

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship

(An Inter-Denominational Asian Indian Christian Fellowship
Serving Central New Jersey since 1997)



Rev. Naveen Balakrishnan

Schedule:

October 26th, 2007

Friday at 7:00 PM

October 27th, 2007

Saturday :

10:30 AM (Rev.Kunchanapalli)

1:30 PM (Concert & Kids Program)

7:00 PM (Rev.Balakrishnan)

October 28th, 2007

Sunday at 5:30 PM



Rev. Solomon Raju Kunchanapalli

Contacts :

Joshua(Phani) Pilli

(732-476-8899)

Clement Myla

(848-248-2771)

Vinod Nakka

(732-690-4985)

Honorary Pastors :

Rev. Dr. David Ravinder

Senior Pastor

&

Rev. David Davis

Hon. Pastor

Dinner will be served on all
the 3 days and also Lunch
will be provided on Saturday.

New Dover United Methodist Church,
687 New Dover Road, Edison, NJ-08820
(Just a few blocks away from famous Oak Tree Road, Edison)

Directions:

For directions and more information, please visit: <http://www.uecf.net>

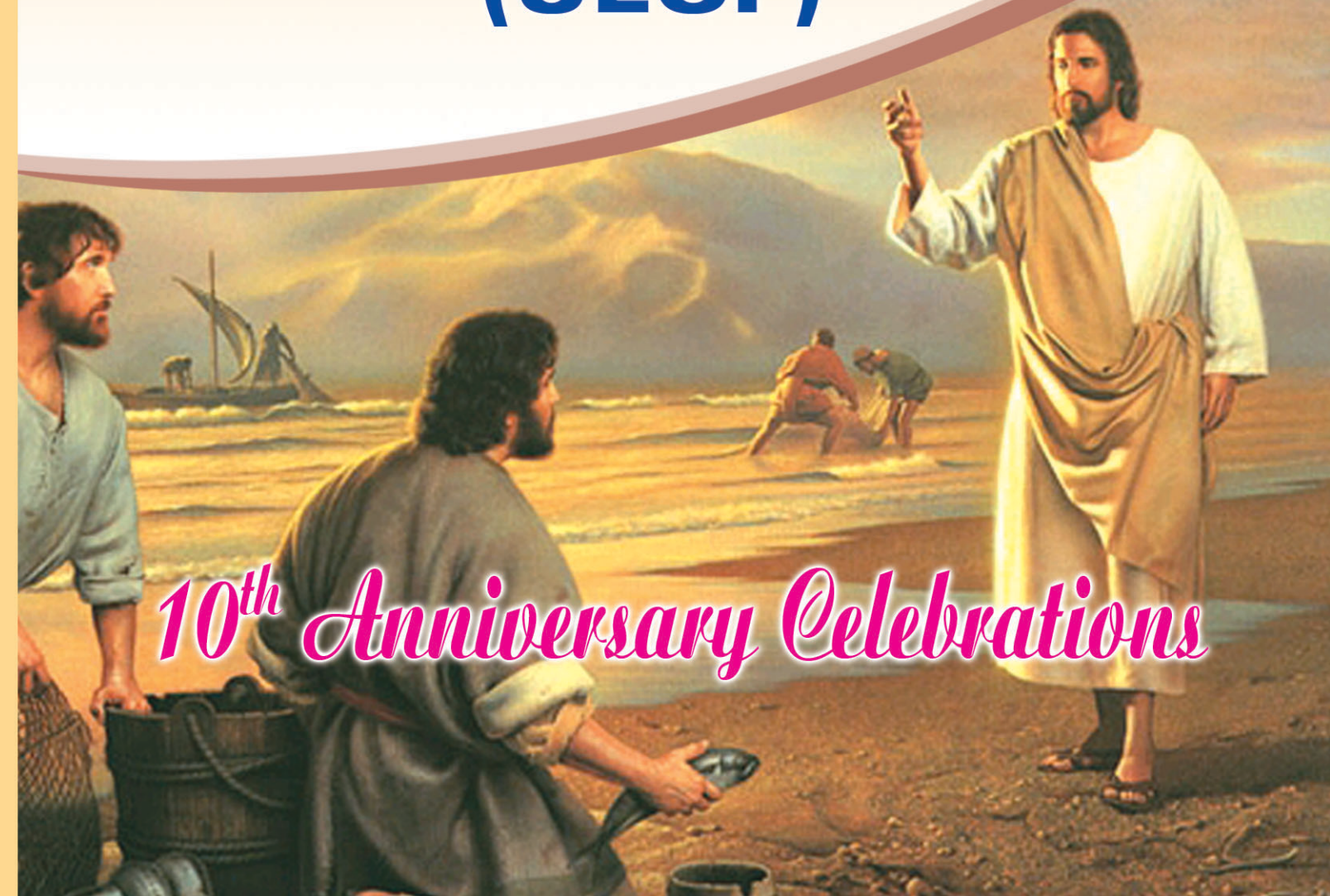
From Garden State Parkway :

1. Take Exit 131, stay right (You will enter into Route 27 South).
2. Go to 1st traffic light, turn right onto Wood Ave. (Turn right at BP and Exxon gas stations).
3. Pass next traffic light (Cross Oak Tree Rd).
4. At the next traffic light, make a left onto New Dover Road .
5. Church (New Dover United Methodist Church , 687 New Dover Rd , Edison, NJ 08820)
is on the left side with ample parking in front and back.

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15



United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF)



10th Anniversary Celebrations



10th Anniversary Celebrations

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy and thanksgiving to God in my heart that I greet you on this wonderful occasion of the tenth anniversary of UECF. As we celebrate this milestone, let us lift up our hearts unto the LORD for all His wondrous works.

Elsewhere in this journal, you will find the history of UECF, outlining the beginnings and growth of the Fellowship. Many people have made their contribution in making the Fellowship what it is today. For the vision to create such a Community by the founders shows their keen sense of commitment to follow the leading of God's Spirit. As I look back and reflect, I am reminded of the words of a great hymn entitled, "And Are We Yet Alive" written by Charles Wesley in 1749.

"And are we yet alive," the question is raised; "And see each other's face?"

Glory and thanks to Jesus give For His almighty grace! The song writer continues: "Preserved by power divine; To full salvation here, Again in Jesus' praise we join; And in His sight appear. What troubles have we seen, What mighty conflicts past; Fightings without, and fears within, Since we assembled last! Yet out of all the Lord Hath brought us by His love; And still He doth His help afford, And hides our life above. Then let us make our boast Of His redeeming power, Which saves us to the uttermost, Till we can sin no more. Let us take up the cross Till we the crown obtain, And gladly reckon all things loss So we may Jesus gain.

In spite of human shortcomings, the Lord is able to accomplish His purposes. As the writer of this hymn tells us, it is because of His love, that God forgives us and strengthens us to move on. My sincere prayer is that we as God's people will be faithful to what God has called us to do. I believe that there is a lot that has to be done. Over the past decade we have seen great growth in the Indian Christian Community in our area. We need to double our efforts to reach those who are seeking a Faith Community where they can belong, participate and grow in their love for God and neighbor. While it is vital to create such a place for fellowship, we must also remember that we are called to witness to those who have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our 'Mission Field' is vast indeed. We have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who are seeking for meaning and purpose in their lives; people who are seeking for lasting peace.

As we move into the future, let us resolve to draw closer to God through regular worship, bible study, prayer, and to bear witness to our Lord effectively. It has been a privilege to be serving among you and along with you these past ten years. I thank you all and I thank God for this privilege.

Shalom!

Rev. Dr. David Ravinder

Hon. Sr. Pastor



start IT fast - make IT smart



**opportunity knocks once
Hurry Up now**

Company Profile
Jayson & Williams Technologies Inc., is an US based firm specializing in the delivery of IT services and FileNET consulting. JWT develop solutions of which address client short term and long term objectives.

Job Description
 JWT requires IT Professionals having various skill sets and experience levels in
 java .net testing oracle sql server content management sap erp siebel datawarehousing IBM mainframes middleware telecom embedded vlsi

Our area of expertise includes FileNET service provider, software development and contract programming in client/server, Intranet and Internet development.

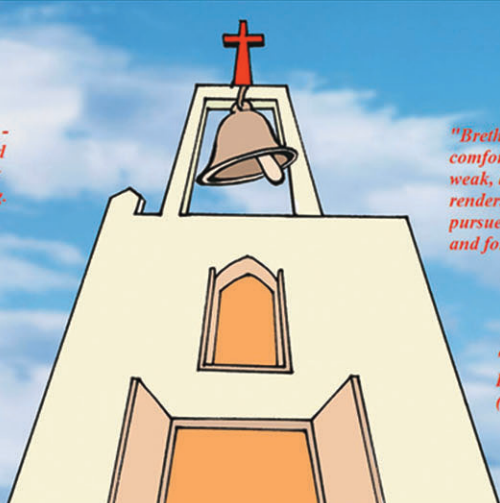
mention technology & Experience as subject
jobs@jwtechinc.com

reach us at  **Jayson & Williams Technologies Inc.**
 398, Spotswood Englishtown Road, MONROE, New Jersey 08831

WWW.JWTECHINC.COM

Microsoft Certified Solution Provider | FileNET | IBM Business Partner

JJ Prayer Hall
 Sunday worship, Children, Youth & Woman fellowship



JJ Prayer Hall :
The J J Prayer Hall at Dowlaiswaram - 533125, has been a place of solace and comfort for countless people who walk in everyday for prayers and counseling.

Personal Prayers:
"Pray for one another. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16)
Come! Let's put an end to all your problems through prayers!

Counseling :
"Brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all." (1 Thessalonians 5:14,15)

Prayer Services:
"'Am I a God near at hand,' says the Lord, 'And not a God afar off!'" (Jeremiah 23:23)

P R K Charitable trust
 (Pitta Rajani Kumar Charitable Trust)
 17-158, Gollapeta, Dowlaiswaram-533125 AP, India.



10th
Anniversary
Celebrations

Dear UECF Families and Friends,

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

It is my privilege to welcome you all on this auspicious occasion of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship's 10th Anniversary celebrations. We, as one family of Christ have reached an important milestone in the history of UECF.

As the psalmist proclaimed, "The Lord has done great things for us, Whereof we are glad" – Psalm 126:3. Many of us grew along with this fellowship and God has been faithful to us all these years. When we look back, UECF has grown both spiritually and numerically.

As part of these 3-Day celebrations, special programs have been arranged. These programs include a series of messages, musical concert, and children's special programs. I urge you to get enriched with the powerful messages by the distinguished servants of God, Rev. Naveen Balakrishnan and Rev. Solomon Raju Kunchanapalli.

Efforts have been made to put things together in bringing out this Souvenir within a short span of time. I encourage you to read this Souvenir with your nostalgic and cherished memories.

I thank and praise God for His wonderful mercies and thank our pastors, elders and each one of you for your faithfulness.

As we celebrate the decade of service, let us re-dedicate ourselves with a greater commitment. May the Almighty heavenly Father bind us together in unity!

In Christ's love,

Joshua (Phani) Pilli

President





Greetings from Rev. David J. Davis

It is with great joy I praise God and congratulate the family of UECF on this important milestone they have reached both as a local community and as part of the Universal Church of God.

I would like to take this opportunity, to thank the Rev. Dr. David Ravinder, Rev. Sunil Balasundaram, and the past & current Leadership of the UECF for the opportunity to serve God's people.

Although we are a small church the impact of their identity as God's people has had far reaching consequences in terms of ministry here as well as in other parts of this world. Looking back I realize that we are no different from any unity that bears the name of Christ, as such there have been many ups and downs, but we testify to the fact that God has led us this far, and He will accomplish His purposes through us as time unfurls.

I believe that we are called, and our identity is in Christ, and because He is faithful, and covenant keeping, I see the potential for great ministries and witness. I believe that Isaiah 26:1-4 describes UECF.

I wish each member and their family members the peace of Christ, the Blessings of God and the communion with our Father through the Holy Spirit.

Blessings & Peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature area.

Rev. David J. Davis.

Hon. Pastor





STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 001
TRENTON
08625
(609) 292-8000



JON S. CORZINE
GOVERNOR

October 26, 2007

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone gathered for the 10th Anniversary Celebration of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF).

The leadership, service, and fellowship provided by our churches are integral parts, not only of our personal spirituality, but also of the very fabric society. Since its consecration in 1997, United Evangelical Christian Fellowship has been instrumental in serving the needs of Asian-Indian Christians in around Central New Jersey. I commend the efforts of UECF to bring about positive and productive development in their community.

Best wishes for a most joyous and memorable celebration. I join with the community in applauding your accomplishments of the past decade and wish you many blessings in the future endeavors of your ministry.

Sincerely,

JON S. CORZINE



SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ
UNITED STATES SENATE
NEW JERSEY



October 26, 2007

United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
687 New Dover Road
Edison, New Jersey 08820

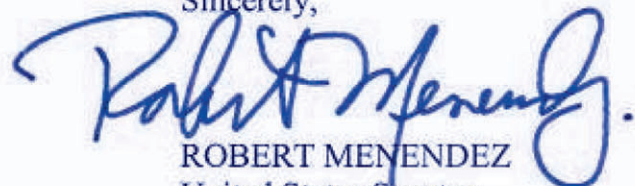
Dear Friends,

Please accept my heartiest congratulations as you celebrate the 10th Anniversary of your house of worship. This is a momentous occasion for United Evangelical Christian Fellowship, and I wish the entire congregation continued blessings, happiness, and success.

I commend your church for its steadfast commitment to the Asian Indian community and for its dedication to promoting the values of faith and spiritual growth in all its members. Additionally, I would like to recognize the Reverend Dr. David Ravinder, Hon. Sr. Pastor, and the Reverend David Davis, Hon. Pastor, who serve as inspirational leaders, and have helped the church grow and prosper to become a place of solace and devotion for the community.

As your United States Senator, it is my honor to acknowledge your 10th Anniversary. Congratulations and best wishes to the entire congregation on this joyous occasion.

Sincerely,


ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

BUDGET

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510



October 12, 2007

President Joshua (Phani) Pilli
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF)
Edison, NJ 08820

Dear Friends:

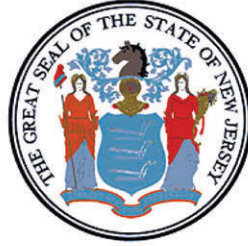
Thank you very much for inviting me to the 10th Anniversary of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship. I am sorry that I cannot be with you on this joyous occasion. However, I am honored to be able to congratulate the congregation and strong leadership of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship for your dedication to your community.

Your special dinners for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and other holidays have made a life long impact on those in need. Your collaboration with the Red Cross to plan and execute charity events around the community has been a tremendous asset. While the Fellowship is still in its growing stages, I am very proud of your progress. United Evangelical Christian Fellowship will continue to be a positive asset to your community in the future.

The past 10 years of caring and giving is evident throughout the daily workings of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship. It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations on your 10th year is service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank R. Lautenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

Assemblyman, 17th District

888 Easton Avenue Somerset, NJ 08873;
Phone: 732-247-3999; Fax: 732-247-4383



October 12, 2007

Mr. Joshua(Phani) Pilli,
President, UECF
Edison, NJ

Mr. Pilli,

I would like to congratulate the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship(UECF) for reaching an important milestone and celebrating the 10th Anniversary.

I am proud of the fact that UECF is an inter-denominational Church serving the Asian Indian Christians in and around Central New Jersey since 1997. UECF has been catering to the spiritual needs of the local and Asian Indian Community by maintaining the Christian traditions of the Indian sub-continent.

UECF has impacted so many lives over many years and helped in their spiritual growth. The dedication and faithfulness of UECF congregation should remain a powerful testimony to God in not only New Jersey but also in the other parts of the world. I appreciate the fact that you have reached out to me in friendship. I am looking forward to visiting your Sunday worship services held in Edison, New Jersey in the near future.

Please accept my best wishes on reaching such a significant milestone in the history of UECF.

Sincerely,

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

NJ Assemblyman, D-17

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE:

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS SUBCOMMITTEE

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE
INTERNET SUBCOMMITTEE

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

FISHERIES, WILDLIFE AND
OCEANS SUBCOMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE:

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

<http://www.house.gov/pallone>

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
6TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
237 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3008
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4671

DISTRICT OFFICES:

TOLL-FREE NUMBER:
(888) 423-1140

504 BROADWAY
LONG BRANCH, NJ 07740
(732) 571-1140

67/69 CHURCH STREET
KILMER SQUARE
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901
(732) 249-8892



October 2007

Dear Friends :

I am proud to offer my congratulations to the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship on their 10th Anniversary. An Inter-Denominational Asian Indian Christian Church started by Asian Indians. UECF provides spiritual and cultural fellowship for Indian Christians. Now in its tenth year of service, the fellowship has provided countless individuals and families with a place to go and celebrate their faith and their heritage.

The United Evangelical Christian Fellowship has a strong tradition of activism, tolerance and compassion. Whether promoting cultural activities throughout the community, organizing community service drives, running special fellowship activities for youth groups, or assisting those in need at home and abroad UECF's commitment to spirituality and fellowship is impressive

The leadership of organizations like the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship remains crucial to the continued growth and prosperity of our state. Though we face great challenges in New Jersey, we can be assured that their continued hard work and commitment to community will enable all of us to succeed.

Once again, congratulations and thank you for all that you do.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

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

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



EDISON

Office of the Mayor

Jun H. Choi, Mayor

100 Municipal Blvd.
Edison, NJ 08817
(732) 248-7298 Office
(732) 287-6679 Fax



October 2007

Dear Friends,

It is my great honor and privilege to welcome you to the 10th anniversary of the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship (UECF).

The United Evangelical Christian Fellowship is an inter-denominational church serving the Asian-Indian Christian community in Central New Jersey which has its Sunday meetings in Edison, New Jersey. The UECF is helping to maintain the Christian traditions of the Indian community by fostering their spiritual needs and improving the cultural harmony among our diverse population.

I would like to convey my best wishes to Mr. Joshua (Phani) Pilli, the current President of the UECF who helped organize this event. On behalf of Edison residents, I congratulate the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship and wish this celebration success.

Sincerely,

Jun H. Choi

Mayor

TELUGU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF NEW JERSEY

167 Sherman Avenue, Glen Ridge, NJ-07028



Dear UECF family:



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We praise God for His faithfulness to you these 10 years. Two verses comes to my mind in this regard " Great is Thy faithfulness" (Lam 3:23) & "Faithful is He that calleth you who also will do it" (1Th 5:24). What a faithful God we have! Accept our heartfelt congratulations on your 10th anniversary.

UECF has reached an important milestone in its pilgrimage. Number 10 has a very significant place in the Bible. For instance we have the tithe that we are commanded to give to God, ten commandments that we are expected to put into practice & ten days of prayer in the upper room with one accord by the 120 that ushered in the outpouring of Holy Spirit etc. etc.

Indeed you have come a long way by the grace of God through the mountain top as well as the valley experiences. So you can boldly say "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (1Sam 7:12). Thank Him for being your Eben-ezer. To God be the glory Great things He hath done. Hallelujah!

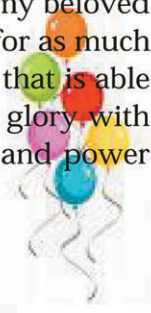
But do not relax yet for there is so much more to be done for the Kingdom. Do not sit on the laurels you have already won for our King but keep pressing on. Success sometimes can bring complacency which will hinder your mission. This can happen to any ministry. That is what our adversary would like to do either stop the progress altogether or atleast slow it down. So watch out! To avoid such a pitfall you would do well to practice St. Paul's motto for his life who accomplished so much for the Kingdom yet says "Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do; forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Ph 3:13 & 14). This will enable you to do your part well in fulfilling the Great Commission.

TCF NJ shares in your joy on this historic occasion and wishes you the choicest blessings from our Lord. We also feel very good about the fact that some of the founding fathers of UECF were at one time members of the TCF NJ and some of them still are. God speed to you UECF.

In closing let me give you a word of encouragement and benediction. "Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord" (1Cor 15:58). "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Savior be glory and majesty dominion and power both now and ever. Amen.

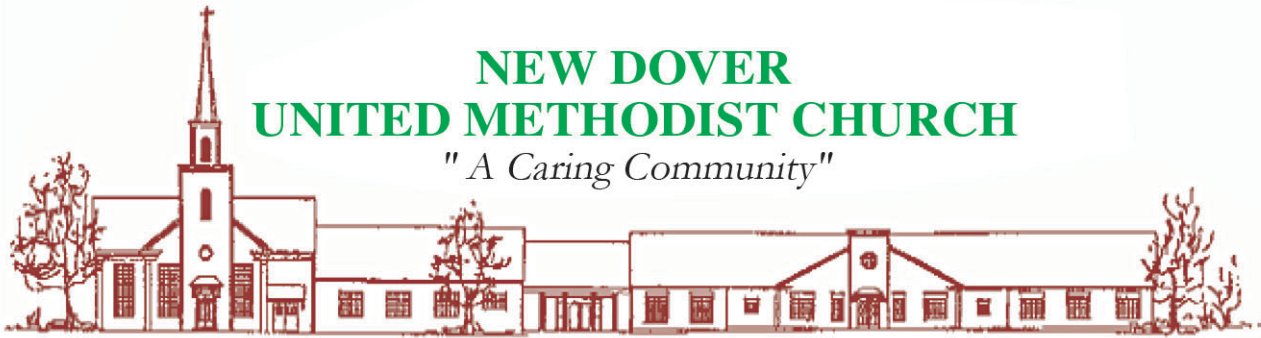
In His Majesty's service

(Bro. David Chigurupati for TCF NJ)



**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

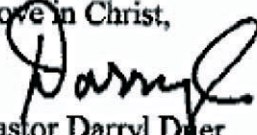
" A Caring Community "



October 15, 2007

Dear Brothers, and Sisters in Christ

Praise God for your ministry, I join with all the members of New Dover United Methodist Church in congratulating you on ten (10) years of ministry. God has been faithful to you and you have been faithful to God

Love in Christ,

Pastor Darryl Duer

The Rev.Darryl D.Duer, Pastor

687 New Dover Road • Edison, NJ 08820 • Office (732) 381-9478 Fax (732) 381-9479



"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

Post Box - 80, Safat, 13001, Safat Kuwait, Tel/Fax : (965) 5668216, www. tckkuwait.com



Date : 08-10-2007

అపో! రెవ! లివింగ్స్టన్ గద్దె
సంఘ స్థాపకులు

ప్రభువునందు అతిప్రియమైన జోషువాకు అంకులు లివింగ్స్టన్ గద్దె క్రీస్తు ప్రేమలో శుభములు పలుకుచూ వ్రాయునది.

జోషువా మీరు పంపిన మెయిల్ నకు వందనములు. యు.ఇ.సి.యఫ్. 10వ వార్షికోత్సవ సంబరములు అక్టోబరు 26 నుండి 28, 2007 వరకు జరిగించు కొననైయున్నారని విని ప్రభువునందు ఆనందించుచున్నాను.

పదివత్సరములు పూర్తిచేసికొని మరియొక నూతన వత్సరములో ప్రవేశించుచున్న యు.ఇ.సి.యఫ్. కార్యవర్గమునకు మరియు సభ్యులందరికిని తెలుగు క్రైస్తవ సంఘములు-కువైట్ పక్షమున మరియు నా పక్షమున శుభాకాంక్షలు అందించుచున్నాను. మరియు గత పదివత్సరములు మిమ్ములను కాచికాపాడి మరియొక నూతన వత్సరములో ప్రవేశింపజేసిన త్రియేక దేవుని ప్రసన్నత సంవత్సర ఆరంభమునుండి అంతము వరకు నడిపించునుగాక! '...సహోదరులారా మీ పిలుపును ఏర్పాటును నిశ్చయము చేసుకొనుటకు మరి జాగ్రత్తపడుడి.' 2 పేతురు 1:10.

'... నా ప్రియ సహోదరులారా, మీ ప్రయాసము ప్రభువునందు వ్యర్థము కాదని యెరిగి, స్థిరులును, కదలని వారును ప్రభువు కార్యాభివృద్ధియందు ఎప్పటికి ఆసక్తులునైయుండుడి.' 1 కొరి. 15:58.

దేవుని మహాకృపలో తెలుగు క్రైస్తవ సంఘము-కువైట్ ది. 09-20-2007 న 36వ వార్షికోత్సవము, 10-04-2007 న తెలుగు క్రైస్తవ సంఘము-జహారా 3వ వార్షికోత్సవము మరియు 10-05-2007 న తెలుగు క్రైస్తవ సంఘము-అహ్మది 28వ వార్షికోత్సవ ఉత్సవములు జరుపుకొనినవి దేవునికి స్తోత్రము. ఈ శుభసమయమందు సహోదరుడు జడ్చన్ అబ్రహాం మరియు సహోదరి ప్రీతా దంపతులు వరంగల్ నుండి వచ్చి గత మూడు వారములు మమ్ములను ఎంతో ఆత్మీయముగా ఆశీర్వదించినారు.

మీరు, మేము ఎక్కడ ఉన్నవారము అక్కడ ప్రకాశించుటకు మనకందరికి మరియొక నూతన వత్సరము అనుగ్రహించిన దేవునికి స్తుతి మహిమ కలుగునుగాక! ఆమేన్.

ప్రార్థనతో

ప్రభువునందు మీ తోటి జతపనివాడు

అంకుల్ అపో! డా|| లివింగ్స్టన్ గద్దె

United Telugu Christian Fellowship

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” Psalms 133:1

Established 1992 –Celebrating 15 years in His Service

President:

Premkumar Chakravarthy

To
President
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship, NJ
New Jersey

Vice Presidents:

Stanley Reddy
William Singavarapu

We UTCF, NY as one body and fellowship would like to praise God and congratulate **United Evangelical Christian Fellowship, NJ** on your tenth anniversary.

Your ministry has been a blessing to all in our community, and we thank God for the work you have done in the lives of many.

Executive General Secretary

Devanivas J. Gandham

For any ministry, there must be the hand of God and the heart of the people. God has laid His vision on the hard-working and committed members of UECF, NJ and will continued to use you to impact the lives of others.

One ministry in particular headed by UECF, NJ that is a great blessing to many worldwide is the online website, www.uecf.net. Many thousands of Christian songs have been compiled and made available to the public for their enjoyment and benefit. Songs are available not only in Telugu, but in many other Indian languages as well, which increases the chances of impacting the lives of Indian non-Christians and leading them to Christ. Truly, the online website has become a great evangelical tool and has brought our faith to practice in our modern world.

Treasurer:

Purushotham Maisappa

We, as another partner in ministry to the Lord, commend United Evangelical Christian Fellowship, NJ for their outstanding work amongst Indian Christians throughout the United States and throughout the world. Your dedication and vision is truly an inspiration to us, and we pray that you will continue to follow God and bless our community for many years to come.

Executive Board:

John Stephen
Vijay Kumar Maddaluri
Amruth Buman
Joseph Gaddam
Moses Korani
David Saladi
Ravi Penubothula

Thank You,

In His Service



President
(Premkumar Chakravarthy)

110-18, 63rd Street, Forest Hills, New York-11375, USA
Phone: 718-463-UTCF - Email: utcfny@aol.com - www.iforchrist.com/utcf

GOOD NEWS MESSENGERS

POST BOX- 306, KANNAVARITHOTA 4th LANE

GUNTUR (A.P) - INDIA – 522004

[Email- Santhavardhan@yahoo.com](mailto:Santhavardhan@yahoo.com)

www.goodnewsmessengers.org

Phone – 011-91-863-2354536



To
President,
The United Evangelical Christian Fellowship(UECF),
687 New Dover Rd,
Edison, NJ-08859

Dear Phani,

Greetings in Jesus Precious Name.

I'm Glad to know that UECF is celebrating its 10th anniversary. On this occasion I extend my hearty congratulations and prayerful greetings to all its members specially the office bearers for their very spirited efforts to realize the goals of the organization. May God's hand rest upon you all and guide you continually for His Glory and the spiritual enhancement of the people around you.

With Best Wishes,

Rev. Dr. M. S. Santhavardhan,

Good News Messengers.



New Jersey Indian Church

[Sanctuary: 57 Sand Hills Road, Kendall Park, NJ 08824]
Phone: 732-297-9182 web: www.njic.org

Rev Dr Anand Veeraraj
Pastor
609-406-7815
pastorveeraraj@aol.com

TRUSTEES

President
Sanjay Alexander
732-438-1491

Secretary
Sophia Samuel
732-422-7443

Treasurer
Titus Kamal
609-261-6575

Jt. Treasurer
Suresh Subramanian
732-745-771

Members

Anita John

Sudhakar Rajan

Anand Gnanadesikan

October 12, 2007

Rev. Dr. David K. Ravinder
United Evangelical Christian Fellowship
687 New Dover Road
Edison NJ 08820

Dear Rev. Ravinder:

It gives me great pleasure to greet you and the members of the United Evangelical Christian Fellowship on your 10th anniversary festival. Members of the New Jersey Indian Church join me in wishing you a blessed time of celebration and thanksgiving. We pray that the meetings with the guest speakers -- Rev. Naveen Balakrishnan and Rev. Solomon Raju Kunchanapalli will be a time of rich blessings and renewal.

Our congregation celebrated the 10th Anniversary just two years ago. During the past years, we have participated together in each other programs, festivals and celebrations. Members of your congregation have joined in our programs quite frequently and we are grateful for your support and prayers for our growth and witness. We trust and pray that we will continue to grow and mutually enrich each other's ministries. Both of our congregations provide a very important service to the Asian Indian community in Central New Jersey. We have benefited from your fellowship and ministries in the years gone by.

May God richly bless you and the UECF as you look forward to the next ten years of your witness in Central New Jersey and beyond.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Anand Veeraraj
Pastor and Members
New Jersey Indian Church



New Life Associates

A Christian Spiritual and Social Service Organization

Ph : 040 - 23340252 ♦ Fx : 040 - 23347057

Website : www.nlaindia.org

E-mail : hyd2_neulife@sancharnet.in

Rev. Dr. A. B. Joseph Kishore

B.Sc., M.Div., M.Th., D.Min.

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

Dear Joshua:

Greetings from India!

I am delighted to hear that UECF is celebrating its 10th anniversary during October 26 to 28, 2007.

UECF has come a long way in fulfilling the purposes of God. I always enjoy your power-packed worship services and warm hospitality. Your outreach ministry has been wonderful over the years. Particularly, I admire the high quality of integrity and stewardship with which you are executing the ministry. God's will is very strong on your ministry and I am sure your ministry will continue to bless thousands in the coming years both in the US and all over the world.

I congratulate Dr. David Ravinder and all the elders of UECF for their excellent leadership. I commend all the members as well for their loyalty and ardent partnership in this ministry.

Have a Spirit-filled Celebration!

In His Love,

Kishore and Marie

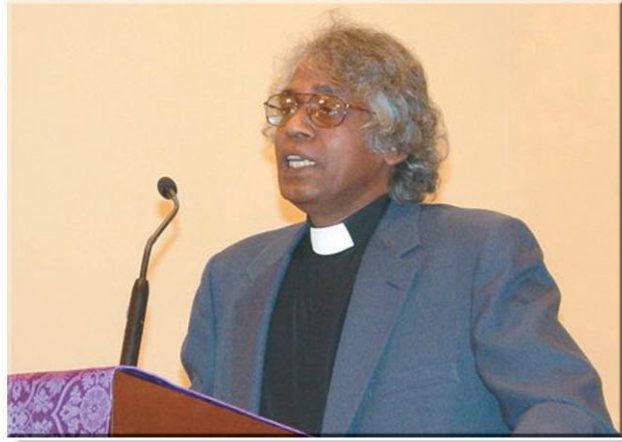
Oct 15, 2007.

Evangelistic Preaching in Campaigns, Conventions and Conferences, Conducting Retreats & Christian Ashrams, Institutes and Workshops for Pastors, Child-Welfare, Audio-Video Ministry, New Life Publications, Rural Evangelism, New Life Medical Clinics, Radio & Television Evangelism, New Life Community Churches, New Life Ministry Center.

PASTORS



Rev. Dr. David Ravinder
Senior Hon. Pastor



Rev. David Davis
Hon. Pastor



Rev. Steve Nash
Former Hon. Pastor



Rev. Balasundaram
Former Hon. Pastor



Mr. Joshua(Phani) Pilli
President
(Pastorate Committee
2003-2006)



Mr. Clement Myla
Vice President
(Since 2003)



Mr. Vinod Nakka
Secretary
(Board of Trustees
2003-2006)



Mr. Chittaranjan Lam
Treasurer
(Pastorate Committee
2003-2006)



Mr. Alfred Bhaskar
Board of Trustees
(President 1997-2000)



Mr. Junia Moses
Board of Trustees



Mr. Louis Dundi
Board of Trustees



Mr. Sunil Robert Vuppula
Board of Trustees



Mrs. Udaya Pulipati
**(Board of Trustees
1997-2003)**

Pastorate Committee Members



Mr. Alfred Myla
Pastorate Committee
Since 2003



Mr. Manohar Pitta



Mr. Ravi Rapaka



Mr. Vijay Pulipati
(Secretary 2000-2003,
Board of Trustees
1997-2000)

FORMER LEADERS



Mr. Syam Pilli
(President)



Mr. Ebenezer Mallepalle
(President)



Mr. Simon Bushi
(Secretary, Treasurer)



Mr. Ravindra Saripalli
(Treasurer)



Mr. Reggie Rao
(Secretary, Board of Trustees)



Mr. Ajit Lakra
(Board of Trustees)



Mr. Paul Moodey
(Board of Trustees)



Mrs. Sujatha Mallepalle
(Board of Trustees)



Mr. Kanthi Rapaka
(Secretary)



Mr. Sarath Kapudasi
(Board of Trustees)

History of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship

UECF



By

Mr. Syam Pilli (Former President of UECF)

Prologue:

“ And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing ” - Genesis 12:2

God has brought us this far! A fellowship that was started by a few families ten years ago has now grown into a well-known Christian fellowship all over the world! It has been a great blessing for me to serve Him through this fellowship in the capacity of President for half a decade. I thank and praise God for using me as an instrument in the growth of this fellowship. I am honored to present the history of United Evangelical Christian Fellowship as it reached a significant milestone.

1. The 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:

The initial group consisting of the families of Mr. Alfred Bhaskar, Mr Vijay Pulipati, Mr. Rajanikantha Rao, Mr. Ebenezer Mallepalle and Mr. Michael Rose 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 Sr. 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 6th April 1997 at the sanctuary of the Community United Methodist Church, located at 301, Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, New Jersey 07204.

3. Incorporation:

An application was submitted in April 1997 to the Dept. 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 last ten years, UECF has conducted Sunday worship services in three different churches. For the first three years, the worship services were conducted in Community United Methodist Church, Roselle Park. During the fourth year, UECF relocated to the New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene located at 80 Jefferson Blvd, Edison.

However, at the end of the year 2002 there was a need to look out for a new church facility. The Board of trustees met just few days before Christmas and prayerfully decided that New Dover United Methodist Church (NDUMC) in Edison would be a strategic location for the growth of

UECF congregation. Pastor Ravinder and the UECF elders had discussions with Pastor Bob Costello of NDUMC and their Board of trustees on 26th of January 2003 and agreed upon the lease terms.

Thus UECF started worshipping in the sanctuary of New Dover United Methodist Church in Edison from the first Sunday of March 2003.

5. Honorary Pastors:

UECF does not have a regular pastor; however, has an unique arrangement with a team of honorary pastors who bring the word of God on the scheduled Sundays. Rev. Dr. David Ravinder has been serving 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.



Later, Rev. Praveen Bunyan left the UECF and Rev. Sunil Balasundaram who at that time was pursuing doctoral studies in a seminary filled the vacancy. Pastor Balasundaram 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 is presently serving as an honorary Pastor.

In the course of time, the UECF felt the need for a dedicated regular pastor who would nurture and help in the growth of the congregation as a church. A search Committee was formed to examine alternatives and opined that this may not be feasible, considering the UECF financial situation.

6. Elected Leaders:

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 was presented and was 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.

Mr. Kanthi Paul Rapaka served as Secretary for a brief period when the position was vacant due to a resignation. In the second annual General Body meeting held in August 1999, Mr. Manohar Mudy was elected to the Board of Trustees and Mr. Moses Peram was elected as Vice President.

The third General Body meeting was held in September 2000, and new office bearers were elected as - President: Mr. Ebenezer Mallepalle. Vice president: Mr. Ajay Damarapu, Secretary: Mr. Vijay Pulipati and Treasurer: Mr. Simon Bushi. Members of Board of Trustees: Mr. Ajit Lakra; Mrs. Udaya Pulipati; Mrs. Sujatha Mallepalle; Mr. Carol Daniel. The elected Coordinators included: Music: Mr. Sushil Bhujbal, Missions & Women's Fellowship: Mrs. Sujatha Mallepalle, Bible Study: Mrs. Udaya Pulipati, Youth Fellowship: Johnsanjay Bhaskar, Young Couples Group: Mrs. Anna Bhujbal, Sunday School: Mrs. Suneela Damarapu.

During the same year, the President resigned and the Board asked Vice President to take charge. In the General Body meeting held in September 2001, Mr. Ajay Damarapu was elected as President and Mr. Syam Pilli was elected as the new Vice President.

In the General Body meeting held on 23rd June 2002, Mr. Ajay Damarapu announced his resignation. The UECF Board of Trustees met on 27th October 2002 and requested the Vice-President Mr. Syam Pilli to resume the responsibilities of the President.

During the year 2003, the Constitution By-Laws were amended to include Pastorate Committee in addition to the Board of Trustees.

After the tenure of the existing leadership ended, the new leaders were elected for a 3-year term in the General Body meeting held on 22nd February 2004. The following members were unanimously elected: Mr. Syam Pilli (President), Mr. Clement Myla (Vice-president), Mr. Simon Bushi (Secretary) and Mr. Ravindra Saripalli (Treasurer). The elected Board of Trustees are: Mr. Rajanikantha Rao, Mr. Ajit Lakra (Missions/Outreach), Mr. Vinod Nakka, Mr. Paul Moodey, Mr. Sarath Kapudasi; and the Pastorate Committee are: Mr. Phani Pilli, Mr. Alfred Myla, Mr. Sushil Bhujbal, Mr. Chittaranjan Lam. The Coordinators included: Mr. Louis Dundi (Sunday School), Mrs. Susan Bushi (Bible Study), Mr. Sushil Bhujbal (Music), Mr. Thomas Kalyanapu (Stewardship), Mrs. Padma Borugadda (Women's Fellowship) and Mr. Kanthi Paul Rapaka (Married Couples). The new leaders were installed on 7th March 2004.

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

President's tenure Table

The present team of leaders was elected in the General Body meeting held on 25th February 2007. The elected executive leaders included: Mr. Joshua (Phani) Pilli (President),



Mr. Clement Myla (Vice President), Mr. Vinod Nakka (Secretary) and Mr. Chittaranjan Lam (Treasurer).

Members of the Board of Trustees are: Mr. Alfred Bhaskar, Mr. Louis Dundi, Mrs. Udaya Pulipati, Mr. Sunil Robert and Mr. Junia Moses. Pastorate Committee Members are: Mr. Alfred Myla, and Mr. Ravi Rapaka and Mr. Vijay Pulipati and Mr. Manohar Pitta.

7. Guest Preachers:

In addition to the honorary pastors, many servants of God have graced UECF with the powerful Word. The following prominent Indian speakers inspired with the powerful messages: Rev. Dr. M. S. Santhavardhan, Rev. Dr. A. B. Joseph Kishore, Rev. Dr. P. Joshi, Rev. Dr. B. C. Paul, Rev. Dr. Yesupadam Bandela, Rev. Dr. Daniel Kalayanapu, Bro. Harry Gomes and Rev. Manoj Bhatt.

The following local Indian pastors also helped in preaching the Word: Rev. Milind Sojwal, Rev. Joseph Thomas, Rev. Solomon Tiwade, Rev. Dr. Charles Mark, Rev. John Bhajjan, Rev. Prince Singh, Rev. Dr. Daniel Jeyaraj, Rev. Arul Mohan, Rev. Dr. Charles Shaheen, Rev. Christopher Salina, Rev. Ananth Kumar, Rev. Santosh Thadigiri, Rev. Christudoss Theodre, Rev. Navin Satyavrata, Rev. Ashish Bhatnagar and Rev. Eli Miranda.

Rev. Anna Bhujbal ministered to UECF mainly on fifth Sundays and also on all possible occasions. The host church pastors Rev. Tom Sanders, Rev. Bob Costello and Rev. Darryl Duer also served as guest preachers.

Other servants of God from India who brought powerful messages included: Rev. Azaraiah Korabandi, Rev. Sam Saripalli, Rev. Devasahayam Dandala, Dr. Gurunatham Moodey, Rev. John Paul Reddypogu, Rev. Dr. N. Krupa Rao, Rev. Dr. K. Jayawanth Samuel, Rev. Syam Babu, Rev. Sali, Dr. Oomen A. Koshy, Rev. Chandrakanth Bhujbal, Rev. K R Stanley, Bishop Stanley Jones, Rev. Syam Raj Saladi, Dr. Jacob Prabhu, Rev. Vasanth Peter, Rev. Nelson Vantabathina, Bro. Kumar Das Villuri, Dr. Philip Nittala, Rev. Solomon Raju Kunchanapalli and Bro. Suresh Kumar Gundala.

The Indian Christians in the USA such as Bro. Rajan Matthews, Bro. Kris Samudrala, Dr. S. Samraj, Rev. John Stephen, Bro. John Madhukar Bushi, Rev. Vidyasagar Dadepogu, and Rev. Ashish Pushkaran served as guest speakers. Also, Rev. Richard Bailey a Missionary from Pakistan, Rev. Rafael Flores & Pastor John Carricks, Missionaries from Paraguay, Mr. Billy & Mrs. Joanna Coppedge, Missionaries to Uganda shared the Word and their testimony.

UECF was blessed to have special music concerts by the popular Gospel Singers from India such as Dr. John Bilmoria, Dr. Bhanu Murthy, Bro. Madhu Jesse & Sis. Veena, Bro. William Carey, Bro. Vinod and Mrs. Mahitha Charles Pilli.

8. Sunday Worship Services:

UECF worship services start at 5:30 PM every Sunday. The order of Service is in English. The typical Sunday service includes Praise & worship, sharing the joys and concerns, intercessory prayers 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 and Piano, many Indian musical instruments such as Harmonium, Tabla and Congo drums were used to bring out special music.

Mr. Sushil Bhujbal, Mr. Samuel Sudhakar Chilaka, Mr. Simon Bushi, Dr. Gurunadham Moodey, Mr. Carol Daniel Jokmels, Mr. Josaiah Srigiri, Mr. Junia Moses, Mr. Sunil Robert, Mr. Spurgeon Perikala, James & Jacob brothers, Mr. Peter Kollory, Mr. Thomas Kalyanapu, Mrs. Sinai Dadepogu, Ms. Yuko and Mrs. Emily Sensen Gopal provided commendable services towards the music ministry.

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

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

9. Sunday School:

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. Kids of different age groups exhibited their talents on all possible special occasions. The children enthusiastically participated in the activities such as Sunday school retreats, dramas, skits and group dances. Sunday School children also had the opportunity to visit the orphanages and share their love.

Mr. Louis Dundi and the other Sunday School staff have been dedicated to their work in training the children according to Proverbs 22:6 which reminds "Train up the child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it".

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, started gathering at Church premises, as this 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 from the New Testament.

The group Bible studies have been a blessing to many and helped to have in depth understanding of the scriptures. The Bible study coordinators, Mr. Joshua Dadepogu, Mrs. Udaya Pulipati, Mrs. Susan Bushi along with other lay leaders helped in coordinating and conducting Bible study programs.

11. Home Prayer meetings:

Lenten Cottage Prayer meetings: Lenten Cottage prayer meetings were held 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 lent meditation. Some of the members fast during the lent meditation time and generally these meetings were ended with fellowship meal. Also, members expressed their love by contributing the canned food to the Community food banks during this season.

Praying for the sick: UECF congregation, as one body shared not only the joys and also sorrows of the other members. Families fasted and held prayer meetings whenever someone in the congregation is sick or going for a surgery.

12. Christmas Caroling

It has been a great joy for the congregation to participate in Carol rounds during the Christmas season. Every year, UECF Christmas caroling starts in the first week of December. In the year 2002, with a special initiative, the Carolers visited 36 houses. All the families have graciously welcomed the Carolers and cheerfully offered their contributions. This good start has continued in the following years. God has been faithful in guiding the carolers in the snowy season and protecting them from the chilly winter winds.



Christmas caroling has been a wonderful opportunity both for the adults and kids to actively participate and enjoy the season.

13. Special Festivals & Celebrations



Christmas: UECF has been celebrating Christmas every year on 25th December with gladness and joy. The Christmas gatherings were increasing progressively. Last Christmas (2006) was celebrated in a grand manner. Many families and friends not only from USA but also from Canada and India joined the UECF Worship Service. This was the largest gathering UECF ever had for Christmas, having 250 people in attendance

Christmas celebrations included Holy Communion, spirit filled messages, special music, children's special programs and end with Christmas lunch.

Watch Night Service: In the year 2002, the Pilli families took the initiative to celebrate UECF Watch Night service. 77 people including children gathered at United Methodist Church, Union on 31st night of 2002 to welcome the New Year in God's presence. The practice continued and it has been a blessing to start every New Year with prayer and Holy Communion.

International Family Church of New Jersey (IFCNJ) congregation joined UECF for celebrating Watch Night Service in the year 2003. The Pastor of IFCNJ, Rev. Ashish Bhatnagar delivered the New Year message. It was a wonderful experience to UECF congregation to celebrate the New Year along with multi ethnic groups.



Watch Night service programs included 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.

Easter Sunrise Service:



It has been 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 Park.

Thanksgiving:

UECF Thanksgiving celebrations were held on the Sundays before the fourth Thursday of November every year. All the local groups were invited for Thanksgiving service in the year 2002. Apart from UECF choir, Telugu Christian Fellowship Choir and Hosanna Singers also presented special music. This trend continued as the years progressed.



The congregation donated items for auction. The proceedings of the thanksgiving auctions were designated for a special cause every year.

Children's Christmas:



Children had the special opportunity to celebrate Christmas in which they had shown their talents.

Mothers Day:

In the year 2003, the ongoing Mother's day celebrations were expanded and started in a grand manner. It was a spectacular event to see 19 mothers being honored by their sons and daughters. This trend continued in the following years. Generally, the UECF men folk prepare a delicious meal in honor of the mothers.



Fathers Day:



In the recent past, Fathers Day was also celebrated by honoring the Dads .

Other special programs include Advent Candle lighting, Covenant Sunday, Palm Sunday, Service of Carols & Lessons and special programs by Covenant Players.



In the past, UECF joined the similar congregations and participated in Good Friday Meditation service, Christian Family conference, NAAIC Annual Banquet and NJIC tenth Anniversary Service. UECF also participated in the combined Passion service along with TCF.

As per the growing needs, UECF started the Good Friday meditation Service this year.

14. Special meetings

Revival meetings:



A two-day Revival meeting was held in the year 1998 marking the first Anniversary of UECF. Mr. Ebenezer Mallepalle took the initiative in arranging Dr. Akbar Haq as the guest speaker for these revival meetings. The local churches and UTCF, New York participated in the meetings.

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

3-Day Revival meetings were held from 28th October to 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 benefited 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.



Gospel meetings:



In the first week of June 2006, The Pilli families took initiative to host 3-day special gospel meetings by Bro. Anil Kumar. 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 attended helped in leading few people to the Lord.

15. Married Couples meetings

The Married Couples meeting usually held on the 4th Saturday of every month in various homes that are pre-decided. Couples discussed and debated on various topics that are very practical and tried to use the Bible as a guiding tool. Rev. Dr. David Ravinder & Mrs. Sarita Ravinder actively lead this ministry. A coordinator takes care of these meetings in inviting and making potluck dinner arrangements. The Young Couples Group also enacted a lent season passion Play on a Palm Sunday, which received well appreciation.



16. Missions & Outreach Support

For the last several years, UECF helped and supported the poor and needy through numerous ministries in India such as Good News Messengers, Guntur; New Life Associates, Hyderabad; Emmaus Ministries, Hyderabad; Golden Harvest Ministries, Visakhapatnam; Savior's Heartbeat Ministries, Vijayawada; Shalom Christian Ministries, Zaheerabad; Carmel Prayer Tower, Coimbatore; Hebron Pentecostal Church, Rajahmundry; Kids Club, Khammam; Project Christ International (PCI); Lutheran churches and organizations in Andhra Pradesh and Jarkhand. UECF also supported the Hunger and Humanitarian work in Sudan through UMCOR, supported rehabilitation work and orphaned Children through RZIM's Wellspring ministry and Red Cross.

UECF also involved in supporting Rev. Stephen Nash's mission trip to India and the other missionaries in India, Paraguay and Uganda.

Helped the victims of natural calamities: The end of the year 2004 witnessed a most tragic disaster. The Indian Ocean Tsunami devastated several countries including India and Sri Lanka. UECF rose to the situation and contributed towards the relief efforts through Hindustan Bible Institute (HBI) and Rev. Joe Thomas's ministry in Sri Lanka.

17. Social & Cultural Events

UECF families actively participated 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 developing awareness in the neighborhood.



UECF Family Picnics: UECF annual family picnics are generally filled with lots of fun and plenty of food along with the spiritual food. The members with their family and friends enjoyed the picnics organized in famous Parks of New Jersey such as Colonial Park, Johnson Park, Roosevelt Park and Cheese Quake Park.

Adults and the kids alike have taken active part in number of activities and played variety of games. UECF families had the opportunity to enjoy various activities and 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 Hour

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

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

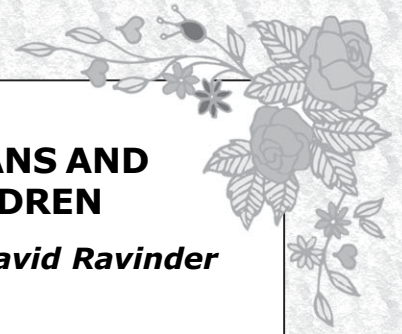
19. Web site

At the end of the year 2001, Joshua(Phani) Pilli took the initiative to develop a web site (www.uecf.net) for UECF. God has richly blessed this web ministry and UECF is well known all over the world through the web site. Members and others get periodical updates on the fellowship activities through the regular web postings. The pictorial account of the past events were also archived and made available on the web.

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. Praise the Lord for this wonderful site and the never tiring efforts of Joshua Pilli!

20. Conclusion:

There were some ups and downs in the journey of UECF and it has undergone lot of trials and tribulations with in the last 10 years. But like Church built on the rock, UECF is continuing in faith, moving steadfastly and standing as a testimony to the Lord. As the name suggests, United Evangelical Christian Fellowship is committed to the Evangelism.



GENERATIONAL MARKERS AMONG ASIAN INDIANS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PASTORAL CARE OF CHILDREN

-By Rev. Dr. David Ravinder

"Children are a heritage from the Lord." Psalm 127:3

Little children are a great source of joy and blessing. They brighten up our lives with their smiles. Jesus had a special place for little children. Raising the children can be quite a formidable task for any parent.

We often hear terms like, 'Communication Gap', 'Socio-economic Gap' and 'Generation Gap'. We seem to have a general idea as to what these terms mean and imply in everyday living. In this brief article, I wish to highlight one of these terms that is very relevant for our living as immigrants in this country, namely, the 'Generation Gap'. I like to use the term 'Generational Markers' to identify the problematic issues intrinsic to the whole notion of differences in the ages and what these differences might mean and affect our inter-generational living here in the USA. When we use the term 'markers' we are simply being descriptive of what is seen and observed. There are no value judgments made or implied in such a conversation. Problems are viewed as part of life that is dynamic, growing, creative and challenging. Understanding is the key.

Sociologists and Social Scientists have developed a large body of literature around this subject. There is in fact, a 'system' of identifying generational divisions among the immigrant population. These generational divisions are somewhat technical in nature and perhaps need greater elucidation than what I have attempted here. Where deemed necessary, I have offered some examples to illustrate the points.

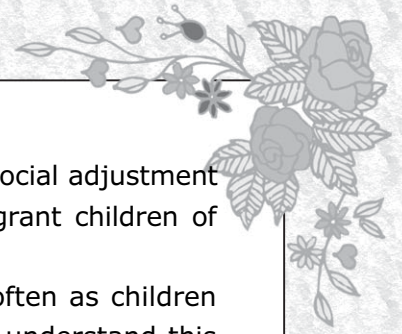
Let us begin with the term 'The 1.5 Generation'. The term 1.5 generation refers to people who [immigrate](#) to a new country before or during their early [teens](#). They are so labeled "because they bring with them characteristics from their home country but continue their assimilation and socialization in the new country. Their identity is thus a combination of new and old culture and tradition."

(Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, [1.5 generation](#).)

"Depending on the age of immigration, the community into which they settle, extent of education in their native country, and other factors, 1.5 generation individuals will identify with their countries of origin to varying degrees. However, their identification will be affected by their experiences growing up in the new country. 1.5G individuals are often bilingual and find it easier to be assimilated into the local culture and society than people who immigrated as adults". (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, [1.5 generation](#).)

Many in the 1.5 generation are bi-lingual and bi-cultural, combining both cultures - culture from the country of origin with the culture of the new country. Studies show that cultural assimilation adds to their cultural diversity which in and of itself creates a complexity in such individuals. A majority of the 1.5G within the Asian Indian Christian Community are in their teens and twenties, though quite a few have entered their thirties.

Two of our children were born in India and came to the USA at age five and one and a half. The identification of the five year old with India is greater than the younger child. There are many families who have the 1.5 G children. Sometimes they go through a stressful period of adjustment



to the new culture, especially if they have emigrated in their late teens. Social adjustment and cultural assimilation is more clearly perceived and evident in immigrant children of younger age.

In some families the 1.5G children experience conflict with parents often as children rebel against the traditions of the native culture. Parents are unable to understand this rebellious behavior of their children. In many instances, both the parents work in full time jobs, leaving little quality time to spend with the children, which creates an emotional gap and distance. The author recalls this tension while in graduate school full time, working on a part-time job at night. That kind of a schedule leaves little time for anything else that can adversely affect the children.

In a few families the children became so caught in this tension which made them vulnerable to anxiety and depression. But traditional cultural norms play a part in preventing these children from receiving the psychological intervention in the right time. Delay can only exacerbate the situation for the young person.

There is a collective assumption among many families that mental health problems bring shame on the family and that seeking help is a sign of weakness. There is a great deal of denial. Consequently some of the children in these situations suffer silently with psychological problems by internalizing them and others by acting them out in disruptive behaviors until they get the help they need. Very often these children become the proverbial 'lightning rod' and families get entrapped in the web of over-protection, denials and scapegoating the so-called problem child. Such actions by the parents often lead to further disintegration and disturbance in the child.

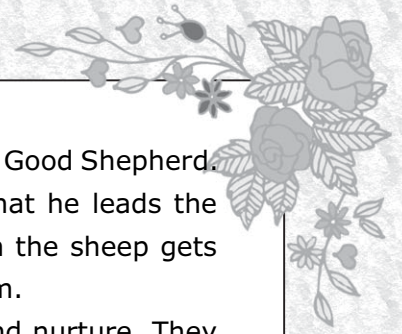
In continuation of the social groups along the generational lines, there are the 1.0, 2.0 the 2.5 and 3.0 generations to examine.

In most generational studies, children of immigrant parents are considered to be "second generation or 2.0" if they are born in the United States. The author's third child fits in this category. There is an observable difference between the 1.5 and 2.0 generation children. While the 1.5 G children struggle to deal with two distinct cultures, the 2.0G in many instances is oblivious to this tension. They seem to deal with the same issues from a different vantage point than that of their siblings of the 1.5G. Generally there is a distinct attitude of 'belonging' to the host culture. They do not feel the high level of ownership of the native values espoused by the rest of the family. Individual rights and self-esteem issues are quite prominent to them. They also seem comfortable to question the 'old' values of the previous generation. They are not in compliance with the parental authority that usually resorts to the saying, "You do or do not do because I am your father/mother and I told you so". This type of behavior has 'rebellion' written all over it. If untreated, it has the potential to cause many problems in the family. It has the potential to lead to physical abuse and/or emotional abuse.

Those with one U.S.-born parent and one foreign-born parent (the "2.5 generation") are different from those with no U.S.-born parents (the "2.0 generation") and those with two U.S.-born parents (the "third generation"). I do not have much personal experience with the 2.5G and 3.0G and discussion about such is beyond the scope of this article.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PASTORAL CARE OF CHILDREN

Effective Pastoral Care is what most families look for from their pastors/leaders – whether they are clergy or laity. What is at the center of such care is, Shepherding which is a biblical



concept. God is the ultimate Shepherd. Jesus said of himself that He is the Good Shepherd. What does the Shepherd do for the sheep? He provides guidance, in that he leads the sheep, he brings nurture, in that he administers healing remedies when the sheep gets hurt, and he sustains the sheep by steering them out of trouble and harm.

Children, whether they are from the 1.5 G or 2.0 G need guidance and nurture. They need good leadership to show them the way. Effective 'Role Models' are needed in the lives of young children and youth. These mentors need not be only from the family. They can be drawn from the larger community.

Pastoral Care of children must not wait for some crisis to develop before it is offered. It must be an ongoing function of the pastoral ministry of the Church/Fellowship. In many instances, providing regular and effective Care prevents problems from escalating to proportions beyond repair.

Families can also offer a helping hand in this regard by opening their homes for regular gathering of the faith community in small groups for prayer, bible study, and fellowship. Lenten season is an excellent time for 'cottage prayer gatherings'. Families often celebrate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, house-warming ceremonies, Bridal and Baby Showers, which are happy events that easily lend themselves to thanksgiving. These events are excellent opportunities for effective Care for the family members and friends and neighbors.

I have participated in scores of such happy events that build a true sense of community and foster good relationships. Even in painful and sad situations, good Pastoral Care can be extended. Funerals are prime examples. Deaths of the elderly afford a great opportunity to celebrate their lives and give witness to God's faithfulness. I have witnessed a tremendous opportunity to bridge the generational divisions during family crises. These critical times afford opportunities for families to 'bond' in new ways.

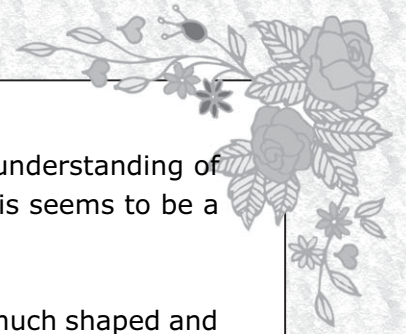
Care of families in untimely deaths of children, miscarriages, still births also have the potential for proper Care of support, guidance and nurture. How these sensitive and critical 'moments' are handled will determine to a large extent the future of these families in terms of stabilizing their faith in a good and faithful God. Immigrant families of Indian origin seem to value such small group gatherings which is a very positive sign.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PASTORAL COUNSELING OF FAMILIES

1. Pre-marital Counseling:

The primary concern in this area is the nearly lack of this type of counseling in the AICC. As a pastor who has served various churches, predominantly White-Anglo-Saxon, I have never had the difficulty in requiring couples intending to get married to commit to a period of no less than six months for pre-marital counseling. Without exception every couple whose marriage I solemnized took the pre-marital counseling course.

To many of these couples, this was an 'eye opening' experience. Almost without exception the opposite is the case when it comes to couples from the AICC. In several instances the expectation was that the pastor simply performs the 'ceremony' because there is no time for indulging in the luxury of weeks or months of pre-marital counseling. This is owing to the fact that the marriage alliance is customarily arranged by the elders of the families concerned.



It appears to be that, among many elders of the families, there is little understanding of what the pre-marital counseling is all about. One parent said to me, "This seems to be a western practice. We don't know much about it."

2. Marital Counseling:

Among the 1.0G the roles of husband and wife appear to be pretty much shaped and set by the cultural values and social upbringing characteristic of the Indian society and culture. This is especially the case in the 'older' couples currently in their 50's and 60's though not restricted to this age group by any means. In many instances their marriages were 'arranged' by the respective families. Typically the husband in this situation plays the 'dominant' role, who calls most of the shots. The wife plays a 'sub-ordinate' role and takes primary responsibility in the care for the children and other members of the family. The husband's career takes precedence over that of the wife's. In families of this type, there is a resistance to marriage counseling, regardless of what might trigger for such a need, i.e. children's behavior, financial stresses, extended family circumstances, etc.

There is apparent denial of anything major that is causing problems to destabilize the family's sense of homeostasis. Outside influences that may suggest anything to the contrary are kept at a distance. Marital and/or family counseling is politely refused. On the other hand, there is some evidence that the younger counterparts of the 1.0G seems to be more open and ready to receive counseling for problems. The author has provided counseling in the form of guidance, support and education on a number of occasions to couples in the areas of listening, communicating, dealing with the past, coping with stress, child rearing, career selection, in-laws, finances, etc.

3. Family Counseling:

Family Counseling takes into account that the 'Family' is a unit and system. It does not undermine the individuals who are part of that system. However, it refuses to focus on any single member of the family as the IP that is, the Identified Patient. Families often try to shift focus from the dysfunction that exists in the whole system within the family to one person, i.e. a child (scapegoat) so that the therapist can then 'fix' the problem child. When a family approached the author for help with dealing with a child who was manifesting aggressive behavior in school, it became very clear that the problems stemmed from the child's home situation, in particular with the child's parents. When invited to seek family counseling, the parents became upset and put an end to the counseling. The couple got divorced at a later time.

Many families view the counseling process with suspicion, and do not easily commit to it. This may be due to excesses and abuses one may have seen or heard from others, or a gross misunderstanding of the counseling process. More information sharing and open dialogue is perhaps the way out of this situation. Also, who the family selects to work with is crucial. Like in any profession, you have good ones and not-so-good ones. Families need to do some background check and look for a counselor who brings good training, skill, commitment and care to the counseling relationship. There needs to be a good deal of trust and confidence in the counseling relationship in order to see positive results.

In closing, I want to emphasize the main point of this article. Generational 'markers' are important keys to unlock the problems faced by immigrant families. Identifying and understanding these traits will go a long way in helping children and youth in particular and families in general. I hope the insights shared here will prove to be helpful in generating more interest in the field for the readers.



WE ARE IN THE FINAL INNINGS OF THE GAME

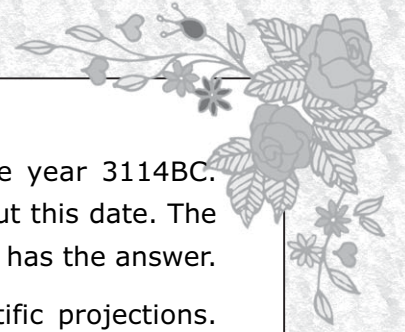
- By. Bro. Alfred Bhaskar

Scholars have deduced the calendar events of History in the Bible . Some important events are extracted and given in this table.

Events	Biblical Calendar beginning with creation At the year "0"	Translated into modern calendar
Creation of Adam	0	11013 BC
Noah's birth	5423	5590BC
The flood	6023	4990 BC
Peleg's time and the splitting of the earth	7860-7641	3372-3153BC
Tower of Babel		3153-2914BC (approx)
Birth of Abraham	8846	2167BC
Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed	8946	2067BC
David becomes king	10,006	1007BC
Assyrians destroy Israel	10304	709BC
Judah destroyed	10,424	589BC
Last writing of Old Testament	10,622	391BC
Jesus born	11,007	7BC
Jesus crucified Church age begins First jubilee period.	11,040	33AD
Church age ends Beginning of great tribulation	13028	1988AD
Beginning of 2 nd jubilee period	13034	1994AD
Predicted end of the world	13051	2011AD

This table is based on the calculations given in the book "Time has an end" authored by Harold Camping - an interesting reading for those interested in the biblical history of the world. Caveat. Regarding the second coming. We do believe that no one - not even the son of man knows when the judgment day would come. But Bible gives many indications of the second coming and the great tribulation.

Interesting point is - The Bible even describes the splitting of the earth during Peleg's time. When Europe, Africa and Asia separated from the Americas, the Atlantic ocean was born. The exact date is recorded in the Maya's History. The Mayas are meticulous in recording



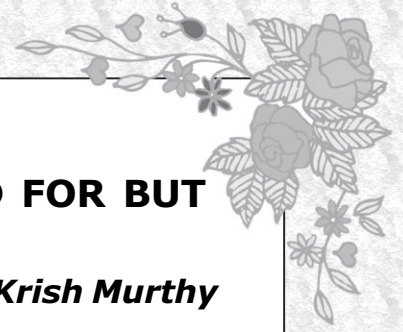
astronomical events and catastrophes. Their calendar begins with the year 3114BC. Archeologists who study the ancient civilization of the Mayas puzzle about this date. The Mayas must be wondering about the continental break up! But the Bible has the answer.

The dates described in the table are in total conflict with scientific projections. Carbon dating before the flood is named as the reason for the discrepancy. But the thrust of this article is to show that the Bible is historically accurate. The predictions given for the end of the world bring an awareness of the second coming of Christ.

Today we see in the news predictions of great earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. A comet is also going to make a very close approach to the earth in 2029, and if it misses the earth, in 2036 during its next revolution it would be a sure hit. What do you say? An asteroid hit of size half a mile would be the ultimate destruction of the world. There will be fire and devastation as predicted in Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel and Revelation.

So are you getting ready to face your creator? What are your plans? Think and pray about it. God bless you all.

Also see Ref: II Peter Ch 3. Mathew 24 -31. Ezekiel 8-11, 21:8-10



FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR BUT EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN!

- By Bro. Krish Murthy

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11: 6 (KJV).

We can explain Hebrews 11:1 in this way; If we have what we desire, why do we need to believe for it? We already have it! If we can see the substance of our faith, then it is not faith.

"But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" Hebrews 11: 6 (KJV).

We seem to have no problem believing that God is all-powerful, mighty, omnipotent, omniscient, and so on. Faith begins when we believe that God is not only able, but also willing to meet our needs. Our faith is limited by how much we are willing to believe.

The book of Hebrews explains the requirement of a faith that produces results. Remember when God instructed Moses to tell Pharaoh that "I AM" sent him. It is a funny name for God, but if you understand what "I AM" means and who "I AM" is, it adds a whole new perspective. Glory to God! "I AM" is the name of Jehovah God that is ever-present. When I say God is my healer, I am saying that the ever-present God, "I AM" is present as a healer in my life.

We can simplify this foundation principle of faith in this way. If you believe that God is your Savior, then He is your Great "I AM" in the area of salvation. If you believe that God is your Provider, then He is your Great "I AM" in the area of provision. If you believe that God is your baptizer then He is your Great "I AM" as far as baptism in the Holy Spirit is concerned. God will be in our lives what we believe Him to be according to His Word.

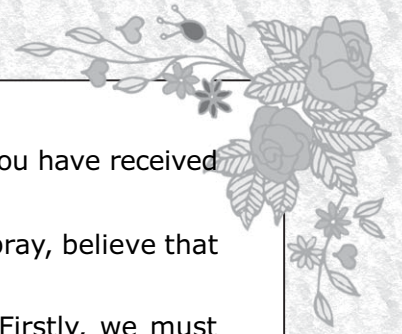
Jesus tells us same thing in the Gospel of Mark 11:22- 24.

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God", Mark 11:22 (KJV).

This is the same faith that that defines what God is for you; Healer, Provider, Savior, Baptizer, and so on. If we do not believe that God is our provider, it is meaningless to pray and ask God to solve our financial problems because we fail to meet this first condition. We must first believe in our heart that He is our provider. Once we grasp this, we move on to Verse 23.

"For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith". Mark 11:23 (KJV).

The second step is to speak to the problem and command it to go because we believed in our heart that God is our solution (the Great "I AM"). Once we have the first condition established in our heart, we are sure of God's position in our lives. We are ready to speak to the mountain and receive God's solution for our situation. Jesus tells us that, if we say to the mountain, be removed and cast into the sea, and not doubt in our heart it will be done. The mountain we are addressing here is the problem we want God to solve for us, it could be cancer, debt, or family problems.



The last step is that after you have prayed, you must believe that you have received those things that you've desired before you actually see them.

"Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*", Mark 11:24 (KJV).

There are three aspects Jesus wants us to see in these verses. Firstly, we must have faith in God and what He can do. Secondly, we must speak to the problem, and lastly, we must believe that we have received those things we desired of Him.

This brings us to this interesting issue. How long do we speak before we see the results? This is where faith is not fully understood. To answer this, let us go to Romans 10: 6-10.

"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom 10:6-10 (KJV).

Paul tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. In other words, faith comes when we hear the Word over and over and over. God gave us the same instructions in Joshua 1:8. When we meditate on the word day and night, faith will come and we will make our ways prosperous because we will act according to the wisdom of God.

When does faith come, (that means when logos, or the written word becomes rhema, or the revealed word) it produces results. God created the world with a rhema word. God created humanity with a rhema word. What we need is that rhema word that is activated in our hearts by faith.

This transformation of the Word in our heart depends on the condition of our heart, our attitude, and relationship with the Lord. This is what Deut. 30:11-14 tells us:

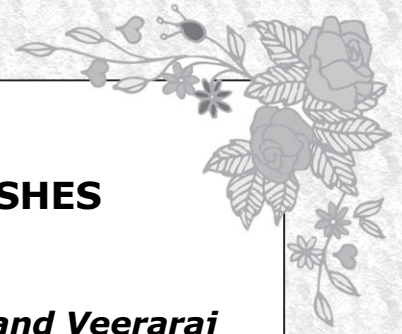
"If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it", Deut. 30:11-14 (KJV).

The Word that changes our life is in our hearts and in our mouths. Life and death is in the power of our tongue. What is in our hearts and in our mouth is what really matters.

Krish Murthy

Samudrala Ministries

(203) 929 3615



LEVERAGING FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISHES

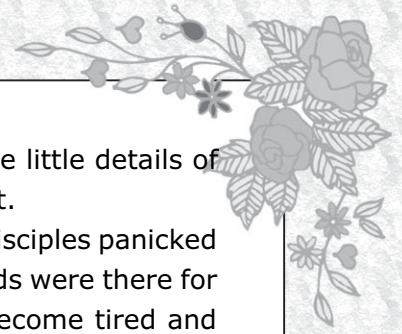
[John 6:1-14]

- By Rev. Dr. Anand Veeraraj

On June 26, 2007, Bill Gates, the world's richest man met Warren Buffett, the second richest person at the New York Public Library to accept over \$30 billion in grants for the philanthropic works of the Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation. It was the largest endowment ever made in the philanthropic history. What is odd about this contribution is that the share of Bill Gates to his own foundation is minimal compared to the largess of Warren Buffett. How did Gates manage to pull this feat? Gates puts into practice a simple business technique, which he has used successfully in growing his Microsoft Empire. It is known as leveraging. It works something like this. You have a smart idea for a business venture; but you have very little money to invest in the venture. Therefore, you go to your friend and dare him to invest in your venture. He knows you through and through and takes you at your word. He invests. Soon, another person invests and another and pretty soon, the whole town invests in your business and the company grows. The knack is that you keep your investment in tact while you use the investments of your friends to grow your business. Venture capitalists use this effectively. Home mortgage loans are a kind of leveraging. You want to buy a million dollar house; but you have little money. Therefore, you arrange a loan from the mortgage bank. You agree to pay off the loan in installments while you get to enjoy living in that house.

We encounter the same technique in this miracle of the feeding of the five thousands. The victuals – five loaves and two fishes were meager, but they were used for maximizing returns in feeding the masses. How was this accomplished? Can this be repeated in our day and age? You see, God is in the business of leveraging from time immemorial. Creation is a way of leveraging. Yes, in Christ we have all the riches of God freely given [Ephesians 2:4-10]. Yet God invites us to share in the great adventure and God graciously accepts our meager investments as though that alone would be enough to make the difference. Leveraging five loaves and two fishes is about the meager investments we could offer in meeting massive human needs.

The miracle about the feeding of the five thousand is the only story that is recorded in all the four gospels. (Read Matthew 14:14-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:11-17; John 6:1-14). When you study all four passages together, you get a full picture of what actually took place. While the narratives in Matthew, Mark and Luke are somewhat similar, John's gospel speaks about a boy who offered Jesus his lunch of five loaves and two fishes so that Jesus could perform this miracle. In simple terms, the miracle is about sharing resources, organization and management at the right time and place. But the most important thing, it was orchestrated by someone who was in full control of the situation and knew exactly what he was doing. The key to understanding this miracle is found in John 6:6: "Jesus knew what he would do." There is no use entrusting your precious little treasurer to someone who doesn't know how to put that to the best use. Warren Buffett did not give his wealth away to a homeless vagabond on the streets of New York, but to Bill Gates, the most business savvy person on earth. Is not this a comforting thought to know that we can entrust our little treasures and gifts in God's hand and that God can multiply and use



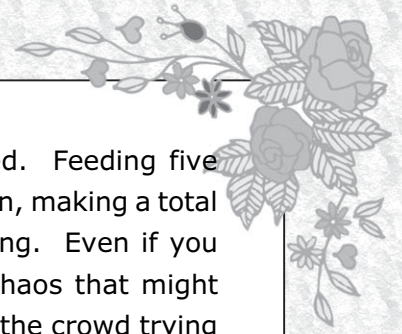
them to bless us and others. Here was Jesus who had worked out all the little details of the miracle and was in full control of the plan and execution of the event.

When we read the narratives in the four gospels, it is clear that the disciples panicked when they realized the growing crisis developing in their midst. The crowds were there for the good part of the day listening to Jesus preach and teach. People become tired and weary. As the afternoon wore off, disciples urged Jesus to dismiss the crowd so that they could go home to eat. However, Jesus told them directly that the people need not depart; instead the disciples should give them to eat [Mat 14:15-16].

You see, when confronted with massive human needs, we tend to dismiss people easily. The excuse we give often is that our ministry is limited to meeting the spiritual needs of the people. When confronted with physical, material and social needs of people, we direct them elsewhere. We tend to compartmentalize human needs into spiritual and physical. Meeting spiritual needs seems easy, but meeting physical needs is a different ball game. It demands a lot from us. All human needs are related. Individual human beings are a unity. Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out, preach, teach, heal the sick and cast out demons. Here Jesus commands the disciples to feed the masses. The mission of the Kingdom of God is holistic in all its dimensions.

One of the things we practice in our congregation is the agape meal. We celebrate Eucharist on first Sundays and we share a fellowship meal following the service. Every family brings a dish to share with others. [I wish we could do this every Sunday]. It is a symbolic way of testifying to our belief in the holistic ministries of the church. Agape meal is not just about meeting a physical need. During our fellowship meals, spontaneous networks of bonding are created between families, men, women, youth, kids and guests. Our services are unhurried and our services and fellowship times lasts for hours. God is never rushed. Jesus did not dismiss people easily. He saw to it that people's needs are met. We have in the USA wayside drive-in chapels and prayer windows. You drive in and press a button. A shutter opens and a person on the other side of the window greets, shares a promise for the day and offers a brief prayer. You press the button again, the shutter closes and you drive off. How convenient! One would think that God has little time for relaxed conversations and fellowship with humans. This is not the picture we get about our Creator God walking with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the afternoon.

How do we leverage our resources for the Kingdom of God? The first thing is to recognize the needs out there. In this case, the disciples became aware of the looming crisis developing in their midst. People were weary and hungry. The disciples sought an easy way out, dismiss the crowd and retire for the day. Jesus would not let that happen. Secondly, we should know the resources we have in our possession and we have to know the limitations of those resources as well. Many of us are oblivious to the resources and talents we have in our possession. Jesus tried to help the disciples to figure out the magnitude of the needs and the resources available to meet those needs. Philip says, "Two hundred silver coins worth of food will not be sufficient to feed the whole crowd." (Probably, this was the amount Judas Iscariot carried in his purse). Of course, Andrew, one of the disciples was finally able to find a boy with five loaves and two fishes. It is always good to know the resources you have on your hand. The boy was willing to share his lunch with Jesus.



Thirdly, there has to be a managed approach to meeting the need. Feeding five thousand men (there might have been equal number of women and children, making a total of eight to ten thousand people) out in a desert is a massive undertaking. Even if you have enough food to feed every one of them, one could imagine the chaos that might have ensued trying to serve the hungry. There would have been a riot in the crowd trying to grab the available food. How was this massive feeding program organized and managed? Jesus had a plan. He said, "Make them sit down by groups of fifties" [Luke 9:14-15]. The moment you breakup the crowd into manageable size, you are on the way to accomplishing a massive undertaking. Each group of fifty would have had an adult supervisor who ensured that every member in his group had sufficient food. No one was left hungry. And look at the venue of this picnic. John 6:10 tells us that there was much grass in that place. How enchantic! You couldn't have asked for a better venue than that. Leveraging requires a strategy — knowing the extent of the need, the resources we have and their limitations, and of course the organization – the appropriate place and time to accomplish the feat.

When all said and done, nothing can be accomplished until we place all that we have in God's hand. Jesus took the five loaves and two fishes, gave thanks to God, broke the bread to be distributed [John 6:11]. Then the miracle took place. Besides, Jesus had plan in place for the leftovers. No food could be wasted. They collected twelve basket of bread (Bible does not record any leftover fish. Obviously fish would have become rotten overnight where as bread would have stayed fresh for three to four days). In other words, every bit of this mass organization had to be preplanned and orchestrated to the minutest details. Nothing was left to chance.

I always wondered about the boy who turned over his brown bag to Jesus. What would have gone through his little brain as he witnessed the miracle unfolding right before his eyes? He sat down next to Jesus. He was totally blown away by what he saw. The key to the understanding of this miracle is found in John 6:6: "Jesus knew what he would do." The person leveraging meager resources for maximum returns ought to be absolutely sure what he is about to do. None can do it better than Jesus who knew exactly what he would do with what the boy had offered him. That is a lesson the little boy and the disciples had to learn that day.

May be you are at that place confronting a dire need or a crisis in your personal, professional and family life. You are at the point of breakdown. What could you do? First thing is to stay calm. Second, come to Jesus. Third, place your resources and the problems at the feet of Jesus. You probably have no clue as to how to handle the situation or how far you can stretch your strength and resources. You are anxious. There is no other way but to turn over those resources and crises over to Jesus. Every problem you confront now can be brought to the feet of Jesus who will turn them to bless you and others. Jesus will even leverage your problems and turn them into an opportunity for blessing and joy.

Rev. Dr. Anand Veeraraj

Pastor, New Jersey Indian Church

22 Colonial Lake Drive, Lawrenceville NJ 08648

Email: pastorveeraraj@aol.com; web: www.njic.org



WHAT IS YOUR BOAT

Matt: 14 – 22:33



- **By Ravi Bhaskar**

Introduction

Boat (bôt) n. A small vessel for travel on water. This definition of a boat from the Merriam-Webster Online dictionary can be expanded to include being in the same boat or situation as others. It can also mean being bound to certain constraints in life i.e. not exercising your freedom to expand your horizons beyond the narrow constraints of the society you live in.

The illustration of Peter walking on water in Matthew 14 – 22:23 is a classic example of risk taking and an exercise of faith that others in his boat had a difficult time following. When reading this event in Matthew, we see that the other eleven disciples did not show the courage to step out of the boat and missed an opportunity to test their faith. There was a huge storm in the sea and the disciples struggled with high winds and waves. During the midst of this storm they saw Jesus walking towards them on water. Peter, as is his wont, took the bold decision to get out of his boat and walk on water like Jesus. *"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*, Matt.14:28.

Peter's challenge to test his faith has the following points about faith that we need to look at:

1. The Invitation to Faith.
2. The Adventure of Faith.
3. The Adversaries of Faith.
4. The Resource of Faith.

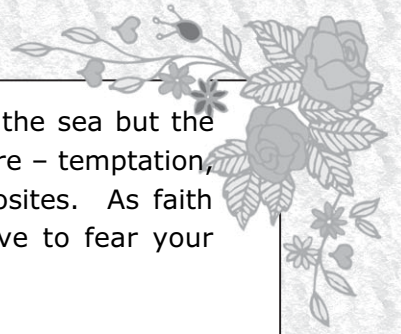
1. The Invitation to Faith, Matt.14:29 (*So He said, "Come"*)

Come – is a word of invitation. There are more than 1900 Invitations in the Bible. Consider some of the invitations Jesus has given us in Matt 11:28 (*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*), Matt 19:14 (*"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."*), John 6:37 (All who come will he receive), John 7:37 (Jesus inviting the thirsty to come and drink). Come to Jesus and trust him as Savior.

2. The Adventure of Faith, Matt. 14:29 (*"And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus."*)

Peter coming out of his boat is an adventure of faith. He had knowledge of the sea as a fisherman, had experiences with drowning companions, he knew how treacherous the sea could be. His was an extreme act of adventure similar to trying to go over a water fall in a barrel, or mountain climbing, sky diving, car racing, etc., the adventure of stepping out on God's promises, in trusting God instead of man, in giving and not knowing how God will provide, in going and trusting in God to lead the way. Peter walked on water and found out that Jesus is Lord of all!

3. The Adversaries of Faith, Matt 14:30 (*"But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink"*)



Peter's fears were adversaries of his faith. His main fear was not the sea but the wind which was blowing wildly. We need to know what our adversaries are – temptation, fear, grief, etc. Are we struggling with them? Fear and faith are opposites. As faith increases, fear decreases. The more faith you have, the less you have to fear your adversaries.

4. The Resource of Faith,

Matt 14:30 (*"he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"*)

Peter prayed when all looked hopeless. It was a short intense prayer. A prayer that recognized the power of Jesus to answer! *And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"* (Matt 14:31). Think about this – Peter failed at walking on water. He began to sink. Jesus told Peter he had little faith because he began thinking about the storm and doubted. But Jesus was right there to pull him up. He'll be there for us, too.

It wasn't being right that made Peter the one Jesus chose to carry on after Him. Peter was wrong much of the time, sometimes in very embarrassing ways. It wasn't his fearlessness. He denied Jesus at a crucial moment. It wasn't his careful, diplomatic use of words, he blurted out some of the most foolish things. What was it? Peter was willing to get out of the boat. Willing to speak. Willing to act. Are we willing? Will we do what He's called us to do? Will we speak when He prompts us? Are we willing to make mistakes trying to follow Him? Let's not be frozen in fear, but instead act in faith.

Jesus is telling us to get out of our boat just like He did when He walked on the water and told his disciples to come to Him. How much faith did those who never got out of the boat have? Get out of the boat. Afraid to talk to your teenager? Get out of the boat. Talk to them anyway. Afraid of what people will think if you lead? Get out of the boat. Lead anyway. Have faith that people will follow. Has God called you to do the impossible? Start! Get out of the boat! He won't leave you stranded. If He's given you the job, He'll give you the tools to get it done. If He hasn't, you'll find out sooner if you get out of the boat. Step out in faith. Refuse to be frozen in fear of failure. So what if you fail. Failure is the stepping stone for success.

Conclusion

Are you also like the other eleven disciples? What is your boat? What are your constraints in life that is preventing you from serving Jesus? Find out what your boat is. Is somebody or something limiting you? Confront your boat. What are your fears? Get out of the boat in your life and step out towards Jesus. Remember there will be storms in your life. But Jesus will pick you up. With Jesus, it is safe to be weak and needy! Sometimes we need to be a fool for Jesus, like Peter was very often, to act, to speak, and to trust Him to lift us up when we begin to sink. Respond to God's invitation to the life of faith! He will receive you and care for you through life's storms.

Where the Mind is without Fear

— **Rabindranath Tagore**

- W**here the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
- W**here knowledge is free;
- W**here the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
- W**here words come out from the depth of truth;
- W**here tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
- W**here the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
- W**here the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action—
- I**nto that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.



దూర దేశం

ఆచార్య ఆర్యో

దూరదేశం అంటే ఏమిటి? తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుణ్ణి అడగండి. లూకా 15.13 కొన్ని దినములైన తరువాత ఆ చిన్నకుమారుడు సమస్తమును కూర్చుకుని, దూరదేశమునకు ప్రయాణమైపోయి, అక్కడ తన ఆస్తిని దుర్వాపారము వలన పాడుచేశాడు. తప్పిపోయిన కుమారులు ఇద్దరూ! పెద్దవాడు ఇంట్లో ఉండి తప్పిపోతే చిన్నవాడు దూరదేశానికి వెళ్లి తప్పిపోయాడు. కుమారుడు తప్పిపోయాడని వాడు చచ్చినట్లే భావించి తండ్రి ఏడుస్తున్నాడు.

కనిపెట్టే తండ్రి

ఈ ఉపమాన కథలో ముఖ్యవ్యక్తి ఎవరనుకున్నారు? కుమారుని కోసం కనిపెట్టే తండ్రి. ఈ కథలో ప్రతిఒక్కరూ తనను తానే చూచుకోవాలి. తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడిలాగా నేను తప్పిపోలేదులే అనుకుని వాణ్ణి దూరంగా ఉంచి చూడకండి. దగ్గరగా వచ్చి వాడి పోలికలు నీలో ఎన్నిఉన్నాయో సరిపోల్చి చూచుకొని అప్పుడు చెప్పండి. ఇంతకూ దూరదేశమెక్కడుంది? దేవుని నుండి ఒక్కఅడుగు దూరమైనా, అది దూరదేశమే! దేవుని చిత్తమును, సంకల్పాన్ని నమ్మకపోవటం, దేవుని తలంపులతో ఏకీభవించని వైఖరి - ఇవి దూరదేశానికి ప్రతీకలు.

స్వార్థం

దేవుని బిడ్డలలో స్వార్థం ఏమాత్రం ఉన్నా, వారు దూరదేశంలో అడుగుపెట్టారనే చెప్పాలి. ఎంత సేపటికీ నాకేం వస్తుంది? నాకేమి లాభం అని చూచే మనస్సు దూరదేశపు కాపురమే! పెద్ద కొడుకు సంగతేమిటి? వాడి నివాసం మారలేదుగాని వాడూ దూరదేశవాసే! తండ్రియందు నమ్మకంలేని కొడుకు. దూరదేశస్తుడే. సోదరుడా, సోదరీ, నీవు ఆత్మపరీక్ష చేసుకో. నీకు తెలీకుండానే నీవు దూరదేశంలో తిరుగుతున్నావేమో! చిన్న కుమారుడు ఏం చెప్పాడు? “తండ్రి, ఆస్తిలో నాకు రావాల్సిన భాగం నాకిచ్చేయ్యి. నాతో నీకేం పనిలేదు. నాది నాకివ్వ - నా బతుకు నన్ను బతకనియ్యి.” ప్రియసోదరుడా, నీ వైఖరి ఎలావుంది?

నా ఇష్టం

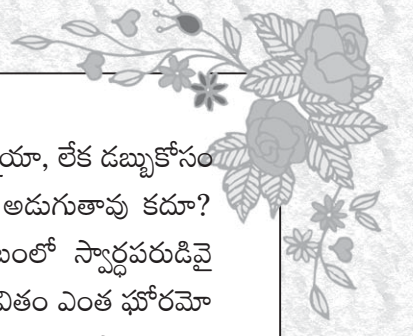
నా ఇష్టప్రకారం నేను బతుకుతాను. నాకు స్వేచ్ఛ కావాలి. నాకోరికలు, నా ఉద్దేశాలు, నా అభిరుచులు, నా అభిప్రాయాలు, నాకుంటాయి. వాటిని చంపుకుని నీ దగ్గర బతకలేను! ఈ లోకంలో నన్ను హాయిగా బతకనియ్యి అని ప్రార్థన చేస్తున్నావా? నీ వాంఛలు నీ స్వంత ఏర్పాటు అలాగే నెరవేరాలని కోరుతున్నావా? నాకు ఫలాని పదవి కావాఇ. నా ఇష్టం నెరవేర్చు అని దేవుని మీదికి వత్తిడి తేవాలని చూస్తున్నావా? నీ ఇంటిలో, నీ సంఘంలో నీకు పదోన్నతి ముఖ్యం గదూ? నలుగురి పైన నీదే పెత్తనం అయిఉండాలనే యావ నిన్ను తినేస్తున్నదా? స్వార్థపక్ష నీలో ఎంతశాతం ఉంది. అధికారం కావాలిగాని బాధ్యతలుండ కూడదు అంటావా? తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడూ నీవూ కవలపిల్లలా? నిజం చెప్పు -

కవల పిల్లలు

నీకు పేరుప్రఖ్యాతులు కావాలని అడుగుతున్నావా? నలుగురిలో పేరుకోసం తాపత్రయ పడుతున్నావా? ఈ లక్షణాలన్నీ తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడివే. నీకు డబ్బు కావాలా? డబ్బుతో కొనగలిగినవన్నీ కొనాలని ఆశ. సంవత్సర సంపాదనంతా ఇప్పుడే ముందుగా చెల్లించి వస్తువాచానాలు కొనే మనస్తత్వం అంతా తప్పిపోయిన కుమారునిదే. నీ వృత్తివ్యాపారాలలో నిరంకుశ ధోరణి, దేవుడికి చెప్పకుండా స్వతంత్రించి తీర్మానాలు చెయ్యటం తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడి ధోరణి.

మతం

మతపరంగా కూడా తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడివేనా? క్షమించు అని అడుగుతావు గాని నీవు ఇతరులను క్షమించవు. దేవుని కృపను కోల్పోయిన వాడివి అవుతావు. దేవుడు నిన్ను వాడుకోటానికి బదులు నీవే దేవుణ్ణి వాడుకుంటున్నావా?



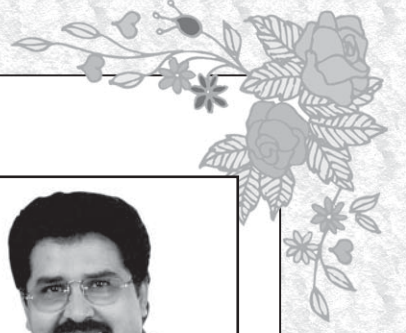
అయితే నీవు అచ్చం తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడి కవలసోదరుడివి. దేవుని పనికోసం ఆకలి దప్పులున్నాయా, లేక డబ్బుకోసం ఆకలిదప్పులతో ఆరాటపడుతున్నావా? దేవుని కోసం సాహసించ లేవు గాని కాపుదలకావాలని అడుగుతావు కదూ? ఇతరులు నరకంలో పడుకుండా కృషిచేయకపోతే నీవు దుర్వ్యయపుత్రుడివే. దేవుని కుటుంబంలో స్వార్థపరుడివై పరాయత్నస్వజీవివి కాకూడదు. అయితే నీవు దూరదేశ పౌరుడివయ్యావని అర్థం. దూరదేశంలో జీవితం ఎంత ఘోరమో గమనించండి. మన తలాంతులు, మన సామర్థ్యం దూరదేశంలో వృధాఅయిపోతాయి. స్వార్థం మనల్ని పశుప్రాయులను చేస్తుంది. దేవునికి అపకీర్తి తెస్తుంది. స్వార్థకేంద్రితమైన బతుకు దేవునికి అపసవ్యం. దేవుని చిత్తానికి విరుద్ధం. దేవుని మహిమను వెదికేబతుకు నిత్యత్వంలో సత్ఫలితాలనిస్తుంది. స్వలాభపరాయణులు దేవుని ఉద్దేశాలకు అనుగుణంగా జీవించలేరు. వీరు తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడిలాంటివారే. స్వార్థం వల్ల ఆధ్యాత్మిక క్షామం దాపురిస్తుంది, క్షేమం అంతరిస్తుంది. ఇహలోక ప్రయోజనాలు తాత్కాలికంగా వారికి కలుగుతాయి గాని అంతరంగంలో వారికి కరువు కాటకం ప్రాప్తిస్తుంది. స్వార్థం మనిషిని ఆధ్యాత్మిక దారిద్ర్యంలోనికి పడనెడతుంది. స్వంత కోర్కెలను తీర్చుకునేందుకు ఎంత నీచానికైనా దిగుజారుతారు. ధనధాన్యాదులు విపరీతంగా సేకరించుకుని వాటికి బానిసలై చివరికి కుమిలికునారిల్లి పోతారు. తమకున్నదాన్ని గురించి దేవునికి లెక్క అప్పగించాలని, తాము గృహనిర్వాహకులమని వారు గ్రహించరు.

పశ్చాత్తాపం

తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడు పశ్చాత్తాపపూరితంగా బుద్ధిహీనుడికి బుద్ధివచ్చింది. అంత వరకు అతనిలో కృతజ్ఞతా భావం బొత్తిగాలేదు. ఆధ్యాత్మిక పరిపక్వత అతనిలో స్తంభించింది. అతని ధోరణి స్వవినాశాత్మకమైంది, గాని అతడిప్పుడు పశ్చాత్తాపం బుద్ధిరావటంతో అతడు ఆధ్యాత్మిక స్పృహ గలవాడై తెప్పరిల్లాడు. అతనికి కనువిప్పు కలిగింది. దూర దేశంలో ఒక్క క్షణంకూడా ఉండలేక పోయాడు. ఆకలికి అవమానానికి తట్టుకోలేక పోయాడు. తన మార్గం మార్చుకున్నాడు, తాను నడిచిన బాట ఎంత ప్రమాదమో, తాను తన తండ్రికి ఎంత దూరమయ్యాడో తెలియగానే కార్యోన్ముఖుడయ్యాడు. తననుతానే అసహించు కున్నాడు. తన ప్రస్తుత స్థితికి తానే బాధ్యుడు అని గ్రహించాడు. తండ్రిమీద నింద వెయ్యలేదు. తన అన్నను దూషించ లేదు, తన స్థితికి తానే సిగ్గు చెందాడు. తన మనస్సాక్షికి యధార్థంగా ప్రవర్తించాడు. తన నేరాన్ని సమర్థించుకోలేదు, ఒప్పుకున్నాడు. తన చుట్టూరా ఉన్న సమాజాన్ని దూషించలేదు. తన స్థితికిమరెవరూ కాదు తానేనైతిక బాధ్యత వహించవలసి ఉంది అని గ్రహించాడు. తండ్రి దగ్గరికి తిరిగి వెళ్లిపోతాను అని తెలివైన తీర్మానం చేసుకున్నాడు. లేచాడు. తండ్రి ఇంటికి బయలు దేరాడు. కృతనిశ్చయుడైనాడు. ఇంతవరకూ అతడు పరభాగ్యోపజీవి, పరాన్నభుకు. ఇప్పుడు పరోపకార బుద్ధి వచ్చింది. తాను తండ్రిని ఇవ్వు అని అడిగాడు గాని ఇప్పుడు నా తండ్రి దగ్గర కూలిపన్నెనా చేస్తాను. నా తండ్రిది తినెయ్యటం కాదు. కష్టించి పనిచేసి నా తండ్రి చేతికి నా కానుక ఇస్తాను అని తీర్మానించు కున్నాడు. తప్పిపోయిన కుమారుడు తండ్రి వద్దకు తిరిగి వచ్చాడు.

కొత్త మలుపు

అతని జీవితం కొత్త మలుపు తిరిగింది. అతని మనసు మారింది, వైఖరి మారింది, స్థితి మారింది! అతడిప్పుడు కొత్త మనిషిగా మారాడు. పరివర్తన చెందాడు. తండ్రి ఇంతకాలమూ తన కుమారుడి రాకకోసమే కనిపెట్టి ఎదురుతెన్నులు చూస్తున్నాడు. కొడుకు వస్తే అతడికోసం గొప్ప విందుచేయాలని సిద్ధపడుతున్నాడు. తండ్రి కుమారుడికి ఎదురు వచ్చాడు. తండ్రి కుమారుణ్ణి కౌగిలించుకుని ముద్దెట్టుకున్నాడు. కుమారుడు గుండె పగిలేటట్టు ఏడ్చాడు. “నీకు విరోధంగా దేవునికి విరోధంగా పాపం చేశాను” అని ఒప్పుకున్నాడు. నీ కుమారుణ్ణి అనిపించుకోటానికి యోగ్యుణ్ణి కాను అని చెప్పుకున్నాడు. కనికరంతో వాత్సల్యంతో తండ్రి కుమారుణ్ణి చేర్చుకున్నాడు. క్షమించాడు. అలాగే ప్రియ సోదరుడా నీవు తండ్రి వద్దకు తిరిగిరా! దూరదేశంనుండి తండ్రికి దగ్గరిగా వచ్చేయ్యి. ఈ క్షణమే దేవునికి ప్రార్థించు. “తండ్రి - నీలాగే నేనూ ఇచ్చేవాణ్ణి అవుతాను. పరపీడన మానేసి పరోపకారివవుతాను. ఇతరులను గాయపరచటం మాని, వారి గాయాలు మాన్పి సేవచేస్తాను. ఇతరులను ప్రోత్సహిస్తాను. నిరుత్సాహ పరచను.” ప్రియస్నేహితుడా - రా, తండ్రి నీకు స్వాగతం పలుకుతాడు. తండ్రి అయిన దేవుడు కుమారుడైన క్రీస్తు నిన్ను రమ్మని ఆహ్వానిస్తున్నారు. నీకంటే ముందుగా దేవుని బిడ్డలైన నీ అన్నలు నిన్ను రమ్మంటున్నారు. రా, కదిలిరా! దైవాశీస్సులు.



క్రీస్తులో కాత్త జీవితం



డా॥ దేవసహాయం దండల.

పుట్టుక లేదా జన్మను యేసయ్య ఓ ఉదాహరణగా చెబుతూ, ఆత్మ రాజ్యంలో దైవికంగా పుట్టే అనుభవాన్ని ఆయన వర్ణిస్తున్నాడు. పుట్టుకకు ముందు శిశువును బాహ్య ప్రపంచంతో ఎటువంటి సంబంధమూ, అవగాహనా వుండదు. అదే విధంగా దేవుని ఆత్మ మూలంగా పుట్టిన ప్రతి వ్యక్తికీ దేవునితో ఎటువంటి సంబంధంగానీ, దేవుని గురించిన అవగాహన గానీ వుండదు. పరలోకపు సంగతులతోనూ, నిత్యత్వంతోనూ అతనికి సంబంధం వుండదు.

ప్రారంభ జీవితం !

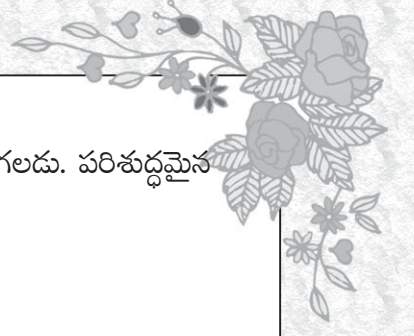
యేసయ్యను నీ జీవితంలోకి స్వీకరించినప్పుడు నీ జీవితాన్ని సరికొత్త కోణంలో జీవించడం ప్రారంభిస్తావు. నీవు యేసయ్యను కనుగొన్నప్పుడు జీవితం నిన్ను కనుగొంటుంది. 2 కొరింథి 5:17-20 ఎవరైనా క్రైస్తవుడైనప్పుడు అతని అంతరంగంలో సరికొత్త వ్యక్తి అవుతాడు. రక్షణ అనేది మనం చేసే పనికాదు. నీవు యేసయ్యను స్వీకరించినప్పుడు ఆయన చేసేది. ఏ రకంగానూ నిన్ను నీవు రక్షించుకోలేవు. మునిగి పోతున్న వ్యక్తి తనను తాను ఎలా రక్షించుకోగలడు? ఎవరో ఒకరు అతనికి సహాయం చెయ్యాలి. రక్షించేవాని మీద అతడు పూర్తి నమ్మకం వుంచినప్పుడు అతడు రక్షించబడతాడు. యేసు నీ కోసం చేసిన పని ఇదే! పాపంలో కూరుకుపోయి, సైతాను అధికారం క్రింద వున్న దేవుని తీర్చుకు పాత్రయై నరకానికి వెళ్తున్న జీవితం నుండి నిన్ను విడిపించాడు. దేవుని రాజ్యపు స్థిరమైన నేలమీద నీ పాపాలను ఆయన నిలబెట్టాడు. పాత మార్గాలనుండి బయటికి తీసుకు వచ్చి, శాశ్వత జీవం నీకు అనుగ్రహించాడు. కొలస్సి 1:13-14” అంధకార రాజ్యంలోనుండి తన ప్రియకుమారుని రాజ్యంలోకి రప్పించాడు.”

మనుష్యులు కేవలం మానవ జీవితాన్ని మాత్రమే పునరుత్పత్తి చేస్తారు. కాని పరిశుద్ధాత్మ పరలోకం నుండి కొత్త జీవితం అనుగ్రహిస్తాడు. మనలో ప్రతి ఒక్కరిలోనూ నిద్రాణంగా వున్న మరో కనుదృష్టి వుంటుంది. అది దేవుని ఆత్మ చేత మేల్కొలుపబడాలని ఎదురు చూస్తూ వుంటుంది. ఇది దేవుని సంగతులను అర్థం చేసుకోగల సామర్థ్యం.

ఆత్మ సంబంధమైన చెవుల ద్వారా దేవుని మాటలు వినగల సామర్థ్యం నీకుంది. నీతో మాట్లాడి, సంబంధం కలిగి వుండాలని దేవుడెప్పుడూ ఆశపడుతున్నాడు. ఆయన మాటలు వినగలిగేలా ఆత్మతో ఆయన నిన్ను బ్రతికించాడు.

ఆధ్యాత్మిక జీవితంలో అభివృద్ధి !

జీవించే ప్రతీదీ అభివృద్ధి చెందడమనేది ప్రకృతి సిద్ధమైనది. ఆధ్యాత్మిక జీవితంలో కూడా ఈ సత్యమే కనిపిస్తుంది. నిజమైన క్రైస్తవుడు తెలివియుండు, జ్ఞానమందు, విశ్వాసమందు జీవిస్తాడు. విశ్వాసి తన విశ్వాస జీవితంలో చలన రహితంగా వుంటూ తన ప్రభువుతో నూతన అనుభవములు పొందని యెడల ఆధ్యాత్మికంగా దిగజారే ప్రమాదముంది. తాను ఎదుర్కొనే శోధనలన్ని జయించలేక పోతాడు. దేవుడు వాడుకోలేని వ్యక్తిగా తయారవుతాడు. ఆత్మీయ జీవితంలో ఎదిగి అభివృద్ధి చెందేవాడు జీవిత రంగంలో తాను ఎదుర్కొనే ప్రతి



విపత్తుకు ఎదురు నిలిచి జయించగలడు. ప్రభువు నందు ఆనందాన్ని అమితంగా అనుభవించగలడు. పరిశుద్ధమైన జీవితం జీవించి, దేవునికి యోగ్యమైన సేవచేసి ప్రభువును మహిమ పర్చగలడు.

విశ్వాసంలో ఎదుగుదల !

క్రైస్తవుడు తన విశ్వాస జీవితంలో ఎదిగి, అభివృద్ధి చెందాల్సిన అవసరత వుంది. నూతన విశ్వాసులు క్రీస్తునందు పసివారు అని పిలువబడినప్పటికిని, వారు ఎప్పుడూ ఆ విధంగా ఆత్మ సంబంధమైన పసిపిల్లలు గానే వుండిపోరు. వారు ఎదుగుతారు. పరిశుద్ధునికి వుండవలసిన గురిని గూర్చి పౌలు ఫిలిప్పి 3:12-14లో “క్రీస్తు యేసు నందు దేవుని ఉన్నత పిలుపుకు కలుగుబహుమానాలు” అని పిలుస్తున్నాడు. ఇది మన ముందు ఉంచబడిన క్రైస్తవ విశ్వాసపు పందెపురంగము యొక్క గురి. (హెబ్రీ 12-12).

నూతన జీవన శైలి !

నీ నూతన జీవన శైలిలో నడిపింపు కోసం అనుదినం దేవుని వైపు చూస్తున్నప్పుడు ఈ సంగతులు సంభవిస్తాయి. నీవు వాక్యాన్ని చదువుతూ వుండగా దేవుడు తాను వాక్యం ద్వారా మాట్లాడటాన్ని నీవు గ్రహిస్తావు. కొన్ని సార్లు మనుషులు నిన్ను విడిచిపోవచ్చు. అయితే క్రుంగిపోవద్దు. దేవుడెప్పుడూ ఒకేవిధంగా వున్నాడు. ఆయన సౌశీల్యం పూర్తిగా నమ్మదగినది.

రెండు దారుల నడుమ ఎటు అడుగు వేయాలో తీర్మానించుకోవల్సి వచ్చినప్పుడు ఎప్పుడు కూడా ఉన్నత మార్గాన్ని, శ్రేష్టమైన, పవిత్రమైన అధిక ఫలవంతమైన, నమ్మకమైన మార్గాన్ని ఎంచుకో!

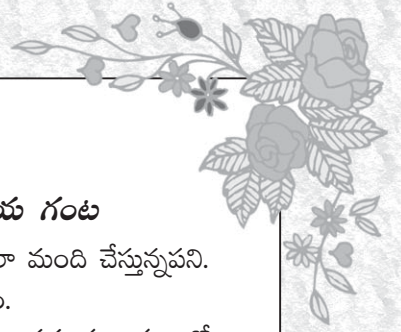
దేవుని గురించి సందేహమేదైనా కలిగితే, బహుశా ఆ దారి నీకు మంచిది కాకపోవచ్చు.

ప్రతిదినం బైబిలు ధ్యానం !

బైబిల్ ఎంతో మనోహరమైన గ్రంథం. ఈ గ్రంథంలో ముఖ్యమైన ప్రతి అంశాన్ని గురించి దేవుని ఆలోచన నీకు కనిపిస్తుంది. నీవు దేవుని వాక్యం చదువుతుండగా మార్పు పొందమని నీకు సవాలు గలగడాన్ని గుర్తిస్తావు. దేవుని వాక్యాల ద్వారా మనం దేవుని జీవంలో పాలు పంచుకుంటాం. సైతాను శోధనల్ను ఎదుర్కొని, పీడించే శక్తిని, అధికారాన్ని పొందుతాం. ఎఫెసి 6:7. ప్రతి రోజూ నీవు దేవుని వాక్యం చదివేలా మనసు కుమర్చుకోవాలి.

దేవుని పనిలో సహకరించు !

నీ జీవితాన్ని ఈ నూతన సంవత్సరంలో వర్ధిల్ల జేయాలనీ, నీ అవసరాలన్నీ తీర్చాలని దేవుడు ఆశిస్తున్నాడు. ప్రభువు నీ జీవితంలో చేసిన మేలులు, ఉపకారాలు మరువకుండా కృషితో కానుకలు, దశమభాగాలు నీ ఆత్మ సంబంధమైన మందిరానికి తీసుకొని వెళ్ళి, ఆరాధనలో ఇతర విశ్వాసులందరితో కలిసి దానిని ప్రభువుకు అర్పించు. దేవుడు గడిచిన సంవత్సరమంతా నీకు చేసిన మేళ్ళకు ఆయనకు ప్రేమ, కృతజ్ఞతలు చెల్లించుకునే సమయమిది. దేవునికి స్తోత్రం!



క్షమాపణ

గ్రేస్ విజయ గంట

ఎఫెసి 4:32 “నేను నిన్ను క్షమించ గలనుగానీ నీవు చేసిన అపకారాన్ని మర్చిపోలేను” ఇదే చాలా మంది చేస్తున్నపని. క్షమ అనేది వ్రాసిన నిబంధనను రెండుగా చింపి వేయడం. అది పూర్తిగా కనబడకుండా కాల్చి వేయడం.

నిజమైన క్షమాపణ : ఒక వ్యక్తి తన ఆఫీసు పని పూర్తయిన వెంటనే యిల్లు చేరకుండా చాలాసమయం క్లబ్బులో తప్పత్రాగి, స్నేహితుల సహాయంతో యిల్లు చేరతాడు. అది వారి పెండ్లిరోజు భార్య గొడవ చేయక, ఆప్యాయంగా భర్తను ఆదరించి పరిచర్య చేసింది. స్నేహితులున్నారని మాత్రమే కాస్తంత మర్యాద పాటించింది. తెల్లవారిన తర్వాత భర్త గతంలో తన ప్రవర్తనకై సిగ్గుపడి, భార్యను క్షమాపణ కోరాడు. “ఇక ఎన్నడూ నిన్ను బాధపెట్టను.” అని ప్రమాణం చేసాడు.

ఒక నెల గడిచింది. భార్య ప్రతి సందర్భంలో మన పెండ్లి వార్షికోత్సవం నాడు ఆనందంగా గడపనీయక త్రాగి నిరాశ పెట్టావు. నేను కాబట్టి నిన్ను క్షమించి ఊరుకున్నాను.” ఇలా కించపరుస్తూ ఉండేది. ఎన్నోసార్లు యిదే పద్ధతిలో విసిగిస్తుంటే, భర్త విసికిపోయి అడిగాడు. “నీవు నన్ను క్షమించావు, మర్చిపోయావని తలంచాను. కానీ యిలా హింసిస్తున్నా వెండుకు?” అన్నాడు.

నేను క్షమించి మర్చిపోయానని నీవు మాత్రం మర్చిపోకూడదు సుమా” అందుకే గుర్తు చేస్తున్నాను” అందట.

క్షమించడమంటే అదికాదు. మానసిక గాయం పూర్తిగా మాని పోవాలి. ఆ బాధకరమైన భావాల ఛాయలు ఉండరాదు. గాయాలు స్వస్థపడాలి. పడమటికి తూర్పువైపు దూరమో పాపములకు మనకు అంత ఎడము కలుగజేసిన దేవుడు మనకు క్షమాగుణాన్ని దయచేస్తాడు. “వీరేమి చేస్తున్నారో వీరికి తెలియదు క్షమించ” మన్న ప్రథమ హతసాక్షి స్త్రోమ వాక్కులు ధ్యానం చేయాలి.

క్రీస్తు మాటలు అనుసరించిన స్త్రోమను అనుకరించడం నేర్పు కోవాలి. బాధింపబడి నప్పుడు కూడా పరుషవాక్కులు నోటికి రాకుండా జాగ్రత్తపడాలి. ఆశాభావంతో మంచిగా మాట్లాడేవారికి శరీరములో నరాలు సడలి రక్తప్రవాహం సాఫీగా మెదడుకు ప్రవహించి ఉత్సాహ వంతులుగా ఉంటారట. మెదడు సవ్యంగా పనిచేయడంవల్ల మంచి నిర్ణయాలు తీసికోగలుగతారు. మంచి జవాబు నివ్వగలరు.

ఆరోగ్యకరమైన భావాలతో విశ్రాంతిగా వున్నవారు మంచినీద్ర కలిగి సుఖజీవనం సాగిస్తారు. క్షమించక కక్ష, పగ మనస్సులో ఉంచుకుంటే చిరాకు పెంచుకొంటే, అసందర్భ ప్రేలాపనలు నోటికి వస్తాయి. వదరు బోతుల్లా హానికరమైన మాటలతో యితరుల హృదయా లను గాయపరుస్తూ, స్నేహితులను సుఖవుగా కోల్పోతారు. అనారోగ్య సూచనగా తలనొప్పి, కళ్ళు తిరగడం, రక్త పోటు అధికం కావడం, చివరికి పక్షవాత లక్షణాలు సమీపిస్తాయి. సాధ్యమైనంత వరకు క్షమాగుణాన్ని పెంచుకోవ డానికి ప్రయత్నించాలి.

సామెతలు 16:24. ఇంపైనమాట తేనె పట్టు వంటింది. మధురమైనది, ఎముకలకు ఆరోగ్యము. సామెతలు 6:2 నీ నోటి మాట వలన నీవు చిక్కుబడి యున్నావు. జాగ్రత్తగా ఉండాలి. ప్రతి వ్యక్తికి ప్రత్యేకమైన సమాధి తోట ఉండాలి. అందులో ప్రేమించేవారు, స్నేహితులు చేసే తప్పిదాల్ని, బాధించే మాటల్ని పాతిపెట్టేసేయాలి.

ఆ క్రీస్తు, ప్రార్థనతోనే ఆరంభించిన ఏడు మాటలు ప్రార్థనతో ముగించాడు. సిలువలో సూచక క్రియలు చేయలేక పోవచ్చు. క్షమించ మని ప్రార్థన చేసి. మనలను ప్రార్థించమని నేర్పుతున్నారు.

సంసోను ఆఖరిఘడియలలో శక్తికూడ గట్టుకొని తన శత్రువులను ఎక్కువ మందిని చంపేసాడు. మన ప్రభువైన క్రీస్తు శత్రువులను క్షమించారు. ఆయన్ను పట్టుకోడానికి సైనికులు వచ్చినపుడు పేతురు కత్తిదూసి ప్రధాన యాజకుని చెవి తెగ నరికాడు. అప్పుడు ప్రభువు నీ కత్తి ఒరలో పెట్టుమని చెప్పి ఆ దాసుని చెవిని తిరిగిఅతికించాడు.

క్రీస్తు కరుణలోతుల్ని ఎవరు కొలువ గలరు? యేసు బోధించిందే చేసి చూపించాడు. మత్తయి 5:44 శత్రువులను ప్రేమించండి. హింసించువారికొరకు ప్రార్థించండి.

క్రీస్తు అనుచరుడైన పౌలుకూడా చేసింది అదే. 1కొరింధి4:12నిందింపబడియు దీవించు చున్నాము. హింసంపబడియు ఓర్చుకొను చున్నాము. అనుదిన జీవితంలో ఉపయోగకర మైన సూక్ష్మరహస్యం ఈ మాటలో దాగిఉంది.

క్షమించడం ఎలా? మనపట్ల ద్రోహం చేసినవారు తమ తప్పిదాలను తెలిసికోలేక పోతే వాళ్ళ కోసం ప్రార్థించాలి.

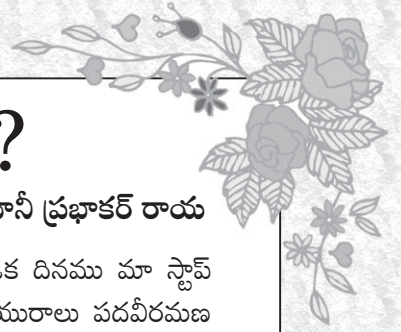
1 యోహాను 1:9 మన పాపములను ఒప్పుకొనిన యెడల క్షమిస్తారు.

లూకా 7:48 పాపాత్మురాలు అత్తరు పూసినప్పుడు పాపాలు క్షమిస్తానన్నారు క్రీస్తు.

మార్కు 2:5 పాపంగాచేయబడిన క్రీస్తు సిలువలో ప్రార్థించాడు.

మత్తయి 9:6 భూమిమీద క్షమించే అధికారమున్న క్రీస్తు ప్రార్థించిన రీతిగా మన జీవితాల్లో ప్రతి అనుభవానికి ప్రార్థనయే జవాబు. ప్రార్థనలోనే క్షమ ఉంది. నెమ్మది ఉంది.

ఎంతపాపినైనను యేసు చేర్చుకొనును అంటూ క్షమావార్తను క్రీస్తుసువార్తను అంతటా చాటించండి! హల్లెలూయా, హల్లెలూయా.



ఈయన ఎవరో? ఎట్టివాడో?

భవానీ ప్రభాకర్ రాయ

కొన్ని సంవత్సరాల క్రిందటి మాట. అవి నేను ఉపాధ్యాయురాలిగా పనిచేస్తున్న దినాలు. ఒక దినము మా స్టాఫ్ రూములో ఒక విషయము చర్చనీయాంశముగా మా పాఠశాలకు అప్పటి వరకున్న ప్రధానోపాధ్యాయురాలు పదవీరమణ చేయబోతుంది. నూతనంగా ప్రధానోపాధ్యాయురాలిగా యింకొక అనుభవశాలి, విద్యావేత్త రాబోతుందని వినికొడి. అదే ఆ దినపు చర్చనీయాంశము. “అబ్బో ఆవిడ చాలక్రమ శిక్షణ పరురాలని మా పొరుగింటామె చెప్పింది. లెక్కల టీచరంది. ఎందుకంటే ఆమె పాఠశాలకు సమయానికి రావాలంటే ఎంత యిబ్బంది.” మా చిన్నాయన కూతురికి రాబోయే ఆమె తెలుసు మనము దిద్దిన పేపర్లు భూతద్దంలో చూచినట్లు తిరిగి చూస్తుందని” మా కజిన్ చెప్పిందని అక్కడ ఉన్న ఇంగ్లీషు టీచరంది. ఆమెకు మనసుపెట్టి పేపర్లు దిద్దాలంటే మహాబద్ధకం ఇదంతే మూల నుండి గమనిస్తూ తనమానాన్న తను పనిచేసుకొంటున్న సైన్సు టీచరు “ఆ పండిక మీ వ్యాఖ్యానాలు. మన స్కూలులో ఆవిడ కాలుపెట్టనేలేదు అప్పుడే ఆవిడ ఎవరో, ఎలాటిదో అని మీ ఊహాగాలకు అంతులేదు. వచ్చాక ఆవిడ ఎలాటిదో చూద్దురుగాని. ఇప్పుడప్పుడే ఒక నిర్ణయానికి రావద్దని” మందలించింది సైన్సు టీచరు. అందరిలో పెద్దది, ఆవిడ మాటను గౌరవించి యింకెవరము నోరెత్త లేదు. మేము ఎవరి గురించి యింత చర్చించుకొన్నామో! ఆవిడ వచ్చారు. పదవీ స్వీకారము చేసారు. కొన్ని దినాలలో మంచి కార్య దక్షత కల్గిన స్త్రీ అని పేరు తెచ్చుకొన్నారు. మా అంచనాలన్నీ తారుమారు చేసి అందరి మన్ననలు పొందారు. ఇట్టే తుది నిర్ణయానికి రావడము మన బలహీనత సత్యాన్ని గ్రహించక ముందే ఒక నిర్ణయానికి తొందరపడి వచ్చేస్తాము.

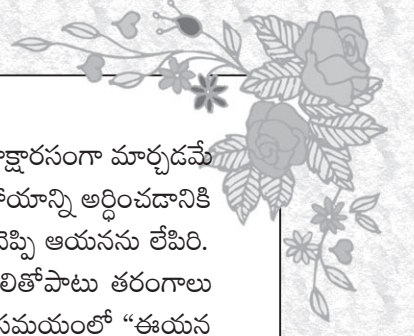
పరిశుద్ధ గ్రంథమైన బైబిలు చదివినప్పుడు ఎన్నో సత్యాలు మనము గ్రహించవచ్చును. కొన్ని సార్లు ఏకాగ్రతతో వాక్యము చదవము. ఏకాగ్రత లేనప్పుడు అందులోని లోతైన విషయాలు అర్థము కావు, గ్రహించము కూడ. సువార్తలు చదువుతున్నప్పుడు ప్రభువు కాలములోని వారికి వచ్చిన తలంపులే. మనకు కూడ రావచ్చును. యేసుక్రీస్తు పరిచర్యలోనున్న మూడున్నర సంవత్సరాలు ఆయనను గురించి వివిధ వ్యక్తులు వెలిబుచ్చిన అభిప్రాయాలను దేవుని వాక్యము నుండి పరిశీలిద్దాము.

మార్కు 4:41 మత్తయి 8:27, లూకా 8:25 యీ మూడు లేఖన భాగాలలో ఆయనకు అతి సన్నిహితులైన శిష్యులే తన కండ్లముందు జరిగిన అద్భుతాన్ని చూచి “ఈయన ఎవరో! గాలియు, సముద్రమును యీయనకు లోబడుచున్నవని యొకనితో యొకడు చెప్పుకొనిరి” “ఈయన ఎవరు?” అన్న ప్రశ్న ప్రభువు పరిచర్యలో ప్రతిధ్వనించిన ముఖ్యాంశము. లూకా 5:21లో పక్షవాయువు గలవాని స్నేహితులు అతనిని మంచముతో ఇంటిపై కప్పుతీసి దింపిన సమయములో క్రీస్తు వానిని స్వస్థపరుస్తాడు. అక్కడే ఉన్న శాస్త్రులు పరిసయులును - “దేవదూషణ చేయుచున్న యితడెవ్వడు? దేవుడొక్క తప్ప మరియు ఎవడు పాపములు క్షమింపగలడని” ఆలోచించుకొనసాగిరి. మనము లూకా 7:49 క్షుణ్ణంగా పరిశీలిస్తే తన కన్నీళ్ళతో ఆయన పాదములు కడిగిన స్త్రీని ప్రభువు క్షమించినప్పుడు “పాపములు క్షమించుచున్న యితడెవ్వడని” ఆయన భోజన పంక్తిలోనివారు ఆలోచించుకొన్నారు. లూకా 9:9 చదివినప్పుడు క్రీస్తు చేయుచు కార్యములను గూర్చి విన్న హేరోదు రాజు “ఎవని గూర్చి యిట్టి సంగతులు వినుచున్నానో అతడెవ్వడో అని చెప్పి” ఆయనను చూడగోరాడు. మత్తయి 21:10లో “ఆయన యెరూషలేములోనికి వచ్చినప్పుడు పట్టణమంతయు - ఈయన ఎవరు అని కలవరపడెను. ప్రభువు చుట్టూ ఉన్నవారిని కలవరపెట్టిన మూడు సంఘటనలను వాక్యాధారముగ పరిశీలిద్దాము.

తుఫానును అణచిన యీయన ఎట్టివాడో?

(మత్తయి 8:18, 23:27, మార్కు 4:35-41, లూకా 8:22-25)

పై చెప్పిన సువార్తలోని వాక్యాలను, మనము పరిశీలించినప్పుడు తుఫాను సంఘటనను చూస్తాము. మన ప్రభువు గలిలయ సముద్రపు తూర్పు తీరానికి వెళ్ళినట్లు మార్కు తన సునవార్తలో పేర్కొన్నాడు. ఈ సంఘటనకు ముందు ఉపమానాల ద్వారా ప్రజలకు ప్రభువు బోధించినట్లు చూస్తాము” వారు జనులను పంపివేసి ఆయనను ఉన్నపాటును చిన్న దోనెలో తీసికొనిపోయిరి” అంటే సిద్ధపాటులేకుండా, భోజన పదార్థాలు సిద్ధపరచుకోకుండా, చూచుకోకుండా వెళ్ళిపోయారన్నమాట మానవ మాత్రునిగా ఉన్న యేసుకు కొంత విశ్రాంతి అవసరము అంతి వరకు అలసిసొలసిన ప్రభువు సముద్రము మీద వచ్చే చల్లగాలికి త్వరలోనే నిదురపోయారు. (లూకా 8:23) కపెర్నహోము నుండి గెరాసీనుల దేశానికి అడ్డంగా వెళ్ళిపోతే కొద్ది మైళ్ళే. వాతావరణం అనుకూలంగా ఉంటే రెండు మూడు గంటలు. గలిలయ సముద్రములో యిటువంటి తుఫాను అనుభవాలు అక్కడున్నవారికి తరచూఎదురవుతుంటాయి. “దోనె నీళ్ళతో నిండినందున వారు అపాయకరమైన స్థితిలో యుండిరి” లూకా 8:25. ఆ నావలో ఉన్న వారిలో కొద్దిమంది చేపలు పట్టేవారే. వారు అది ఎట్టువంటి తుఫానో గ్రహించి భయపడ్డారు. ఇంత జరుగుతున్నా ప్రభువు నిద్రిస్తున్నాయన్నారు. శిష్యులు కలవరపడ్డారు. ఆపద ముంచుకొస్తున్నప్పుడు ప్రతి ఒక్కరు నిస్సహాయతతో



వేసిన ఆర్తనాదమే శిష్యులు చేసారు. యేసునుండి వారు ఏమి పొంద తలచారో మనకు తెలియ నీటిని ద్రాక్షారసంగా మార్చడమే వారు చూచారు కాని సముద్రాన్ని గద్దించడము వారెదగరు. ఆపదలలో ఉన్న బిడ్డలు తండ్రి దగ్గరకు సహాయాన్ని అర్థించడానికి వెళ్ళినట్లయింది వారిస్థితి. గనుక ఆయన యొద్దకు వచ్చి, “ప్రభువా, ప్రభువా నశించిపోవుచున్నామని చెప్పి ఆయనను లేపిరి. ఆయనలేచి గాలిని నీటిపొంగును గద్దించగానే అవి అణగినిమ్మకమాయెను.” లూకా 8:24 గాలి, గాలితోపాటు తరంగాలు కూడ ఒక్కసారే ఆగిపోయాయి. ఈ వింతైన అనుభవానికి అందరూ అమితంగా ఆశ్చర్యపోయారు. ఆ సమయంలో “ఈయన ఎవరో ఈయనకు గాలియు సముద్రమును లోబడుచున్నవని చెప్పుకొనిరి”. మన ప్రతి ఒక్కరి జీవితాలలో యిట్టి అనుభవాలు ఎప్పుడో ఒకప్పుడు ఎదురౌతుంటాయి. ఆ కాలపు శిష్యులు వేసిన ప్రశ్న మనము కూడ వేస్తాం “మా పరిస్థితి యింత అల్లకల్లోంగ ఉంటే నీకు చింతలేదా అని కేకలు పెద్దాము. ప్రతి క్రైస్తవ విశ్వాసి హృదయ కల్లోలాన్ని ఆపగల శక్తి మన ప్రభువు ఒక్కరికే ఉంది.

దేహములను, ఆత్మలను బాగుచేయు ఈయన ఎట్టివాడో?

(మత్తయి 8:28-34, మార్కు 5:21, లూకా 8:26-40)

యేసు ఆయన శిష్యులు చివరకు గమ్యానికి చేరుకొన్నారు. మత్తయి మార్కు లూకా యీ సంఘటనను పేర్కొన్నారు. గలిలయ తూర్పు తీరాన యీ గ్రామముంది. అలసిపోయిన ప్రభువు యీ ప్రాంతంలో విశ్రాంతి తీసుకోవాలనుకొన్నాడు. ప్రభువు ఆశించిన యీ చిన్న కోరిక ఆవిరియైపోయింది. దయ్యములు పట్టిన యిద్దరు మనుష్యులు అపవిత్రాత్మలను వెళ్ళగొట్టాడు. అవి కొండ దిగువనున్న పండుల గుంపులోకి వెళ్ళడానికి సెలవిమ్మని కోరాయి దయ్యములు ఆ గుంపులోనికి ప్రవేశించినప్పుడు అవి వేగముగా కొండ దిగువనున్న సముద్రములోనికి వెళ్ళి మునిగి చచ్చాయి. ఈ విషయాన్ని విన్న జనులు ప్రభువును ఆ ప్రాంతాన్ని విడిచి పొమ్మని కోరారు. (వారి వ్యాపారం దెబ్బ తింటుందని భయపడి వుండవచ్చు) దయ్యములు పట్టి స్వస్థత నొందిన యిద్దరిలో ఒకడు ప్రభువుతో ఉండాలని కోరాడు. అయితే ప్రభువు వానితో “నీవు నీ యింటివారి యొద్దకు వెళ్ళి ప్రభువు నీయందు కనికరబడి నీకు చేసిన కార్యములన్నింటిని వారికి తెలియచెప్పవలెను” (మార్కు 5:19) స్వస్థత పొందిన వ్యక్తి వెంటనే విధేయత చూపాడు. దీనిని బట్టి ప్రభువు తిరిగి ఆ ప్రాంతాలకు వచ్చినప్పుడు గొప్ప ఆహ్వానము లభించింది. ఈ సంఘటన మన ప్రతి ఒక్కరి హృదయాలను హత్తుకొనే సంఘటన. “ప్రేమించబడని ప్రేమకు నోచుకోని వారి ఆత్మలను దేహాలను బాగుచేసే ఈయన ఎవరో అని ఎంతోమంది తలచి తమ అభిప్రాయాలను వెలిబుచ్చారు. దానికి జవాబు కనికరముగల కరుణామూర్తి యేసుప్రభువకురి మనకు ఎట్టి వారమైన క్రీస్తు మనలను ప్రేమించునన్న సత్యమే.

పాపులతో భోజనము చేయు ఈయన ఎవరో

మత్తయి 9:1,10-17, మార్కు 2:15-29-39,

ఈ సంఘటనలన్ని జరిగిన తరువాత ప్రభువు కపెర్నహోముకు తిరిగి వచ్చారు. ఇది తెలిసికొన్న ప్రజలు తమన అవసరతలకొరకై ప్రభువును సమీపించారు. ఆ సమయంలోనే యేసు యాయీరు కుమార్తెను లేపారు. (మత్తయి 9:1, మార్కు 5:22-24, లూకా 8:41-44) లేచి (మత్తయి) ప్రభువు గౌరవార్థము తన యింట గొప్ప విందు చేసి ఎంతో మందిని ఆహ్వానించారు. సుంకరులు పాపులు అనేకులు యేసు సహపంక్తిని ఉన్నారు. అది చూచి పరిసయులు సణగనారంభించారు. (లూకా 5:30). “పాపులతో భోజనము చేసే యితడెట్టివాడో” అన్న అనుమానము వారికి వచ్చియుండవచ్చును. ప్రతి ఒక్కరి హృదయ తలంపులు ఎరిగిన ప్రభువు యీ విధముగా జవాబిచ్చారు. “మారుమనస్సు పొందుటకై పాపులను పిలువవచ్చితిని గాని నీతిమంతులను పిలువరాలేదని” చెప్పాడు. లూకా 5:32. ఇంకొక చోట తాను “నశించిన దానిని వెదకి రక్షించుటకు మనుష్య కుమారుడు వచ్చెనని” చెప్పెను. (లూకా 14:16)

“ఎంత పాపినైనను
యేసు చేర్చుకొనును
అంచు నీ సువార్తను
అంతట చాటించుడి”

పై కీర్తన (పాట) మనందరికి సుపరిచితమైనదే. తన చుట్టూ ఉన్నవారికి ప్రభువైన యేసు మూడు విధాలుగా ఆశ్చర్యపరచినట్లు చూచాం.

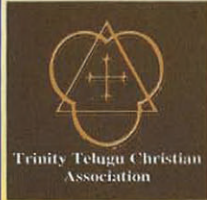
తుఫానులు అణచిన యాయన ఎట్టివాడో? శక్తిగల మహనీయుడు

దేహములను ఆత్మలను బాగుచేయు ఈయన ఎవరో? కనికరముగల కరుణామూర్తి

పాపులతో భోజనము చేయు ఈయన ఎవరో? - పాపులకై ప్రాణము పెట్టిన ప్రేమామయుడు

అన్యులకు రక్షణలేని వారికి నీవు సువార్త పంచుకొన్నప్పుడు ప్రభువు ఎవరని వారు నిన్ను ప్రశ్నిస్తే “ఆయన మనలను ప్రేమించి తన్నుతాను మన కొరకై మరణించిన మాన్యు ఉన్న సత్యాన్ని వెల్లడి చేయు ఆ భావన వారి హృదయాలను మార్చగలడు.

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



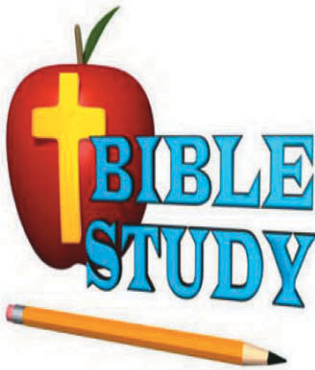
Trinity Telugu Christian Association USA, Inc. (TTCA)

Please visit our website : //www.ttcausainc.com

**WE MEET AT 5:30 PM, EVERY 1st OR 2nd
SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

Venue

Calvary Chapel, 25 Van Zant St, East Norwalk, CT . 06855



-  Special Video Screening
-  Praise & Worship both in Telugu and English
-  Testimony & Prayers
-  Bible Readings
-  Bible One-O-One
-  Inspirational message
-  Followed by fellowship meal

Study the Bible with us



TTCA Projects in India & USA

- Thanks Giving Meals to Widows and rural Villages
- Orphan kids support
- Gospel meetings in Villages
- Reaching Indians in USA for Jesus Christ
- Support for building Churches in rural areas in India
- Support to Bible colleges
- Indian Missionaries support
- Spreading Gospel among Indians in USA

About TTCA: TTCA was established by inspiration of God The Father, Jesus Christ Our Savior and Holy Spirit Our comforter to reach Telugu Christians across the United States and India to share the Love of Jesus Christ both in Spiritual and social. As Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3:14: ...And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. CT Bible study started as part of our mission. Please check our web site for more details and our programs. Join us to be part of this great mission and share the Love of Lord Jesus Christ.



phone: 203-570-9666
Email: info@ttcausainc.com
Web: <http://www.ttcausainc.com>



Velugu Television Network

Christ-Centered Family Friendly Channel

**Now on three IPTV platforms
available in US, UK and Asia
Broadcasting the Gospel to
the nations in Telugu, Hindi and English**

**with a set top box you can watch on
your regular Television**

**Interested Churches & Ministries
may contact us for airtime information**

**For more details Please visit
www.velugutv.com
info@velugutv.com**

**Velugu Television Network
P.O.Box 1
Lallaguda
Secunderabad-17
A.P. India
Tel: 040-27226688
www.velugutv.com**

Software Development & Consulting

*Optimizing Business processes by
Leveraging IBM FileNET*

*We are a strategic solutions partner to
leading software vendors, IBM, Microsoft.*

*As a IBM FileNetValue Net partner, JW is
working with financial services clients to
implement applications that streamline
business processes and take advantage of
the new components of the P8 platform
including Business Process Management,*

*JW has developed industry-specific solutions to help with
some of the most critical enterprise content management
services.*

*Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) is the delegation of
one or more IT-intensive business processes to an external
provider that in turn owns, administers and manages the
selected process based on defined and measurable
performance criteria. Improvement in cost, quality and
productivity has encouraged customers to rapidly scale up
their offshore operations.*



J W Technologies Inc.

398 Spotswood Englishtown Rd Monroe NJ 08831
Phone : 732-231-6731

e-mail: jobs@JWTechInc.com web site: www.JWTechInc.com

Religious & Social Welfare

Help in

- Planting churches in villages
 - The missionaries to spread the Gospel
 - Medical assistance and care for expecting mothers and new born babies
 - The promotion of awareness about the compliance with immunization program
 - The promotion of awareness regarding HIV/AIDS
 - The education of children and adults in rural areas
 - The provision of opportunities to the woman and other underprivileged persons
- Please support through your sacrificial donation.



† JJ Payer Hall

P R K Charitable trust

(Pitta Rajani Kumar Charitable Trust)

17-158, Gollapeta, Dowlaiswaram-533125 AP, India.