

*Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Mark 16:15

UECF

Celebrating



for His glory

NEW JERSEY, USA

www.uecf.net

Souvenir



WWW.UECF.NET

Saturday, Oct 28th & Sunday, Oct 29th 2017



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Vision

Our vision is to provide spiritual and cultural fellowship to the Indian Christians in the U.S.A., particularly in New Jersey. Praising and glorifying God by conducting regular Sunday Worship Services in an interdenominational environment. Preaching the word of God and exhorting all believers to lead their lives following the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Supporting the evangelism through the missions outreach, encouraging and assisting the ministries that are spreading the Gospel in India and around the world. Join hands with the similar congregations and promoting Indian music and other cultural activities by keeping up the Indian traditions. Serving the local community and help supporting those who are in need due to calamities such as floods, famine, fire and epidemics.





*“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

Rev. Dr. DAVID RAVINDER
Hon. Sr. Pastor.

Dear UECF Family and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am extremely delighted to bring you this word of greetings on the occasion of the 20th anniversary celebrations of UECF. The theme of our anniversary is “REJOICE”. In his first letter to the Thessalonians in chapter 5: 16-17, Paul reminds the believers to do three things. He tells them to: 1. REJOICE always, 2. PRAY continually, and 3. GIVE THANKS in all circumstances. God has done wondrous things in our midst in these past twenty years, and we indeed have much to rejoice! We also have much to pray for. Prayer is that spiritual discipline that puts us in touch with the power of God. Finally let us resolve as we move into the next phase of our life together, to give thanks to God for everything. Let us resolve to fulfil God’s will in Christ Jesus.

You will see a lot of pictures in this Souvenir, read many accounts of how God has touched the lives of individuals and families. God has used UECF as a powerful instrument in reaching people not only in the central NJ area but surrounding counties and States. There is a constant stream of people who visit UECF who participate in its pulpit ministry, music ministry, and outreach programs. We hear their testimonies and feel encouraged and blessed. The pages of this Souvenir reflect how God is leading and using us to fulfil our calling to provide spiritual foundation and cultural expression to immigrant families, especially to the children. One of the greatest joys of a Pastor is to see the little children growing up in the faith, nurtured by the love of God’s people to become vital witnesses for Jesus Christ as they get older and move into Colleges and careers. This past year we have witnessed six High School graduates share their ‘faith journey’ before the congregation just before leaving home for College studies. This is precisely one of the principles in forming UECF 20 years ago by the founding families who saw the need for ‘Faith Formation’ of children and young people.

I am constantly encouraged by the faithfulness of many who give of their time, talents and resources to sustain, strengthen and enhance UECF on a day to day basis. I see the evidence and manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people who do so much work and often behind the scenes with no expectation of recognition or reward. I wish to take this opportunity to recognize these individuals and families and express my personal gratitude and thanksgiving to God. As President, Joshua Pilli has continued to work hard to put UECF on the world map

through his personal skills and untiring efforts. Most people who have never attended our worship do know of the vital work we do through the website which is second to none in reaching the global community with inspiring messages, powerful testimonies, dynamic music/songs and other avenues. Our children and youth have also been able to present their gifts and talents of various art forms through this medium. Additionally, the leadership Team including, Vice-President, Sudhakar Chilaka, Secretary, Joshua Shaik, Treasurer, Anand Devi devote their time to carry out the work. The Board of Trustees and the Pastorate Committee and a host of volunteers make it happen every week.

Once again, this year, the children have excelled in their JBQ performances. I extend my congratulations to all the teams who participated this year. I am so very proud of their achievements and thank the coordinators, Prafulla and Sunil Vuppula, the parents and volunteers. The Sunday School and Youth Ministry have also showed a very strong growth in recent years. Thanks to all the teachers and volunteers, and specially Emily Myla and Vivek Sandela and Clarence Ponnappalli, (coordinators), for their invaluable leadership in these vital areas of ministry. As the coordinator of Missions, Clarence has done a wonderful job of overseeing the selection and distribution of dedicated mission funds on a timely manner.

Sudhakar Chilaka, along with Josiah Srigiri, Yuko, and Suneela Ponapalli have provided strong leadership of our Music ministry. Thanks to their dedicated efforts and to the UECF Choir that provides inspiring praise and worship every Sunday. I also applaud the work of the outreach team to Care One facility. The Men's and Women's Bible Studies are continued as well as the Men's and Women's Fellowship gatherings. Thanks to Kavitha Shaik who takes meticulous care in planning and hosting special events/celebrations. The Couples Fellowship is also going strong after twenty years of ministering to young married couples, which was also started the same year as UECF. Thanks to Asha Dova who continues to coordinate the work of this group which meets on the 4th Saturday of every month in different homes. In recent years special Video Studies have been presented produced by Ray Vander Laan. These popular studies have been enlightening and educational. The Carol rounds ministry has been quite successful during the advent season. Christmas and Easter services have been well attended.

I want to praise God and thank all the Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Bible Teachers who have ministered from the pulpit over the past twenty years. They are too many to thank individually. UECF has been blessed in so many wonderful ways, that it is difficult to name all of them. We can never forget the founding families' vision and commitment to make UECF what it is today. God has honored their work. In particular I want to mention Bro. Alfred Bhaskar who is now with the Lord.

As I conclude this piece, I want to say that God has been good and faithful in so many ways. We will look to God's guidance in the years ahead to fulfil His will, plan and mission.

Shalom!



Dear UECF Family,

Greetings to you all in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is time again to rejoice and celebrate God's goodness and mercy on UECF for the last 20 years. I thank and praise God for enabling me to serve Him over a decade so far in the two decades of UECF's existence. I praise God for His faithfulness and abundant grace which made what UECF is today.

I believe our regular worship services and messages shared by Pastors and Guest Preachers are uplifting and encouraging to many here and all over the world. Certainly, Bible studies and Lenten devotions helped enriching with Word of God. Our visits to Old Age Home brought hope and cheers to the elderly people. Sunday School activities helped the children to walk in the ways of God. Over the years, Sunday Schoolers transformed into wonderful Youth and now some of the Youth turned into fine married couples. It is such a blessing to see the change in the lives of the people.

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary, a Souvenir is being released with congratulatory letters from Servants of God and other eminent people. Spandana Offset Printers have done a great job in putting together articles and photos within a short period of time and I thank all those who helped in bringing out this memorable souvenir.

I thank Pastors, Executive Body and all the members for making this possible to celebrate UECF's 20th Anniversary which coincides with the 500th Anniversary of Reformation Day.

As the psalmist reminds, let us rejoice in the Lord and be glad! (Psalm 32:11)

Yours in His service,

Joshua (Phani) Pilli

President



"For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" Romans 5:10

The Calvary Love of Jesus Ministries

The Hope of Christ in this suffering world

Rev. Dr. Joe Madhu
Rev. Dr. Jessie Veena
Founders & Directors

Email: Office@cljm.org
Website: www.calvaryloveofjesus.org

Dear beloved UECF,

Acts 18:9 "One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking; do not be silent..."

These are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord speaks the same to the church even in this modern era. Not to be silent. When the Lord bestows upon the church His gift of the Holy Spirit, He expects it to be useful for Him.

Like the good and faithful servant you worked hard to be useful in His hands. These twenty years you have been an unceasing voice for the Lord. A tool which never is silent. Continue the good work.

The appreciation "...well done good and faithful servant.." is indeed sweet to listen. However, it is the joy in the Saviour's heart which is the driving force for the Saint and the Church.

God be with you as you strive hard for him.

Brother Joshua Pilli, please continue the good work. May the UECF and its leadership continue to be an honour for the Lord.



With prayers and blessings to you
Your fellow Servants in His Vineyard
Brother and Sister in Christ

Rev. Dr. Madhu Joe & Rev. Dr. Jessie Veena Payarda
Calvary Love of Jesus Ministries

46/4, Seeyalam St, Villivakkam, Chennai - 600049,
TN, India. Ph: 044 26175639
Website : www.calvaryloveofjesus.org
Email : prayer@cljm.org





First United Methodist Church

1 East Broad Street

Westfield, New Jersey 07090-2157

(908) 233-4211

www.fumcwestfield.org



Dear Friends at UECF,

On behalf of all the members of First United Methodist Church, Westfield, I extend my heartfelt and warmest congratulations to you on the joyful occasion of your 20th anniversary as a congregation.

It has been both a great privilege and a source of pride to have been part of your ministry these last years as you have made FUMC your home for worship, study, celebration, and fellowship. We feel connected with you as sisters and brothers in Christ, and have appreciated and learned from your ministries. We are grateful to be able to call you friends.

We have every confidence that the members of UECF will continue to be a blessing to us, to each other, to the broader community, and to the wider world as you seek to follow God's will for your life together.

With all joy and hope in believing, I send love and every good wish, and remain

Faithfully yours,

David C. Mertz, pastor



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. BOX 001
TRENTON
08625
(609) 292-6000

CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

September 1, 2017



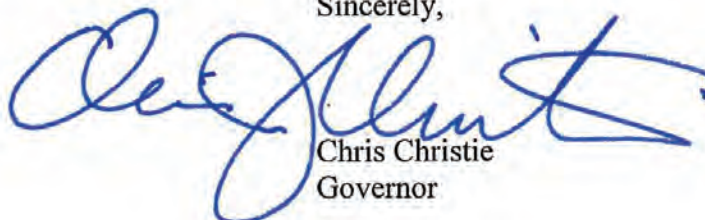
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the State of New Jersey, I am pleased to extend my warm congratulations to the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Since its foundation, the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church has been an outstanding example of the positive impact of spiritual outreach. I understand that the UECF not only offers many programs, such as Bible studies and Sunday school for youth, but also sponsors outreach to its local and global communities. These programs champion causes that are crucial to its members and to the well-being of the community, and highlight the important leadership that our churches provide throughout the Garden State. As Governor, I commend the Church's leadership and all those involved in its ministries for their unwavering commitment to their faith and community, and I applaud those who will carry on these endeavors into the future.

Again, congratulations on this milestone and best wishes for many more years of success.

Sincerely,



Chris Christie
Governor





SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ
UNITED STATES SENATE
NEW JERSEY



United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
1 East Broad Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

Dear Friends,

Please accept my warmest wishes as you gather to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF).

UECF ministers to the spiritual needs within the congregation, the community and the world at large. They meet every Sunday evening at 4:30 PM for an inspiring Praise and Worship Service and sermons based on solid biblical teachings with Holy Communion. UECF hosts numerous programs including adult Bible studies, and Sunday school for children and youth. Along with Sunday meetings and the programs offered at UECF they do outreach work including monthly old age home visits, gospel tract distribution and supporting various missions in India and other countries.

As your United States Senator, I wish you continued blessings, happiness, and success in the many years to come. Best wishes for a successful and memorable event.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



CORY A. BOOKER
NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

October 28, 2017

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
130 Ferris Place
Westfield, New Jersey 07090



Dear Friends,

It is an honor to send my warmest greetings as you gather to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship.

Since its founding in 1997, the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship has been guided by the conviction that we must take care of each other. I am grateful to the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship for providing a place of spiritual enrichment for countless individuals in New Jersey through your worship services and ministries.

Again, congratulations, and best wishes for a memorable 20th anniversary celebration.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Cory A. Booker, written in a cursive style.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

FRANK PALLONE, JR
6TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515 - 3006

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(732) 249-8892
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:
(888) 423-1140
pallone.house.gov

September 6, 2017

To,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
1 East Broad Street
Westfield, NJ 07090



Dear Friends:

Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship.

This is truly a momentous occasion for celebration.

For 20 years, United Evangelical Christian Fellowship has continued to enrich the lives of its congregants through its spiritual teachings and social activities. Your commitment to faith and service to the community at home and abroad is admirable.

Once again, I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes as you mark the 20th anniversary of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." in a cursive script.

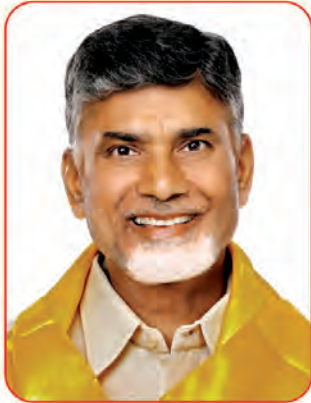
FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

NARA CHANDRABABU NAIDU



CHIEF MINISTER
ANDHRA PRADESH

AMARAVATI



To
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
1 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ - 07090

It gives me great pleasure in extending my warm wishes and congratulations to all the members of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship as you celebrate 20th Anniversary.

UECF, located in central New Jersey has been serving the spiritual needs of Indian diaspora and particularly Telugu Christians for the last two decades. Your commitment in maintaining the traditions, language and cultural heritage through your worship services is commendable.

Through the teachings of Christ's love, hope and peace, UECF has touched the lives of many people not only in USA but also in India and around the world. Your dedication in serving the local communities and meeting their physical and spiritual needs is much appreciated.

On reaching this important mile stone, I applaud the diligent efforts of the leadership in carrying out UECF's vision and mission. My best wishes to you as you continue to serve the local communities and the world at large by your activities and programs in the coming years.

Yours sincerely

(N.CHANDRABABU NAIDU)



K.CHANDRASEKHAR RAO



HYDERABAD

Chief Minister
Telangana



To,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
1 East Broad St,
Westfield, NJ 07090,
USA

Please accept my hearty congratulations on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary celebrations of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF). It is a great achievement and a joyous moment for all of the Indian Christian community in New Jersey.

The leadership and outreach provided by your church to New Jersey and to neighboring states is a shining example of helping one another through love and dedication. With programs that champion causes that are critical to the testimony and to its tireless efforts to minister those in need. It is my hope that this work will inspire many others in the years to come.

Again, congratulations on the milestone and best wishes for the celebrations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Chandra".

Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhara Rao
Chief Minister of Telangana
Telangana State

Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY,

President, YSR Congress Party,
Leader of Opposition,
A.P. Legislative Assembly,
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh



Plot No.3 Huda Heights,
Lotus Pond Residency, Banjara Hills,
Road No.12, Hyderabad -34,
Ph : 040 - 23606787
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Date : 10-10-2017

MESSAGE

I want to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF). This is truly a significant milestone for the church and a very proud moment for the Telugu Christian Community in Central New Jersey.

I am excited to learn about UECF's outreach and its appeal to the Indian diaspora in New Jersey area bringing together various Christian denominations under one roof. The diversity of programs enriches the spiritual values while continuing to further spread the Indian cultural heritage and language. I salute the congregation and commend you all for the dedication as you continue to share your faith and commitment to the local communities.

Once again, congratulations on this great achievement and wishing you all a memorable and successful event.

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship.
1 East Board St., Westfield, NJ-07090.
United States of America

(Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy)

YSRCLP Office, A.P. Legislative Assembly, Hyderabad - 04, Ph : 040 - 23246666



PRATHIPATI PULLA RAO

Minister for Price Monitoring
Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supplies
Government of Andhra Pradesh



Office :
Room No. 130-A,
4th Block,
AP Secretariat,
Velagapudi,
Amaravathi
Ph : 0863 - 2444754

To,
Joshua (Phani) Pilli,
President,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship.
1 East Board Street, Westfield, NJ-07090.



I am delighted to know that United Evangelical Christian Fellowship has completed 20 years of service and I take this opportunity to congratulate the leaders and the members of UECF as you celebrate the 20th Anniversary.

Founded by the Telugu Community that hailed from Andhra Pradesh, UECF has been a spiritual home for many in New Jersey and neighboring states in the USA. For the last 20 years, UECF has been inculcating spiritual and moral values along with cultural heritage. Over the years, UECF has become a bridge between Indian and American traditions. People around the world have been spiritually benefited by the messages and telugu Christian songs posted on your website.

Apart from your spiritual and charitable services, your encouragement and support given to the visitors from India, especially from Telugu region is very much appreciated.

I hope and wish that you will continue to do the good work for God and humanity with a greater commitment in the years to come.

Yours Sincerely



(Prathipati Pulla Rao)



To,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
1 East Broad St,
Westfield, NJ 07090,
United States of America

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF) as you all gather to celebrate the 20th Anniversary. Congratulations on reaching this exciting milestone.

Over the next month, your congregation has the exciting opportunity to reflect on and rejoice about all the accomplishments achieved over the years and the services catered to the local communities. An exciting bright future is built on twenty years of legacy.

I applaud UECF church for its many years of service and fellowship. Your congregation is a shining example of what it means to love one another and cater to those in need. The longevity of this establishment is a testament to the dedicated service of the congregation and to all those who benefit from its ministries.

Again, congratulations, and please accept my best wishes for a memorable time of celebration and joyful moments.

Sincerely,

Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao

Minister of Information Technology & MAUD

Govt. of Telangana

D.RAJESHWAR RAO

MLC

Member Telangana legislative Council



Plot No. 125, Vahini Nagar,
Street No. 3, Sikh Road,
Sikh Village, Secunderabad.
Telangana
Ph : 040 - 24898620
Cell : 9948806644

Hyderrabad,
Date : 06-10-2017.

From
Rajeswara Rao,
Christian M.L.C.,

To,
Sri Joshua (Phani) Pilli,
President,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship.
1 East Board Street, Westfield, NJ-07090.

Dear Sir,
Greetings in the name of the lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It gives me great joy and immense pleasure to know that UECF is celebrating its 20th glorious Church Anniversary. I praise God for the Church has been a "Role Model" in several of the Ministerial Spheres. Your commitment for Evangelisation, your concern for soul winning and your continuation of nourishing Christian Community and the parishioners is Unique and can be compared to none.

I wish you all good success for coming years. We pray and wish God's blessings upon the UECF at New Jercy and all those who are connected with it. May God bless abundantly to be a source of inspiration and encouragement even into future.

May you have a blessed year of celebration and thanks giving.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

[RAJESWARA RAO]
M.L.C.,
TELANGANA STATE.

PHILIP C. TOCHER

Anglo-Indian Nominated MLA
Government of Andhra Pradesh



To
UECF Church
1 East Broad St
Westfield, NJ/07090

Greetings to you all in our Lord's precious name!

I am so glad to know that United Evangelical Christian Fellowship is celebrating 20th anniversary. For the last twenty years, UECF has proven to be an exemplary congregation in the body of Christ. Your commitment for the evangelism, soul winning and helping the poor and needy in US and in India is greatly appreciated.

Your encouragement to the visitors from India is commendable. As the scripture reminds, "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it". - Hebrews 13:1. "I thank God for His grace and mercy on UECF all through these twenty years while you take care of the spiritual welfare of our people living in this region. I praise God for using UECF as a channel of both Indian and American cultures. The UECF web site contains so much of spiritual material that is useful to strengthening the body of Christ.

My heartfelt congratulations to all UECF members on this significant milestone. May the Lord continue to add his richest blessings to your hard work! May the Lord continue to guide and lead UECF in the expansion of the God's kingdom!!

Your brother in Christ,

PHILIP C. TOCHER

M. STEPHEN RAVEENDRA, IPS.,
Inspector General of Police,
West Zone Hyderabad.



Phs. Off. : 040-23233657
Fax : 040-23233658
Cell : 94947 70303

Date: 17-10-2017.

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
1 East Broad St,
Westfield, NJ 07090,
United States of America

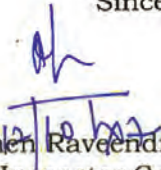


It gives me great pleasure to send my warmest greetings to United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF) congregation as you gather to celebrate the 20th Anniversary. Congratulations on reaching this exciting milestone.

Since its founding, UCEF has been blessed with a vibrant and enthusiastic congregation, inspirational leaders and a host of tremendous achievements over the past 20 years. UECF has accommodated the needs of a growing and changing membership, served those in need and supported mission work. I commend your commitment of unifying Telugu Christian community under the guiding principles of faith, hope and love.

Again, please accept my congratulations on this momentous occasion. Keep up the outstanding work and best wishes to the leadership and congregation for another successful event. May you find abounding success and happiness as you spread God's word

Sincerely,


Stephen Raveendra Muthyala, IPS.,
Inspector General of Police,
Hyderabad Region, (West Zone)
Govt. of Telangana



ఉత్తర అమెరికా తెలుగు సంఘము

Telugu Association of North America

A501(c)(3) Certified Nonprofit Organization – Tax ID: 36-3060732

"To identify and address social, cultural and educational NEEDS of North America Telugu Community in particular and Telugu people in general"
2633 Taft Rd, MI-48374 – info@tana.org



President

Satish Vemana
(703) 731-8367
president@tana.org

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evp@tana.org

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Chairperson, TANA Foundation

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Cultural Services

Rajesh Adusumilli
(732) 406-6980

Women Services

Laxmi Devineni
732-822-2493

Councilor At Large

Vinoz Chanamolu
(630) 608-0003

10/13/2017

To

Joshua (Phani)Pilli

President

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
New Jersey



Dear Friends at UECF,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you all at United Evangelical Christian Fellowship on the 20th Anniversary. This is truly a significant milestone in the life of a church consisting of Telugu people in New Jersey and other states in the USA.

For the last 20 years, UECF has been enlightening people with the spiritual teachings, and serving the local communities with a number of activities. Your commitment to your faith especially worshipping in Telugu and the dedication with which you serve the communities is commendable.

It is always our pleasure joining the Telugu Christians for Christmas celebrations and other important occasions and we look forward to do much more together in future.

Again, Congratulations and best wishes as you celebrate 20 years of remarkable service. We wish you success as you continue to serve people with great enthusiasm.

Thank You,

Satish Vemana

President – Telugu Association of North America.

president@tana.org (703)-731-8367





To

Bro. Phani Pilli,
President,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
New Jersey, USA

7th October, 2017

Dear Bro. Phani,

Greetings to you from Aradana TV in the most precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We are pleased to know that UECF has completed 20 years of Church Ministry amongst our Telugu people in New Jersey. Aradana TV along with our family congratulate you and your entire congregation for unitedly serving the Lord and winning souls for His Kingdom.

As co-labourers in His ministry, our hearts are full of gratitude to see the growth and impact of your Church ministry in and around New Jersey. We hope and pray that our Lord will continue to use UECF leadership even more mightily in the years to come.

We assure you of our continued prayers and support to your wonderful ministry.

In His Service,

Paul Devapriyam Pulla
Chairman & Managing Director

ARADANA BROADCASTING INTERNATIONAL PVT., LTD.

5, 205, Akbar Road, Near Sikh Village, Secunderabad - 500 009, Telangana, India

Telefax + 91 40 27893720, Cell : +919000774880, +919000774890, E-mail: aradanatv@gmail.com, website: www.aradanatv.com



THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH OF GOD

(Branch of Church of God International, Cleveland, TN, U.S.A – Branch N0: 14109)



ST. JAMES CHAPEL
581 VALLEY ROAD
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ 07043

TELEPHONE: (973) 893-5947
MAIL: pastor.newcovenant@gmail.com

October 01, 2017

**“The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it”
(Ps. 68:11).**

Dearly beloved Members of UECF,

Greetings in the loving Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Grace from above, guidance from the ministry, able administration by your leadership team and co-operation from the members is the testimony of these fruitful 20 years. Congratulations! The goodness of God has done exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

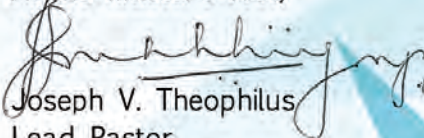
Remember the wonderful beginnings of UECF. “For who hath despised the day of small things?” (Zach. 4:10). May you recall the labour of love of all those who laboured in the formative years and give praise to the Lord.

Over these 20 years, the Lord has caused you to grow in grace, and to increase and abound in ministry. Your music and worship team, Children & Youth ministry, Old-age Home outreach, weekly Bible studies, Men’s and Ladies fellowship, support given to various ministerial groups etc., to mention a few, are commendable. Keep up your good works. Your reward shall be at the return of our Heavenly Bridegroom!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Wishing you God-speed for your future.

At the Master’s feet,


Joseph V. Theophilus
Lead Pastor.





INDIA PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD NEW JERSEY INC.

238 North 14th Street, Kenilworth, NJ - 07033
954-600-6062

Greetings

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So, then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

I want to congratulate UECF and its leadership for reaching a milestone of 20 years. As we celebrate together the work of God in this ministry, I too am grateful and thankful to God for using me also in building of this ministry for the past two plus years. When I was with you, I was able to see the hunger and thirst that you have for serving our Lord Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God.



God has placed you as a beacon of light to shine forth the glory of God amongst the lost souls of New Jersey and to stand firm in the word of God by encouraging and strengthening one another. The love for worship and the word of God is the reason why this lamp is shining brighter than many other ministries. Also, your passion to go to the old folks in the old age homes is a great ministry that you have undertaken.

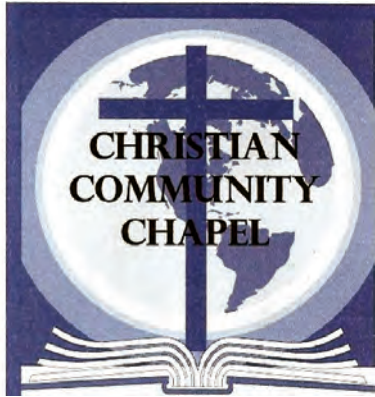
I thank God for UECF and pray that the Almighty God will continue to pour the Spirit of God abundantly into this ministry to enlighten the next generation, how to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congratulations and God Bless you all.

PASTOR STANLEY JOSEPH

Senior Pastor

IPC Church of God, Kenilworth, NJ.



Dear Church Family of UECF:

October 6, 2017

Time does pass quickly. Twenty years and going stronger than ever!

I will always remember my 7 years of ministry as one of the four ministers who shared each month. You were always loving, considerate and wonderful examples of what Christians are called to be. I so much appreciated your labor of love and patience with me.

Like any church, there will be times of testing. As a pastor for 37 years, I have experienced anything all good families go through. UECF has weathered the storms and the love of Christ prevails!

You have been the "Ellis Island" for many immigrants from India and elsewhere. You have been the source of love and assistance that newcomers to America so much need. Praise God for UECF and may you be faithful to finish the course for many more years to come until our Lord Jesus returns. Give my love to all!

Stephan P. Nash, pastor

Christian Community Chapel

908-229-7005

pastorstevenash@gmail.com





Dear UECF Leaders and Members,

Grace and peace to each one of you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Naomi, Neel and I praise God for you, your faith and its expression in service to fellow human beings!

We Thank the Lord for you, and remember fondly the many ways you cared for us and invested in our journey, which at times took the most unthinkable turns, through it all you have blessed us and we remain grateful.

As you celebrate, this unique milestone, the presence and witness of your church, we rejoice with you and Bless you, encouraging each one of you to remember the sacrifices of your forebears, explore a deeper, meaningful, closer relationship with the Lord Jesus, and to each other. Worship him more candidly and truthfully, and embark on a new mission in a changing world by seeking the will of God both personally and as a community and be willing to execute it with a passion that minimizes differences, and enhances common faith, one Lord Jesus Christ.

We continue to hold dear each one of you, your families, your ministries and your faith in our prayers!

The Lord Bless you and make you the blessings he has created you to be.

Peace,

Naomi, Neel and Rev. Davis.

LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

401 Erial Road • Blackwood, NJ • 08012



Rev. Ebenezer Mallepalle, Pastor

Church : 856-227-2209

October 9, 2017

Congratulations and God's Blessings, UECF, on completing twenty years of ministry in Central Jersey!

Please remember that the Lord is good to His people and that His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100:5). Therefore abide in Him and let His Word abide in you (John 15:7).

And God bless you as you make disciples who uphold, declare, teach and live the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27)!

In His Service,

Pastor Ebenezer Mallepalle

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church • P.O. Box 186 • Blackwood, NJ • 08012
<https://lmlchurch.net/>





"The house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent of fame and of glory throughout all Countries" - 1 Chronicles 22:5

TELUGU CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION - KUWAIT NATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Post Box - 80, Safat, 13001, Safat Kuwait, Tel/Fax : (965) 25668216. www.teckuwait.com



అభినందనలు

యునైటెడ్ ఇవాంజలికల్ క్రిస్టియన్ ఫెలోషిప్ చర్చి 20వ వార్షికోత్సవ సంబంధములు జరుపుకొను శుభసమయము యొక్క సువార్త విని ప్రభువునందు ఎంతో ఆనందించుచు గత ఇరువది వత్సరములు తన కృపలో నడిపించిన పరిశుద్ధాత్మ దేవుడు ప్రభువు రాక వరకు తనకు సాక్షులుగా ఉండుటకు తన కృపా వరములతో నింపి ఫలించవలయునని నా ప్రార్థన.

20వ వార్షికోత్సవ సందర్భములో యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. నాయకత్వము రెవ. డా॥ డేవిడ్ రవీందర్ (సీనియర్ పాస్టర్), సహో॥ జాషువ పిల్లి (అధ్యక్షులు), సహో॥ సమూయేలు చిలక (వైస్ ప్రెసిడెంట్), సహో॥ జాషువ షేక్ (కార్యదర్శి), ఆనంద్ దేవి (కోశాధికారి) గార్లకు మరియు సంఘ సభ్యులందరికి నా పక్షము నుండియు, తెలుగు క్రైస్తవ సంఘము - కువైట్ నుండియు మరియు గ్లోబల్ తెలుగు క్రిస్టియన్ మినిస్ట్రీస్ (జి.టి.సి.యం.) నుండి శుభాభివందనములు తెలియజేయుచున్నాను. ఈ శుభసమయమందు ప్రభువు చెప్పిన మాట జ్ఞాపకము చేయుచున్నాను. యోహాను 15:3 "ద్రాక్షవల్లిని నేను తీగలు మీరు ఎవడు నాయందు నిలిచియుండునో వాడు బహుగా ఫలించును, నాకు వేరుగా ఉండి మీరేమి చేయలేరు".

దేవుడు మనలను ఏ స్థలములో ఉంచినాడో అక్కడ మనము సువార్తికులము (మిషనరీస్) అని గుర్తించినవారమై ప్రపంచ సువార్తికరణకు తెలుగు వారమైన మనము మన వంతు జరిగించుటకు ఒకరిపైన ఒకరము ఆనుకొని, ఒకరిని ఒకరము పురిగొలుపుకొనుటకు పరిశుద్ధాత్మ సహాయము చేయునుగాక. ఆమెన్.

అపొ॥ డా॥ వివింగ్స్టన్ గడ్డె

వ్యవస్థాపకులు : తెలుగు క్రైస్తవ సంఘము - కువైట్
వ్యవస్థాపకులు, అధ్యక్షులు : గ్లోబల్ తెలుగు క్రిస్టియన్ మినిస్ట్రీస్



TELUGU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF NEW JERSEY

Established – 1979. A New Jersey non-profit Entity – ID 0400-1345-89)

5 Strawberry Hill Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876

973- 743-8142 / 201-532-6082 (m)

dchigurupati@gmail.com

ELDERS: Dr. David Chigurupati MD, Late Mr. Kruparao Mattegunta, Dr. Yesudas Thadepalli Ph.D.

Dear leaders and members of UECF: Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and hearty congratulations for completing 20 years of ministry for God's glory and edification of the members and visitors. It is a significant milestone ordained by God. You can look back with satisfaction and gratitude and thank God for His faithfulness to this ministry. Again all glory, honor and praise be to Him who guided the leaders and the members these 20 years. We have a faithful God. "Great is His faithfulness" Lamentations 3:23. "Faithful is He that calls you who also will do it" 1 Thessalonians 5:24.



Many God's servants are encouraged and supported by you and the fruit of their labors can be measured to a degree on Earth but the full extent of it only in Eternity. Members and visitors are constantly edified by your ministry. By doing this, you are obeying one of Jesus' very important instructions and that is laying up your treasures in Heaven "where neither moth nor rust does corrupt and thieves do not break through to steal" Matthew 6:20. Keep doing it and your Heavenly bank accounts will be overflowing. Through your website not only Telugu Christians but other language speaking Indian Christians and even non-Indian Christians and seekers of truth are benefited spiritually.

Thank God for your Nursing Home, Tracts distribution, Passion play ministries and special congratulations to your kids and their teachers who were winners at one time and Runners-up at another time in the Junior Bible Quiz NJ statewide competition organized by the Assemblies of God Church. They also won awards in the Kids for Christ Bible quiz competitions organized locally.

In closing I want all of us to pay heed to Hebrews 10:23-25 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering for He is faithful that promised and let us consider one another to PROVOKE unto LOVE and GOOD WORKS not FORSAKING the ASSEMBLING of OURSELVES TOGETHER as the manner of some is but EXHORTING one another and so much the more as ye see the day approaching (RAPTURE). I praise God for your ministry. Keep up the good work. Our prayers are with you.

On behalf of TCF NJ, RC TCF, JC TCF & FBC,

*"Go ye into all the world, and
preach Gospel to every creature" - Mark 16:15*

Dr. David Chigurupati





UNITED TELUGU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF VIRGINIA

43115 Waxpool Road, Ashburn, VA 20148
703-343-5310 | www.UTCFVA.org



Dear Brothers and Sisters at UECF,

We rejoice with you and join you in thanking and praising God for His goodness and faithfulness to UECF over the last two decades. 20th Anniversary is certainly a time to look back and again rejoice in the Lord for His grace and mercy. We are glad to know that the theme for the 20th Anniversary celebration is aptly chosen as 'Rejoice' which is taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:16.

As we know, UECF had its humble beginnings with an intention of serving the spiritual needs of those residing in central New Jersey. Over the years, God's plan and purpose for UECF is evident as He multiplied His blessings on UECF beyond measure!

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." - Ephesians 3:20

We are truly blessed by UECF and so are many around the world. Surely, UECF has become a platform for many servants of God including Evangelists, Missionaries, Bishops and Gospel singers. It has been a mutual blessing for everyone.

Apparently, UECF has been one of God's chosen vessels in touching and transforming the lives of many either in person or remotely through the web ministry. Our prayer is that God will continue to bestow His choicest blessings upon UECF so that it will in turn be a blessing to many across the globe.

On this 20th Anniversary, we congratulate the UECF leadership and all the team members who are laboring much for His glory!

In His grace,

Syam Pilli

United Telugu Christian Fellowship (Inc)., NY

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity”

Psalms 133:1

Celebrating 25Years in His Service



President:

William Singavarapu

To,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
1East Broad Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Warm Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Executive Board:

Devanivas J Gandham

It gives us immense pleasure to greet and congratulate you all on the 20th Anniversary of UNITED EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. God has richly blessed your ministry, planting its seed in the beginning, nurturing the vision and blessing it abundantly as He heard your earnest prayers and honored your efforts. We always admired how theologically and professionally UECF execute the ministry entrusted to you.

Prem K Chakravarthy

We praise God for UECF, your praise and worship is simply and heart touching and soul lifting. We congratulate and honor you for the wonderful resource found in uecf.net, which is premier Indian Christian Fellowship site where Sermons, testimonies, and songs can be heard and enjoyed freely numerous languages and dialects. UECF website is the best website entire globe since two decades. The entire credit goes to Bro. Joshua Pilli, his dedication, time & efforts. Its reaching millions of Indian people entire the globe.

Joseph D Gaddam

We at United Telugu Christian Fellowship NY praise God for the work UECF has done over the past 20 years and we hope and pray that God would continue to use your ministry mightily for His glory. We look forward to working with you for many years to come by God's grace and for His glory alone.

Sam S Pagadala

Our warmest greetings and best wishes to Bro. Joshua Pilli, Bro. Samuel S Chilaka & entire UECF team as you celebrate and proceed into the future to attempt greater things for Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless abundantly UECF.

In His Task,

U T C F N Y Committee,
New York.

110-18, 63rd Road, Forest Hills, New York-11375, USA

☎ 718-463-UTCF - ✉ info@utcfny.org 🌐 www.utcfny.org

United Telugu Christian Fellowship (Inc)., NY is a legally registered non profit organization in the United States of America.





Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says - James 1:22 (Niv)

Trinity Telugu Christian Association USA, Inc. (TTCA)

Please visit our website : www.ttcausa.org

To,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church,
1 East Broad St,
Westfield, NJ-07090.

Dear UECF Church,

Trinity Telugu Christian Association, Norwalk, Connecticut congratulates you as you celebrate 20 years of God's grace upon you. We pray for God's abundant Blessings upon this ministry and everyone involved. May the Lord continually strengthen you as you continue to do His will in the years to come.

Sincerely
TTCA

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15

HARTFORD TELUGU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

[Meeting Place] Glastonbury Community Church,

113 Stancliff Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033

www.hartfordtcf.com hhtcf@hartfordtcf.com

October 3rd, 2017

Dear UECF members,

We are glad to know that UECF is celebrating its 20th anniversary in God's work. We thank and praise God for your faithfulness in serving Him through many facets you have. We will continue to pray that God would use you mightily in the coming years to spread the good news of Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you all and congratulations!

Yours in His ministry together,

The HTCF and its members

Established: November 2007
44 Somerset Drive, Windsor, CT 06095





Telugu Christian Church - New York

43-12, 46th Street, Sunnyside, New York, 11104

Dear UECF Congregation,

Telugu Christian Church –New York congratulates United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF) as you celebrate 20 years of God's immense grace.

God's promise for UECF is found in Philippians 1:6 - “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”. Our prayer for UECF is that you will impart all the good qualities of seven churches that were mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

We have been delighted in working with you and look forward to be part of great commission given by our Savior Jesus Christ.

May the peace and grace of triune God be rest upon you and use you in the years to come so that many souls will be saved through UECF and bring glory to His name!

Maranatha!

Pastor Vijayarao Edla,
Pastor Prabhudas Enumula &
Members of the congregation



CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - TELUGU CONGREGATION NY INC.

3061, 87TH ST, JACKSON HEIGHTS NY 11369

Rev. Dr. Christopher Solomon
718-829-8849

Rev. Joseph Anandsekar
718-675-8565

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness." Ps 150:2

It gives us great pleasure to extend, on behalf of **CSI Telugu Congregation New York Inc.**, our warmest greetings and sincere congratulations to all our friends in Christ at **United Evangelical Christian Fellowship** as you celebrate twenty years of service to the Indian Christian community of New Jersey.

This is a time to look back and praise God for His faithfulness in establishing you as an indigenous church in this great nation. You are to be congratulated for having reached a great milestone in your history. We trust this will be a meaningful time for all as you reflect upon the goodness of the Lord and look forward with great anticipation to the future. The greatest days are yet before you with exciting things God has in store for UECF

Yours is a distinguished history for which we give thanks to God. Anniversaries are occasions when we recall the past. Events and personalities come to our mind. We trust that this occasion will help us to **look back** and give thanks.

Anniversaries are also occasions when we **look ahead**. It is a time which calls for commitment from us. We are not simply a people with a past, but with a future. We have reason to be filled with anticipation and hope. The future is filled with opportunity and need.

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship has been a source of inspiration and comfort to many people in the community and has remained a refuge of faith, a pillar of support, a beacon of hope and a center of religious worship for everyone. We thank God for your vision, faith and commitment with which you have built this congregation.

God who has guided you thus far will continue to guide, lead and bless your church in the years to come. Let us dedicate ourselves for the Lord's ministry. With Faith, Hope and Love let us rebuild our church and allow God to make it a vibrant and living Church so that it can bring hope and blessings to the world.

As you celebrate the **20th anniversary of UECF**, may you be blessed with all good things and may you continue faithfully in your mission of service into the future. May God bless you all.

"Now beloved, since future victory is sure, be strong and steady, always abounding in the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever wasted". (1 Cor 15:58)

Sincerely yours
Ministers

csitcny@gmail.com

917-727-4401

www.csitcny.org





Dear Joshua Pilli and Members
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
New Jersey

The landscape of our journey changes, the destiny does not.

It is with great joy and gratitude to our eternal God that we congratulate the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship as you celebrate two decades of God's faithfulness and unlimited kindness.

Looking back on the journey and the milestones you have crossed over the years in providing spiritual nourishment to the Indian community and other nationals at-large, We believe your spirits must be elated to look full into the future with the similar faith and hope that you have envisaged 20 years ago.

Be assured that He, who brought you thus far, will be able to carry you on even into the future until His return. The question lies, not whether God will be faithful to continue to carry you on into the future, but the question lies in, if we will be faithful as He was and is. Thus said the future and the uncharted waters and of the future shores shall be yours to conquer and tread upon the places that your feet shall tread.

We have no fewer days than when we first begun, twenty years ago. All though the landscape of our journey changes, yet, the destiny does not. Hence, the principles given by God and His Word do not change. Simply believe Deuteronomy 33:27 and the destiny shall be yours. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy Sent from my iPhone

Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ : Philippians 1:6

With abundant blessings and many prayers

TELUGU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF MINNESOTA (TCFMN)

Bethel Baptist Church(TCFMN)

2100 Delaware Avenue, Sunfish Lake, MN 55118

Phone : 651-332-9301 (or) 651-450-9575

Email : tcfminnesota@gmail.com (or) tcfmn001@gmail.com

"As for me and my house, we will SERVE the Lord" Joshua 24:15.



TELUGU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh, Cary, Durham area

email: nctelugufellowship@gmail.com

Dear UECF family,

Greetings to you all in Jesus name.

With rejoicing hearts, we praise God for your ministry and dedication of 20 years in His work. We pray for His grace as you continue to serve Him and stay faithful for many more years to come. Congratulations on celebrating your 20th anniversary.

God bless you all.

In Christ,

TCFNC Family

9198067565





**Atlanta
Telugu
Christhava
Samavesam**

అట్లాంట తెలుగు క్రైస్తవ సమావేశం

ATLANTA TELUGU CHRISTHAVA SAMAVESAM

A family in Jesus Christ, Reaching God's World, Sharing God's Love, through God's Spirit, for God's Glory
<http://www.atcs.org>

CONGRATULATIONS TO

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship

Pastor, Officers and Members

On Your 20th Anniversary.

***We pray that God will continue to bless UECF as you move forward
in faith for the expansion of His Kingdom.***

***To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all
generations, forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:21***

From:

**The Officer Bearers and Members
of Atlanta Telugu Christhava Samavesam**

General Coordinator

BRO. LUKE PEDAPALLI

Tel: 609-851-5057

Secretary

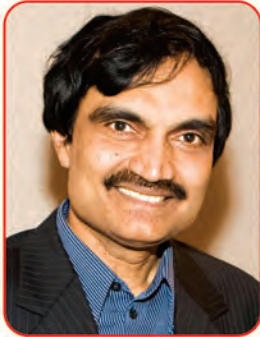
BRO. DAVID AUSTIN

Tel: 678-521-3902

Financial Coordinator

SIS. MONA KONDEPUDI

Tel: 678-431-4548



KEERTHI KUMAR RAVOORI

Director, Federation of Indo American Christians of Greater Chicago
Trustee, Federation of Indian Associations [FIA]
Director, United Christian Cultural Associations

Joshua Phani Pilli
President

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
Westfield, New Jersey

Dear President Mr. Joshua Garu,

It gives me a great pleasure and an honor to have been given the opportunity to articulate my heartfelt congratulations as we celebrate 20th anniversary of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church.

I am joined by the great legion of Christian leaders from Chicago in applauding United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church as it crosses a historic milestone of serving the Indian diaspora for the last twenty years especially in fostering Christian fellowship, unity and championing spiritual causes that are central to the families.

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship led the way in the United States with its impassioned mission to bring glory to God with myriad activities over the last two decades and for hosting many path-breaking gospel events with eminent roster of speakers each touching and impacting a large swath of Christians living on the east coast.

Given the current hostile environment that is brewing against our Christianity, It is all the more important that we stand together in Christian unity and march with United Evangelical Christian Fellowship in support of its mission to nurture greater Christian fellowship to help preserve and protect the values and tenants that we as Christian have a collective sacred obligation to defend.

It is my hope that United Evangelical Christian Fellowship continues to grow, inspire, unify the Christian communities and bring greater glory to our God almighty.

My sincere best wishes and congratulations to the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship families.

*Thank you.
Sincerely,*





Peace Proclamation Ministries International, Inc.

P.O. Box 497, Hatfield, Pennsylvania 19440



October 10, 2017

Mr. Phani Raja Kumar (Joshua) Pilli, President
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church
1 E. Broad Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

It is important to remember the sacrifices of those who have faithfully served God and their communities through the years. Praise the Lord for Alfred Bhaskar, Vijay Pulipati, RajaniKantha Rao, and Ebenezer Mallepalle who, along with supporting congregants, office bearers, and committee members, served for the past twenty years!

It is my privilege to congratulate the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship in reaching out beyond the congregation through your ministry. May the Lord continue to strengthen your hands and feet as you serve the resurrected Christ!

Finally, it is my honor to give a hearty congratulations to our brother, President Phani Pilli, for leading the UECF congregation for over ten years. We are witnesses of how the Lord has mobilized the congregation under Phani's leadership to minister to the communities around Edison, Iselin, and beyond the US. May the Lord continue to strengthen the hands of all those who are sharing His love both in the US and around the world!

I am blessed to join with you all in celebrating twenty years of God's faithfulness and goodness in this joyful journey of following Jesus Christ, our Lord. My earnest prayer for all of you can be found in Matthew 24:35: "Heaven and earth pass away, but the word of our God endures forever." May the Lord be with you as you share the gospel of Jesus Christ through the outreach and service activities of your church!

Rev. Dr. S. Paulus Thalathoti

Founding President
Peace Proclamation Ministries International, Inc.
50 W. Orvilla Road PO Box 497
Hatfield, PA 19440



To
UECF Church
1 East Broad St
Westfield, NJ/07090

Affectionate greetings to you all in the Matchless, Mighty and Exalted name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

May the Lord's grace and peace abound much in our hearts as we celebrate and Worship the Lord Jesus Christ for His Steadfast love and His Faithfulness all through these 20 years at UECF.

At this point looking back in introspection my heart fills and overflows with Joy, Happiness, Contentment and gratitude and thank the Lord for His faithfulness in bringing us this far. I am reminded here of the beautiful verse in 2Timothy 2:13.

I am also reminded of Hudson Taylors famous quote, "The Lord's work done in the Lord's way will never lack the Lord's support". So once again I want to praise and thank the Lord for His grace, love and faithfulness and also thank the family of UECF for their love, commitment, dedication, "unity and obedience to the GCommission of our Commander in Chief, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

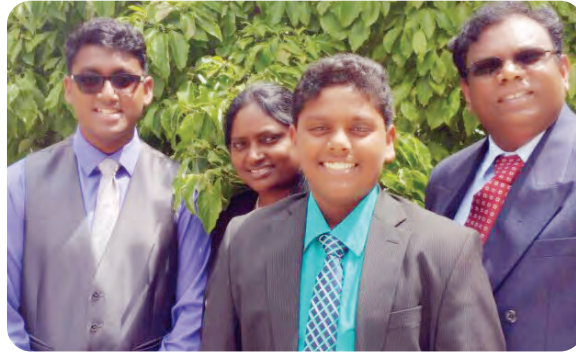
My prayer is that we all rededicate, recommit and press forward towards the goal the Lord sets for us and pass on the baton to the next generation by setting a good example so that our children will follow suit. May the gracious, Good and faithful Lord helps in this glorious journey.

With Best wishes,

REV. SURESH JONNALAGADDA,

South Carolina





To,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF),
1 East Broad St
West field, NJ-07090.

Dear UECF Church,

First, I would like to thank and praise God for UECF completing 20 years and congratulate the UECF Executive Board and the Congregation for reaching this milestone in God's ministry.

UECF has not only encouraged people in New Jersey but also around the world through UECF.NET website. Your support for Indian Missions and Indian speakers to fulfill the Lord's purpose is greatly commendable.

We greatly appreciate all you have done for Christians around the world and sincerely hope that you will go on to achieve even greater things for the Lord.

With Best Wishes,

JOE SUDHAKAR PEDAVADA

Cleveland, Ohio



MARANATHA VISVASA SAMAJAM

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXXV of 2001 (Society No.114 of 1983)

G. MOSES CHOUDARY

President

Ph : (+91) (0866) 248 1505, 98496 95919

59-8-2/1, Gayatri Nagar

Vijayawada-520 008

Andhra Pradesh, INDIA



Dear & Respected UECF Leaders & Members,

It was said that there were 7 most intelligent people in the world in the first century AD. Apostle Paul was one of them who topped that list of seven.

Paul while in prison writing a letter to the believers at Philippi said - Rejoice in The Lord always, and again I say - Rejoice. If a man sits in a prison cell which was a dark & cold dungeon could write as above, we have no reason not to rejoice and to complain.

True joy comes to us, humans by realizing the sin in our nature as well as our thoughts and deeds. By faith in Jesus followed by our repentance, God forgives and plants the seed of joy in us. This kind of joy is real and eternal.

When God's love encounters a person based on his faith & repentance, joy from within bubbles up like a flood. God-given joy transcends the sadness, worry, and grief, that we as believers may face in life. We have every reason to REJOICE in the Lord.

I commend you all members of UECF for serving The Lord diligently and continue to provide the fellowship to Telugu families. Challenges followed by needs are part & parcel of life and even Church life. God's love, however, gave us every reason to REJOICE.

God has appointed and used UECF to impact many lives for 20 years.

I do admire the leaders involved in keeping UECF alive & active.

I congratulate UECF members on your celebration of 20th Anniversary to REJOICE in The Lord.

May the Joy within you all overflow in your celebration!!

In the Work That Counts, When the Master Returns,

G. MOSES CHOUDARY

☆ MARANATHA VEDA PATASALA ☆ CHILDREN HOMES ☆ MINISTERS & CONFERENCES ☆ ASRAM

E-mails : pastor@moseschoudary.org

pastorchoudary@yahoo.com

Website : www.moseschoudary.org





New Life Associates

A Christian Spiritual and Social Service Organizaion

Website : www.nlaindia.org, E-mail : hyd2_neulife@sancharnet.in

152-3 RT, Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad- 500 057, A.P., India.

Ph : 040-23340252 Fax : 040-23347057

October 9, 2017.

Dear Joshua,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am truly delighted to know that UECF is completing 20 years in the sacred ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. I know it was a humble beginning then but now grown into an awesome ministry. Any ministry which has the calling of the Lord and a vision will truly flourish and your is a perfect example. At the same time leadership is the key! You and your team have provided excellent leadership over the years and as a result UECF has grown phenomenally and is reaping a rich harvest now.



The multi-faceted ministry of UECF has been a great source of blessing to many over the years. I recognize your relentless endeavor to conduct every worship service with so much prayer, preparation and order. Particularly the meticulous way you execute every event is truly commendable. Your commitment and dedication to UECF has been extraordinary. UECF website is a master-piece. It is praise worthy to note that you all are taking much time to update the website regularly and provide beautiful Christian devotional songs and sermons to all the Indian Christians. Indeed your website is a great blessing! I am so grateful that you give me an opportunity to preach in UECF each time I visit USA.

On this historic occasion, I congratulate you all! May our Lord Jesus Christ grant all of you his abundant grace and and the anointing of the Holy Spirit as you continue to serve Him. I wish you immense joy and peace as you celebrate this great occasion.

With Prayers.

Rev. Dr. A.B. JOSEPH KISHORE

B.Sc., M.Div., M.th., D.Min.
President, New Life Associates
Hyderabad, India



MANNA GROUP OF MINISTRIES, INDIA.

Rock Church Ministries. First Lancer Road, Masab Tank,
Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

Founder, Chairman Emeritus :

Bishop Ernest P. Komanapalli

Chairman:

Bishop Sudarshan J. Komanapalli

President:

Bishop P. Spurgeon Raju



Dear Brother Joshua Pilli,

Greetings in Jesus precious name!

I am very happy to congratulate United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church on the celebration of 20th anniversary, on behalf of Manna Full Gospel Ministries, India.

I know personally your church leadership, preached in your church many times, enjoyed your fellowship and worship.

I thank God for all of you. Keep up the good work that God has entrusted to your church.

Your church has already blessed thousands of people in U.S.A, and in India. Many are saved, baptised, and revived through your church ministry. Jesus Christ gave your leaders passion to reach the perishing souls with the Gospel.

Your church's vision is to provide spiritual and cultural fellowship to the Indian Christians in the U.S.A, particularly in New Jersey State. Preaching the Word of God as it is, and encouraging all believers to lead their lives following the teachings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bless your church leadership is our prayer.

Yours in His service,

Bishop P. Spurgeon Raju

President

Manna Ministries, India.





HARRY GOMES MINISTRIES

Carmel Prayer Tower 235, Jayasree Nagar, Behind Singanallur Housing Unit,
Singanallur, Coimbatore 641005, Tamil Nadu, India. Tel : +91-0422-2571911
EMAIL : carmelprayertower@yahoo.com



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ,

Love and greetings to you in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ !

We are glad to know that UECF has completed 15 years in serving God 's kingdom.
Many saints are refreshed and supported through your mission.

Your ministry has become the beacon of the light to perishing humanity both in USA & India.
Through your support many Pastors and ministries are encouraged through which
God's kingdom is expanding in the mother land of India.

I myself am personally blessed through your fellowship. We thank God for the wonderful
unbroken relationship with President Joshua and member's in our fellowship.

In the years ahead, May God use your mission as per Proverbs 25 : 25, & Mark 1 : 15.

Our family extends warm greetings to you and your great mission.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND PROSPER YOU!

with best regards,

Bro. HARRY GOMES



AWWIE

ANIL WORLD EVANGELISM

REGD.NO.806/2006

PROCLAIMING THE POWER OF GRACE TO ALL THE NATIONS

To
Joshua Pilli
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
New Jersey

Dear Bro. Joshua & saints at UECF,

I am delighted to know that United Evangelical Christian Fellowship has completed 20 years of wonderful ministry. UECF has been a channel of blessings for many in USA, India and different parts of the world. I am so blessed to share the word at UECF on every possible occasion ever since the first gospel meetings we had at UECF in the year 2006.

I praise God for using UECF to bring glory to His holy name through your regular worship services, outreach programs by encouraging servants of God and their ministries, helping the communities with your activities such as old age home visits and being instrumental in transforming the lives.

I pray that UECF will move forward in the ministry by His grace, for His name and through the obedience of faith. May you receive the heavenly blessings as the Almighty God pours out His blessings by opening the flood gates of heaven!

My heartfelt Congratulations to you all on this 20th Anniversary!

In His service,
Bro. Anil Kumar



“ And they that
be wise shall shine as
the brightness of the
firmament; and they
that turn many to
righteousness as the
stars for ever and ever.
- Daniel 12:3 ”

CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
UECF

Administrative Office

177/1.Kattigenahalli village
Bagalure Main Road. Yelahanka,
I.A.F.post, Bangalore - 560063

Hyderabad Office Address

Plot no.3, Road no.12, Huda Heights,
Near Loctus Pond, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad, Telangana 500034

Contact

www.aweministries.org
info@aweministries.org
Phone : 04040477777



P.J. STEPHEN PAUL MINISTRIES

WE PREACH THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERY MAN PERFECT IN JESUS CHRIST



TO,
UNITED EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
1 East Broad St, Westfield, NJ-07090

Greetings and best compliments from P J Stephen Paul Ministries!

The Lord, in his grace, has blessed the work of UECF In honor of twenty years of UECF's service and ministry, and in an appreciation of what God has done in the lives of thousands of people, Praise God for releasing a Souvenir at this 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." Ps. 100:4-5.

"In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean to you?' you should tell them ..." Joshua 4:6-7

What a joy today as you celebrate this anniversary the Lord has enabled us to see once again this year. And we can quote the promise that the Lord has given us in **Ephesians 3:20**.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

Attaining a new level of life needs the grace of God and that is why in a time like this, all those who are participating in the celebration need to know that if it were not for the mercies of God, nothing would have happened.

Therefore this is a great time for the members to share the message of love to each other and even extend to others so that they can know that God has already saved us through the grace that we receive by Faith.

Yours In God's service

Man of God

Dr. P J Stephen Paul

H.No. 12-8-443, Firdouz-Kaveri Apts, Flat no. 102 Mettuguda,
Secunderabad-17. Ph: 77999 02110, 8008777400,
E-Mail : pjspaul@hotmail.com Website : www.pjspaul.org





You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

United Evangelical
Christian Fellowship



Greetings in Jesus' name!

*It is my absolute delight to congratulate all the executive and active members of **United Evangelical Christian Fellowship, New Jersey, USA** for your commitment and admirable strength to serve God faithfully all these years. Your dedication, enthusiasm and insight are really inspiring. Your influence on Indians in America is enormous.*

God has called us to impact this world with His unfailing Love. Jesus wants us to be a part of authentic revival which brings refreshment, renewal and anointing to become an amazing force for righteousness, energized by God.

I still cherish the precious moments of sharing the word of God in UECF on several occasions. My Joy had no bounds for your Warm Welcome and memorable Hospitality.

*As a man of God, I will continue to pray for you all as you are Chosen by God to reach the **WORLD**. This is the time to Introduce the **LIVING SAVIOUR** to this Dying World.*

JOHN WESLY BONDAPALLI
National Director, Pastors League of India
& John wesly International Ministries
Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, India

WWW.JOHNWESLY.COM FACEBOOK: JOHN WESLY YHT





Savior's Heartbeat Ministries

51-4-12 ESI Hospital Rd., Gunadala, Vijayawada-520004, India,
Mobile. (+91) 7416 111 777, E.mail: devadandala@gmail.com

Deva S Dandala
President

Bro. Joshua Pilli
President,
UECF, New Jersey.



Dear Brother Joshua,

Greetings in the marvellous, matchless and merciful name of our
miraculous Saviour Jesus Christ!

Congratulations to you and to the family of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship on UECF's 20th anniversary! I am delighted that you reached an important mile stone in the life of UECF. This is a reminder for the goodness of the Lord upon His people. It has been 20 years of UECF's fruitful faith journey and we want to thank the Lord for watching over you all these years and leading and guiding you in your accomplishments.

I am grateful for the opportunities to share the word of God at UECF whenever I visit USA. I always enjoyed the warm and loving fellowship of the saints in the UECF. Thank you for your prayers and support for our ministry.

The UECF website has many spiritual resources along with the Christian songs and I am very much blessed by the number of Telugu songs that are made available on www.uecf.net. I commend the efforts of UECF and thank you, Brother Joshua, for your hard work.

We pray that UECF will continue to focus on the spiritual welfare of the people and play a vital role among the Telugu churches in the USA and remain a blessing to the future generations. *God Bless!*

Yours in His service

Deva S Dandala

JESUS BLESSING LUTHERAN CHURCH

KPHB COLONY, HYD.

Rev. Lam. J.N.Varakumar

Pastor/Chairman

Cell : 9848234898



10 October 2017

Dear Beloved UECF Church,

Congratulations on completing 20 years of eventful meaningful and life changing spiritual ministry among the Indian diaspora in the US! It was indeed a great pleasure for me to visit you all again last year to witness your commitment to the Lord's ministry and your relentless endeavors to glorify His name in the foreign land. The enthusiasm and spiritual quest displayed by your members in knowing the LORD and in expanding the Kingdom is commendable. We wholeheartedly applaud your sacrificial efforts that have no doubt borne fruit and have changed lives for better. As you continue to minister to transform people and as you prepare to rededicate yourselves for further challenges to accomplish your divine calling, May the good LORD grant you all courage and wisdom and may you be endowed with faith and strength in dispensing his grace and may you be blessed and may His name be glorified!!

"You are the light of the world..let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 4:14-16

Once again, I congratulate you all on this great spiritual born of the Church and wishing you all a wonderful and blessed days to come!

Best Wishes & Compliments from

REV. LAM. JOSEPH.N.VARAKUMAR.





E. Samuel Mohanraj
Founder and President

Showers of Blessing Ministries
P.O. Box : 5103, Chennai -600094, India.



Dear Phani Pill and all the friends and families at UECF,

Congratulations on your 20th Anniversary!

I celebrate with you the immense impact that your ministry has made to the body of Christ here in the US and beyond!

By His grace I have had the privilege of ministering many times at UECF over the past 15 years. My wife and I have enjoyed every opportunity especially the energetic and loving leadership who strive to do the work of God by uplifting souls. The painstaking efforts undertaken by the elders to bless and edify the congregation through various events and programs is truly audable. Their efforts will forever be remembered by the Lord, for His word says *"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister"* - Hebrews 6:10.

I once again congratulate all of the church members, elders, pastors and leaders who have successfully built this church. May our Lord shower His blessings upon you and extend more of His goodness and grace. I pray that His matchless mercy and favour will encircle you as you endeavour to fulfil the great commission.

Your friend and co-worker in the kingdom,

E. Samuel Mohanraj
(Showers of Blessing Ministries)

ECCLESIA MINISTRIES FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

1-1-1007, Siddarthanagar, N.I.T. (Post), Kazipet, Warangal District

Pin: 506004, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.

Phone: +91 870 245 9330



Beloved Bro. Joshua Pilli & Leadership of UECF Church,

I am absolutely delighted to greet and congratulate you all on the occasion of UECF's 20th anniversary.

I came know about this Church through my older brother Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Dayamani Kalyanapu in 1999, and over the years UECF gave me many opportunities to minister the Word and made this as a startup platform for many Indian ministers and it was a great blessing for them too. I am grateful to the seed you have sown into our ministry that made the difference in many lives. Those days I was ministering only in Andhra Pradesh state but now by His grace we have expanded our territories in to 14 northern states of India, the seed you have sown will never go in vain , when our Lord returns with rewards he will surely say " WELL DONE UECF "

Your ministry through UECF.NET website reaching millions worldwide and I complement that your website is the best of all, because you have uploaded countless collection of messages, songs and other useful information of great Ministers of God and even you have hooked up our small organization ecclesiaministry.org to UECF for which I am ever grateful to you.

On the occasion of UECF's 20th anniversary, I pray God's abundant grace and extraordinary anointing upon the leadership and to renew their calling. Commitment and Compassion to take this ministry to higher dimensions and prepare His Church for His coming .

Thank you and may God bless you,

Yours for the souls of India,

BISHOP DANIEL D.KALYANAPU





REVIVAL CHRISTIAN CENTER

The Lord is good, A refuge in times of trouble, He cares for those who trust in Him. Nahum 1:7

Regd. No. 23/05

100 Feet, Darga Road, NIT Post, WARANGAL, T.S. INDIA-506 004.

FAX / PHONE +91-870-2459404 (Off), Cell: 9885659272, 9885659275.

Email: kurianindia@gmail.com

Rev. K. Kurian

Chairman & Managing Trustee



Our Activities :

HIV/Aids Awareness Program

Adult Literacy Centres

Orphanages

Old Aged Homes

Poor Feeding Programme

Free Medical Camps

Church Planting

Gospel Rallies

Musical Nights

Jeevanadhi T.V. Program

Tailoring Centres

Dear Bro, Joshua Pilli & All the Members Of UECF,

Greetings in the wonderful & matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It's a Great Joy and privilege to be a part of UECF and I take this opportunity to congratulate UECF on behalf of my family and as well as from Revival Christian Centre Int'l. It's amazing to taste and see that the Lord is Good through 20 yrs of Gods Faithfulness in this ministry. The Bible says "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! - Psalms 133:1". Every time I've been there, I have seen the vision of UECF, to provide spiritual & cultural unity amidst of God's people. The thirst and desire in the hearts of people to grow more in the word inspite of the busy life proves God's call unto this Ministry. UECF is doing an amazing work.

We as a Church, we will always remember the ministry UECF is upholding and we will be praying for greater things to happen. Please continue the outstanding work you have done for our community and keep pressing towards the goal set, to receive the heavenly prize in Christ Jesus.

Yours in His Vineyard,

Rev. K Kurian
Founder & Senior Pastor
Revival Christian Center

HOSANNA MANDIR SAFILGUDA

#26-43, Safilguda Cross Rd, Chanakyapuri, Malkajgiri,
Medchal district, Secunderabad, Telangana - 500 047.

Ph: 93910 57698



Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth

Congratulate the UECFn all the families who have been worshipping the lord loyally n sincerely

We wish n pray for the guidance n counsel of God to edify the church n extend the same for the glory of God.

Its really gives me immense happiness n joy to greet one n all on this occasion of 20 yrs of ANNIVERSARY.

What a great God we have to praise n worship n lift the name of Jesus high by praises songs n learning from the scriptures. May God help people to run to the fellowship to know the ways of God n be transformed in His image.

MAY GOD bless the committee members especially bro Joshua pilli for choosing to be HIS instrument in coordinating organising n arranging various prayer meetings programmes for the glory if GOD.

MAY GOD bless Dr Ravinder besides visiting preachers n men of God who have been leading guiding the church members in spiritual growth.

I also thank God far all the social charitable work being organised by ucef especially visiting sick orphans old age homes. May God continue to be with them.

By the Grace of God I had the privilege of participating in the church programmes last year I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for the love n care shown to me. I know not only for me this has been the generosity of fellowship to every visiting pastor n members who attend the church.

MAY GOD help the church to grow as in establish n edify according to ACTS 9 31

I WISH N CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR GOD'S BLESSING BESTOWED UPON THE UCEF.

Rev. D.C. DANIEL BABU





To
All the Members of UECF,
New Jersey,
USA.

Greetings to you all in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ!

On behalf of Power of God Ministries, Vishakhapatnam, India, the
Promise of God to UECF Church, New Jersey from the Bible is:

"And in thy Seed shall all the Nations of Earth be blessed because
thou hast obeyed my Voice..." - Gen 22:18

Best wishes to all as you celebrate milestone 20th Anniversary!

May God bless UECF Church always and the Fellowship should be
great a blessing to many nations!!



Yours lovingly

Pastor Bhogi Santharao

POWER OF GOD MINISTRIES

Vishakhapatnam, INDIA

email:- bhogisantharao@gmail.com

Phone 9849331923, 9866441781

REV. JOHN MOSES DUSSI

Followers of Christ Ministries, Director.



To,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
New Jersey, USA.

Dear UECF,

Greetings from “FOLLOWERS OF CHRISTMINISTRIES” Vizianagaram, India.

I deem it a privilege honor and pleasure to write this message as Director of Followers of Christ Ministries, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of UECF.

What a joy to look back and cherish the wonderful moments the Lord has done in the UECF for the past 20 years! This will be a milestone in the History of UECF. For the last 10 years, I had great experience with UECF, I Appreciate your team’s Dedication, Commitment and Passion to reach the unreached.

UECF is a Channel of Blessing to many Global Telugu People through Songs, Life Changing Testimonies, Sermons and Global connections.

I pray and bless that the Lord will enable you to continue to reach the unreached through your ministry.

Once again, my wife and I would like to send our Greetings and Best wishes to you all.



Yours in His Service,

REV. JOHN MOSES DUSSI

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MINISTRIES

VIZIANAGARAM, A.P, INDIA

www.focministries.org





To
Bro. Joshua Pilli
President,
UECF Church Westfield, New Jersey

Dear Bro. Joshua,

Greetings to you all in Jesus most precious and wonderful name!

I am delighted to be part of this great occasion to celebrate the 20 years of God's goodness along with UECF family and the rest of the world. It was indeed my pleasure and privilege to take this opportunity to congratulate the U E C F family, for their wonderful commitment, dedication and hard work in order to be united in proclaiming God's kingdom and Word and also being a blessing to many men and women of God who visits from around the world, from the time of inception of UECF. At this juncture, my heart also goes to the founder members that have paid a price in order to lay the foundation and passed on the batten to the following generations.

I praise and thank God that I have the privilege of being a visiting preacher and I have no hesitation in knowing that this is the best organized Telugu community church around the world and I did very much cherish the warmth and welcoming friendship and fellowship of my friends and families there.

May the Lord bless you with the blessings of Deuteronomy 2:7... as you continue your journey in the kingdom of God and spreading God's word around the Telugu community in USA & around the World. "Deu 2:7 ... "For your Lord your God has blessed you in all that you have done; He has known your wonderings through this great wilderness for the Forty (twenty) years the Lord your God has been with you; you have not lacked a thing."

Once again, my hearty congratulations and appreciation as you mark the 20th Anniversary of U E C F, USA.

In Christ
Rev. Ps. Rajendra Dutt Ponuku
Founder President
Vision in Christ Ministries &
Ecclesia Full Gospel Church
Sydney, Australia.



Tabernacle Christ's Fellowship

89, Short Street, #02-16, Golden Wall Centre, Singapore 188216

Phone: +65 8468 3270

Pastor Sridhar (Danny) Modi



It is with great joy and pride I say that UECF has not left any stone unturned in carrying the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We hear the testimonies of the family members of UECF and just thank God for the faith instilled in the church. UECF has truly been an instrument in the hands of God. It stands as a Bethel for the many who seek hope and encouragement.

The dedication and passion exhibited by the UEFC Leadership is contagious and only strengthens people around them.

I celebrate along with you the goodness of God for 20 years and wish you many years of success in fighting the good fight of faith and sharing the good news.

email: tcf.reachout@gmail.com online radio: <http://tcfradio.org>
like us  Restoration Mission Tabernacle Christ's Fellowship Singapore



And upon this I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" Mt. 16:18"



THE INDIAN PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

CARMEL PRAYER HALL - SALMIYA

P.O BOX 8217, Salmiya 22053 - Kuwait

(The largest, Indigenous. Pentecostal Movement in India)

Register in 1935 at Eluru, A.P., Under Society Act XXI of 1860 Reg. No. 9/1935-36

October 12, 2017

To,
Joshua Pilli,
President UECF,
1 East Board Street,
Westfield, NJ-07090.



I am extremely glad to know that UECF has completed 20 years in serving the Kingdom of God. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations while you celebrate this great milestone. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the leaders and the invisible hand of God that led them successfully.

I praise God for giving me an opportunity to minister in your fellowship along with my wife last year. Many servants of God from many countries of the world shared the word and were richly blessed. We praise God for the unique style of sharing the gospel by UEFC which has crossed the borders of many countries

As a servant of God, I believe this year is a year of "Kairos" moment or season of God for this Fellowship. "Kairos" means an appointed time or chosen time in the purpose of God to stir revival through this Fellowship.

According to Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." May the Lord continue to anoint with fresh anointing on all the leaders and members of UECF!

Yours in Christ.
Pastor Jayaraju Madey

To,
Mr. Joshua Pilli,
President,
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church,
New Jersey



Dear Mr. Joshua,

Blessed greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I deem it a great privilege to greet and congratulate you all on the occasion of celebrating the 20th anniversary of the UECF Church.

I always feel proud to have longstanding association with the Fellowship and I cherish my fond and pleasant memories I had during my visits to the US and the moments of my joyful participation in its activities like Christmas carol singing, celebrations, Lenten devotions, outing etc.

I admire the wonderful services that the UECF Church has been rendering all these years for the Indian Immigrants and especially the incoming new visitors from Andhra who find it as a safe and peaceful haven where they feel 'at home' being instilled with a sense of belongingness and a spirit of oneness as one Christian Community thus fulfilling the dream of its founding pioneers.

I am glad that the Fellowship keeps up its 'Evangelical fervor' as appropriate to its title, in supporting and encouraging Gospel Ministries in India and in particular, we feel grateful for your continued charitable gesture towards the Andhra Evangelical Revival Forum which has been serving the rural congregations in Guntur area for the last 30 years. We appreciate your dynamic leadership, insightful planning, and meticulous execution in the church organization. We always remember you, your family and all the members and we pray that God may strengthen your hands and use you mightily to attempt and achieve greater things in the days to come for His glory.

God bless you,

Yours in His service,

JOHN V GURUNADHAM MOODEY

President, Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Revival Forum,
Guntur, A.P., India

johnmoodey1@yahoo.com | 91 9618235493



Mrs. Helen Patta, Rtd.HeadMistress
Tsavatapallivari street,
Near Marketing Yard,
Palakol-534260 W.G. DT

10/14/2017

To,
Sri. Joshua Pilli, President
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
1st East Board Street, West Field, NJ 07090

Dear Joshua Pilli,

My family and I would like to extend our warm greetings to all of you on your 20th Church anniversary. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all the UECF Church members as you celebrate 20th anniversary thanking the Almighty God for His grace. May His love dwell richly in the house of the Lord as you begin another milestone in harvesting for the Lord what belongs to Him.

When we read the book of Zech 4:6, the Bible says, this is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel "Not by might nor by my power, but my spirit says the Lord Almighty. I thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon UECF Church congregation through these twenty years of ministry. I praise God for His love and faithfulness in continuing this ministry and reaching out to many Christians and non-Christians all around the world.

I visited UECF Church for the first time in 2007. I was welcomed in to this Church by giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts on Mother's Day. I felt great love and affection by the president Mr. Joshua Pilli and all other families of UECF Church. UECF Church treats elderly people with great love and respect. They honor and encourage them in many aspects. I attend UECF Church services whenever I visit my daughter's family Mr. Samuel Rapaka, Mrs. Sanjotha Rapaka and Shiran Rapaka in New jersey. I have great memories going to Christmas carols all through the night with all the UECF Church families singing and praising God. UECF Church women gather to celebrate Women's Christmas in which I am privileged to share the word and encourage them few times. I feel honored to be loved by them. UECF Church families encourage one another in their joys and sorrows. I have seen that love and concern for one another. I pray that they will continue in love, unity and peace till Christ's coming.

I pray that all the leaders and members of the Church will renew their efforts and energy to continue the work started with passion for the glory of God and the advancement of the kingdom of Christ.

I wish Pastor Ravinder, Joshua Pilli, Sam Chilaka, Joshua Shaik, Anand Devi , all the Leaders and UECF Church families a wonderful celebration and I pray that UECF Church celebrates many milestone anniversaries like these in days to come. Remain confident that God will walk with you until the end of the journey. God bless you all! Stay blessed!

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. HELEN PATT

APOSTOLIC CHRIST LOVE MINISTRIES - PILER



ప్రభువైన యేసుక్రీస్తు నామంలో అమెరికా దేశంలో న్యూజెర్సీలో ఉన్న U.E.C.F సంఘమునకు, నాయకులకు ను ప్రత్యేకముగా పాస్టర్ డేవిడ్ రవీందర్, బ్రదర్ జాషువా పిల్లి, బ్రదర్ జాషువా షేక్, సిస్టర్ కవితా షేక్ గార్లకు U.E.C.F ను నడిపిస్తున్న జత పనివారందరికినీ 20వ వార్షికోత్సవ శుభాకాంక్షలు!

భారతదేశంలో చిత్తూరు జిల్లా పీలేరులో ఉన్న ACLM (Apostolic Christ Love Ministries) లో వున్న యవ్వనస్థులు, విశ్వాసులు మరియు సంఘకాపరి పాస్టర్ జెర్మీయా గారు మీకు ప్రత్యేకమైన శుభాకాంక్షలు తెలియజేయుచున్నాము.

U.E.C.F Missions ద్వారా ఆర్థిక సహాయాన్ని అందిస్తూ తద్వారా మందిరం కొరకు Sound System మరియు Instruments కొనడానికి తోడ్పడ్డారు. ఇందుకు సహకరించిన మీ అందరికి యేసుక్రీస్తు నామంలో హృదయపూర్వకంగా కృతజ్ఞతలు తెలియపరుస్తున్నాము. ఇలాంటి వార్షికోత్సవాలు మీరు మరెన్నో జరుపుకోవాలని కోరుకుంటున్నాము. మీ పరిచర్య ద్వారా, Music Albums ద్వారా మరియు సాక్ష్యముల ద్వారా ఎంతోమంది ఆదరణ పొందు చున్నారు. ప్రభువు రాకడ పర్యంతము మీ పరిచర్య మునుముందుకు సాగాలని జయోత్సవములో నడిపించబడాలని ఆశిస్తూ మీ కొరకు ప్రార్థిస్తున్నాము.



ఇట్లు

PASTOR B. JEREMIAH,

ACLM Ministries,
1-1191,
Kotapalli, Piler,
Piler (V) (M) (D),





Dear Pastor Ravinder and friends at UECF,

It gives us great pleasure to know that you are celebrating the 20th Anniversary.

I was really happy when I attended the service in August with my wife Carolyn, because of the warmth and love shown by each one of you. We really enjoyed the time of worship and the special music presented by the UECF choir.

We hope and pray that God will use the UECF for his service for many more years.

Thank you for the beautiful gifts you presented to us. We will keep you and the ministry in our daily prayers.

Wish you all again, a Very Happy 20th Anniversary.

God bless you all.

VIJAY RAO KORRI & FAMILY.



Dear Joshua and UECF Family,

We would like to extend a hearty congratulations to UECF in celebration of the 20th Anniversary. We have been blessed by UECF's long ministry over the past 20 years.

Sahan, Sabitha, Samrita (12), Sravina (8), and Szephan (5) live in Raritan, NJ. Sahan is the son of Rev.Dr. David K.Ravinder (Sr. Hon Pastor of UECF) and Sarita Ravinder. Sahan holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration and currently works as a Business Analyst. Sabitha earned her M.C.A. in India and has been working at L'Oréal USA as a SharePoint Administrator for 10+ years. Samrita is in 7th grade has participated as a positive figure in Junior Bible Quiz for the past few years representing UECF. Sravina, a 3rd grader also has been an active member in JBQ. Her passion is Taekwondo and recently earned her blue belt. Szephan is in Pre-K. He has a deep passion for cars and also participates in Taekwondo as well.

Our family is thankful to be a part of such a loving and welcoming congregation. One that encourages everyone to serve God through their talents, time and treasures. We pray that God will continue to bless and guide the UECF congregation and its leaders moving forward.

God Bless,

SAHAN, SABITHA,
Samrita, Sravina and Szephan



Aradhana

Gospel Music Ministries

SINGING

LYRICS

COMPOSING

RECORDING

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Congratulations on the eve of the 20th anniversary of

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship,

New Jersey.



John Charles Pilli & Mahitha Charles

We deem it a privilege to have been associated with UECF for over a decade. UECF has grown tremendously all over the US and also many other countries - especially for the rich enriching content on its website. UECF has gained a wide outreach, bringing millions of believers together in watching Sunday Worship videos or Choir songs or accessing many biblical references.

A special word about the Gospel music on the UECF site. An incredible collection! It's commendable that a huge number of believers and others across the globe are impacted by this gospel music and a host of relevant material in multiple languages. Also need to mention that UECF has been encouraging gospel singers like us and is also collaborating with such Christian organizations.

Thank you, UECF, for also allowing us to collaborate with you in this mission and we pray for the success and growth of the ministry, as it celebrates this special occasion.

Aradhana Gospel Music Ministries

401 AnandResidency, Masabtank, Hyderabad 500028, Telangana State, India.

Call: +91 9030065456

Email: aradhanamusic@gmail.com

Website: www.aradhanagospel.com

K Y RATNAM MINISTRIES

#18-9 Plot No:9, RTC Colony, Peerzadiguda,
Hyderabad - 500039,india.
tel : +91-9177757573,+91-9494737171
email : kyratnam5@gmail.com



*Greetings to all the UECF Church leaders and members.
concerning His son Jesus Christ our Lord,
which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.*

*We are glad to know that UECF Church is celebrating 20th
anniversary for His glory. we are happy for your activities
to the spiritual & physical needs of the body of Christ, and
also people were blessed with your UECF.NET Youtube
channel. My best Wishes as you celebrate and proceed
into the future to attempt greater things for Lord Jesus Christ.*

You can Watch Our
Programmes In **You Tube**
as **Kyratnam Songs & Messages**

Your Brother & Sister in Christ

*Bio. K. Y. Ratnam
Sis. Snigdha Ratnam*



United Evangelical Christian Fellowship Church Congratulations 20th Anniversary Celebrations



"Second Advent Preparations"

"Everlasting Gospel"

**"Remnant who keep the commandments
of God and their faith in Jesus"**

"The Second Coming of Jesus"

Revelation 14:6, 12, 14, 12:17.

EGRM@gmail.com

(Everlasting Gospel Remnant Ministry)



GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

Hearty Congratulations to UECF for completing 20 Years!

Prayers & Well Wishes for many more Blessed Years!!

This wouldn't have been possible without

"U" all. May our Almighty Lord Jesus Lead, Guide, Protect, Provide and Bless

"E" ach & everyone to

"C" ontinue the Lord's work as one body in Christ

& pray for one another in good & challenging times as a

"F" amily till HIS second coming.



"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12



-CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS-

UECF 20TH ANNIVERSARY

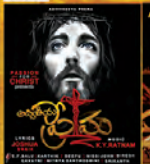
Greetings from Shaik Family. We take pride in congratulating the UECF Church on completing 20 years. We thank and praise God to be associated with UECF, the most established Church in the North eastern part of USA. UECF has been a great blessing to our family. We thank the UECF leadership and all the UECF families for their continuous prayer support and encouragement in serving the Lord. UECF to us has been more than just a fellowship. Every facet of UECF - Old age Home ministry, Worship, Lenten Prayers, Bible Studies, Outreach, Men & Women Prayers, Children's Ministry etc has enabled us to grow in the Lord and serve Him fervently. We pray that UECF will continue to be a blessing to many more in the days to come.

PASSION
FOR
CHRIST

Vol-4 Releasing Soon



Vol-1



Joshua, Kavitha, Maliha and Mayah.

Contact info:

India numbers +91 9753067249 +91 8712795677 +91 9502396482

USA numbers +1 9089778173 +1 9085283646

Joshuashaik@gmail.com, passionforchrist17@gmail.com

YouTube.com/passionforchrist4u

Facebook.com/joshua.shaik

Facebook.com/albumjushti

Facebook.com/nannenthaga

Happy 20th birthday **UECF**! A blessed journey that began in 1997, under the leadership of Alfred Bhaskar and the spiritual guidance of Rev. Dr. David Ravinder, with few families to meet their spiritual needs and witnessed exponential growth since its inception. Words can neither qualify nor quantify the efforts put in by the leadership. Our



sincere thanks to the presidents Alfred Bhaskar, Ebenezer Mallepalle, Ajay Damarapu, Syam Pilli, and Joshua Pilli for their commitment and dedication to serve the community. With all the weight and pressures of the world weighing down on public minds, the demand for the **biblical** response is on the rise. The role of the modern church in the life of the 21st-century believer is critical because it fills a void only the **church** can. UECF is different from the surrounding culture by being denomination free and flushing out the burden of life by providing **bedrock of faith** and answers to humanity's deepest needs. Today UECF offers **gospel** service to the world. **Praise be to God**

Our spiritual journey with UECF has begun with JBQ (Junior Bible Quiz), a blessed and unique opportunity for kids to learn and practice the **WORD**. **HIS** grace enabled the UECF slingshots to clinch the championship title in the year 2013. The encouragement of the UECF leadership (Joshua Pilli) and the commitment of the coach (Sunil Robert Vuppula) are highly appreciated. We would like to take this opportunity to send a note of thanks to the Choir under the direction of brother Sudhakar Chilaka. Truly, the songs are songs of ministry accompanied by a precious anointing of the **Holy Spirit**. As a family we want the Administration know that we appreciate your tireless



service for the **Lord**. Your efforts reflected as you carry on the work of **God** and serving in **HIS** love. The **LORD** magnifies our efforts as we learn what our responsibilities are and then diligently fulfill them.

RUBEN KAMBHAM,
New Jersey





Greetings from Ravoori Family

It's a blessing to be associated with UECF almost from its formation. As an young family we were welcomed, got an opportunity to make lifelong friends and kids got opportunities to learn the word of God in the midst of Indian Christian fellowship



Parents shared the word of God



Hebrews 10:23-24

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

To the Triune God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit, who has blessed our Congregation beyond our deserts, who has made possible all that has been achieved in the Past 20 Years, and who we hope & Pray, will guide the destinies of our congregation in the Years to come.

"Unto Him be Glory in the Church of Christ".

Thanks

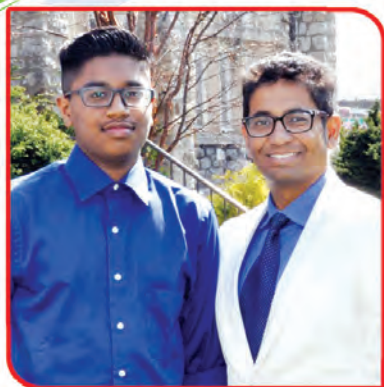
ASHOK KUMAR VELLORE





*Worshipping the Lord since 30 years.
Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name,
worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness...
Mr. Samuel Sudhakar Chilaka*





Thank and Praise God for UECF on completing 20th Anniversary and we are very happy to be part of the UECF family. We came in 2011, though very new to UECF and not knowing much about us, we thank and praise God for the support we received from Pastor Rev David Ravinder and Joshua (Phani) Pilli, we can never forget those days. Also thanks to Bro.Sunil Robert for encouraging Emmanuel and Tabitha to be part of the JBQ UECF sling shots team registered. We are also thankful to Bro.Samuel Sudhakar and Joshua Pilli for giving us opportunity to be in UECF choir.

We praise God for the love, support and fellowship from all the UECF families. We pray that God will continue to bless each and everyone in UECF and it will grow many heights in the days to come for his kingdom extension.

Praveen Charles Dhara





"Best Wishes from Rajio & Preethi Muthyala families"



History of **UNITED EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (UECF)**

By **Mr. Syam Pilli** (Former President of UECF)

“For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.” - Psalm 100:5



INTRODUCTION:

As a former President of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF), it is my privilege to present the history of UECF as it completes 20 fruitful years of ministry. UECF was a seed that was prayerfully sowed twenty years ago, which turned into a mighty tree that yielded much fruit during the journey of faith! Established as an inter-denominational Asian-Indian church in central New Jersey, UECF has grown into a well-known Christian organization across the globe. I thank God for using me to serve Him through this wonderful church for five years.

1. MOTIVATION :

In January 1997, a small group of people felt the need for an inter-denominational fellowship that would fulfill the spiritual needs of the lay Christians in the Central New Jersey region. This fellowship would conduct the Sunday worship services without language barriers and maintain the traditions of Indian sub-continent. The intention was to serve the local community and also to bring all the people closer to help the outreach ministries serving the South Asian region.

2. INITIATION:

Initially, a group of five families put their burden in prayer for few months. They believed that it was God's will to start a Fellowship and they sought the support of Rev. Dr. David Ravinder to serve as an honorary senior pastor and provide the spiritual leadership. With the help of Pastor David Ravinder, the place for Sunday worship service was obtained.

Thus, UECF started its first Sunday service on the sixth day of the forth month of the year nineteen hundred and ninety seven at the sanctuary of the Community United Methodist Church, located at 301, Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, New Jersey.

3. INCORPORATION:

An application was submitted in April 1997 to the Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for Employer status. The IRS sanctioned the application in August 1997 and approved the name United Evangelical Christian Fellowship.



After getting the EIN, an application was filed in September 1997 for New Jersey state recognition and certification of Incorporation as a Nonprofit Organization under federal IRS Code Section 501 (c) (3).

4. CHURCH LOCATION:

In the past 20 years, UECF has conducted Sunday worship services in five different church locations. For the first three years, the worship services were conducted at Community United Methodist Church, Roselle Park. During its fourth year, UECF relocated to the New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene located at 80 Jefferson Blvd, Edison.



By the end of the year 2002, there was a need to look out for a new location. Upon considering few churches, it was prayerfully decided that New Dover United Methodist Church (NDUMC) in Edison would be a strategic location for the growth of UECF congregation. UECF leadership along with Pastor David Ravinder held discussions with the NDUMC Board of Trustees and their pastor. As a result, UECF started worshipping at New Dover United Methodist Church in Edison on the first Sunday of March 2003. After 5 years, UECF moved in 2008 to Reformed Church, Metuchen. During this time, in order to accommodate larger gatherings, UECF Christmas services were held at First Baptist Church, Metuchen. During November 2014, UECF moved again and started worshipping at First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ - 07090.

5. HONORARY PASTORS:

UECF does not have a regular pastor. However, it has a unique arrangement with a team of honorary pastors who brought the word of God on the scheduled Sundays. Rev. Dr. David Ravinder has been serving faithfully as the Senior Honorary Pastor ever since the inception. He takes charge of the fourth Sunday, which is designated as Communion Sunday. Rev. Praveen Bunyan served as the first UECF Associate Pastor preaching regularly on three Sundays a week.

Rev. Sunil Balasundaram succeeded and has ministered to UECF as an honorary pastor for four and a half years. During the fourth year, Rev. Stephen Nash joined as one of the honorary pastors and served for almost 5 years. Rev. David Davis came on board as a guest preacher in June 2003 and later served as an honorary Pastor through the mid-2011. Of late, Rev. Joseph Theophilus and Rev. Stanley Joseph have been filling in for preaching as required.

At one point of time, UECF felt the need for a dedicated regular pastor who would nurture and help in the growth of the congregation. A search Committee was formed to examine the alternatives and ultimately opined that this may not be feasible, considering the UECF's financial situation.

6. GENERAL BODY MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS:

The first General Body meeting was held on June 4, 1997 for which all the local Christians were invited. In this meeting, a draft Constitution and by-laws prepared by Mr. Alfred Bhaskar were presented and approved. The first team of leaders who were elected in this General Body meeting included - President : Mr. Alfred Bhaskar, Secretary : Mr. Rajani Kantha Rao, Treasurer : Mr. Ebenezer Mallepalle, Board of Trustees Members: Mr. Ajit Lakra, Mr. Michael Rose, Mrs. Udaya Pulipati and Mr. Joel Dadepogu. Rev. Dr. David Ravinder was nominated by the general body to be the Honorary Sr. Pastor & Spiritual Advisor.

In the second annual General Body meeting held in August 1999, the vacant positions were filled in. The third General Body meeting was held in September 2000, and new office bearers were elected.

In the General Body meeting held in September 2001, Mr. Ajay Damarapu was elected as President and Mr. Syam Pilli was elected as the Vice President. However, during the General Body meeting held on 23rd June 2002, Mr. Ajay Damarapu announced his resignation. Consequently, Mr. Syam Pilli resumed the responsibilities of the President.

In the year 2003, the Constitution By-Laws were amended and approved to include Pastorate Committee in addition to the Board of Trustees. At the end of the tenure of previous leadership, new leaders were elected for a 3-year term in the General Body meeting held on 22nd February 2004. Later, in 2007 a new body was elected with Joshua(Phani) Pilli as the President. The present team of leaders was elected in the General Body meeting held in the year 2016.

Apr 1997 – Sep 2000	Mr. Alfred Bhaskar
Sep 2000 – Sep 2001	Mr. Ebenezer Mallepalle
Sep 2001 – Oct 2002	Mr. Ajay Damarapu
Oct 2002 – Feb 2004	Mr. Syam Pilli(Acting President)
Feb 2004 – Feb 2007	Mr. Syam Pilli
Feb 2007 – Present	Mr. Joshua(Phani) Pilli

PRESIDENTS AND TENURES

7. GUEST PREACHERS:

In addition to the honorary pastors, many servants of God have graced UECF with the powerful messages. Itinerant Preachers like Acharya R. R. K. Murthy, Dr. Ramesh Richard, Heads of Christian organizations such as Mr. Joshua Daniel, Dr. Sunil Bhanu Busi, Rev. Samuel Schmitthenner; and Theological College Professors including Dr. B. C. Paul, Dr. Augustine Pagolu, Rev. Dr. Daniel Jeyaraj, Dr. Victor Luther Paul Nakka and Dr. Vasantharao Chilkuri have spiritually enriched the UECF congregation.

Renowned TV evangelists from India such as Dr. M. S. Santhavardhan, Dr. Paul Dhinakaran, Dr. A. B. Joseph Kishore, Dr. P. Joshi, Dr. John Wesley, Dr. P. J. Stephen Paul, Dr. T. D. Prasanna Kumar, Bro. Abraham, Bro. Paul Emmanuel, Dr. Devasahayam Dandala, Rev. K. Kurian, Pastor Moses Choudary, Rev. Solomon Raju Kunchanapalli, Bro. Vincent Gurralla, Rev. Dr. Timothy Kollabathula, Dr. Ranga Raju, Bro. Daniel Mylabathula and Bro. Harry Gomes have inspired with the powerful messages time and again. God's servants like Dr. Akbar Haqq, Bro. Anil Kumar and Rev. Naveen Balakrishnan have encouraged and challenged the attendees with the word of God through Revival meetings.

The Bishops who have shared the word of God included Bishop Stanley Downs, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop Spurgeon Raju Pachigalla, Bishop Kishore Daroga and Bishop Daniel Kalyanapu. The guest preachers list also contains the well-known servants of God such as Rev. Azariah Korabandi, Dr. Livingston Gadde, Dr. Joe Madhu Payarda & Dr. Jessie Veena Payarda, Dr. Yesupadam Bandela, Bro. Edward William Kuntam, Dr. Samuel Mohanraj and Bro. Herford Urlica. Many God's servants such as Bro. Santha Rao Bhogi, Bro. Michael Vijaya Kumar, Pastor Barnabas Sajja, Bro. Deevanaiah and Bro. Peter Samuel have visited and inspired by sharing their strong testimonies.

Other visiting servants of God who visited and shared the Word includes Rev. Varakumar Lam, Bro. Devaraju Jakki, Rev. John Sunder Earla, Rev. DJM Vinod, Rev. D. C. Daniel Babu, Pastor Israel Chokka, Pastor Sharath Bhushan, Bro. Sunny Joseph Mylabathula, Pastor Philip Nethagani, Pastor Rajendra Dutt, Pastor K. Dinesh, Rev. Devadanam Gummadi, Bro. Kamal Manik, Rev. Victor Raj, Rev. Joseph Moses, Geomon George, Rev. Sean Callihan, Did. Jacky Ford, Bro. Charles Kalyana Rao, Bro. Venkat Potana, Bro. Charles Kalyan Rao, Rev. Bhakthavathsaladas Ravoory, Sis. Elizabeth Vallabhaneni and Sis. Esther Rani.

Host church Pastors that include Rev. Tom Sanders, Rev. Bob Costello, Rev. Darryl Duer, Rev. Dr. Richard Ruch and Rev. Peter Sanfilippo, Rev. Dr. David Mertz also ministered to UECF occasionally. For a specific period, Rev. Anna Bhujbal ministered to UECF mainly on fifth Sundays and also on all possible occasions.

Rev. Richard Bailey, a Missionary from Pakistan; Rev. Rafael Flores & Pastor John Carricks, Missionaries from Paraguay; Mr. Billy & Mrs. Joanna Coppedge, Missionaries to Uganda have shared the Word.

Popular Gospel Singers and Evangelists have visited and worshipped God many a time with special music and shared the word. The noted Gospel singers include Dr. John Bilmoria Rapaka, Dr. Bhanu Murthy Nainala, Bro. William Carey, Bro. Benni Prasad, Bro. Lazarus, Mrs. Mahitha Charles Pilli, Dr. Jacob Prabhu, Bro. Daniel Akumathi, Bro. Dayanidhi Rao, Bro. Raj Prakash Paul, Bro. John Moses Dusi and Vijay Benedict.

There were many servants of God who visited, preached and encouraged UECF during the past twenty years. All the names of the those who visited are not listed here due to lack of space.

8. SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

UECF worship services generally started at 5:30 PM Sunday, for many years. Recently, the start time has changed to 4:30 PM. The order of Service is in English. The typical Sunday service includes Praise & Worship, sharing the joys and concerns, intercessory prayers, special music and a Message.



Singing in regional languages:



Praising the Lord with songs and hymns has always been the important part of UECF Sunday Worship Service. Praise songs have been sung in English and also in different regional languages such as Telugu and Hindi. In addition to the standard instruments like Organ, Piano and guitar, many Indian musical instruments such as Harmonium, Tabla and Congo drums have been used to bring out special music.

Many musicians have offered their talents and supported the music ministry. The list of musicians include Mr. Sushil Bhujbal, Mr. Samuel Sudhakar Chilaka, Mr. Josiah Srigiri, Mr. Nishanth Dwaram, Mrs. Suneela Ponnappalli, Mr. Simon Bushi, Dr. Gurunadham Moodey, Mr. Carol Daniel Jokmels, Mr. Junia Moses, Mr. Sunil Robert, Mr. Spurgeon Perikala, James & Jacob brothers, Mr. Peter Kollory, Mr. Arun Kolluri, Mr. Steven Perumalla, Mr. Thomas Kalyanapu, Mrs. Sinai Dadepogu, Mrs. Emily Sensen Gopal and Ms. Yuko Unehara.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:

The intercessory prayer time has been a great opportunity for the congregation to instantaneously share their joys, concerns and other needs of the family and friends and to offer prayers.

COMMUNION SUNDAY:

Holy Communion has been administered on the fourth Sunday of every month.

9. SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH MINISTRY:

Sunday school has played a vital role in the growth of UECF. Families have firmly believed in Proverbs 22:6 which states “Train up the child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it”, while inculcating children with the word of God from the very beginning.



Sunday School has been conducted regularly during the Service to both beginners and other age groups (up to 12 years). Sunday School teachers have been following a yearly curriculum in nurturing children with the Word of God. Later, VBS courses also started and children have enthusiastically participated. Kids of different age groups exhibited their talents on all possible special occasions. Children were always excited to take part in the activities such as Sunday school retreats, Junior Bible Quiz (JBQ) tournaments, dramas, skits and group dances. Sunday School children also had the opportunity to visit the orphanages and share their love.

Over a period of time, as the children have grown along with UECF, youth ministry has emerged prominently to help equip the youth with the necessary tools from God's Word and to lay the right foundation for the rest of life.

10. BIBLE STUDY:

Group Bible study has been conducted on the second Friday of every month from 8:00 to 9:30 PM. Initially, members used to gather at their homes for group Bible Studies. Later, they started gathering at Church premises, as the location is more convenient. Laypersons had a wonderful opportunity to lead the study on all the Books of Old Testament and New Testament. The Bible studies were also based on the pre-selected topics.

11. HOME PRAYER MEETINGS:

Lenten Cottage Prayer meetings: Lenten Cottage prayer meetings take place on Fridays for six weeks during the Lent season. Congregation members always volunteered to open their homes to have Lenten cottage prayer meetings. Honorary pastors, guest preachers and laypeople have lead the Lenten meditations. Some of the members fast during the lent meditation time and generally these meetings end with fellowship meal. During this season, members express their love by contributing the canned food to the community food banks.

Praying for the sick : UECF congregation, as one body shared not only the joys and but also sorrows of the other members. Families fast and pray whenever someone in the congregation is sick.

Prayer Fellowships: In the recent past, Women's Prayer Fellowship has started to bring women into more intimate relationship with God. These meetings take place on the fourth Friday of every month. Similarly, Men's Prayer Fellowship also started and meets every last Friday of the month.

12. CHRISTMAS CAROLING:

Christmas caroling has been a wonderful opportunity both for the adults and kids to actively participate and enjoy the Christmas season. UECF has been following the door to door Christmas caroling tradition during this season. A special initiative was undertaken in 2002 by visiting 36 homes. This number has been increasing year after year. Generally, caroling starts in the first week of December. Carolers sing in different languages and share the joy through music and dance. Families show their hospitality by welcoming the carolers and offer cheerfully. God has been faithful in guiding the carolers in the snowy season and protecting them from the chilly winter winds.



13. SPECIAL FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS:

CHRISTMAS : UECF has been celebrating Christmas every year on 25th December with gladness and joy. The Christmas gatherings have been increasing progressively. Many families and friends not only from USA but also from Canada and India joined the UECF Worship Services. Christmas celebrations included spirit filled messages, Holy Communion, special music, children's special programs and conclude with Christmas banquets. In the recent years, UECF Christmas celebrations have been covered by Indian TV news channels.



WATCH NIGHT SERVICE: UECF's first watch night service started in the year 2002. Seventy seven people including children gathered at United Methodist Church, Union on 31st night of 2002 to welcome the New Year in God's presence. The following year, a combined watch night service was celebrated along with the multi ethnic congregation from International Family Church of New Jersey (IFCNJ) congregation lead by Rev. Ashish Bhatnagar.

It has been a blessing to start every New Year with prayer and Holy Communion. Watch Night service includes testimony time, candle lighting, special music and a New Year message. God's Promise Cards, Bible reading Planners and New Year calendars were distributed during Watch Night service every year.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:

In the past, UECF joined the similar congregations and participated in Good Friday Meditation services. As per the growing needs, UECF started the Good Friday meditation Service in the year 2007. Along with the pastors, lay Christians also lead the meditation on each of the seven words spoken by Jesus on the cross.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE:

In the initial years, it was a practice for the UECF to join Pastor Ravinder's United Methodist church congregation every year for Easter Sunrise service. This facilitated UECF an opportunity to participate and rejoice in the combined Easter Sunrise Service at the United Methodist Church at Berkeley Heights and also at Community United Methodist Church, Roselle. However, this practice was discontinued in 2009 and UECF started celebrating Easter sunrise service in the local church.



THANKSGIVING:

UECF celebrates Thanksgiving on the Sundays just before the fourth Thursday of November every year. In the year 2002, many local groups were invited for Thanksgiving service. Apart from UECF choir, other groups also presented special music. This trend continued as the years progressed.

Families donate items for auction. The proceedings of the thanksgiving auctions are generally designated to a specific cause every year.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS:

Children enjoy the special opportunity to celebrate Children Christmas in which they show their talents. Usually, children perform the Nativity play or Christmas pageants during this time.



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS:

During the Christmas season, women separately celebrate Women's Christmas with sharing of word and also have some fun filled activities.

MOTHER'S DAY:

In the year 2003, Mother's day celebration got boosted by specially honoring the 19 mothers by their sons and daughters in a grand manner. This trend continued with much enthusiasm in the following years. Generally, the UECF men folk prepare a delicious meal in honor of the mothers.



FATHER'S DAY:

Complementing Mother's Day, Father's Day also gets celebrated by honoring the Dads on the third Sunday of June.

Apart from the regular activities, UECF joins the similar congregations and participates in the church anniversaries and other special events. Every year, UECF choir joins United Telugu Christian Fellowship of Virginia (UTCFA) to lead worship at Annual Christian Family Conference in Virginia. Many a time, UECF choir sang at the churches in the neighboring states including New York, Connecticut and Delaware.



14. SPECIAL MEETINGS:

REVIVAL MEETINGS:

A two-day Revival meeting was held in the year 1998 marking the first Anniversary of UECF. Dr. Akbar Haqq, a distinguished evangelist was the guest speaker for these revival meetings. The local churches and UTCFNY participated in the meetings.

During the year 2002, UECF supported and participated in the Revival meetings hosted by the Church of the Nazarene at which Rev. Dr. Joshua Daniel was the speaker.



3-Day Revival meetings were held from 28th - 30th October 2005. Rev. Naveen Balakrishnan, a faithful servant of God, delivered a series of powerful messages. This series included the inspiring topics such as Salvation, Supplication, Sanctification, Scripture and Sharing. Many of the fellow Christians from neighboring areas attended the meetings and were spiritually uplifted by the messages. The Revival meetings left such an impact on those who attended that some of them started reading the Bible regularly 4 chapters-a-day as suggested by Rev. Naveen Balakrishnan. Thereafter, revival meetings have been organized once in a while for spiritual refreshing and edification.

GOSPEL MEETINGS :

3-day special gospel meetings with Bro. Anil Kumar were conducted in the first week of June 2006. During these meetings, the sanctuary was packed with a large gathering of over 250 people. Crowds were drawn from not only New Jersey but also from the neighboring states. These meetings left enduring impressions in the minds of those who attended.

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

UECF's 10th Anniversary was celebrated in a grand manner from 26th to 28th of October 2007. Various churches and fellowships around the region have participated in these 3-day programs in which Rev. Naveen Balakrishnan and Rev. Solomon Raju Kunchanapalli delivered powerful God's messages. A group of singers from Maryland presented special music apart from local groups. Children performed special choreography. All the previous executive leaders and their families were honored with special recognition for their services.

To mark the 10-year milestone, a Souvenir was released by Rev. Samuel Schmitthenner, former President of Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC). The Souvenir contains congratulatory letters from various dignitaries including the local Senators, Congressmen, Mayor and eminent Servants of God.

15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

UECF's 15th Anniversary was celebrated on 1st & 2nd December, 2012. Dr. Ramesh Richard, a renowned spiritual philosopher was the key note speaker of this celebration and a souvenir was released on this occasion.

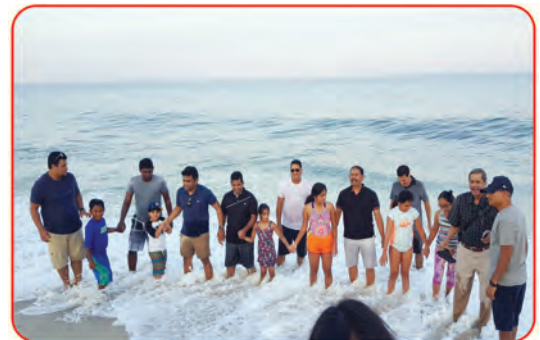


20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

UECF plans to celebrate 20 years of God's goodness and faithfulness on 28th & 29th October, 2017. The theme for the celebration is "Rejoice", chosen from 1 Thessalonians 5:16.

15. MARRIED COUPLES MEETINGS:

The Married Couples meetings are usually held on the 4th Saturday of every month in various homes that are pre-decided. Couples discuss and debate on various topics that are very practical and use the Bible as a guiding tool. Rev. Dr. David Ravinder & Mrs. Sarita Ravinder have been actively leading this ministry. A coordinator takes care of these meetings by inviting and making potluck dinner arrangements. This group enjoys the beach picnics occasionally.



16. MISSIONS & OUTREACH:

Missions and outreach has played a noble part in UECF's work. In keeping with the greatest commission given by our Savior Jesus Christ - Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15), UECF has started actively distributing

gospel tracts and Jesus DVDs on regular basis in the recent past. As part of local community support, UECF families visit old age homes on monthly basis and express their love towards the older adults.

As an evangelical Christian fellowship, UECF is committed to evangelism. Over the years, UECF has supported the gospel work and also helped and supported the poor and needy through numerous ministries in India and other countries. Whenever natural calamities occurred, UECF rose to the situation and contributed towards the relief efforts and helped the victims through the associated ministries.

17. SOCIAL & CULTURAL EVENTS:

UECF families actively participate in the following social and cultural events:

India Independence Day Parade : In the year 2005, India Independence Day parade was organized for the first time in New Jersey. UECF families took part in this secular event, which was held on 14th August 2005. It was a great experience to hold the UECF banner along with Tricolor flags and marching on Oak Tree Road. This certainly helped UECF in spreading awareness in the neighborhood.

Subsequently, UECF has been actively participating in the India Independence Day parades and leverage the occasion for distributing gospel tracts and Jesus DVDs. Some of the UECF's parade pictures were selected to be exhibited in the 'Beyond Bollywood' section of Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History located in Washington DC.

UECF FAMILY PICNICS: UECF annual family picnics are filled with lots of fun and plenty of food along with the spiritual food. Families and friends get together and enjoy the picnics organized in famous Parks of New Jersey such as Colonial Park, Johnson Park, Roosevelt Park and Cheese Quake Park.

All age groups right from children to seniors take part in number of activities and play a variety of games such as Bible quizzes, Bibliola (a popular UECF activity), Tug of war, Strawberry catching, Egg throwing, musical chairs, water balloons for children, dumb charades, Guess picture drawing, Cricket, Tennis and boat riding.



18. Fellowship Time:

The fellowship time has been very helpful in bringing cohesion among the congregation. UECF families have always enjoyed hosting Fellowship hour after each Sunday service with delicious Indian style home made food while celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries. Members volunteered to sign-up Fellowship hour roaster, generally placed on the notice board or over internet.



All the special occasions like Baby showers, graduation celebrations, Bridal showers, wedding receptions and thanksgiving service were always followed by fellowship meals.

19. Web site:

In the year 2001, Joshua (Phani) Pilli took the initiative to develop a web site for UECF and registered this as www.uecf.net. God has richly blessed this web ministry and UECF is well known all over the world through the web site. Members and others get periodic updates on the fellowship activities through the regular web postings. The video messages and songs are posted on regular basis. The pictorial account of the past events was also archived and made available on the web. The website is rich with messages, audio video songs, testimonies, children's programs and many useful resources; and serves globally as a one-stop resource center. Web site has been instrumental for the growth of UECF. It is wonderful to know many visitors have attended the UECF Sunday worship services and testified that they came to know about UECF through the Web site. Some such visitors started attending regularly. Joshua Pilli's never tiring efforts are fruitful in UECF's web ministry.

20. TV Ministry:

Expanding their outreach programs, UECF has newly started broadcasting their programs using Aradana Telugu TV channel on a regular basis with specific time slots. The half-hour time slots are generally filled with sharing of the Word and the music by both adults and kids. This is a tremendous opportunity for UECF to reach out the unreached through media.

21. Conclusion:

During the UECF's 20 years of faith journey, many families have joined; some have left because of relocation or other reasons and some have come back. In this walk of faith, UECF has shared the joys while celebrating birth and mile stone events in the congregation; has seen the lives being transformed and also witnessed sorrows while celebrating the lives of those who slept in the Lord. However, like a church built on solid rock, UECF continues steadfastly in carrying out its vision and mission both locally and globally for His glory!

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16*



UECF HONORARY PASTORS



Rev. Dr. David Ravinder
Sr. Hon. Pastor



Rev. David Davis
Former Hon. Pastor



Rev. Steve Nash
Former Hon. Pastor



Rev. Sunil Balasundaram
Former Hon. Pastor

Current Leadership



Mr. Joshua (Phani) Pilli
President



Mr. Samuel S. Sudshakar
Vice President & Music Coordinator



Mr. Anand Devi
Treasurer



Mr. Joshua Shaik
Secretary



Mrs. Shanthi Bhaskar
Board of Trustees



Mr. Rajiv Muthyala
Board of Trustees



Mr. Praveen Charles Dhara
Board of Trustees



Mr. Nagesh Siva Kola
Board of Trustees



Mr. Sunil Pagadala
Board of Trustees



Mrs. Satya Srigiri
Pastorate Committee



Mr. Hemanth Borugadda
Pastorate Committee



Mr. Rajanikanth Punuru
Pastorate Committee



Mr. Sunil Mentay
Pastorate Committee



Mr. Josiah Srigiri
Bible Study Coordinator



Mrs. Emily Myla
Sunday School Coordinator



Mr. Vivek Sandela
Youth Coordinator



Mrs. Kavitha Shaik
Women's Fellowship Coordinator



Mrs. Asha Dova
Married Couples Coordinator



Mr. Clarence Ponnappalli
Missions Coordinator



Mr. Ruben Kambham
Stewardship Coordinator

Former Executive Committee



Mr. Bhaskar Damarapu
Former President



Rev. Ebenezer Mallepalle
Former President & Treasurer



Mr. Ajay Damarapu
Former President



Mr. Syam Pilli
Former President



Mr. Moses Peram
Former Vice President



Mr. Clement Myla
Former Vice President



Mr. Simon Bushi
Former Secretary & Treasurer



Mr. Ravindra Saripalli
Former Treasurer



Mr. Chittaranjan Lam
Former Treasurer



Mr. Ravi Rapaka
Former Treasurer



Mr. Reggie Rao
Former Secretary



Mr. Kanthi Paul Rapaka
Former Secretary



Mr. Vijay Pulipati
Former Secretary



Mr. Vinod Nakka
Former Secretary



Mr. Nishanth Dwaram
Former Secretary



GUEST PREACHERS



Late Acharya R.R.K. Murthy



Late Dr. Joshua Daniel



*Late Rev.
Dr. M.S. Santha Vardhan*



Dr. Paul Dhinakaran



Pastor Moses Choudary



Pastor Abraham



Bro. Devaraju Jakki



Rev. Dr. A.B. Joseph Kishore



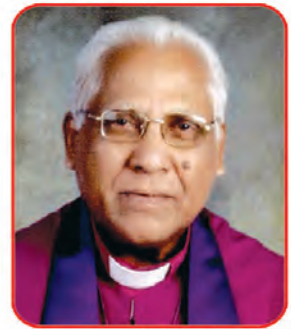
Bro. Anil Kumar



Bro. Harry Gomes



Rev. Dr. P. Joshi



Rev. Dr. Livingston Gadde



Dr. Joe Madhu Payarda



Dr. Jessie Veena Payarda



Dr. Ramesh Richard



Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

GUEST PREACHERS



Rev. Dr. P. J. Stephen Paul



Dr. John Wesley



*Rev. Dr. T. Prasanna
Kumar*



*Bishop Spurgeon Raju
Pachigalla*



*Bishop Daniel
Kalyanapu*



Rev. Herford Urica



*Dr. Devasahayam
Dandala*



*Rev. Dr. Samuel
Mohanraj*



Rev. Vincent Gurrula



Rev. K. Kurian



*Rev. Dr. Yesupadam
Bandela*



Bro. Rajan Mathews



Late Dr. Augustine Pagolu



Late Dr. Jaya Prakash Joshi



*Rev. Edward William
Kuntam*



*Late Rev. Dr.
Azariah Korabandi*

GUEST PREACHERS



Late Rev. Samuel Schmitthenner



Rev. Dr. Suneel Bhanu Busi



*Late Rev. Dr. Victor
Luther Paul Nakka*



*Rev. Dr. Vasantha Rao
Chilkuri*



Rev. Stanley Joseph



Late Rev. Dr. Dasari Bhushanam



Rev. Barnabas Sajja



Sis. Esther Rani



Rev. Dr. Ranga Raju



Rev. Emmanuel Paul



Bro. Raj Prakash Paul



Rev. D. C. Daniel Babu



Rev. Babu Jayakumar Kola



Rev. Naveen Balakrishnan



Rev. Solomon Kunchanapalli



Rev. Joseph Moses

GUEST PREACHERS



Dr. Vijay Benedict



*Bro. Michael Vijay
Kumar*



Bro. Santha Rao Bhogi



Bro. Deevanaiah



Rev. Dr. B. C. Paul



Rev. Dr. Joshua Jude



*Rev. Prasanna Kumar
Devarapalli*



Dr. Jacob Prabhu



Rev. Dr. John Moses Dussi



Rev. Ravi Prakash Runjala



Rev. Moses Katuri



Bro. Krish Samudrala



Rev. Manoj Bhat



Rev. John Francis



Rev. Dr. Kishore Daroga



Late Bro. Suresh Gundala

GUEST PREACHERS



Rev. Peter Sanfilippo



Rev. Dr. Richard Ruch



Bishop Stanley Downs



Rev. Gene Donahue



Rev. Dr. David C. Mertz



Rev. Bob Costello



Rev. Anna Thomas



Rev. Darryl Duer



Rev. Dr. Vijaya Kumar



Rev. Dr. Isaac Simon



Rev. Joseph Theophilus



Rev. Tom Sanders



Rev. Israel Suppogu



Rev. Dr. Thomas Nalla



Dr. Jacob Puli



Dr. T. M. John

GUEST PREACHERS



Rev. Dr. Nelson Vantabathina



Rev. T. Jeevaratnam Reddy



*Rev. Joseph Varakumar
Lam*



*Rev. Dr. Timothy
Kollabathula*



*Dr. John Bilmoria
Rapaka*



Late Dr. Samraj



Rev. Dr. Stephen Samraj



Rev. Ashish Bhatnagar



Sis. Krupa Michael



Sis. T. Mary Rajeswari



Rev. Dr. Lilly Daniel



Dr. Devaraju Patta



*Dr. Gurunadham
Moody*



Rev. Daniel Pasumarthi



Rev. Sam Saripalli



*Rev. Dr. Luther Benny
Janumala*



GUEST PREACHERS



Rev. Praveen Bhaskar



Rev. Arjuna Rao Rapaka



Late Rev. Dr. N. Bhanumurthy



Rev. Santhosh Tadigiri



Rev. Milind Sojwal



Dr. David Willis



*Rev. Chandrakanth
Bhujbal*



Rev. Moses Jangam



*Rev. Dr. Daniel
Akumarthi*



Rev. Ananth Kumar



Bro. Ratna Raju Rapaka



Late Rev. Vasanth Peter



Rev. Philip Gundala



Rev. D.G.M. Vinod



Rev. Amoon Sharon



Late Rev. Dr. G.R. Purushotham

PASTORAL CARE IN INDIAN AMERICAN CHURCHES

Rev. Dr. David Ravinder

INTRODUCTION

“In this article, I will be addressing the specific needs/challenges in providing Pastoral Care in the context of the Indian-American Churches. The impetus for this effort is drawn from my own ministry during the last thirty plus years and from conversations with other pastors of Indian origin serving directly or indirectly with the Indian-American Faith Community.



A. PASTORS AS COUNSELORS

A Pastor is a person, called by God, ordained by the Church, deployed to serve a particular community of people. Counseling is one of many areas and avenues that are integral to the work of the Pastor. A Pastor is a Preacher of God's Word. He/She is a Teacher. Pastors also lead Worship, conduct prayers for various occasions. Additionally Pastors play a primary role in all of the critical stages of the lives of the people they are called to serve, i.e. Birth, Baptism, Educational pursuits, Pre-marriage Counseling, Marriage Counseling, Career Counseling, Health and Wholeness matters and finally Death and Dying. The pastor is often called on to address the spiritual aspects and dimensions in each of these stages and stage transitions.

To be sure, there are a myriad of ways in which the interactions between a congregant and a pastor take place. Sometimes these contacts/ conversations are brief and over the phone or via e-mail. They are limited to a shorter period of time, lasting a few minutes for each contact and over a period of few days or weeks. At other times, however, the pastoral conversations require a sit down, face-to-face session, usually in the pastor's Study or in the home of the congregant. Most Pastoral Care type of conversations occur in the 'public arena' that is, when others are present. In contrast, Pastoral Counseling type of conversations needs to occur in a more private setting, such as the pastor's office. The difference between these two types of pastoral ministry to hurting persons has long been studied, and taught in seminary courses dealing with pastoral training.

B. PASTORS AND THEIR FAMILIES: NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

It is imperative that the Pastor pays attention to the needs of his/her own family. Failure in this regard has led many a pastor down the path of hurt, pain and failure in effectiveness. The Scripture clearly teaches on this front. In I Timothy 5:8 Paul writes: "And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever". These are harsh words indeed, but need to be mentioned. The neglect of the family cannot be justified on the grounds of a busy ministry or pastoral calling. The Pastor is often looked up to as a spiritual leader, who by his/her example sets the tone for how the congregation understands ways in which Faith operates in daily life.



Ephesians 5:21-27 makes it ample clear that in every marriage and family, there ought to be mutual respect and reverence for the other – each is created in the image of God and plays a God-given role in the family context. If Timothy is the ideal pastor, Paul's words to him are applicable to today's pastor. "Now an Elder must be above reproach, married only once temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher." 1 Timothy 3.2

C. DYNAMICS OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS: CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM

The above discussion now may be extended to the Christian Family. The major focus here is to understand that the Christian Family/Home is a 'System' and needs to be viewed and understood as such. Without going into the details, I just want to say that the Family is a complex phenomenon and the dynamics of inter-personal relationships are best understood when viewed as more than the sum of the individuals who are a part of this entity. From a theological standpoint, Family is more than a social institution, more than a cultural enterprise. More on that will be said. The traditional concept of the 'Family' is going through rapid change and Pastoral Care of the Family also must keep abreast with the changes in order to be effective in dispensing appropriate Care. Failure in this regard has already resulted in many becoming more and more isolated and alienated from the Community of Faith.

Theologically speaking, we assert that the Family is the result of Divine plan. The Bible teaches that Man and Woman are created by God. They are created in the 'image' and 'likeness' of God. In the Book Genesis we read, "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them". (Genesis 1:27)"

This is the fundamental driving force for our understanding that humans are created for a purpose. There is a plan in God's will and purpose for humanity. Differences between the sexes are recognized and roles delineated from the beginning without placing any value judgments. Before we get into the details of the creation story of Man/Woman as recorded in Chapter 2, we notice the equality of male/female. We need to take a serious lesson from this, particularly those of us raised in India as children and young adults who are now raising children in the North American context. There is a need to un-learn some cultural biases and values and return to Biblical values as far as the family and roles within the Christian Home are concerned. There are many passages that offer guidance to families and pastors. Notable ones are: Ephesians 5:21-23, Colossians 3:17-19, 1 Peter 3:1-8.

At the heart of the theological understanding of the Family is the idea of Covenant. God is a Covenant making and Covenant keeping God. This is central to our understanding of God in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New testament. Christian Marriage is also a Covenant making and Covenant keeping entity. There are a set of vows that each makes to the other which forms the basis for the creation of the Family into which two people bring children. Speaking about the relationship of the Church to Christ, Paul uses the human experience of marriage as analogy. The Church is akin to the Bride and Christ is the Groom who paid the price for her by his own blood. It is in the context of this Covenantal relationship of Christ and the Church, can we truly grasp the Christian idea of marriage as Paul and Peter teach.

The idea of 'Extended Family' is not new to the Indian Community. With more waves of immigration taking place, there is a resurgence of this type of family in the United States. Due to economics and also cultural practice and old tradition, many Indian families have adopted this where it is not uncommon for three or four generations living under one roof.

This does place the family in added stress but also serves to alleviate other stressors like baby sitters, house sitters, live-in care givers to the elderly, etc. Nursing care is provided at home by family

members. Where families have not been able to do this, emotional hurt, a sense of abandonment has been noted, requiring specialized pastoral care. Once again, it needs to be reiterated that there is no clearly held, 'norm' and each situation raises a different set of questions/needs that must be answered and met with care and sensitivity.

I wish to move to an important area of Parenting that has led to a great deal of angst for parents of Indian origin and that is, the Discipline of Children. Questions of when to, where and how to, have plagued parents about this matter. There is no agreement on any of the aspects among professionals related to discipline of children.

What does the Bible say about discipline of children?

God's Word very clearly addresses the importance and practice of discipline.

The two Greek words are very instructive. 'Discipline' (paideia) refers to the whole method of training a child. 'Instruction' (nouthesia) means to counsel, advise and warn. Words are used to build up, direct and encourage the children.

Discipline (training) and instruction have a common purpose. The image of the 'Guardrail' aptly describes it. The guardrail exists alongside the highway to prevent cars from going over a cliff. The guardrail's purpose is to safely keep the cars on the road. Improper use of discipline occurs when the parent is only trying to keep the child out of danger rather than positively focusing the child. In many cases, a parent only disciplines a child when the child made someone angry or when he/she greatly disturbs the parent.

The child in these cases will be confused about what is acceptable. Inappropriate use of discipline occurs when a parent uses it due to a personal problem or a bad headache and could not rest. The child is not sure where the 'guardrail' is. It might as well be in the center of the road. This has the potential to exasperate a child and push the child into anger. Discipline's real goal is to enable, guide, confirm and help.

We are reminded that "the rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother" (Proverbs 29:15). My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves. . ." (Hebrews 12:5-6).

Parents should not avoid the momentary unpleasantness of discipline when deemed necessary. The wise parent expresses both discipline and affection with equal promptness and measure.

Children have many needs- physical, emotional, intellectual, relational and spiritual to name few and these needs change as they grow. They are dependent upon the parents at a very large degree in infancy-toddler stage. As they move to later stages of life, their major need is to become autonomous and independent, to think for themselves and to put into action lessons learned earlier in life. This is both a crisis and an opportunity for the parent. Since pastors get called so often to family functions and celebrations, it would be important to keep these stages and stage transitions in mind in order to provide insight and guidance.

D. CARING FOR THE HURTING

Someone described 'Life' as a series of adjustments that one has to make to maintain a sense of balance and wellness. In this process or journey, we are beset with all sorts of challenges and 'crises'. Some of these are predictable and some are not. Pastoral Care in general has been used by Pastoral Care Givers to deal with the after math of these tragedies and crises in life. While that may be the



necessary thing to do, I think more can be done by way of preventative Pastoral Care to individuals and families.

First, some attention to the tragedies and crises of life. The Christian family is not immune to the general crises that attend to all of human life. Job loss, loss of relationships, divorce, abortion, debilitating illness, accidents, economic crises, adultery, death, suicide happen that threaten our sense of balance and wellness. The Church needs to be prepared to deal with these and a host of other crises. These are the moments when the Family is extremely vulnerable to attacks from within and without.

Pastoral Care takes on a new form wherein pastoral conversation is not merely a skillful use of techniques to manipulate people toward God, but a deep human encounter in which one is willing to put one's own faith and doubt, one's own hope and despair, one's own light and darkness at the disposal of others who want to find a way through their confusion and touch the solid core of life. This is the incarnational style of providing Pastoral Care to people who are hurting.

In my work with people in crises, I have discovered that what they do not need is to hear from me about the so called 'normative vision' of life which seems distant and unachievable. What they need is a connection to hope and strength and the grace of God that can bring them out of the current quagmire.

E. NEEDS OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY: CHALLENGES AND BRIDGES

What are some unique needs of the Indian American Community? What challenges do these needs surface? What bridges can be built to handle them? We will take up these questions in this segment.

First, the need for Dialogue. Among several needs that exist, one that I feel is urgent is to provide an avenue for our families to engage in open dialogue. Too often families are left to fend for themselves on many situations due to family pride, problem of shame, repression and guilt, a perceived feeling of non-acceptance by the rest of the community on a wide range of issues. There is a deep hunger for individuals/families to engage in conversations about how to get a handle on the important issues confronting the children, youth and older adults of our community. Building on a successful offering of several workshops to parents and youth, one pastor of a large Indian Congregation wrote, "We should plan Workshops/Seminars to our congregations on topics like this (Dating, Discipline, Marriage and Family Life) which might be of help to our families".

Second, the need for Publications. Not much is published on the important issues facing the Indian American Community. Serious study and analysis of the issues, concerns, and needs, followed by sound Biblical/Theological reflection is needed. There have been some recent publications such as, 'Caring for the South Asian Soul' (2010-Primalogue, Bangalore, India) which is a significant effort in the right direction. Better dissemination of the research findings and helpful suggestions for implementation is needed. A Web-based channel would be welcome.

Third, many pastors that I have talked with have expressed a lament about their training in this area. One pastor wrote me saying, "My PhD is in the area of Theology, Philosophy & Religion; highly academic, not relevant to congregational situations and problems" This pastor said he received no CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at all. One only has to wonder how many pastors are in this predicament. I strongly urge that pastors spend some quality time in training, whether the CPE or some other model.

Fourth, is the need for Empowerment of Lay persons for the task of Lay Pastoral Care in the

Church. I believe this takes place informally and without clear direction/supervision and guidance. An excellent resource is a model used by Stephen Ministries in American churches.

Dr. Kenneth Hauck, pastor, clinical psychologist, and founder of Stephen Ministries lays out the basic tenets of this ministry in his book, *Christian Caregiving – a Way of Life*.

This model could be adapted to suit the particular needs of the Indian American community. Pastors are not always able or available to meet all the demands for Care in the Church. Training of Lay persons therefore is imperative.

F. CHURCH AS A CARING COMMUNITY: METHODS AND MODELS

If anything, the church is a place where Care is extended to all persons regardless of any conditions. Jesus reminded the disciples, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Matthew 13:35) If the church fails to reflect this love Jesus is talking about, the world will never be convinced about the Gospel and its claims on people's lives.

The model of Caring that the Church needs to follow is the one set by Jesus Christ himself. We see this clearly laid out in his own words, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21). Here is a pattern, a design, a model for the Church to follow. The Way of Jesus is the path of humility and service. In Philippians 2nd chapter, vs. 5-8, Paul says this about Jesus.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross.

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to God the Father's will and plan. Grace of God is not cheap, but neither does it cost any money. It is freely offered without a price, since Christ has paid it all. The Caring that is offered in Church is predicated upon the firm belief and conviction that God in Christ has accepted all of us. Jesus also said, "Freely you received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8)

Pastoral Care in the church is always offered as a part of the overall ministry in the name of Christ and therefore there must never be a cost involved. Many pastors offer specialized one-on-one counseling to people and in some cases, charge a fee for this service. I believe this is not an appropriate way of providing care in the Church.

CONCLUSION

I hope that this article would be of help to you the reader, whether you are a pastor or a parishioner. It was written keeping both the audiences in mind. I also hope that the contents will be of some use to other Health Care Professionals like Social Workers, Psychologists, Marriage and Family Counselors, Medical Practitioners, and Educators. All the while it has been assumed that the reader is knowledgeable with the context of the Indian-American Christian Community.

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"Live simply, love generously, care deeply and speak kindly. Grace is God reaching down.

Faith is you and me reaching back".



CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THIS CHANGING WORLD

By Pastor Stanley Joseph

This world is changing at a very rapid pace. Yes, the world has always been changing, but the Tsunami called the “Information Technology” took the world by surprise. The changes that took place in the past 25-30 years were more than the last 5,000 years. Information has become the currency of this new millennium. The Information Technology (I. T. world) has changed the way we think, live and work. Even our faith life has been impacted by the knowledge that is available to us. Many a times we swallow the information given to us through the Internet without understanding the motives of the provider. And because it is free we do not question or challenge the provider.



The global cultural changes that are taking place now are profound. Changing morals and decaying societies are not new in human history. The recent US Supreme court decision to legalize homosexual marriages in all 50 states merely highlights a vast sweeping social and religious change that is sweeping through the entire globe. The United States of America considered the leader of the world is moving even more rapidly towards self-destruction than the societies of the past.

But as Christians we can continue to rely on an unchanging God and His revealed Word. Indeed God Himself has told us, “For I am the Lord, I do not change” (Malachi 3:6). Our challenge is to build and maintain an unshakable faith in this constantly changing world. We look to the Almighty God who is far greater than anything men or the rulers of this world could ever say or do. So, we need the wisdom of God to see this world for what it is and to overcome the efforts of Satan that is working over-time to subvert our faith.

God has plainly described in the Word of God how in the end times, Satan will attack the children of God with the love of this world. “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (2 John 2:25-27).

Since the world is so changeable, and we do not know what the next hour or what the next day will bring, we must fix our eyes on something or someone who is unchangeable. God’s providence is real. The providence of God is one of the greatest themes of the Bible and one of the greatest blessings of a child of God. There is a wonderful harmony in the divine working of God or in His providence. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). So, let us accept with joy the life, which God sends our way, and look forward, with great anticipation toward that which is beyond.

Anything and everything in this world without God is vanity. Take away our relationship with God and nothing in this life of a man is of any value. The morality of a child of God cannot change with the changing of times. The Almighty God and our Creator has already dictated to us how to be in this world even as the world continues to change from time to time. A child of God realizes God’s sover-

eighty when he understands that God is always in control. God knows beforehand what is going to happen. We do not have a God who needs to adapt with the changing times or circumstances. The God of our Bible sits on the throne above the earth and the heavens independent of all the creations. Our God is a holy and a perfect God. Neither God nor His Word needs to change. “Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my Word will never pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

A child of God is always in a dilemma not understanding how to live his faith. So, how do I live in this world and keep my faith? For that we need to clearly understand the Scriptures. God never wants His children to change according to the world but according to the Word of God. Paul advises the Church of Rome, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

But many times we exchange our thoughts with the thoughts of God. We try to implement our ways into the ways of God and try to convince ourselves that it is fine or that God is pleased with our thoughts and ways. When it is the contrary. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways” (Isaiah 55:8).

We also know that God is perfect and we are not! So, how do we imperfect people live and please the Almighty God who is holy and perfect. To understand how to live in this evil and changing world, we need to study and obey the guide or the manual given to mankind, which is the “World of God.” The standard a child of God lives is not according to the standard of this world but according to the Scriptures. And this standard has never changed, starting from creation to eternity and from Genesis to Revelation it continues to remain the same. We are called to live a life that is pleasing God by obeying the Word of God.

It is easier said than done. When the pressure of this world tends to become heavy, that’s when we start to compromise on the Word of God. If only we all had the strength, patience, belief and hope to hold on to God’s promises. Then we would surely understand and see the salvation of God in our lives. That is a promise made by God. And we know that, “God is not man that He should lie” (Numbers 23:19). Throughout the history of the Bible, we see God sending a Prophets, Judges and Kings to deliver the children of Israel from the enemies. And finally, for the salvation of mankind, God sent his Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

As I conclude, I want to remind all you that there is difference between “fact” and “truth.” They might both sound similar but the meaning is different. Let me give you an example, “I am alive and I am writing this article.” If you read this article 50 years later, the first part of the statement might not be a fact. Why? Because I might be dead by then! But when God says “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). This statement is never changing and that is the ultimate truth. Not only from the time of creation of this world but also from Eternity to Eternity this has and will continue to be the truth. So, let’s not rely on the facts of this world and change from time to time but hold on to the only truth, which is the Word of God.



THE GREAT COMMISSION UNDER BRITISH RAJ 1858-1947

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Many Christians neither pay attention to, nor understand what missions are. So did I when I was young. My childhood days were spent in Madras, Srikakulam and Rajahmundry where my parents served the A.P. government. As little children, my siblings and I attended Sunday school regularly, and occasionally we ran into the local missionaries. I still remember how they paid attention to us even though we were of no importance to them. They gave us small gifts like picture cards of Lord Jesus and small Bible story books.

Their gestures of love made a great impact on my young mind. As we grew older, our church activities reduced to a minimum except for regular church attendance. While in Andhra University, a Canadian missionary couple ministered to the students. Their weekly visits delighted us, their Bible studies and prayers encouraged us and their love strengthened us. But I never tried to understand why they were doing what they did. I read the Bible but my understanding at that stage was shallow. It never occurred to me that through Matthew 28:18-20 the Lord was speaking to every believing Christian including myself and not just to the eleven disciples only: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." And He also said to them **"you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth"** (Acts 1:8). As I grew older the meaning of "the great commission" given by the resurrected Lord, began to sink into my mind.

Christian Missions : The dictionary meaning of "mission" (n) is a special assignment given to a person or a group of persons to go abroad for political and commercial purposes. The word "missions" is not in itself a biblical word. The singular form mission comes from the Latin language and means basically "the act of sending". **"Christian Mission"** is the calling of a religious organization to go out into the world and spread its faith. These organizations were formed by committed Christians in obedience to the Great Commission. Missions always involve sending individuals and groups called "missionaries" across geographical boundaries for the purpose of proselytism. This involves evangelism and humanitarian work especially among the poor, unprivileged and undeveloped peoples. Missionaries have the authority to preach the Christian faith, create employment opportunities by establishing educational institutions, hospitals and vocational schools. They help people improve their living conditions.

Early Missionaries : The Christian church started on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon people in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-13) From that point of time the disciples began to travel to other countries to preach the gospel. It is believed that St. Thomas brought the gospel to India. We read about Paul's missionary journeys. The followers of Christ did not hesitate to go to the farthest ends of the earth to preach the good news. This was risky and full of trouble. Yet they ventured at the cost of their lives and changed the world because they loved the Lord and people.

Foreign Trade : India became the center of attraction for international trade during the period between 16th and 18th centuries. As early as 15th century Europeans became interested in developing trade opportunities with India and a new trade route to East Asia. The Portuguese were devoted to this task. In 1497 Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese royal navigator and explorer led an expedition around the cape of Good Hope and across the India ocean. In May 1498 he sailed into the harbor of Calicut on the Malabar coast opening a new era for Indian history. In the following centuries more and more European merchants surged in and their activities were restricted to trade and evangelism. The Dutch displaced the Portuguese as masters of the seas around India in the 17th century and the Dutch East India Company was founded in 1602. Two years later its main rival, the English East India Company was started. Both companies did business in spices and gradually shifted to textiles, particularly India's characteristic light cottons. By the 18th century British sea powers matched that of the Dutch and the European rivalry in India began to take on a military dimension. The French became a serious threat to the English. By this time the Mughal Empire was experiencing its rapid decline and regional kingdoms were emerging. Consequently many wars were fought. At this chaotic stage the British managed to grab the reigns.

British Rule in India : The history of the British Raj refers to the period of British rule on the Indian subcontinent between 1858 and 1947. The system of governance was instituted in 1858 when the rule of the East India company was transferred to the crown in the person of Queen Victoria who was proclaimed Empress of India in 1876. It lasted until 1947 when the British provinces of India were partitioned into two sovereign dominion states : the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan, leaving the princely states to choose between them. In the 18th century, and even more so in the 19th century, missionaries based in Britain saw the Empire as a fertile field for proselyting for Christianity. All the main denominations were involved, including the church of England. In the earlier years of its rule the Company had taken a position of neutrality with regard to the religious and social affairs of its subject. The company decided not to interfere with the traditional cultures of the people by supporting missionary work. They feared that the missionaries might offend the Hindu subjects of the company and create unrest.

They thought that the work of the missionaries could affect their business policy and the diplomatic role of the East India Company. Arguments for and against setting up missions in India took hold of the company. At that time, Charles Grant served as Chairman of the British East India Company and also as a member of Parliament (M.P.).

He was very influential both in India and Britain as well. He was motivated by evangelical Christianity. He championed the causes of social reform and Christian missions in India. Grant sought only for an official endorsement of the East India Company for his proposal to start a missionary endeavor. At that time, the only missionary minded Christian figure in England, who had the status to bypass the East India Company and influence the Government itself, was John Wesley. The battle for missions heated up again in 1813 when the Company's Charter came up for renewal.

William Carey's work had earned immense respect for missions, in Bengal as well as in England. There was a great unrest in the British Parliament in the year 1813 when the issue of permission to start missionary movement on India was asked. But the missionaries and their political supporters had prepared for a formidable attack. It was argued that Indians were in the darkest plight. The conversion of India to Christianity would spell temporal benefits to the heathens. They believed that the conversion would further consolidate the empire. Consequently Charter Act of 1813 made provisions to grant permission to people who wished to go to India for promoting moral and religious improvements. In other words the Christian missionaries were given authority to propagate English and preach their religion on the subcontinent of India. Funds were also granted to promote such efforts. The charter act of 1833 laid down regulation of permanent presence of missionaries in India and also made provision for Anglican hierarchy at Calcutta. Missionary Societies were formed in England to endorse and support willing missionaries to go to India. With the expansion of the British Empire, missionaries began to arrive and Christianity began to spread.

Dioceses were formed at Madras and Bombay. Ever since then there existed a renewed cooperation between the missionaries and the colonial power in helping one another in their missions. With a clear vision the Evangelicals now had access to India and could begin spreading the Gospel to the idolatrous heathen Indians. The Church Missionary Society and the London Missionary Society joined the Baptist Missionary Society in the initial missionary efforts for translating the Scriptures and establishing schools. Their efforts were based on the prior legendary work of the Rev. William Carey and the Baptist Missionary Society at Serampore. William Carey arrived in India in 1793 and began his work in Calcutta. He was the pioneer of the Evangelical missionary movement in India. He translated the Bible into Bengali, Marathi, Sanskrit and Punjabi languages.

He helped the Indian social reformer Raja Rammohan Roy prohibit “sati” (an evil custom among the Hindus that the wife throws herself on the funeral pyre of the dead husband and burns herself to death). In his missionary zeal Carey lived practically the teaching of Jesus in Luke 18:29-30 **“no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive— eternal life”**. He served the community at the cost of his own family and faced many hardships. Numerous conversions and rigid rules imposed by the British government at this period posed a threat to the Hindu culture and the result was the Indian Sepoy Mutiny in 1857. Following the Mutiny, the missionary focus rested on the use of educational and medical missions as vehicles for conversion. The primary interest of the Raj was to keep control over India and the dominant interest of missions was to work for the conversion of Indians to Christianity. But in the colonial situation they found themselves in need of one another so mutual support was but natural. The missionaries suffered a lot for bringing education and awareness of social justice to the people living in the rural areas of India. There may be hundreds and hundreds of British missionaries who selflessly endeavored to bring salvation and enlightenment to multitudes in India but a few of them stand out and their memory remains indelible in the annals of Christianity in India. The Church Mission Society created and maintained several educational institutions in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The CMS College of Kottayam may be one of the pioneers in popularizing secondary education in southern India. Former Indian President K.R. Narayanan was an alumnus. The services rendered by Benjamin Bailey to Kerala are commendable. He translated the Bible into Malayalam and was considered as the father of Malayalam printing. The successors of the protestant churches established by CMS are the Church of South India and the Church of North India. One of the missionaries sent by CMS was Frank Lake, a medical doctor from Britain. He headed the Parasitology Department of the Christian Medical College of Vellore. CMS extended its services by sending missionaries to Madras, Travancore, Agra, Meerut, Benaras, Bombay, Tirunelveli, Calcutta, Punjab, the Telugu country, Allahabad and Kashmir. Rev. George Cran and Rev. Augustus Des Granges arrived at Vizagapatnam in 1805. They were sent by London Mission Society. They were followed by many more from LMS and they established schools for boys and girls separately. It took quite a long time to have some converts and the LMS church was started. The Bible was translated into Telugu language and printing press was set up. Rev. John Hay, Mr. R.D. Johnston, Mr. Jonathan Couch Brain and Mr. William Dawson and a few other British Colonial officers, Eurasians and a few native Christians made necessary activity possible at the LMS station that was set up at Visakhapatnam. Native Telugu Baptist pastors like Purushotham Choudhary, Das Antharvedy and Pulipaka Jagannadham(LMS) were ordained and they served as missionaries in Visakhapatnam, Vijayanagaram and Srikakulam areas. Amos Sutton was an English General Baptist missionary to Orissa.



General Sir Arthur Cotton was a British General and irrigation engineer who devoted his life to the construction of irrigation and navigation canals through British India. He traveled in Telangana with the help of two missionaries E.E.Jenkins and George Fryar and set up a missionary station in a village called Sironcha in Maharashtra (its on the border of Telangana and Maharashtra). Henry Little and William Burgess went to Secunderabad from Madras and were responsible for starting Telugu Methodist Church in Hyderabad in 1879. Charles Walker Posnett arrived in Secunderabad in 1895 and visited a village called Medak and the ultimate result was the Diocese of Medak which is spread over five revenue districts of Northern part of Telangan region of former Andhra Pradesh state. Several English women also served in India as doctors, nurses and teachers. Edith Mary Brown was a British medical doctor and educator. She started a Christian medical training center in Ludhiana, Punjab which has turned out to be today's Christian Medical College of Ludhiana. Many other Protestant Mission Societies were formed in various other countries and denominations. The British allowed their entry and the local people were benefited. Among the many missionaries who arrived, some were ordained pastors, some doctors, nurses, teachers and helpers. Their wives also carried the responsibilities of their husband in missionary work. Local people were trained as gospel workers, school teachers and Bible women. The light of Gospel illuminated many dark areas. The living conditions of the poor and uneducated improved. Unity was built up and all Indians gathered under one banner as one nation. The British Raj proved to be a boon and not a bane as some believe. The British had selfish reasons for doing what they did, but like it was written in Romans 8:28 **"God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."** Evidently India was in God's plan of salvation and so it worked out for our good. The missionaries exhibited pure love and compassion towards strangers. They left their comfort zones and sacrificed their lives for the salvation of those in darkness. If the great commission is meant for each one of us, what are we doing in obedience to it? We may not be able to speak and reason out like Paul, Barnabas and Apollos did, but can we at least distribute gospel tracts whenever we have an opportunity. According to tradition Purushottama Chaudhary who was born in an orthodox Bengali Brahmin family had found the absolute truth that Jesus Christ was the Son of God by reading a gospel tract probably written by William Carey.

He not only embraced Christianity but led hundreds of non believers to Christ. We are inspired every day by singing the Telugu hymns he wrote. We must become aware that it is our responsibility to share with others what the Lord has done in our lives !! I believe each one has more than one story to tell others of the great things He has done in his or her own life. Be a missionary in your own sphere and tell others what the Lord has done in your life liken the man in Luke 8:39 **" ' Return home and tell how much God has done for you.' So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him."**

Lutheran Missionaries, Landmarks and Legacies

Gettysburg, PA, USA to Guntur, AP, India

By Syam S. Pilli, Virginia, USA



Prologue: India's first church was founded in 52 A.D. by Apostle Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. As commissioned by the Lord, the doubting Thomas became a fervent missionary and preached gospel throughout Malabar Coast. He died as martyr in 72 A.D. and was buried in a tomb near Chennai. Though Christianity was established in 52 A.D., the Christian movement throughout the rest of India was propagated only after the arrival of the European and North American missionaries in the 16th century. Saint Francis Xavier, a Roman Catholic missionary commenced the great missionary work in 1542. The First Protestant missionaries Bartholomew Ziegenbalg and Pluetschau arrived in Tranquebar in July, 1706 and worked extensively by translating and printing the first Indian Bible in Tamil in 1714. William Carey, the father of modern missions arrived in Calcutta in November, 1793 and greatly influenced the missionary movement in India.

Christianity in the Telugu land is the result of several foreign missions. The following table provides the details of the foreign missions in Telugu region until the arrival of American Lutheran Mission.

Year	Mission	Base	First Missionaries
1805	London Missionary Society (LMS)	Vizagapatam (Visakhapatnam) –1805 Cuddapah (Kadapa) –1822 Chicacole (Srikakulam) - 1839	Rev. George Cran and Rev. Augustus Des Granges
1836	Plymouth Brethren	Narsapur, Palakollu	William Bowden, George Beer and their wives
1840	American Baptist Mission (ABM)	Nellore	Rev. Samuel Stearns Day, Rev. Stephen Van Husen & their wives
1841	Church Missionary Society (CMS)	Masulipatnam (Machilipatnam)	Rev. Robert Turlington Noble and Rev. Henry Watson Fox
1842	American Lutheran Mission	Guntur	Rev. Dr. John Frederick Christopher Heyer



Lutheran Church in America:

The Pennsylvania Ministerium was the first Lutheran church body in North America, founded by German-American clergy in 1748. It was a member of Evangelical Lutheran General Synod of the United States of North America (General Synod) from 1820 to 1867. Afterwards, it became a constituent church of General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America (General Council).

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania:

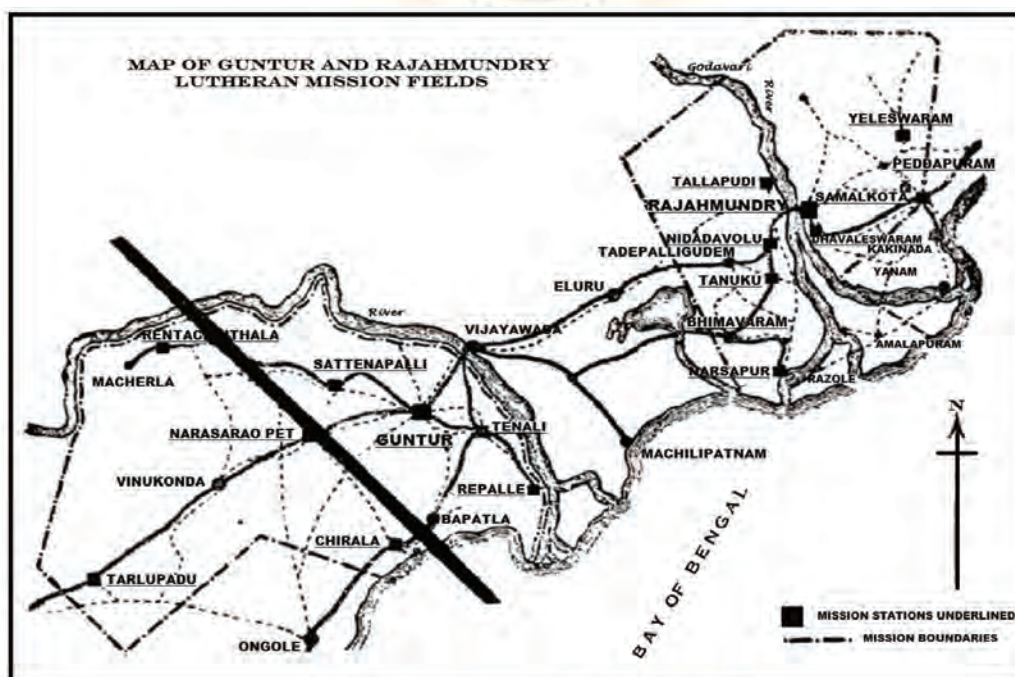
Under the leadership of Samuel Simon Schmucker, the General Synod founded Gettysburg College (1832) as well as Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (1826), the oldest continuously running Lutheran college and seminary in North America. American Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Society was formed in 1836 as the missionary organization of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and started missionary work in countries such as India.

American Lutheran Mission in India:

July 31, 1842, was considered the day on which the first American Lutheran mission was begun in India. Rev. John Christopher Frederick Heyer, familiarly known as Father Heyer arrived in Guntur on this day and founded the American Evangelical Lutheran Mission in India. A tiny seed of faith sown then by Father J.C. F. Heyer has now grown like a mighty tree and is known as Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) with hundreds of pastors, thousands of congregations and millions of families.

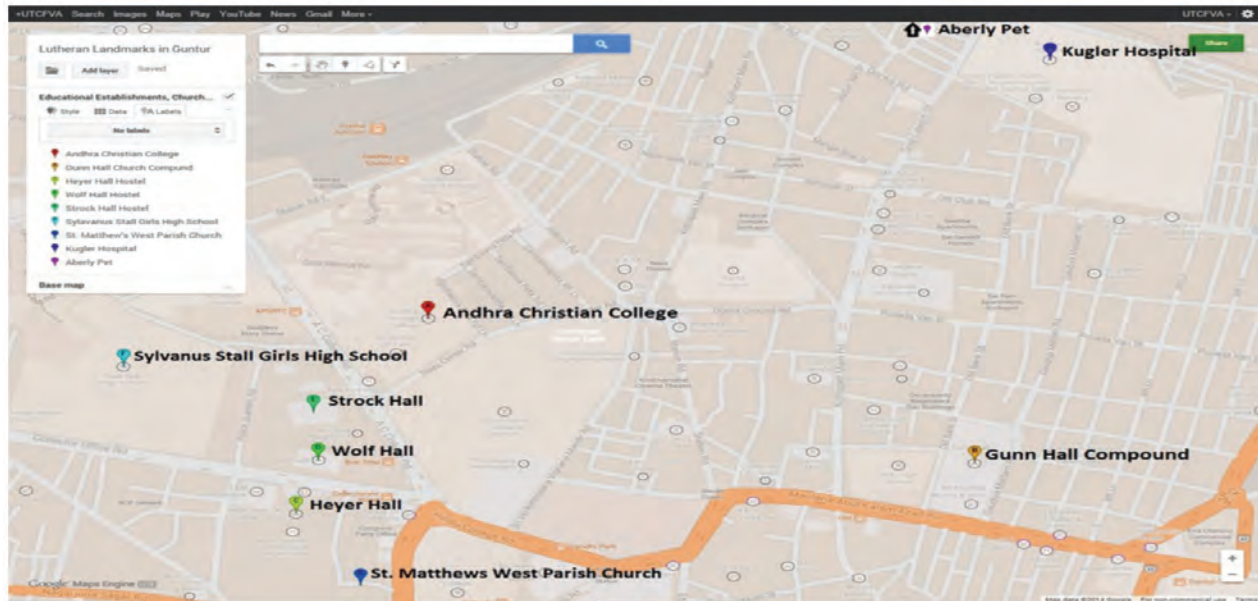
Guntur, Andhra Pradesh:

Guntur is the center of American Lutheran Mission work. Though propagation of Gospel was their main mission, during the course of time missionaries established several churches, educational institutions and hospitals in Guntur and other regions. Their network of schools, churches and hospitals spread across various fields including Narasaraopet, Rentachinthal, Sattenapalli, Repalle, Tenali, Tarlupadu, Chirala, Rajahmundry, Narsapur, Bhimavaram, Tanuku, Nidadavolu, Tallapudi, Peddapur, Dhavaleswaram, Samarlakota and Yeleswaram. Over the period of time, as part of the mission work, missionaries built the necessary buildings which became important landmarks in the respective mission fields. Map-1 displays the various mission stations, fields and the boundaries.



Map-1: Lutheran Mission Fields and Boundaries

The scope of this article confines to the works of the Lutheran missionaries who started their missionary journey from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA, and toiled much in setting up educational establishments, churches and hospitals in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India. These resources helped not only the Telugu region but also the country as a whole to grow ecumenically, educationally, socially and economically.



Map-2: Lutheran landmarks in Guntur

Map-2 depicts the significant landmarks in Guntur that were instituted by the Lutheran mission. These lasting buildings and landmarks portray the legacy of the missionaries whose biographical sketches are provided in this article.

1. Andhra Christian College

More than a century old Andhra Christian College is a living symbol of the great missionary work by the Lutheran Mission in Guntur. It was founded with a mission of providing highest type of Christian education. The motto of the college is “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free”, which was taken from John 8:32.

Andhra Christian College traces its roots back to an Anglo-vernacular school that was handed over to Rev. John Christopher Frederick Heyer in 1842. The school continued to progress for few years but had to close in 1863 due to financial difficulties during American Civil war. However, the arrival of Rev. Dr. Lemon Leander Uhl, a Gettysburg college graduate who landed in Guntur along with his wife on March 26, 1873 changed the situation. He reopened the Anglo-vernacular High School on July 1, 1874. His commitment and contribution towards education was tremendous during his fifty years of mission



Andhra Christian College, Guntur



service. A new era started on September 1, 1885 with the introduction of Intermediate courses and with the affiliation to Madras University. The school rose to a second grade college and was named as American Evangelical Lutheran Mission (AELM) College. Rev. Dr. L. L. Uhl worked diligently in America to raise funds for a permanent building for the college. A major donation was received from the Watts family in Maryland in memory of their loved one. The then Collector of Guntur, Mr. A. T. Arundel, Esq. (the famous Arundel Pet was named in his honor), laid the cornerstone for the first permanent building on March 18, 1890. Acknowledging the noble gift given by Messrs. Watts, the building was named Arthur G. Watts memorial building. The building was completed under the supervision of Rev. L. B. Wolf, the first principal of college. The building was formally opened by Lord Wenlock, the Governor of Madras Presidency on March 17, 1893 and it was first occupied in October 1893. A few years later, Assembly Hall and other administrative buildings were erected. Mr. Valaparla C. John, familiarly known as Mr. V. Ch. John was the first Indian Principal of the College.

On July 1, 1926 a new chapter in the life of college started by opening degree classes with an affiliation to newly established Andhra University. Along with the cooperation received from Church Missionary Society and Baptist Mission, the college was rechristened as Andhra Christian College in 1928. During 1930's Bachelors of Science and Bachelors in Divinity courses were introduced. In 1939 the Theological Department of Andhra Christian College was transferred to Luthergiri Theological College (Seminary) in Rajahmundry. From 1971 onwards, the college has been affiliated to Acharya Nagarjuna University.

The stone structure of A. C. College surmounted by a high tower has been a significant land mark in the heart of the city. Steeped in history of over one and a quarter centuries, Andhra Christian College has been the alma mater for many generations. Its alumni have distinguished themselves in various spheres of life and are spread across the world.

2. Heyer Hall / Heyer Hall Compound

Father J. C. F. Heyer founded the American Lutheran Mission in Guntur in 1842, which is presently known as Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC). Commemorating Father Heyer's pioneering and eminent missionary services, in the jubilee year of American Evangelical Lutheran

Mission in Guntur, the corner stone for Heyer Memorial building was laid on November 5. Heyer Memorial building that served as boys' boarding hostel was built entirely from the funds received by the congregations in India, and was dedicated on October 7, 1902. Afterwards, a new block was constructed with fine stones in 1937. Further, a bronze bust of Father Heyer was installed in the hostel on July 31, 2010, marking the 168th Gospel Day. The large compound in which this hostel situated is known as Heyer Hall compound.



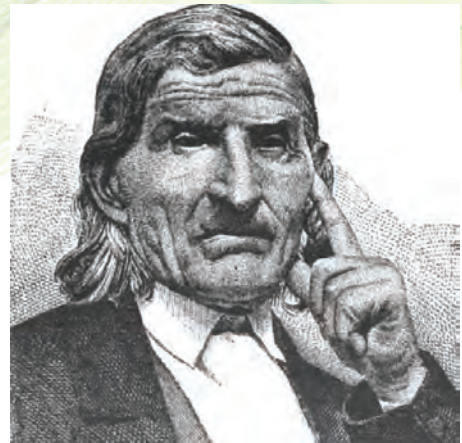
Rev. Dr. John Christian Frederick Heyer (July 10, 1793 - November 7, 1873) :

John Frederick Christian Heyer was born in Germany, moved to America at the age of fourteen and continued his studies by living with his maternal uncle in Pennsylvania. He studied theology under scholars like Dr. Helmuth and Dr. Schaeffer. He was licensed by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and appointed a traveling missionary.

Rev. J. C. F. Heyer was instrumental in purchasing Gettysburg Academy and forming Gettysburg Gymnasium in 1829 which became Gettysburg College in 1832. He was one of the patrons of Gettysburg College and was elected to the first Board of Trustees. Also, Rev. Heyer assisted laying the cornerstone

of the Seminary building in Gettysburg on May 26, 1831, and afterward served this institution as a member of the Board of Directors.

Rev. Heyer offered to become the missionary to India with an initial investment of one thousand dollars of his own money, and it was accepted by Society of the Synod of Pennsylvania on June 9, 1841. He sailed from Boston and landed in Madras, and from there he reached Guntur via Nellore in 1842. The collector of Guntur, J. Henry Stokes, Esq. cordially welcomed Rev. Heyer and generously supported the missionary activities. Rev. Heyer held the first service in Guntur on the first Sunday of August 1842. He spent four years in and around Guntur in acquiring the language, in teaching and preaching. The fruit of his labors consisted in the baptism of a number of children of Christian servants, the baptism of a few others, and a number of candidates for baptism. Rev. Dr. Heyer pioneered the establishment of missionary schools in and around Guntur. A few years later, he was joined by Rev. Gunn and Mrs. Gunn. In 1846 failing health compelled Father Heyer to return to America.



After regaining health, Father Heyer went back to India in 1847 and started a mission station at Palnadu (Gurazala). Meanwhile, Rajahmundry field which was started by German missionaries was merged with Lutheran mission in 1850. He became a missionary at Rajahmundry till 1857, after which he returned to USA due to ill health. When Rev. Heyer heard of the proposal to transfer the Rajahmundry field to Church Missionary Society, he offered himself to go to India for the third time at the age of seventy seven. After a remarkable missionary work, he finally returned to USA in 1871. In 1872 he was elected chaplain and house-father of the Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and served there till his death at the age of eighty.



Father Heyer's zeal in pioneering was compared to that of the Apostle Paul. His life is a rich legacy to his church and to her children. His name is even to this day held in loving remembrance in the fields where he labored. Father Heyer is commemorated as a missionary in the Calendar of Saints of the Lutheran Church on November 7.

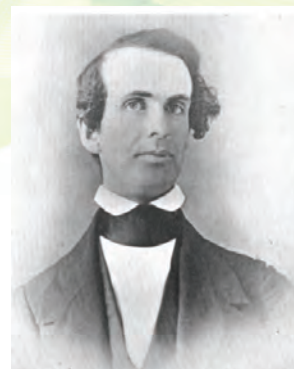
3. Gunn Bungalow / Gunn Compound

The Reverend Walter Gunn was the first missionary from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, who had fallen in foreign field. The Mission house built by Father Heyer was partly demolished by a severe storm in October, 1846. A new bungalow was erected immediately with the contributions received from Mr. J. Henry Stokes, Collector of Guntur, a kind hearted godly person. Foreign Missionary Society provided funds to complete the building into which Rev. Gunn and his family moved on July 20, 1847. Famously known as Gunn bungalow, this was a home for many missionaries from which they carried on extensive mission work. The early Lutheran Church known as Stork Memorial Church was built in Gunn Compound.



Rev. Walter Gunn (June 27, 1815 – July 5, 1851)

Walter Gunn was born in Montague, Massachusetts. Later he moved to New York in 1833. After getting converted at a religious meeting held in New York in 1837, Walter Gunn connected himself with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schoharie. He had a strong desire to preach gospel to the heathen. In order to qualify himself for the foreign missionary field, he studied in Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. He was ordained in 1843 and was appointed missionary to India. He was married to Lorena Pultz in 1843 before sailing for India. In November 1843 he embarked with Mrs. Gunn in a ship at Boston for India.



Rev. and Mrs. Gunn arrived in Guntur on June 18, 1844 and immediately joined the mission started by Father Heyer. He remained a faithful and indefatigable co-laborer for seven years till his death. The entire Lutheran mission work in Guntur fell on his shoulders when Father Heyer returned to the United States. Though Mrs. Gunn was in charge of schools, the mission task was not easy as the field is filled with so many obstacles, so much prejudice against Christianity, and opposition to the truth. In 1849 they lost their youngest child in Guntur. However, they were encouraged by their faith in the promises of the gospel. His zeal for the Lord was so much that it was noted on one occasion in the Guntur bazaar, he became so indignant at some idolatrous performances of the heathen, that he lifted up his voice in

great earnest against the idolaters who became exasperated at him and consequently proceeded to pelt him with stones.

He loved the cause, labored patiently and cheerfully with unremitting diligence. After 7 years of extensive service, his health declined. Reverend Walter Gunn died from Tuberculosis and was buried in Guntur Cemetery.

4. Wolf Hall

Wolf Hall is a Boy's hostel named in honor of the Rev. Dr. L. B. Wolf, an American Lutheran missionary in India for 24 years. He was the first principal of Andhra Christian College.

Rev. Dr. Luther Benaiah Wolf (November 29, 1857 - November 25, 1939)

Luther Benaiah Wolf was born in Pennsylvania, one of eight children to his parents. He was educated at Gettysburg High School, College and Seminary; licensed by the West Pennsylvania Synod in 1882 and was appointed to the foreign field in December, 1882.

Rev. Wolf along with his wife arrived in Guntur on November 29, 1883. He took charge of the high school and English work from Rev. L. L. Uhl in January 1885 and had charge also of the boarding boys' hostel and Guntur congregation till 1890. During his principalship the high school was raised to a college and affiliated to the Madras University, to which he was appointed a Fellow by Lord Wenlock, the chancellor of the university in March, 1893. Rev. Wolf supervised the construction of first permanent building for A. C. College, known as Arthur G. Watts's memorial



Rev. Dr. L. B. Wolf

building. Ground was broken in 1889 by his five year old son George Benner, who was born in Guntur and died of Cholera within a month of ground breaking ceremony. Overall, Rev. Dr. Wolf had ably served the college for eighteen years.

In addition to the numerous engagements, his contributions to the literary field are notable. As determined during the Mission's jubilee celebration, he had written an admirable historical sketch of the General Synod's mission work in India. It's titled - "After Fifty Years" a historical sketch of the Guntur Mission. He also edited and published "Missionary Heroes of the Lutheran Church" which includes extensive profiles of a number of India missionaries.

He returned to the United States in 1907, served as general secretary and also in other executive roles for the Board of Foreign Mission of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. At the age of 82, Rev. L. B. Wolf, D.D. died in Baltimore, MD.

5. Strock Hall

Strock Hall is the girls' hostel for the students of Andhra Christian College. This hostel was given the name in honor of Rev. Dr. John Roy Strock who served for 33 years as a Lutheran missionary in India.

Rev. Dr. John Roy Strock (June 8, 1882 - October 30, 1978):

John Roy Strock was born in Pennsylvania. In 1905 he enrolled at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and three years later earned a bachelor of divinity degree. He was ordained into the ministry and commissioned as a missionary for the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States on September 3, 1908. He sailed for India on September 9, 1908 and arrived in Guntur on November 1, 1908. Being a Science graduate from Dickinson College, PA, he re-organized the laboratory of Andhra Christian College and was appointed Vice Principal in 1911. He married Elizabeth Maudy Evans at St. Matthew's Church, Guntur on November 9, 1911 and Rev. Dr. Uhl performed the marriage ceremony.

Rev. Roy Strock had efficiently served as the principal of Andhra Christian College for three times spanning a total of 12 years (1919-1922, 1927-33, 1936-39). He initiated the merger of Noble College, Masulipatnam (Machilipatnam) with Andhra Christian College to make one United Mission College and assumed the principalship of Noble College. During years of 1922-24, he conducted a huge fund raising campaign in the USA and collected around three hundred thousand dollars.

During his tenure as principal, Rev. Dr. Strock was sympathetic to the Indian national movement for freedom. In 1936, he was the recipient of the Kaiser-i-Hind first class gold medal from His Majesty the King Emperor of India in recognition of public service in India. Rev. Dr. John Roy Strock was the fifth President of Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) in 1937. Later he served on various All-India bodies connected with the National Christian Council. He also served as an advisor to the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church until his return to the United States in 1949, after which Pastor and Mrs. Strock retired from active missionary service. Rev. John Roy Strock, D. D. died in Tennessee at the age of 96.



6. Sylvanus Stall Girls High School

Missionaries pioneered the women's education as part of their missionary work. Mrs. Lorena Gunn, the first woman missionary in Guntur was in charge of Guntur schools from 1844 to 1853. Though women missionaries like Mrs. Schure, Mrs. Unangst, Mrs. Uhl, Mrs. Rowe, Miss Dryden, Miss Sadtler and Mrs. Wolf carried on the school work in Guntur, the first normal school for girls was opened in February 1892 with Mrs. G. Thaayaaramma as Head Mistress. Afterwards, Miss Minnie Moses, Miss Sadler, Mrs. Albrecht and Dr. & Mrs. Aberly helped with the school discipline. The school was raised to Lower Secondary in 1900 and upgraded to Higher Secondary School in 1907.



Girls' Boarding School in Guntur in 1885

As the school was growing, the building with mud walls was not adequate and the need was to build a bigger building. Miss Brewer, principal of the school was instrumental in raising funds for a fine school building. Foreign Missionary Society of the General Synod of the Lutheran Church helped to a large extent in this effort.

Rev. Dr. Sylvanus Stall, a Lutheran pastor, author and philanthropist donated more than one-third of the total cost of the building. Though not a wealthy man, in this benefaction he had not given a little out of much, but very much out of a little. For his generosity, his name was given to the school. The ground was broken on April 11, 1910, corner-stone was laid on July 13, 1910 and the Stall School was dedicated on April 10, 1912. This large building is 280 feet long and 112 feet deep. It was built of light gray stone. The walls being three to four feet thick, it is intended to last many centuries. Afterwards, a compound wall was erected around the School.

The first student graduated from Stall High School was Chegudi Victoria Danamma, daughter of Mr. Chegudi Joshua, in 1919. She was sent to Women's Christian College in Madras and two years later to Madras University for B. Sc. After completing her degree, Mrs. C. Victoria Joshua (wife of Rao Saheb T. S. Paulus) had the honor of becoming first Indian Head Mistress of Stall Girls' High School.

The famous saying "Great Oaks from little acorns grow" is very much true in the life of this school. Over the years, several missionaries contributed their services to shape Stall School into a successful girl's school and the list of those missionaries includes Miss Fuller, Miss Knauss, Miss Jessie Brewer, Miss Tillie Nelson, Miss Florence Welty, Miss Emma Johnson, Miss Susan Glatz, Miss



Stall High School Senior class of 1939

Edith Eykamp and Miss Hazel Naugle.

The Sylvanus Stall Girls High School celebrated the centenary fete in November 2007. Over the century, those women who studied in this school generation after generation rightly proved the old adage - "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a family".

7. St. Matthew's West Parish Church

Over a century, St. Matthew's West Parish Church evolved as a symbol of Christian faith and an important landmark in Guntur city. This Church has its beginnings in Stork Memorial Church in Gunn Compound that was erected in 1877 by the generous gift of Mrs. Emma Baker Stork of Pennsylvania, in memory of her husband Rev. Theophilus Stork, a graduate of Gettysburg seminary. As the congregation was growing, there was a need for building a larger Church. Again, Mrs. Stork contributed generously for the new church building. Mrs. and Dr. Zimmermen of New York who were visiting India, broke the ground for the new church

on January 21, 1904. The cornerstone of the Church was laid with solemn ceremonies on January 18, 1905. Rev. Murari David was ordained and installed as the first regular pastor in 1905. The completed Church was dedicated on October 8, 1907. Rev. Dr. John Aberly was intimately connected with the church until 1923. During his time the congregation increased in numbers and spiritual life.

St. Mathew's West Parish Church with magnificent rock edifice and stained Belgian glass windows has been instrumental in bringing in social and cultural revolution. Many were benefited from the communion and the fellowship on the Church premises and went on to become great men and women. The Church celebrated the centenary week during the third week of October 2007.

8. Kugler Hospital

Founded on June 22, 1897 by Dr. Anna Kugler, the American Evangelical Lutheran Mission Hospital on the 18 acre campus was considered one of the best during her tenure. Dr. Kugler was the first woman medical missionary sent by the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States. She ministered to the spiritual and physical health of the people in Guntur region for 47 years. No patient left the walls of the hospital without having heard of the grace and mercy of Jesus of Christ, the Savior. The Mission Hospital, which was renamed after her as Kugler Hospital has been a prominent landmark in Guntur.



Native Pastors, Preachers and Missionaries

Back row (L-R): Dr. Victor McCauley; Mr. V. Ch. John; Mr. N.V. Raghavachari; Pastor M. Satyanandam; Mr. P.B. Paul; Dr. John Aberly. Front row: Pastor P. Philip Leisenring; Mr. S. Bhushanam; Pastor K. Luke; Dr. L.L. Uhl; Mr. Chegudi Joshua; Pastor R.P.D. Augustus; Pastor Murari David



Dr. Anna Sarah Kugler (19 April 1862 – 26 July 1930):

Anna Sarah Kugler was born in Ardmore, Pennsylvania; graduated from Friends' Central High School in Philadelphia. She attended the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1879. She interned for two years in the Women's Department of the Norristown State Hospital. She was moved by a sermon of an old missionary that described the suffering of Indian women for the lack of medical aid, and decided to do medical work for the women in India. In 1882 Dr. Kugler applied to the Board of Foreign Missions of the General Synod of the Lutheran Church in America for sponsorship. As the Mission was not ready for medical work, she was initially sent to India as a general missionary to assist the Zenana work.

Dr. Kugler arrived in Guntur on November 29, 1883. In addition to her general missionary duties, she worked on secondary responsibilities as doctor. Recognizing the need, she was appointed a medical missionary in 1885, and a new dispensary for women and children was opened on February 15, 1892. A corner stone was laid for the hospital building in 1893. Eventually American Evangelical Lutheran Mission Hospital became operational in 1897, which was mostly administered by women. Dr. Kugler worked tirelessly as a doctor as well as raising funds for the need. Over time, the hospital was equipped with surgical facilities, maternity and children wards and a nursing school. A chapel was erected in the campus with the generous donation from Mrs. Sophia Zimmerman, President of the Woman's Missionary Society of the First English Lutheran Church, USA. The Women's Convention in Pennsylvania donated much needed amount to rebuild the maternity and surgical blocks, and a children's ward was donated by Mrs. Mary Hencken of New York in 1911.

For the yeoman services rendered by Dr. Anna Kugler, the British government in India awarded her the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal twice in 1905 and 1917. She was a devoted, consecrated, self-sacrificing worker in the missions cause and an accomplished, admirable and highly honored missionary. Her autobiography titled "Guntur Mission Hospital" is considered a great inspiration to the medical servants and others as well. Dr. Anna Sarah Kugler died of pernicious anemia on July 26, 1930 and was buried in Guntur. Though her name was deeply graven in the hearts of people, a bust and a tablet were installed at the entrance to the hospital in 1983, which will continuously remind the great services of this noble woman.



9. Aberly Pet

Aberly Pet, a colony located north of Kugler campus in Guntur is named in honor of the Aberly family for their contributions in missionary and literary work for over three decades.

Rev. Dr. John Aberly (Sep. 18, 1867 - Dec. 21, 1963):

John Aberly was born in Pennsylvania, studied at Gettysburg College and graduated as the first honors of his class in 1888. Afterwards, he studied in the Lutheran Theological Seminary. He married Alice Strauss of Gilbert on August 3, 1889. They were called to serve the Lord as missionaries. In November, 1889 they left for India and reached Guntur on January 18, 1890.



The Aberlys served among the Telugu people for over three decades and educated Telugu Church leaders, pastors, Bible trained teachers, and gospel workers until 1923. Initially, Rev. Aberly labored for two years in the Narasaraopet field, after which he took charge of the Boarding School, the Theological Training School and the Telugu congregation at Guntur. He acted as Principal of Andhra Christian College during the period when Dr. L. B. Wolf was away on furlough or on other duties. Mrs. Alice Aberly worked with boarding school children, women of the congregation and church music.

Rev. John Aberly learned Telugu and authored Telugu Bible Dictionary that took about 20 years to complete. Apart from editing various church periodicals in Telugu, he authored Telugu commentary for seven Bible books that included Mark, Acts and Romans. He also authored Telugu Union Hymn book that shows Telugu hymns in English metres. His scholarly Telugu literary works remain a great gift to the Telugu churches in the years to come. After serving for 33 years, on February 27, 1923 the Aberlys left for America.

After returning to the United States in 1926, Reverend Aberly served as the president of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg till 1940. Rev. Dr. John Aberly served God humbly with deep devotion all through his life and was called to his eternal reward at the age of 96.

Conclusion

Many faithful and devoted missionaries have toiled their lives to yield the fruits of their labor. Their strenuous efforts not only brought us the gospel but also gave us the momentous resources and left an unsurpassed legacy. As followers of Christ, it is our duty to carry out the great commission given by Jesus Christ. And as Christians, it is our responsibility to protect and improve the Churches, Educational establishments, Hospitals in order to keep the legacy alive.

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HISTORY OF EMPEROR CONSTANTINE

By: Rev. Dr. Sundara Rao Tsappidi, M.A., D. Litt.



For the readers of the Bible, the study of Christian history is something more than academic pursuit. Here, our attention is drawn to look into the history of one of the Roman rulers by name Constantine, who embraced Christianity along with his mother, Helena. In this context, we have to understand the plans of God, how He molded Constantine for His works. Constantine divided the Roman Empire into four parts and he remained as a ruler to the Eastern part. He made Byzantine as his capital, which originally belonged to the Greeks. Later, that name was changed into Constantinople, which remained as the Eastern Christian world for 1,000 years. After some time, this Constantinople was changed into

Istanbul and again, that was changed into modern Turkey.

Constantine was a courageous hero of faith, and God used him for many purposes. Out of 54 Roman rulers that ruled Israel, he was the only emperor who became a Christian along with his mother Helena. Both tried their best for the spreading of Christianity. Actually, one wonderful thing happened at that time. He was forced to do some battles, and in such a critical situation, he dreamed a dream in which he saw the Cross hanging in the clouds, and he heard a voice saying, “In the sign, you will conquer, or on my name you will win the wars.” Eventually, he became victorious in all the battles. Then, what did he accomplish with the blessing of God?



1. He stopped persecution that was rampant for about three centuries.
2. He abolished the Cross punishment.
3. He made Christianity an authorized religion.
4. He stopped the mass slaughter of innocent people by making Christianity an approved religion with the following conditions:
 - a. Christians can openly read and possess the New Testament.
 - b. Christians can openly maintain their churches, ministries, and meetings anywhere without fear.
 - c. Christians can take part in the Lord's Supper.
 - d. Church edifice must be rebuilt, and it must be remembered.

5. Constantine openly proclaimed himself as a Christian clearly and publicly, as he understood true faith in Christ and did not care for the consequences.

6. He sent his mother to the Holy Land to locate the ancient Christian sites and build shrines over the holy places. Later, she became Saint Helena and was honored with the title “Reverend Royal Lady”. It is said that she built the Church of Ascension on the Mount of Olives to mark the three traditional holy sites. She also identified two more sites outside the wall of Jerusalem. They were the places of Christ’s crucifixion and burial. She believed that she was guided by God to locate all these places. When the hill was dug, three pieces of wood signifying three crosses were discovered. And Constantine built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in that place.

Constantine declared that he wanted to hold a meeting at Nicaea (a place), which was about 45 miles from Constantinople. About 2,000 delegates attended this marathon conference, and most of them were bishops. The result was the “Nicaea Creed” came into existence. The meeting also confirmed the scriptures teach and demand for the deity of Christ and the triune nature of God. According to John 1:1-4, Matthew 28:18-20, and Revelation 1:8-20, the Nicaea Creed reads as follows:

“We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.....”

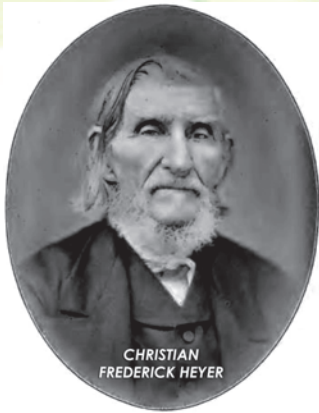
In addition to that, Constantine put before the council the correct date for the celebration of Holy Easter and it was done based on the Jewish calendar. He established Constantinople as the headquarters of Christianity for about 1,000 years. However, the Christians of the West did not know all these wonderful changes.

Then, Constantine gave complete liberty to the Pope, who declared supremacy over everything. Finally, the Pope was crowned as a king to the West with full powers. Today, what we see in the Vatican, the headquarters for the papacy, is the outcome of Constantine himself. His achievements were most wonderful. They were: It was he who made Christianity a national religion. It was he who changed the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday. It was he who demolished all the heathen temples built by King Solomon in order to please his heathen wives, and constructed magnificent churches there. That place was called Baalbek, which is in the Eastern part of Mount Olive. So to say, both Christians and Jews were very happy in his reign.

One of his close friends, Eusebius, said the following words about Constantine. First, he praised him for his noble qualities toward humanity and his obedient faith toward God and Christ. As a result, God also blessed him abundantly and he remained as a noble and true believer of Jesus Christ in Christian history. This brief study on the life of Constantine would suffice to

throw light on Christian history and provide some valuable information which might encourage believers to estimate the first Christian Roman ruler. And finally, his accomplishments as a Christian ruler were :

1. He stopped the persecutions that continued for about three centuries.
 2. He sent his mother Helena to the Holy Land to locate Christian sites and build shrines over them.
 3. He made Christianity an approved national religion.
 4. He proclaimed himself as a Christian and followed Christian causes.
 5. He asked his close friend Eusebius to write about his early Christian life.
 6. He convinced the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., which settled the question of Christ's deity.
 7. He also asked the Council to decide the correct date of resurrection as Holy Day.
 8. He established the city of Constantinople to remain as the capital for the entire Eastern Christian world for a millennium.
 9. In addition to that-, he built four churches and they were:
 - a. The Church of Enunciation in Nazareth in the place of the house of Joseph and Mary.
 - b. The church on the birthplace of Jesus Christ called the Church of Nativity.
 - c. The church in Christian colony (in Jerusalem) called the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.
 - d. The church on Mount Olive in memory of his mother Helena named the Church of Helena.
- So, what the Emperor Constantine did for the spread of Christianity nobody would have done in the entire world.



An Ideal Missionary **REV. JOHN CHRISTIAN FREDERICK HEYER** (July 10, 1793-Nov 7, 1873)

FOUNDER OF THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN MISSION IN SOUTH INDIA

By Dr. Santha K. Jetty

THE REVEREND JOHN CHRISTIAN FREDERICK HEYER,

Doctor of Medicine, Minister of the True God, Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ,
Pastor, Preacher, Pioneer and a Patriarch to the Telugu Lutheran Church.

A REMARKABLE MISSIONARY

- The American Lutheran Missionary Society in Andhra was originated with the interest of the British Colonial Administration under the aegis of the Church of England.
- At the Baltimore Meeting of the General Synod in 1841, the Telugu field was chosen under the society's name "The Foreign Missionary Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States" through two of its main agencies namely: The General Synod at Guntur and The Pennsylvania Ministerium at Rajahmundry.
- At the beginning of his missionary career, Rev. Heyer conducted worship services for the English officials and European residents of the East India Company.
- Rev. Heyer was the founder of the Guntur Mission field on July 31st 1842.
- Rev. Heyer had helped in the establishment of the Rajahmundry Mission field by Louis P. Menno Valett of the North German Society in 1843.
- Rev. Heyer's missionary service in India stretched forth three terms over a period of 30 years from 1841 to 1871.
- Bible work was given a prominent place and catechism was used at every service of the school and Rev. Heyer started a Sunday school with in the first year.
- In the year 1844 itself Rev. Heyer baptized three persons, Isaac, Ruth and Prakasam during which time missionary arrival in India has been slowly happening and new missionaries had hard time in settling for the new weather and climatic conditions.
- In the year 1859, many missionary societies were struggling to get even a single convert, the number of baptisms from the AELM were recorded at forty four, sixteen confirmations and one hundred and nine communicants.
- Rev. Heyer's Christian contribution made Guntur to the distinction of being the 'Most Christian District' in Colonial India.



AN EDUCATIONAL MISSIONARY

- Rev. Heyer had considered the idea that schools network to be suitable for the dissemination of the Gospel seed among the natives of India and believed that India's evangelization must be done through a body of trained native workers filled with Christian education and experience.
- Rev. Heyer was an excellent disciplinarian and a good instructor. Increased the efficiency of the schools by conducting public examinations. The foundation for the vast Lutheran educational network along with evangelistic work was laid down by Rev. Heyer in Colonial Coastal Andhra.
- Rev. Heyer had employed caste teachers at the beginning of his educational enterprise, however, he wished to use more intelligent converts.
- Established Anglo-vernacular schools in Guntur, Rajahmundry, Palnadu, Gurajala, Polepalli and Dachepalli.
- Rev. Heyer had trained most promising boys to become preachers and village school teachers.
- A girls' school was founded by Rev. Heyer in 1842 with fifteen girls in Guntur and subsequently in all the mission fields with boarding facilities. (traditionally girls were denied the right of education since ancient times in India). A Medical Missionary
- Rev. C.F. Heyer, M.D., was a Medical missionary who had dispensed medicines for the healing of the body and availed the opportunity to organize evangelistic effort among the patients in the Guntur and Palnadu areas.
- He took a course in medicine, as he saw what opportunities for such a medical work would present to his hands for reaching the natives of all classes.
- He never selected away that was easy. He had a passion for hard service. He was the man for the hour, and God used him, as he was willing to be used. This was the secret of his life and the fruit of his action.
- During his missionary service in Palnadu, he had prepared for his death as that field was in the most malarious part of the Presidency. Surely death never moved him from his purpose. He had his coffin made and a grave dug. But he never was sick, and when he subsequently left that field, he burned his coffin and used St. Paul's words over his grave: "O grave, where is thy victory?"
- His life was a rich legacy to this Church: His work has grown in volume and importance in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, India. God had blessed the vast reach and the true value of his labors.
- He had a world vision and his soul was restless unless it was in touch with the whole world. Such men belong to the whole Church. He was one of God's NOBLE MEN.



FATHER HEYER MEMORIAL



Dr. Santha K. Jetty

ELCA SES Synod Council Member, Atlanta, Georgia

ANNA S. KUGLER, M.D. (1856 – 1930)

A PIONEER CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MISSIONARY TO INDIA.

The Bible – Nearly one-fifth of the four Gospel accounts which portray the ministry of JESUS to healing the sick. Out of 3,779 verses in those four Gospels, 727 relate specifically to the healing of physical and mental illness and the raising of the dead. Jesus had more compassion on the sick than any other need in human life. There are many mass healing events recorded in the Gospels but there are 31 individual healings. Jesus chose Luke a Gentile to be his disciple, who was practicing medicine in Antioch. In today's context practicing physicians and surgeons are second to none with other professions.

When Joshua (Phani) Pilli called me just a few days ago asking me to pen an article for his upcoming UECF 20th Anniversary Celebrations souvenir and he specified it should be about Kugler Hospital and Missionaries. I did not hesitate even a single second because that is my top most priority that I pursued in my entire life saving Kugler Hospital. Actually, it is a privilege and honor to pen this article about such Great Servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. I was born to a Physician and Surgeon in a hospital that Dr. Kugler started at Rentachintala in Guntur District namely Lutheran Hospital of Rentachintala.

Dr. Kugler was born in Ardmore, Pennsylvania to a prominent family. Her father Charles Kugler served for a time in the Pennsylvania State Legislature. After high school and graduated from the Women's Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1879. Her first job was at Pennsylvania State Hospital Norristown, Pennsylvania in 1880 as First Assistant Physician. She interned there for two years

in the women's department. She along with her family worshipped at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

In 1882, she received a letter from Rev. Adam D. Rowe, a missionary of the General Synod serving in India, in which he conveyed to her the urgent need for medical care for the Indian Telugu Women of The General Synod. At once, she took that as an invitation and call from God the





Almighty and prayed about that open door to become a Pioneer Christian Medical Missionary to India.

Dr. Kugler immediately made an application to the Board of Foreign Missions for an appointment as a Medical Missionary. Her application was referred to the Executive Committee of the Women's Society Who decided that they were not yet ready to undertake medical work, but would send her to Guntur Synod to teach and to do Zanana work. That is to teach Muslim women as a teacher.

She readily accepted their offer to do Zanana work even though that was not her profession or calling. She agreed to go to Guntur, with the condition that she be allowed to minister to the sick whenever the opportunity comes. She was commissioned and ready to sail to India when a fellow parishioner gave her one hundred dollars specifying to buy medicines to the poor. She used that one hundred dollars to buy Medicines during her brief stopover in England. Finally, she reaches Madras (Chennai) in India and from there she sailed to her final destination via Buckingham Canal and reached Guntur on Thanksgiving Day Of 1883 that is Thursday November 29th, 1883.

After arriving in Guntur, she was not long in finding patients. She started treating them on the Verandah of the Missionary Bungalow in Mangala Mandiram where she was residing. Soon, the patients flocked when it became known that a woman doctor arrived from America. In December of 1885 after just two years of her arrival in Guntur, she was finally appointed as a Medical Missionary. She immediately began planning for an outpatient dispensary which she started in 1886. From 1889 to 1891 she was back in the United States on a furlough, she used the time to complete her Post Graduate work in treating women and children and labored on her vision to build a hospital in Guntur. When she returned to India she was able to purchase a 16 acre plot of land next to the Missionary Bungalow where she initially started treating patients with the donations by the goodwill she had earned and also with the help from her fellow missionaries who raised money towards the construction of hospital main building.



The hospital was opened on June 23rd, 1897. It was a 50 bed hospital and was regarded as one of the best in India during that time. Then she started opening medical dispensaries in other villages through out Andhra Pradesh including the Lutheran Hospital in Rentachintala. In Guntur the hospital was called The American Evangelical Lutheran Mission Hospital. With the funds she raised and the offerings from The Zimmerman Chapel she added a maternity ward, a children's ward and an operating room with the state of the art medical equipment.

While on furlough in the United States in 1927, she wrote " Guntur Mission Hospital " an autobiography intended as a guide to future medical missionaries. In recognition of her relentless work treating the poor and needy sick, the British Raj bestowed her the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal twice on her both in 1905 and 1917. This is an award of distinction bestowed on civilians of any nationality who rendered services to The British Raj.



She died at her own hospital on July 26, 1930. She was buried in Guntur. Shortly before her death she met and said to Dr. Ida Scudder the founder of the famous Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, Tamilnadu " I would like to get well and work longer for I would like to feel I had served India for fifty years, and I have served only forty seven ". But the LORD took her home in the same year in 1930.

After her death the hospital she had envisioned and had helped to become a reality was renamed as Kugler Hospital in her honor. Many Christians and Non-Christians who are dedicated worked at the Hospital since her death. In 1961, it grew to a 165 bed full pledged hospital in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the then Honorable Governor of Andhra Pradesh Shri. Bhima Sen Sachar and his wife visited the hospital to acknowledge its stand-alone as one of the best hospitals in Andhra Pradesh.

Unfortunately, due to poor leadership at Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church and lack of committed and dedicated Medical Professionals, the hospital fell in the hands of wrong people for its closure in 2005. This is because of many reasons, with outdated infrastructure, poorly financed for medical work, lack of modern medical equipment and dedicated staff. Irrespective all these disarray a few dedicated and committed people are praying and working 24/7 to reopen and renovate this hospital to a full pledged Super-Specialty Hospital in the State of Andhra Pradesh with a 100 seats Medical College. Please pray for us and join us for HIS GLORY! Those that desire and seek to join must be impelled by the LOVE

FOR CHRIST and desire for winning souls to HIS Kingdom. We must commit ourselves to her motto "Ourselves Your Servants for Jesus sake ".



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MR. ALFRED BHASKAR

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET GOING



It was the fall of 1997. There was a small group of Indian Christians who were bonded by a strong cultural identity and a sense of purpose. Moved by God, they had a strong desire to start a new church in central New Jersey. One of the leaders in that group was my father, Alfred Bhaskar. He was instrumental in bringing the group together and was driven by his mission to support missions programs in India. He felt starting a church to support missions was a great way to spread the Gospel. Putting their faith and trust in God, they founded the new church, calling it United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF). The great success that UECF enjoys today as a church is due to God alone who empowered that group with leadership and vision to achieve His purpose. UECF focused on two very important things: every Sunday there should be a good praise & worship and a strong Biblical message. To this end, they bring in special guest speakers on nearly every Sunday.

You will always hear a special message every Sunday that is sure to enrich your faith. That is the legacy left behind by its founding members and we thank them for it.

Since my dad retired from his regular job, he devoted all his energies full time to building the church. When the UECF first opened its doors in Roselle Park, there were only 10 people who attended including the original 5 or 6 who started the church. Within a month they had an “official” opening where almost 200 attended most of whom were visitors and invited guests. People loved the service and the message by the senior pastor, Rev. David Ravinder. The dinner that followed was great too, served in traditional south Indian style. My father made it a point that there would always be dinner served at every UECF service and this has become a cultural tradition of this church since its beginning. Praise and worship music was another strong feature that has always been present. The church has been blessed through the last 20 years to have had great musicians serve in this church. My father loved Indian classical tunes and he would lead the Telugu songs for many years. He sang his own style but always made sure that everyone had the right talam, ragam, and shruti. If any singer kept out of tune he made his displeasure known. He was passionate about UECF. He made sure they were formally organized as a non-profit entity, regularly conducted its trustee meetings, and kept the church together with his leadership and vision. UECF has never been affiliated to any Church, Christian institution or group and totally depends on its members for support. It has always been the founders’ vision that the independent nature of the church should never be compromised. For this, the credit



Mr. Alfred & Mrs. Shanthi Bhaskar

should go to Alfred Bhaskar and the original founders along with all the presidents and trustees who have faithfully served this church tirelessly. By the grace of God, under the leadership of Joshua Pilli, the church has seen tremendous growth in the last 20 years. My father was and would surely have been proud of the success UECF has enjoyed.

An endearing feature of my father's personality was the empathy he had to others in need. This always led to him to be generous. He always knew when another person was down and needed help. He related to them very well by being alongside them, listening to them, knowing about their issues, and doing all he could to help them even if it had to go against all odds. He was generous to a fault in his giving. This is one thing among others that I have learned from my dad. Always be ready to help another especially when nobody else wants to. He at times, alienated people with his abruptness and anger which he did have in plenty. He always took a bold stance on issues and ultimately was proved right on most occasions even if it rubbed people the wrong way. He was very well versed in the Bible and preached at UECF and other churches when called upon.

My father wouldn't have been complete without my dear mother Shanthi. If he was the head, she was the neck. She was always supportive of all my father's efforts at UECF. To be fair, she has been supportive and been with him every step of the way in their entire marriage. While others might feel the same way about their parent, I feel that as a parent, there was no other person who stood by his children as well as my father did. He was there for us always. He was there to teach us or disciple us while we were growing up as kids. He made sure we went to Sunday school every week. He taught us many of the popular Telugu keertanas from Andhra Christava Keertana. He always would monitor our activities and studies at school. He played cricket and ping pong with us and tried to get us interested in track and field which none of us had much aptitude for. He would frequently take us to watch great war or western movies of that time. We even went swimming at a local club where we grew up. He was an avid sports Indian sports fan. We saw cricket test matches, Davis Cup tennis matches involving India and hockey and boxing matches at the recreation club.

By nature he was a tough task master and was always a strict disciplinarian. We have been at the receiving end many times. However, he always had our back and took care of our needs. There are no regrets and I thank God for the great parents that I have been blessed with. Many of my father's dear friends and relatives can attest to his generosity and the care that he took of them through many issues in life especially how he used his position to help them in need. He also had a great sense of humor and his speech was always full of wit. With his dialog he could get laughter out of any situation.



Even though his family misses him, we hope that the legacy he has left behind will always endure. God has blessed UECF greatly through visionaries like my father and I hope that the next 20 years at UECF will be even more blessed and enriching for everyone who passes through the portals of this great church.

Congratulations to UECF
Regards, **RAVI BHASKAR**
October 2017



THE LEGACY OF MY HERITAGE

(Mrs. Mary Jayakar)

ISAIAH- 65:1:" I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask me -----and found by those who did not seek me".



JOHN 15:16---"You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that fruit should abide so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

God saw His people, He chose them and appointed them to bear fruit. This is the story of my heritage- what I received from my parents. God chose my parents and called them into a preaching ministry. They bore fruit and whatever my father asked God he received it in Jesus name. My parents were called into ministry in 1929 and served till 1979. My father never kept quiet without telling about Jesus and his goodness. Wherever he went and with whomever he sat with, his conversation was about Jesus and the blessings he gives to all who believe in him. Whoever came to visit him when he was sick and was unable to walk because of a broken hip he used to sing about going to heaven if only he or she believes in him. My father was a good singer and a dancer praising God. He never was ashamed of witnessing for the Lord God whom he invited into his heart. He never expressed sadness in leaving his family in village or his possessions to others at home. He always felt joy in serving God. He brought shepherds into Gods family telling them that it was the shepherds who were visited by the angel to tell them the good news of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. I received the legacy of his faith in the sovereign God. The great inheritance, heritage and wealth we got from him was his complete dedication and devotion to God's work.

My father was very proud of this faith heritage and often said, "I brought all my children into LIGHT from DARKNESS". He meant that God's light is greater than any earthly thing that's not eternal. Each of the siblings and their families inherited from my parents the great value of serving in his vineyard as pastors or preachers and teachers. The next two paragraphs tell about my father's sister' daughter as to how she was found. Then how he was called into ministry.

My father comes from a village called Malappuram in Nizamabad District. His parents had one daughter and five sons. He is the youngest of all. I haven't seen anyone except his eldest and the 4th brother, when they came to see my father. I was quite young then. My father left his parents when he was in his late teens. I believe he was anxious to see his sister's daughter who married a mason at the time of constructing the Nizamsagar dam. They both came to Hyderabad and settled in a town named Lungehouse near Golconda fort. He took my husband with him in search of her family. They met a woman on the street and enquired about the person whom they were looking for. They were so excited to know that it was her and she took them home and entertained them. From then on, we got acquainted with them. They never wanted to become Christians but be happy as relatives. They had two sons two daughters married and had grown up children. From the time, they have found out that we are their blood relations. They loved us and we loved them and kept going to and fro as long as we were in Hyderabad city. Then we lost contacts due to jobs and change of places. Then my husband became sick and couldn't inform the news to them..

God calls individuals under different circumstances and in different ways to do His will. He chose some people and sent them to serve him in places where he needed them most useful. A few examples I quote from the Bible. In GENESIS 12: to 4 God called ABRAM to separate from his people, country and his father's house to an unknown land that he showed him. Abram obeyed God and went. In EXODUS 3:1-12 and 4:1-20. He called MOSES Though he felt it's hard for him to go back to the place where he escaped from his enemies' hands and deliver his people from their slavery and bring them to the Promised land CANAAN. Yet he obeyed God and went to Egypt. God was with him in Egypt when he performed miracles for ISRAELITES and ten plagues for the EGYPTIANS for despising GOD'S Word given through MOSES and Aaron his brother who led his people through the wilderness for forty years. Hebrews 11:1 through 40 verses talk about how God planned the lives of them whom he chose to do his will and sacrifice their lives. They exhibited their faith and loyalty Even to this day God has plans and purpose for our lives. God remembered my grandmother's need and brought my father under her shelter and thereupon made him her son-in-law by marriage. God never forgets any orphan, widow or an oppressed one His eyes and thoughts are always on them. In PSALM 68: 5&6 the psalmist says, - **"FATHER OF THE FATHERLESS AND PROTECTOR OF WIDOWS IS GOD IN HIS HOLY HABITATION. GOD GIVES THE DESOLATE A HOME TO DWELL IN. HE LEADS OUT THE PRISONERS TO PROSPERITY---"** God changed his life and made him a blessing to many who were like him before. I may not boast about his goodness: but I boast about God's goodness and his love shown through my father's life as to what he was before and what testimony he gave for God as a believer in Jesus Christ. Though he died in 1985 he is still alive in my own life and in lives of those who found Jesus through him.

MISSIONARY WORK IN INDIA -The Methodist Missionaries came to India more than 150 years ago. Different denominational churches in Britain and America sent men and women as missionaries to carry the gospel message of Jesus Christ to different parts of India and other countries where there was no gospel preached. In the beginning of the work started different mission areas were divided among Wesleyan, Mennonites and Methodists.

The Methodist missionaries needed the help of the Baptists who already carrying on the work in the south-eastern side to send some of their pastors to their areas They agreed and sent some of them but they needed many recruits to work in many villages. So, they were surveying villages to select men carefully in order to teach them to read and write and do arithmetic according to Labach method which was Adult Literacy. The areas and the villages selected were very far from one another. To take gospel to all the villages seemed impossible and might take long period. My father never heard the gospel before. Like such were many selected. My father was one of them purely innocent, ignorant and illiterate.

GOD'S CALL TO MINISTRY -One day in the evening a missionary was brought to my grandmother's village. People gathered to see the person as well as to hear him. My father, mother and her mother were enjoying the songs at the close of the service my father was called and interrogated to find out his desire to serve the Lord Jesus. He happily accepted the call and on the appointed day he left to the Christian center. They started their course of learning to read Bible relate its stories, teach prayer and Christian song Gradually learned to trust and believe in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. They were baptized before coming to the center with their new names---Shanthamma and Peter. My brother was named as John. There were other children who were born to my parents after they joined ministry, most probably in 1929. He was born in their village on 10th of May 1927. I was the second child born on 12th August 1930. I was baptized and named Mary Ananda. Next to me was a boy born on December



5,1936 and two more male babies were born before and after Vasanth who was born on September 1, 1945

GOSPEL WORK [EVANGELISM] SCHOOLS [EDUCATION] MEDICAL CENTERS [HOSPITALS] were the focus of Missionary Work to begin with.

EDUCATION - We all had our education in Christian Boarding Schools started by the missionaries who came from America. We had free education supported by the American mission fields. The schools were not only for Christian community but for everybody.

OCCUPATION -Our parents were preachers in different villages in Zaheerabad district from 1929 till their retirement. What were their benefits? JESUS gave the answer to PETER his disciple. [read it in the gospel of MATTHEW 19th chapter 29th.verse] This is the blessing for everyone who was and is called by God to his ministry. JOHN, my elder brother was a part time pastor and a full time teacher. Myself, MARY a PASTOR's wife doing all voluntary services as the president, treasurer and an active member of the Women 's Society of Christian Service ,Sunday School M.Y.F planning and conducting prayer meetings, visiting the sick in hospitals and homes comforting and consoling the bereaved families and participating in all the activities of the church. When my husband was ordained as a deacon and elder I was consecrated as a helper in his ministry. Since I was free in the day time I wanted to be a teacher educating children with secular and Christian values of life. I worked in Christian schools for 29 years but I never neglected the church work.

MY PARENTS WERE MY MODELS FOR GOD'S MINISTRY They were the living examples.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| A] Humble | b] Joyful |
| c] Thoughtful | d] Helpful e] Caring |
| f] Respectful | g] Polite |
| h] God fearing | i] Loving |

These are some of the traits and qualities that are needed for doing Gospel work. I learned to be humble and God fearing like my mother. Whatever work was entrusted to her by the authorities she used to do it faithfully. Daily she had to teach the children to read and write from the books according to their standards. She had to coach them to fit into class one by the age of six years and sent to the boarding schools Some children were attending during day time some others at night. Before they could leave for their homes she used to close their work with prayer. The same habit was developed when I went to regular school by our leaders and also the teachers. From my father, I learned to visit every home along with him talking about Jesus and praying for their family. Whenever my father was taking us to boarding school we had to travel long distance on horseback some hours together in order to reach the station to catch the train. Before we start he used to pray and during also while traveling. We used to hear him say,"Jai Christh or Yesu maha rajj ki Jai" meaning victory to Jesus.While we were returning home for vacation we used to get down the train and sit again on horseback and reach home after darkness Then he used to utter victory to Jesus and defeat to Satan. These are some of the encouraging words he used to say loudly. By doing this I learned to trust God and put confidence in him for our safety. Whenever we met our authorities we used to greet them and stand up to respect and regard their presence. Not only they respected elders they cared for the needy--stitching clothes for the babies and small children. [hand stitch] by my mother I got this trait from her. They always were

courteous to people though at times they joked with them. People loved them. Early missionaries were loving and kind. They taught us many good things useful for good character building. I never forget to thank God for them. In choosing a right person to work together for Christ in rural areas I looked to God for help and also to send someone who is interested in sharing this kind of ministry. God heard my prayers and prepared persons who can find a suitable life partner for me. Those persons were-Rev & Mrs. George Garden, Rev.Sundaram principals of both mission schools of zaheerabad and Hyderabad.They played an important role in proposing my name to the person who was looking for a right person like me More than anyone God intervened.Though there were many oppositions especially from my own brother God helped my marriage a success.and entered into ministerial vocation in 1952 with our first born son Samuel Parker who was one year old. Our second son, David Ravinder was born on 9th Feb. 1953 in the first year of our ministry in a village called Budhole in Hyderabad district. While we were serving their Parker passed away with diphtheria on August 21, 1953. In 1954 January, we were sent to Medak to work in an Institution called Men's Training School where men were trained to work as preachers in rural areas. After working for 4 years we were brought back to Centenary Methodist Telugu Church in Hyderabad in 1957 Dec. While we were there for two years I did teachers training and worked for a year in Stanley Girls High School

My husband was transferred to Vikarabad as the Assistant District Superintendent in Jan.1960. I joined the school in June of that year and taught till April 1964. My husband was sent to United States of America for the Overseas Pastoral Training in Drew Theological College for a year and came back to India to take the Church work in Hyderabad for the second time at the Centenary Methodist Telugu Church and worked there till May 1969. I had to accompany him where ever he went and worked in the Methodist Boys High School till he was transferred to Sironcha district as D.S.for 2 years and 6 months.to Chandrakal for 6 months and back to Hyderabad as pastor as well as D.S, from May 1972 to '78 and finally Moinabad district D.S.for 3 years. In 1980 while he was conducting the Pastorate Conference in Thellapuram village he suffered a brain stroke and became a sick person. The period of D.S ended [12 years] at the age of 58 years and still he had 13 years of ministry for his retirement in 1993 August.

Because of stroke and arthritis of knee and shoulder joints he became an invalid in 1991. He was on sick leave for two years and took retirement in 1993 and passed away on June 11, 1996. In facing hardships and sickness and humiliations unstable health issues God never left us both for any kind of miseries. His hand was on us and his presence guided us till the end. Our son, Rev. David Ravinder who was a Methodist pastor in one of the churches in New Jersey conference cared and supported us with finances, and regular prayers. He made periodical visits with his family and a few visits by himself. The whole family made it in time for his funeral. In 2002, he brought me to U, S and worked for a year to get green card for me. He took care of me in every respect so far. Now I am 87 years and don't know how my future will be and I am thinking of staying here till the lord calls me to him. I am encouraged by God's word such as Isaiah 57:15 -21 ;Deut.31: 8 ;Joshua 1: 8; Hebrews 13 5 ,6; and many other verses in psalms gospels and epistles not only these but the whole Bible reveals if we carefully search. I love God who is LOVE and who keeps watch over us will someday lead me to him. I must grow strong in him and not worry for it does nothing good. When Parker died in 1953 I was grieving for him daily and one day my loving God fearing husband consoled me like this." Why are you weeping daily, every day that is passing is like a step we are going up to meet him. "That gave me lot courage and hope in God. I stood on his encouraging and faith building words which became stepping stones towards them. I didn't find any one so far who loved and humbled himself in his way of living. God bless his soul and keep in everlasting peace.



YESSSSSSSS !!! I AM SURPRISED

... Count your blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done...says a beautiful hymn. Yes, I am surprised at what the Lord has done, is doing and is going to do in my life. There are so many blessings that if I were to count them one by one, I will surely lose count. Praise God!!! I humbly and gratefully acknowledge HIS mighty presence in our lives.

On the joyful event of our church's 20th anniversary, I felt it would be apt to share how this wonderful church came into our lives, rather, how we came into it, personally chosen by GOD himself. Here, I would like to share two of the many wonderful blessings from GOD.

1. How we became a part of UECF
2. How UECF held us up during our deepest crisis

We moved to this side of the globe in 2012, to a scenic, hilly little town in Massachusetts. After the initial euphoria settled down, we started looking out for a church near our place. There were a few beautiful Gothic churches around and we started attending them Sunday after Sunday. We were longing for a church which was similar to the churches back home in India. The services in this small town were sombre and short with not much of Sunday school activities happening. No complaints though, as this must be the custom in this part of the world but for us, who were used to houseful churches with spirited singing and soul stirring sermons, our church experience left us longing for more.

The Dream

While all this was going on, I had a dream which showed us that we were in a new location with a church in the vicinity. In that dream, I could hear church bells ringing, on closer inspection, I heard wonderful songs being sung. On entering the church I noticed people in Indian attire and glorifying God singing Telugu songs. I was overjoyed. The happiness I felt in that dream was inexplicable. We tried to figure out if there were any such churches around but were unsuccessful. The nearest such church was minimum 4 hours by road and driving 4 hours to and fro every Sunday was not conducive. So our yearning remained unquenched for a year

Fulfillment of the Dream

A very short time after this, our movement came by in an unexpected way. My husband was promoted and handed over a large media account which was located in New York and Los Angeles. Initially the movement was planned for LA. An apartment was booked, school identified and confirmed. In a sudden turn of events, one week prior to our movement to LA, he was asked by the Client to relocate to NY and not to LA. My daughter and I were disappointed as we had set our hearts on LA. But it was God's will that we move towards NY. So NY it was!! We started looking out for a community closer to NYC. But God had other plans. We reviewed multiple communities and finally settled in Edison, NJ. Next came our search for churches around us and found UECF, which was at that point in time, 2.5 miles from our community. This was in 2013. The church's website looked very impressive. The following Sunday, when we stepped into this sanctuary, a tremor ran through my being. What met my eye was an absolute delight. It was as if I walked into the dream I had seen a few weeks earlier. It was a beautiful church, the choir was singing Telugu songs and the congregation was in traditional Indian attire just like I had seen in my dream. We were warmly welcomed by the elders of the church. This was the moment I realized that God had shown me this very same church in my dream and had a specific plan for us to be here. It has been a wonderful journey since then, worshipping in this wonderful church. The love

and warmth we received from the congregation, is beyond words especially, when my family was struck by a calamity in 2016.

The Calamity and The Testing Time

August 3rd 2016 - My husband, Eric, a healthy and strong person, was never hospitalized before this. He was taken to the Emergency as he was suffering from high fever which was not getting controlled by outpatient treatment even after 4 days. At this point in time all his organs were normal. We had to spend 3 weeks in the hospital with multiple tests being performed on him. Due to tons of blood being drawn, heavy antibiotics, Intravenous etc., his body had bloated and things were going out of control and he had to be shifted to a super specialty hospital in Philadelphia. Things really went south when internal bleeding started. He had breathing problems, drop in Hemoglobin and fluid retention. He slipped into Coma on his birthday [24th August 2016]. He was in Coma for close to 12 days. Chances of survival were bleak as per the doctors, though they were trying their best to revive my husband. This was the time when UECF stepped in for my support. The Pastor, church elders and the congregation, drove all the way from NJ to Philadelphia, to be with me and Eric during these darkest days of our lives and supported us in all ways possible. The entire church, from the youngest to the oldest, prayed for us. There were also special prayers held every Wednesday for Eric. Without this kind of support, we would not have survived such a huge tragedy in our lives. God brought new friends into our lives in Philadelphia who shared our pain and prayed for us with tears. Not to forget the prayer warriors around the Globe who were constantly praying for Eric. After spending an agonizing 2.5 months in three different hospitals, Eric returned home in a wheel chair and was using the walker to walk around. The following six months were no less agonizing with doctor visits, physiotherapists etc. At this time, we had the church strongly standing by us, visiting us regularly and praying for us. God also sent some mighty prayer warriors into our lives. Also a couple of months ago we were fortunate to get in touch with the pastor, a very powerful man of God, from a church we used to attend in India, who is currently praying for Eric every week. This way God has placed His special angels around us to uphold us in their arms when we needed it most.

God's Mercy

The past year has been a roller coaster ride for us, which has considerably slowed down but is still moving. We are hoping that God in His great mercy stops this ride and brings our lives to normalcy soon. We have the church standing by us like a rock. We have strong and powerful God's people upholding us in their prayers. By God's amazing grace, Eric has come a long way from where he was at this time last year. Still a few miracles are to be manifested in his life, till then ***"I will not fear or be dismayed...for HE will uphold us with His righteous right hand"*** as said in Isaiah 41:10-13

I would like to thank the entire church, pastors, church elders and all the families of UECF for standing by us during this time. Would also like to thank the church elders for helping our daughter, Olivia, who could glorify God through her music and Bible quizzes, even during these testing times. Heartfelt thanks to our families back home and across the world, Eric's cousins from PA and TX, friends, neighbors and colleagues who had gone out of their way in helping and supporting us.

Promise from God

John 11:4 – *This sickness is not unto death but for the Glory of God that the son of God might be glorified thereby.*

Holding on to this promise of GOD.

Merlyn Davidson



DR. DANIEL PRABHAKAR, USA

Congratulations to UECF Church



"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8.

"Jesus said "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished." Matthew 5:18.

"You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Deuteronomy 4:2.

"And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book." Revelation 22:19.

The entire Holy Bible is written in Chiastic structure as the holy men of God had written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It's just like house where the sides match the center with linguistic word structure. As shown in the example that the first word Luke 21:5 and the last word of Luke 21:38 match until you work out the way to the center of the passage to the verses 20 and 21 to find the same word "Then". It's like from one side from top descending and from the bottom ascending till you come to the center. The text has been colour coded for easy identifying the word structure.

The Widow's Two Mites - Luke 21:5 - 38 (NKJV) – Biblical Chiastic Technique

21 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, ² and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³ And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.

5 Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, ⁶ "These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.

7 So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?

8 And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. ⁹ But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."

10 Then He said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. ¹³ But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. ¹⁴ Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head shall be lost. ¹⁹ By your patience possess your souls.

20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25 “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

34 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy[b] to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

37 And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet. ³⁸ Then early in the morning all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him.



PRAISE AND WORSHIP TO GLORIFY THE LORD

There are three essential elements matters in the worshipping the Lord

1. The purpose of creation to honor and glorify the Lord
2. The purpose of Salvations is to honor and glorify the Lord
3. The attitude of the believer towards God – one of praise

HOW TO DEVELOP PRAISE AND WORSHIP IN YOUR LIFE.

First learn to be spirit filled. The following are practical steps to having a spirit filled life.

1. Get Saved (John 3:3)
2. Confess and forsake all sin daily (I John 1:9: Proverbs 28:13)
3. Die to yourself and your pleasures (Galatians 2:20)
4. Present your body to the Lord as a living sacrifice, for His service (Romans 12:1)
5. Ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:19-13). You usually have not because you ask not (James 4:2).
6. Have faith that the Holy Spirit will empower you to do what He has called you to do (Acts 4:29, 31)
7. Obey the Holy Spirit when He directs you (Acts 5:32)

PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING:

Honor Jesus at all times

Love the Lord with your mind, body and the spirit Meditate on God's word "Use the Lord given gifts and talents.

WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HIS HOLINESS

1. Maintain an attitude of gratitude (I Thessalonians 5:18)
2. Enjoy worshipping God in the presence of the other believers and in the church service, Bible study gathering and in fellowshiping.
3. Have family devotions- Praise the Lord as a family giving thanks unto the Lord
4. Determine to surround your life with the right kind of music (Ephesians 5:19)
5. Fellowship with the right friends and fellow believers provokes more praise and Worship.

In conclusion God is to have preeminence in our life. Jesus is our Lord, Our Idol and our Hero, and nothing is to be loved, praised or worshipped above the Lord.

SELF EXAMINATION: what is your out attitude towards the Jesus Christ?

How is your worship towards Him?



SAMUEL S. CHILAKA

UECF Music ministry

FROM HOMELESS AND HOPELESS TO TROPHY OF GRACE

For most of my adult life, when I was not homeless, I was 'a guest of every church' yes, I was hopelessly addicted to social groups. I can gladly go on and on about the miracle God performed in my life. I was so hopeless after 10 years of homelessness from CA to NY, being married yet without hope, home, a loveless existence, a lifetime of not knowing JESUS, a constant feeling of being totally worthless. Now, I feel vital to the kingdom of god, loved Beyond my comprehension, redeemed by his blood; a soldier for Christ, a trophy of God's Grace and Truly Transformed."

I came to know UECF through Mrs. Mary Nittala aka Udayalakshmi Mary Nittala Pulipati or Pulipati aunty 2006 while I was working at QualCare Inc. at 36 Knights Bridge Rd in Piscataway in Data Integrity dept., where aunty worked as Claims adjuster. We shared our testimonies at lunch hour as aunty encouraged me to come to 2007 August picnic while we celebrated joyous moments shared sorrows and pains together. Vijay Pulipati uncle, Udaya aunty and lovely friend Lizzie brought me regularly every Sunday to UECF then in Edison at New Dover church.

I was carried by divine grace in spite of major tragedies, losing my best friend my beloved Grandma Mrs. Susheela Devi. In 2008 Oct UECF moved to Metuchen, my town. I knew nothing of what UECF would do for me, but I was desperate. As I started participating in their several witnessing events like parades, Christmas carols etc. I had no clue what the LORD would do in my life. I had no concept of what Sunday school is or what a church family was like.

I attended monthly bible studies with Udaya aunty and a few others i.e. Ms. Preethi Kezia Pilli, Mrs. Indra aunty etc. I got opportunities to meet Late beloved Mrs. Dayamani Kalyanapu aunty in 2007 and many more nice people. Yes, initially I wasn't happy at few events (mom-dad days n Christmas etc.) due to terrible sickness in my head, yet I met nice friends, ministers, pastors etc. I got connected to Pastor Davis and aunty Naomi Davis, great prayer warriors. I had greater influences from missionaries like Drs. David Chigurupati, Gadde Livingston uncle, helping me overcome my fears. Pastors David Ravinder and David Davis both did awesome, ministering the love of Christ. In 2007, I met many at UECF- who brought healing to my broken life.

I am greatly loved n accepted by lord Jesus my hope. The potlucks influenced my growing attachment to UECF. I brought many friends of all colors and all races and backgrounds to UECF.

Musicals brought healing to me, meeting Ms. Emily David Gopal in 2006, going out to, Indian eateries, praying for concerns together, helping in job search etc. Ms. Gopal helped me overcome the pain of divorce and bitter battles of custody for my bestie Shaly.

Yes, I compared UECF 10yr kid (adopted) - and my baby Shaly as my real kids both born and made by God in 97 models of 1997. I wasn't faithful in 2016-17 yet I had taken advantage of every opportunity UECF provided to Serve GOD and show His LOVE to Others. Among my favorite activities is singing, a duty I gladly do edifying myself n Glorifying Good GOD. Now I always sing JOY in audience, clapping n giving Glory to CHRIST. My advice to Others in desperate straits. Don't underestimate the power of God to forgive, transform and restore you to a life you never thought possible. If I can only Trust and Obey, HE does the rest.

Please remember UECF in prayer cause as you surround yourselves with other believers who seek GOD first in their lives, you cannot fail."

JESUS loved ANITHA SINGH long before she even knew who HE is! Amen!!



MY LIFE IN UECF

Divya Myla



In April 1997, I was a 9-month-old baby when I stepped foot into the first service of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship and it's been my life ever since then. God has blessed UECF with twenty years of life and growth and I am so honored to be able to say I have been attending since day one. The first time I went to UECF, I was only nine months old! As of October 2017, I am twenty-one. God has blessed me with a church where I can express my faith and culture. UECF is an integral part of my spiritual journey with God. Over the years, I have been blessed with a plethora of opportunities to use my abilities to praise God.

Sunday School at UECF has really transformed over the years. My earliest memory at UECF was being in Sunday school playing with my friends and my brother Paul while learning about the Bible with Pulipati Ammama, Susan Aunty, and Louis Uncle each week. Every week, there was something new to learn whether it be a new bible story or a fun song. On special services, we would perform songs, occasionally with actions. Learning songs in Sunday school was enjoyable yet hard. The English songs were easy, but the Telugu songs required much more practice. In the end, I was able to learn a whole library's worth of religious songs. As time passed, we were introduced to Telugu folk choreographies by Sarita Aunty. At the time, I found it boring, but looking back I am thankful that UECF provided this wonderful opportunity to learn about Indian dancing, that I wouldn't experience anywhere else.

As I grew older I eventually ended up joining the youth group which was formed with Paul Uncle and Sunil Uncle. We were instructed how to live for God in a contemporary era and how the stories about God's people we learned from Sunday School were our examples of how to be faithful to God when others weren't. In addition, there were more plays, songs, and dances to perform.

A lot of time has passed and I am sad to say I am no longer youth group, however, I'm a Sunday school teacher now, along with Kavita Aunty, Rebecca Aunty, & Preeti Aunty. Songs and dances I learned years ago I am now teaching to a new generation of children. We even started holding our own One Day Vacation Bible school, and each year there has been an increase in attendance. Vacation Bible School is a time when children get to have fun while engaging in Bible related games, crafts, and songs. After that's all done, the children showcase what they learned to the church.

In 2017, I directed "Charlie Brown's Christmas." For me, it required a lot of patience. It was incredible to see all the children dedicating their talent to praising God. The celebrations at UECF is when the children get to perform. Every year, the children has increasingly grown interest in dancing and singing. Christmas at UECF is the grandest event of the year. Up until the 25th, all throughout December, we celebrate Jesus by singing Christmas Carols at the homes of UECF members. We sing and then some of us (uncles) dance to certain Telugu songs. It's when everyone dresses their finest. Every year, the children perform a traditional Telugu dance. Without this church, my life wouldn't have been the same.

I would also like to acknowledge how UECF.net has touched people through all the features the website provides such as the wide variety of music, articles, audio & video messages, testimonies, and information. Over the years, UECF has been the trendsetter for other churches in the activities we do, and is constantly evolving every day. I am so proud to be able to say I am a part of UECF.



JBQ PRAISE REPORT

JBQ –Junior Bible Quiz is an intense quiz program tailored to suit the young minds to fall in love with the word of God. It empowers and enables elementary and middle school children to understand and memorize the scripture in a competitive yet entertaining way.

UECF introduced JBQ in the year 2010 with just a handful of participants. However within the first 4 years UECF Slingshots went on to win the Championship Award overthrowing some of the best teams in the state of New Jersey. In the last 8 years, UECF Slingshots grew not just in numbers but also in the Word of God and working with each other lovingly and cooperatively.

Here below is the list of our Champions!

Betsy Rapaka, Jason Pitta (official)

William Pitta, Ashley Rapaka

Hannah Bolleddu, Likitha Kambham

Ivan Yeddu, Sanya Ravoori

Evelyn Yeddu, Emmanuel Dhara

Tabitha Dhara, Angel Vellore

Sheena Ravoori, Sarah Bolleddu

Joan Marre, Olivia Davidson

Andrew Vellore, Rithika Muthyala

Samritha Ravinder, Sravina Ravinder

Shresta Ganta, Samrudh Ganta

Maliha Shaik, Shiran Rapaka

Pragnya, Zoe & Viraj Sandela

Blessy Devi, Ashriel Vellore



సమైక్య సావార్తిక క్రైస్తవ సహవాసము

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

రెండు దశాబ్దాల ప్రగతి ఫలితాలు

“దేవుని దృష్టికి మచివానిగా నుండువానికి దేవుడు జ్ఞానమును, తెలివిని, ఆనందమును అనుగ్రహించును” ప్రసంగి 2:26



దేవునికే స్తుతి, మహిమ, ఘనత కలుగును గాక! ఉజ్వల ప్రగతి పథంలో దిగ్విజయంగా ఇరవై వసంతాలు ముగించుకొని వేడుకగా ఆనందించు సమయంలో శుభాకాంక్షలు! యవ్వనంలో అడుగు పెట్టిన ఈ సహవాస దర్శనము ద్వారా ఆధ్యాత్మిక, సాంఘిక అవసరాలన్నీ సఫలము చేసుకొనిన ఇండియన్ క్రైస్తవులకిది పర్వ దినము. అమెరికాలో న్యూజెర్సీలో నిర్ణీత స్థలములో దేవుని స్తుతించి ఆరాధించి క్రమంగా కొనసాగే సంఘ కార్యక్రమాలలో, క్రైస్తవ మత శాఖల ఆచారాలకతీతంగా క్రైస్తవులు నమ్మి సేవించే రక్షకుడైన యేసు క్రీస్తును వెంబడిస్తూ వాక్య బోధన, ప్రార్థన, సహవాసము, రొట్టె విరచుటలో ఎడతెగక పొల్గొనుచున్నారు. స్థానిక ప్రాంతాలలోనే కాక, దేశ విదేశాలలో వెబ్‌సైట్ ద్వారా సువార్తీకరణకై పాటుపడుతూ, ఆత్మల భారము కలిగి ప్రభువును

సేవించుట శ్లాఘనీయం.

దేవునిలో జీవించుట, దేవునివలె జీవించుట, దేవునితో నడచుట, దేవుని కొరకై జీవించుట అను గొప్ప ఆశయాలను పాటించు గొప్ప బాధ్యత కల్గి యున్నది. సాధ్యమైనవి చేయుటకు శక్తి కావాలి, అసాధ్యమైనవి చేయుటకు విశ్వాసం కావాలి. భారతదేశంలో నలుమూలల నుండి ఎక్కువ శాతం ఆంధ్రా, తెలంగాణ ప్రాంతీయులంతా ఎన్నో ఆటుపోటులను అధిగమించి అమెరికా చేరిన క్రీస్తు అనుచరులకు ఎడారిలో ఓయాసిస్ వంటి ఆశ్రయ పురమే ఈ యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్ అనవచ్చు.

1. భారతీయ సాంప్రదాయాలను గౌరవిస్తూ తెలుగు, ఆంగ్ల భాషలలో సుమధుర సంగీతము ద్వారా ప్రపంచ నలుమూలలో సంగీత సుగంధ పరిమళాలు వెదజల్లుచున్న మాట అతిశయోక్తి కానేరదు! అనేక స్వచ్ఛంద సేవలను అందించుచు కేంద్ర స్థానముగా విలసిల్లుచున్నది.

2. స్థానికంగా ఇరుగు పొరుగు ప్రాంతాలలో ఎదుర్కొంటున్న అవాంతరాలు, కరువు, సునామీలు, అకాల మరణాలు, ప్రమాదాలు, వ్యాధి బాధలు, అవసరంలో ఉన్న వృద్ధులు, అనాధలను ఆదుకొంటూ తగిన సహాయ సహకారాలందించుటకు శ్రద్ధ వహించుట పరిపాటి.

3. ఆదివారం ఆరాధనలలో బోధించుటకు ఆహ్వానించబడిన ప్రముఖ వ్యక్తుల సందేశాలు ఆత్మీయ ఎదుగుదలకు ఆనవాలమై ఆత్మీయ సంఘ కాపరికి బలాన్నిస్తున్నాయి. అందుకే ఈ సహవాసము దినదినము అభివృద్ధి పథంలో సాగిపోతుంది.

A) Growing Christians సభ్యుల సంఖ్యలో అధికమగుట

B) Glowing Christians సాక్ష్యం ద్వారా ప్రకాశించుట

C) Gloomng Christians ఇతరుల భారాల కొరకు విజ్ఞాపన చేయుట

D) Giving Christians అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో సహాయమందించుట

E) Glorifying Christians ప్రాముఖ్యంగా దేవుని మహిమపరచుట ఈ ధ్యేయాలతో కొనసాగిపోతుంది.

అందువల్ల Sound peace నిర్మలమైన శాంతి

Soul winning ఆత్మల భారము కలిగి

Serving Christians సేవలు చేసే రీతిగా

Sending christians ఆర్థికంగా సొమ్ము అందించేవారుగా ఉన్నారు

4) పరిచయాలు కరువుగా ఉన్న అమెరికా జీవితంలో యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్ ఆరాధనల గురించి స్నేహితుల ద్వారా, వెబ్ సైట్ ద్వారా తెలుసుకొని వచ్చి పరమానంద భరితులైన వారికి చిన్న చిరునవ్వు స్నేహానికి ఆరంభము కాగలదు. చిన్న చేయూత ఆత్మకు సేద దీర్చి అండగా నిలుస్తుంది.

చిన్న క్రొవ్వొత్తి చీకటిని పారద్రోయగలదు, చిన్న నవ్వు నిరాశను దూరం చేయగలదు. చిన్న నిరీక్షణ మంచి స్ఫూర్తిని పెంచగలదు. చిన్న చేతి స్పర్శ భద్రతను ఇవ్వగలదు. చిన్న జీవితంలో గొప్ప కార్యాలు సాధించే ధన్యత దాగి ఉంది. నిత్య జీవిత గమనంలో ప్రేమ, నిరీక్షణ, ఆనందంతో దేవుని రాజ్యాన్ని నీతిని వెదకితే అన్ని అవసరములు తీర్చబడుననే నిరీక్షణ గలవారై కొనసాగే ఈ సహవాసములో వెబసైట్ (www.uecf.net) ఒక గొప్ప అమూల్య సంపద. వీక్షించిన ప్రతి వ్యక్తి ఆత్మీయంగా మేలులు పొందే వనరుల జాబితా ఆశ్చర్యము కలిగిస్తుంది. ప్రేమాభిమానాలకు, ఆప్యాయతలకు నిలయమైన యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్ ధన్యమైనది.

5) సంఘ సభ్యుల కుటుంబాలలో బంధువులు కరువైన అమెరికాలో మేమే మీ బంధువులము మీ తోబుట్టువులమని తెలుపుచూ పుట్టిన రోజు వేడుకలు, సీమంతాలు, వివాహ వార్షికోత్సవాలు, రిటైర్మెంట్ కార్యక్రమాలు, కృతజ్ఞత కూటములు, జ్ఞాపకార్థ కూటములు మొదలగునవి కలిసిచేసి, భోజనాలతో పాటు మంచి సిద్ధపాటుతో వేడుకలను జరిగిస్తున్న యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్ అభినందనీయం.

6. పసి పిల్లలు మన కళ్ళ ముందే పెద్దవారై (జె.బి.క్యూ) జూనియర్ బైబిలు క్విజ్లో అనేక సంఘాలతో పోటీ పడి చిన్నారులు ట్రోఫీలు, మెడల్స్ సంపాదించి తమ తల్లిదండ్రులకు, సంస్థకు పేరు గడిస్తున్నారు. (వి.బి.యస్) విరామ బైబిల్ స్కూల్ (వి.బి.యస్.) సమర్థవంతంగా నిర్వహిస్తున్నారు. సోలో సింగింగ్, స్కిట్లు, బైబిలు పఠనంలో సందే స్కూల్ యూత్ వారి తర్ఫీదు ఘనంగా జయకరంగా కొనసాగుతుంది. ప్రతి సంవత్సరం క్రిస్మస్ సమయంలో క్యారల్ సింగింగ్తో ఇంటింటి దర్శనాలు, పిక్నిక్ సమయాలు, ఈస్టర్ వేడుకలు లెంట్ సమయాల్లో గొప్ప సందేశాలను అందించే వీడియోలు, క్విజ్ ప్రోగ్రామ్లతో సందడిగా కొనసాగుతుంది.

7. అంచెలంచెలుగా సభ్యులంతా ఆత్మీయ వరాలు, ఫలాల సంపదతో సహవాసంలో అపరిమిత ఆనందంతో తృప్తిగా జీవిస్తూ అనేకుల అభినందనల పరంపరలతో ప్రకాశవంతంగా వెలుగులు వెదజల్లుచూ ఇరవై సుదీర్ఘ సంవత్సరాల తీరము చేరింది. www.uecf.net దర్శించిన వెంటనే అడ్రస్ వివరాలు, ప్రతివారం వివిధ ప్రసంగీకుల సందేశాల వీడియో సేకరణ, ఫోటోలు అందంగా పొందుపరచుట ఈ సంస్థ ప్రత్యేకత. వివిధ గాయకుల పేర్లు A నుండి Z వరకు పేర్లున్నవి. కావాల్సిన వ్యక్తుల పాటలన్నీ వినవచ్చు. కుడి భాగంలో కార్యక్రమ వివరములు కలవు.



ప్రతి రెండవ శుక్రవారం బైబిలు స్టడీ, నాల్గవ శుక్రవారం స్ట్రీల సమాజములు, క్రమంగా వృద్ధ ఆశ్రమాలు సందర్శన, డి.వి.డిలు, కరపత్రాలు అందించుటలో క్రమంగా పరిచర్య చేస్తున్నారు. వివిధ భాషలలో తెలుగు, హిందీ, కన్నడ, తమిళం, మళయాళం, గుజరాతీ భాషలలో పాటల ఆడియో, వీడియోలు ఆకర్షిస్తాయి. అన్ని భాషలలో బైబిళ్ళు ఆన్‌లైన్‌లో చదివే సదుపాయాలు ఉన్నాయి. అన్నిటి కన్నా మిన్నగా గొప్ప ఆధ్యాత్మికతను పెంచే శుభవార్త, ఆరాధన, రక్షణ, వెలుగు, మిరాకిల్ టీ.వి ప్రోగ్రామ్‌లు ప్రత్యేకత సంచరించుకున్నాయి. అనుదిన ధ్యానాలు, సాక్ష్యాల పుస్తకాల సేకరణ దేశ విదేశాల సభ్యులందరికీ ఆత్మీయత పెంచు వనరుల సముదాయం అమర్చుట ద్వారా దైవసేవలో నిమగ్నమగుట ఈ సంస్థ ప్రత్యేకతలు.

8. స్వకీయులందరికీ దూరమై సన్నిహితులు, స్నేహితులు కరువైన అమెరికాలో తెలుగువారి పరిచయాలు, దైవ ధ్యానాలు, క్రొత్త వ్యక్తుల సందర్శనలతో పాటు సమీప ప్రాంతాలలో అకస్మిక మరణాలు దూర ప్రాంతాలలో మరణించిన వ్యక్తుల వివరాలతో ఫోటోలు ప్రదర్శించి గొప్ప ఊరటనందించుటలో ప్రముఖ పాత్ర వహిస్తారు. ఈ అనుభవాలన్నీ కలబోసి నిర్వహించే వివిధ కార్యక్రమాల సమాహారముకై మనం ప్రాధాన్యత ఇవ్వగల క్రీస్తు ప్రభువు స్వరూపంలోకి రావాలి. నిత్య రాజ్య ప్రదేశానికి సిద్ధపడాలి. అదే ప్రతి క్రైస్తవుని ఊపిరి అయి ఉండాలి. బైబిలు అనుదినము ధ్యానిస్తూ బైబిలులో విశ్వాస వీరుల జీవితాలు స్ఫూర్తినిస్తాయని నమ్మాలి.

యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్ బృందమంతా వాక్య ధ్యానము, ప్రార్థన, సహవాసంలో, రాట్టె విరచుటలో ఎడతెగక జీవిస్తూ ప్రభుని ప్రత్యేక దీవెనలందుకొనుట ప్రభువు అపార ప్రేమగా నమ్ముచున్నది. చివరిగా మాకందరికీ సదా కాలము నీ దయ పొందు ధన్యతనీయుము దేవా!

నాకు దయ చేయుము ప్రభువా

నోవహు వంటి నీతి నాకు కావాలి

అబ్రహాము వంటి విధేయత కావాలి

యోసేపు వంటి పవిత్రత అలవర్చుకోవాలి

మోషే వలె నమ్మకమైనవాడిగా జీవించాలి

సమూయేలు వంటి యధార్థత కావాలి

ఏలియా వంటి విశ్వాసం అలవర్చుకోవాలి

యోబు వంటి ఓర్పు కావాలి

దానియేలు వంటి ప్రార్థనాత్మ కావాలి

దావీదు వంటి క్షమాపణ కోరే హృదయం కావాలి

సోలోమోను వంటి జ్ఞానము కావాలి

మంచి సమరయుని వంటి మంచి ప్రేమ కావాలి

పౌలును పోలిన ఆత్మల భారం కావాలి

తిమోతి వంటి యోగ్యమైన పరిచర్య చేయాలి

కొర్నేలీ వంటి దాతృత్వం నేర్చుకోవాలి

కుష్టురోగికి గల కృతజ్ఞత కావాలి

బుద్ధిగల కన్యకల వంటి సిద్ధపాటుతో రాకడలో ఎత్తబడు ధన్యత కలిగి జీవించాలి.

గ్రేస్ విజయ.టి.ఎస్.



అభినందన సుమమాల

డా. జెమ్మి సుధారత్నాంజలి నిట్టల, షికాగో

ఇరవై వసంతాల పండుగ అత్యంత ఆర్భాటంగా, ఆనందంగా సంరంబంతో వేడుకగా జరుపుకొంటున్న యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్.కి ముందుగా నా హృదయపూర్ణ శుభాకాంక్షలు! ఈమె పుట్టినప్పుడు ప్రత్యక్షసాక్షిగా వుండి, ఈ రెండు దశాబ్దాల అభివృద్ధిని కళ్ళారా చూచినదానిని! వ్యాసరూపంగా మీ ముందుకు వస్తున్నా!

సరిగ్గా ఇరవయ్యేళ్ళ కిందటి మాట! అది శిశిర ఋతువు. రంగురంగుల ఆకులతో నిండుగా కనులపండుగగా ఉన్న చెట్లు కొన్నైతే, చిన్న గాలికే ఆకులు రాలి అక్కడక్కడ బోసిపోయిన చెట్లు కొన్ని! చిరు చిరు చలి! అక్టోబరు నెల 1997లో ఒక ఆదివారం సాయంత్రం! మా చిన్నారులిద్దరినీ చంకనేసుకుని నేను మా శ్రీవారు సామ్యూల్ నిట్టల గారితో అపసోపాలు పడుతూ రోజల్ పార్కు, మెథడిస్టు చర్చి మెట్లెక్కి లోపలికి వచ్చాం. అప్పటికే అక్కడ మా అన్న, వదిన (పి.వి.రావు & ఉదయ) రజిని అన్న, భాస్కర్ అంకుల్, లాక్రా గారు, డేవిడ్ రవీంద్రర్ గారు ఉండడం బాగా గుర్తు. ఆ రోజు సంబరం ఏమంటే యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. రిజిస్ట్రేషన్ జరిగి ఆఫీస్‌గా ఆవిర్భవించడం!



అప్పటికి మేము Yonkers, N.Y. లో ఉద్యోగ రీత్యా నివాసం! పులిపాటి దంపతుల మాటల్లో యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. పిండంగా రూపందడం (జనవరి 1997), చివరికి శిశువుగా జన్మించడం (ఖచ్చితంగా 9 నెలలు) జరిగిన రోజది! అప్పుడే కమిటీ ఆవిర్భావం, బ్రస్టీ ప్రతిపాదనలు జరిగాయి. మమ్మల్ని కూడా అందులోకి రమ్మని ఆహ్వానించినా, అప్పటికే షికాగోలో ఉద్యోగమొచ్చి, వీసా గురించి ఎదురుచూస్తున్నాం కాబట్టి సున్నితంగా తిరస్కరించాం. కాని వీలయినప్పుడల్లా అదే చర్చలో ఆదివారం ఆరాధనలో అడపాతడపా హాజరయ్యి, 1998 జనవరిలో Schaumbury, IL కి వచ్చేసాం!

ఈ ప్రత్యేక సంచికలో నా అభినందనలు వ్రాయమని అడిగిన సహోదరులు జాషువా గారికి కృతజ్ఞతలు. మీ పాత సంచికలు తిరగేస్తే అందరూ పెద్దపెద్దవారి శుభాకాంక్షలు కనిపించాయి. చాలామందికి నేను తెలియకపోవచ్చు. అంచేత స్థూలంగా నన్ను నేను పరిచయం చేసేకోవడం సముచితం!

జెమ్మి సుధారత్నాంజలి నిట్టల నా పేరు! తెలుగులో క్రైస్తవ సాహిత్యాన్ని సంగీతపరంగా పరిశోధన చేసిన తొలి మహిళ నా అర్హత అనవచ్చు! తెలుగు క్రైస్తవ సంగీత, సాహిత్యాలకి ఆదికవిగా గుర్తించబడిన పురుషోత్తమ చౌధరి (1803-1890) గారి జీవిత చరిత్రని Madras University కి M.Phil కి అందించాను. “తెలుగులో క్రైస్తవ కీర్తనలు - పరిశీలన” Ph.D. Thesis ని Hyderabad Central University కి సమర్పించాను. ఈ రెంటితో పాటు “ప్రత్యక్ష నరకం” అనే అనువాద పుస్తకం, వెరశి మూడు పుస్తకాలు అచ్చురూపంలో అందుబాటులోనికి తెచ్చినదానిని.

నేపథ్యం : 1988 లో ముందుగా సామ్యూల్ నిట్టల్ గారు, వారి వెనుక వివాహానంతరం నేను వచ్చినప్పటికి New Jerseyలో Dr. David Chiguru గారి నేతృత్వంలో ప్రతి మూడవ శనివారం, తెలుగువాళ్ళం కలుసుకునేవాళ్ళం. అప్పుడప్పుడే క్రొత్తగా వచ్చినదానిని, తెలుగు మిత్రులతో కలుసుకోవడానికి నేనైతే ఆ మూడవ శనివారం కోసం



ఎదరుతెన్నులు చూచేదానిని! హాయిగా తెలుగులో మాట్లాడుకుంటూ, పాటలు పాడుకుంటూ దేవుని ఆరాధించడం అప్పట్లో గొప్ప భాగ్యమే మరి. అప్పుడే డేవిడ్ అంకుల్ కి ఆలోచన వచ్చి తెలుగు ఫ్యామీలీ కాన్ఫరెన్స్ ని ప్రతి సంవత్సరం జరపాలని, దానికి సావనీర్ ప్రింట్ చేయాలని ప్రతిపాదించారు. వెంటనే దానిని అమలు చేయడం, డేవిడ్ చిగురుపాటి గారు, జోసఫ్ పాతురి గారు, నేను ఎడిటర్స్ గా మొట్టమొదట 1993 Summerలో & Hofstra University, N.Y. లో Annual Canference జరిగింది. అప్పటి నుండి నిరాటంకంగా ఆ పరిచర్య అనేకులకు ఆశీర్వాదకరంగా జరుగుతూ వస్తుంది. అది దేవుని కృప! అప్పట్లో కేవలం నెలకోసారి తెలుగు క్రైస్తవులు కలుసుకునే పరిస్థితిని దాటి ప్రతి ఆదివారం ప్రభువును ఆరాధించుకోవడం అనే స్థాయికి. యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. తీసుకెళ్ళగా, క్రమేపి మరిన్ని తెలుగు సంఘాలు N.Y, N.J., Connecticut మరియు ఉత్తర అమెరికా అంతటా వాడవాడలా ఉప్పతిల్లడం ముదావహం!

తెలుగు క్రైస్తవులు - తెలుగు భాష - వాడుక : నేటి తెలుగు క్రైస్తవుల పరిస్థితి ఏమంటే తెలుగులో మాటలాడడం మహా చిన్నతనం, నామోషి! తెలుగు కుటుంబాలు ఇళ్లలో సహితం పిల్లలతో తెలుగులో మాట్లాడకపోవడం, సాధ్యమైనంత వరకు తెలుగువారిమన్న ఆనవాలు కనబడకుండా జాగ్రత్తపడడం శోచనీయం! నేటి కంప్యూటర్ యుగంలో ఇండియా, అమెరికాలు నామమాత్రంగానే దూరంగా ఉన్నాయి. కాని మన భారతీయ సంస్కృతి, ఆచారవ్యవహారాలు, పండుగలు, చీరకట్టు ఇత్యాది వస్త్రధారణ విదేశీయులందరికీ సుపరిచితమయిపోయింది. అడిగి అడిగి మరీ తెలుసుకోవడం, గూగుల్ లో సమాచారం తెలుసుకొని ఆసక్తివున్న అమెరికన్లు మన భాషకి ముచ్చటపడిపోతుంటే మన తెలుగు క్రైస్తవులు తిరోగమించడం విచారకరం. ఇటువంటి నేపథ్యంలో యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. ఆవిర్భవించింది మొదలుకొని నేటివరకు తెలుగు బాషని, సృంస్కృతిని, తెలుగునాట జరుపుకునే మన పండుగలు, పబ్బాలు, అవే తినుబండారాలుతో అందరినీ సంతోషబెడుతూ ఉండడం నేను మనస్ఫూర్తిగా అభినందించే విషయం.

ఈ ఇరవయ్యేళ్ళలో యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. “ఇంతింతై వటుడింతయై” అన్నరీతిలో ఎదిగి, అభివృద్ధి చెంది, ప్రపంచ నలుమూలలా పేరుప్రఖ్యాతులు సంపాదించుకోవడం ఎంతైనా ముదావహం!

ఆనాటి యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. ఫౌండర్స్ లో కేవలం ప్రియతమ Alfred Bhaskar Uncle ప్రభుసన్నిధిలో చేరినా, మిగిలిన పెద్దలందరికీ, ఈనాడు యాక్టివ్ ప్రెసిడెంట్ గా, తదితర కమిటీ, బ్రస్టు మెంబర్లు అందరికీ నా హార్థిక శుభాకాంక్షలు. బ్రదర్ జాషువా పిల్లి గారిని మొట్టమొదట నేను 2000లో Thanksgiving జరుపుకోవడానికి N.J. వచ్చినప్పుడు చూచిన గుర్తు! యువరక్తం! యువ ఆలోచనలు! యువశక్తి! అన్నిటికీ మించి ప్రభువు మీద ఎనలేని భక్తి! ఈనాడు యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. ని అత్యంత ఆధునిక, వైజ్ఞానిక (Technological) పద్ధతిలో Web design చేసి, సాధారణ Sunday Worship తో పాటు, పండుగలు ఆర్భాటంగా జరిపించడం, ఆ ముచ్చట్లన్నీ ఎప్పటికప్పుడు ఫోటో రూపంలో మాకందరికీ కనుల పండుగగా వెబ్ లో చూపించడం, ఎందరెందరో భక్తులని ఆహ్వానించి ప్రత్యేక కూటాలు పెట్టించడం ఎంతో ఆనంద దాయకం!

ద్విదశ వసంతాల పండుగ చేసుకుంటున్న యు.ఇ.సి.ఎఫ్. సభ్యులందరికీ నా ప్రత్యేక అభినందనలు. ఆ యేసు ప్రభువు రాకడ పర్యంతము మీరందరు ఇదే విధమైన ఐకమత్యంతో, సామరస్యంగా, ఆదర్శవంతంగా ముందుకు సాగిపోవాలని మా కుటుంబం సామ్మ్యుల్ గారు, బాబులిద్దరు Solomon, Simeon లతో పాటు ప్రశంసిస్తూ, అభినందన సుమమాల అలంకరిస్తూ....

మీ సుధా రత్నాంజలి నిట్టల

దప్పిగొన్న దుప్పి



కీర్తనల గ్రంథము ఒక మూఱుక అయితే కీర్తనలు ఒక శిల్పి పాలరాతితో చెక్కిన కళాఖండాలుగా అనిపిస్తాయి. వాటిలో సంతోషము, విచారము, ఆశ, ఆవేదన, ఆలోచన, ఆరాధన, క్షమాపణ, కృతజ్ఞత, కృప అనే నవరసాలు కలిగి వుంటాయి.

కీర్తనాకారుడు ఒక దుప్పిని ఉదహరణముగా తీసికొని “దుప్పినీటివాగుల కొరకు ఆశపడునట్లు నా ప్రాణము దేవుని కొరకు ఆశపడుచున్నది” అంటున్నారు. దుప్పి ఒక సాధువైన జంతువు. పెద్ద కళ్ళు, పెద్ద చెవులు, సన్నని బలమైన కాళ్ళు కలిగి యుంటుంది.

ఈ దుప్పి నీటివాగుల కొరకే ఆశపడుతుంది గాని బురద గుంటలను ఆశించదు. ఎంత దూరమైననూ పరుగెత్తి ప్రవహించి మంచి నీటి కొరకు ఆశపడుతుంది. పెద్ద కళ్ళతో తన చుట్టూ చూస్తూ ప్రతి విధమైన ప్రమాదమును పసిగట్టి తప్పించుకొనగలదు. పెద్దవినికిడి గల చెవులతో సూక్ష్మ శబ్దములను వినగలదు. సన్నటి బలమైన కాళ్ళతో ఎత్తైన స్థలములకు ఎక్కగలదు. దావీదు తన కీర్తనలో “నా కాళ్ళను లేడి కాళ్ళగ చేసి ఎత్తైన స్థలముల శక్తితో నిలిపి” అంటాడు.

ఇక్కడ దుప్పి ఒక విశ్వాసికి గురుతుగా వుంది. నీటి వాగులు దేవుని సన్నిధికి గురుతుగా వున్నవి. ఒక క్రైస్తవ విశ్వాసి యొక్క ఆశ ఎల్లప్పుడూ దేవుని కొరకు ఆయన సన్నిధి కొరకు ఆశపడేవారముగా వుండాలి. తృప్తచెందే వారముగా వుండాలి. లోకాశలైన ఎండమావులవైపు ఆశపడి పరుగెత్తకూడదు. లోకములో పాపమును చూడక దేవుని వైపు చూడగలిగిన కళ్ళు లోక వార్తలు వినకుండా దేవుని మాటలు వినగలిగిన చెవులు. దేవుని సన్నిధికి ఆయన ఆలయమునకు పరుగెత్త గలిగిన కాళ్ళు కలిగి యుండాలి. విశ్వాసి జీవితంలో కొండలు ఎక్కగల అనుభవం అరణ్యానుభవము గలిగి జీవించాలి.

మన ఆశ, మన పరుగు, మన గమ్యం ఏమిటి? దేవుని సన్నిధిలో కూర్చుని ఆయన కృప కొరకు కనిపెడదాం. దుప్పిలాంటి జీవితం అలవరచుకొందాము.

దైవానందకుమార్ కోన,
న్యూయార్క్



దేవాలయ పునఃప్రతిష్ఠ



ఈ లోకం క్షణభంగురము.

శాశ్వత రాజ్యం కొరకు మందిరాన ఆక్షరాభ్యసం చేయగా దేవుని మందిరం ఆశీర్వాదల మూట.

జీవిత గమ్యం దేవుని బాట.

ఆ బాటలో ఉంది సంతోష సరిగమలు

నా లాంటి పాపి కొరకు వైఫల్య ప్రార్థన చేయ రక్షించగా దేవాలయములో అడుగిడునట్లు మా హృదయములు తెరువుమయ్య
ప్రభువు నివసించె ఆలయము మేమైయుండగ సంఘముగా నీ మందిరమునకు నడిపించుమయా!

నీ మందిరమున ఆదరణ రక్షన క్షమాపణ

నీ సన్నిధిలో మేముండగా ఆదే మాకు పెన్నిది

ఈ మందిరమును సుందరంగా తీర్చి దిద్దిన వారిని వేయితరముల వరకు కరుణించు వాడవై ఉన్నావు

నీవు కోరె దేవలయం మేమే కదా! మేము కట్టు దేవాలయము నీ మహిమ పట్టజాలదు.

సంఘము ప్రార్థించగా నీ ఆత్మ వరములనిమ్ము. సంఘ ఐక్య ప్రార్థన ప్రపంచ క్షేమమునిచ్చును.

ఆలయమునకు చేరేవారు హృదయార్పణతో వేగిరపడుదాము.

ఈ లోక యాత్ర పూల పానువు కాదు ముళ్ళబాట.

కన్నీరుతో కళ్ళు కానరాక కృంగిన మనస్సుతో నీ మందిరాన చేరగా

నీ కలువరి ప్రేమతో కలుశములు బాపి నీ సేవ నొసంగుము దేవా!

ఇలలో నీ సాక్షిగా నుండ నీవే నా సర్వస్వం.

నాకై పరమును వీడి పుదమికి అరుదెంచి గాయపడ్డ కరములతో నీవు ఎదురు చూడగా నీవే నా శరణు.

అన్నా వలె లోక రక్షకుని నీ దేవాలయములో సేవ చేస్తూ దర్శించే భాగ్యమునిమ్ము.

జీవముగల దేవునిని దర్శించుటకు నా హృదయము ఆనందముతో ఉప్పొంగు చున్నదని

దావీదు ముదిమి వయసులో అన్నపుడు యెహూవ మందిరమునకు వెళ్ళుదమని జనులు
 విన్నవించగా సంతసించిన దావిదును నీ మందిరములో పచ్చని ఒలీవ మొక్క వలె ఉంచినావు.
 తరతరముల సింహాసనము దావిదునకిస్తానని వాగ్దానమిచ్చి యెరూషలేములో దేవాలయము
 కట్టుటకు వాగ్దాన పుత్రుడైన సోలోమోనుకు అధికారమిచ్చి
 రాజులకు రాజు ప్రభువులకు ప్రభువైన యేసుక్రీస్తు శాశ్వత సింహాసనాన్ని స్థిరపరచిన దేవా మీకే మా స్తోత్రములు.
 మీ ప్రియ కుమారుడైన యేసుక్రీస్తుని మా హృదయ కోవెలలో ఆహ్వానించు మనస్సు మాకు దయచేయుము.
 రాజైన యెహోషాపాతును ప్రేమించిన జనుల కోసము మందిరములో
 సంఘముగా సమిష్టిగా సమకూర్చి ఉపవాస ప్రార్థన చేయగా దేవుడిచ్చిన
 జయముతో జయవీరుడిగా యుద్ధ వీరుడిగా నుంచి దేవలయము ప్రతిష్ఠ పెంచిన దేవా మీకే మా స్తోత్రములు.
 నాడు సోలోమోను మందిరము నేడు ఆదర్శ మందిరమైనది.
 మా హృదయ దేవలయము పరంబున ప్రతిబింబమై పృథ్విలోన దీపమై ఆ వెలుగులో దీనులను నడిపించుటకు మీ ఆత్మనిమ్మయా.
 నీ ప్రాంగణములో చిన్నారుల సరిగమల నాట్యములతో నిన్ను స్తుతించగా
 ఆ బిడ్డలను ఎత్తి కౌగలించుకొని వారి మీద చేతులుంచి ఆశీర్వాదించుము తండ్రీ!
 ప్రతివారిని సాదరముగా చిరునవ్వుతో ఆహ్వానిస్తూ అనేక కర్మక్రమములు జరిపిస్తూ
 బహుమతులిస్తూ ప్రోత్సహపరుస్తూ దీవుని మహిమార్థమై జరిగించుచుండిరి.
 ఈ దేవలయములో తంతి వాయుధ్యములతో సంగీత నాదములతో స్తుతిస్తున్న వారిని దీవించుము.
 దేశ విదేశల సేవకులకు ఆతిథ్యమిస్తూ వారిని ప్రోత్సహ పరచుటకు
 వారి దేశములలో సేవ వ్యాప్తి చెందించుటకు అనేక విధములుగా వేదిక అయ్యింది
 ఈ United Evangelical Christian Fellowship.
 అలుపెరగక చేస్తున్న ఈ సేవ ఇంకా ఇంకా ఎన్నో గొప్ప కార్యములు చేయలని
 ఈ మందిరము అనేకులకు ఆదర్శముగా నుండాలని
 ఈ దేవలయములో అడుగిడిన ప్రతి వారు ఆశీర్వాదములు పొందు కోవాలని దేవుని ప్రార్థిస్తున్న

విజయ సైమన్ నిడిగట్ల.



**ప్రతి స్త్రీ జీవితం దేవుని సేవ పట్ల శ్రద్ధ గల్గి గుర్తింపు పొంది ప్రశంసల
నందుకొనేవిధంగా ఉండాలి.**

బైబిలులో స్త్రీల ఔన్నత్యం కొనియాడదగినది.



సేకరణ : గ్రేస్ విజయ.టి.ఎస్.

- 1) **హవ్వ** : సకల మానవులకు మాతృమూర్తి.
- 2) **శారా** : గౌరవ ప్రదమైన రాజకుమారి. భర్తను యజమాని అని పిలిచి గౌరవించింది.
- 3) **రిబ్కా** : ఆతిథ్యమిచ్చుటలో దిట్ట, శక్తివంతమైన తల్లిగా నిలిచింది.
- 4) **రాహాబు** : విశ్వాసమునుబట్టి సహాకారిగా ఉండి విశ్వాసుల జాబితాలలో చేరిన మహిళ.
- 5) **హన్నా** : దేవుని అవసరత ఎరిగి, గురిచూచి ప్రార్థించి గొప్ప ప్రవక్తను బిడ్డగా పొందిన తల్లి.
- 6) **ఎస్తేరు** : తన ప్రజల కోసం ప్రాణం పెట్టుటకు తెగించిన యవ్వన స్త్రీ
- 7) **షునేమీయురాలు** : సృజనాత్మక ఆలోచనలు కల్గి నిబ్బరమైన మనస్సు గల స్త్రీ.
- 8) **సారెపతు విధవరాలు** : లేమిలో ఆతిథ్యమిచ్చి దేవునిసేవకునికిసేవచేసి, విశ్వాసము విసిరిన బాణాలకు సమ్మతించిన స్త్రీ.
- 9) **షీబా రాణి** : జ్ఞానాన్ని ఆశించి గొప్పగా దేవుని ప్రశంసించి గుర్తింపు పొందిన రాణి.
- 10) **యూదురాలైన బాలిక** : కష్ట జీవితంలో నమ్మిన దేవుని గురించి సాక్ష్యం ఇచ్చిన బాలిక.
- 11) **లూదియా** : హృదయాన్ని తెరచి, తన గృహాన్ని దేవుని పరిచారకుల కిచ్చి ఫిలిప్పీనంఘ సంస్థాపకురాలైన వీర వనిత.
- 12) **సమరయ స్త్రీ** : చేదు జీవితంలో జీవ జలాలను పొంది తన గ్రామాన్ని రక్షించుకొన్న గొప్ప విశ్వాసి.
- 13) **క్రీస్తు తల్లియైన మరియ** : స్త్రీలలో మహా భాగ్యాన్ని పొందిన ధన్యురాలు, కొనియాడదగిన పూజ్యురాలు.

- 14) ఎలిజబెతు : గుణవంతురాలు, యదార్థత కల్గి ప్రేమ నిండిన మంచి భార్య మరియు తల్లి.
- 15) అన్న : భగ్గు హృదయం కల్గిననూ పతనం కాక దేవుని స్తుతించుట నేర్చుకొన్న స్త్రీ.
- 16) మార్త : క్రీస్తుకు ఆతిథ్యమిచ్చి, ప్రేమించగల్గిన నిరీక్షణ కలిగిన స్త్రీ.
- 17) మార్త సోదరి మరియు : ఉత్తమమైన ప్రాధాన్యతను ఎన్నుకొని క్రీస్తుతో ప్రశంసలను అందుకున్న స్త్రీ.
- 18) డోర్కా : క్రీస్తు ప్రేమ బలవంతం చేయగా తోటి వారి నుండి
పరిచర్య ద్వారా ప్రశంసలు పొందిన గొప్ప మనసు గల ధీర వనిత.
- 19) ప్రిస్కిల్లా : సువార్త ప్రకటనలో సాటియైన సహకారిగా భర్తకు తోడ్పడిన ఆత్మ జాలరి.
- 20) యెకెబెదు : మోషే జీవితాన్ని ఆత్మీయ నేత్రాలతో విశ్వాసంతో వీక్షించిన ధీరవనిత.
- 21) నయోమి : తన చేదు అనుభవాలను మరచి కోడలిని కూతురుగా ప్రేమించి
కుటుంబ వ్యవస్థకు గొప్ప విలువనిచ్చిన వృద్ధ స్త్రీ.
- 22) రూతు : అత్తను ప్రేమించి, అత్త ప్రేమించే దేవుని హత్తుకొని విశ్వాస వీర వనితల జాబితాలో నిలిచి
క్రీస్తు వంశావళీలో పేరు నిలుపుకున్న గొప్ప మనసున్న స్త్రీ.
- 23) హోగరు : శారా పరిచారకురాలిగా దేవునిని నమ్మి అవసరత తీర్చు దేవునిని ప్రార్థించి
జవాబు పొందిన అభాగ్యురాలు.
- 24) లేయా : సంతోషంగా వివాహం అయిన భార్యగా ఉండి దేవుని దృష్టిలో దయను పొంది
దేవుని స్తుతించి మానవ జీవితానికి ఆశీర్వాదాన్ని తెచ్చింది.
- 25) అబీగయూలు : గొప్ప అవగాహన గల ఉత్తమ వనితగా దైవ సేవకు మనస్సాక్షికి కాపలా కాచిన గొప్ప స్త్రీ.
- 26) దెబోరా : విశ్వాసంతో ప్రోత్సహించబడిన ధీర వనిత, మంచి స్నేహితురాలు.
- 27) హుల్దా : దైవ విరుద్ధమైన దేశాన్ని, ప్రజలను దేవుని వైపు మళ్ళించుట లో గొప్పగా సహాయపడిన శక్తిమంతురాలు.
- 28) ఫీబే : పౌలు పరిచర్యలో గణనీయమైన సేవలందించి ఒంటరితనానికి విరుగుడు తెలిసికొన్నమనసున్న మగువ.
- 29) సలోమి : తన సంతాన క్షేమాన్ని కాంక్షించి శ్రేష్టమైన దానిని పొందు కున్న మాతృమూర్తి.
- 30) మగ్దలేనే మరియు : తృణీకరింపబడిన తన జీవితాన్ని మార్చుకొని
క్రీస్తును గొప్పగా వెండించుటలో నాయకత్వం పొందినది.
- 31) యెరూషలేములో మరియు : తన గృహాన్ని ఆరాధనలతో నింపి దైవ గృహంగా మార్చుకొన్న ఉత్తమ విశ్వాసి.
- 32) లోయి, యునీకే : దైవ వాక్య శక్తిని తెలిసికొని సమర్థతతో తిమోతిని భక్తిలో పెంచి,
దైవ సేవకునికి అండగా ఉండు ధన్యతనిచ్చిన స్త్రీలు.



క్రైస్తవులు - క్రీస్తు స్వరూపులు



క్రైస్తవులు ఎవరు అంటే వారు ఒక మతానికి సంబంధించిన వారే అని చాలా మంది విశ్వసిస్తున్న రోజులివి. కానీ క్రీస్తును వెంబడించువారు, ఆయన స్వరూపాన్ని కలిగి వున్నవారే నిజమైన క్రైస్తవులు. ఈనాటికీ మనకు ఈ లోకంలో గోచరించేవి కులమత ద్వేషాలు, గొప్ప పేద భేదాలు. క్రైస్తవులమైన మనము వీటికి ఎంతవరకు అతీతులము?

మనలను మనం ఎంతగా ప్రేమించుకుందుమో, పరులు మనలను ఎంతగా ప్రేమించాలని ఆశపడుదుమో, అట్టి రీతిగా మనము మన పొరుగువారిని ప్రేమించాలన్నదే క్రీస్తు ముఖ్య ఉద్దేశ్యము, ఆదేశము. అటువంటి గొప్ప ప్రేమను మనకు రుచి చూపించింది కూడా కేవలం ఆ క్రీస్తే. పాపులమై ఉన్న మన అందరి కోసము సిలువపై తన ప్రాణమును బలియాగంగా అర్పించాడు, తద్వారా మనకు నిత్యజీవాన్ని ఇచ్చాడు మనలను నీతిమంతులుగా ఎంచుకున్నాడు. ఆ విధంగా మనకొరకై క్రీస్తు వేసిన ప్రేమ బాట వెనుక ఎంతో త్యాగం, ఎన్నో శ్రమలు దాగిఉన్నాయి. అట్టి ఆ ప్రేమ బాటలో మన పయనం సాగుతున్నదా? అటువంటి ప్రేమాభావం మనలో ఉన్నదా? అటువంటి త్యాగపూరితమైన జీవితాన్ని మనము కలిగి ఉన్నామా? ఒకసారి మనం ప్రక్షాళన చేసుకోవాలి.

ఆ మార్గాన్ని ఎంచుకున్న వారిలో మధర్ థెరిసా, విలియం కేరీ లాంటివారు కొందరు. వారి ఆ నిర్ణయం ఫలితంగా ఎందరో ఈ రోజు క్రీస్తుని ఎరిగి, నమ్మి జీవించుచున్నారు. అదే రీతిగా ఎంతో మంది సేవకులు ఆ బాటలోనే నడిచి క్రీస్తు ప్రేమను వెదజల్లారు. క్రీస్తు మనకిచ్చు సంతోషము, సమాధానము, నిరీక్షణ మనకు ఎందులోనూ దొరకదు. ఆ క్రీస్తును పరిచయం చేయుటకు, సువార్తను చాటించుటకు తమను తాము త్యజించి పాటు పడిన వారికి, పాటు పడుతున్న వారందరికీ మనము ఎంతగానో ఋణపడి ఉన్నాము.

మనందరిలోనూ క్రీస్తు ప్రేమ ఉప్పొంగి ప్రపంచ నలుదిశల వరకు పారాలని మనసారా కోరుకుంటూ, క్రీస్తును ధరించిన వారిగా, క్రీస్తు స్వరూపంలో మనము జీవించాలని ఆశిస్తూ..

మీ జాషువా షేక్

నన్నెంతగా ప్రేమించితివో... నిన్నెంతగా దూషించితివో...

నన్నెంతగా నీవెరిగితివో.... నిన్నెంతగా నే మరచితివో....

గలనా, నే చెప్పగలనా.... దాయనా, నే దాయగలనా....

అయ్యో... నా యేసుయ్యో....

నాదం... తాళం.... రాగం....

ఎదలో నీదే నీ ప్రేమ స్వరము..

ఏ రీతిగా నా ఉదయమును.... నీ ఆత్మతో బీబించితివో...

ఏ రీతిగా నా భారమును... నీ కరుణతో హోసితివో....

ఏ రీతిగా నా పలుకులో... నీ నామమును నిలిపితివో

ఏ రీతిగా నా కన్నీటిని.... నీ ప్రేమతో తుడిచితివో....

ఏ రీతిగా నా రాతను నీ చేతితో రాసితివో...

ఏ రీతిగా నా బాటను..... నీ మాటతో మలచితివో....

ఏ రీతిగా నా గమ్యమును.... నీ సిలువతో మార్చితివో

ఏ రీతిగా నా దుర్గమును.... నీ కృపతో కట్టితివో....

ప్రభువు బ్రతికిస్తాడు

డా॥ దేవ దండల

యెహెజ్కేలు 37వ అధ్యాయం

యెహెజ్కేలు ఆత్మవశుడై ఎముకల లోయలోకి వెళ్ళాడు. కీర్తనలు 23.4 గాఢాంధకార లోయలో సంచరించినా దావీదు భయపడడు. లోయలోని ఎముకలు బ్రతకగలవా? కానీ ప్రభువు బ్రతికించగలడు. దేవునికి అసాధ్యమైనదేదీ లేదని నమ్మటమే విశ్వాసం. దేవుడున్నాడు. తనను వెదికే వారికి ప్రతిఫలం దయచేస్తాడు. ఈ ఎముకలు బ్రతకగలవు. సందేహం లేదు. ఎముకలు పాతి పెట్టబడ్డాయి. పూడ్చి పెట్టబడిన ఎముకలు ఎలా బతుకుతాయి?



మాట్లాడాలి : అవును, మనం మాట్లాడాలి. ఎండిపోయిన ఎముకలనుద్దేశించి మాట్లాడాలి. మనిషి జీవితం సమస్యల వలయం. ఈ లోకంలో సమస్యలు, ఇబ్బందులు, కష్టాలు లేని మనిషి లేడనే చెప్పాలి. కానీ కొన్ని సమస్యలు ఎండిన ఎముకలవలె నిరీక్షణకు ఆస్పదము లేనటువంటి జరిలంగా ఉంటాయి. అయినాగానీ మన దేవుడు సర్వశక్తిమంతుడు. యెహెజ్కేలు 37.4ను చూస్తే, దేవుడే యెహెజ్కేలుతో ఎండిన ఎముకలతో మాట్లాడమని ఆదేశించాడు. అప్పుడు యెహెజ్కేలు విశ్వాసంతో దేవుని ఆజ్ఞానుసారం ఆ ఎముకలతో మాట్లాడాడు. ఎముకల్లో జీవం వచ్చింది. మహాసైన్యమై నిలచింది. అవును, విశ్వాసులమైన మనం కూడా మనకున్న సమస్యలతో మాట్లాడాలి. నోరు తెరిచి మాట్లాడాలి. అప్పుడే నిర్ణీతమైన, నిరీక్షణ లేని పరిస్థితిలో సైతం దేవుని మహిమార్థం గొప్ప విడుదలను చూడగలం. హల్లెలూయా!

బోధించాలి : చలనం లేని ఎముకలు, కదలవు మెదలవు. ఎండిన ఎముకలు నశించిన ప్రజలు వినలేరు. బ్రతకరు కాని, దేవుడు బ్రతికించగలడు. అది ఓ ఎముకల గుట్ట. వాటితో మాట్లాడాలి అవి వెక్కిరించినట్లు కనబడుతోంది. కాని, కంగారు పడనక్కర్లేదు. అవి మాట్లాడలేవు, వాటిని సానుభూతితో చూడాలి. వాటి మీద కోప్పడి ప్రయోజనం లేదు. అయితే బోధించాల్సిందే! వాక్యం చెప్పాల్సిందే! నీకెలా అనిపించినా సరే వాక్యమెత్తి ప్రకటించాల్సిందే! గత్యంతరం లేదు.

యెహెజ్కేలు ప్రవచించాడు. గడగడమనే ధ్వని పుట్టింది. అప్పుడు ఎముకలు ఒకదానితో ఒకటి కలుసుకున్నాయి. ఈ ఎముకలు కలవడానికి ఈ రోజున మనుష్యులు ఎన్నెన్నో ప్రయత్నాలు చేస్తున్నారు. బోర్డులు, కమిటీలు! ఒక ఎముక అదే శరీరంలోని ఎముకలతో కలవాలి. కాని, ఈ రోజులలో ఎముకల పరిస్థితి తారుమారు అవుతుంది. సంఘాలలో ఎముకలు కృత్రిమంగా కలుసుకుంటున్నాయి. దేవుడు ఏ శరీరంలోని ఎముకను దేని స్థానంలో దాన్నే ఉంచుతాడు. ఎముకల లోయలో మనం బోధిస్తున్నాము. ఎండిన ఎముకలకు మనం బోధించాలి.

జీవాత్మ : యెహెజ్కేలు ప్రకటించినపుడు ఏం జరిగింది? జీవాత్మ దానిలోకి వచ్చింది. వారిప్పుడు లేచి లెక్కింప శక్యము కాని మహాసైన్యమై నిలిచారు. దేవునికి స్తోత్రం! అంటే యెహెజ్కేలు దేవుని ఆత్మను రమ్మన్నాడు. ఎండిన ఎముకలకు బోధిస్తూ అదే సమయంలో దేవుని ఆత్మను రమ్మని ఆహ్వానించాడు. “జీవవాయువా! దేవాత్మ! ఈ ఎండిన ఎముకలకు జీవం ప్రసాదించు” అని ప్రార్థించాడు. అపొస్తలులు ఇదే చేశారు. ఎండిన ఎముకలకు బోధించారు. దేవుని ఊపిరిని, వాయువును, ఆత్మను రమ్మన్నారు. అప్పుడు ఎముకలు బ్రతికాయి. ఎండిన ఎముకలతో మాట్లాడాలి, శాసించాలి, దేవుని ఆత్మను రమ్మని వేడుకోవాలి. లేకపోతే అద్భుతం జరుగదు. లోయలో అప్పుడేం జరిగింది? మహాసైన్యం లేచి నిలబడింది. ఈ రోజున ఎండిన ఎముకల లోయలో ఉజ్జీవం రావాలి.

అద్భుతం : ప్రభువు అద్భుతం చేస్తాడు. ఎముకలు వాటి వాటి స్థానములో సమకూర్చబడతాయి. అప్పుడు గొప్ప సైన్యం లేచి నిలుస్తుంది. ఎముకలకు బోధించడం మానకూడదు. నీవు యేసు సైన్యంలో భాగానివా? కాకపోతే నీవు ఎండిన ఎముకల పోగువే. బాప్తీస్మము తీసుకున్నావు. స్థానిక సంఘంలో సభ్యుడివి. అయినా నీవు ఎముకల కుప్పవే! ఈ ఎండిన ఎముకలకు బాప్తీస్మమిస్తే, తడిసి వాసన కొడుతుంది. ప్రభువు కోసం నిలబడని వాడు అస్థిపంజరం! ఎముకల కట్ట! నిన్ను పూడ్చిపెడితే, లేచే అవకాశం అసలు లేదు. నిత్యత్వంలో నీవు నశించినవాడవే! ఇప్పుడే ప్రభువుకు ప్రార్థన చెయ్యి, “దేవా, నేను ఎండిన ఎముకను, నన్నుబ్రతికించు” అని మొఱపెట్టగలిగితే... దేవుడు నాడు యెహెజ్కేలు గ్రంథంలో చేసిన అద్భుతం నేడు నీ జీవితంలోనూ చేయుటకు సమర్థుడు. దేవునికి స్తోత్రము! ❀



విజయానికి మూలం వాక్యమే

- ఆచార్య ఆరార్కే మూర్తి



మనిషిని ఆనందంతో ఉక్కిరి బిక్కిరి చేసేది, ఒక క్రొత్త విషయాన్ని చెప్పి పరితకు ఉత్తేజం కలిగించేది ఏదైనా సాహిత్యమే! ఈ నిర్వచనాన్ని బట్టి సాహిత్యంగా రూపొందించినదే బైబిలు వాక్కు. యేసుప్రభువు శరీరధారియైన దేవుని వాక్కు. నాటకీయత ప్రేక్షకుడికి తన్మయత్వం కలిగిస్తుందంటారు. యేసు ప్రభువు సిలువ యాగము మానవత యావత్తూ తేరి చూచిన సంఘటన! ఇందులో నాటకీయత కాదు, మహోజ్వలమైన దర్శనీయత, ఆధ్యాత్మిక తన్మయత్వ భావన కలిగించే శక్తి ఉంది. మనిషిలోని పాపాన్ని ధ్వంసం చేయటానికి మనిషిలోని పాప స్వభావపు వేరును నిర్మూలనం చేయటానికి, అదే సమయంలో మనిషిని భావాంభర వీధిలో విశ్రుత విహారం చేయించి, అతడి వైఖరిని విప్లవాత్మకంగా మార్చటానికి, యేసు సిలువ శక్తివంతమైనది.

మానవ చరిత్ర క్రమ పరిణామం ద్వారానే కాదు పెద్ద పెద్ద అంగలతో పయనిస్తోంది. నా ప్రభువు తిరిగి వస్తాడు అనే భావన విశ్వాసిలో ఆనందోత్సాహాలను రేకెత్తిస్తుంది. ఆనందం పరిపక్వతకు చిహ్నం. దేవుడికి కొత్త మనుషులు కావాలి. కొత్త మానవత నిర్మితి కోసం ప్రప్రథమంగా యేసు వచ్చాడు. లోకం పాత సరుకు. పాప భూయిష్టమైనది. దేవుడిని తండ్రి అని పిలవటానికి లోకంలో మనిషికి హక్కులేదు. అందుచేత దేవుడు మనిషికి జ్యేష్ఠ సోదరుణ్ణి ప్రసాదించాడు. ఏ మనిషివైనా సరే యేసు మూలంగా దేవుడు తన కుటుంబంలోనికి దత్తస్వీకారం చేసుకుంటాడు. యేసు రక్షణ క్రైస్తవులకే పరిమితం కాదు. యేసు వల్ల కలిగే విమోచనలో మత ప్రమేయం ఏమీ లేదు. మతాలన్నీ ఒక యెత్తు. శాశ్వత జీవ ప్రాప్తికి మతం అక్కర్లేదు. గతం అక్కర్లేదు. యేసు కావాలి. యేసు చాలు. యేసుది 'నాణ్యమైన జీవితం'. నువ్వు నాకు కావాలి అని అడిగిందే తడవుగా యేసు మనిషి జీవితంలో అడుగుపెడతాడు. యేసు మహిమ గల దేవుడు. ఆయన తేజస్సును ఎవరూ సమీపింపలేరు గాని ఆయన మహిమలో ఒంటరిగా ఉండలేడు. ఆయన చనిపోయి, మానవతా సర్వస్వంతో సమైక్యమయ్యాడు. ఆయన మరణం ద్వారా నూతన జీవం అసంఖ్యాక ప్రజలకు లభ్యమయ్యింది. యేసు చనిపోకపోతే భూగోళంలో ఎక్కడో ఓ మూల ఒంటరిగా ఉండేవాడు. ఆత్మశక్తి ఆయనకు మాత్రమే పరిమితమై ఉండేది. ఆయన మరణం వల్ల ఆత్మశక్తి విడుదల అయ్యింది. పాపం మనిషిని ఒంటరిగా చేసి విడిచిపెడుతుంది గాని ఈ పాపం విషయమై చచ్చి దేవుని విషయంలో బతికినవాడు ఈ ఒంటరితనం నుండి విడుదల పొందుతాడు.

ఆత్మఖడ్గము దేవుని వాక్యము అనే బైబిలు. అది నీవు ఆడుకునేది కాదు. సైతానును జయించటానికి వాడుకునేది. ఈ ఖడ్గం చాలా పదునైనది. శరీరాత్మలను విభజిస్తుంది. ఈ కత్తిసాము సాధన చెయ్యాలి. రోమన్ రాజ్యంలో సైనికులు కత్తిసాము బాగా నేర్చుకొని ముక్కాకలు తీరి ఉంటారు. దేవుని వాక్యఖడ్గం ఇష్టం వచ్చినట్లు వాడకూడదు. నేర్చుగా మెళకువగా అప్రమత్తంగా ప్రయోగించాలి. ఎఫెసీ పత్రికలో పౌలు సర్వాంగ కవచాన్ని పేర్కొన్నాడు. సత్యమనే దట్టి వాక్యమే! ఆత్మఖడ్గము కూడా వాక్యమే! ఒకే వాక్యం నిన్ను కాపాడుకోడానికి, సైతానును కొట్టడానికి ఉపకరిస్తుంది. యుద్ధం చెయ్యాలి. పోరాడాలి. దేవునికి లోబడి అపవాదిని ఎదిరించాలి. (యాకోబు 4.7).

క్రైస్తవులారా! జాగ్రత్త. సైతాను జయించాలి. వాణ్ణి పడేసి మన పాదాల క్రింద చితగొట్టాలి. యేసుక్రీస్తు ఎప్పటివాడు? ఆయనకు అన్ని కాలాలు ఒకటే. నిన్నటివాడు, నేటివాడు అన్ని కాలాలలో ఉన్నవాడు. ఆయన సైన్యములకధిపతి. క్రైస్తవ యుద్ధం ఆధ్యాత్మికమైనది. శత్రువు ఎన్నెన్నో కుతంత్రాలు ప్రయోగిస్తాడు. ఆత్మ దేవుడు ఈ యుద్ధంలో మనకు అత్యధిక విజయం చేకూరుస్తాడు. రోమా పత్రిక 8వ అధ్యాయంలో పౌలు తన విశ్వాస ప్రమాణాన్ని పలుకుతూ దేవుడు మన పక్షాన ఉన్నాడు. మనకు విరోధి ఎవరు? ఇటురమ్మను అని ఛాలెంజ్ చేసాడు. ఈ లోకంలో క్రైస్తవ సైనికుణ్ణి ఓడించగల శక్తి ఏదీ లేదు. ఎలాంటి పరిస్థితులలోనైనా ప్రభువును బట్టి మనదే జయం. ఇప్పుడు మనం దేవుని పిల్లలం. నూతన జన్మానుభూతి మన ప్రత్యేకత. విశ్వాసం ద్వారా కృపచేత రక్షింపబడియున్నాము. ఈ రక్షణ పోగొట్టుకునేది కాదు, పోయేది కాదు. దేవుని కుమారులము, కుమార్తెలము. దేవునితో మనకు ఉన్న ఈ సంబంధం శాశ్వతమైనది. ప్రభువు అన్నాడు - ఎవడు నా గొత్తను నా చేతిలో నుండి అపహరించలేడు. యేసునందు విశ్వాసముంచేవాడు ఎవడూ నశించడు. నిత్యజీవం పొందుతాడు. నమ్మకంగా యుద్ధంలో పోరాడాలి. ఇది ధర్మయుద్ధం, ధర్మక్షేత్రం, యుద్ధరంగం. 2 యోహాను 8వ వచనం - 'నేను మీ మధ్య జరిగించిన కార్యాలను చెడగొట్టుకొనవద్దు. పూర్ణజలము పొందేటట్లు జాగ్రత్తగా చూసుకోండి. నియమప్రకారం పోరాడకపోతే జీవకిరీటం దొరకదు. సైనికుడికి క్రమశిక్షణ ఉండాలి. సేనాధిపతికి పూర్తిగా లోబయుండాలి. శరీరాన్ని నలగొట్టి దాన్ని వశపరచుకోవాలి. మన రక్షణ కోసం పనిచేసింది యేసుక్రీస్తు. కానీ మన బహుమానాల కోసం పనిచేయవలసింది. మనమే. పరలోక ప్రవేశం మనకు లభించింది అంటే అది కేవలం దేవుని కనికరమే!

నా దాగు చోటు నీవే!

బ్రదర్ యేసన్న

మిక్కిలి విలువైన వజ్రాలు, ముత్యాలు, రత్నాలు, వెండి, బంగారము గనులలో మరుగైయుంటాయి. అదే విధముగా దేవుని దృష్టిలో అమూల్యమైన వారు కూడా వారికి నియమించిన స్థలములలో దాగి యుండవలెనని దేవుడు కోరుచున్నాడు.

కీర్తనాకారుడైన దావీదు “నా దాగు చోటు నీవే” (కీర్తన 32.17) అని చెప్పుచున్నాడు. పెండ్లికుమార్తె సంఘము మహిమలో ప్రత్యక్షమగు దినము వరకు దాగియుండవలెను (పరమ 2.14; 4.12). దేవుని ప్రజలు దాగియుండవలసిన కొన్ని స్థలములను మనము ధ్యానించుదము.

దేవునిలో దాగియుండుము



సౌలు దావీదును చంపుటకు ప్రయత్నించినపుడు యోనాతాను దావీదుతో - “నా తండ్రియైన సౌలు నిన్ను చంపవలెనన్న ప్రయత్నము చేస్తున్నాడు. కాబట్టి నీవు ఉదయమున జాగ్రత్తపడి రహస్య స్థలమందు దాగియుండుము” అని చెప్పాడు (1 సమూ 19.2). సౌలు శరీరానికి, దావీదు ఆత్మకు సూచనగా యున్నారు. సౌలు కుటుంబికులకును, దావీదు కుటుంబికులకును యుద్ధము జరిగినట్లుగానే మన శరీరమునకు, ఆత్మకు మధ్య పోరాటము జరుగుతూనే ఉంటుంది.

మనము దేవునిలో దాగియున్నట్లయితే, మన ఆధ్యాత్మిక జీవితము కాపాడబడును. దేవుని యందు దాగియుండు జీవితము నీటి బాప్తిస్మముతో ప్రారంభమవుతుంది. మీరు మృతి పొందితిరి, మీ జీవము క్రీస్తులో దేవుని యందు దాచబడియున్నది (కొలస్సీ 3.2,3) అని అపొస్తలుడైన పౌలు చెప్పుచున్నాడు. నీటి బాప్తిస్మము పొందునప్పుడు మనము క్రీస్తుతో కూడ పాతిపెట్టబడుచున్నాము. అయినను మన జీవితకాలమంతయు అనుదినము మనలను మనమే పాపము విషయమై మృతులముగా ఎంచుకొనవలెను (రోమా 6.11). ఈలాగు బాప్తిస్మము ద్వారా దేవునిలో దాగి యున్నట్లయితే మనకు జీవమైయున్న క్రీస్తు ప్రత్యక్షమైనప్పుడు, మనము ఆయనతో కూడ మహిమయందు ప్రత్యక్షపరచబడుదుము (కొలస్సీ 3.4).

పరిశుద్ధాత్మునిలో దాగియుండుము

“పరిశుద్ధాత్మ నీమీదికి వచ్చును; సర్వోన్నతుని శక్తి నిన్ను కమ్ముకొనును గనుక పుట్టబోవు శిశువు పరిశుద్ధుడై దేవుని కుమారుడనబడును” (లూకా 1.35) అని దేవదూత మరీయతో చెప్పెను. సర్వోన్నతుని శక్తి మనలను కమ్ముకొనినప్పుడు మనము సర్వోన్నతుని చాటున దాగియుండుము. అప్పుడు దేవుని కుమారుని సారూప్యము మనలో రూపించబడును. కావున మనమెల్లప్పుడు పరిశుద్ధాత్మచేత నింపబడినవారమై పరిశుద్ధాత్మ నింపుదలను కాపాడుకొనవలెను. పరిశుద్ధాత్మను దుఃఖపరచకుండ జాగ్రత్త గలవారమై యుండవలెను. కనుక పైనున్న వాటి మీదనే మనస్సుంచి, ఎల్లప్పుడు సర్వశక్తుని నీడను విశ్రమించవలెను. అప్పుడు దేవుని ఆశీర్వాదములన్నీ మన మీదికి వచ్చును.

పర్ణశాలలో దాగియుండుము

“అపత్కాలమున ఆయన తన పర్ణశాలలో నన్ను దాచును, తన గుడారపు మాటున నన్ను దాచును, ఆశ్రయదుర్గము మీద ఆయన నన్ను ఎక్కించును” (కీర్తన 27.5) అని కీర్తనాకారుడైన దావీదు చెబుతున్నాడు.

యోసేపు తన సహోదరుల వలన నీరులేని గుంటలో పడవేయబడినప్పుడు, అది అతనికి వేదన కలుగజేయు అనుభవమై యుండెను. అయినా అతడు తన సహోదరుల చేత చంపబడకుండునట్లు, అతనిని వారి చేతి నుండి తప్పించి కాపాడుటకు ఆ గుంట దేవుని చేత సిద్ధపరచబడిన దాగుచోటుగా ఉన్నది. ఉదా: కోడి పిల్లలు సంతోషముగా ఆడుకొంటున్నప్పుడు వేగముగా దిగు గడ్డను తల్లి కోడి చూస్తే, వెంటనే తన పిల్లలను తన రెక్కల క్రిందికి బలవంతముగా చేర్చుకొంటుంది. అంతవరకు ఉల్లాసముగా తిరుగుతున్న పిల్లలకు, ఇదొక చెరగా, అంధకారము ఆవరించినట్లుగా ఉంటుంది. అయితే తల్లి కోడి తన పిల్లలను కీడు నుండి తప్పించి కాపాడుటకు కొంతసేపు వాటిని తన రెక్కలచాటున దాచును.



అలాగే మనకు కీడు సంభవించకుండా దేవుడు మనలను తన మాటన దాచి కాపాడుటకు, మన జీవితములో కొన్ని శ్రమలను అనుమతించుచున్నారు. ఆయన కటిక చీకటిలోనికి దారితీసి, దానిలో నన్ను నడిపించుచున్నారు (విలాప 3.2). మనము అదైర్యపడక “నేను నడుచు మార్గము నా యేసుకు తెలియును అని, అంధకారమందు యెహోవా నాకు వెలుగుగా ఉన్నాడు అని ఒప్పుకోలు చేసి ముందుకు సాగెదము” (యోబు 23.8-10; మీకా 7.8). అప్పుడు ఆయన మనలను తన సన్నిధి చాటున దాచిపెట్టి, గుడారపు మాటన మరుగుపరచి, ఆశ్రయ దుర్గము మీదికి ఎక్కించి తన కృపను ఆశ్చర్యముగా మనకు చూపును (కీర్తన 31.19-21).

వాగు దగ్గర దాగియుండుము

“కెరీతు వాగు దగ్గర దాగియుండుము” (1రాజు 17.3) అని విశ్వాసపీరుడైన ఏలియాకు సెలవిచ్చిన దేవుడు; దైవజనుడైన ఏలియాను పోషించుటకు కాకులకు ఆజ్ఞాపించెను.

మనము విశ్వాస జీవితము చేయుటకు పిలువబడినవారము. మనకు సహాయము, ఆశ్రయము మనుష్యుల నుండి కాక, ఆకాశమును భూమిని కలుగజేసిన దేవుని యొద్దనుండే రావాలి. మనము వెలి చూపు వలన కాక విశ్వాసము వలననే నడుచుకొనుచున్నాము (2 కొరింథీ 5.6). మనము దేనిని గూర్చియు చింతపడక, మన అవసరతలను దేవునికి తెలియపరుద్దాము. ఆయన మనము అడుగు వాటికంటెను, ఊహించు వాటికంటెను అత్యధికముగా చేయుటకు శక్తిమంతుడు. మనము ఎదుర్కొను పలుకోధనలలో నశించిపోకుండునట్లు, దాచబడి కాపాడబడునట్లు విశ్వాసము కలిగి నడుచుకొనుట నేర్చుకొందుము.

మంటిలో దాగియుండుము

దేవుని జనులు అహంకార దృష్టి గలవారై దేవునికి విరోధముగా పాపము చేసి, దేవుని తీర్పును తమన మీదికి రాకుండా తప్పించుకొనుటకు ఇవ్వబడిన ఆలోచన “మంటిలో దాగియుండుము” (యెషయా 2.10). మన్ను తగ్గింపును సూచించుచున్నది. మనము నేలమంటితో రూపింపబడిన వారము. అతిశయించుటకు మనలో ఏమియు లేదని ఎప్పుడూ జ్ఞాపకం వుంచుకోవాలి.

ఇదిగో ధూళియు బూడిదయునైన నేను అని అబ్రహాము తన్ను తాను తగ్గించుకొన్నాడు (ఆది 18.27). దీన మనస్సు గల వారికి విరిగి నలిగిన హృదయముండును. జీవితములో వచ్చు ప్రతి చిన్న పొరపాటును పెద్ద పాపముగా ఎంచి, పశ్చాత్తాపపడి, నలిగిన హృదయముతో దానిని ఒప్పుకొనిక విడిచిపెట్టవలెను. అప్పుడు దేవుని కనికరము మనకు దొరుకును (సామెతలు 28.13). మనలను మనమే తగ్గించుకొనిన యెడల దేవుని తీర్పు నుండి తప్పింపబడతాము.

కొంచెముసేపు దాగియుండుము

“నా జనమా... నీవు వెళ్ళి అంతఃపురములో ప్రవేశించుము. నీవు వెళ్ళి నీ తలుపులు వేసికొనుము. కొంచెముసేపు దాగియుండుము” (యెషయా 26.20,21). ఈ వాక్యము శ్రమల కాలమును తెలుపుతుంది. అయినా ఆధ్యాత్మిక రీతిగా అంతఃపురములలో దాగియుండుట అనేది మన ప్రార్థనా జీవితమును బయలుపరచుచున్నది. “నీవు ప్రార్థన చేయునప్పుడు, నీ గదిలోనికి వెళ్ళి, తలుపువేసి, రహస్యమందున్న నీ తండ్రికి ప్రార్థన చేయుము; అప్పుడు రహస్యమందు చూచు నీ తండ్రి నీకు ప్రతిఫలమిచ్చును” (మత్తయి 6.6) అని ప్రభువైన యేసు సెలవిచ్చెను. కడవరి దినములకు వచ్చిన మనము కాపాడబడి, ఇతరులకు ఆశీర్వాదముగా ఉండుటకు, ఇటువంటి వ్యక్తిగత ప్రార్థనా జీవితము మనకు అత్యవసరమైయుంది.

“దానియేలు తన ఇంటికి వెళ్ళి, యధాప్రకారముగా అనుదినము ముమ్మారు మోకాళ్ళాని, దేవునికి ప్రార్థన చేయుచు, ఆయనను స్తుతించుచువచ్చెను” (దానియేలు 6.10). ప్రార్థనా జీవితము కలిగినవాడు తన దర్శనమును నూతనపరచుకొనును, శత్రువులను చూచినప్పుడు అదైర్యపడదు. మనుష్య కుమారుడు ప్రత్యక్షమగునప్పుడు ఆయన ఎదుట నిలువబడుటకు శక్తిగల వారమగునట్లు (లూకా 21.36) ప్రార్థనా జీవితమైన గదిలో మనము దాగియుండుము.

ప్రియ దేవుని బిడ్డా! దేవుడు నిర్ణయించిన కాలము వరకు ఆయన చెప్పిన స్థలములో దాగియున్న ఏలియా తగిన సమయమందు దేవుని చేత కొనిపోబడెను. క్రీస్తు దినము వరకు దాగియుండు పెండ్లికుమార్తె, తన జీవమైన క్రీస్తు ప్రత్యక్షమైనప్పుడు, మేఘముల మీద ఆకాశమండలమునకు కొనిపోబడి సదాకాలము ఆయనతో ఏలుబడి చేయును. ఇట్టి కృప దేవుడు మనకు అనుగ్రహించును గాక!





































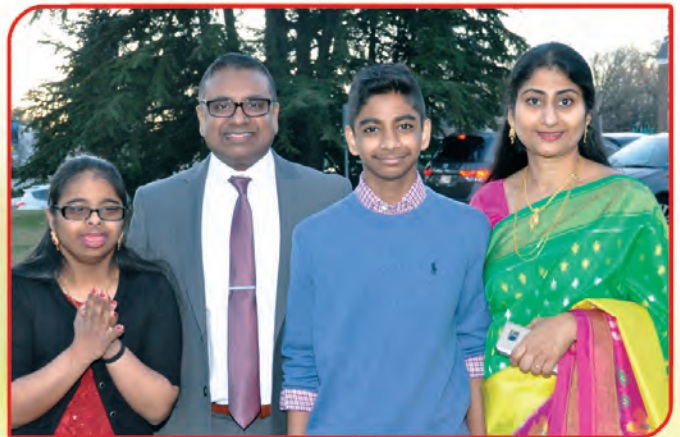




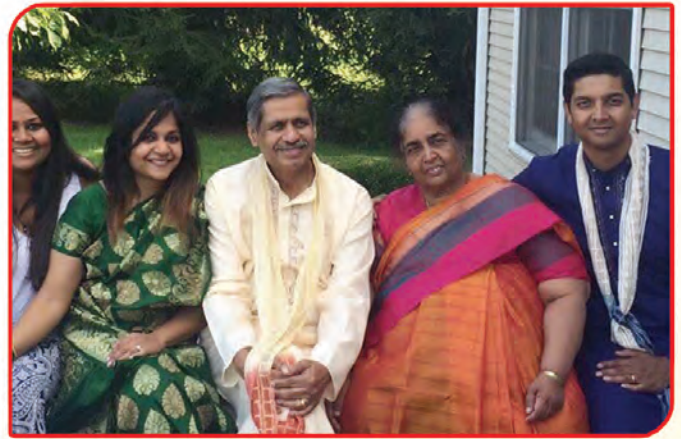


























































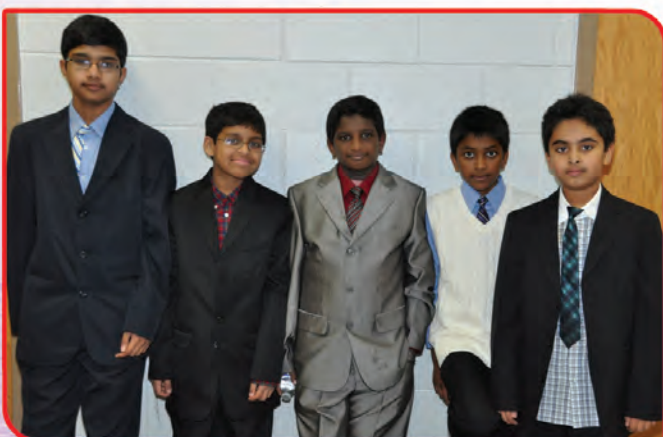




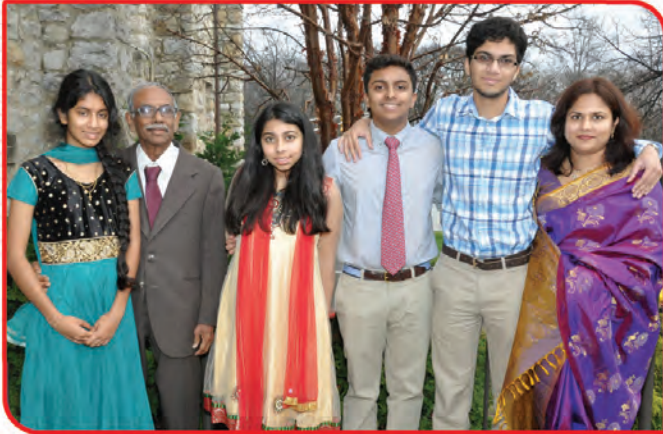






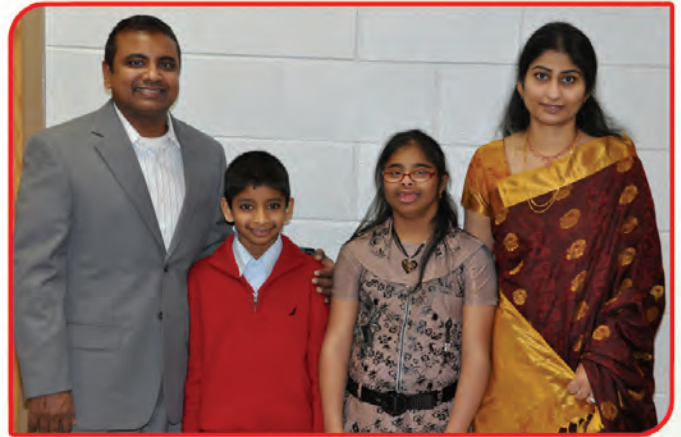








































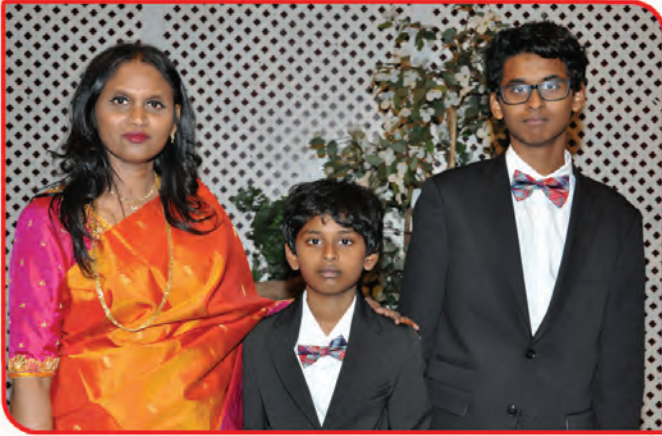






























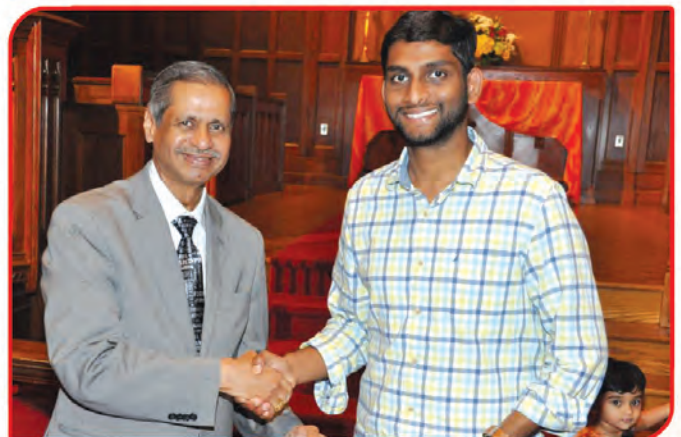






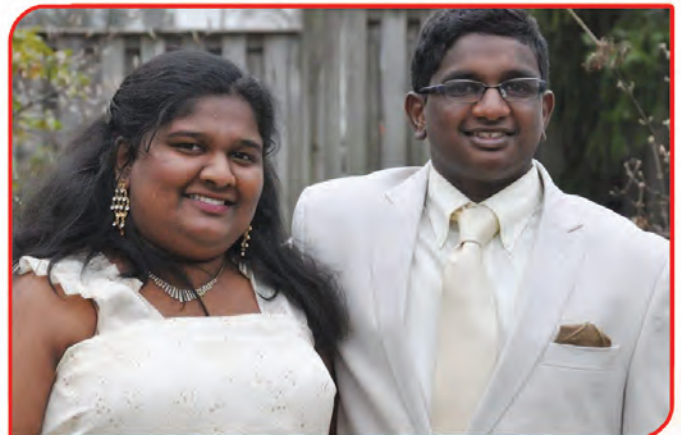




















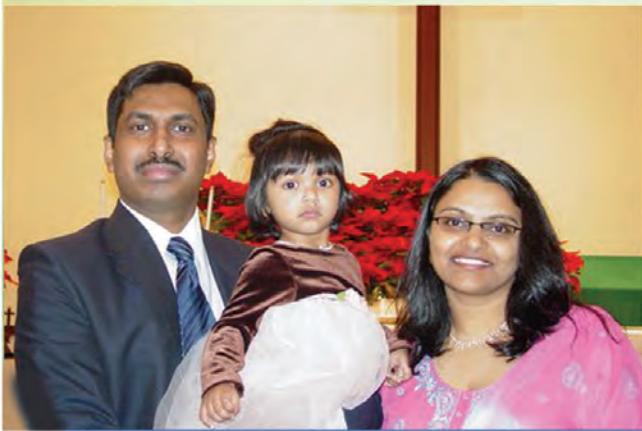






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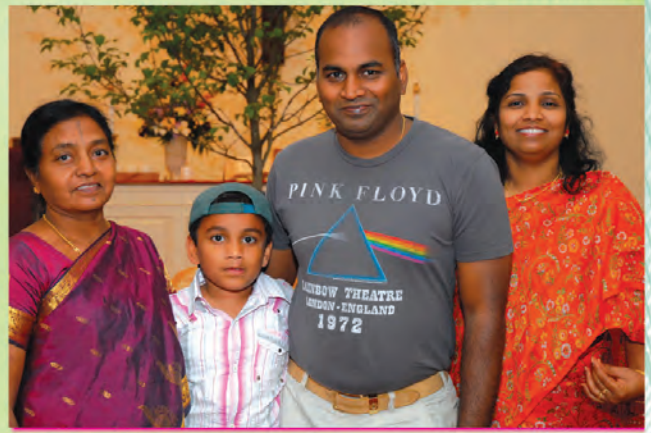












































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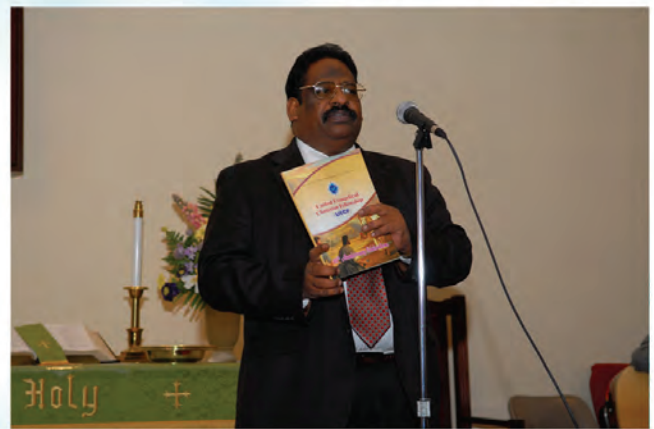








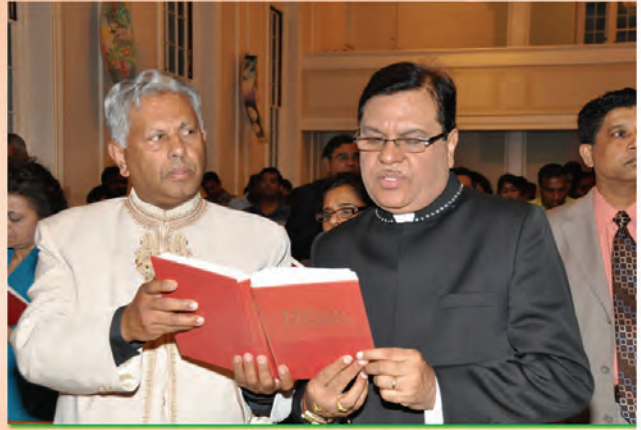
















































36











40















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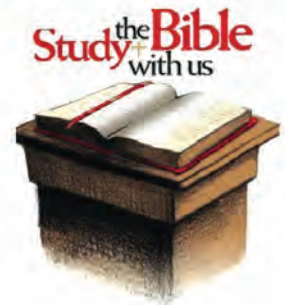
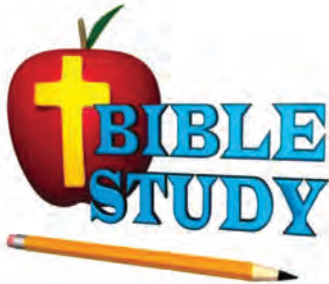
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