

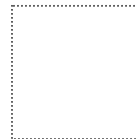


“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms”
I Pet 4:10
(NIV)

Cutting Ministry!, March 2008



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



Editor's Note

Recently the idea of attracting wild birds to my yard interested me very much so I started reading and collecting materials to attract the local birds which migrate back home after the harsh winter. Various theories have been put forth for figuring out what makes the birds return to the same place every year but it still remains a mystery to the scientists. Sun, stars and wind play an important role in their navigation but I think God has created them with these inherited capabilities for their survival. What uniqueness in each species!

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more

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than many sparrows. Whew! Just the depth of this thought makes me sigh with relief. Now when I look at the sparrows picking grains or hear a robin call it makes my heart sing with praises and I know that I am safe in His hands.

Yours in Christ
Preethi Samuel

Pastor's Message

What a weekend it had been for the followers of Jesus. All of their hopes and dreams seemed to vanish on Friday when Jesus died on the cross. According to Luke 24, they were in a state of shock and fear. Everything had happened so fast. Early on Sunday morning (Easter to you and I) the women went to the tomb of Jesus. They rushed back to the disciples with the news that Jesus had risen. Peter and John ran to the tomb and discovered that it was indeed empty. That very afternoon, two of the discouraged and frustrated believers, Cleopas and an unidentified companion, set out for their home in Emmaus. On the way they met a stranger. It was actually the risen Jesus, but they did not recognize Him.

I would like to mention three things that happen when a believer in Christ is discouraged and frustrated. First, discouragement and frustration can cause a believer to walk away from the fellowship of believers. As these two journeyed they were moving away from the fellowship of the other believers in Jerusalem. They had forgotten the truth found in Isaiah 43:2-3 which says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you



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will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" (NIV). When Christians allow themselves to become preoccupied with their dashed hopes and frustrated plans they often withdraw from the strength found in the fellowship with other believers.

Secondly, discouragement and frustration can cause us to live in the past. When Jesus joined the two disciples as they walked along they were in a deep discussion. Jesus asked them what they were discussing and why they were so sad. By asking this question Jesus allowed these disciples to express their deepest hurts, angers and frustrations. He knew their hearts and knew their needs. But he still asked them a leading question, and gave them opportunity to pour out their confusion and disappointment. He was Jesus the Nazarene. He was a prophet. He was mighty in deeds. He was mighty in words. He was loved by the common people. He was hated by the religious leadership. They summed up their condition very neatly when they said in verse twenty-one, "but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." Notice the use of the past tense, "we had hoped," which strongly implies that this was not relevant to the present or they would not have been so discouraged and distressed. The

Crossword No. 11

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

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 Dipped biblically as in bated zip (8)
- 2 Jesus in boat, see pal (6)
- 3 Bruised body part? unlike miraculous cure (4)
- 4 Dan ordinarily, before special sense (5)
- 7 Paul's target without a gelatine (7)
- 9 Israelite attitude off its neck (5)
- 11 Slew Goliath's brother in annal's eh? (7)
- 12 Late believer is muddy (7)
- 14 Miraculously strengthened this leg part (5)

Across

- 1 No forgiveness for these sheep and lamb (9)
- 5 Fourth and former part of hind (3)
- 6 A gubernatorial flyer (6)
- 8 Take these towels when invited (6)
- 10 Love is a tin pet (7)
- 13 Elijah comes before this Sabbath? (3,2,3,4)
- 15 Moses' eyes did not take a mid turn (3)
- 16 Living creatures appear in halves (5)
- 17 Lied to God as a Nina (7)

Congratulations!

Correct entries by
Hannah Daniel, Aurora, IL
Edith & Adeline Andrews,
Chennai
Kharun, Josh & Sangeetha
Samuel, Naperville, IL
Charles, Cynthia and Kids,
Hoffman Estates, IL

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Solution to Crossword No. 10

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

News Briefs Easter



It is true that Jesus told his disciples that they would not enter the kingdom of God unless they became like children, but was this part of the deal? It is exactly what it looks like. They are rummaging the trash for Easter eggs. It was another day of fun and learning for the kids, thanks to the Easter egg hunt.

Sunday school and Youth update



In less than two years the youth kids have matured from passive participants to active leaders. This summer, every other week, they will be leading the younger kids through worship, games and classes. They are even preparing their own lessons. Keep up the good work, leaders!

Kadhakaletchebam



Enjoy an evening of musical story telling performed by our very own musicians! Thaveedhu Isaikuzhu presents "A Missionary Story" on Saturday May 10th 2008 at 6:30 PM. Be prepared to be revived!

everything for me," she says. And 30 years later, it's still touching lives. I have always wondered how fans can stand in line for hours to buy tickets to a rock concert or a football game. It is because they love the band or the football team. I have also wondered about those folks who stood in line overnight to get Nintendo's Wii and Apple's iPhone? It is because they love gaming and technology so much.

Love makes sacrifice a privilege, service an honor, suffering a joy. The love which God has for us and has

placed within us – do we show this love to others and do we give this love back to God or to the elements of this world? I don't know about you, but I have struggled many times to focus on transferring GOD'S love instead of transferring MY love to people. I have to constantly remind myself that love that flows through me from God is the purest kind. I have to let THAT pure kind of love filter through me to reach others. Have we cleaned our filters lately?

- Sujaya Robin

saddest death of all is the death of hope. They had hoped but now the flame of hope was all but extinguished as made clear as they continued, "And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place."

And finally, discouragement and frustration can cause us to question God's care. We might have expected Jesus to respond by saying, "I understand." But in verse twenty-five He says, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have

spoken!" When He says they are slow to believe "all" that the prophets have spoken, it indicates that the disciples were selective. They believed part of the word of God, but not all. These disciples had been guilty of believing the word of God selectively, believing those things that fit in the neat little box that they had created for God. Heartbreak happens this way. We think God should do something based on our faulty knowledge of His word. He does not do it. We get discouraged and think God let us down and that He has disappointed us. The problem

திருமறையும் திருக்குறளும்

திருக்குறள் says,

“அறங்கூறான் அல்ல செயினும் ஒருவன்
புறங்கூறான் என்றல் இனிது” (குறள் #181)

It is more pleasing to avoid gossip that to preach or practice virtue (Christian Virtues are faith, hope, love, wisdom, justice, courage, integrity and perseverance)

திருமறை says,

கலாத்தியர் 5:22, 23 யின் படி நாம் ஆவியின் கனியை

உடையவர்களாகவும் இருக்கவேண்டும், அதே சமயத்தில் யாக்கோபு 1:26

யின் படி உங்களில் ஒருவன் தன் நாளை அடக்காமல், தன் இருதயத்தை

வன்சித்து, தன்னைத் தேவபத்தியுள்ளவனென்று எண்ணினால்

அவனுடைய தேவபத்தி வீணாயிருக்கும். கடவுள் நம்மிடம் இரண்டையும்

எதிர்பார்க்கிறார்

Kural gives more importance to gossip than virtue by saying that it is better to not gossip than to even preach or practice virtue. However Bible expects you to preach and practice Christian virtues like Faith, Hope, Love and also to get rid of gossip

- தேவப் பிரியன்

is not with God but with us. His words are not meant to harm or insult but to challenge our belief.

and provide all your needs according to His Riches in Glory. Amen.

- Pastor Godwin

What truth do you not believe? Is it that God cares for you? (1 Peter 5:7). "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" Is it that God provides for you! (Phil. 4:19) "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" Friends, we worship The Risen Lord and He is willing and able to give you Peace

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Submissions may be edited for content and size

Songs that Speak I love you Lord

A remote mobile home gleams faintly in the crisp autumn sunrise. Within that metal refuge in the high deserts of central Oregon, a young mother is having a quiet time with the Lord. Her toddler is still asleep. Her husband is a full time college student, and the couple is surviving on \$400 per month. They have no home church, no friends nearby, and she does not drive. Even the expense of a long distance phone call might leave them without milk or bread in weeks to come.

effort," she says.

I love You Lord and I lift my voice
To worship You O my soul, rejoice!

Intrigued and moved by these words, she remembers thinking, "maybe I should write that down." She stopped long enough to get a pen. When she came back, the last two phrases came just as easily:

Take joy, my King in what you hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in
Your ear.

Such is the backdrop of Laurie Klein's classic praise song, "Love You, Lord", written in 1974. During early mornings, Laurie would pull out her Bible and guitar and begin praying and singing songs. "That morning I was so empty," she says, recalling her time with the Lord. "I knew I didn't have anything to offer Him. I asked if He would like to hear me sing, if He would just give me something He would be in the mood to hear." Klein describes "I Love You, Lord", as a gift from God that emerged spontaneously: "I sang the first half and put the chords with it with no

Laurie's husband, Bill, recognized the simple beauty of the song and encouraged her to play it for a local pastor and some visiting musicians. Eventually the song surfaced at Jack Hayford's Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California. But its greatest exposure was on Maranatha Music's Praise 4 in 1980. It has since been translated into other languages. Today, Laurie's simple prayer has become one of the most popular praise songs of all time. "It changed

(Continued...)

Annan Thambi - மாயமற்ற அன்பு



தம்பி:	என்ன அண்ணை எப்போ வந்தீங்க? நீங்க வந்தத கவனிக்கலண்ணே?
அண்:	நீ செல்போன்ல யாருகிட்டயோ ஜாலியா சிரிச்சு சிரிச்சு பேசிக்கிட்டிருந்தியே, அப்போவே வந்துட்டேன். செல்போன்ல யாரு, உன் பிரண்டுதானே?
தம்பி:	என் பிரண்டுதான், ஆனா எப்பப்பாத்தாலும் எனக்கு போன் பண்ணி உயிர எடுக்குரண்ணே. அவன் டார்ச்சர் தா...ங்கமுடியல.
அண்:	ஆனா... நீ அவங்கிட்ட நல்லா சந்தோஷமாதானே பேசிக்கிட்டு இருந்தே?
தம்பி:	அதுவா... வேற என்னண்ணை பண்ணது, நமக்கு புடிக்காட்டாலும் சில சமயத்துல நல்லா பேசற மாதிரி நடக்கவேண்டியிருக்குல்லண்ணே.
அண்:	ஆனா இப்படி உள்ளே ஒண்ணு நினைச்சுக்கிட்டு வெளியே அன்பு காட்டுற மாதிரி நடக்கிறது தப்பில்லயா தம்பி?
தம்பி:	யாரையும் பகைச்சுக்கக்கூடாதுல்லண்ணே? 'கூடுமானால் உங்களாலானமட்டும் எல்லா மனுஷரோடும் சமாதானமாயிருங்கள்'ன்னு ரோமர் 12:18ல சொல்லியிருக்குல்லண்ணே.
அண்:	அது சரிதான், ஆனா அதே ரோமர் 12:9ல "உங்கள் அன்பு மாயமற்றதாயிருப்பதாக"ன்னும் சொல்லியிருக்குல்லப்பா? அப்போ அன்பு காட்டுற மாதிரி நடக்கக்கூடாதுன்னுதானே தேவன் சொல்றாரு.
தம்பி:	அண்ணை..., என் பிரண்டுட்ட போயி நீ ரொம்ப டார்ச்சர் பண்ணுன்னுட்டு சொல்ல முடியாதே. அவன் ரொம்ப பீல் பண்ணுவான்லண்ணே.
அண்:	ஆனா இப்படி நல்லா பேசற மாதிரி அக்ட் பண்ணுன்னீனா, தேவன் பீல் பண்ணுவாரே, பரவால்லையா? 1.பேதுரு 1:22ல "நீங்கள் மாயமற்ற சகோதர சிநேகமுள்ளவர்களாகுங்கள்"ன்னும் சொல்லியிருக்குல்லப்பா? அதனால... உன் பிரண்டு எப்படி பேசினாலும், மனசுல ஒண்ணும் தவறா நினைக்காம, முழுமனதோடு அன்பு காட்டணும். வெளில காட்டுற அன்புக்கும், நம்ம உள்ளுக்குள்ள வச்சிருக்கிற அன்புக்கும் ஒரு வித்தியாசம் இருக்கக்கூடாது, அதுதான் மாயமற்ற அன்பு.
தம்பி:	ஓ... வெளிப்படையா அன்பாயிருந்தாலே போதும்னு நினைச்சுக்கிட்டு இருந்தேண்ணே. ஆனா தேவன் நம்முடைய இருதயத்தின் சிந்தனையை அறிந்து நாம மாயமா அன்பு காட்டுறோமா இல்லயான்னு தெரிஞ்சுக்கிறார்னு இப்பதான் புரிஞ்சுது. மொதல்ல என் பிரண்ட கூப்படு அவன் தப்பா நெனச்சதுக்கு சாரி கேட்கப்போறேண்ணே.
அண்:	சாரி கேட்கப்போறீயா! வெரி குட், வெரி குட். ரொம்ப சந்தோஷம் தம்பி, சரி அப்புறம் சந்திக்கலாம்.
தம்பி:	சரி அப்புறம் பார்க்கலாண்ணே.

- Joe Kingsly

இந்தக் கதையில் தவறிருந்தால் நான் திருத்திக்கொள்கிறேன். இல்லையேல், கதையின்படி நாம் திருத்திக்கொள்வோம்