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FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND



A monthly Prayer Bulletin for Youth & Teens

Look to the Cross for
HOLINESS

Private circulation only

THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST TEN GENERATIONS OF THE WORLD - ADAM TO NOAH:

This year our focus is on the Biblical characters and their reflection of the image of Christ and praise God for His blessings.

In this month we shall learn the meaning of the names of 10 Generations starting from Adam to Noah from Genesis 5

Meaning of the name

- Adam (Genesis 5:1) is 'Man' similarly
- Seth (5:3) - 'Appointed'
- Enos (5:6) - 'Mortal'
- Cainan (5:9) - 'Sorrow'
- Mahalaleel (5:12) - 'The Glory of GOD'
- Jared (5:18) - 'Shall Come Down'
- Enoch (5:18) - 'Commencement'
- Methuselah (5:21) - 'His Death Shall Bring'
- Lamech (5:25) - 'Despairing'
- Noah (5:30) - 'Rest'

"Man (is) appointed (for) mortal sorrow (but) the blessed God shall come down to commence His death which bring (the) despairing, comfort and rest".

Now, let's consider this sentence with a focus on Jesus Christ:

"For Jesus is Himself God who came down to earth to commence His sacrificial death on the cross, to take away the sins of despairing man and give them comfort and rest"

We encourage you to read the first ten chapters of Genesis and praise God using the praising points given below.

Praising Points:

1. Hail to you, God of creation.
2. We praise You, Creator, who spoke all things into existence.
3. We glorify You, Creator of man in His own image.
4. We honour You, Giver of the perfect companion for man.
5. We worship You, who has entrusted all creation to man.
6. We praise You, the blessed One, for the gift of multiplication.
7. We glorify You, who gave grace for Noah.
8. We bow down to You, the Covenant Maker, who set the rainbow in the sky.
9. We honour You, Saviour, who graciously redeemed fallen man.
10. We praise You, Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Kerith

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

VISION:

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

OBJECTIVE:

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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Look to the cross for Holiness

**Greetings of love to my dear young hearts;
in the name of Jesus.**

As we step into the New Year I am eager to connect with each of you. The Lord in His boundless grace; has shielded and guided us as the apple of His eye throughout the past year. In Isaiah 6:3 we find a vision where the seraphim and cherubim gaze at each other and proclaim "The Lord of Hosts is Holy! Holy! Holy!"

In Hebrew; the repetition of the word "Holy" three times signifies an unparalleled and supreme state. Indeed; His Holiness surpasses all attributes of the Lord. Our worship is directed towards a God great in holiness. Holiness is not merely a primary quality of God but also His foremost desire for His people. The Lord who calls His people to holiness; declares "Be holy; for I am Holy I sanctify you."

Dear brothers and sisters; do you believe that holiness is unattainable in your life? Does living a Holy life pose a daily challenge for you? Remember you can easily overcome challenges by fixing your eyes on the cross each day.

Those who turned their eyes to the cross found victory in holy living. Learn to embrace a life of holiness look to the cross and live in holiness. The Lord will abundantly provide you with the necessary grace.

May the Lord bless you abundantly.

In Christ's service

J. Daniel Arulmani.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were not able to publish the January edition. Kindly bear with us and continue to uphold the Kerith Magazine ministry in your valuable prayers.

WORLD POLLS - 2024:

Is January 1st a special day? A new beginning, full of expectations, with opportunities, habits, resolutions, and expectations. However, the year 2024 may not unfold as expected, according to 24 global opinion polls. Here are some noteworthy predictions for India and the world:

Improved Living Standards: Projected increase from 7% to 8%.

Surge in Travel Activities.

Highly sophisticated aerial techniques will take place.

Expanding Job Markets.

Diverse and Appealing Mobile Devices.

Implementation of login IDs, passwords, barcode scans and physical ID scans everywhere to enhance security measures.

Major Global Elections.

Increased EMIS Usage.

Growing Investments in Stocks.

Elevated Inflation Rates.

Escalating Expenditure on Education and Healthcare.

Heightened Usage of Anti-obesity Medications.

Greater Focus on Telecommunication Infrastructure.

Rising Incidence of Love Marriages.

Growing Acceptance of LGBTQ+.

Dear brother and sister! 2 Tim 3:1 says, Mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days . The current events echo these sentiments, as indicated by the global predictions. Take attention to guard yourself from entanglements, ensuring your life doesn't become a wandering dream. May the Lord bless you. "You, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness" (1 Tim. 6:11)

Note: This text is taken from the Times of India daily paper.



Moving towards Perfection

Under the heading “Moving towards Perfection” (Heb 6:3), each month we will learn in what aspects we must move on to reach perfection in Christ. In this first month, let us learn about the counsel that Paul gave to the Corinthian church, “perfecting Holiness in the fear of God.” Chapter (2 Cori 7:1) unfolds with the mention of “These Promises.” What promises are these? Turning back to Chapter 6 provides the answer: “I will be a father to you and you will be My children”. (2 Cori 6:18) I will live with them and walk among them and I will be a God to them and they will be my children. But when will this promise be fulfilled? when we separate ourselves from filthy things and purify ourselves. Indeed, our journey involves perfecting holiness in reverence to God. Sanctification unfolds as we follow the guidance of the Spirit, facilitated through daily scripture reading and prayer. Let’s persistently strive until holiness is perfected within us.

Why Holiness?

Our God is Holy. So he calls us to be holy. In Isaiah 6, we read that the angels continually calling him “Holy, Holy, Holy.” Apostle John, when describing visions of the day of the Lord, emphasizes the four living creatures around the throne declaring ceaselessly, “...the Lord God Almighty is holy, holy, holy.” The God who invites us to live with Him both now and eternally beckons us to embrace holiness.

What is Holiness?

Holiness is not just a spiritual concept but a term that encompasses our entire life, embodying the notion of “set apart



Separation.” Our God is uniquely holy, as expressed by Moses in Exodus 15:11, “Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness?” This Holy God conveys to the people of Israel through Moses in Leviticus 19:2, saying, “Be Holy because I, the Lord your God, am Holy.” The idea of separation is evident in Deuteronomy 7:6, referring to the people of Israel as a chosen and set-apart nation. Peter further emphasizes this in his epistle, urging believers to “Be Holy in all you do, as he who called you is Holy” (1 Peter 1:14-16). In exploring holiness, we can gather insights through a two-part message, focusing on this profound word.

There are Two Parts to Holiness:

1. Spiritual Holiness
2. Moral Holiness

Spiritual Holiness:

Exodus 34:12-15
Becautions against worshipping any other god and advises against making treaties with them, as it would provoke God’s anger. Isaiah 52:11 echoes this sentiment, urging believers to depart from unclean things and maintain purity, especially those who carry the articles of the LORD’s house. Paul emphasizes a similar message in his letter to the Corinth church (2 Cor 6:14-18). The same theme is reiterated by the beloved disciple of Jesus in Revelation 18:4, urging people to come out of sinful environments to avoid sharing in her sins and facing consequent plagues. Thus, to uphold spiritual holiness, it is essential to set ourselves apart for God.

Moral Holiness:

Integral to spiritual holiness is moral purity, as highlighted in the seventh commandment, which prohibits adultery. Deuteronomy 22:22-24 underscores the severe consequences for adultery and fornication. Leviticus 11 delves into various aspects of moral conduct, encompassing the body, clothing, shelter, relationships, and food within the context of God’s harmony.

Dear brothers and sisters, the key focus of this message revolves around one word – “virtuous virgin.” According to Paul, Christ gave

Himself for the bride of Christ, emphasizing the purity of the church (Eph. 5:26,27). 1 Cor 6:9-11 describes the transformation from impurity to purity through the cleansing power of the Lord Jesus and the Spirit of our God. To achieve holiness in reverence to God, young women and men must heed to the writer of Hebrews’ admonition: “Let marriage be solemn among all, and the marriage-bed be undefiled; God will judge harlots and adulterers” (Hebrews 13:4). Amen.





THE LORD'S MINISTRY AMIDST SUFFERING

“My grace is sufficient for you” There are many living witnesses to the scripture that “My strength is made perfect in (your) weakness” in our organization. Although the dedication of missionaries and prayer group leaders are on one side, their sacrifices are great lesson for us. This year we would like to present before you on this page ‘The Lord’s ministry amidst of suffering’ the life challenges of some of the people who in spite of personal and family members’ weaknesses, diseases and especially with children who are differently-abled, run without getting tired for the mission of the Kingdom as their primary objective. The Kerith Magazine team present to you their life history which we received in person or via telecommunications. This is not to sympathize or pity them, but to realize that we can overcome any obstacle and move forward in the ministry with enthusiasm and also to earnestly pray for them.

LET'S MEET OUR PRAYER GROUP LEADER, YESUDHASAN ANNA FIRST:

At Yesudhasan’s Annan’s house (in the words of Mr. Yesudhasan): We are five brothers and sisters. Due to extreme poverty and weakness of parents, me and my two sisters survived through the CMS movement. I completed my ITI there. Then I came to Chennai in 1982. I also joined the Labour Union at my place of work in Chennai and actively worked on the theory that God does not exist by the influence of communism (Mrs. Vasantha akka interrupted and continued) we got married in 1992. At the wedding time itself I found out that he is an angry person. My parents raised me in proper spiritual life and with a missionary thirst. Our mother is a Bible woman. In the midst of anger, beatings, and godless practices in our family life, our first daughter Blessy was born in 1993. In 1996 my husband had a spinal surgery and our second son (Bensam) was born in the same year. Bensam developed a fever on the third day of his birth followed by chills, tremors and seizures that damaged the nerves leading to his brain (to this day his brain is still underdeveloped).

(Annan Continued): In 2000 I came back to Christ through Parama Kanan’s calling ministry through its Evangelist Mr. Sarath Sunder Raj and started doing village ministry. Since 2005, we have been involving in the Mobilization Ministry of Friends Missionary Prayer Band and at first, we received donations from only five houses.

(In akka’s words): Our parents’ prayers will not go in vain. The Lord changed my husband little by little and he who did not pray, now pray in 80 to 90 houses every month and receive donations and collect 1 lakh rupees and give it to our organization. Also, we are running 20 prayer groups in this region (Chennai-Padi). Every day we both walk across this area and carry out these services.

(Annan’s words continued): I worked for 32 years and retired in 2017. After a year of retirement, they invited me to work in the same company. At first, we refused, but instead of staying at home, I go to work and think that if we receive a salary, we can give it to missionary work. Thereby we sponsor 11 home children.



(Our question is, “Is Bensam (son) not a hindrance to your mobilization ministry? Or how you are taking his life. (akka’s words in the midst of Annan’s laughter): Bensam is our heavenly child. He does not show anything about hunger and pain. Always he needs to listen to songs at home. Otherwise, he will make his anger known by screaming. Every morning we make him do his chores, bathe him and make him sit in his chair. We have been doing this for the past 28 years. Many people say why do you leave your child like this and go to the ministry together. But the work that Jesus gave us is greater than that. Bensam is not at all a hindrance to us. Many days we come late at night, but we feed him dinner only after that.

IN ANNAN'S WORDS: OUR LONGING IS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OUR AREA SHOULD GO FOR MISSIONARY WORK. HE CONCLUDED WITH A SMILE THAT YOUNG COUPLES SHOULD TAKE UP THIS MOBILIZATION MINISTRY.

LOOK TO THE CROSS

(DO NOT NEGLECT THE CROSS)

In the second week, we shall reflect on the profound message under the theme of “12 Arrows that shot towards the Cross.” This contemplation aims to contribute to our spiritual growth.

Thousand years ago, Christ, the Saviour and Messiah, sacrificed Himself on the cross to save humanity from sin (Romans 5:10). As we revisit this historical event, we encounter the indifference of the crowd surrounding the cross. Government officials, religious leaders, the general public, people who ministered with Christ, and even those who once greeted Him with “Hosanna” all stood there. The first arrow among the twelve arrows shot towards the Son of God is indifference, and we read about it in Matthew 27:40.

INDIFFERENCE DEFINED:

Indifference is the neglect or disregard of something useful or necessary. Being unconcerned in crucial situations is a calamity. It's vital to recognize the value of the cross, as despising it can lead to terrible consequences.

Indifference stemmed from the inability of people to comprehend the significance of Christ's death on the cross and understand God's plan. To understand the message of the cross, let's meditate on three subheadings:

- Need of the Cross
- The Speciality of the Cross
- The Value of the Cross

I. NEED OF THE CROSS:

- Being Saved (Ephesians 2:16): Salvation mends the detached divine relationship caused by the fall of man.
- Deliverance (Luke 24:20): Christ became the punishment to save us from the death penalty assigned by Satan's deceit.
- Redeemed at a Great Price (2 Corinthians 5:21): Christ's sinless blood, shed for us, has the power to cleanse us from all sins (1 John 1:7).



2. THE SPECIALITY OF THE CROSS:

- Foretold by the Lord (Hebrews 2:4): The birth and death of Jesus Christ were prophesied by numerous prophets. Isaiah specifically referred to Him as the lamb to be slain in Chapter 53.

- Confirmed by those who heard Him (John 1:29, 36):

John the Baptist testified to Jesus being the Lamb of God, His purpose to take away the sins of the world.

- Testified by Disciples (Acts 4:12): The disciples, through the Holy Spirit's gifts and various miracles, testified strongly that salvation is only through Jesus Christ.

3. VALUE OF THE CROSS:

- God initiated the act on the cross: We are saved by a great Savior, immortal and dwelling in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16).

- God gave the precious sacrifice through the cross: God's greatness is revealed through the cross, demonstrating His love for our attainment of eternal life (John 3:16). God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- God set us free from sins: The cross saves us from the wrath of God, providing deliverance from eternal wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9) and eternal death (Psalm 68:20).

MANY TIMES, WE TOO NEGLECT THE CROSS, FAILING TO REALIZE ITS VALUE, EXCELLENCE AND THE SALVATION IT BRINGS. REFLECT ON HOW WE TREAT THE SYMBOL OF THE CROSS IN OUR ACTIONS, THOUGHTS AND PLANS. LET'S EXAMINE OURSELVES IN THE LIGHT OF THESE REFLECTIONS.



JAT SIKHS

Jat Sikhs, a distinct subgroup within Sikhism, predominantly reside in Punjab, one of India's most prosperous states. This community constitutes a significant portion, approximately 20-25%, of Punjab's population and holds a dominant position within the Sikh community. The majority of Jat Sikhs are landowners, owning a substantial portion of the agricultural lands in Punjab.

A remarkable aspect of Jat Sikhs is their physical prowess, attributed to their dietary habits, love for wrestling and engagement in weightlifting. Many Jat Sikhs actively enlist in the military, where their acts of loyalty and bravery have earned them the highest military honors. Additionally, they play a prominent role in Punjab's political landscape. They own 80% of Punjab's agricultural land.

The Friends Missionary Prayer Band initiated a ministry in 1974 in Bhatinda, Punjab, to reach out Sikhs. Due to poor response and pressure from the government in initial times, we couldn't do the ministry for some years. After many years God has helped us to continue the ministry again.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Let us Pray for the liberation of Jat Sikhs from economic pride.
- Let us Pray for a significant spiritual transformation, with 20-25% of Sikhs in Punjab accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- Let us Intercede for the Jat Sikhs to have compassion towards other marginalized communities, considering their substantial ownership (80%) of agricultural land.
- Let us Pray for those who visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar, a holy place for Sikhs, that they may encounter Jesus on the cross.
- They believe in Guru Granth Sahib (their holy book) and believe this is the last Guru to lead them to God. Let us pray for a shift towards reading the Bible, leading to a transformative encounter with living God.
- Let us pray for deliverance from witchcraft and corrupt practices within the Jat community.
- Let us pray for the Jat Regiment, one of the oldest in the Indian Army, that young military officers and soldiers within this unit may faithfully fulfil their duties and worship Jesus as the Lord of their hearts.





MADHYA PRADESH:

Statistics:

- Capital: Bhopal
- Population: 7.26 crore
- Districts: 53
- Villages: 23,043
- Hindus: 90.9%
- Muslims: 6.6%
- Christians: 0.3%

PRAISE:

- For the spiritual awakening among tribes like Bhil, Gond, Bawri...
- For the perseverance of the new believers in their faith amidst tribulations and opposition...
- For the spiritual awakening the state has witnessed in recent years.

PRAYER:

- Salvation of 11 lakh Gond people, 50 lakh Bhil people, and 4 lakh Korku-speaking people.
- Eradication of poverty and illumination of minds with divine light.

OUR MINISTRY

- Let's praise for the spiritual blessings that our Lord has showered in Kandua region:
 - Believers: 7745
 - Swarthiks: 45
 - Churches: 15
 - Congregations: 166
- Lets pray that God mightily use the 28 missionaries and 2 promotional secretaries
- Let's pray for the fulfillment of Vision 2030:
 - 10,000 believers
 - 10,00,000 people to be evangelized
 - 2000 new villages
 - 250 new worship groups
 - 50 churches.



CHENNAI DISTRICT:

- Statistics:**
- Population: 1.20 crore
 - Villages: About 200
 - Taluks: 16
 - Christians: 8%

PRAISE:

- Apostle Thomas, who was sent to Chennai to spread the Gospel and to die as a martyr.
- Many missionaries, who came from various countries came to Chennai to proclaim the Gospel.
- Establishment of thousands of full time ministers and ministries in Chennai.

PRAYER:

- Pray for increasing sins of adultery, sins of Sodom and Gomorrah and luxuries in Chennai.
- Pray for destruction of spirit of darkness in Chennai and pray that God delivers those who are afflicted by it.
- Pray for Corporation Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners, Engineers, Mayor, Ward Members and Planning Committee members of Chennai Corporation must do their work faithfully.
- Pray for prevention of increasing crimes, thefts and murders in Chennai.
- Pray for the needs of the sponsor families of Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB) to be met.
- Uphold Madhya Pradesh (the state that has been allotted to Chennai district) in your daily prayers.



HIGHER EDUCATION

India's higher education system, encompassing universities, colleges, and research institutes, offers diverse academic programs to over 36 million students, making it the third-largest in the world. With 900 universities and 40,000 colleges, it provides an expansive educational landscape. However, challenges persist.

One of the main challenges here is, many institutions suffer from a lack of resources and qualified teachers, predominantly in government-run establishments. Some institutions grapple with outdated curriculum and inadequate funding. Most of the top rated educational institutions are predominantly located in urban areas, creating a significant Rural-Urban divide. Another challenge is, graduates often face low employability due to a mismatch between acquired skills and job market needs.

To meet these challenges, Government has taken some initiatives, one among them is National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This is a key policy aimed at reforming the education system. Specially to enhance Online Learning, the government promotes online learning through initiatives like the

SWAYAM platform, offering free courses from top institutes.

Tamil Nadu boasts a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 51.4% (based on Department of higher education, Government of Tamil Nadu 2021), that is 51.4% of youth in the age group 18-23 attend some sort of higher education. Also, comparing with the National GER of 27.3%, women's GER in TN is 51%. And also, with men and women of Scheduled Caste, GER is 38.8% and 40.4% in Tamil Nadu.

Students lack guidance, facing confusion about choices, privatization, and fear of job opportunities. Many students lack the means to pursue higher education. The prevalence of mobile addiction contributes to a loss of idealism and difficulty concentrating on studies. Challenges arising from the distractions and lapses during teenage years. As a Christian youth do not be afraid of exams and do according to the will of God to overcome challenges in higher education, by reading your bible every day and praying in God's presence. Let us pray below prayer points for the youth to study higher education, shine in various fields and become champions.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Let us pray to God to give wisdom to guide youth facing challenges in higher education.
2. Let us pray for widespread academic guidance and counselling in schools and colleges.
3. Let us pray for students participating in various entrance exams like NEET, JEE Main, JEE Advance, GATE, NET, CAT, SAT, UPSC, BITSAT, CMAT, KEAM to overcome fear and perform well.
4. Let us pray for students to stay focused on future ideals and work towards achieving them.
5. Let us pray for strength to face failure, encouraging students to persist and complete their higher education.
6. Let us pray for the fulfilment of financial and material needs for attending higher education.
7. Let us pray for students in higher education to resist bad habits and refrain from activities like ragging.
8. Let us pray for the youth to walk in the fear of the Lord and receive salvation.
9. Let us pray for students preparing for entrance exams to approach their studies with care.
10. Let us pray against the works of the devil that induce suicidal thoughts among students in higher education.



WHITE HOUSE

The White House and its surroundings serve as the residence of the President and the First Family of the United States of America. It is not only a home but also a museum of American history, witnessing the unfolding of that history every day.

Despite the grandeur of the White House with its 132 rooms, 35 toilets, 6 floors, 412 doors, 147 windows, 8 staircases, 3 electric lifts, 6 chief chefs, and a workforce of 3000–4000 employees, the President has personal expenses such as food and transportation that are to be covered from his own income.

You might wish to take a tour of the White House; if yes, then do not delay submitting an application today. Keep in mind that a background check takes 21 days for approval. The security of this residence involves 15 robust features, including infrared rays, unidentified anti-aircraft missile systems, anti-drone systems, food testers, concrete and steel barriers, Belgian Shepherd guard dogs, pressure-sensing wire fences, bulletproof windows, snipers on rooftops, armed soldiers, nuclear bomb-resistant secret rooms, and an extensive intelligence team of 7,000 Secret Service agents dedicated to the protection of the President.

The Cabinet includes the Vice President and the heads of 15 Executive departments — the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health, Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Attorney General. The Uniformed Division officers assigned to the White House Branch provide protection and law enforcement functions for the White House, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, New Executive Office Building, the Treasury Building and grounds to include the Treasury Annex, and Visiting Heads of State who temporarily reside at the Blair House.

The inherent nature of the White House ensures that many crucial decisions are made here by the President or with his approval.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT THIS?

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.¹ Timothy 2:1, 2

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray that God's will be made into decisions in domestic and foreign affairs discussed in the White House.
- Pray for the President and other leaders to act in the fear of God, avoiding actions that defile the nation and obstruct the work of God's kingdom.
- Pray for wisdom and impartiality while providing wartime support, financial assistance in the arms trade, etc., amid international conflicts.
- Pray that U.S. foreign policy leads to peace among nations, as well as international foreign affairs Western security, economic and military cooperation, funding, and reconciliation with the United Nations.
- Pray that any evil plots of Haman and wicked counsel of Ahitophel against the people will be thwarted, and plans for the welfare of the people and good relations with nations worldwide will prevail.





NORTH KOREA

As we step into the New Year, our hearts are burdened to intercede for nations where Christians face immense suffering. The worse among them is North Korea, a country marked by severe persecution and resistance against the Christian faith. In this month, let us pray fervently for North Korea.

Living as a Christian in North Korea is a painful experience. When authorities in this country identify someone as Christian, they immediately designate them as political prisoners and send them for camps. Within these camps, they endure brutal torture, and tragically, some lose their lives. The Christian community lacks the freedom to gather, worship, or even possess a Bible. Such acts are deemed serious crimes, met with severe punishment and often death.

A 2022 report by the International Bar Association and the Committee on Human Rights in North Korea reveals the specific targeting and mistreatment of Christians in North Korean prisons. Interrogations, prolonged inquisition and horrendous torture are inflicted upon those known to follow the Christian faith.

WHY ARE CHRISTIANS FACING SO MUCH OPPOSITIONS IN NORTH KOREA?

- The opposition faced by Christians in North Korea is rooted in the perception that they are enemies of society. Christianity is viewed as a direct threat to the dictatorship, ideology, and governance of the country.
- Throughout the past year, individuals gathering at the Underground Churches were executed and their relatives were sent to camps, enduring further torture.

PRAISING POINTS:

- Praise God for the 400,000 believers in North Korea, standing firm despite numerous sufferings.
- Thank God for discipleship training, coupled with food security, provided by secret Christians in China to 80,000 believers in North Korea.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Let us pray for God's courage, power, and strength to envelop Christians in North Korean prisons, and for wisdom and protection for those enduring tribulation.
- Let us pray for God's comfort and peace for the families of the martyrs.
- Let us pray for those who torture experience revelation, repentance and salvation through Jesus.
- Let us Pray for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and all in positions of power with him to accept our Saviour.
- Let us pray to God to defeat entities working against the Kingdom of God and for His merciful hand to perform mighty works in North Korea.
- May these prayers bring hope, courage, and transformation to the lives of believers in North Korea.





Christian Action for India (CAFI) is a mission organization and UK-registered non-profit Christian charity that was founded in 2010. By emulating Christ, their objective is to demonstrate **LOVE THROUGH CHARITY AND COMPASSION**. In India, CAFI has been addressing the precarious economic conditions and poverty of the backward and impoverished communities. It serves through the implementation of numerous programs. CAFI maintains strong relationships with the local communities, local mission organizations, churches, and charities to deliver aid to those in need.

It contends that providing material assistance alone is insufficient to rehabilitate impoverished individuals; rather, it emphasizes the prominent role of prayer and solidarity with the Christians enduring opposition and persecution in India.



The Karuna Scheme

Since thousands of students in India lack access to higher education, the future of many students are squandered, necessitating that their families sell the meagre resources at their disposal or obtain loans with perilously high-interest rates, the objective of the Karuna Project is to give students hope for education. It awards a stipend of a fixed amount annually to support the student for each academic year of their preferred degree program. Many students are benefitted through this each academic year. Additionally, they are engaged in medical aid. Church construction and Bible translation among other endeavours.

Prayer...

- Let us pray for the safeguarding and goodwill of the entire personnel engaged in the CAFI movement.
- Let us we continue to pray for the accomplishment of their mission.
- Let us pray that all their financial needs to run this mission be met.
- Let us pray for all beneficiaries to experience the love of Christ.



Consider Christ Jesus



Rev. Edwin Selvaraj

The epistle of Hebrews is one of the greatest and most difficult books in the New Testament. The central theme of the epistle is, "Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and humans, and the absolute supremacy (divinity) and sufficiency of Jesus Christ". Believed to be written around 50-60 AD by St. Paul, this epistle encourages Christians to grow in their faith during difficult times.

Hebrews 3:1 reminds us of who we are. We are holy brothers and sisters, who are partakers of the heavenly calling. Jesus makes us holy and He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters.

God's Son - The Greatest Apostle (Hebrews 3:1)

An apostle is the one who is sent by God with the authority to speak for God and represent God to humans. An apostle is the supreme agent of God's revelation, carrying God's revelation on His behalf. In the past, God spoke in many ways, and at times through the prophets. In the last days, God spoke through His son (Hebrews 1:1-2). All other apostles were

human, but Jesus perfectly mirrors God, and is stamped with God's nature. Yes indeed, Jesus Christ is the greatest apostle.

God's Son - The Greatest High Priest (Hebrews 3:1)

In old testament days, the priest had the highest power and influence next to the king. Aaron, the brother of Moses was chosen as the first priest (Exo 31:10). The priesthood was hereditary (Exo. 29:29) and Aaron was succeeded by Eleazer

(Num 20:28). Special priestly garments were prepared for them (Lev 21:10).

Yearly once, the high priest was to enter the most holy place on the day of atonement (Lev 16:16). He

alone could make atonement for the sins of the people (Lev 4:3, 9:8). Every high priests sacrifice an animal but Jesus Christ is superior to other high priest as He offered Himself as the atonement for our sins. So we should consider Jesus Christ as the Greatest High Priest.

Jesus Christ is the Greatest Apostle.



Jesus is superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:2-4)

The Hebrews believed that Moses was superior to all the human beings and next to God. Moses was faithful in all of God's house (Num 12:5-8). God spoke to him plainly and he was able to see the Lord. Moses was the premiere agent of God's revelation, the mediator of the covenant, Redeemer, the leader of God's people. Yet Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses because the builder of the house has more honor than the house itself. Jesus is the builder of the house and all things (Hebrews 3:3,4). Moses was human and servant of God, but Jesus is the divine Son of God. So Jesus is superior to Moses.

As born-again Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and we confess that he is our Lord, Savior and Redeemer. He is the messenger sent by God as the Supreme Apostle. He is also our Mediator, High Priest, and Advocate.

Let us consider Jesus Christ the sacrifice for our sins, the Prince of Peace, and the incarnate God. Let us therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus Christ as the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, who is interceding for us day and night to who will cause us to step into Holy ground. Just as Jesus Christ was faithful and obedient to the one who sent Him, let us also strive to be faithful and obedient to God and Jesus Christ. Only this will entitle us to

Jesus Christ is the
Greatest High Priest.

Jesus Christ is
superior to Moses.



**LET US FIX OUR EYES
ON JESUS, THE
AUTHOR AND
PERFEETER OF OUR
FAITH.
(HEBREWS 12:2)**

**DON'T LET THE
OBSTACLES IN FRONT
OF YOU TAKE YOUR
EYES OFF OF JESUS!**



Twist in Trichy

A Youth and Teens camp in Trichy's Dalmiapuram



- A youth camp was successfully organized by the grace of God from January 14th to 16th for the first time in the picturesque Shakina Garden of Mount Tabor Parish, where the Dalma Cement Factory, renowned for its hard work and determination, is located Dalmiapuram, Trichy district.

- 240 youths and teens from the Trichy region (Trichy, Ariyalur, and Perambalur) and Karaikal, Sivagangai districts participated enthusiastically.

- The successful execution of the camp was made possible by the grace of God with the assistance of the staff of the Friends Missionary Prayer Band, FMPB Leaders in this area and pastors from the Lalgudi Pastors Fellowship.



- Our senior missionaries, Rev. Emmanuel, Mrs. Vasanthi Emmanuel, and Bro. Ebin, efficiently coordinated all the events.

- The attendees were enriched by the sharing of the Word of God by our senior missionaries, Navaneethar Annan, Rev. Emmanuel and Mrs. Vasanthi Emmanuel.

- Bro. Ebin (Chennai) led the singing and worship along with the youths of Mount Tabor congregation, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

- To engage and inspire the youth and to encourage and facilitate easy understanding of the messages, skits were creatively performed by Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Britto's team.



- Workshops were conducted on topics like salvation, knowing God's will, facing trials, and living as a witness, providing valuable insights for the teenagers.

- 12 counselors were present throughout the camp and actively offered valuable advice in each area.

- As for the separate sessions were organized also for teenagers; 106 teens participated. Volunteers from the Teens Wing of FMPB, Chennai, helped in conducting these separate sessions for teens.

- The arrangements for food and accommodation were well organised.

God's Blessings in the camp:

- 36 teens and 17 youths expressed their commitment to initiate new prayer groups.

- 9 teens and 27 youth volunteered for full-time ministry.

- 12 youths pledged to contribute to the monthly offering.



Mr. Vigneswaran our missionary from the Sahyahtri region of Gujarat State, attended the camp along with his family. His testimony, field sharing, and cultural events with the Kukna people by Mr. Vigneswaran not only inspired the attendees but also provided insights into the community. We offer our gratitude and glory for God's gracious help in conducting this youth gathering successfully.



BATTLEFIELD

There is no room for discussion about the need to avoid war. But “militancy” is always necessary. Today’s youths’ life is a “battlefield”. Most young people today only want to live a pleasant life. The house, vehicle, and savings should be secured. Every day, life needs to move as quickly as a cart sliding across a marble floor with no problems. Happiness, excitement, enjoyment, pleasant conversation, delicious food, and fun should be infused with life. Parents are no exception for these.

If water does not flow immediately after opening the faucet, our youths’ hearts shrink like a deflated balloon. If they have to bite a stone in their meal, they feel like they have squandered the day. They find it difficult to wait in line in a queue. All governments are cursed a thousand times if there is a power cut for even an hour. Their minds race when the internet speed slows or there isn’t enough charge in the phone. When someone harshly reprimands us, it sticks with us all day like a pothole in the road.

STRESS is the word that everyone, from schoolchildren to married couples, uses to describe their emotions.

The reasons for all of this must be investigated thoroughly. Although there are numerous reasons, one stands out as obvious “We cannot enter through the narrow gate which the Scriptures show us”. It is up to every young person to address this issue.

Fighting is the essence of character that the Bible presents to us. But our weapons are different. The Lord Jesus said, “If someone slaps you on the right cheek, show him the other cheek as well; it takes courage to do what he says. Mental strength is not retaliating against the person who hit you. We can use our physical strength to inflict pain on someone who has hurt us. The wound heals in a day or two, a month, or several years. But do not return evil with evil.

However, not doing evil for evil injures the offender for the rest of his life. He requires your friendship to alleviate his pain. “Overcome evil with good” Romans 12:21 is the Gospel’s first saying. Resilience is the most powerful weapon that God has given mankind. He has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). In the epistles written by Paul, Peter, John, James and Jude, all of them emphasized the combatant nature of the Christian life to their churches and disciples. In this section, we will continue to look at biblical figures who used their strength to defeat the world’s great armies. Their tactics and desire to serve the LORD undoubtedly teach us emotional intelligence.

The announcement of war is made to Abraham, also known as Abram. Chedorlaomer, the powerful king of Elam, triumphs over the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah who opposed him, as well as the three other kings who supported



them. When confronted by the army of Chedorlaomer, the armies of these five kings bowed down to them. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah flee their kingdoms and take refuge in the mountains at the same time. Chedorlaomer was responsible for the looting of all of the country's resources and wealth. There was also Lot, Abraham's nephew, among them. Lot and all of his belongings had been taken away by the king of Elam was something that Abraham was informed about. First, let's take a look at what he did not do before we move on to discussing how he redeemed Lot. If we were in Abraham's position, how would our thoughts flow if we were that person?

- It is his mistake let him be rewarded for that.
- I am going to pray to God by fasting.
- It would be wonderful if God sent someone to rescue him.
- How can I leave my family and my home.

No such idea occurred to Abraham at any point. When we are exposed to news that piques our emotions, our minds are accustomed to first finding the factors that led to this emotion. Since we are unable to act and continue to hide behind those reasons, we continue to blame the reasons. You can't live the life that the LORD expects you to live unless you address the factors that are causing your situation.

The situation and circumstances were in Abraham's favor. If he had thought, he might not have joined this war. But he did not do that. He uses his house as his first weapon. He provides 318 of his servants with weapons. Then he led those who were at peace with him and other leaders into war. Those who accompanied Abraham were few. Meeting the four great kings on the battlefield was not an ordinary event. We don't know the enemy force's exact strength or size. But history has left us clues. Gideon, the judge, and 300 soldiers routed the enemy, who had gathered like sand on the beach. Similarly, the kings Abraham encountered were also big in numbers. He was confident that he could defeat these four kings if the Lord was with him. With this certainty, he did not rush to war. He devises strategies to defeat his enemies. Today,

we will paralyze ourselves by not acting clearly, believing that God will take care of everything. Otherwise, we will act solely based on humans and their ideas. We may be successful in this, but we must first determine whether God's plan has been fulfilled.

Planning is essential for facing the challenges of modern life. Abraham devised a plan and divided his soldiers into small groups. Victory in battle is determined by the direction from which we attack. Abraham divided his army into 8–12 groups. Each group should contain 25 to 40 members. He plans to attack the enemy only after sunset. While Abraham's enemies were still celebrating their victory, his hand got stronger. He pursued the enemy forces as far as Oba, recovering all of their loot, including Lot and his belongings.

Abraham accomplished an incredible victory, and two kings came to greet him. When our plan succeeds and the LORD grants us success, we must handle it with caution. The first king, Melchizedek of Salem, was a priest of the most high God. Melchizedek's congratulatory message states that the victory was God's plan. Abraham gives him one-tenth of his war profits. Melchizedek is a representation of the Lord Jesus Christ. This act of Abraham demonstrates that this victory is not his, but the LORD's.

The second king is the king of Sodom, and all he wants is the war treasure. Abraham had no more desire for riches. He only buys the shares of those who went to war with him.

Abraham did not go to war to collect materials. He planned this war to save Lot. It was also the LORD who gave him victory. We are required to test whether our goals are correct. Many times, they are good and have no divine plan. Human thoughts and desires are numerous but all will end up in pain.

Strategies for life and strategies for battle are identical. Every person's life is a battleground where we fight an undeclared war. I pray that the LORD will equip you with the character traits you need to succeed in this battle.



Fitness Freak

Hello Teens, Happy New Year 2024!

May the Lord shower you with new graces in this fresh year. As we embark on 2024, many of us have set resolutions, and it's crucial to commit to them. This month, let's take a closer look at one of the prevailing trends among youth—the "Fitness Freak." They earn this title due to their zealous dedication to exercise and diet, commonly observed among college and working individuals.

Friends, media advertisements, and the appearances of celebrities often influence these lifestyle changes. While fitness is

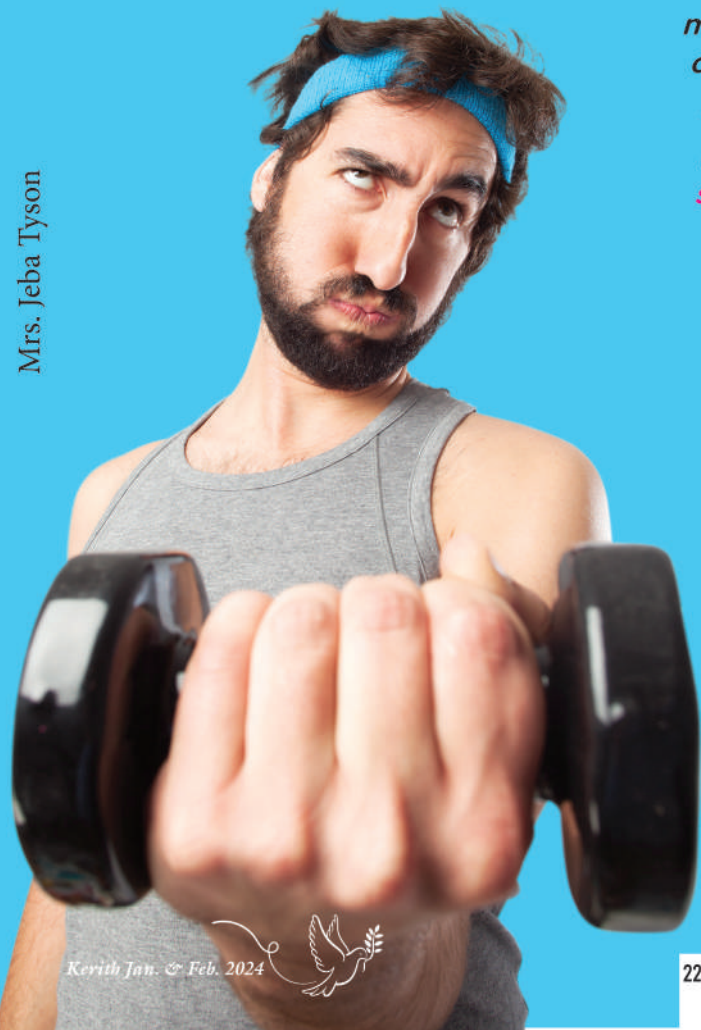
commendable, some individuals unknowingly fall into the trap of excessive exercise, leading to severe health risks such as heart attacks, strokes, and anemia. As Christians, we are called to exercise with caution and wisdom.

Can we, as followers of Christ, emulate such fitness enthusiasts? Do we prioritize seeking God before engaging in our morning exercise routine? Before focusing on burning calories through mobile apps, let's prioritize reading Scriptures, meditating, and evaluating our spiritual fitness. At the same time, consider the impact of excessive indulgence of eating junk food and becoming obese. Remember, our bodies are temples of God, and maintaining them with health and moderation is a way to honor Him. Seek God early in the morning, exercise moderately, and let your physical appearance glorify God.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33)

In India, there are around 20,000 gym centers, with 58% of men joining for physical fitness, while aerobics classes attract more interest from girls. The fitness market in India is projected to grow up to Rupees 2,66,856 by 2028, emphasizing the high demand in this sector. However, amidst these trends, let us not neglect our relationship with God by giving undue importance to vegan diets, green tea, or fitness trends. Allocate more time to sit at God's presence through prayer and worshipping, than at exercises. Let wisdom guide your choices in these times of need. Wishing you a year filled with spiritual and physical well-being!

Mrs. Jeba Tyson





PRAY FOR YOUTH CONCERN

1. For youths who have been addicted to drugs.
2. Youths who have been selling drugs.
3. The intake of drugs ruins their marital life due to dysfunction of male organs resulting in AIDS and cancer.
4. For youths who are addicted to drinking and narcotics products.
5. For those who are indulging in rash and reckless driving resulting in deadly accidents.
6. For those who are disobeying and insulting parents.
7. For those who murder parents for property.
8. For those who commit suicide because of mental pressure and love failure.
9. For youths who travel on the foot board of the buses/train resulting in accidents.
10. For those who are unemployed.
11. For those who are wasting their time without doing any sort of works.
12. For those who are indulging in petty stealing and theft even at home.
13. For those who are living in orphanages after the deaths of their parents.
14. For those who throw acids at women for not accepting their love.
15. For those who are attending night clubs and creating hatred and deceits among friends.
16. For those who have craze in watching movies.
17. For those who are addicted to playing video games and spend most of their time playing other games such as rummy.
18. For those who look at obscene images in their mobiles and ruin their character and mind.
19. For those who threaten women with their obscene pictures for money.
20. For those who indulge in theft, abduction and robbery.
21. Those who are affected with serious illness, admitted in hospitals due to cancer, heart problems, kidney problems etc.,
22. Those who are indulging in pranking others and creating problems.
23. For those who indulge in kidnaping, raping and selling women and children.
24. For youths who indulge in beautifying themselves with cosmetics and attract others.
25. For girls who dress not in a pleasing, modest way.
26. For girls who are suffering from many diseases in an young age.
27. Pray for the women who are indulged in prostitution for money or under compulsion.
28. For youths who avail themselves in credit card facility and are not able to pay the loans.
29. For people who speak foul languages.
30. For youths who are waiting to get married.
31. For those who are indulging in love making without compatibility(Teachers, Students).
32. Youths who are engaged in homosexuality.
33. For youths who lose their virginity before their marriage.
34. For the children of missionaries to live a testimonial life.
35. For Christian youths who haven't experienced complete salvation.
36. Those who haven't accepted Jesus Christ as their personal saviour and receive salvation.
37. For youths who are back sliding even after receiving baptism and have participated in communion and church services.
38. Those who are undergoing college courses to acquire knowledge, skills and experience.
39. Youths who are under depression due to various reasons and circumstances.
40. For everyone who have gone as missionaries to continue to evangelise with zeal and the fear of God without back sliding.





Therefore, Holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. Heb. 3:1