

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 1:30 pm – Worship Service	4	5 8:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study	6 8:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study	7	8 9:00pm – Friday Night Prayer TBD	9 6:30pm– Monthly Tamil Fellowship
10 1:30 pm – Worship Service	11	12 8:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study	13 8:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study	14	15 9:00 pm – Friday Night Prayer TBD	16
17 1:30 pm – Worship Service	18	19 8:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study	20 8:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study	21	22 9:00 pm – Friday Night Prayer TBD	23
24 1:30 pm – Worship Service	25	26 8:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study	27 8:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study	28	29 9:00 pm – Friday Night Prayer TBD	

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



TUCC Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2 February 2008



Tamil UCC youth group, January 2008

“How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? forever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? ”
Ps 13:1 (KJV)



Tamil United Church of Christ
1840 Westchester Blvd
Westchester, IL 60154



Editor's Note

My first thought for this month's issue was to print it in pink paper with red hearts! But my second thought was more mature. I realized that love doesn't mean just hearts, flowers and fun; it also means to have unlimited patience, to share good and bad times, to impart positive qualities and to learning from others among other things.

If human love can be so powerful how much more is God's love for us. Paul rightly says in Ephesians His love surpasses all understanding, which brings to my mind one of my favorite verses "what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?"

I realize that my human mind can never measure his love me. But,

when I am in Christ and show Christ's love to others I get a glimpse of his love for me.

Happy Valentine to you all!

Love,
Preethi Samuel

In this Issue

- Pastor's Message
 - Lent Season
- Bible and Thirukkural
- Songs that Speak
 - Jesus Loves Me
- Annan Thambi
 - False Teachers
- Deep Dive
 - Dishonest Servant
- Crossword

Pastor's Message

Friends, already we are in Lent season. The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had separated from the community were reconciled by forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way, the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and

forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lenten season by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting and self-denial, and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. In Matthew Chapter 6 our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount very specifically mentioned about the importance of almsgiving or helping the needy, personal time with the Lord and fasting. Let us also prepare spiritually during this season of lent.

- Pastor Godwin

Visit www.tamilucc.com for the latest update on upcoming events

திருமறையும் திருக்குறளும்

திருக்குறள் says,

“தீயினால் சுட்டபுண் உள்ளாரும் ஆறாதே
நாவினால் சுட்ட வடு” (குறள் #129)

It means that a wound caused by fire will heal but a wound caused by tongue will continue to remain sore.

திருமறை says,

சினமுற்றாலும் பாவம் செய்யாதிருங்கள்; பொழுது சாய்வதற்குள் உங்கள் சினம் தணியட்டும். மனக்கசப்பு, சீற்றம், சினம், கூச்சல், பழிச்சொல் எல்லா வற்றையும் தீமை அனைத்தையும் உங்களை விட்டு நீக்குங்கள்.

ஒருவருக் கொருவர் நன்மைசெய்து பரிவு காட்டுங்கள்; கடவுள்

உங்களைக் கிறிஸ்து வழியாக மன்னித்ததுபோல நீங்களும் ஒருவரை

ஒருவை மன்னியுங்கள். (எபேசியர் 4:26, 31, 32)

Bible gives a solution for the wound caused by the tongue. It says forgive on another just like Jesus forgave you. Without forgiveness anger and bitter words will remain sore.

- தேவப் பிரியன்

Crossword No. 9

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

Tips

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. AFLAC a prodigal's feast (4)
2. Bubbling entrance, en route to wall dedication (8, 4)
4. Selfless videos and quite harmless (5)
5. Idol for enlightenment? His consolation for bruised (7)
6. Seemed one too many Persian friends? (5)
11. Bloody mid on according to Isaiah (5)
13. Ham lone, Obed's step dad (6)
14. He gives and makes servants (6)
16. Pig, preacher's job in parable (3)

Across

3. It's Mallu da, as in David's refuge (7)
7. A neon site for ceremonial bath (5)
8. An eagle unlike esau biblically speaking (4)
9. A fun race that ended with four (7)
10. Its sad sir to be alive but dead (6)
- 12'I'm tiny fir but bible calls it unclean (9)
15. Don't be in big haze or you could end a leper (6)
16. Not happy with Nehemiah's state? (6)
17. To spam like alcatraz (6)
18. Strength to be witness (6)

Congratulations!

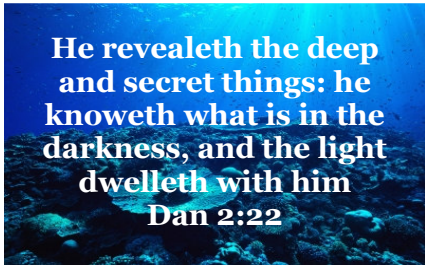
Correct entries by
Edith & Adeline Andrews,
Chennai
Kharun, Josh & Sangeetha
Samuel, Naperville, IL

Send answers to,
TUCC newsletter
1908 Continental Ave,
Apt 104
Naperville, IL 60563

E-Mail:
newsletter@tamilucc.com

Solution to Crossword No. 8

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



What's appalling is that 'children of this world', who see only this earthly world, are planning for their retirement/future in this temporary world; nevertheless, 'children of light', who see beyond this world, the unseen eternal world, are lethargic about their eternal future. Children of light know there is another world to come and yet they don't make preparation for it. What a pity!

- Shouldn't the children of light learn from children of this world, to be wary of their future?
- Shouldn't we use our resources in this temporary world to prepare for the unseen eternal future?
- As stewards of God, shouldn't we go the extra mile, using every opportunity, to insure our eternal future?

Paul echoes the same theme in his letter to the saints in Ephesus, "Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity".

Invest (or Spend?) your resource wisely, and retire in eternal peace!

- Ajith E. Samuels

Deep Dive is an article series that attempts to elucidate the biblical verses that pose an exegetical challenge to readers

Why couldn't Cain please God with his offering?
He just wasn't Abel

=====

What did Jesus have in common with the fish that swallowed Jonah?

=====

Jesus had dinner with a sinner and the fish had a sinner for dinner.

=====

How does God keep the oceans clean?
With Tide

=====

Why couldn't they play cards in the ark?
Noah was sitting on the deck

=====

Compiled from "The Everything Kids' Bible Trivia Book" by Kathi Wagner and Aubrey Wagner

"The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong...but time and chance happen to them all" Eccl 9:11

Quiz in the books of I and II Timothy will be held on the 4th Sunday of February



Songs that Speak Jesus Love Me

In this month of February, as Valentine's Day creeps up on us with obscured versions of love, we all need to be reminded of one version that is foremost, the ONLY one that we can take for granted. I am sure that all of us have, at one point or other have sung this song with a child or smiled at the fact that we don't have to look into our (or our neighbor's) lyric sheet to sing it!!

This popular song has been loved among children and adults alike since it was written in 1860. Anna B. Warner wrote the original version and later David Rutherford McGuire added stanzas two and three. Anna's sister Susan had asked her to write a song for a Sunday school teacher who wanted to cheer a dying boy.



After over a century of evolution, "Jesus Loves Me" became the number one spiritual song in the world. It has been translated into more languages than any other song. "Jesus Loves Me" was always one of the first hymns that Christian missionaries taught to new converts. No wonder the lyrics have brought a smile to many children and assurance to adults!

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

The verses of this song shed light on the fact that he loves me so much that he laid down His life for me. It claims Christ's devotion to me, but how can that be true? As a sinner, wouldn't the holy God despise me? Thankfully, the song is not hopeful delusion but rather sound, biblical theology. While God hated my sin, His love for me compelled Him to give up His beloved Son.

Jesus, God the Son, loved us so much He died a terrible death to pay the just penalty for our sins (John 3:16). The truth of Christ's love for me is simple to say yet difficult to believe. It takes faith -- faith provided by God. The term "love" evokes a relationship, commitment, devotion. The lyrics of the song even tell Christ's faithfulness: "Jesus loves me still today" and "Walking with me on my way." Jesus Loves Me - Will you let the Bible tell you so?

May your Valentine's Day be full of His grace and glory. May you have a heart full of love and laughter. May God's love fill your home and extend out to all those you love.

- Sujaya Robin

A Valentine from Jesus

I love you. You are mine.
Your name is written upon my heart.
Your prayers are precious to Me.
Your life is in My hands.
I am always with you.
I am nearer to you than your own heart.
I gave my life so that you might live forever with Me.
All I ask in return is your love.
Be My Valentine. ~ Jesus ~



Annan Thambi - நல்லா பேசுற கள்ள போதகர்

அண்	என்ன தம்பி, அப்செட்டா இருக்கிறமாதிரி இருக்கு. யாரும் ஏதாவது சொன்னாங்களா?
தம்பி	வெளி ஊர்ல இருந்து இங்கு பிரசங்கம் பண்ண வந்த, எனக்கு தெரிஞ்சு பிரசங்கியார் ஒருவர் எங்க வீட்டுல தங்கியிருக்காருண்ணே.
அண்	அட அதுக்குப் போய் ஏம்பா சோகமா இருக்க. சந்தோஷப்பட வேண்டிய விஷயம் தானே?
தம்பி	சந்தோஷமாதானண்ணே இருந்தேன், அவரு இப்படில்லாம் பேச ஆரம்பிக்கிறதுக்கு முன்னாடி
அண்	நீ சங்கடப்படும்படியா அப்படி என்னதாம்பா சொன்னாரு?
தம்பி	என்னுடைய சில பாவங்களை சுட்டிக்காட்டினாரு, அத கேட்டு என் மூடே ஸ்பாயிலாயிட்டுண்ணே. இவரு மத்த போதகர் மாதிரி இல்லண்ணே, கள்ள போதகரா இருப்பாரோன்னு தோணுது.
அண்	அவர் சொல்றதுல... ஏதாவது நீ செய்யாத காரியம் இருக்குதா தம்பி?
தம்பி	கரெக்டா நா செய்கிற காரியத்தைதான் சொன்னாரு. ஆனா... அதுக்குப்பதிலா ஆறுதலா ரெண்டு வார்த்தை பேசியிருந்தா எவ்வளவு சந்தோசமா இருந்திருக்கும்?
அண்	இப்படித்தான் சிலர் "சுய இச்சைகளுக்கேற்ற போதகர்களைத் தங்களுக்கு திரளாக சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு சத்தியத்திற்கு செவியை விலக்கி, கட்டுக்கதைகளுக்குச் சாய்ந்துபோகும்காலம் வரும்"ன்னு 2தீமோத்தேயு 4:3,4ல் பவுல் சொல்லியிருக்கிறாரே
தம்பி	ஆனா அதுக்காக இப்படி பாவத்தையெல்லாம் சுட்டிக்கட்டின்னா கஷ்டமாயிருக்குல்லண்ணே
அண்	2தீமோத்தேயு4:2ல் பவுல் தீமோத்தேயுவுக்கு "நீடிய சாந்தத்தோடும் உபதேசத்தோடும் கண்டனம்பண்ணி கடிந்துகொண்டு புத்திசொல்லு"ன்னுதானே சொல்றாரு? இப்படித்தான் 2.சாமுவேல் 12:13ல்ல நாத்தான் தாவீது செய்த பாவத்தை கண்டித்து உணரச் செய்தபோது தாவீது மனம் திரும்பினானே. அப்போ நாத்தான் கள்ள தீர்க்கதரிசின்னு சொல்றியா? நம்முடைய பாவத்துல இருந்து விடுதலை பெறுவதற்கு உதவாமல், நம்மை சமாதானப்படுத்தி ஆறுதல் சொல்றவுங்கதான் உண்மையிலேயே கள்ள போதகர்கள்.
தம்பி	ஆமாண்ணே, இப்பதான் புரிஞ்சுது. இருந்த என்னுடைய கவலையெல்லாம் போயிட்டுண்ணே.
அண்	ரொம்ப சந்தோஷம் தம்பி, கர்த்தருக்கு சித்தமானா பிறகு சந்திக்கலாம்.



- Joe Kingsly

இந்தக் கதையில் தவறிருந்தால் நான் திருத்திக்கொள்கிறேன். இல்லையெல், கதையின்படி நாம் திருத்திக்கொள்வோம்

DEEP DIVE

Retirement Planning 101 – By the Dishonest Servant

And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly

Luke 16: 8a [NASB]

It's one of those most puzzling verses in the Bible that in fact prompted such a series. It raises lot of questions than answers

- Can a dishonest steward be praised?
- At the outset, was the steward dishonest or incompetent?
- Why did the steward reduce one man's debt by 50% and another's by only 20%?
- Does the end justify the means?

Above all, why did Jesus even tell this story? What possible lesson could be drawn from it?

As we know, it is the story of a man who cheated his boss. He is caught, confronted and fired. But before he leaves, he makes some street smart moves, towards his retirement planning. And the boss, not Jesus, commends him, in the first half of verse 8.

It is very easy to derive wrong conclusions here. I'm reminded of a story involving certain researchers and a frog. The researchers yelled at the frog and the frog jumped. The researchers cut off the frog's legs and yelled again. This time the frog did not jump. The researchers were divided as to their conclusions: one

group claimed that amputating the legs of a frog makes it deaf, while the others concluded that the frog's ears were located in the legs.

And now back to our story, the parable ends there and Jesus' own explanation starts in the second half of verse 8. He makes a distinction between 'children of this world' and 'children of light'. In some ways, the children of this world are wiser than the children of light. Why? In the recent 2007 *Investor Research Study*, sponsored by AIG SunAmerica, 97% of Americans say that ensuring guaranteed income for life is one of their top 2 financial goals. Dishonest steward is no exception; he looked into the future, saw what was coming, and used his opportunities to insure a secure future. He's the poster child for the streetwise people, who are on constant alert and surviving by their wits.

And Jesus challenged his disciples to take cue from the dishonest steward and be smart about their own eternal retirement plan. On an average, people spend 25 years in retirement. Contrast that with 'eternal'; can anyone comprehend the vast expanses of 'eternal'?

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*All articles represent the views of
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*Submissions may be edited for
content and size*