



# TUCC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4 September 2007



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" Rom 1:16 (KJV)

Photo credit: Mohan, VBS 2007 Avalanche Ranch

## Editor's Note

Wow! August really zipped past me. VBS was fun and satisfying. Right from planning and decorating to teaching and cleaning, love and unity prevailed amongst everyone. Family camp was a wonderful break, away from daily routine.

It is truly a blessing to have a fellowship like a family and to share our happiness and grief with each other. Oh! And before I forget...Knock knock... Who's there? Atch... Atch who? Bless you!

There! That should put a smile on your face and I love a smiling face. On a serious note knock knock jokes remind me of Revelation 3:20 where God stands at the door and knocks. He who opens the door has the

privilege of dining with Him. This helps me keep my ears open for His gentle voice in the humdrum of daily life.

Yours in Christ,  
Preethi Samuel

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## Pastor's Message

Dear friends, God has blessed us with another month. The world faced some tough challenges, and our own families faced some losses. In all these, God enabled us to comfort one another with His Word as we took everything to Him in prayer. As Christians, we need to encourage one another at all times.

I believe that we have a basic misunderstanding of the meaning of encouragement. The Greek word for "encourage" may be translated as "comfort, console, entreat, beg, implore, counsel, urge, challenge." We see from this definition that encouragement has a two-fold emphasis: to comfort or reassure, and to challenge or admonish. To encourage someone is to comfort or challenge them with the Word of God in such a way that the person is motivated to lead the Christian life and continue in the Lord's service. To encourage is to be an instrument of grace. It works out of compassion and love and care for the other person, not judgment and condemnation and accusation.

**1. The Father** More than once we see the Greek word for "encourage" used for God the Father: 2 Cor.1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 2 Thes.2:16-17 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

**2. The Son** The Greek word for "encourage" is also used as a title for

Jesus in 1 John 2:1. Jesus is called "the Advocate," or our defense" or "our Intercessor." The word used here is the Greek for "encourager" and it literally means "one called alongside to help." The Lord Jesus has been called to our side to represent us before the Father.

**3. The Holy Spirit** Not surprisingly, the Greek word for "encourage" is also applied to the Holy Spirit in 1 John 14:16. The Holy Spirit in the original language is called the "Paraclete" here translated as the Comforter or the Counselor. The Holy Spirit has been called to our side to assist us.

When applied to the Trinity, what does the word "encourage" tell us? It tells us that God is the great encourager, the One from whom we receive support and love.

Bruce Larson, in his book, Wind and Fire, points out some interesting facts about sand-hill cranes: "These large birds, who fly great distances across continents in a "V" formation like geese, have three remarkable qualities. First, they rotate leadership. No one bird stays out in front all the time. Second, they choose leaders who can handle turbulence. And third, all during the time one bird is leading, the rest are honking their affirmation." This is not a bad model for the church: we should all be honking encouragement at each other.

May the God of Comfort help us encourage one another to build His Kingdom on earth.

- Pastor Godwin

## Lost in Space

I was desperately looking for a foothold. My legs were flailing, completely unaccustomed to the sudden emptiness beneath. It took me a while to regain my bearings. I was floating on air. But my orientation was short lived. Before I knew it I was zipping through what appeared to be the deep expanse of space. All of a sudden, the stars, constellations, galaxies, black holes and dark matter, everything began to make sense. Space and time were not warped as I had learnt. It was my understanding that had been warped. And then it struck me, the truth about creation, man, his fall, his redemption and eternity.

I had been way off on so many things. I had trivialized the spiritual. I had humanized God in an effort to personalize him. I had "exchanged the glory of the immortal God" for the temporal. Everything I ever knew had been so man-centered. How could I have missed it?

I wanted to hurry back to my church, to tell my people the truth. But I could not get back to earth, not even into the solar system. They were probably not on my space itinerary. I could see my friends and family but I could not communicate with them. How was I supposed to tell them what I had learned?

Back on earth, two were arguing about the age of the universe, about creation and evolution. I was amused to see them argue so convincingly with so little knowledge. I began to realize how absolutely ridiculous human behavior might appear in God's sight. Two others were fighting over predestination and baptism and salvation. A group

**"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Ps 8:3, 4**

had rounded up to pummel a guy over grace, faith and works. And the whole church was divided over sin and law and judgment.

I realized then that man might never realize the whole truth when he is alive. His mind is finite.. That's why Jesus himself said, "How shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" (John 3:12). If only I could go back and tell them that it matters how they reach the destination more, they might get it. They might begin to glorify God as they ought to. They might for once comprehend that life is but a vapor and stop wallowing in worldly cares and start looking out for others (Phil 2:4).

- Samuel Davidson

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

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## Book Review Haggai

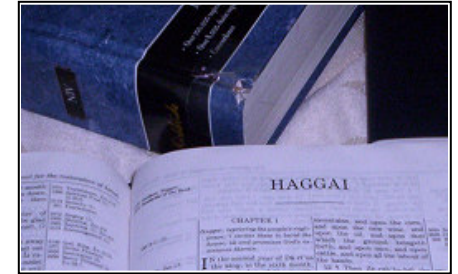
Haggai is one of the simpler prophetic books. It has 2 chapters and a total of 38 verses. It is the third book from the end of the Old Testament just before Zechariah and Malachi. It was written to the Jews living in Judah and Jerusalem after the return from captivity.

After seventy years of captivity, some of the Jews living in exile return to Judah and Jerusalem during the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia. They are led by Zerubbabel, the governor and Joshua, the high priest. The people settle into their houses. However, they do not care much about the house of God, which is in ruins. The temple had been destroyed during the fall of Zedekiah and the beginning of captivity in Babylon.

At this time, God speaks to Zerubbabel and Joshua through the prophet Haggai. The book can be divided into four sections; four times the word of the Lord comes to Haggai. The first time Haggai explains why the life of the people has not been prosperous. He reminds them that they are living in furnished houses while the house of God lies in ruins. The people realize their error and obey the voice of the Lord and begin to rebuild the temple.

The second time, God encourages Zerubbabel and Joshua through Haggai. Haggai urges them to be strong and tells them that the glory of this temple would be greater than the former. Haggai also promises them peace.

The third time, Haggai declares that



the people are defiled and their offerings are therefore unclean. He reminds them that they did not turn to the Lord even though he had struck them. But he affirms them that the Lord would bless them.

Finally, the Lord speaks to Zerubbabel through Haggai. He proclaims that he has chosen Zerubbabel and that he would make him his signet (seal).

Haggai was a successful prophet by human standards. The people listened to him and the house of God, which was started in the second year of Darius (Hag 1:15), was completed in his sixth year (Ezra 6:15). Ezra testifies that the people prospered during the time of Haggai (Ezra 6:14).

*"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house which remains in ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house".*

*Haggai 1:9 (NIV)*

## News Briefs

Bagavathar Vedanayagam Sastriar and his son Clement Vedanayagam Sastriar shared God's word on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The complete audio messages including the songs are available online for listening and download at [www.tamilucc.com](http://www.tamilucc.com).



41 kids attended this year's VBS from Aug 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. The kids learned that God is Real, With Us, Strong, In-Charge and Awesome. Wah-hoo!! The youth were group leaders and had a great time teaching the younger kids and being role models.



► Sis. Sumathy's nephew, Loveson Benjamin Joesph passed away in a tragic bike accident on August 04<sup>th</sup>.  
► Bro. Mohan and Bro. Srinivasan's father, Desingh Manoharan passed away on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Remember these families in your prayers



Tamil UCC celebrated Shajan and Shirley's wedding reception last month

## Kids caring 4 Kids

A couple of days back I heard an inspiring story on the radio. It was about Kendall Ciesemier, a 14 year old girl. Kendall had been born with a rare disease that had badly affected her liver. In the winter of 2004, after watching an Oprah Winfrey show about the 12 million kids affected by AIDS in Africa, Kendall decided to sponsor a child through her own money. Initially partnering with World Vision she has raised nearly \$111,000 through kids caring for kids. She was recently recognized by Bill Clinton at an Oprah Winfrey show.

Most of the kids want to do something for others but never get around to acting on their desires. And by the time they grow up they are caught in vicious worldly cares.

This is an encouraging story for such kids. It should remind them that they can make a difference. Fund raising is just one avenue. Lives can be changed in so many ways. More than money, people need hope. They need encouragement, love and respect.

Not everyone should be dreaming about changing the world. Changing just one life might be all that is needed. The idea is not to find a way and get onto it. It is to have the will to make a way.



## Annan Thambi - உன்னுடைய தாலந்தைப் புதைத்து வைக்காதே



தம்பி:	அண்ணே, ஒரு இவஞ்சலிஸ்ட் மெஸ்ஸேஜ கேட்டேண்ணே. அவரு மெஸ்ஸேஜ ரொம்ப பவர்ஃபுல்லா இருந்துச்சு, ஸூப்பரா மியூசிக் போட்டுகிட்டே பியூட்டிபுல்லா பாடினாருண்ணே. அவருக்கு தாலந்துகளை அள்ளிக்கொடுத்து கர்த்தர் ஆசீர்வதிச்சிருக்காருண்ணே. மம்ம்... எனக்கு மட்டும் அந்த மாதிரி ஒரு தாலந்தும் இல்லேண்ணே.
அண்:	என்ன தம்பி கவலைப்படுறே. கர்த்தர் எல்லோருக்கும் ஏற்றாற்போலதான் தாலந்துகளைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார் தெரியுமா.
தம்பி:	அட நீங்க வேறண்ண. நான் பேசினா எனக்கே புரியாது. நான் பாடி நீங்க கேட்டதில்லென்னு நினைக்கிறேன். நான் பாடினால் கமுதைதான் வரும். இப்போ கமுதைகூட வருமானு சந்தேகமாயிருக்கு.
அண்:	பேசுவது, பாடுவது, மியூசிக் போடுவது மட்டும்தான் தாலந்துகள்ன்னு நினைக்கிறதுனால தான், நிறையப்பேர் உன்னை மாதிரியே கவலைப்பட்டுகிட்டு தன்னுடைய தாலந்துகளைக் கண்டுபிடிக்க மறந்துடுறாங்க. திறமையாகப் பேசுவதுதான் தாலந்துன்னு மோசே நினைத்ததால்தான், (யாது; 4:10)ல கர்த்தர் இஸ்ரவேல் ஜனங்களை எகிப்திலிருந்து மீட்க அழைத்தபோது, தான் திக்குவாயும் மந்த நாவும் உள்ளவன் என்றான்.
தம்பி:	ஆணா பார்வோன் ராஜாவே ஆடிப்போற மாதிரி பெரிய பெரிய அற்புதம் எல்லாம் மோசே செய்து எகிப்தையே ஒரு கலக்கு கலக்கிட்டாருல்லண்ணே. என்னால அப்படியும் பண்ணமுடியாதே.
அண்:	மத்தேயு 25:14-30ல இயேசு பரலோகராஜ்யத்தைக்குறித்த உவமையில், ஐந்து தாலந்து கொடுத்தவனிடத்தில் ஐந்துதாலந்தையும், இரண்டு கொடுத்தவனிடத்தில் இரண்டையும், ஒரு தாலந்து கொடுத்தவனிடத்தில் ஒரு தாலந்தையும் எதிர்பார்க்கிறார். இதில் யாரிடத்தில் எவ்வளவு தாலந்து கொடுக்கிறாரோ அதற்கேற்ற பலனைத்தான் எதிர்பார்க்கிறார். அதனால ஐந்து தாலந்தையுடையவன் எல்லோரிலும் பெரியவனும் அல்ல, ஒரு தாலந்தையுடையவன் எல்லோரிலும் சிறியவனும் அல்ல. அதனால பேச, பாட முடியலியேன்னு வருத்தப்படுறத நிறுத்திட்டு கர்த்தர் உனக்கு கொடுத்துள்ள தாலந்துகளை அவருக்கென்று முழுமையா பிரயோஜனப்படுத்தினா, கர்த்தர் சந்தோஷப்படுவார்.
தம்பி:	இப்பதாண்ணே புரிஞ்சுது, நானும் இதுவரை அவரைப்போல, இவரைபோல நா இல்லையேன்னு வருத்தப்பட்டுகிட்டே இருந்துட்டேன். இனி கர்த்தர் எனக்கென்று கொடுத்த தாலந்தைக்கொண்டு முழுமையாக கர்த்தரின் மகிமைக்காக பிரயோஜனப்படுத்துவேன்.
அண்:	சரி தம்பி, இதைக்கேட்கும் போது எனக்கு ரொம்ப சந்தோஷமாயிருக்கு. கடவுள் சித்தமானா பிறகு சந்திக்கலாம்.

- Joe Kingsly

# Crossword No. 4

1		2		3			4	5				
6												7
8										9		
10							11					
				12								
							13					
14	15											
							16					
17							18					

### Tips

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The first part of the clue is mostly from the Bible. Bible clues are usually from NIV or KJV. The second part of the clue is more general and jumbled up or an acronym or phonetically similar to the solution or hidden in a combination of words. Also, Look for give away verbs like remove, twist, hide, etc.

### Down

1. Saul's weapon; from war to Olympics (7)
2. Known for extreme giving also Alexander's home (9)
3. One of seventy in oasis; holds future? (4)
4. Successful craftsman as in refined true dimes (9)
5. The Ra's home, a Tamil place (2)
7. To reach the father, he may wait (1, 2, 3, 3)
9. Promoted for faith in an Ha Ha! (8)
12. He crowns the year with buy ton of goodness (6)
15. Death to Paul was not a loss (4)
16. Laymen served bread at this part of door? (3)

### Across

4. To fear God and obey, a job or responsibility (4)
6. Perfume in a stale bar (9)
8. Saved a prophet from well, he belch'd me (10)
10. Forbidden statue as in American talent show (4)
11. Cut this if fruitless, a local bank (6)
13. Better marry than be before an urn (4)
14. Prophet with girdle for prop, as a bug (6)
17. King of Bashan was one in tag (5)
18. Keep this if you made this swear word (4)

### Solution to Crossword No. 3

J	E	H	U		L		B			A		
O		E		S	Y	C	A	M	O	R	E	
N		R			D		A			A		
A	D	O	N	A	I		L	E	A	R	N	
H		D			A					A		
			P			S	H	O	U	T		
I			A	B	B	A						O
D	W	E	L	L		B	I	S	H	O	P	
U		A		E		B			I		P	
M	O	S	E	S		A			D		O	
E		T		S	A	T	A	N			S	
A						H	O	N	C	E		

### Congratulation!

Correct entries submitted by  
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September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1:30 pm – Children's Worship Service						1
1:30 pm – Worship Service					9:00pm – Friday Night Prayer at Ajith's residence	6:30pm – Monthly Tamil Fellowship (Drummers For Jesus)
1:30 pm – Worship Service				7:00 pm – Des Plaines Small Group Meet at Noel's residence	9:00 pm – Friday Night Prayer at Mohan's residence	
1:30 pm – Worship Service					9:00 pm – Friday Night Prayer at Kanagaraj's residence	
1:30 pm – Worship Service					7:00pm – Sing Song at Aram's residence	

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



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