

THE PARISH MESSENGER



Church of St. John the Baptist
Secunderabad



(For Private Circulation only)

Presbyter-in-charge's Message

To
The members of St. John's Church,
Dear Parishioners,

Greetings.

It is good that we have our *Parish Messenger* to communicate with you every two months. Those of you, who are regular in coming to church on Sundays are abreast with all the news and events in the church. But for those who couldn't come regularly our *Parish Messenger* becomes the channel for communication. We invite you also to contribute articles and news and your experiences.

I would like to express my thanks to you for your regular participation and support for the ministries of the church. Every Sunday we have two services, one at 8.30 a.m. and the other at 6.30 p.m. We invite you all to come on time. You are invited to be part of the singing choir especially young people. Specially I would like young people to take active part in the evening services with their guitars and other musical instruments.

Men and women take part in the fellowship meetings after the service. Those of you who could afford to stay a little longer, you may join your respective Fellowship Meetings. Our Sunday School is running on well with efficient, committed teachers. You people may like to be part of this programme. We have lively children and it is great to have them around.

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Theme

New Life in Christ

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Our communion services are well attended. I have observed that many of you are standing for quite some time till you approach the altar. What do you do while you await your turn ? May I suggest that you might do some of the following :

- a) meditate on the message you would have heard.
- b) reflect on one of the symbols of our faith in the church.
- c) recite the name of God.
- d) memorize some verses from the scripture.
- e) say your prayers.
- f) plan for the days spiritually.

g) meditate on the meaning of the Holy Communion for you personally.

Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness.

Let us sing praises and worship Him.

Let us be joyful and thankful to the Lord our God.

God bless you !

Yours in God's service,

Rev. Dr. P. Surya Prakash
Presbyter-in-charge



Editorial

New Creature in Christ

The theme for this edition of *The Parish Messenger* is *New Life in Christ*. Years roll by in our lives, but does the new year mean anything new in our attitudes and life style is the moot question.

As a Church, a family and individuals we need to introspect a lot. The church is beset with problems unending and ever increasing. Can we imagine several Bishops supporting gay culture in an international conference in the UK in recent times ? Divisiveness in the Church based on theology, liturgy and so on, Machiavellian politics, casteism in Church politics or its role in fixation of marriage alliances etc., are too rampant. Do we have concern for the poor and marginalized ? The earlier missionaries won the hearts of the people through social action. It is not as though everything is wrong with the Church or the family or all of us, but it is important the present generation of Christians has a responsibility for itself as well as the posterity. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." II Cor 5:17.

The church is the rallying point for the congregation, indeed on those issues the

community as a whole is confronted with. People need to talk about it a lot more. A representative committee of both the clergy and laity at the parish and Diocesan level and indeed at all perceivable levels to talk over is the need of the hour. No one is hoping for utopia, but a beginning should be made. A traditional and united church like the *Church of South India* enjoys a huge advantage to don the mantle of a flag ship. Christians by and large are God - fearing and Christ centred. The Church should take initiative to reform itself of the prejudices it is plagued with. Can we hope St. John's to take the initiative ?

* * *

From this edition we are publishing *Animal Adventures in the Bible - Series* under *Kids' Corner*. These are stories based on the Scriptures specially written by a talented and committed member of our Church, Ms Neema Rajakumar, who obviously is a familiar name to the readers. I hope our children enjoy reading them and get the spiritual insights so early in their lives. We also request our Sunday School children to avail of the *Kids' Corner* to exhibit their talents in story writing / poems / drawings / puzzles, etc for His glory.

- D J S Sekhar



If you are wedded to today's trends, you'll be widowed by the weekend. - E Stanley Jones

Carol Service - 2006



Sight beautiful. The congregation enjoys the special numbers presented by the choir



Chiming Christmas bells. The choir regaling the congregation with Christmas Carols



Fired with enthusiasm. Participants in the home visiting carol party enjoying camp fire



Remembering the poor. Christmas gifts in cash and kind for the needy

New Life in Christ

P Surya Prakash*

First of all :

What is life ?

Each of you would give different answers.

For some it is a pleasant thing but for others it is a burden. For some it is a bed of roses but for others it is a bed of thorns. Our answers vary depending upon who we are and in which state of life we are in.

There are different aspects of life :

Individual life, collective life, or group life, community life, life of a nation etc.

Social life, dealing with interactions and relations;

Cultural life, dealing with aspects of aesthetic value;

Religious life/spiritual life/church life, dealing with things of mind, soul or spirit.

Categories:

Modern life,

Traditional life,

City life or urban life,

Village life or life in the rural contexts.

Life is something that has to do with living beings, animals, birds and people.

TV Serial : Animal Planet, National Geographic Channel, Discovery channel etc.

Life is something creative, dynamic and lively over against death and decay.

Life has a beginning and end. (Christ is Alpha and Omega) See Genesis 1:1, Rev. 21:1.

Life is considered as a journey. Life sets us in motion.

Life is measurable : days, weeks, months and years (Age of life - Infant, child, youth, adolescent, adult, middle aged, old etc.). See Ps. 90:12.

Life has length of time (2007) and the point of time (14.01.07) see Ps. 118.

Life also has a time span : past, present and future (yesterday, today and tomorrow). According to Hindu Samsara, life is an endless cycle of births and deaths. Life goes on in circles.

Life has basic needs : like food, shelter, clothing, (roti, kapda aur Makan).

Life consists of Body.

Life has aesthetic needs. Life consists of mind.

Life has emotional needs. Life consists of feelings.

Life has spiritual needs. Life has a spirit (athma and longs for paramathma).

St. Augustine's famous observation : Our souls are restless until and they find their rest in you. Meaning of life is to be found in God.

"Human beings shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of the Lord". Deuteronomy 8:3.

"Where could we go, you have the words of eternal life." John 6:68.

Jesus calls upon his followers :

Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, with all your soul.

Love your neighbour as yourself.

Life has many aspects and it is important. Therefore respect to life and protection of life and susceptibility of life are very crucial : Civil society has developed the concept of Human Rights, Fundamental Rights, Civil Rights, Minority Rights etc.

These rights speak of Values in life : right to life, right to work, right to privacy, right to speak, right to move and right to freedom of speech etc.

*Rev Dr P Surya Prakash is Presbyter-in-charge, St John's Church

Life has many dimensions and it is a complex phenomenon.

Life in which all the needs - physical, mental/ intellectual, ethical/moral, spiritual/religious, emotional, aesthetic, social are met. Life is precious.

What is the reality in India ?

People who live in the slums are the highest in the world.

Infant mortality, highest,
Malnutrition of children, highest,
Child abuse, highest,
Child labour, highest,
Oppression and exploitation of women, highest,
Discrimination based on caste, creed or colour, region, language, highest.

Those who have every means of livelihood, security, and enjoyment say, it is blessed to be born in India. But those who do not, say, it is a curse to be born in India.

An economist has said : to be born poor is to die early, and to be born rich is to live long. How true ! If the church is also a reflection of the society, woe unto it.

At the time of Jesus, as we see from the gospel narratives, it was a sick society. Something similar to ours.

We have a society of commerce without ethics, of pleasure without conscience, of politics without principles, of knowledge without character, of science without humanity, of wealth without work, and of worship without sacrifice. We have tall buildings but short tempers. We have bigger houses but shorter families.

We have higher incomes but lower morals.

We have more food but lesser appetite.

We have more acquaintances but few friends.

We have more information but less communication.

We have more conveniences but less time.

We have more knowledge but less discernment.

We have more degrees but less common sense.

We have more experts but more problems.

We have more medicine but less health.

We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values.

We talk too much but listen too little.

We have learnt how to make a living but not life.

We have added years to life and not life to years.

We laugh too little,

We drive too fast,

We stay up too late and get up too tired.

We read too seldom and watch TV too much

And we pray too seldom.

Is this our life ? This is the paradox of our time.

New life in Christ

Christian : Christ-like

Christian is the name given to the followers of Christ (Acts 11:26)

Life in Christ way

Jesus goes about doing good
Jesus fulfils God's purpose
Jesus completes Work assigned to Him

Paul :

I have fought the good fight
I have finished the race
I have kept the faith

Life in Christ is life with a difference.

This life is rooted in Christ.
This life is based on love of Christ.
This life is not self seeking
but seeking others' welfare.

This new life is filled with love,
Joy, hope, patience, kindness,
goodness, humility and sacrifice.

A holy life will produce the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine. - *DL Moody*

Newness of Life

P Dawson Adams*

It is a fact that every New Year, we all wish our friends and relatives a Happy New Year and it is the same old wish each year. It is also man's nature to have something new, a new house, a new vehicle, a new dress, a new pair of shoes and in fact everything new, but did we ever pause to think and review our nature – the sins we have committed, the people we have hurt, the injustice we have done to our fellow beings, the times we fell ill and how God saved us from the perils of life? Are we grateful to God? Did we ever forgive our enemies? How many new friends have we gained? Are we prayerful? Did we read the Bible everyday and go to Church regularly, everything that we have is new in the New Year, but at heart we are the same old in our nature and deeds, nothing has changed.

Is God pleased with us and our inward being and the sinful life? Beware, God knows the secrets of the heart Ps - 44:21. The wrongs that we have done are not hidden from thee Ps - 69:5. Be sure your sins will find you out Num.32:23. The soul that sins shall die Ezk 18:20. For the wages of sin is death Rom - 6:23. He who forgives our offence seeks love Prov - 17:9. Forgive and you will be forgiven Luke - 6:37. How many times shall I forgive my brother who sins against me - as many as seventy times seven. Matt 18:21, 22. If thine enemy hunger feed him and if he thirst give him a drink Rom 12:20 ; Matt 5:23,24. Overcome evil with good Rom – 12:21. Put on Patience.... Forbearing.... Forgiving.... Each other as the Lord has forgiven you Col 3:12,13. We all know the real story of Noah from Gen 6:6-8 and how God was sorry that He had made man on earth and it grieved him to his heart. How evil and wickedness multiplied and how God destroyed all men except Noah and his family because Noah did

all that God commanded him, Noah walked with God. God made a rainbow covenant with Noah.

Even nature sheds its leaves in autumn and bears new leaves with all new flowers during the springtide. That is the law of God. From this time forth I make you hear new things, hidden things which you have not known Isa 48:6-8. For behold I create new heavens and earth Isa 65:17. I will make a new covenant. Jer 31:31. We serve in the newness of spirit. Rom 7:6. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old things passed away and the new has come II Cor 5:17. We were buried with him through Baptism unto death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in the newness of life Rom 6:4. Put on the new nature Eph 4:24. Early in his ministry Jesus revealed the way to enter God's eternal kingdom. We must be "born again" John 3:3, a birth from above brought by Water and the Spirit. In his conversation with Nicodemus, Christ states: "unless one is born of Water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. John 3:5. From the beginning the church has recognized "water to be the Holy Spirit". Therefore the new birth is joined to Christ in the water of Baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit through anointing or "Chrismation". Salvation then is more than forgiveness of sins. In the new birth a true mystery takes place.

For in the sacrament of Baptism, we die going down into the water to be mystically united to Christ in His death and we live again rising up out of water in His resurrected humanity. In short we are "born again".

Look at Joseph's noble life, the eleventh son of Jacob and the first child of Rachel – even though he was ill-treated by his

*Dr Adams is a Retd Professor of Orthopaedics, Osmania & Gandhi Hospitals

brothers and was sold as a slave to the Egyptians, yet he was kind to his brothers in a forgiving spirit.

The new state of life into which the Holy Spirit introduces the believer in Christ by regeneration - Paul states that all who have been baptized into Jesus Christ are united with Him in resurrection, so that we might walk in the newness of life. We have to serve God in the newness of spirit. We should cultivate the spirit of reconciliation. We must emulate the lives of Abraham - a friend of God and a man of faith, Daniel a man of prayer and uncompromising faithfulness, he was always loyal to God. We must also emulate the lives of the Apostles including the converted St. Paul. Here I quote the magnificent parable of the prodigal son. After the return of the prodigal he said to his father: I have sinned against the heaven and in your sight and no longer worthy to be called your son Luke - 15:21. The father of the prodigal said this is my son, he was dead and alive again Luke - 15:24. This shows God's unconditional love and forgiveness for the repentant sinner. This is a real rebirth. The prodigal is a born-again. The father celebrates the homecoming of his son with a new ring, (a signet ring) the new robe and shoes. The symbolic significance of the robe is

righteousness Is - 61:10, the ring a signet ring is family identity Hag - 2:23 and sandals refer to walking according to the Gospel Eph - 6:15. There was more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents Luke- 15:7. Shall we all repent like the prodigal son? Shall we have a loving heart like the Prodigal's father? Shall we have the patience of Job? Let us not forget that we are raised to new life for a purpose; Union and Communion with God. In this sense Baptism is the beginning of eternal life. For this reason Peter writes that Baptism now saves us - I Peter 3:21. It is not the mere removal of dirt from our bodies but it provides us with good conscience towards God.

O Lord our heavenly Father, give us the strength to walk in the newness of life in thy footprints and serve in the newness of spirit with a renewed conscience. We truly repent of our sins and beseech thee Lord to forgive us for our sins. Let us not repeat the sins again but lead a blessed life without hurting thee and our fellow beings: Give unto us a new heart to think and do noble deeds. Let us sing unto thee a new song, and enable us to see a new heaven and a new earth and live in everlasting peace and happiness. In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. ■

Day of Judgement

The open-air evangelist warning his hearers to escape the wrath of God, said that they had been fully warned of the perils of sin. "Without doubt," he said, "on the Day of Judgement there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"But I ain't have teeth," said a little woman.

"Never mind," the evangelist shouted, "teeth will be provided."

Too inquisitive

A young skeptic in the congregation interrupted Billy Sunday with the question, "Who was Cain's wife?"

The evangelist coolly replied, "I honour every seeker after knowledge of the truth. But I have a word of warning for this questioner. Don't risk losing salvation by too much inquiry after other men's wives."

Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last. - C T Studd

A feather in his cap



It's a great honour for our state and country in general and St. John's in particular that Mr Norman Swaroop Isaac our Treasurer and Pastorate Committee Member since 1995 was declared qualified as a FIBA Commissioner in the examination held at Muscat in November 2006. He is only the second person from India to be on the panel of commissioners. A Commissioner is like a match referee in cricket and is the overall incharge for all technical aspects at the Olympics, World Cup, Asian Games and Asian Championships.

Mr Isaac started playing Basketball at Secunderabad YMCA from 1977. Represented Andhra Pradesh State Team from 1980 to 1992. He was captain of Andhra Pradesh Men's team and also Osmania University team.

He was qualified as a Coach from the National Institute of Sports (Patiala), India's premier training institution in 1992 and was nominated as Coach of Andhra Pradesh team and is the only Coach ever from AP to have coached a team that won a national championship at the Senior level (Inter Zonal Championship at Bangalore in 1995).

Mr Isaac was qualified as a Referee of the Basketball Federation of India in 1993 and promoted to "A" Class in 1996 and elevated as an International Referee in 2002. He officiated matches at the Asian Champions Club Championship at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in 2003 and Asian Championship at Singapore in 2004.

He was also a Commentator for All India Radio and Doordarshan at various National and International events.

St. John's congratulates Norman and may the good Lord continue to bless him to bring more laurels to the country !

Questions & Answers

Q. What is the difference between a church bell and a pickpocket ?

Ans. One peals from the steeple and the other steals from the people.

Q. What are the sins of omission ?

Ans. They are the sins we should have committed but didn't.

Q. Why is a church like a convention ?

Ans. Because families send just one delegate.

Q. Why are the Ten Commandments so brief ?

Ans. They didn't come through a committee.

Q. What is the first message, should the missionaries teach the cannibals ?

Ans. To be vegetarians

Success is living in such a way that you are using what God has given you — your intellect, abilities, and energy — to reach the purpose that he intends for your life. - *Kathi Hudson*

Discipling in the here and now

Anthony David Swaroop Kumar M*

**"Above all powers,
Above all kings,
Above all wisdom and all created things,
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
There's no way to measure what you're worth..."**

The words of the songs reverberated in the small hall. The melodious notes of the keyboard mingled in harmony with the rhythmic strumming of the guitar. A studious young man Ravi* led in worship. The group was lost in awe and adoration of the Lord. All of them could feel the presence of the Lord amidst them.

Martha, even younger than Ravi but just as confident was leading the group as an emcee. As she gave the time to Sara, requests for praise and prayer flowed freely. Sara involved a few in the ministry of prayer and praise.

Deepak then led the group in an interactive Bible study on a small passage in Philippians. He had a tough time to control the discussion and finish the study on time. "If this passage meant that to Paul and the Philippians then, what does it mean to us in the here and now?" They asked themselves and shared answers.

Watching from the wings as it were, sat two persons, Sheba and Samuel. They were lost in thought and smiled at each other as they recalled the past five years in the history of this group.

* * *

Both Samuel and Sheba were on the faculty of a Government Medical school in a developing country. They thought, "Why can't we get the few believing students in this school together and do Bible Studies in order to disciple them? After all, at the end of their time in this

school, they will be leaving to different places?" They spent time on their knees pleading with the Lord. The school had a majority of people from other faiths. It was run by a government, which was rightist and did not tolerate evangelism. Yet, when they prayed, they began to see, with their own eyes, in the here and now, that all things are possible with God. (Luke 1:37).

In the beginning, things were not all that rosy. They had difficulty to start and persevere. They began prayer cells in the hostels separately for the boys and girls. It was difficult for Samuel as the boys were not at all interested in the Bible. "It is past time, Daniel," he would ask waiting patiently in the hostel, "where are all the boys?" They would slowly come, persuaded by one or two of the leaders, who themselves were being disciplined. But by prayer, persistence and patience, they continued the work, faithfully.

Even singing together in praise of God was difficult in those days. Almost every week, either Sheba or Samuel would have to share the Word and lead the group.

But then they began to disciple and mentor the students, one on one. This helped the fellowship to grow as youngsters began to take on leadership under the guidance of the elders. The fellowship began to blossom and bear fruit as the laborers increased due to prayerful discipling. It did cost a lot especially to the leaders in terms of time and energy, but they didn't mind, for His sake.

* Dr David is Professor in Physiology, ASRAM, Eluru

Three years later Sheba had to leave the place to take up an assignment overseas. Samuel persisted to work faithfully. Sheba upheld the group in her prayers, from thousands of miles away.

One by one now, the students are graduating and leaving the school. Some are going abroad, some to remote corners of the country. But all of them are going, equipped not only professionally, but also as discipling believers. They are going out to start new groups. They are going out to evangelize, disciple and mentor others in their new situations. Meanwhile the new generations of students are being discipled and mentored

continually through the group.

Sheba had come back on a furlough two years later. She spent time with the group exchanging notes. As the leaders reminisced and thanked the Lord, tears welled up in their eyes. Tears of joy and gratitude for the faithfulness of God.

This is a true story.

A tiny example of discipling in the here and now !

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*The names of all the people are changed. ■



New Members

We welcome the following new members and their families into St John's Family

*Mr P V Prasad
Ms P John Ignatius
Rt Rev P John
Mr Sydney James
Mr P J Vijayandan*



Wedding Bells



St. John's Church wishes

**Vimal Sukumar
&
Preeti Chrysolite**

A Happy Wedded Life !

Quips & Quotes

The greatest service that could be rendered the Christian people would be to convert them to Christianity.



What the world needs is not more Christianity but more Christians who practice Christianity.



There are four classes of church members : the tired, the retired, the tiresome and the tireless.



It is far better to be a weak church member than to be a strong sinner.



Our Lord does not open the windows of heaven to the person who keeps his Bible shut.

The people God is using mightily today are those who have chosen the road of discipleship, which is the route to fruitfulness. - *F M Cosgrove Jr*

Dory - The survivor

Neema Rajakumar*

Dear kids, I'm Dory the dove. Thanks a lot for choosing to read my story. I'm sure you will enjoy my adventurous story. You can read Genesis Chapters 6-8 to know the relevant story in the Bible. Happy reading !

The tree on which we had built our nest was so huge with plenty of fruits. It gave good shade to whoever rested under it. My husband and I lived happily in our house.

A very old man lived with his family near our house. He was a very gracious and God fearing man. One day he started felling down some of the trees near ours. We did not expect him to do this and were scared if he would bring down our tree also. But to our surprise and relief he left alone our tree and chopped the rest.

We were very eager to see what he was going to do with such enormous amount of wood he had felled. Everyday he would come early in the morning and chop the wood and smoothen them till late in the evening. He also worshiped God as he worked. We were so surprised by his hard work. We even plucked fruits from our tree and dropped them down for him to eat. Every time we dropped a fruit, he would look up at us and smile and eat the fruit. As he worked with the wood, we became great friends that we even flew down to him and sat on his shoulders or beside him and watched him work.

After some days, the man had built a huge box shaped structure with many rooms in it. We did not understand what it was ! Why does he need such a big house ? Many other people in the town also felt the same I guess. I heard them say, "Noah, You're definitely mad", "Noah, why do you waste

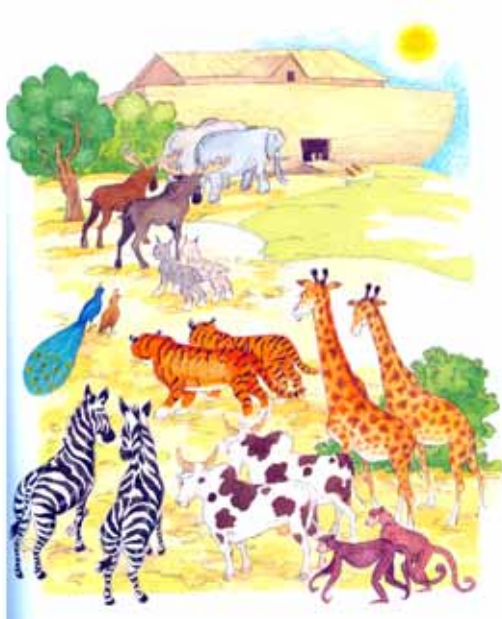
your time in doing such a silly thing ?", "Noah, what would you do if your God sends fire from



heaven ?" For all these comments Noah would just smile and worship the Lord.

One day Noah brought all his family peoples to the structure. And to our great surprise, we saw many animals and birds come in pairs. Noah opened the big door and let all of them in. We wondered what he was going to do with these animals ! Is he going to open up a zoo ? When all the animals had gone inside, Noah turned towards us and stretched out his hands. With great joy and excitement we flew to him and sat on his

*Ms Rajakumar is a freelance writer on Christian themes



hands. He smiled at us and took us inside the box. The big door behind us shut on its own.

Then suddenly we heard a big thunder and gusts of wind blowing very hard. We heard water dripping and splashing all around us. The sound was so terrifying that we froze with fear and never even felt like eating. We heard lots of people crying and knocking. But Noah and his family did not dare to open the door. The box began to shake and we felt as if we were floating. Oh, Yes ! We were indeed floating and it was not just a box, but a big boat ! For 40 days and nights we heard the terrible thunder and saw flashing lightning. It was so cold. We cuddled with each other inside the boat.

After 40 days, suddenly everything became calm, and 150 days after that, the boat stopped rocking and stood still. After 40 more days, Noah took my friend Roven the Raven and let him go out of the boat. We waited for a day but he never returned. Then Noah took me in his hand and let me out of the boat. It was so nice to fly in free air. I

made all kinds of noise and flew as fast as I could. But I could not find a single place to rest. It was water, water and water everywhere. So I returned back to the boat. After 7 days, Noah again let me out. This time I saw beautiful trees with fresh green leaves. I also saw skeletons of many people and animals lying. It was then that I realized that I was a lucky survivor of a terrible disaster. I sat on an Olive tree to rest. Then I thought that I should tell everybody in the boat about my adventure. I felt very grateful towards Noah that he saved our lives. I wanted to gift him with something. So I plucked a branch from the tree and flew back. Noah was very excited to see me and the gift I had brought. He held me and patted me. He then opened the big door of the boat and let all animals and birds go. Me and my



husband followed Noah's family for we felt safer with him. As soon as they got out they worshiped God. We built our nest in a tree near his house and lived in peace and most of all we were very glad to be alive !

God never alters the robe of righteousness to fit man, but the man to fit the robe. - Anon



Church of St. John the Baptist
**Sunday School Christmas
Celebration 2006 : Report**

By the grace of the Almighty God, Christmas was celebrated in Grand Style on the 9th of December 2006 by the Church of St. John the Baptist Sunday School in the Church premises.

Lot of planning, practice and prayers by the students and teachers of the Sunday School had been put in to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in a deserving manner.

It is my privilege to present to you the highlights of the program:

- ◆ The program started with Mrs. Krupavathi Daniel welcoming all the parents and guests.
- ◆ Moureen and Santosh of Senior Class were the Masters of Ceremony for the evening. Both of them did a wonderful job taking us all through the entire program with their charm and wit
- ◆ Rev. Joseph offered the opening prayer
- ◆ Mrs. Vindya Surya Prakash gave the Christmas Message
- ◆ This was followed by a round of melodious Christmas Carols by the Sunday School students
- ◆ The skit 'Don becoming John' enacted by the Senior Class students had the audience in splits and at the same time conveyed the right Christmas message - We need to

praise God in all circumstances

- ◆ The cute students from the Beginners and Primary classes presented the traditional Nativity play. It was indeed a joyful view to see the stage filled with so many cute little angels.
- ◆ A Hindi Christmas song was presented in the unique 'Kawwali' style by the students of the Junior class.
- ◆ The Intermediate students presented a lively choreo with foot tapping music
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Surya Prakash then blessed the children and gave away the Christmas gifts to all students. The gifts were sponsored by the Church
- ◆ The Sunday School Superintendent Mrs. N. Usha Sagar then proposed a vote of thanks which was followed by snacks for all.
- ◆ The celebrations finally came to an end with prayer and benediction by Rev. Dr. P. Surya Prakash.

I give all praise and glory to our heavenly Father for enabling us (the students & teachers) to celebrate Christmas with songs of praise, dancing, music and prayers.

Yours truly in Christ

N. Usha Sagar
Sunday School Superintendent

The prayer meeting is the indicator of the present vitality of a church,
but the Sunday school is the outline of what church will be tomorrow. - *J B Chapman*

Sunday School Christmas - 2006



First Christmas. Children reenacting the momentous event

"Glory to God in the highest".
Little angels of St. John's adding lustre to the pageant



Santa Claus on reindeer ?
Not in modern times. Children eagerly await gifts from a couple of Santas

Greetings from the Pastor.
Rev Dr P Surya Prakash sharing the joy of Christmas with the children





For Pastoral Needs

Dear member of St. John's :

We invite and welcome your active participation in the life and work of our Church.

Please tick off (✓) or complete the sentence as the case may be.

✦ Name :

✦ Address :

.....

.....

.....

✦ Tel No. :

✦ I would request prayer for :

✦ I would request pastoral visit on :

✦ **I would like to be a part of**

- ✦ Youth fellowship
- ✦ Men's fellowship
- ✦ Women's fellowship
- ✦ Choir
- ✦ Ushers
- ✦ Secretarial help

✦ **I am interested in**

- ✦ Reading the Bible
- ✦ Attending confirmation classes
- ✦ Any other (please mention)
- ✦ Baptism
- ✦ House visits

✦ **I would like to contribute to**

- ✦ The ministries of Church
- ✦ Maintenance
- ✦ Administrative Building Fund
- ✦ Electrification
- ✦ New Video - Audio system
- ✦ New Choirs / other furniture

✦ I would like the Parish Messenger to be sent by e-mail to friends / relatives. Please mention the ID :

Note : You may please detach this slip and drop in the Suggestion Box.

Date :

Signature

✠ OBITUARIES ✠

We regret to announce the sad demise of

Mrs Viloo George
Mrs Dorris Harrow

We pray that God Almighty will comfort and sustain their loved ones in their bereavement



THE BIBLE STUDY

On the Book of Exodus

Every Saturday 6.30 pm

St. John's Church

All are welcome

You are cordially Welcome to Services in our Church

SUNDAY :

Morning Holy Communion 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.
Even Song Service	:	6-30 p.m.

THURSDAY :

Mid-week Holy Communion Service	:	7-30 a.m.
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Articles, Testimonies, Book Reviews, Anecdotes, Prayer requests, Praise items, etc., are welcome from the Church members.