

FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND



Verith

A monthly Prayer Bulletin for
Youth

VICTORY IN THE FIELD OF Intercession!

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The Altar of Praise in the New Covenant

The Book of Hebrews explains to us the deep difference between the ritualistic systems of the Old Testament and the grace of the New Testament. Specifically, Hebrews Chapter 8 teaches us about an exalted worship centered on Jesus Christ as the Great High Priest.

The Master of the Heavenly Altar of Praise - Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 8:1,2 describes that we have such a Great High Priest who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.

Reasons for Praise:

- ◆ Jesus intercedes for us not in a temporary tabernacle made by human hands, but in the true heavenly sanctuary set up by the Lord.
- ◆ Earthly priests kept changing, but Jesus lives forever and works on our behalf. We are obliged to praise Him for this supreme position.

From Shadow to Reality – A Better Covenant:

The ministry of the Old Testament priests served as a “copy and shadow” of heavenly things (v. 5). But Jesus Christ has obtained a ministry that is far superior.

The Law of Moses was temporary. However, the blood of Jesus has given us a better and enduring New Covenant. This New Covenant is the realm where shadows have passed, and we have received real blessings.

The Law Written in the Heart:

The commandments of the Old Covenant were written on tablets of stone. But the glory of the New Covenant is that God writes His laws in our hearts (v. 10).

- ◆ **Inner Transformation:** “This covenant helps us follow God not out of fear, but out of love.”
- ◆ **Relational Standing:** God has given us the noble status of a relationship: “I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Beyond external rituals, God has transformed our very hearts into His altar of praise.

Grace and Forgiveness of Sins:

Old Testament sacrifices merely covered sins temporarily; they did not remove them completely. However, Hebrews 8:12 proclaims the ultimate blessing of the New Covenant:

“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more, says the Lord.”

Our tongues should always offer praise for that great grace which completely forgets our past mistakes and grants us forgiveness. Mindful of the blessings of this superior covenant, let us transform our hearts into a living altar of praise that continually honors the Lord! Hallelujah, 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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VICTORY IN THE FIELD OF INTERCESSION!

Greetings of love to all the youth in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us to intercessory prayer!

Intercessory prayer means advocating or interceding for others in God's presence. It means dying to self and working for the well-being and salvation of others. In these days we live in, we are at a time where intercessory prayer is critical. The Lord is searching for people who are willing to pay the price for others, to intercede, and to pray.

"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one." (Ezekiel 22:30)

Only a person of prayer pleases God. In the early days, the people of the Sialkot district in Punjab, who gave little to no regard for the Gospel, accepted the Gospel through the intercessory prayers of the man of God, Praying John Hyde. Today, large crowds of people in Punjab are accepting the Lord.

An intercessory prayer warrior or an intercessory prayer team takes the sins of the people upon themselves and identifies with sinners. For example, today there is a great need for intercessory prayer warriors like Moses, Nehemiah, Ezra, and Daniel.

The Lord calls us to step forward and accept this responsibility to become such intercessory prayer warriors. Will you not dedicate yourselves to pray for this nation and for the well-being of its people?

I praise God for the Youth Leaders' Camp and meetings held in July, which were greatly blessed, and I thank you all for praying.

Please continue to pray for the State Fasting Prayer Camp taking place from the 7th to the 9th of this month, and for the Youth meeting scheduled on the 15th (Independence Day holiday) at Deep Meenakshipuram (Tenkasi District) and on the 30th at Tondiarpet. Let us dedicate ourselves saying, "I am the person God is searching for." Then the nation will experience revival. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

May God's grace be with you.

In Christ's Service,
J. Daniel Arulmani

GOD'S MILITANT GAD

An army or troop refers to a group of people prepared to act decisively for a specific goal or cause.

In this article, we reflect on Gad, the seventh son of Jacob and the eldest son of Zilpah, Leah's maidservant. Gad was born during a complex family situation between Leah and her sister Rachel. Generally, the birth of children is considered a sign of God's favor and blessing. Leah named him "Gad," saying, "A troop comes" or "Good fortune" (Genesis 30:11). The name Gad carries two meanings: Good Future/Luck and Troop. This reflects both Leah's gratitude and her sense of victory.

◆ Gad's Mindset and Character:

Generally, Gad's mindset reinforces faith in God's plan. At the final stage of the 40-year wilderness journey, as the Israelites camped on the plains of Moab east of the Jordan, the areas of Gilead and Jazer seemed ideal for the tribes of Reuben and Gad, who possessed large herds of livestock. They approached Moses and asked, "Do not take us across the Jordan (to the west)" (Numbers 32:5). Their self-centered thinking angered Moses. When Moses emphasized that crossing the Jordan to inherit promised Canaan was God's plan and that every tribe's contribution was essential for unity, they committed themselves to God's purpose.

As promised, they crossed over armed in front of the children of Israel (Joshua 4:12). Before returning to Gilead after all tribes had received their inheritance, they were commended by Joshua (Joshua 22:1-6). Before crossing the Jordan, they built a large, imposing altar by the river as a symbol to reaffirm their portion and commitment to the Lord (Joshua 22:10, 25, 26). The tribe of Manasseh received its inheritance to the north of Gad, and the tribe of Reuben to the south.

◆ The Father's Blessing:

Gad received the blessing from his father Jacob: "Gad will be attacked by a band of raiders, but he will attack them at their heels" (Genesis 49:19). The tribe of Gad, having settled beyond the Jordan River, became targets for boundary raids by the Moabites and Ammonites. However, through courage and perseverance, they proved their strength. Among the Gadites were many valiant men equipped with shield, sword, and bow, trained for battle and ready for army service (1 Chronicles 5:18). They handled shield and spear, had faces like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains.

Faithful to their commitment, they crossed the overflowing Jordan in the first month, put to flight all those in the valleys who opposed David, and joined David to make his army a great army (1 Chronicles 12:8, 15, 22). In doing so, they demonstrated their firmness and loyalty in David's reign to establish God's righteousness.

◆ The Leader's Vision:

In Deuteronomy 33:20-21, it is said of Gad: "Blessed is he who enlarges Gad! He dwells as a lion, and tears the arm and the crown of his head. He provided the first part for himself, because a lawgiver's portion was reserved there. He came with the heads of the people; he administered the justice of the Lord, and His judgments with Israel." The inheritance chosen by the Gadites encompasses three key aspects:

1. **A Spacious Place:** It covered the whole region of Gilead and expanded beyond its borders.

(Continued on page 18)





PENCIL, ERASER, SHARPENER



My dear teen boys and girls, happy August month greetings to you and your family! This month on the 15th, we are celebrating our 79th Anniversary and the celebration of our 80th Independence Day, so we are wishing you and your family a very happy Independence Day 2026.

A small suggestion: try to finish your daily subjects on the same day. At least finish them by the weekend. If you waste time thinking "I will study tomorrow" or "I will study later," you will never be able to study anything. If you don't study with discipline, you won't be able to deeply understand any concept.

Over time, procrastination will become our habit. Try this out, and you will see the results for yourself. The plan for this Teen Page involves things in the Geometry Box that you use frequently. For the last 7 months, we looked at the Compass, Divider, Protractor, 45° & 60° Set Squares, Ruler, and French Curves. Following that, the things we are going to look at this month are the Pencil, Eraser, and Sharpener. There is no end to these three items. From students to adults, people keep using them for various tasks. Shall we take a look at the people behind these objects that are so simple yet efficient?

People were using graphite freely to write and draw. During that period, Nicolas-Jacques Conté didn't like writing with plain graphite because when holding it, the graphite would get everywhere when touching other places. Nicolas, a French scientist, wanted to solve this problem. The solution that was created as a result is our modern-day pencil design. Conté mixed graphite with clay and placed it inside a modern base. To this day, that remains the design of the pencil. Although there are many types of pencils in the market, the most common Pencil design is Conté's design.

Okay, now the pencil is ready but for it to write, shouldn't the outer wood be sharpened? Back then, they used knives for that. Using a knife was not very safe. So, the person who provided a solution to this problem was Thierry Des Estivaux. Thierry was a French mathematician, and today's modern sharpener design belongs to him. The small, hand-held, cone-shaped opening is all Thierry's design.

As for what was written and drawn with graphite, people used to erase it using soft bread crumbs. Then, Joseph Priestley discovered that natural

rubber could erase pencil marks. After that, Edward Nairne manufactured and sold erasers on a large scale.

Now, it's Bible application time!

A pencil looks very simple. But if it goes into the hands of an artist, it creates a beautiful picture. In the hands of a student, it is used to solve maths and express their ideas. God has given each person different talents and abilities singing, drawing, playing instruments, speaking, sports, and the list goes on. There is nothing to compare here as big or small. But what matters is whether you use these talents and abilities for God's purpose. A pencil does not write on its own; it writes only when someone picks it up and writes with it. Your talents and abilities should not go to waste. Use them for the Lord's work for the work of building this nation for Him.

Listen to what Peter says about this: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

Everyone makes mistakes moving away from God, knowingly hurting others when we are in such sins, this eraser reminds you of one thing: that your story does not end here.

Just as an eraser wipes away pencil marks, only the Lord can erase the marks of sin. Not stopping with just understanding this, it is your duty to tell your friends. Never hide a sinful life. Bring it to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is powerful enough to change your sinful stains and give you a new life.

Listen to what John says about this: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Finally, the Sharpener, it places discipline right before us. Only if the pencil is sharp can it write or draw properly. When a pencil is sharpened, it loses parts of itself. Discipline is also tough; it demands that we change and lose certain things in our lifestyle. A disciplined lifestyle is a Christian lifestyle; only by living like this can you grow in Christ.

Listen to what Hebrews 12:11 says: "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

So teens, a Christ-centered, disciplined lifestyle is our ultimate goal. Leaving behind a sinful life, commit yourselves to doing the work of Christ. May the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

So, until then, see you next month. Bye!

MARY JONES AND HER BIBLE

Early Life:

Mary Jones was born on December 16, 1784, into a poor family in a small village at the foot of Mount Cader Idris in Wales. Her parents earned their living by weaving. They worshipped at a local Methodist chapel. Even from a young age, Mary never missed going to church. She had to walk 2 miles to reach the church, but she paid no mind to the distance. She listened very attentively to the messages of God preached there.

In that chapel, there was a large Bible bound in black leather. The pastor would open it and deliver his message from it. After the service, Mary Jones would go to the altar, open that Bible, and look at it. However, because she was uneducated, she did not know how to read. She grieved deeply over this. She did not know what to do, yet she was extremely eager to learn what was written in that Bible.

When Mary Jones was 9 years old, during the announcement time one Sunday at the chapel, an announcement was made: "A primary school is going to be started in this village. Please send your children to study there." Hearing the announcement, Mary Jones was thrilled. Her joy knew no bounds. Her entire goal was to read the Scriptures herself as soon as possible.

The school was started in a farmhouse near Mary Jones' house. The teacher, Mr. Evans, along with his wife, taught the children. Mary Jones would complete all her household chores to help her mother and arrive right on time for school. She learned with great enthusiasm. Seeing her labor both at home with work and at school with her studies, her parents were greatly amazed. Mary Jones said, "Mother, I want to read and learn about the events in the Bible myself; that is my desire. Furthermore, the Lord must give me a Bible." Her mother replied, "Surely the Lord will grant your desire."

The Lord Will Give Me a Bible:

Her mother began to lament, "Mary, I appreciate that you desire to have a Bible of your own. But finding a Bible in our language is a very rare thing. Moreover, at a time when even running our daily lives is very difficult, buying a Bible is beyond our reach. Besides, we don't even know if there are Bibles available for sale."

With deep and steadfast faith, Mary said, "Mother, previously I did not know how to read. Now God has given me the opportunity to learn. Would the One

who gave me this opportunity not give me a Bible to learn from?" Hearing this, her mother embraced her, kissed her on the head, and said, "My daughter, well said. Your faith is great. Every night, let us both pray with faith. The Lord will bring it to pass."

Saving Money Amidst Poverty:

There was a small money box at home. She began saving money in it. She started saving money by selling eggs laid by the chickens raised at home. She was 14 years old at that time. One day, she was happily putting money into the box. While other children were playing, Mary Jones spent her time doing whatever work she could find to earn money. She joyfully told her mother, "In another two years, I will have saved enough money to buy a Bible."

The Money Is Saved:

Mary went joyfully to the pastor and said, "Pastor, I have done it!" He asked, "What have you done?" She asked, "I have saved enough money to buy a Welsh Bible. Can I get a Bible here?"

The pastor looked at Mary's face and said, "There are no Bibles for sale anywhere in this region for you to buy your own." She did not get discouraged; she appeared full of great hope. The pastor continued, "If you want to buy a Bible for yourself, you must go to a place called 'Bala.' It is 25 miles away from here. I have heard that Rev. Thomas Charles has a few Welsh Bibles for sale there. But it is a mountainous region with high slopes, deep valleys, and rough paths. You cannot walk that far alone."

Mary quickly returned home and told her mother, "Mother, they say Rev. Thomas Charles in the village of Bala has Bibles for sale. I will go and buy one." Her mother said, "It is 25 miles away. It will be 50 miles back and forth; how can you walk that distance?" Mary replied,





"Mother, I have labored for the past 6 years to buy a Bible. Therefore, a distance of 50 miles is nothing to me. The Lord will go with me." Though it was hard for her mother to send Mary alone, she didn't have the heart to refuse. Blessing her, she said, "The Lord will be with you," and sent her off.

Mary Jones' Journey to Bala:

Early the next morning, Mary Jones set out on her journey to receive her Bible. On that rough and difficult terrain, thinking that wearing her shoes would ruin them, she decided to walk barefoot without wearing them. By the time she reached Bala, her feet were red and swollen. Nevertheless, wanting to stand with dignity when receiving the Bible, she put on her shoes.

Arriving in Bala, she inquired about Rev. Thomas Charles' home, found it, and knocked on the door. Hearing the knock, Rev. Thomas Charles opened the door. He saw a young girl standing there, looking utterly exhausted and wearing dirty clothes.

She humbly said, "Sir, please forgive me. I have walked 25 miles to get here. Saving money bit by bit over 6 years, and learning that you have Welsh Bibles for sale, I have come to buy one." Seeing her exhausted appearance and hearing her story, he compassionately invited her inside and asked his assistant to take her to the kitchen and give her food. Mary Jones was overjoyed.

However, Rev. Thomas Charles said, "I have only one Bible left. But I have already promised to give it to someone else. I must not go back on my word to that customer." Upon hearing this, Mary Jones broke into uncontrollable tears. Seeing her, Rev. Thomas Charles changed his mind, realizing how much she had denied herself, walked such a distance, and sacrificed just to receive a Bible.

"Mary, do not cry! Wipe your tears. I will give you the one Bible I have. I must not send you away empty-handed when you have sacrificed so much to get a Bible," he said, and gave her a brand-new Welsh Bible. Even then, her tears did not stop—these were tears of joy. The Lord had heard her long-standing prayer and fulfilled her desire.

Receiving the Bible he gave her, Mary Jones gazed at it for a long time. She then pressed it close to her chest and thanked Rev. Thomas Charles. Since it had grown late, Rev. Thomas Charles had her stay there for the night and sent her off joyfully the next morning.

Having received the Bible, Mary Jones held it close to her heart and walked the 25 miles back home. Her mother embraced and kissed her daughter who had returned with the Bible. Her school teacher, Mr. Evans, and his wife praised her perseverance. Neighbors also came to see the Bible and rejoiced. During all those moments, she kept whispering from the depths of her heart, "Thank You, Jesus."

Mary Jones not only read the Bible herself, but she also taught others and led many to the Lord. The Bible used by Mary Jones is now kept in the Cambridge University Library.

Mary Jones' Act Was Not an End, But a Beginning:

Rev. Thomas Charles, who gave her the Bible, was amazed by the perseverance, dedication, and commitment of this young girl. Her attitude of continuously saving money for 6 years amidst poverty, and her mental courage to walk alone for 50 miles across rough mountain paths and uneven terrains to go to and from the village of Bala these were unforgettable.

Rev. Thomas Charles shared this incident with many people and also spoke about Mary Jones at a meeting in England. It captured the attention of many and created a constructive revival in their hearts. As a result, many men of God began to pray that the Bible should be available in everyone's mother tongue across all nations. Consequently, during Mary Jones' lifetime (in the year 1804), the British and Foreign Bible Society was first founded jointly by Rev. Thomas Charles and a few others. Later, Bible societies began to form in other countries as well.

Mary Jones' Memorial Monument:

Within 100 years of its inception, the British Bible Society printed and distributed 200 million Bibles in various languages. In 1882, a small book written for the first time by Mary Emily Ropes titled "The Story of Mary Jones and Her Bible" was published by the British and Foreign Bible Society in London. Following that, many books were published about Mary Jones. In the village where Mary Jones lived, a memorial monument has been erected in her memory at the site of her ruined childhood home. It was established by the Sunday School of Merioneth. The following inscription is written on that monument:

***In memory of Mary Jones, Who in the year
1800,***

***At the age of 16 walked from here to Bala,
To procure from the Rev. Thomas Charles, B.A.
A copy of the Welsh Bible.***

***This incident was the occasion of the formation
of the British and Foreign Bible Society.***

Erected by the Sunday Schools of Merioneth.

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."
(John 15:7)



Habakkuk

Why do troubles and afflictions come upon the righteous? Why does the wicked prosper? How is it that punishment does not immediately come upon the wicked? Countless such questions reside within every human being. The author of this book, Habakkuk, had those very same questions. Habakkuk means “to embrace.” Its root meaning comes in the sense of holding on tenaciously until one achieves and embraces something. He carried out a ministry true to his name.

The area of this prophet’s ministry was the southern kingdom, namely the Kingdom of Judah. Rather than saying he proclaimed prophecies here, it is most accurate to say he wrote them down. When looking at his period, we can see it in the passages from 2 Kings 22 to 24 and 2 Chronicles 34 to 36. Bible scholars say that those who ruled during his time were King Josiah and King Jehoiakim. This is the 35th book of the Bible. Containing just three chapters and 56 verses, it can be said that there is no explicit promise in this book. It is a song containing two questions asked by the prophet and two answers given by God.

If we want to know more about this prophet, the detail emerges that he may have been a musician from the tribe of Levi or a temple choir leader. The reasons for this are the first verse of the second chapter, and the verse below the last verse of the book specified without a verse number as a psalm committed to the chief musician to be played on stringed instruments (Neginoth). Because there is no number for this verse, most people do not read it. But its significance is this: it would not be an exaggeration to say that it serves as the grand climax of this entire psalm.

Even after the Kingdom of Israel divided, the Kingdom of Judah continued to flourish. Especially during the 52-year reign of Uzziah, there was social, religious, and economic prosperity. Because of this, a thought prevailed among the people: “The reason for our wealth and prosperity is our faithfulness to God, our devotion to Him, and the fact that we are righteous.” But the prophet’s heart and thought were different: the people were forgetting the Law, observing festivals as mere rituals, and dreaming that God was with them simply based on their material

prosperity. Amidst this, what was God’s judgment? That was his concern.

The reason was that in his generation, the Assyrians had captured the northern kingdom and utterly devastated it. Now, not only the prophet but also the people of the tribe of Judah held the mindset that God would not destroy them using the Assyrians or any other enemies. They believed God would not forsake them because Jerusalem was the city of God, and the Temple was there as well. Therefore, the thought dominated that God would never permit anyone to capture or enslave His city and His Temple. Keeping all these things in mind, the prophet asked his first question in the first chapter, which also contains God’s response. God’s response was shocking, the fact that God would send the Chaldeans against Judah and that the Babylonians would enslave God’s people was a massive astonishment. He continues with his second question starting in the first chapter, and the second chapter is filled with God’s answers. God’s response is: “Write down the vision.” Moreover, it was written as a song, a melody filled with joy and gladness. The third chapter stands as a sublime song based on the vision God provided.

Now let us look at the essence contained within these three chapters. If we divide this book into two parts, the first part is filled with doubts and confusion, while the second part that is, the third chapter is structured as a song of hope. Now, let us read the chapters under each outline. Keeping this introduction in mind, try reading this book twice. A few verses that we often use are placed within parentheses (1:13, 2:3, 4, 14, 3:17, 18, 19); read those as well.

If we were to give a title to the Book of Habakkuk, it would be Faith under Fire.

- ♦ **Chapter 1:** Faith Tested
- ♦ **Chapter 2:** Faith Taught
- ♦ **Chapter 3:** Faith Triumphant

It can also be outlined under these themes: Chapter 1 as Desolation, Chapter 2 as Revelation, and Chapter 3 as Exaltation.

- ♦ **Chapter 1:** God is Indifferent (1–11), God is Inconsistent (12–17)
- ♦ **Chapter 2:** God’s Vision (1–3), Trust God’s Word (4–5), Declare God’s Judgment (6–20)
- ♦ **Chapter 3:** Pray to God (1–2), Ponders God’s Way (3–15), Praise God (16–19)

It can be said that this prophet was the last prophet to prophesy before Judah went into captivity. Brother, sister! God’s ways are indeed different, but what we ought to learn from this book is that their outcome will ultimately be a shout of victory. Read this book and know God’s truth. Amen!



COME, LET'S GO TO THE NEXT VILLAGE!

UCHANA FIELD JIND HARYANA

INTRODUCTION:

Uchana is a Tehsil of Jind district of Haryana. Uchana is just 141 KM from Delhi. In 16th century this is one of the first Sikh kingdom. Jind district is heart of Haryana which has its roots in Mahabharata. That's is why we can see places like Jeyanti devi temple built by pandavas to the Goddess of victory and Pandu Pindara where pandavas offered Ancestral prayers.

Uchana block and town in Jind district, Haryana has a total community development block population of 207,050, while the Uchana Municipal Committee town population is 16,815.

- a) Total number of Villages in the specific area: 47 villages
- b) Uchana is the only big towns having more than 15,000 population

Social:

- ▶ Town Literacy Rate: 74.78% (82.83% for males and 66.02% for females).
- ▶ Taluk Literacy percentage among the men: 57%
- ▶ Taluk Literacy percentage among the women: 48%
- ▶ Town Sex Ratio: 898 females per 1,000 males

Sex ratio directly tells that female Infanticide is very common here. A 37-year-old woman in Uchana Kalan village has given birth to a son after having ten daughters. The woman, married for 19 years, delivered her 11th child at Ojas Hospital and Maternity Home in



Uchana town of Jind district. This shows how deeply follow a patriarchal mind set where male is dominant.

Jat people are a major people mainly Agricultural land lords.

Schedule caste people are 23.7% in Uchana khurd village while 18% in Town. Balmiki, Chamar/Jatav, and Dhanak are Major schedule people groups

VALMIKI PEOPLE - SPIRITUAL:

Demographic Breakdown of Uchana Town:

- ▶ Total Population: 16,815 (2011 Census)
- ▶ Hinduism: 95.99%
- ▶ Islam: 2.72%
- ▶ Christianity: 0.08% (approx. 14 people)
- ▶ Sikhism: 0.15%
- ▶ Jainism & Others: 1.06% combined

Will you come to a taluk where 14 Christians are there to a population of 16 thousand people?

Favourable issues:

- 1) Literacy rate is quite high in city higher than National average paves way for Literature Ministry. Haryana New Testament may be good Tool.
- 2) As these people are fond of Satsangs (Bhajan program) by Guru Movements, Christian satsangs may be good alternative

Pray for

- 1) Pray for the Passion among youths to come to this Field
- 2) Pray for a curiosity to be raised on Biblical stories
- 3) Pray for Female Infanticide to be stopped completely.



COLOMBIA

Colombia is a vibrant South American nation known for its diverse landscapes, rich cultural heritage, coffee production and biodiversity. Colombia is nicknamed as the "Gateway to South America".

Capital	: Bogota
Language	: Spanish
Political System	: Presidential Republic
Population	: 53 million

Religious Overview

- ▶ Around 75–80% of Colombians identify themselves as Roman Catholics, as this being the largest denomination and a growing population of Protestant/Evangelical community.
- ▶ Approximately 10–12% of the population identify themselves as having no religious affiliation (Atheist).
- ▶ Primate Catholic Cathedral of Bogotá is a cathedral church of Catholic worship consecrated to the Virgin birth and under the patronage of Saint Peter; it is a Neoclassical style building located in the Plaza de Bolívar in Bogotá, the country's capital. Catholic Christianity plays a significant role in Colombian family life, culture and community celebrations.

Special events:

The International Conference of the Catholic Church and the 7th International Christian Film Festival of Bogota are among the major Catholic Christian events taking place in Colombia in August 2026. These gatherings aim to foster discussions on the influence of the Catholic Church in public life, political engagement and youth movement, while encouraging

faith-based dialogue and leadership among young Christians.

Prayer points for Columbia:

- ▶ Let us pray that God will strengthen the Christian community through these events and empower youth to be faithful leaders with the love and truth of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Although Colombia has made progress in recent years, many communities continue to face challenges related to crime, gang activity, and violence. Let us pray for peace, protection of children and youth, wisdom for leaders, and transformation in communities affected by violence.
- ▶ Let us pray for children and youth in Colombia who is vulnerable to drug abuse, trafficking and exploitation. May God bring healing and restoration to those affected, strengthen rehabilitation and governments to conduct supportive programs, churches, schools, and families to work together in creating safe environments where every child can thrive physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- ▶ Let us pray for missionaries, pastors, youth leaders, and Christian organizations serving throughout Colombia. May they be encouraged, protected, and empowered by the Holy Spirit as they share the love of Christ with children, youth, and families.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

– 1 Timothy 4:12.





LET US PRAY FOR THE CONCERNS OF THE MOVEMENT

Since its registration with the government in 1968, God has been using our movement powerfully in the work of expanding His Kingdom. God has helped us live and serve not only as one of the pioneer indigenous missionary movements, but also as an exemplary society. He Himself has helped us overcome various challenges and trials at different times, and to glorify Him together as His children in the midst of them all. Currently, we are facing unprecedented and severe challenges, as well as setbacks, in both ministry and administration. We realize that our movement needs God's grace now more than ever in these changing times and circumstances. Let us join together and plead before God's presence for the well-being of our movement.



Points for Prayer:

- ✦ *Pray for our movement's President, Vice President, Treasurer, and General Secretary to lead the movement forward with prayer, unity, divine wisdom, and God's guidance.*
- ✦ *Pray that the members of the General Body, Executive Committee, Administrative Committee, Financial Management Committee, and Property Maintenance Committee engage in God's ministry with faithfulness, prudence, transparency, and humility.*
- ✦ *Pray that the leaders of the movement be filled with divine wisdom and power to overcome widespread challenges in the mission fields, such as backsliding among believers, backsliding among native workers, and shortage of laborers.*
- ✦ *Pray that the Kingdom values, which form the bedrock of our movement, are given utmost priority in both administration and ministry.*
- ✦ *Pray that government guidelines and legal regulations are strictly followed in financial management and administrative affairs, and that God grants us favor in the eyes of government officials.*
- ✦ *Pray for the younger generation to fully involve themselves in the ministry and administration of our movement, and that setbacks caused by the generation gap in ministry are prevented.*
- ✦ *Pray for the timely completion of the software automation initiatives currently being implemented in our movement.*
- ✦ *Pray that the offerings given with prayer and sacrifice for God's ministry are spent properly, and that God protects the movement from any wastage of funds.*
- ✦ *Pray that the unique identity of our movement is preserved and that necessary changes aligned with the changing times are carried out with God's help.*
- ✦ *Pray fervently that the works of the devil operating against the ministry of our movement are shattered.*
- ✦ *Pray that the three departments - Headquarters, Mission Field, and Development work together in synergy, and that the financial year targets set for each department are fully achieved.*
- ✦ *Pray earnestly that God provides the necessary financial resources for our workers, and that He raises up committed prayer partners and ministers.*

Care Giver Syndrome



What?

Caregiver Syndrome is a condition in which a person who provides long-term care for a family member, friend, or patient experiences physical, emotional, mental, and sometimes spiritual exhaustion. It commonly affects those caring for elderly parents, people with chronic illnesses, individuals with disabilities, or those with dementia.

Why?

Caregiver syndrome develops when caregivers:

Provide care for long periods without adequate rest / Feel responsible for meeting all the patient's needs / Neglect their own health and personal needs / Experience financial or family pressures / Have little social or emotional support / Witnessing the gradual decline of a loved one drains their emotional strength.

How?

Physical Symptoms: Constant tiredness and lack of energy, Frequent headaches, Insomnia or oversleeping, Body aches & muscle pain, Frequent illnesses due to lowered immunity, Changes in appetite & weight.

Emotional Symptoms: Feeling overwhelmed or helpless, Anxiety & excessive worrying, Depression or persistent sadness, Irritability or anger, Mood swings, feeling guilty when taking time for oneself.

Mental Symptoms: Difficulty concentrating, Forgetfulness, Poor decision-making, Feeling emotionally numb.

Behavioural Symptoms: Social withdrawal, Loss of interest in hobbies, Increased use of alcohol,

tobacco, or other substances, Neglecting personal hygiene or health appointments.

Is it Treatable?

Yes. The caregiver must ask for help from family members during their burnout phase. Must not try to do everything alone. Need to prioritize their health by eating nutritious meals, exercise regularly, and get enough sleep. Seek Emotional support by talking with friends, family, counsellors, or caregiver support groups. Need to find time for their hobbies in-between their care-giving schedule.

Pray for the Lord:

1. To renew their strength, when they feel physically and emotionally exhausted.
2. To give them the compassion, patience and endurance to continue serving the patients with love.
3. To raise up family members, friends, and caregivers who will share the responsibilities and help them to work together in love and unity.
4. To give them the wisdom to make the right decisions, prioritize well, and know when to seek help.
5. To heal every wound caused by stress, loneliness, disappointment, and grief.
6. To fill their heart with joy, hope, and courage.

THE MISSIONARY WHO BROUGHT DOWN TO THOSE WAITING FOR THE DAY

A SWEET CONVERSATION WITH REV. EDWARD PRABHUDAS



Introduction of the Missionary:

My name is Edward Prabhudas. My parents served as pastors in the church. After completing my schooling, I studied theology for one year and served as an evangelist for four years in an organization called OMS starting in 1975. Later, I served as a full-time worker in the Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB) from 1980 to 2019 and am currently retired. I have earned B.Th. and B.D. degrees in theology and have also received ordained ministry credentials. My wife's name is Stella Edward. I have two daughters. To this day, my wife and I together continue to do the Lord's work by participating in the FMPB prayer group in our local area and assisting the pastor in church ministries. For nearly 51 years, I have carried out missionary ministry across most states in India.

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

Missionary's Answer: After completing high school, I got a job as a contractor at the Benny Company. Although my father was a pastor, I involved myself in many worldly things and drifted away from the Lord. Due to a lack of discipline in my work, I was removed from my job. Following that, during a time of intense depression, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior through my grandfather. After that, a turning point occurred in my life, and I dedicated myself to the Lord's work. I joined the OMS organization as an evangelist and served the Lord for four years in church planting ministry across regions like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Question: What were the challenges you faced once you committed to becoming a missionary?

Missionary's Answer: After dedicating myself to missionary work, I had to face many problems. My parents did not show interest in me becoming a missionary. I have three brothers and one sister. I had questions within me regarding their education and future. A situation arose where I couldn't continue my theological studies to become a pastor. The family's financial condition brought great anxiety. In a situation where my father was frequently suffering from illness, God's call pressed and compelled me even more deeply.

Question: How did you develop a passion for cross-cultural gospel ministry?

Missionary's Answer: While I was undergoing theological training for my pastoral preparation at Madras Bible Seminary in Chennai, Rev. K. S. Abraham shared during a convention message that even though Paul was highly educated, he dedicated himself to preaching the gospel to other races or Gentiles across cultures as the "Apostle to the Gentiles." Therefore, he powerfully stated in his message that while there are thousands of churches and lakhs of believers in Tamil Nadu, young people must step forward to dedicate themselves to North Indian districts where there isn't even a single Christian church. That very day, I dedicated myself to cross-cultural gospel ministry in North India and

joined the Friends Missionary Prayer Band.

Question: What were the sufferings and struggles you faced in the field after entering the ministry?

Missionary's Answer: We spent many days working in church-planting ministry in the state of Haryana. When serving in North India, a major factor in the environment there is extreme cold and extreme heat. Being unable to carry out ministry under such weather conditions led to severe physical weakness. Here, finding a house for Christian's especially unmarried young men and non-vegetarians—was extremely rare. I happened to witness how high-status individuals treated people from lower communities degradation in certain villages. Because there was a vast divide between both groups, there was opposition when trying to reach out to both together. There were also days in cities when religious fanatics directly opposed us.

Question: What was the vision God gave you along the path of ministry?

Missionary's Answer: To meet those in the mission field who are willing to accept the gospel and lead them into Christ. Most importantly, making use of time before open doors are closed wherever they exist yields good results. The open door that existed in Northwest India 45–50 years ago is not there today. Therefore, we must make the most of the time.

Question: What is your burden regarding the people in the mission field who do not yet know the Lord?

Missionary's Answer: It brings deep anguish to my heart that despite proclaiming the gospel numerous times during our youth without minding the rough terrain, people in many villages have still not accepted the Lord. My heart's burden in particular is that the Jat community in Haryana should come to know the Lord and receive a life of freedom.

Question: What advice would you like to give to the readers of Kerith?

Missionary's Answer: Dear Kerith readers in the Lord! Just as a person going his own way on another task urgently tries to extinguish a fire upon seeing a house burning along the road, without delaying and waiting for someone to call us to rescue perishing people, the Lord is calling you to save them from destruction.

Prayer Points:

- ◆ Pray for the gospel to reach places where it has not yet been proclaimed.
- ◆ Pray that the spiritual eyes of people who hear the gospel but have not repented from a sinful life may be opened.
- ◆ Let us pray that those who have accepted Jesus may live as witnesses and proclaim the Jesus they have come to know to others.





Dear brother and sister! Do you know what a Delulu - Duo is? That is what we are going to pray for this month. Would you believe it if I said that many of us are trapped in this bondage? But that is the truth!

No matter how much hardship we face inside, we often try to present ourselves to the world as someone who never shows it, as a person who is always happy, or as a "Cool Person." The term Delulu-Duo stems from this concept.

Delulu-Duo refers to the way modern young couples conduct their relationships and married lives—living one life inside the home and portraying a completely different life outside on social media. In an environment where arguments, difference of opinion, and a lack of love exist inside the house, they depict themselves on social media as having the best marriage in the world! Popular young actors, actresses, and YouTubers are famous for this. Their followers, who have been tracking them from the beginning, now find themselves completely confused.

That is, they are unable to discern the difference between genuine love and delusional love, or between a real family and a fake family. Many others enter into married life with various artificial illusions built in their hearts, only to face disappointment. Yet many others, knowing full well that this is a fake trap, boldly act out this drama for money and knowingly deceive many. It is our duty to pray for the youth and teenagers who are trapped and suffering in this manner. Will you carry a burden in your heart and pray for them? To help you, prayer points are provided below! Shall we pray together?

Prayer Points

- ◆ *Let us pray that God gives a clear mind and sound judgment to the youth who look at these "Delulu-Duos" and build castles in the air thinking marriage will be like this, so that they may realize the reality.*
- ◆ *A certain group makes college students fall in love by calling these couples the "Best Pair." Consequently, many students are unable to focus on their studies. Furthermore, because everyone's attention is on them, they face various kinds of mental stress. Let us pray for them.*
- ◆ *Relationships formed out of situational circumstances later turn into love and end in marriage. However, because their married life is often not what they imagined, many couples end up living separately. Many commit suicide out of frustration. Let us pray that such situations completely disappear from our nation.*
- ◆ *Since many famous actors, actresses, and YouTubers are in this bondage of Delulu-Duo, there is a 100% chance that the crores of youth following them will fall into this same trap. Let us pray with burden for the youth caught up in this kind of cinema craze.*
- ◆ *To make money, these Delulu-Duos go on dates to famous, expensive, and luxurious locations and post about them. This creates arguments and a lack of peace in many families. Let us pray for the salvation and restoration of families that have lost their peace.*
- ◆ *Under this influence, the younger generation forgets the customs and genuine love of their real families and shows intense interest in celebrating every movement and small achievement of these Delulu-Duos. Let us pray for their salvation.*
- ◆ *In June, the relationship of Siya and Ketan Agarwal from Maharashtra, who were a Delulu-Duo, ended in a gruesome murder. Let us pray that such brazen murders and tragic outcomes are stopped in our nation.*
- ◆ *Let us pray that parents carefully monitor who their young children talk about most and by whom they are attracted, so they can guide them in the right path.*
- ◆ *Let us pray with burden that youth from Christian/believing families refrain from living this kind of life and remain strong witnesses without being seduced by those who do.*
- ◆ *Even as times change, let us pray that young people live by keeping successful couples found in the Scriptures as their role models, placing God Himself as the head of their married life.*



DOES YOUR GOD SPEAK IN OUR LANGUAGE?

BIBLE TRANSLATION MINISTRY- HARYANVI LANGUAGE

Dear beloved younger brothers and sisters in Christ, I am delighted to share with you about the people of Haryana this month.

Origin of the People of Haryana:

Haryana the land overflowing with milk and curd. When Indian states were reorganized on a linguistic basis, the state of Haryana was created on November 1, 1966. Prior to this, present-day Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana were part of a region called PEPSU (Punjab and East Punjab States Union). During the Partition of India, Muslim-majority West Punjab went to Pakistan.

Most of Haryana's landscape is flat and sandy. Although major rivers do not flow through the state, canal networks built from rivers such as the Sutlej, Yamuna, and Beas provide water for irrigation throughout the year. Because these rivers originate from glaciers in the Himalayas, melting ice continues to provide water even during rainless summers. Haryana's society is largely caste-based. During the Partition of India, Muslims living in Haryana migrated in large numbers to Pakistan. At the same time, many Hindu Punjabis migrated from Pakistan to Haryana.

The official language of the state is Hindi. The native language of the people is Haryanvi or Punjabi, depending on their ethnic background. The dominant caste in Haryana is the Jat community, who are mostly engaged in agriculture. In a population of about 2.5 crores, Christians constitute only 0.1%. Among them, the literacy rate for those aged 7 and above is 75.55%. Various gurus and spiritual movements hold significant influence in this community. People believe that the Guru alone will lead them toward "Paramatma" (supreme divine consciousness).

FMPB Ministry:

The FMPB ministry here was started in the early 1980s by Brother Joy Kutty and a few others in the Sirsa and Fatehabad regions of Haryana. There was no significant fruit in the first ten years. Later, the Majhabi Sikh and Rai Sikh communities began responding well to the Gospel. As a result, several new mission centers were started around Fatehabad. Later, this



ministry expanded to Budhlada, Sunam, and nearby areas in Punjab. Over time, although the response among the Rai Sikhs decreased, the Od Rajput community gave a warm reception to the Gospel.

Relatives of believers from this community had settled in distant districts of Uttarakhand. Since they also accepted the Gospel, new mission centers were started there as well.

Bible Translation Work:

To reach the Haryanvi-speaking people with the Gospel, Bible translation into the Haryanvi language was initiated by Rev. Sudarshan Thomas and Mrs. Lydial Sudarshan. The Majhabi Sikh, Rai Sikh, and Od Rajput communities who have responded to the ministry so far mostly spoke Punjabi or Od Rajput as their mother tongue. Since there was very little response from native Haryanvi speakers, this translation work was undertaken as an evangelistic tool.

The translation of the New Testament is expected to be completed by the end of 2027. Additionally, they are also involved in proofreading and checking other language translations.

Praise Points:

- ◆ Praise God for the hard-working and hospitable people of Haryana.
- ◆ Praise God for social and economic developments such as reduced infant mortality, increased life expectancy, and improved education.
- ◆ Praise God for the positive response to the Gospel from certain communities like the Od Rajputs and Majhabi Sikhs.

Prayer Points:

- ◆ Pray that "Honor Killing" incidents faced by women who attempt love marriages against social traditions come to an end.
- ◆ Pray that the Jat community accepts the Gospel.
- ◆ Pray that the small community of Christian believers introduces Christ to many through their life witness.
- ◆ Let us pray for the good health and healing of Brother Sudarshan Thomas.



VIRAL NEWS



6 WEEKS OR DEATH

Sonam Wangchuk (Climate Activist) was on an indefinite hunger strike in Delhi. He was protesting, stating that the government had failed to take action regarding the NEET examination paper leak and corruption in the education sector.

- Let us praise God for the positive outcome achieved through the efforts of Sonam Wangchuk and the young people who stood with him in this movement.
- Let us pray that government officials will act with justice, integrity, and honesty in addressing these issues.

DEADLY BETRAYAL

It is alleged that Siya murdered her boyfriend by pushing him off a cliff in Pune. To save their love relationship, she lied that it was an accident.

- Let us pray that Ketan's (Victim) family receives comfort, and that the younger generation does not fall into wrong relationships through the schemes of Satan.



SCORCHING EUROPE

Due to recent unprecedented severe heatwaves in Europe, thousands of people have lost their lives. As a result of climate change, Europe is warming twice as fast as other parts of the world.

- Let us pray that people are protected from the severe heat prevailing in Europe and that the climate stabilizes.
- Let us pray that God protects the elderly, children, and those suffering from chronic illnesses.



TN VS KA

- Authorities have failed to prevent Bengaluru's massive sewage discharge. As a result, Tamil Nadu's rivers are turning toxic, leaving helpless citizens facing severe health crises.
- Let us pray that negligent officials realize their responsibility and act, and that authorities immediately implement cross-border waste management systems.



EMPIRE STATE PROPOSAL?



CUSTODY AND RINGS

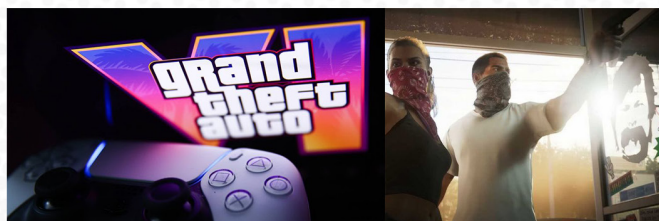
At the top of the Empire State Building in New York City, two individuals from Russia breached a high-security area, scaled beyond the height permitted for the general public, and perilously climbed to the 1,454-foot summit to get married in a love marriage.

- Let us pray that young people reject such dangerous and irresponsible behaviors, and receive protection and wisdom from God.

GTA 6

The full form of GTA 6 is "Grand Theft Auto VI". It is a highly popular action-adventure video game developed by Rockstar Games. This video game exploits the innocence of youth and instigates them to engage in illegal activities.

- Let us pray that God protects young people from these dangerous video games, and that God grants parents the wisdom needed to guide them into healthy and useful habits.





PASSION OF PAUL IN ATHENS

Throughout this year, we have been learning from the life of Paul on how to act zealously for the gospel even under unfavorable circumstances. As we get into the 17th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, we see Paul in an entirely new situation in Athens and how he reacted to that. Paul's response at the Areopagus gives a wonderful framework on how we can connect the gospel to truths already present in a culture without affirming that culture's false religion.

When Paul was chased out of Berea, he left Luke, Silas and Timothy to take care of the new believers in Berea, Thessalonica and Philippi (Acts 17:14). As he waited in Athens for a report from Timothy, he was in great distress for the sake of believers and was eager to be physically present there (1 The. 2:17-18). As he endured this loneliness, he looked around to see a city full of idols (Acts 17:16). It stirred him up on the inside and aroused his spiritual interest. And then it stirred him emotionally. It provoked him when he saw that the glory of God was not really going to God. He saw that all this glory was given to false Gods. So, the lostness of men worshipping idols and the glory of God moved him to service. Therefore, he preached and reasoned. Paul met very different groups of people - Jews and devout Greeks in the synagogue, religious people in market places and Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. Although the Epicureans believed in the existence of gods, they rejected divine providence and their intervention in history. Also, they viewed religions based on fear of the gods as harmful. So, ordinary Greeks and Romans regarded them as atheists. Stoics had more of a pantheistic belief and did not believe in a personal creator God. Paul was given the extraordinary task of addressing this complex matrix of beliefs (Acts 17:17-18). But God started his work of preparing the soil to receive the seeds of the gospel centuries before Paul ever appeared. About 596 BC, Athens suffered a devastating plague. The Cretan sage Epimenides was invited to deal with it. He advised the Athenians to release sheep and sacrifice them wherever they lay down. Because no one knew which deity had answered their prayer, Epimenides instructed them to dedicate the altars simply "To an Unknown God" rather than pretend to know the god's name. This gave Paul an

opportunity to build bridges with the different groups of Athenians without ever attacking their religion.

Paul revealed the identity of that Unknown God as follows: He is the creator of the world and both living and non-living things in it. He is not far but intervenes in the day-to-day affairs of ours as the Lord of heaven and earth. He is not an idol contained by the representation and imagination of men. He is not unknowable. He created nations and determined the boundaries of their habitation. As the crown of his creation, he commands all humans to repent and become his children. He is also our judge who will judge each one of us through the resurrected Savior God-man Jesus Christ (Acts 17:22-31).

What was the result?

Paul's revelation sent shock waves into most of the Greeks present there. So, when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." Some men joined him and believed. Also, a woman named Damaris believed (Acts 17:32-34).

By the second century, Athens clearly had an established Christian church. Around AD 170, Dionysius of Corinth wrote a letter to the Christians in Athens. In it he mentions that:

1. The church in Athens already existed,
2. It had suffered persecution,
3. And it was being led by its bishop, Publius of Athens.

He also says that after Publius was martyred, Quadratus of Athens strengthened and rebuilt the congregation. So, although the Athenian church was probably small at first, the historical evidence indicates that it endured and became an established Christian community within a generation or two.

What do we learn?

Our God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. He has been always working towards that. If we open our eyes, we will see the fingerprints of his work. Secondly, irrespective of our personal situations of discomfort, as he used Paul, he can use us also in the work of establishing his Church.



(Continued from page 4)

2. A Place of Security and Strength: A symbol of fortified strength indicating their responsibility to protect all tribes of Israel. They dwelt like lions and defended their borders.

3. A Portion Reserved by the Lawgiver: A land portion larger and better than that of other tribes. It was a secured portion given by the lawgiver, signifying an honorable leadership role.

Conclusion:

The military tent serves as the symbol of the tribe of Gad, famous as soldiers who guarded Israel's borders. This illustrates continuous mobility, readiness for war, and a commitment to defeat enemies and expand boundaries. The diamond, which occupies the 6th position on the priest's breastplate, identifies the tribe of Gad. It is precious and sharp—and diamond can only be sharpened by diamond.

Dearly beloved! As Christians, we cannot remain inactive or selfish. It requires our commitment to the well-being of our brothers. They are mobilized to share their faith and advance the Gospel. Just as a troop shows determination in establishing expanded territory, we are all called to act as Christ's army and serve as good soldiers establishing the Gospel throughout the nation. Let us remain steadfast in sharing the Good News, leading many to righteousness, and building a foundation for their well-being.

"This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us." (2 Kings 7:9)



**O nation, O nation of India!
You are the love of our hearts.
You are unmatched in natural
beauty,
Abounding in every kind of
richness.
You are the mother of countless
millions,
A model of democracy.
You are the home of indigenous
peoples,
The birthplace of noble
generations.
Yet you have not come to know
Jesus the King, the Almighty God.
O nation, O nation of India,
Jesus alone is your Savior.**





FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high his royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
His army shall he lead,
Till every foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Stand in his strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor,
Each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle,
The next the victor's song.
To those who vanquish evil
A crown of life shall be;
They with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally.



CHOOSING A LIFE PARTNER - A LESSON FROM A PAIR OF SHOES

HANDLE WITH CARE RIGHT FOUNDATION

B Imagine you have gone to buy a new pair of shoes. As you walk into the store, a pair of shoes catches your attention. Its design is extremely attractive, and the color is your absolute favorite. It feels like this is the exact pair of shoes you have been looking for. Excited by its appearance, you buy it without thinking much.

U The next day, you wear those shoes for a long journey. Within a few hours, your feet begin to hurt. Blisters start to appear. Every single step becomes a struggle. You realize that the shoes that looked so impressive in the store are completely unsuitable for daily life.

I Most of us would not select a pair of shoes based solely on looks. We evaluate whether they fit properly, are comfortable to walk in, are durable, and are suitable for their intended purpose. We also consider whether they will offer us good support on our future journey. However, when it comes to choosing a life partner, many people focus initially only on attraction and emotions, ignoring the character traits that sustain a long-term relationship.

L Marriage is not a short stroll; it is a lifelong journey. The person you marry is going to walk alongside you through joy and sorrow, success and failure, health and sickness. Therefore, choosing a life partner requires wisdom, prayer, and careful discernment.

The Scripture says: ***"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3)***

Just as a pair of shoes must fit the wearer properly, a husband and wife must share common values, faith, and life purpose. Compatibility is not about having identical traits; it is about walking together toward the same goal. A shoe may look beautiful in a display window, but its true quality becomes evident only after weeks and months of use. Similarly, a person's character traits are revealed over time.

During periods of friendship and courtship, it is important to observe how that person treats family members, how they act under stressful situations, how they handle disappointments, and how they maintain their relationship with God. Jesus taught that people are known by their fruits. The strong foundation for a marriage is not attraction; it is good character.

Before purchasing a quality pair of shoes, a wise buyer examines them thoroughly to see if the stitching is strong, if the sole is durable, and if they can withstand years of use. For this, a merely attractive appearance is not enough. Likewise, before entering into a marriage commitment, believers must conduct a spiritual quality check. Although no one is perfect, the Bible provides clear characteristics that reveal spiritual maturity and readiness for marriage.

The Apostle Paul begins with a key principle applicable to both husband and wife: ***"Submitting to one another in the fear of God"*** (Ephesians 5:2). A healthy marriage is built upon mutual respect, humility, and a spirit of serving one another.

For men, this standard is set even higher. Paul writes: ***"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it"*** (Ephesians 5:25).

Before saying "yes" to a relationship, a woman should ask herself these questions:

- Is this man willing to make sacrifices for others?
- Does he act responsibly?
- Does he demonstrate servant leadership?
- Is his relationship with Christ evident in his daily decisions?

When speaking about women, the Scriptures point beyond outward beauty to inner character. Peter writes: ***"Rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God"*** (1 Peter 3:4).

A man should ask himself these questions:

- Does she demonstrate kindness, humility, wisdom, and spiritual maturity?
- Is she continually growing in her relationship with God?

The words of Paul in Colossians 3:12-14 provide an excellent checklist for both men and women:

- Are they compassionate? Kind? Humble? Gentle? Patient? Loving?

These character traits are far more important than education, appearance, social status, or financial background.



THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

Introduction

The Kingdom of God is not merely a physical place; it is the experience of God's rule, grace, calling, and eternal fellowship. In Matthew 22:1-14, the Parable of the Wedding Banquet told by Jesus reveals the glory of the Kingdom of God, the call to enter it, and the qualifications required to take part in it. This parable emphasizes the necessity of accepting God's invitation and living a holy life within His Kingdom.

1. The Realm of the Kingdom : An Invitation of Grace

"Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' " (Matthew 22:4)

A king prepared a grand feast for his son's wedding. This symbolizes the feast of salvation that God offers to humanity through His Son, Jesus Christ. God lovingly invites everyone to take part in His Kingdom.

2. Do Not Neglect the Call in the Realm of the Kingdom

Those who were invited rejected the call for various reasons. Some went off to their fields, and others to their businesses. When worldly affairs become more important than God's calling, people forfeit the blessings of the Kingdom.

Even today, many ignore God's call in pursuit of work, wealth, position, and pleasures.

3. The Realm of the Kingdom Is Open to All

"Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding." (Matthew 22:9)

When the ones initially invited failed to come, the king invited both the good and the bad found on the streets. This illustrates that the Gospel is intended for all people. In the Kingdom of God, there is no place for distinctions of race, language, social status, or economic background.

4. A Holy Life Is Essential in the Realm of the Kingdom

"Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?" (Matthew 22:12)

One person who came to the feast was not wearing a wedding garment, and the king cast him out. This teaches that accepting the call alone is not enough to

enter the Kingdom of God; one must be clothed in the righteousness of Christ and live a holy life. The wedding garment represents repentance, faith, holiness, and righteous living.

5. The Final Warning of the Realm of the Kingdom

This parable reminds us that although God's invitation of grace is extended to everyone, only those who accept it and live accordingly will experience the glory of the Kingdom.

Memory Verse:

"For many are called, but few are chosen."
(Matthew 22:14)

Practical Lessons

- Accept God's calling without delay.
- Prioritize the Kingdom of God over worldly desires.
- As those called by grace, we must live a holy life.
- Take the invitation of the Gospel to everyone.
- Be prepared daily to partake in the banquet of the Kingdom.

Conclusion

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet emphasizes that although the Kingdom of God is a joyful feast, participating in it requires accepting the call and living a life clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Those who triumph in the realm of the Kingdom are those who respect God's call and remain steadfast in holiness and faith until the end. Therefore, let us accept God's Kingdom invitation, live a life worthy of Him, and be prepared to take part in the eternal wedding feast.



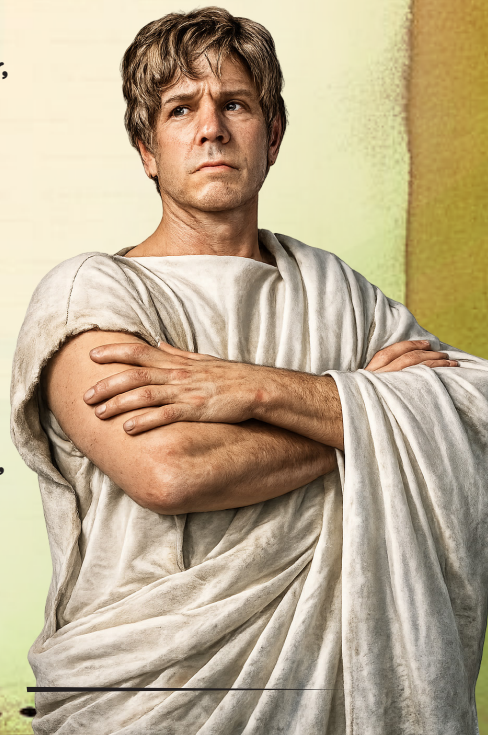
HONORABLE PORCIUS FESTUS!

Lo, to the longing realm a guardian new is come,
A smiling blossom where rare wonders freshly bloom!
With noble steps he treads to make pure virtue reign,
A beacon bright upon the height, where truth stands plain.
He scorched Felix's faults in fiery, blazing wrath,
And severed vile bribery's root from out the path!
A righteous man bearing the sceptre, just and sound,
Rome's rising grace, in whom true majesty is found!

In Flavius' historic scrolls his blameless life is told,
A consuming fire to break the stronghold of the bold!
He burned the falsehoods of deceitful prophets down,
A champion of the truest way to win renown!
On Caesarea's soil a shining lamp of truth he stood,
The foremost seal of order, noble, pure, and good.
In history's pages blessed with fame that shall not die,
An everlasting ruler whose renown abides on high!

High in supreme command, to truth he e'er held fast,
A tender heart to aid great Paul unto the last!
Though Festus asked, and mighty Paul made answer clear,
With flawless grace and virtue did their words appear.
Though false accusations gathered, twisting truth to spite,
And fierce political tempers surged with tempest-might,
As lingering fires fade, deep memories sank in sleep,
And all cruel lies dissolved like dew for wind to sweep!

His regal thoughts, a treasure timeless and sublime,
Found quiet sanctuary in the Dead Sea's clime!
Amen! Truth hath prevailed! Treachery shrinks in dread!
The sceptre's justice and the witness of the faith are raised,
And on the nation's scrolls, this song of righteousness is
praised!



MATTHEW

THE DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

Introduction

Matthew, was undebatable person as the authentic author of the First Gospel in the New Testament. Matthew was also known as Levi, was one of Jesus' twelve original apostles. Basically, his profession was tax collector in Capernaum. He was working as an official tax collector for Romans. Of course, due to his profession, he was not well accepted by the Jewish society. Generally, tax collectors were hatred by the Jewish people.

Call of Matthew, the disciple of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ called Matthew by name and told him to "Follow." Follow Me, said Jesus, was a very strong and authentic voice. There was no second thought in the mind of Matthew. Instantaneously, Matthew left everything and followed Him. There was no reservation to accept His Call. Instant obedience showed that the voice of the Lord is authentic and powerful.

Matthew was considered as an educated and literate disciple among the team of apostles of Jesus Christ.

Lessons from the life of Matthew, the disciple of Jesus Christ

He was able to keep books of accounts with all faithfulness, but he might have been failed to keep relationships with the public in the society.

It is believable that he was keeping gentle silence, while following Jesus Christ. He did not argue on anything as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Because of his profession, even though Matthew was not accepted by the Jewish community, he did write the first gospel in the New Testament by quoting many prophecies and the Old Testament statements.

Matthew has written his gospel with genealogy puzzle of Jesus Christ. It contains, the historical figures from the history and the Old Testament Scripture. Through the genealogy records, Matthew has proved that Jesus Christ has lineage with Davidic Kingdom. Through this, he has proved that Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of the Old Testament.

Ministry of Matthew, the disciple of Jesus Christ

There are traditional records available that Matthew has done ministries in the regions of Persia, Ethiopia and India.

Matthew has recorded an important and most famous teaching of Jesus

Christ, that is 'the Sermon on the Mount [Matthew 5-7 chapters].

Matthew has recorded the 'Great Commission,' statements of the Risen Christ. In addition, Matthew has recorded the parables of Jesus Christ in his gospel. Matthew has recorded that Jesus Christ has explained by using examples from the regular life style of people to make them to understand the truth about the Kingdom of God.

Matthew has recorded an important saying of Jesus Christ, that the signs for His Second Coming and the final judgement.

Matthew, the disciple of Jesus Christ as a Martyr

According to early Christian traditions, Matthew the Apostle was martyred for his faith, though accounts of his exact execution methods vary. He died in Ethiopia after being beheaded or run through with a sword.

What FMPB is looking for?

Like the disciple of Matthew to follow Him for the sake of His Ministry. FMPB is looking forward Bible teachers and Translators. Your involvement with the ministries of FMPB would enrich to get more Bible believing scholars. If you are committed for the Bible translation, your commitment would be well accepted by the organization. You may be involved in any one of the Bible translation ministries under the guidance of the organization.

Are you willing to join us as a Bible Teacher? Are you willing to join us as a Bible Translator? Here is an open door for you. Come and Join us as a disciple of Jesus Christ.





FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND

Friends Missionary Prayer Band
Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry presents

STATE-LEVEL FASTING PRAYER CAMP



DATE & TIME

: 2026 August 7th Friday 10.00am to
9th Sunday 1.00pm



VENUE

: 'Daily Bread' (Andrandrulla Appam)
Prayer Hall
Christu Kula Ashram, Tirupattur



SPEAKERS

: Rev. I. K. Abraham,
Former General Secretary, FMPB
Rev. Vijay P. Isaac,
General Secretary, FMPB

Come, let us sit at God's feet, fast, and pray,
for our nation to experience the love of Jesus!



Contact: FMPB – Prayer Wing

94888 05454, 94443 96208



FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND
ERODE REGION PRESENTS

YOUNG COUPLES FELLOWSHIP GET-TOGETHER



Date
: 30.08.26 (Sunday)



Time
: Afternoon 12.00 pm -
Evening 5.00



Location
: C.S.I Hospital Chapel,
Erode



Message by
: Rev. J. Daniel Arulmani,
FMPB - Youth Wing



Special Session
: Mr. Benjamin &
Mrs. Ahi Benjamin -
FMPB Chennai

Couples Pray together
Stronger in Faith, Closer in Love

ONLY for COUPLES with 0 to 12 years of marriage

For Contact: FMPB – 7639 656 577 / 99761 18747 / 9940175546



FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND

Pavurchatram Mobilization Dist.
- Tenkasi Dist.

Youth & Teens Meeting

"O NATION!"

(Joel 2:21)



Date : 15.08.26 (Saturday)
(Independence Day)



Time : 9.00 am - 6.00 pm



Location : C.S.I Christ Resurrection Church,
Thip Meenachipuram



Presided by : Rev. P. Asirvatham Rajesh, B.Sc., B.D.
Area Pastor - Thip Meenachipuram



Speakers : Rev. S. Emmanuel Ranjitsingh, FMPB, Chennai
Rev. S. Andrews Jawahar, FMPB, Teens Wing
Rev. J. Daniel Arulmani, FMPB, Youth Wing
& FMPB, Youth & Teens Wing Volunteers



Field Sharing : Bro. S. Immanuel (Himachal Pradesh)

Age Limit
13 - 30 years

Registration Fee
Rs. 20/-



Tea and Lunch Arrangements Have Been Made

For Enquiries: FMPB – 98947 26460, 94423 30543, 99442 22011,
90250 78004, 94861 61614, 94422 40300



FRIENDS MISSIONARY PRAYER BAND

Thandairypet

YOUTH & TEENS MEETING

"O NATION!"

(JOEL 2:21)



DATE : 30.08.26 (SUNDAY)



TIME : EVENING 4.00 PM -
NIGHT 8.00 PM



LOCATION : C.S.I CHRIST CHURCH,
48, 1ST STREET, NETHAJI NAGAR
THANDAIARPET



SPEAKERS : • REV. S. ANDREWS JAWAHAR, FMPB, Teens Wing
• Mrs. JEBARANI JOHNSON, FMPB, BANGALURU
• Mrs. FELICITA SUNDAR, FMPB, CHENNAI
• FMPB, YOUTH & TEENS WING VOLUNTEERS



AGE LIMIT : 13 - 30 YEARS

DINNER HAS BEEN ARRANGED.



FOR CONTACT: FMPB – 9884868060 / 9176510367 / 988491985