

FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND



Herith

A monthly Prayer Bulletin for
Youth



SURRENDER
our lives



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THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND ITS GLORY



In the test appointed by God, Adam failed due to Satan's deception. However, because of this, God neither abandoned nor neglected the human race. He came to this world as a man to redeem humanity. Everything the first Adam lost in the Garden of Eden, Christ, the second Adam, redeemed at Golgotha (through His death on the cross). In this month, as the church reflects on the sufferings of the cross, let us understand the glory of Christ's death and come forward to praise Him!

◆ Christ Tasted Death for Us:

By God's grace, Christ tasted death for everyone. Seeing him, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, let us praise Him with gratitude (Hebrews 2:9). This is the revelation of Christ's divine grace. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. This reveals God's love for us. The love God demonstrates toward completely undeserving humanity is called grace. From Eden to Calvary, every drop of blood shed as a sacrifice throughout various periods represents this grace. Let us praise the God who accepted death for our sake.

◆ Christ's Death for Our Sins:

Christ tasted an agonizing death. There are no words in any language to fully describe the torments of that death. He endured death. In doing so, he was made lower than the angels. Angels have never faced suffering and death. But Christ "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself his own special people, zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14). Let us praise the One who surrendered Himself to death for our sins.

◆ Christ was Crowned with Glory and Honor by His Death:

The name "Jesus" declares the humanity of the Lord Jesus. The word Jesus (Joshua) means Savior. Since Paul, during his days as Saul, would not have liked this name, when Jesus revealed Himself to Paul for the first time, He introduced himself saying, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). Christ took on the likeness of sinful flesh like us, suffered, and was buried. He who was made a little lower than the angels is today crowned with glory and honor, seated on the heavenly throne. If Christ had merely died and remained buried, he could not have been crowned with honor and glory. When the writer of Hebrews says we see Christ crowned (Stephanos, a victor's crown), the truth is that it is seen through spiritual eyes. Let us praise Jesus for that. It is the Father's desire to bring many children to glory in this same way. We never step forward on our own to enter into glory; rather, he came searching for us. God himself came looking for the sinning Adam, asking, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). On the day of creation, man was crowned with glory and honor. But through Adam's sin, humanity lost it. The Son of Man came to this world to seek and to save that which was lost

God's ultimate plan is that all things should glorify Him. Therefore, come, let us praise Him!

- ◆ Praise God who desired to share His glory with us!
- ◆ Praise God who delivered His only begotten Son over to suffering and death!
- ◆ Praise Him who suffered once for our sins, died, and rose again!

Through his suffering and death, Christ achieved the greatest goal set before him. Amen!

KERITH

The monthly magazine Kerith is published by the Friends Missionary Prayer Band for the benefit of Youth prayer Cells.

VISION

To reach various spheres of India and to imbibe the heavenly manna to the Youth who are the future pillars of "Our Nation"

OBJECTIVES

A monthly magazine to strengthen the prayer cells...

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A Note for Prayer Cell Leaders: The messages and the prayer points in Kerith are divided for 4 weeks, so that you can use it to pray and meditate on it in your prayer cells each week. The prayer points are at the centre page. The leader can detach and use them during the prayer time. You can read and also share the magazine with your friends. We will meet you every month through this magazine with new informations. Kindly use them and strengthen Your Prayer Cells.

For more prayer points kindly use

FRIENDS FOCUS

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LET US DEDICATE OUR LIVES IN THE FIELD OF ACTION!

Loving Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life!

Jim Elliot

Jim Elliot was the third son of our movement's former General Secretary, Mr. Patrick Joshua. At the young age of 23, he dedicated his life to the people of our nation in need specifically the Malto people residing in the state of Jharkhand.

Hearing that the Malto people were perishing due to diseases like Malaria, Cholera, and Tuberculosis, Jim Elliot committed himself to God to help them and rescue them from destruction. Although Jim was born into a well-to-do family and had every opportunity to build a comfortable life for himself, he chose to set those comforts aside. He offered his life for the well-being of the Malto people. In response to God's mercy, as stated in Romans 12:1, Jim surrendered himself as a living sacrifice to God. What is the first and most important task for us as Christians? It is to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. When Paul speaks of the "body," he refers to the whole person - spirit, soul, and body. The body we offer must be living and blameless. We must surrender our bodies as living sacrifices in response to God's mercy, because Jesus Christ offered His own body as a sacrifice for us. This is the spiritual worship that God expects from us. Such a sacrifice is holy and pleasing to Him.

Dear Young People! When compared to what He has done for us, everything we do for Him is very, very small! Therefore, dedicate your lives to Him while you are still young.

- ★ LEAD Training Programme was extremely beneficial. By God's grace, 55 youth leaders participated and were empowered.
- ★ In March, the Lord enabled us to start a new Youth Fellowship in the Pammal area.
- ★ Please pray for the Annual Camp to be held from May 21st to 24th at the Bethel Campus in Danishpet, Salem. We are praying for approximately 1,000 young people to attend this year.

We cordially invite you! Please come and bring your friends along.

May the Lord bless you abundantly. Amen!

In Christ's Service,
J. Daniel Arulmani



THE RULING LINEAGE JUDAH



Governance refers to ruling or leading a nation. Qualities such as open-mindedness, a good conscience, courage, a willingness to cooperate, and the ability to handle pressure are considered the hallmarks of excellent leadership. Judah, the fourth son of Jacob, is seen as someone who possessed outstanding leadership qualities and character among his brothers. The name Judah means "praise." When Leah conceived and bore a son, she said, "Now I will praise the LORD," and therefore named him Judah (Genesis 29:35). In the Bible, Judah is known as a person who evolved from a flawed state into a responsible, sacrificial, and courageous leader. In this article, let us look in detail at the tribe of Judah, known as the ruling lineage.

JUDAH'S MINDSET AND CHARACTER

We can often see a selfish motive manifested in Judah. In Genesis 38, we see him as the man who wanted to sell Joseph for 20 pieces of silver (Gen. 37:26-28), who separated from his brothers to marry a foreign Canaanite woman, and who later deceived his daughter-in-law Tamar in marriage. Despite this selfishness, Judah also possessed a remarkable capacity for Self-Correction to rectify the mistakes that had occurred.

Judah was conscientious in ensuring that the sorrow and pain his father Jacob experienced over Joseph would not happen again. He showed a deep commitment to the preservation of his family by offering himself as a guarantee for Benjamin's safety (Gen. 43:1-9). The hatred he once harbored toward Joseph was transformed into genuine care for Benjamin, and he pleaded earnestly on his behalf (Gen. 44:33).

When Judah's earlier selfish motives were weighed and corrected, they later turned into divine plans for the deliverance and benefit of many. If you make a mistake, correct it; don't justify it.

A FATHER'S BLESSING (GENESIS 49:8-10)

Judah's action of saving himself and his brothers from the crime of murdering Joseph later revealed God's plan to preserve his family through that same Joseph (Gen. 45:5). Realizing the wrong he did to Tamar and accepting her became a vital link in the genealogical history of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:3). We can see the privileges Judah received reflected in the words of his father's blessing.

The blessing given to Judah by his father Jacob contains four key elements:

- 1. Praise and Submission:** Being praised and bowed down to by his brothers.
- 2. Victory Over Enemies:** His hand being on the neck of his enemies. This is a sign ensuring the defeat of the adversary.
- 3. Kingly Authority:** Ruling as a lion with untouchable authority.
- 4. Universal Obedience:** The obedience of the nations and their gathering to the Lord of Peace (Shiloh).

-To be continued in 18th page



SET SQUARE 45°



My dear teen Boys and Girls,
Happy April greetings to you and your family! This month reminds us of something very important: the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the very foundation of our Christian disciplined lifestyle. So, don't just learn this as a story; meditate deeply on the Scriptures. It will help you keep Christ at the center of your lifestyle.

For some of you, exams might be over; for others, you're in the final stretch. Either way, can I have your undivided attention for the next 15 minutes to learn a few things?

The plan for this "Teen Page" is based on the items you frequently use in your Geometry Box. Over the last three months, we looked at the Compass, Divider, and Protractor. Following that, this month we are looking at the Set Square 45°.

The Geometry Behind It

Basically, the Set Square 45° is a triangle-shaped ruler. It has three angles: 45°, 45° and 90°. Are you wondering why I wrote 45° twice? When a triangle has two equal angles like this, it is called an isosceles right triangle.

Using this set square, you can draw 45° projection lines directly without needing a protractor. It makes drawing parallel and perpendicular lines in Orthographic projection incredibly easy.

Its applications are vast in architecture and construction drawings used to exactly draw walls, corners, and sloped roofs. Even with modern computer drafting today, set squares are useful to quickly check angles in a plan. If you use it smartly, you can save a lot of time in exams! For example, angles like 45°, 75°, 105°, 120° and 135° can be drawn quickly by combining two set squares without a protractor.

The Set Square 45° teaches us two things: Exactness and Consistency.

1. Exactness

The Bible presents about 4,000 years of history

before our eyes. Over a span of 1,500 –2,000 years, more than 40 authors contributed as writers. These authors lived in different centuries and different situations. They also had different personalities – some were Kings, Shepherds, Peasants, Farmers, or Scholars.

Despite these vast variations, the core message of every book in the Bible is exactly the same. Let's use an analogy to understand this deeper:

Think of the 66 books of the Bible as 66 beads or pearls. The string that connects them into a beautiful chain is "Christ." In the Old Testament (OT), Christ appears as a "Shadow" in every book; we have to search deeply to find Him. But in the New Testament (NT), Christ has become flesh as Jesus. That is why the NT connects with us so easily. Whether it is OT or NT, there is no change in the Bible's exactness. It firmly delivers one consistent message.

2. Consistency

All the books of the Bible consistently tell one story: The plan for the salvation of the whole world. The reason for this consistency is that even though there were over 40 human authors, the Primary Author who shared this authorship is God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they wrote consistently about God's plan.

Notice what the Apostle Paul tells Timothy:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

Simply put, this verse tells us that the Bible is consistent and unified.

So, teens, start reading the Bible even more this April! Try to find where the "Shadow of Christ" appears in the Old Testament and discuss it in your Fellowship.

If you have any doubts, feel free to contact Brother Daniel Arulmani on WhatsApp at 94450 40148. We are ready to help you!

Until then, see you next month. Bye!!!



THE SAINT WHO SAW THE MINISTRY FIELD IN HER CHILDREN

CAR AACHI

On one side, the excitement of children shouting, “Look! An American lady! An American lady!” On the other, the grumbling of elders sighing, “Oh my!! A woman is driving a car!”

From the 1950s onwards, the people of Southern Tamil Nadu knew her by many names: Vellaiyakkamma (White Mother), Periyamma (Elder Mother), Car Aachi (The Car Grandmother), or simply MUM. This month, we are getting to know the missionary behind these titles.

EARLY LIFE AND CALLING

Edith Pearl Morgan was the eldest daughter born to Ray Morgan and Ida Pearl Morgan in the beautiful city of Minneapolis, USA – known as the “City of Lakes” and the “City of Flour Mills.” Situated on the banks of the Mississippi River, this city was not only a hub for arts but also a vital center for biblical movements.

Edith was born on June 14, 1912. Her parents were God-fearing people with a passion for gospel work. Little Edith loved songs and stories. Her favorite was “Uncle George,” who told gripping stories at Sunday School. At age 8, during a revival meeting at their Methodist church where Uncle George was the speaker, Edith felt a powerful pull to respond to the altar call but lacked the courage to step forward.

That night, she shared her feelings with her mother. Her parents were overjoyed and encouraged her, saying age is no barrier to surrendering to God's service. The next day, Edith waited eagerly. When the call was given, **E. P. Morgan** surrendered herself to divine



service. From that day on, she went about saying, “I will be a missionary.”

THE BIRTH OF V.B.S. IN INDIA

It is awe-inspiring to realize that the Lord honored Edith's obedience by using her to start the Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) ministry in India for the first time. In May 1952, this wonderful ministry dawned in Kovilpatti, then a small village in Southern Tamil Nadu. While many ministries exist today, it is a living reality that none have reached the success rate of V.B.S. among children.

At this juncture, we must remember a few brothers associated with this movement:

- **P. Samuel:** The son of a butcher named Pichaimuthu from Kovilpatti. He gave up a career in the Indian Army to choose the King's service. Disowned by his father, he joined SIBI Bangarapet to study the Bible.



- It was there he met the missionaries Edith Pearl Morgan and the Hamiltons. His zeal for the Lord impressed them greatly. P. Sam was the reason the first V.B.S. was conducted in his church.

Growth of the Ministry

- 1952: The first V.B.S. begins in Kovilpatti.
- 1953: The ministry spreads to Tuticorin. Across three locations (Tuticorin and Kovilpatti), 500 students participated.
- 1954: Ministry begins in Palayamkottai. Famous leaders like **Theodore Williams** and **Sam Kamaleson** served as V.B.S. teachers.

The young people involved in this ministry didn't stop in May; they conducted systematic follow-ups and prayer groups. This fellowship eventually became the **Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB)**.

THE PATH TO INDIA: VISION AND SACRIFICE

In 1935, at age 23, Edith finished her degree and wanted to study the Bible, but her father refused due to lack of funds. In 1936, she pursued her Master's at the Chicago Evangelistic Institute. To pay off her student loans, she worked as a teacher. To speed up her journey to India, she even took up nursing. Her "thirst for India" was so great that no job was too small.

From 1943 - 1946, while teaching at a Methodist mission school, she immersed herself in John Wesley's teachings on prayer cells and house visits. At age 32, she re-dedicated herself to India at a World Gospel Mission camp. Despite many struggles, the committee finally approved her departure. When she left her hometown of Minneapolis for New York, crowds of friends and

strangers came to see her off. It was the first time she saw her father weep, but her vision for India prevailed.

THE JOURNEY AND MINISTRY

Edith, along with three other young women Mary, Esther, and Virginia travelled during the height of World War II. They travelled not on a passenger ship, but on a warship sent to pick up soldiers from the Port of Sindh (Pakistan). They arrived at Mumbai port on July 1, 1945, traveled by train to Chennai, and reached SIBI Bangarapet that same night. Edith felt she had finally come home. She immediately began her work. Among the students was the young P. Sam.

Edith became a unique figure in the field:

- Her Look: She tied her long hair in a traditional Indian bun, tucked her saree like a local woman, yet drove her car like an American.
- Her Talent: She had a captivating voice and played the accordion, singing songs that led children, elders, officials, and teachers toward Christ.

FINAL DAYS AND LEGACY

During her 27 years in India, Edith returned to the US five times, working tirelessly even during her furloughs to raise funds for the growth of V.B.S.

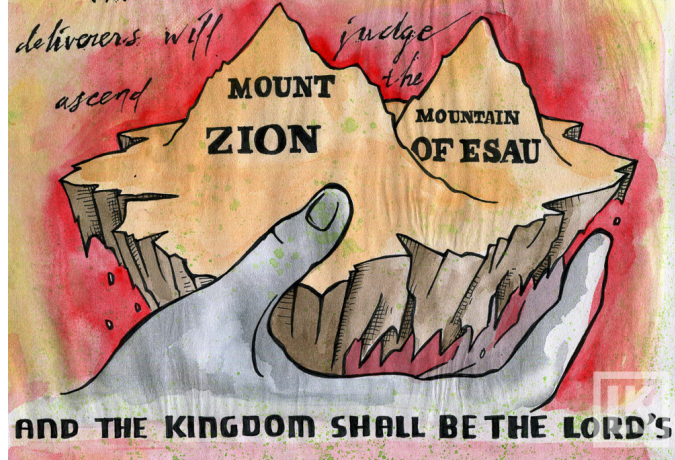
Gradually becoming frail, Edith Pearl Morgan reached her eternal home on January 20, 1997. Her obituary in the newspaper carried a final request that perfectly summed up her life:

"In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to Falls Creek Church. The proceeds will be sent to Palayamkottai for the V.B.S. ministry."

Even as she was being laid to rest in the earth, her heart was still focused on the work of the Most High.



THE COURAGEOUS ONE OBADIAH



Does it surprise you to know that the concept of people living at the “peak,” desiring to rule from above, or manipulating rulers from behind the scenes to indirectly control the masses, existed in world politics 3,000 years ago just as it does today?

You might ask why I am starting with these lines. It is a valid question. You will realize the answer yourself once you understand the intense battlefield and the prophet's courage, fearlessness, and power to face anything, as we study this second week's message of the month.

If you ask, “Who did this prophet prophesy against? Against which people did he boldly speak God's word exactly as it was? What is his name?” the answer is fascinating. The shortest book in the Old Testament, consisting of only one chapter, is Obadiah. His name means “Servant of God,” and he is the prophet of this book. It contains only 21 verses.

The message was intended for only two families. One was a “high-class” family, to put it in terms you'd understand, a family filled with the arrogance of being “at the top.” Their residence was literally at the top – the mountain peaks. Their family name was “Edom,” and the mountain they inhabited was “Mount Esau.” Their forefather was Esau.

If you ask who the other family was, it was Esau's brother, Jacob. Their lineage includes the people of Judah and the house of Joseph. Esau and Jacob were the sons of Isaac. It was Isaac who blessed them both, and there is no doubt that it was Isaac's God who provided that blessing. In fact, Esau's wealth was greater than Jacob's. Because of this, the Edomites entertained the thought: “We can rule over Judah.”

Before we go any further, brother and sister, take your Bible and quickly read the 21 verses of Obadiah once, then come back to finish reading this message. Out of the 21 verses, the first 16 verses are about the House of Edom being humbled by God, and the remaining verses are about the House of Jacob being restored by God.

In this, the prophet describes Edom's ungrateful Heart and their treacherous Hand. Following this, while delivering the condemnation for Edom, he says the cause of your fall is your Friends and Foes (friends who are actually enemies).

Finally, the downfall coming upon you is severe:

- **Wealth Removed:** The era of you living in luxury farmhouses as the wealthy elite is coming to an end.
- **Wisdom Reduced:** You live thinking you are highly intelligent, but a time is coming when that wisdom will grow dull.

- **Wickedness Returned:** The Lord says, “When my people were falling (Jerusalem Fall), you stood by as if you didn't see it; moreover, you plotted to rule my people and joined hands with evildoers. All this evil will turn back against you.”

When we see him boldly warning that wealthy class, the prophet's zeal for God and ministerial intensity become clear. For example, I will record one sentence here: “The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee.” Such powerful, stern words!

At the same time, regarding the lineage of Jacob, God says: “Ruling or judging my people is My job. Restoring my people's inheritance is My business. I will also judge the small group that joined with you (Edom).”

The concluding words are beautiful, true, and victorious. I'll record the last three words here:

“...and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.”

That is the message the prophet delivers. Do not think you can rule my people with money and influence. You cannot win through pride and arrogance. When speaking of God's judgment, he records: “As thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.”

What we must learn from this book:

- God sees the pride hidden in our hearts.
- God protects His covenant people.
- He remembers how we treat others.
- No betrayal goes unnoticed.

Let me conclude this message with the words the prophet uses to distinguish between the two families: Jacob shall be a fire, Joseph a flame, and Esau stubble (straw). Can you receive a message from God today and deliver it like this? Let us show our strength in the field.



COME, LET'S GO TO THE NEXT VILLAGE!

KUDUR FIELD STATION BAGALKOT DISTRICT KARNATAKA STATE

INTRODUCTION :

Kudur is a Panchayat Union area located in the Hungund Taluk of the Bagalkot district in North Karnataka, bordering the state of Maharashtra. Because of its location, the people here speak Kannada and Konkani. The village of Kudur alone has a population of 11,969. While various communities like the Lingayats, Valmiki, Kurubas, and Madars live here, the Banjara people form the majority.

THE BANJARA PEOPLE:

- ▶ **Population:** Out of the 60 million Banjara people living in India, approximately 2.7 million reside in Karnataka alone.
- ▶ **Language:** In North Karnataka, they are also known as Lambadi. They speak an Indo-Aryan language called "Gor Boli."
- ▶ **Classification:** They are classified as Scheduled Castes (SC) in Karnataka, Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Andhra Pradesh, and as Backward Classes (OBC) in some other states.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS:

They celebrate a festival called "Seethala Bhavani." As part of their tradition, they sow seeds in bamboo baskets; if the seeds grow well, they believe it is a good omen.



They worship deities like Balaji and Jagadamma and hold deep respect for Guru Nanak.

SOCIAL STRUCTURE:

In earlier times, young women were prohibited from traveling to cities. If prostitution was discovered, the offenders were burned alive. "Ghomar" and "Chari" are the signature traditional dances of the Banjara people.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- ▶ Mission fields like Kustagi and Gajendragad are located adjacent to this area.
- ▶ The complete Bible has been translated into the Banjara language, and several videos, including the "Jesus Film," have been produced.

PRAYER POINTS:

- ▶ For a spiritual awakening among the Banjara people, one of India's largest ethnic groups.
- ▶ For missionaries to arise to go to Kudur, where ministry is being planned to be shared in North Karnataka.
- ▶ Let us pray that these people, who rely on omens and signs, come to know the True God.





AMERICA

The United States is a diverse nation shaped by immigration, innovation, military strength, and a deep Christian heritage. While Christianity remains the largest religion, secularism continues to grow steadily.

- ▶ Capital: Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Currency: US Dollar (USD)
- ▶ Political System: Federal Presidential Republic
- ▶ President (2026): Donald Trump
- ▶ Population: 334 Million

Religion, Sports, and Diversity

Approximately 63% of Americans identify as Christian - roughly 20% are Catholic and 40% belong to Protestant and Evangelical traditions, with Protestantism remaining a powerful cultural force. Other faiths represent smaller segments of the population.

Sports such as Football, Ice Hockey, Basketball, and Athletics hold deep cultural significance, reflecting the nation's passion for competition and social structure. Alongside this vibrant religious and sporting landscape, the U.S. stands as the world's largest economy and a global leader shaping culture, politics, and innovation.

Prayer Points for America

1. Churches and Spiritual Renewal

- ▶ Let us pray for a revival among churches and a renewed passion for preaching the Gospel.
- ▶ Pray for unity across denominational lines.
- ▶ The U.S. faces deep spiritual hurdles, including declining church attendance and rising secularism and atheism.
- ▶ Pray for justice and for Christian youth to stand firm in their faith amidst secular pressures, holding onto hope for the future.

2. Cultural Influence and Moral Discipline of the Next Generation

- ▶ Approximately 72% of youth aged 17-24 are affected by a mental health crisis, including anxiety, depression, and excessive screen time. Pray for their healing.
- ▶ Pray that students in schools and universities accept Christ.
- ▶ Pray that Christian families raise children with Biblical principles so they may act as "salt and light" in media, politics, education, and business.
- ▶ Pray for the next generation to be reached through digital platforms.
- ▶ Pray for a revolution among youth against drug addiction and lifestyles contrary to Biblical values (LGBTQ+)
- ▶ It is shocking that over 27.8% of young women

underwent abortions due to extra-marital relationships last year. Let us pray wholeheartedly that these young souls are transformed by the Word of the Lord.

3. Global Leadership and Justice

- ▶ Pray that American leaders act with justice, humility, and compassion in both domestic and foreign policies.
- ▶ Pray that the nation uses its influence to promote peace and human rights worldwide.
- ▶ Pray for protection against violence and extremism at the nation's borders.

A Special Note of Remembrance

Words cannot fully comfort the family of Charlie Kirk. However, as a result of his courageous ministry, he brought many young people into Christ's fold through the organization Turning Point USA. Let us pray for his family and follow the faith he leaves behind. His life reflects 2 Timothy 4:7-8:

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

This verse reminds us of his perseverance, faith, and the eternal hope promised by the Lord.

Special Prayer Points:

- ▶ Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are not being remembered as the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ.
- ▶ Instead, people speak only about bunnies, decorated Easter eggs, Easter lunch, Easter parades, and Easter baskets - all of which are related to springtime fertility rituals and have no connection to Christianity.
- ▶ Christmas is associated with Santa Claus, buying Christmas trees, and singing Christmas songs - all centered on feasting and celebration.
- ▶ Let us pray that they remember and accept the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which signify victory over death, victory of light over darkness, and the promise of new life, hope, and forgiveness.



PRAYER CONCERNS FOR MISSION FIELD CHURCH ELDERS

“For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.”

- Romans 14:18

From the days of the early church, the contribution of church elders (and deacons) to the growth of the church, which is the body of Christ, has been indispensable. We read in the Scriptures about the kind of character they must possess (1 Timothy 3:8-13). In our mission field churches, the church elders are carrying out an outstanding ministry for God. Let us wholeheartedly praise God for their selfless service amidst their various responsibilities and personal needs, and let us pray fervently for their well-being.

Let us pray:

- ▶ Let us praise God for the thousands of church elders He has raised up in the mission field churches of our movement, and for their families and ministries.
- ▶ Let us pray that God Himself will grant good health and protection to each church elder, and that their livelihood needs will be met without any hindrance.
- ▶ Let us pray that every church elder remains diligent in maintaining a life of daily Bible meditation, prayer, and a good testimony.
- ▶ Let us pray that divine assistance be granted to the elders to carry out all their responsibilities including maintaining the order of worship, caring for the believers, and neighbourhood outreach, decently and in order.
- ▶ Let us pray that the elders will unfailingly attend and benefit from the training sessions, special spiritual family gatherings, and fasting prayers organized specifically for them.
- ▶ Let us pray that the children and family members of the church elders will be a great support to them in the ministry and live as a shining testimony.
- ▶ Let us pray that God will grant them spiritual gifts in abundance so they can lead the church worship services and prayers with spiritual fervor and revival.
- ▶ Let us pray that through the adult literacy programs conducted for uneducated elders, they will all receive the blessed privilege of reading the Bible for themselves.
- ▶ Let us pray that the false legal cases filed against church elders in certain states will be dismissed, and that God will grant them the grace to minister with true freedom.
- ▶ Let us pray that the believers will fully cooperate with the church elders in leading the church, and that they will fulfill their divine tasks unitedly, with one mind, to glorify God's name.
- ▶ Let us pray that God will help every church elder to prayerfully and faithfully conduct Sunday worship services, Wednesday fasting prayers, cottage prayer meetings, Bible study group trainings, and neighbourhood gospel outreach.
- ▶ Let us pray that this year, God Himself will raise up dedicated, zealous new elders with a strong testimony in newly formed worship groups and in churches currently without elders.
- ▶ Let us earnestly pray that the elders will find good jobs locally, so that the ministry is not hindered by them having to migrate to other towns in search of a livelihood.



SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER - SUD



What is Substance Use Disorder?

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is a condition where a person becomes addicted to alcohol, drugs, or certain medications. Despite experiencing negative impacts on their physical health, education, relationships, or daily life, the individual continues to use these substances.

COMMONLY ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES:

- ◆ Alcohol
- ◆ Tobacco / Nicotine
- ◆ Cannabis (Ganja)
- ◆ Illegal Drugs (Cocaine, Heroin, etc.)
- ◆ Smoking
- ◆ Misuse of Medications (Painkillers, sleeping pills, sedatives)
- ◆ Inhalant Abuse (Sniffing substances like glue or paint thinner to get high)

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN? (SIGNS OF ADDICTION)

- ◆ Craving: An intense desire or urge to use the substance.
- ◆ Lack of Control: Inability to manage how much or how often the substance is used.
- ◆ Persistence: Continuing use despite knowing it causes health problems.
- ◆ Tolerance: Needing larger amounts of the substance to achieve the same effect.
- ◆ Withdrawal: Experiencing physical or mental discomfort when trying to stop.

HOW DOES IT START? (RISK FACTORS)

- ◆ Stress or emotional struggles.
- ◆ Peer pressure from friends.
- ◆ Curiosity to try new substances.
- ◆ Family history of substance abuse.
- ◆ Mental health issues (such as depression or anxiety).

Is treatment possible?

Yes, recovery is possible. Early detection and a willingness to change are crucial. Speaking with trusted adults, counselors, doctors, or support groups can pave the way to recovery.

STATISTICS

- ◆ Approximately 1.5 crore children in India aged 10–17 have used substances like alcohol, inhalants, or opioids.
- ◆ A study of 5,920 students across 10 Indian cities revealed that the average age for starting substance use is 12.9 years. 15.1% have used substances in their lifetime (Tobacco 4%, Alcohol 3.8%, Opioids 2.8%).
- ◆ The average age of first-time substance use is 12.9.
- ◆ 1 in 7 school students has experimented with drugs or alcohol.

PRAYER POINTS

- ◆ Protection: Pray for children and youth to protect themselves from falling into addiction.
- ◆ Renewal of Mind: That the minds of young people be renewed and harmful desires removed.
- ◆ Strength and Clarity: To receive a clear mind to resist temptations and choose the right path.
- ◆ Healing: For the healing of damages caused by addiction.
- ◆ Hope and Purpose: That they may find hope, purpose, and a new life.
- ◆ Guidance: Let us pray that they are led on the right path by good friends, mentors, and family.

THE MISSIONARY WHO BROUGHT DAWN TO A PEOPLE WAITING FOR LIGHT

AN INSPIRING CONVERSATION WITH REV. JOHNSON BARNABAS



Introduction: *My name is Johnson Barnabas. My parents were very devout; they raised me in a godly environment, sending me to Sunday school and encouraging me to read the Bible and pray regularly."*

Question: *When did you dedicate yourself to full-time ministry?*

Missionary's response: *During my college days, I accepted the Lord as my personal Savior through a "Youth for Christ" meeting. This eventually led me to dedicate my life to missionary work.*

Question: *When did the turning point in your life occur?*

Missionary's response: *In 1974, I joined the Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB). After one year of training, I was stationed alongside Rev. Israel Devadoss to serve among the Kukna tribes of South Gujarat. The Lord miraculously helped me learn the Kukna language and work among them. This was the defining turning point of my life.*

Question: *What were the challenges you faced in the ministry?*

Missionary's response: *The physical challenges were immense. We had to live in mud houses without electricity. To reach remote villages, we relied solely on bullock carts, traveling 16 to 20 kilometers through dense forests filled with tigers, leopards, and cobras. The people there constantly struggle with diseases like malaria, fever, and diarrhea.*

Question: *What miracles did you witness among the Kukna people?*

Missionary's response: *Village sorcerers often challenged the missionaries. However, they were left in awe when they saw believers miraculously healed from deadly cobra bites and polio, and when women who had been childless for ten years conceived.*

In 1984, in a village called Bopi, the village head interrupted my sermon and challenged: "Does Jesus still have the power to perform miracles today?" They brought Devli Ben, the daughter of a local sorcerer, who had been paralyzed for eight years, on a bamboo stretcher. As the believers prayed fervently, Devli Ben stood up, shouting "Hallelujah!"

Question: *What has been the long-term impact of the ministry on these people?*

Missionary's response: *Through FMPB's Bethel Hostels, children from the Kukna tribe received an education. The spiritual seeds sown in those early, difficult years have produced an incredible harvest:*

- ◆ *Over 250 young women have completed nursing and are working in hospitals.*
- ◆ *Over 50 individuals are serving as doctors and teachers.*
- ◆ *Over 150 young men graduated from the Church of North India (CNI) Bible College and have been ordained as Pastors by the CNI Bishop to preach in the very same villages where the Gospel was once completely unknown.*

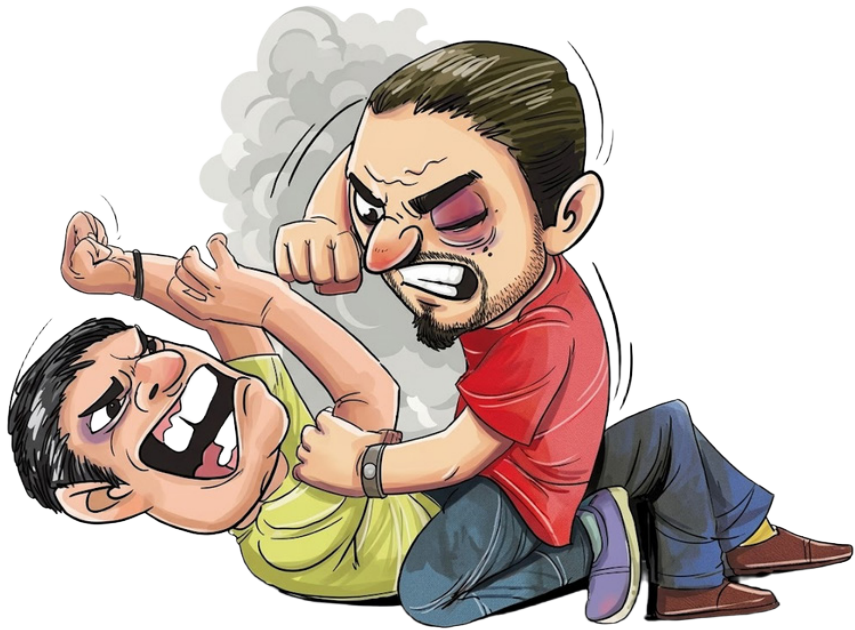
This is a testament that no forest is too dense, no language too difficult, and no heart too hard for the bright, life-changing love of Jesus Christ.

Dear young friends! There are still many people who, like the Kukna people once were, do not know the Lord. Will you come forward to rescue them from destruction? Because the days are evil, make the most of your time.

Prayer Points:

- ◆ *That all Kukna people may find the true God.*
- ◆ *For the eradication of malaria, fever, and diarrhea among them.*
- ◆ *That obstacles to the Gospel be removed and unreached villages be reached*
- ◆ *That believers continue to attend church faithfully.*
- ◆ *Pray that many more young people rise as full-time Missionary.*

Mafia Mania



The happiest periods of our lives are usually our school days, and for some, college days. However, sadly, for the current generations, this reality is turning completely upside down. Groupism and castelism have deeply infiltrated schools. Even today, clashes break out among students in many villages in the name of caste. Recently, in areas like Nanguneri and Valliyur, caste-based riots occurred among students, resulting in life-threatening attacks on three youths. In places like Delhi, separate recruitment drives and training sessions are secretly conducted in schools and colleges to induct students into gangster groups. Because the legal punishments for minors involved in murders are lighter than those for adults, criminal networks exploit this, poisoning their minds at a very tender age. In 2025, an incident that turned Chennai upside down saw a college student lose his life in a clash over a romantic affair. Today, because of anger, imitation, and arrogance, many students are spending their lives behind bars. Are you ready to stand in the gap for their repentance and for the eradication of groupism? This month, let us carry this burden and bow our knees in prayer for these issues.

Prayer Points:

- ▶ **Cheating Mafia:** Let us pray for an end to the activities of the “Nakal Mafia” (Cheating Mafia) in many schools in UP, where school principals and teachers select students and involve them in mass cheating during government exams.
- ▶ **Gang Violence:** Let us pray for a change in the terrifying trend of bringing outside “Mafia Gangs” into college fights, which instills a massive fear for their lives among the student body.
- ▶ **Caste Issues:** Let us pray that students will never become the root cause or fuel for caste-based issues in any state.
- ▶ **Anger and Rage:** Let us pray that God will completely remove violence, anger, and bitterness from the hearts of school and college students.
- ▶ **Drug Addiction:** Let us pray that the evil schemes of middlemen who plot that addicting students to drugs now will ensure their illegal business flourishes without hindrance for decades will be entirely thwarted and put to shame.
- ▶ **Drug Trafficking:** Let us pray for the complete dismantling and shattering of the “Drug Mafias” that use innocent school students to sell and smuggle narcotics.
- ▶ **Sex Trafficking:** Let us stand in the gap and pray for the destruction of “prostitution rings” sometimes even involving fellow female students and teachers - that forcefully push college girls into the sex trade.
- ▶ **Respect for Teachers:** Let us pray for the genuine repentance of students who verbally abuse and violently physically attack their school and college teachers.
- ▶ **Deliverance:** Let us pray that God will powerfully intervene, stop, and bring salvation to students who hire mafias to brutally attack others over one-sided love affairs, gang rivalries, and caste disputes.



DOES YOUR GOD SPEAK IN OUR LANGUAGE?

BIBLE TRANSLATION MINISTRY: THE CHAUDHARI LANGUAGE

This month, I am very happy to share with you about the Chaudhari people.

ORIGIN OF THE CHAUDHARI PEOPLE

The total population of Gujarat state is 60,439,692. Out of this, the tribal population is 8,917,174, which constitutes 14.75% of the state's population. According to the 2011 census, the population of the Chaudhari tribe in Gujarat was 3.03 lakhs, making up 3.40% of the state's Scheduled Tribe population. Living primarily in the Vyara and Mandvi taluks, the Chaudhari people claim to have migrated to these areas from the Pavagarh region about five hundred years ago. They speak the Chaudhari dialect and also know how to speak Gujarati to some extent.

FMPB MINISTRY AMONG THE CHAUDHARI PEOPLE

In 1974, the Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB) sent two unmarried missionaries to the Vyara region. The ministry initially started among the Gamit people, who responded well to the gospel, leading to the formation of several worship groups. Until 1982, due to heavy opposition, the number of Chaudhari Christians was very low. Later, as they began to accept the gospel, a new mission was launched in the Unai area. The first baptism took place in Padamdungri in 1982.

BIBLE TRANSLATION IN TODAY'S MINISTRY

In 1981, FMPB decided to translate the Bible into the Chaudhari language. The translators, Rev. Christopher Thomas and Mrs. Vasantha Vembu, settled in the village of Vedchi to learn the language. They translated the

New Testament, which was published in January 2006. The translation of the Old Testament began in July 2012. Currently, the entire translation is complete, and the final editing process is underway. In 2015, the "Jesus Film" was dubbed into the Chaudhari language. In 2023, an audio version of the New Testament was produced, and over 350 Audio NTs have been distributed.

Let Us Praise God:

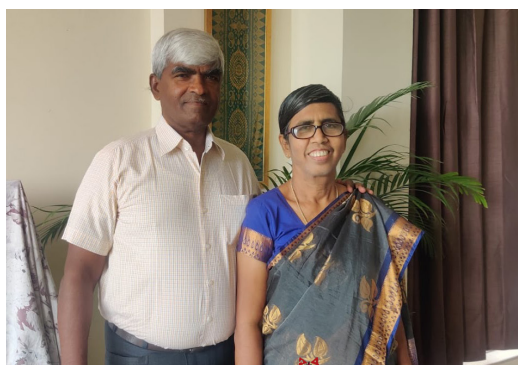
- For the more than 10,000 Chaudhari believers who worship Jesus.
- For the churches established by various mission organizations.
- For the successful printing and distribution of the New Testament.

Let Us Pray:

- For the salvation of the 3.03 lakh Chaudhari people spread across this region.
- For the believers to stand firm in their faith in God.
- For the Chaudhari believers to be filled with evangelistic zeal to reach their own people.
- For educated young Christian women to find suitable Christian life partners.
- For the believers to read the Bible daily and be strengthened in their faith.
- For the successful completion and publication of the Old Testament translation in the Chaudhari language.
- For the successful signing of the agreement between the Bible Society of India and FMPB.

Brothers and sisters, let us pause our fast-paced life for just a minute and reflect: Am I running on the right path, according to God's will? The longing cry, "Will your God speak in our language?" is still echoing today.

Shall we dedicate ourselves completely to listen to the Lord's voice and do His will?



VIRAL NEWS



PRANK GOES WRONG

- A high school teacher in Georgia was accidentally run over and killed outside his home when a toilet paper prank carried out by his students went terribly wrong.
- Let us pray for the teenagers who indulge themselves in such matters of life and death to receive wisdom from our heavenly father. Pray for the family who's lost their loved one.

AFGHANISTAN ACCUSES PAKISTAN

- Afghanistan's government says death toll has reached 400 people 'so far' as Pakistan strikes hospital at Kabul.
- Pray with sincerity that countries make peace with one another and not declare slow war. Pray for the victim's families.



Airstrikes at Kabul



TAMIL NADU

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2026



ELECTION '26

- The Election Commission has announced that Tamil Nadu will go to polls in a single phase on April 23, with counting of votes on May 4.
- Let's ask our Lord to raise up leaders with a heart to serve, uphold justice and unite people of Tamil Nadu for prosperous future.

TN POLL PREP REVIEWED: 12.5L VOTERS ADDED POST SIR



SRI LANKA - OIL CRISIS

- Sri Lanka is introducing a shorter four-day working week to preserve its shrinking fuel and gas reserves, as the Middle East conflict continues to severely disrupt energy supplies in the region.
- Let us look to God in prayer for the cease of war and restoration of lives of millions of citizens across globe affected by its consequences.



MELODY OR MYSTERY?

Social media speculation linking pop music videos to Jeffrey Epstein's crimes has created a viral "memeification" of trauma. This digital phenomenon has impacted teenagers and young adults, who encounter explicit material without safeguarding, leading to distorted social learning. Let's pray that Our Lord protects the hearts and minds of young people scrolling through social media. Pray for growing with word of God and not word of media.



A BLUEPRINT FOR ZEAL

Last month, from the incident where Paul confronted Elymas, we learned about facing evil the right way. We know that Paul was called to be the apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). This month, we are going to draw lessons from the events that happened to Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia. God gave Paul a clear blueprint, an action plan for ministering among the Gentiles. When God gives us His zeal, He also teaches us how to put it into action.

A STRATEGIC DESTINATION

Last month, we saw that immediately after leaving the island of Cyprus, Paul and Barnabas bypassed other coastal cities and traveled directly to Antioch of Pisidia on the mainland (Acts 13:13-14). We considered the possibility that this was because they had received letters of recommendation from Sergius Paulus to noble families in Antioch. However, God led them there primarily because it was a place of immense strategic importance.

Antioch of Pisidia was a Roman colony and a military fortress. It was situated on the Via Sebaste, a major road connecting it with other parts of the Roman Empire. This made it an ideal central hub for spreading the gospel throughout the region of Galatia. Because diverse groups of people lived there - Romans, Greeks, local Phrygians, and a significant Jewish community, the city served as a microcosm of the world Paul sought to reach.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

According to his custom, Paul first went to the Jewish synagogue. When invited to speak, he delivered a brilliant sermon to the Jews and the Gentile proselytes (converts to Judaism).

- He first recounted the great things God had done in the history of the Israelites, from their deliverance from Egypt to the reign of King David.

- Next, he explained that Jesus was the promised Son of David, and that through His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus had become the promised Savior of mankind.

- He concluded his sermon by declaring that those who believe in Jesus are freely justified from the condemnation of death through the forgiveness of sins, and he solemnly warned them not to reject this message of grace (Acts 13:16-41).

Many Jews and converts to Judaism accepted this message of grace (Acts 13:43). However, when the entire city gathered with interest to hear the word of God, they were misled by their religious leaders who were filled with jealousy. When Paul subsequently turned his ministry toward the Gentiles, all who were appointed for eternal life believed, and a church was formed. Even though Paul and Barnabas were forcefully driven out of the region, the disciples continued to grow under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:44-52).

THE APOSTOLIC BLUEPRINT

From this visit, Paul recognized a distinct ministry blueprint:

1. The clear proclamation of the gospel to devout Jews and Gentiles.
2. Initial interest and acceptance from some Jews.
3. Widespread, joyful reception by the Gentiles.
4. Severe opposition and persecution from other Jewish leaders.
5. The establishment of a growing church filled with disciples who were "filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

Clearly realizing that nothing could stop the impact of the gospel, Paul joyfully applied this blueprint repeatedly throughout the Roman Empire.

AN ENDURING LEGACY

The church Paul established in Antioch of Pisidia did not simply fade away. Even when the apostles moved to other places, the faith they planted took deep root. During his second and third missionary journeys, Paul revisited the city to strengthen the disciples. That church grew and became a major Christian center in Asia Minor.

During archaeological excavations, the ruins of a magnificent early Christian church were discovered, serving as strong evidence of its historical significance. Built centuries after Paul's visit, this large basilica is a testament to the fact that the congregation grew into an established and influential institution that lasted well into the Byzantine period.

The city's decline eventually began due to a terrible earthquake in 518 AD and widespread plagues between 543-545 AD. The site was later abandoned and eventually used by locals as a stone quarry. Today, the ruins near the modern Turkish town of Yalvac stand as a powerful, enduring testimony to the legacy of the church Paul established.

EVEN IN HOSTILE CIRCUMSTANCES,
WE NEED THE COURAGE TO CLEARLY
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

WHAT DO WE LEARN?

1. The Courage to Speak the Truth We need the boldness to clearly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, even in hostile environments. Just as Jesus, Paul, and the early apostles did, we also need the courage to openly declare the consequences of rejecting this message of grace.

2. Trusting God's Strategy When Paul trusted the blueprint God gave him without worrying about the immediate results, he was highly successful in advancing the Kingdom of God throughout the Roman Empire. He did not compromise or change his strategy merely to reduce Jewish opposition. Likewise, rather than relying on our own earthly experience or wisdom, we too will succeed if we remain entirely faithful to the vision and guidance God has given us.



A LEADER'S VISION (DEUTERONOMY 33:7)

We can recognize this tribe as a dominant one. In the wilderness journey, the tribe of Judah marched first (Numbers 10:14). This tribe was also the first to receive its allotted inheritance (Joshua 15:1).

The blessing from the leader Moses contains two key elements:

- 1. A Call for Unity:** Hearing the voice of Judah and bringing him back to his people. This was Moses' plea for the unity of the people of Israel.
- 2. Divine Strength:** Moses' petition for Judah's hands to be strengthened against his enemies.

CONCLUSION

The lion, possessing leadership capacity, stands as the symbol of the tribe of Judah. Judah is known as the largest and most dominant among the 12 tribes (Numbers 1 & 26). It stands out as the tribe that produced the greatest victors (like David) among all the brothers. David's victories are detailed in 2 Samuel chapter 8.

On the day the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul, the exact word fulfilling his father's blessing ("neck") is mentioned in the psalm David sang: "You have also given me the necks of my enemies" (Psalm 18:40, 2 Samuel 22:41). The blessing that the scepter of royal authority, legal dominance, and ruling power belonging to the tribe of Judah would not depart until the coming of the Messiah (the Lord of Peace) was fulfilled around 7 AD. Indeed, just before Jesus Christ began His ministry, the Jews lost their authority to enact their own capital laws.

The people of Judah enjoyed a long period of rule from 930 BC to 721 BC. Through the various wars that occurred during these times, the Lord stood by them and led them to victory. Whenever they cried out to the Lord, He heard them and removed their distress. Thus, the leader's vision was fulfilled in Judah.

Beloved! Judah's Self-Correction not only granted his tribe a reign that brought supreme glory, excellence, and authority, but it also points toward the millennial reign of our Lord, the King of Kings, who will rule this world forever—a reign for which this world is waiting. Correcting mistakes fulfills God's plans. Are efforts to correct our mistakes found among us? Not Justify, but Rectify.

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." - Proverbs 28:13

**IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE,
CORRECT IT, DON'T JUSTIFY IT.**

THE REDHILLS YOUTH PRAYER CELL: ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH

At the 2024 Annual Camp, the youth from Redhills who participated dedicated themselves to forming and leading new prayer cells. In the following months, a special meeting was organized for these committed young people to encourage them to lead prayers by dividing them area-wise. As a result, they committed to meeting twice a month across six locations (five groups for young men and one for young women).

Following this, the youth who attended the 2025 Area-wise Youth Retreat joined these existing prayer groups and have been praying together consistently. Furthermore, they have integrated themselves as volunteers for various meetings organized by FMPB, offering their active support. These monthly youth fellowship gatherings serve to:

- ◆ Strengthen the prayer cells further.
- ◆ Encourage more fervent prayer within the groups.
- ◆ Inspire a heart for active ministry.

Our primary goal is for these young leaders to conduct these gatherings in coordination with senior mentors. Seeing their growing passion for Children's Ministry, we organized a Children's Retreat for the kids of members in the Redhills area. To support this specific ministry, a dedicated team of seven youths meets every night via Google Meet to pray.

The young people leading these prayer groups have experienced numerous blessings, both in their prayer lives and their personal lives. To God be the glory!



THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very foundation of the Christian faith. The firm testimony of the Bible is that Jesus was crucified, died, and rose again on the third day. This event was no ordinary occurrence; it reveals the supreme power of God and the assurance of salvation granted to humanity.

An Illustration: Walking with God

Once, while a Sunday school teacher was teaching the verse about how “Enoch walked with God,” a student stood up and asked, “What does it mean to walk with God?”

The teacher replied: “God used to visit Enoch’s house constantly. One day, God invited Enoch to come over to His house. When Enoch went there, he experienced eternal joy. Later, when God told Enoch it was time to go back to his own home, Enoch refused to leave and stayed in God’s house forever.”

Similarly, the Apostle Paul declares that, by any means, he desires to attain the resurrection from the dead to be in eternal union with Christ.

1. Resurrection: The Manifestation of God’s Power

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.” (Matthew 28:6)

Death is often considered the final boundary for mankind. However, by conquering death and rising again, Jesus proved that death is defeated and darkness has turned into light. Through this, it is revealed that God is above all things and that He has brought an end to the power of death.

2. Resurrection: The Sign of Forgiveness

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” (Romans 4:25)

Through sin, man was separated from God, for the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Jesus shed His blood on the cross to take upon Himself the punishment for human sin. Because He rose again, we have received forgiveness, a new life, and an eternal hope.

3. Resurrection: The Hope of Eternal Life

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’” (John 11:25)

Because Jesus rose, those who believe in Him have the hope that they too will one day be resurrected. Jesus’ words, “I am the resurrection and the life,” are the bedrock of this hope. For a believer, death is not an end; it is the beginning of eternal life.

4. Resurrection: The Power to Transform Life

“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection.”

(Philippians 3:10)

Paul emphasizes that the power of the resurrection transforms human life. After Jesus’ death, the disciples were hidden away in fear. But after the Resurrection, they boldly proclaimed the Gospel. This transformation showcases the power of the risen Christ. Even today, this power encourages us to leave our old lives behind and begin anew.

5. Resurrection: Victory over Death

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

(1 Corinthians 15:55)

The Resurrection of Jesus broke the authority of death and gave us new life. Even when we face sorrows, losses, or trials, the truth that “Jesus is Alive” gives us courage and hope. It provides the assurance that He is always with us.

Conclusion

The Resurrection of Jesus is not merely a historical event; it is a living truth capable of changing every person’s life. Even today, the power of His resurrection reigns within God’s people. In various mission fields, there are testimonies of people being raised from the dead.

Therefore, let us believe in the Risen Christ, walk in His ways, and renew our lives. Like Paul, let us dedicate ourselves to living in the power of the Resurrection.





WAITING WITH WISDOM



“The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.” (Matthew 25:4)

A young man was scrolling through Instagram. Gold rings, pre-wedding shoots, photos of dream families... and then a post from a classmate who recently got married, followed by news of an engagement at his own church. A single thought gripped his mind: “When will my time come?”

Let’s be honest, waiting is not easy. Especially when everyone around us seems to be moving fast into the next stage of life, many questions arise within us. This is where Jesus’ Parable of the Ten Virgins becomes deeply relevant.

In this story, five were wise and five were foolish. The difference wasn’t in their beauty, their talent, or their background. The difference was in their preparation. All ten were waiting for the bridegroom, but only five were ready. The wise ones took extra oil; the foolish ones assumed the bridegroom would arrive quickly. When he was delayed, their lamps went out. In that moment of unreadiness, they missed the celebration.

Marriage is not just about finding the right person; it is about becoming the right person.

- **Many pray:** “Lord, give me a good, suitable husband/wife.” Few pray: “Lord, mold me into a wise wife/husband.”

- **Many pray:** “Lord, give me a godly man/woman.” Few pray: “Lord, build me into a godly person.”

In this parable, the “Oil” represents something deep: our personal spiritual life, character, emotional maturity, the ability to forgive, patience, prayer life, and self-control.

You cannot borrow this oil. I cannot borrow my friend’s spiritual walk. I cannot borrow my pastor’s faith. I cannot borrow the character traits of my future spouse.

The Season of Waiting is a Season of Preparation

Today, many Christian youths in Tamil Nadu feel immense pressure – family pressure, church pressure, and age-related pressure.

- Some rush into marriage simply because “everyone else is doing it.”
- Some compromise their spiritual standards because they are tired of waiting.
- Some make impulsive decisions because loneliness has become a heavy burden.

But what is the truth? Do not rush what God is preparing. In the parable, the bridegroom was delayed. That delay revealed who was actually ready. Sometimes, God’s delay is not a punishment; it is a preparation.

Ask yourself these questions today:

- If you got married today, are you emotionally stable?
- Have you healed from the wounds of your past?
- When problems or arguments arise, can you handle them without screaming?
- When the initial “attraction” fades, can you remain faithful to your spouse?
- Can you respect and obey God’s plan for your life?

Waiting is Never Wasted

Waiting builds a depth of understanding within us. The wise women were calm when the time finally came. They didn’t panic or get anxious because they were prepared. We should enter marriage not with a sense of desperation or fear, but with readiness.

Entering a relationship with “oil in our lamps” meaning a consistent prayer life, a strong family foundation, and healed emotions is the clear mark of a follower of Christ.

The world says, “Hurry up and find someone.” Jesus says, “Be ready until my time comes.” So, instead of asking “When will I get married?”, let us ask, “Have I matured through this waiting?”

Marriage is indeed a joyful event, but your preparation determines whether you enter it with true joy. When the right time comes, you won’t have to scramble for oil. You will simply shine.

THE PARABLE OF THE NET

(BASED ON MATTHEW 13:47-50)

The Savior, Jesus Christ, explained His teachings through parables. The Parable of the Net (Matt. 13:47-50) depicts the final judgment of the Kingdom of Heaven. This parable prompts us to think deeply. The world is like a net submerged in a vast sea; ultimately, the good will be separated from the bad.

The Essence of the Parable:

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 13:47-50).

In this parable, the net represents the Kingdom of Heaven. It spreads throughout the world, gathering both the good (the righteous) and the bad (the unrighteous). The fishermen represent God’s servants and, on the last day, Jesus Christ as the Judge. Bringing the net to the shore signifies the Final Judgment. There, the “good fish” (the righteous) are gathered into baskets (heaven), while the “bad” (the wicked) are cast out and consumed by fire (hell).

Lessons:

- **A Mixed World:** The world is a mixture of the good and the evil. For us living in this world, it is often difficult to distinguish between the two. However, this is something known to God alone.
- **The Final Separation:** When the final day comes, Jesus Christ will descend to this earth to identify and separate the good from the evil. He will gather the righteous to Himself and lead them into the Kingdom of Heaven. But the wicked will be cast into the fire prepared for the devil and his angels, a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- **Preparation:** This parable serves as a warning. We are called to reflect: Is our life lived in the way Jesus Christ expects? Many may be in the church, yet true faith is not found in them. We can only achieve this standing by earnestly seeking God’s grace.

Our Response:

This parable causes us to examine ourselves: Am I a “good fish” or a “bad fish”? Jesus said, “For many are invited, but few are chosen” (Matt. 22:14). Let us ask the Lord today, “Lord, by your grace, forgive all our sins.” As those who look forward to His coming, let us prepare ourselves to do only that which is good.

The Parable of the net in Matthew 13:47-50 reminds us of the heavenly calling of the Kingdom of God and the certainty of the Final Judgment. It encourages believers to lead a righteous life and to proclaim God’s Kingdom to the world.

Therefore, let us prepare ourselves for His Kingdom. When the final day arrives, may we be among those who join Him and enter the Kingdom of Heaven. May the Lord bless us all? **Amen!**



HONOURABLE JOSEPH (OF ARIMATHEA)

A counsellor from the town of Arimathea
An impartial servant of the Sanhedrin council
A man of truth in the eyes of society
One who holds the place of Elkanah, who loved even the barren heartfully
One who carries the scent of the soil of the historical man, Samuel.

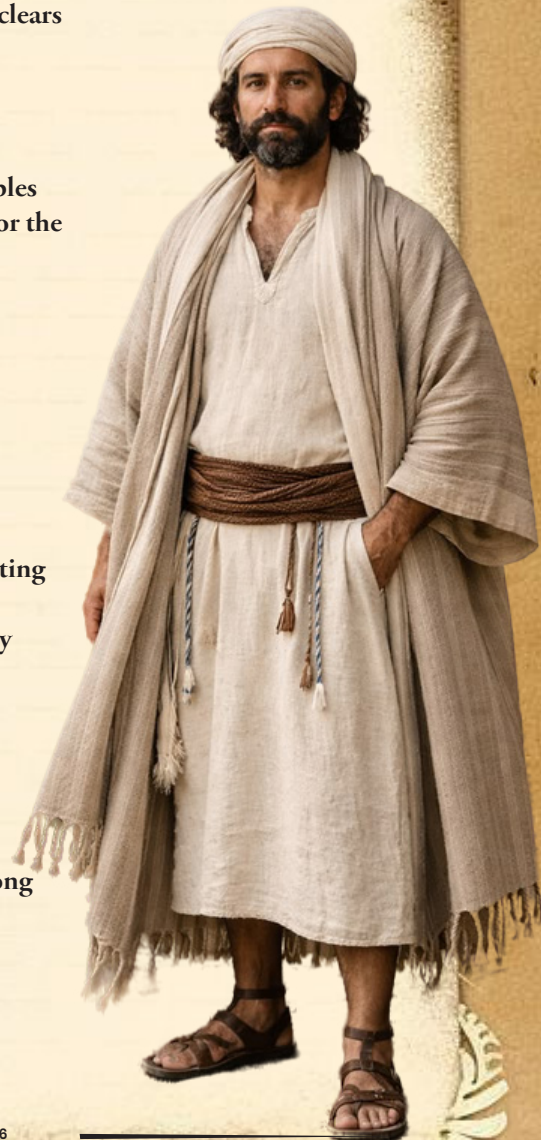
A man of integrity—a secret disciple of the living God
A wealthy nobleman—a lord of truth with a clear mind
One who waited eagerly for the Kingdom of God to come
One whose heart had accepted that Jesus is the Messiah
One who left the intoxication of fame and found the light that clears the intellect.

Honest in authority—pure of heart in virtue
One who stayed far from conspiracies and evil deeds
One who showed himself to the world among the hidden disciples
One who cast away worldly fear and provided a decent burial for the Supreme One
One who made the new tomb the property of the Holy One
One who received the support of his wise friend, Nicodemus.

Prisoners of the dungeon who worship the Eternal One
The Josephs who do not fail in their duty even in hardship
The Nicodemus's who offer the best to Lord Jesus
Secret discipleship has not yet vanished from the earth.

Without advertisement, without a price tag, without vain boasting
As the flames of the real world that dispel the darkness
As warriors wielding the sword of prayer to uproot cruel enmity
There are thousands of watchmen marching in line.

O Church, let your heart be strengthened!
Show the Josephs of this era's dungeons to the world
Truth and integrity—firmness and stability
Let there be equality; let there be a new history
Let the drum of victory sound, declaring that all who exist belong only to the Supreme One!



JOHN

THE DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

John was born into a Jewish family. He was initially a disciple of John the Baptist before becoming the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ. He was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the younger brother of James. John was a fisherman by trade. Jesus Christ called him to leave his fishing business and become His disciple. Both brothers, James and John, left their nets and followed Jesus to become His disciples.

NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS OF DISCIPLE JOHN

- **The Youngest:** It is believed that John was the youngest among the disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Bond with Christ:** He was very close to Jesus. John was present at the Mount of Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus's daughter, and during Jesus's agonizing moments in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- **Boldness and Zeal:** During the Last Supper, he had the privilege of leaning on Jesus's chest. He was bold enough to ask Jesus the historic question, "Lord, who is the one who will betray You?".
- **"Sons of Thunder":** John was given the nickname "Boanerges," which means "Sons of Thunder." This name reflects his zealous and dynamic nature.
- **The Beloved:** John is distinctively identified as the "disciple whom Jesus loved," highlighting his deeply connected relationship with Christ.

AN EYEWITNESS TO THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

John witnessed the death of Jesus Christ from very close to the cross. Furthermore, the immense responsibility of caring for Jesus's mother after His crucifixion was entrusted to John. Alongside Peter, John played a crucial role following the resurrection of Jesus; both were eyewitnesses to the empty tomb.

JOHN'S RECORDS IN CHURCH HISTORY

Church historians refer to him as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, and the Beloved Disciple. John authored five books in the New Testament: The Gospel of John, the First, Second, and Third Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. It is believed that John lived for more than fifty years after the martyrdom of his brother James in 44 AD. Jesus sent John, along with Peter, to make preparations for the final Passover meal. After Jesus was arrested, John was the only disciple who followed Him, along with Peter, right into the courtyard of the High Priest in Jerusalem.



THE UNIQUENESS OF DISCIPLE JOHN

John was a disciple from the very beginning of Jesus's ministry. He was a constant companion—from the Mount of Transfiguration, the times of miracles, and the Garden of Gethsemane, to the crucifixion and the empty tomb that testified to His resurrection.

Even after Jesus's resurrection, John was with Peter when the lame man was healed at Solomon's Colonnade in the temple. He also endured imprisonment with Peter [Acts 4:3]. He was actively involved in the ministry of visiting the new believers in Samaria [Acts 8:14]. Along with Peter and James, John was recognized as a "pillar of the church." They participated in the Jerusalem Council [Acts 15] and helped resolve the complex issues regarding Jewish traditions and the Law of Moses, which paved the way for Paul and his team's ministry to the Gentiles.

THE DEATH OF JOHN

John is believed to have been the youngest of the apostles and the one who lived the longest. He lived to a ripe old age and reportedly died a natural death in Ephesus sometime after 98 AD. Because of this, he is considered the only apostle who did not die a martyr's death.

LESSONS FOR THE YOUTH FROM JOHN'S LIFE

- Join the fellowship of Jesus Christ during your youth.
- Stay close to Jesus and understand His calling and command to preach the gospel.
- Be an active witness to His ministry, miracles, teachings, death, and resurrection.
- Take His gospel to the ends of the earth.
- Aspire to live as Jesus's "beloved disciple," a key witness, and a faithful leader in the church, just as John did.

FMPB is Looking for Youth Like John!

Dear young brothers and sisters, The FMPB (Friends Missionary Prayer Band) movement is inviting creative and dynamic youth to become missionaries. This is a great opportunity to share Jesus Christ among the diverse ethnic groups in our nation. You can join and serve in this organization as a teacher, technician, medical worker, educator, or computer scientist. Glorify the name of the Lord through your dedication!





FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND

TAMIL Annual Camp 2026



Date: **MAY**
21st to 24th
Thursday 9.30 am – Sunday 7.30 am

Place: **BETHEL**
Danishpet, Salem

Speakers:

- Dr. Rajesh Duthie
- Mr. G. John Samuel
- Rev. Vijay P. Isaac
- Mr. Y. Navaneethar
- Rev. J. Ruban Samuel
- Rev. S. Emmanuel Ranjisingh
- and Field Missionaries

Special Arrangements:

Separate sessions for Adults, Young Couples, Teens, Youths and Children.

Registration fee:

For Adults: **RS.300/-**
Children **RS.200/-**

Spirit-filled songs, Powerful messages, Inspiring Samthya sessions and meaningful sharing of ministry experiences.

We invite you to participate as a prayer group, family, and church to grow stronger in your spiritual life and in missionary vision.

QR Code for
Camp Registration



How to Reach the Camp Venue:

- ① Danishpet, Bethel Campus is located 6 km from Theevattipatti on the Salem-Bangalore Highway.
- ② From Salem New Bus Stand you can take buses to Bommiadi, Lokkur, or Ramamoorthy Nagar and get down at Bethel Hospital bus stop.
- ③ By train, travel via the Jolarpettai-Erode or Erode-Jolarpettai route. Those coming should get down at Danishpet Railway Station.
- ④ If you inform the travel coordinators about your arrival, they will receive you and bring you to the venue.
- ⑤ From the early morning of May 21, volunteers will be available at Salem Railway Station, Salem Bus Stand, and Theevattipatti junction to assist you.
- ⑥ For travel coordination, contact:
Mr. A. Gnanaadas - 90429 45090
Mr. P. Rathnaraj - 94873 25000

Tamil Nadu State Level Bible and
Missionary Biography Exam for Teens and Youths

BAMB
BIBLE AND MISSIONARY
BIOGRAPHY
EXAM - 2026

AGE LIMIT:
13-30
YEARS

- ISAIH CHAPTER 40 TO CHAPTER 66.
- BIOGRAPHIES OF MISSIONARIES AND NEWS PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY 2026 ISSUES OF 'KERITHI' MAGAZINE.
- MEMORY VERSE PORTION - ISAIH 53:1-12.
- THE EXAM WILL BE CONDUCTED IN TAMIL AND ENGLISH. (NKJV & NIV ENGLISH BIBLE WILL BE FOLLOWED).
- VENUE: BETHEL CAMPUS, DANISHPET, SALEM.
- EXAM DATE: 2ND DAY OF THE ANNUAL CAMP (22.05.2026).
- EXAM TIME: 8:30 PM TO 10:30 PM.
- MUST SCORE AT LEAST 50 MARKS TO GET A PRIZE.
- SPECIAL PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TOP THREE SCORERS, OTHERS WILL BE GIVEN A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION.

For more details:
FMPB YOUTH WING 📞 9445040148

The camp will conclude on the morning of May 24th with a Holy Communion service.

Email address for camp registration:
annulacampfmpb2026@gmail.com

Contact:

FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND
29, High School Road, Ambattur, Chennai- 600053
Phone: 044-26570404, Cell: 9443039555, 94888805454