



TUCC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1 June 2007



“Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way”
Ps 44:18 (KJV)

Annual Summer Picnic, Lakewood Forest Preserve, May 2007
Photo Credit: Courtesy of Mohan

Editor’s Note

“The time is near!”, “It’s coming soon!”, “Just around the corner!” Whew! The wait is finally over. Here we are! We are excited to present to you the first issue of TUCC newsletter. What? Did you think I was talking about the second coming of Christ?!

Well, we have some interesting stuff for everyone. We hope that the content will help build fellowship, put a few smiles on our faces, keep past members and extended family members in touch with us and be a staging forum for children to bring out their creative writing skills. More importantly we believe the newsletter will be spiritually uplifting.

Cheers, to all who made this possible. I take this opportunity to invite all the budding journalists out

there to contribute to keep the Newsletter going.

Yours in Christ,
Preethi Samuel

In this Issue

- *Pastor’s Message*
- *Church Day*
- *Songs that speak*
- *Magical Moments*
- *Name Contest*
- *Missionary Story*
- *Annan and Thambi*
- *Crossword*

Pastor’s Message

LEARN TO FORGIVE LIKE JOSEPH
Genesis 45:1-15.

It is very difficult to summarize all the events that led up to this Old Testament passage. Jacob had twelve sons. He favored Joseph above the rest. Joseph’s jealous brothers sold him to slavery. In slavery, he rose to become the manager of Potiphar’s house. One day, he was falsely accused of rape by Potiphar’s wife and imprisoned. By God’s plan and under His protection, Joseph eventually became the ruler of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh himself.

Then one day it happened. His backstabbing brothers came to Egypt seeking food. Unknowingly, they bowed at his feet. The tables had turned. Joseph could have taken revenge on them. But through some clever plans he uncovered the fact that his brothers had changed. In fact, he saw that one of them was even ready to give his life for another. He could contain himself no longer. He revealed his identity and forgave them.

We can understand why Joseph’s brothers were speechless. Guilt must have overwhelmed them. Fearful speculation must have crowded their minds as they thought about what Joseph might do to them for what they had done to him.

Although the reaction of Joseph’s brothers makes sense, his reaction does not. Joseph did what is unnatural for humans. He did not hold a grudge. Did you notice how he called his brothers to come close to him? He embraced them. With his body language he showed that he had forgiven them. Then Joseph reassured his brothers and encouraged them to forgive themselves for what they had done. Joseph forgave his brothers with unconditional love. Their sin against him was forgiven and forgotten.

Brothers and sisters in the faith, our opportunities to forgive will probably never come in such dramatic ways. But the Bible says that if we forgive others their sins our heavenly Father will also forgive us our sins (Mat 6:14-15).

May God bless us with this spirit of forgiveness!

➤ **VBS (Avalanche Ranch)** **Aug 8th – 11th**

Kids get ready for a wild ride through God’s word. This exciting celebration of God’s love is set on a rocky mountain ranch

➤ **Family Camp** **Labor Day weekend**

This year’s family camp will be used as an outreach opening for reaching non-Christian families

➤ **Drummers for Jesus**

Drummers for Jesus, a world wide network of drummers and percussionists who use their drumming to spread the message of Jesus Christ is coming to TUCC soon. Details will be made available online.

- Rev. Godwin Kanakaraj

Church Day

Every New Year's service we are reminded about the fruitless fig tree. After three years of eager waiting the disappointed owner asks his gardener to cut the tree down. The gardener manages to convince the owner to give the tree one last chance.

As we begin a new church year, it is time to dig around the roots and fertilize the soil and begin bearing fruits. It is time to bear the fruits of repentance (Luk 3:18), to bear the fruit of our lips (Heb 13:15), to bear the fruit of righteousness (Pro 11:30) and the fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22).

Every member and friend of the church should take this opportunity to reflect on their contributions for making the church fruitful. If one part of the body bears fruit the whole body can rejoice. In the same way, if one part of the body suffers, the whole body will suffer.

Happy Church Day!

William Carey

William Carey, the "Father of Baptist Missions," was born in Paulerspury, England, in 1761. At the age of 24, he accepted a call to become the pastor of a Baptist church. Carey kept urging his fellow pastors to set up a missionary agency, but they always seemed to have more urgent problems closer to home. At one meeting an elder pastor reportedly snapped at him: "Young man, sit down. When God pleases other linguists, he translated to convert the heathen, he'll do it without consulting you or me." But Carey simply would not let anything stand in the way.

After stimulating Baptist Missionary Society, he became its first missionary. Serampore College, which Carey and his colleagues established in 1810 to train Christian leaders, remains today as one of the outstanding educational institutions of Asia.

Carey devoted 41 of his 73 years to India without a return to his homeland. He was an able linguist and translator; a botanist of considerable reputation; and a missionary statesman par excellence. With the aid of

"Sir", the man replied,
"leave it alone for one
more year, and I'll dig
around it and fertilize
it. If it bears fruit
next year, fine! If not,
then cut it down."
Luke 13:8,9 (NIV)



Carey's name is still held in the highest esteem in India. The Indian Department of Posts celebrated the life and ministry of William Carey with the 6 rupee stamp. He lived and died by his often quoted motto.

**"Expect great things from
God; Attempt great things
for God."**

Songs that speak

In 1871, fire ravaged Chicago. When it was over, 300 people were dead and 100,000 were homeless. Horatio Gates Spafford, a lawyer who had invested much of his money into downtown Chicago real estate, lost a great deal in the fire.

After about two years his family decided to take a vacation to Europe. Delayed by some business, he sent his family ahead of him. Tragically, their ship, the Ville de Havre, never made it. It collided with an English sailing ship, the Loch Earn, and sank within 20 minutes. Horatio received a horrible telegram from his wife, "saved alone.". His four daughters had died.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, after these terrible losses, Spafford wrote this song,

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*It is well...with my soul... It is well, it is well,
with my soul...*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless
estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

*It is well...with my soul... It is well, it is well,
with my soul...*

It is unimaginable to feel the pain that Spafford had experienced but he found peace in the fact that his soul was "well" because the peace of God that "passes all understanding" was with him. In spite

of his pain, he could take comfort in God's promise that He will take control of our pain when we let Him take control. He is responsible for our life. We are responsible for the choices we make, choice to find peace and comfort in His presence through Jesus Christ or a choice to try and find answers in people, things and situations.

We face pain in so many forms in our lives. I have always been touched by the tranquility of this song and known it through storms that have touched my shores. Hope this song sings to your soul whenever you need divine peace. Remember, whatever, wherever or however you are, God is bigger than all that and...It is well with your soul.
God Bless!

- Suiyava Robin



**Family Camp
2007
Aug 31st -
Sep 2nd**

Send your comments, corrections, feedbacks, suggestions and articles to,

The Editor,
TUCC Newsletter
1908 Continental Ave, Apt 104
Naperville, IL 60563

Or e-mail newsletter@tamilucc.com

TUCC Newsletter is a publication of
Tamil United Church of Christ,
Chicago.
1840 Westchester Blvd,
Westchester, IL 60154
<http://www.tamilucc.com>

All articles represent the views of the authors only (Whether disclosed or not) and should not be assumed to represent the view of Tamil UCC.

Annan and Thambi - உங்கள் சத்துருக்களை சினேகியுங்கள்

- அண்ணன்: தம்பி உங்கள் பார்த்து ரொம்ப நாளாச்சு, சவுக்கியமா?
- தம்பி: மம்ம்... ஏதோ இருக்கேன்.
- அண்ணன்: என்னப்பா பதில் சரியில்லையே. என்ன ஆச்சு. எனி பிராப்ளம், சொல்லுப்பா?
- தம்பி: வேலை செய்ர இடத்துல கொஞ்சம் பிராப்ளம். ஏங்கூட வேல பாரக்கிற ஒருத்தர், நா நல்லா வேல செய்யுறது பிடிக்காம, இல்லாதது போல்லாததெல்லாம் மாணேஜர் கிட்ட போட்டுக் கொடுத்திட்டான். இது உண்மைன்னு நம்பி மாணேஜர் என்ன கன்னா பின்னான்னு திட்டிட்டாரு. அதான் கொஞ்சம் அப்செட்.
- அண்ணன்: உன்ன பத்தி தவறா சொன்ன காரியங்களெல்லாம் உண்மையில்லைல? அப்போ ஏன் கவலப் படு? ரெண்டுபேரும் உன்ன சரியா புரிஞ்சிக்கல அவ்வளவுதான், அதனால் அவங்கள் மண்ணிச்சிடு. பிராப்ளம் சால்வ்டு.
- தம்பி: ஏண்ணே நீங்க வேற, போட்டுக்கொடுத்தது என் காலீக், அதக் கேட்டுட்டு திட்டினது என் மாணேஜர் இவங்கள் நா எதுக்குண்ணே மன்னிக்கணும், நான் தா தப்புப் பண்ணலியே?
- அண்ணன்: தம்பி, இயேசு சிலுவைல தொங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் பொழுது என்ன சொன்னாரு?
- தம்பி: சிலுவையில் தொங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்தப்போ நிறைய வார்த்தைகள் சொன்னாரே, நீங்க எத சொல்ல வாரீங்க?
- அண்ணன்: இயேசு கிட்ட தவறு ஏதும் இல்லாதபோதும் ஜனங்களுக்காக, "பிதாவே இவர்களுக்கு மன்னியும், தாங்கள் செய்கிறது இன்னதென்று அறியாதிருக்கிறார்களே." என்று பிதாவினிடத்தில் மன்னிப்புக்கேட்டாரே. அதுபோல நாமும் பிறரை மன்னிக்கணும் இல்லயா?
- தம்பி: இயேசுவால மன்னிக்க முடியும், ஏன்னா அவர் தேவ குமாரன். ஆனா நா எப்படி....
- அண்ணன்: அட அப்படி இல்லப்பா. நாமும் பிறரை மன்னிக்கவேண்டும், ஆசீர்வதிக்கவேண்டும் என்றுதான் எதிர்பாக்கிறார். லூக்கா 6:27,28 ல்ல இயேசு தாம் தெரிந்து கொண்ட சீஷர்களைப்பார்த்து என்ன சொல்றார்?
- தம்பி: இயேசு என்ன சொல்றாருண்ணே? "...உங்கள் சத்துருக்களை சினேகியுங்கள், உங்களைப் பகைக்கிறவர்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யுங்கள்,
- அண்ணன்: உங்களைச் சபிக்கிறவர்களை ஆசீர்வதியுங்கள், உங்களை நிந்திக்கிறவர்களுக்காக ஜெபம் பண்ணுங்கள்" என்று இயேசு தம்முடைய சீஷர்களைப்பார்த்து சொல்றாரு. அப்போ, நாமும் அப்படி இருந்தா இயேசுவுக்கு ரொம்பப் பிடிக்கும் இல்லயா. இயேசுவுக்கு பிடிக்கிற காரியத்த செய்ய இஷ்டமா தம்பி?
- தம்பி: இஷ்டமாவா? இயேசுவுக்கு பிடிக்கிற காரியத்தை செய்கிறதுல எனக்கு எப்பவுமே சந்தோஷம்தான். நா இது வரைக்கும் என்னைப்பகைக்கிறவங்களை, மன்னிக்கக்கூடாது, அவங்களை விட்டு விலகணும், அவங்கள் மதிக்கக் கூடாதுன்னுதான் தவறா நினைச்சிருந்தேன். அப்படி நினைச்ச வரைக்கும் என் மனசுல ஒரே துக்கம், எரிச்சல், கோபம் ன்னு மனது முழுக்க பாரமா இருந்துச்சு. அவங்களை இந்த நேரத்துல இருந்து நான் தவறா நினைக்கிறதில்லை. இதை நினைக்கும்போதே என்னா சந்தோஷமா இருக்கு.
- அண்ணன்: இதை கேக்கிற எனக்கும் ரொம்ப சந்தோஷமா இருக்கு. அப்போ நான் கிளம்புறேன்
- தம்பி: சரி அண்ணே, உங்கள் சந்திச்சதுல எனக்கும் ரொம்ப சந்தோஷம். கடவுள் சித்தமானா பிறகு சந்திக்கலாம்.

- Joe Kingsly

Magical Moments

A few years ago, I read a disturbing incident in the newspaper. A young boy poured kerosene all over his body and lit himself in the hope that his superhero would rescue him. But alas, his hero "Shakthiman" did not come to rescue him. He died pitifully.

"Shakthiman" was a popular TV serial, in India, at that time much like Power Rangers or Spiderman here in US.

The news made by heart ache for my students. I was compelled to tell them about the only true Super Hero.

It was December and we had a Christmas program in our school. I narrated this news incident and told the students about Jesus, the Super hero sent by God to rescue us from our sins and give us eternal life. Satan is a sly fox who will use even seemingly harmless TV shows to mislead innocent kids. We were lucky in our days, as we were not exposed to many of these wrong paths.

So children, be watchful always for anything that might mislead you. And parents teach you children according to Deuteronomy 6:6-9

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates" Deut 6: 6-9 (NIV)

- Dorothy Samuel



VBS 2007
Aug 8th - 11th

Thought for Thought

ARE YOU A WISE BUILDER?

"Life is not a bed of roses", is a popular saying and it is a fact. It has its share of thorns. Our spiritual life has to withstand the torrents of trials and tribulations everyday in order to receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. Matt 7:24

Name Contest

It is easier to refer to the lady overlooking the New York harbor as the "Statue of Liberty" than by her official name, "Liberty Enlightening the World". Similarly, it is easier to refer to this periodical as TUCS newsletter than by a fancy name. So why do we need a fancy name? Good question but no good answer!! Submit your choice of names to the editor or e-mail your preferences to newsletter@tamilucc.com.

Crossword Puzzle No. 1



Down

1. Vowed to rejoice for grapeless vine; from H2K (8)
2. No place for a couple here, not out either (3)
4. How often we carry our cross, Clark Kent's planet (5)
7. Precious oil ran down his beard, drop ur in N. Aurora (5)
9. Candace's home; friend of Kenya? (8)
11. Israelite rebellion, twist rum twice (6)
12. Couldn't have turned Titanic, deadly muscle (6)
13. Might have repented in ashes, Lebanese port (4)
14. Cursed to be the lowest slave, radio (3)
16. Seventh son, broken inverted dagger (3)

Across

3. He's this at your right, not hades (5)
5. Save an omer of this, king in Madurai (5)
6. When Nehemiah was sad, pathfinder (5)
8. Dropped food for his future wife, snakez (3)
9. Might mistake when you're sober; messed up Hawaiian garland (3)
10. Tops hope and faith; a handout (7)
11. Bounds desert of sin, hospital on 5th avenue (5, 5)
14. Blessed in a lighter version, glad (5)
15. Satan gathers people from here; Ma, go gather (5)
17. Hebrew oracular device, your I am in short (4)

Guidelines

Each clue in this puzzle is usually of two parts. One will be a biblical clue and the other will be a more general one. There may be exceptions to this rule. Solutions could be from any English version of the bible.

The clues for the sample solution **AI** may be,

Three dozen slaughtered or short for machine brains?

In Joshua 7:5 we read that 36 Israelites were struck down by the men of Ai. Also, AI is short for Artificial Intelligence, a more sophisticated term for machine brains!

The first correct entry will receive a prize. Solution to this puzzle will appear in the next issue.

Please send completed answers to,

Tamil UCC Newsletter,
1908 Continental Ave,
Apt 104,
Naperville, IL 60563

Or email to
newsletter@tamilucc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						10:00am - Fasting Prayer at Kanagaraj's residence
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1:30 pm – Worship Service	7:30 pm – Monday Bible Study at Pastor's residence	7:00 pm – Satellite Bible Study at Israel's residence		8:00pm - Church Council Meeting at Sam's residence	9:00 pm - Friday Night Prayer at Aram's residence	6:30pm– Monthly Tamil Worship & Fellowship
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1:30 pm – Communion Service - Church Anniversary Day	7:30 pm – Monday Bible Study at Pastor's residence	7:00 pm – Satellite Bible Study at Israel's residence		7:00 pm – Des Plaines Small Group Meet at Noel's residence	9:00 pm – Friday Night Prayer at Israel's residence	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1:30 pm – Worship Service (Father's Day)	7:30 pm – Monday Bible Study at Pastor's residence	7:00 pm – Satellite Bible Study at Israel's residence		7:00 pm – Des Plaines Small Group Meet at Noel's residence	8:00 pm – Friday Night Prayer at Charles' residence	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 pm – Combined Outdoor Worship Service	7:30 pm – Monday Bible Study at Pastor's residence	7:00 pm – Satellite Bible Study at Israel's residence				10:00am - Fasting Prayer at Joe's residence

Please note that this is a tentative schedule. For exact time and location, refer to Order of Service bulletin for that week.