <sup>th</sup> December, 2007                   | - | Christmas Eve                                 |
| 14. | 25 <sup>th</sup> December, 2007                   | - | Christmas Festival                            |
| 15. | 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2007                   | - | Watch night / Year ending service             |

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