

# The



தேவன், தம்முடைய ஒரேபேறான குமாரனை விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவன் கெட்டுப்போகாமல் நித்தியஜீவனை அடையும்படிக்கு, அவரைத் தந்தருளி, இவ்வளவாய் உலகத்தில் அன்புகூர்ந்தார்...

யோவான் 3:16

Christmas 2017

#### **CHRISTMAS**

- C -Carry a smile everywhere you go. In today's world each one of us is so busy in our own affairs that we are not only hesitant to smile at others but we ourselves have forgotten to smile. This Christmas let us make a sincere attempt to smile more and be cheerful.
- H -Hold on to our morals. Today all of us are so busy chasing the ladder of glory and fame, that we are ready to compromise on our ethics. This Christmas let us make an attempt to stick on to our morals and values, whatsoever the situation may arise.
- R -Receive others the way they are. Most of the times we fail to realize that all are not alike and perfect and tend to blame and condemn people who do not fit into our framework. This Christmas let us learn to accept others and acknowledge our differences.
- I -Inspect one self. We fail to retrospect ourselves and our drawbacks and thereby cause trouble to others. This Christmas let us make an attempt to peep into ourselves and make good those little negativities we carry.
- **S** -Share with those in need. Let us make an effort to share with not only people who have lots and can repay us, but with those who cannot repay us.
- T Trust in the Almighty. All of us have become so self sufficient that we fail to seek the assistance of God. And when things crumble in life we lose hope. In this Christmas let us learn to trust in God at all times, good or bad.
- M -Make genuine relationships. Today all our relationships have become a means to achieve something, the purity and innocence is lost. This Christmas let us learn to value and build true and lasting relationships.
- A Add a dash of love in everything you do. This Christmas let us make a strong resolution to carry the essence of love wherever we go and in whatever we do.
- S Shine as people of God. In this Christmas let us learn to follow Christ not only in words but also through our deeds and actions and uphold the values of Christ through our life.

Contributed by Dr (Mrs) Chandra Sethurajan

#### Minister's Christmas message

A great surprise, unavoidable shock and mental confusion generated among the people in those days because of the news of the birth of Jesus. At the same time, Jesus was not born in a wealthy or posh situation.

We understand Jesus was born in a manger and wrapped in a cloth. This message from the Angels brought a surprise to the shepherds. It was told that he was the Messiah. Mary received a secret message about the birth of Jesus. Joseph was told Mary the virgin who was engaged to him became pregnant. It might have been a very shocking and confusing news. Wise men understood from their scholarship that Jesus was the king of Judah. Their message about the birth of Jesus to the King generated further a great confusion even in the palace.

Today we are surrounded by many Christmas decorations and different festive messages in the churches as well as in the society. The message of the birth of Jesus reminds us how we could receive and reflect the message in the midst of all our different situations. The response of the wise men was great, the response of the shepherds was more inspiring. The response of Joseph was more humble and compassionate. The response of Mary was more dedicative and vulnerable. But how do we respond today.

We too may be surrounded by more unexpected situations more vulnerable situations and more confused situation., There is no doubt the message of the birth of Jesus is always spreading the good news that he is the Immanuel and he reigns. His kingdom is everlasting. This message about Jesus' kingdom to Mary by the Angel Gabriel was more encouraging. The message helps us to focus on the birth of Jesus rather than the different situations itself. People understood Jesus was born. Jesus was the expected messiah. Jesus was the son of God. But the continuing truth is his kingdom has no end. His kingdom is still flourishing. It is sustainable and everlasting because he is alive and his birth message has also revealed that truth already.

In our LTCC we are in the glorious journey of our  $40^{th}$  year. Our ancestors helped us to serve the vulnerable people just like Jesus did in the midst of different situation.

So I wish and pray that this Christmas might encourage us to share the message of the birth of Jesus and his love to those who are vulnerable and struggling with the unexpected situations in their daily lives. May this Christmas enable us to open our eyes to see the beauty of His everlasting Kingdom in the midst of our different situations.

I wish every one of you to embrace the real happiness of the birth of Jesus in your own families and within our LTCC family.

உங்கள் அனைவருக்கும் எனது இனிய நத்தார் மற்றும் புதுவருட வாழ்த்துக்கள்

Rev. Jessie Anand, Porthahar Amma

#### A message from the President.....

"We want an article by Friday, and Friday is the deadline" so, I was told. My mind has been working on various activities and this has become an extra item to my list of things to be done. In my mind I thought I should make it a bit different. How different? I wish to leave that thinking to you when you have finished reading this message.

My imagination is running riot within myself. "Oh God", I said, and it is not going to be easy, and it is already Friday. Yes it is 7:10 in the evening. 'May be I must give up now', I said to myself. 'But I must give something. It is my responsibility and this is the commitment I have taken on.' I can only call upon someone I know for help. Yes, this person knows all about me. And he knows every word I have spoken and every deed I have done. And surprisingly he would know as soon as I have done it and as soon as I have said it. Not onlyhe will know the words I have said but he will be aware ofmy feelings and my thoughts I was in when I said those words. If I have said or done anything wrong, I am able to say, "I am sorry Boss" and move on, ensure that I don't do it again. Now I think, I'll perhaps write about this person.

There is not a single morning that I don't speak to him, he is a listening person. I can speak to him about anything. He would not mind. I have known him for many years now. I don'tthink I feel right if I refer to him as a'person'. He is **G**enius of **D**esign. He designed the creation of this world, and if I may abbreviate this, He is God. He is **CH**aritable, **Ri**ch in his thoughts&**ST**rong in his commitment. Charitable because he has given his only son for our sake, Rich in his thinking and He is Strong andwill stand by his promise, and if I may abbreviatethis, He is CHRIST. He is in our **SP**eech, and He is in our **R**espiration and therefore he should be our **It**inerary to lead our journey and the route. This, when I abbreviate, it will remind us always Him as the holy SPRIT.

He is a living God and He is with us always. You can serve the God in so many ways. He will listen to us if we speak to him. He will respond to us if we take him with us to anywhere and everywhere we go.

Speaking about commitment, It may be the appropriate time to thank and strengthen everyone at LTCC, the council, the office bearers, every person who has taken on responsibilities in activities of our congregation and the congregation who has been, and being supportive in every small way and helped the development of the Congregation for the past 39 years. We all have committed to His work and let us all work together Taking on responsibilities is no child's play. He is the Father, the Shepherd, the Teacher and the great Physician. Leave everything in His hands and let us all march on.

We are in the Festive Season, let us all get involved with the activities of the season and celebrations of the  $40^{th}$  year in good spirit. Let us take Him with us, speak to him and let him guide us. God Bless you all.

Wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous NewYear.

R Muthukumar, President, LTTC.

#### Message from the Secretary

Dear Members,

Once again, as we fast approach to the end of another year, I look back and give thanks to our dear lord for his wonderful guidance that we have had throughout the year. We were able to share his love and joy with one another in the midst of differences. As LTCC members I am proud to say that we are a family of good disciples trying always to put his name first. As the years passed we must be able to grow from one step to another in faith to seek his wisdom to know and understand the scripture better. As we enter into another year let us make a resolution that we would forget the past and look to the future in engaging good fellowships based on the teaching of Christ.

It may have been an year of sadness or happiness, it does not make any difference in the eyes of God. He knew already who we are and what situations we face as individuals. It is the human nature that we cannot comprehend why certain things are happening or not happening because of the not readily available answers.

But remember God commiserates with us when we face difficulties. When Mary and Martha and the other Jews were weeping over the death of their brother Lazarus, Jesus was deeply moved in sprit and troubled. He also wept with them. He turned the sad situation into a joyful one. The trust and faith they had in him made it possible. "Trust and obey for there is no other the way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey".

Jesus said "My time has not yet come", When his mother told him at the wedding in Cana that they had run short of wine. Remember when his time comes we will see his glory. Keep praising him with thanks and faith.

Wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New year.

AC Rajkumar, Secretary



#### A message from the Gift Aid Secretary.....

How exciting that we enter the Christmas season again, the great season of expectation, renewal and celebration!

The reason God gives us wealth is so we can be generous.

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:11)

Please give of your time and talents. Be a generous person with your time; look for ways to help our church, other ministries and people in need. Follow Christ's example by showing a passionate concern for others.

Once again, I thank you all sincerely for your generous donations and respectfully ask that you continue to sign a Gift-Aid declaration whenever you make a special donation to the church, however small. The vast majority of the donations that we receive come through your Stewardship giving, either when you use the envelopes printed with your personal code number, or through bank transfer by standing order. Thereafter, I make sure that we reclaim Gift Aid Tax for every penny you donate. You would be amazed at how all these pennies add up to a great many pounds.

I am truly thankful for all donations and, indeed, for the many other ways in which you make a difference in our church every year. You are part of God's plan for this mission and I sincerely thank you for being obedient in your walk with Him. It is such a great blessing to work with you.

"All of you are Christ's body and each one is part of it."

1 Corinthians 12:27

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed and wonderful Christmas and a prosperous 2012.

Chandra Nirmalanandan		
Gift Aid Secretary		

#### A Note from Social Secretary

To all loving members of our congregation, Once again as we approach towards the end of year 2011, I would like to say thank you to all of you on your continuous support in serving you all as Social Secretary. It is because of your generous contributions that I was able to serve refreshments and food for special occasions and I sincerely hope that you will continue to support me throughout the coming year to continue to serve you all in the name of our great Lord. I also would like to say a special thanks on behalf of our Congregation to Mrs. Togy Arulanantham and Mrs. Raji Muthukumar who help me in serving at Harrow and Hounslow Congregation respectively.

Finally I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year 2012.

S J.Rajkumar

#### Message from Junior Fellowship Co-ordinator

"The greatest gift" you will be ever receive never be found under a Christmas tree is far too valuable to be stored in any other place but in the depths of your heart.

It has been a privilege over the past year to serve our lord through Sunday school leadership of the junior fellowship. The main goal in this ministry has been twofold to nurture the biblical upbringing of the junior members of LTCC and to encourage them to reach out to family and friends with God's words through their humble life style.

In spite of many benefits God has blessed us with how many times do we complain about little difficulties and trials. Our gratitude can be seen as our way of opening the gift of God's love intended by all the small and big positive events of our lives.

This year we took a different approach to our Sunday school lessons and activities. The change has been refreshing and has been rewarding to watch the juniors grow spiritually both as individuals and in their fellowship. As we prepare for our traditional celebrations of the birth of Christ let us remember those who will not looking forward to this festival, let us remember too how Jesus identified with oppressed and the homeless. Let the joy of festival touches more of the people of our country and the world this year than ever before. May god glorified and many people of goodwill once again experience his peace.

My sincere thanks for all the members for their time and continuous support. Also special thanks to the parents of the junior fellowship and the juniors for their tireless effort throughout the year.

Wishing you all very meaningful Christmas and a prosperous new year

Premi Tharmabalan

#### A Message from the Communion Steward ....

Dear Friends

Christmas is upon us and it is with much warmth I greet each member and friend of the L.T.C.C.

I have witnessed many changes over the years in my time as the Communion Steward, but God had been constantly gracious and faithful to our Congregation.

It is my prayer that we will Endeavour to keep that first love and faithfulness by continuing to grow with that original vision.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a bright year 2012.

Jela Selvarajasingham

#### Message from the Choir Leader...

The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us'.

First let me thank our Lord for giving me this opportunity to serve Him and proclaim His word through singing. I started off my journey as the Choir Leader in January 2011.and inherited a talented team of choristers and musicians and it's been a pleasure working with such a group of people. They are dedicated, hardworking, and full of enthusiasm.

It's all the varying talents possessed by these individuals blended along with hard work and commitment has been the recipe for our success as a unit. I hope to continue working along with them in order to achieve greater success in the forthcoming year to sustain the London Tamil Christian Congregation Choir.

May God bless you all abundantly in the coming new year.

Wish you all a Very happy Blessed and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Togy Arulanantham

#### Message from the Prayer Fellowship Co-ordinator

Dear Friends.

As one of prayer group leaders for the Harrow group, I would like to share with you what we have done during this year at our monthly prayer meetings. We started our prayer meetings in May 2011 with our last one being in November 2011 with each meeting taking place at different members' houses. Together we studied and meditated upon Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia and during the year we completed the entire letter.

During each meeting, Porthagher Amma would ask questions on the passage studied in the preceding month in addition to sharing a message on the following passage. In addition, we prayed individually and together for the needs of our members, our church and our country. The feed back received from our members has been very positive with many people commenting that they have gained a deeper understanding of the contents of Galatians and sharing how much they enjoyed the fellowship on a regular basis. We feel that this has furthered our spiritual knowledge and awareness of what the Bible is teaching us and we look forward to meditating on a new Biblical series next year. On behalf of the Harrow prayer group, I wish to thank everyone for their support in making this a success during this year, and I pray that together we can continue to pray and meditate together and strengthen our biblical knowledge.

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Sugi Thambyrajah

#### Message from the Prayer Fellowship Co-ordinator

Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord Jesus!

I cannot believe it is Christmas already.... It seems like yesterday to me when I along with my family attended the new years' eve service last year on a bleak and cold wintery night. It has been an eventful and thought provoking year, to me personally as this was my second year as the Prayer Co-ordinator for the Hounslow area. I can lay all my trophies at the foot of the Cross which has led and, guided me in my journey thus far.

The Bible says 'Examine yourselves to find out whether you are living in faith. Surely you know that Christ Jesus is in you?' (2 Corinthians 13:5). It is only when we examine ourselves before God do we discover where our true battles lie. We have then got a choice. We can discover what our Lord has called us to be, and then work at becoming that person. Its' not an overnight process, but if we commit ourselves to the Lord, He will help us at what He has called us to be.

We can develop a relationship with our Lord by:

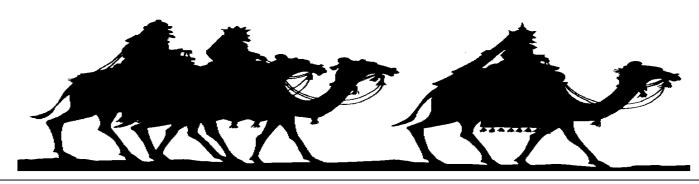
Reading the word of our God. 'Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path' (Psalm 119: 105) and, By praying. When we pray, we ask God to act on our behalf. He hears our asking, seeking and knocking. In the book of 1 Thessalonians 5:16, Paul says 'Be joyful always. Pray at all times. Be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus'.

As I conclude I leave you with this thought, in this month of advent when we hail the birth of our Saviour and also look forward to the new year filled with stocking loads of joys, sadness, trials and tribulations, let us not forget that we have a Redeemer, a Friend, a Deliverer, a Healer and a Provider. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the King of Kings and the Light of the World.

God our Father and Jesus his Son are always there to answer and open the door to an abundant and great supply of blessings to meet our needs.

May I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone, a Blessed Christmas and a peaceful and fruitful 2012!

by: Mrs Rajini Rajendra
Prayer Co-ordinator (Hounslow)



#### The Prayer & Bible Study Fellowship Group

#### Faith & Fun in Fellowship

We had a very interesting year as regards to our Prayer & Bible Study Group. The meetings were regularly held at the homes of different member families once a month when possible.

We were doing a study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. Rev Jessie Anand (Pothahar Amma) took us through the various chapters getting us to think and reflect on the various issues that this Pauline epistle sought to tackle. She would ask questions on the previous weekly studies that at times some of us were reminded of our school days (sometimes wondered if school tests were easier!!).

Our group was well organised through the very methodical Sugi Acca .It is not an easy task to get dates suitable for the Minister and the family that wants to have a prayer meeting in their home, many a time due to some special significance such as a birthday or an anniversary in a particular month.

She would have to contact all the families in her group every month to inform of the meeting date, time and venue and then also inform the host family as to the number of people who would attend. It is not an easy task and I am sure all will agree that she did a sterling job. May her Christian Service be blessed and taken forward according to the Lord's wish.

Pothahar Amma never forgot the children during these times of Bible Study. As this study was a bit on the heavy side for the little ones she would get them to read the bible passages and then give them some other work to keep their young minds occupied whilst also challenging them to think and explore some aspects of Christian feelings. For example, she brought a few copies of Children's Bibles which had pictures as well and gave them to the children asking them to go through the Bibles and select one Bible character whom they liked and why they liked that Character. Some of the comments children gave were quite funny, certainly came out of their innocence and were very interesting ones.

So, what about the Book of Galatians? What was the purpose of Paul writing this to the Galatians, slave or son, was it the law or was it Grace that saves sinners, the freedom one gets through Christ, life under the law and righteousness through faith were some of the topics that Pothahar Amma too us through.

In this journey of Biblical study, I hope our faiths were hopefully strengthened so that forms as a part of our journey of Christian faith and understanding. She explained why we should not be holding on to memories of hurt, but are expected to move on forgiving the people who may have hurt us. She explained about the controversy that faced the early Church of the relationship between new believers, particularly Gentiles, to the Jewish law

It reminded me of the various controversies that exist even today not just between mainline churches and free worship groups, but also amongst various mainline churches and also amongst the various free worship groups. Are these controversies because of a lack of understanding of Christian teachings, are these due to personalities in the various groups, are they because of human weaknesses or are there other reasons? The time of Bible Study also involves questions, answers, comments and many a time some of these are full of humour. Pothahar Amma even had an "End of Year Exam" and do you know who topped the marks? It was our top girl Ranjini. Many congratulations Ranjini, I am sure you are going to be celebrating this success with all of us!!

We spend time in prayers of intercession, praise and thanksgiving. We spend time in worshiping and praising god through song. We pray for the individual and collective needs of the different families belonging to LTCC, the needs of people in Sri Lanka, for world peace, for the children, the elderly, the sick, those who have had bereavements and others.

There is another very important aspect to these Bible Study & Prayer Group Meetings. These meetings are held in the homes of member families and are always followed by an enjoyable time of fellowship meal loving prepared by the host family. I am certain that the men of the various host families were behind some of these culinary delights that we had (lol)!!

Sugi Acca, I hope I can safely say that everyone in our group are greatly thankful to you. We also convey a special word of thanks to Pothahar Amma as well from all of us for all your hard work and the preparation that you did in leading us. An even bigger thank you is given to Rev Asir Anand, our beloved Pothahar Aiya, because if not for you, Pothahar Amma would not have been able to travel to the different places without much difficulty. Perhaps we have to all thank God for all these blessings. It was great on everything - fun, faith study, fellowship and food. Thank you Lord.

With love to all and with best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

by Mohan Kulasingham

#### தேவபாலன் அமுத குரலுக்கு எனது சமர்ப்பணம்

வருடம் தோறும் நத்தார் பண்டிகை உலகனைத்திலும் வாழும் கிறிஸ்துவ மக்களை தட்டி உலுக்கி எழுப்பும் ஒரு விசேட வைபவமாகும். மார்கழி பிறந்தால் நத்தார் ஆரவாரங்கள் தொடங்கிவிடும். நாடுகள், வீடுகள், வீதிகள், வியாபாரஸ்தலங்கள் அலங்காரங்கள், நத்தார்பிதா (Santa clause), பாட்டுக்கள் நடனங்கள்.. ஆகா கண்கொள்ளா காட்ச்சிகள். அத்துடன் விருந்துபசாரங்கள், பரிசுவழங்கள் இன்னும் பல. இவை எல்லாம் எதற்காக? யேசுவின் பிறப்பை கொண்டாடுகிறோம் என சிறு குழந்தை கூட பதிலளிக்கும். நல்லது மகிழ்ச்சிதான். ஆனால் சற்று ஆழமாகச் சிந்திப்போமா?

ஆங்கிலத்தில் (Nativity) பிறப்பு என்றும், (Advent) வருகை என்றும் பொருள்படும். இற்றைக்கு 2000 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பு யாரும் எதிர்பாராத காலத்தில், எதிர் நோக்காத கோலத்தில், யூதேயாநாட்டில் பெத்லகேம் என்னும் சிற்றூரில், மாட்டுத்தொழுவத்தில் வைக்கோல் படுக்கையில், கந்தை துணிகளால் சுற்றப்பட்டு, நள்ளிரவில் ஒரு குழந்தையின் குவா! குவா! என்ற அழுகைக்குரல் கேட்கிறது. யார் பிறந்தது? யார்வருகை தந்தது? வேறு யார்? பல்லாண்டுகளாக அனேக தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் கூறிய மேசியா! இறைமகன் தன் சிருஷ்டிகளின் துயர் துடைக்க மானிட அவதாரம் எடுத்தார். பசி, குளிர், கூதல். குவா! குவா! என்னும் அழுகுரல். இறைமகனுக்கு என்ன ஐயா குறை? ஏன் இந்தக்கோலம்? கன்னி மாமரியால் தாலாட்டி துரங்க வைக்கிறார்.

தனக்காகவா இந்த அழுகுரல்? இல்லை! உலகம் முழுவதிற்கும். எங்கும் பசி பட்டினி. உடையில்லை, உணவில்லை, இருக்க வீடில்லை. பாவத்தினால் வந்த சாபம், நோய், துன்பம், துயரம், பயம், ஏக்கம் நிறைந்து துன்புறும் மக்களுக்கு, தாம் நேசிக்கும் மக்களின் சாபம் போக்க ஒலிக்கின்றது இந்த ஒலி. இச்சத்தம் எங்கும் கேட்டது. முதலில் மந்தைகள் கேட்டன. இடையர்கள் கேட்டனர் துரதர் மூலம், வானசோதிடர் கேட்டனர் நட்ச்சத்திரம் மூலம். யூதேயா நாடு முழுவதும் கேட்டது இந்த அழுகுரல்.

யூதமன்னன் ஏரோது கேட்டு பயந்தான், கலங்னினான். சிலருக்கு ஆறுதலையும் அமைதலையும் கொடுத்த தொனி, சிலருக்கு பயத்தையும், வெறுப்பையும், கசப்பையும் கொடுத்தது. தன்சொந்த மக்களுக்காக பரிதவிக்கும் தோனி, பூச்சக்கரம் முழுவதிலுமே கேட்டது. முன்னனையில் மட்டுமா இவ்வொலி? 18ம் வயதில் எருசலெம் தேவாலயத்தில் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களை திகைக்க வைத்தது இறைமகன் உன்னதக்குரல். 30ம் வயதில் உலகத்தை பாவத்திலும், சாபத்திலும் வீழ்த்திய சாத்தானுடன் போராடி "அப்பாலே போ சாத்தானே" என்ற கட்டளை குரல். மேய்ப்பனற்ற ஆடுகள்போல் வழிதப்பி அலைந்து திரிந்த மக்களை பார்த்து "வருத்தப்பட்டு பாரம் சுமப்பவர்களே என்னிடம் வாருங்கள் உங்களுக்கு இலைப்பாருதல் தருவேன்" என்ற அன்புக்குரல். எருசலேம் தேவாலயத்தை பரிசுத்த குலைச்சலாக்கிய ஜனங்களை விரட்டி " என் பிதாவின் ஜெப வீடு. இதை கள்வர் குகையாக்கினீர்கள்" என்று அதட்டிய சிம்மக்குரல். ஈற்றில் மூன்று ஆணிகளில் சிலுவையில் தொங்கும் போது "அறியாமல் செய்கிறார்கள் மன்னியும் பிதாவே" என்று பரிந்து மன்றாடிய குரல். ஆ! இவ்வன்புக்கு வானும் பூவும் ஈடாகுமா?

இவ்வமுதக்குரல் பல்லாயிரம் நெஞ்சங்களை தொட்டது. இத்தொணியை Captain Cook, David Livingston, Stanley Jones, Martin Luther, Florence Nightingale என்னும் தாதி, Mother Tresa, Miss Hutchins, சாதுசுந்தர் சிங் போன்ற ஆயிரக்கணக்கானோர் கேட்டனர். தங்களை அக்குரலுக்கு பணிசெய்ய அர்ப்பணித்தார்கள். இருண்ட கண்டங்களை நோக்கி புறப்பட்டார்கள். இருளில் வாழ்ந்தவர்களை ஒளியுள் கொண்டு வந்தார்கள். மலைப்பிரசங்கத்தின் முழக்க ஒலி உலகை ஆட்டி அசைத்தது.

ஆம் இந்த அன்புக்குரல் வீண் போகவில்லை. அந்த தொனியின் சக்திதான் இன்று பல்லாயிரம் வைத்தியசாலைகள், வைத்தியர்கள் இலவச உடை கொடுத்து அன்பு செலுத்தி ஆதரவளிக்கும் இல்லங்கள், அனாதை சிறுவர் நிலையங்கள் தோன்ற காரணமாகியது.இன்றும் ஆடம்பரத்துடன் தேவபாலன் பிறப்பை கொண்டாடும் போது ஆடல், பாடல், மின்வெளிச்சங்கள் இவற்றிற்கூடாக அந்த தெய்வீக ஒளியை காண்போமா? அந்த குரலை கேட்போமா? இன்றும் அது ஒளித்துக்கொண்டே இருக்கிறது.

நமக்குள்ளவற்றை இல்லாதவகைளுடன் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வோமா? அன்பு வேண்டி நிற்போருக்கு அன்பும் ஆதரவும் அளிப்போமா? குவா! குவா! சத்தம் கேட்கின்றதா? அந்த அன்பு மயமான ஒலிக்கும், ஒளிக்கும் நம்மை அர்ப்பணிப்போமா?

தேவாதி தேவபிதா நத்தார் பரிசாக பிறர் நமக்கு அழகான வர்ண கடதாசிகளில் சுற்றி விலைபெற்ற பரிசுகளை தருவது போல அதிலும் ஆயிரம்மடங்கு வி-ை லபெற்ற தம் சொந்த குமாரனை கந்தை துணிகளிற் சுற்றி தந்தாரே. அந்த பாலன் அமுத குரலுக்கு நம்மை அர்ப்பணிப்போமாக.

அதுவே நாம் இவ்வையகத்திற்கு கொடுக்கும் நத்தார் பரிசாகும்.

திருமதி ஆன்சலீனா சிவஞானம்

#### THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

This Christmas song was written when the Christian faith was banned in England under severe penalties. It was a kind of song to teach the young Christians, the belief of their faith.

The first day of Christmas my true love sent to me - A partridge in a pear tree

The" true love" refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the gifts is the baptised Christian and the partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God

On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me – Two turtle doves and a partidge.. –the two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me – Three French hens, two turtle .. –three French hens stand for faith, hope and love

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me, - Four calling birds , three.. – four calling birds are the four Gospels.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me –Five golden rings, four calling... –the five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (Law) the first five books of the Old Testament.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me –Six geese a laying, five golden..- the six geese a laying stand for the six days of creation.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me – Seven swans a swimming, six geese...- seven swans a swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me – Eight maids a milking, seven swans... – the eight maids a milking are the eight Beatitudes.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me – Nine ladies dancing, eight maids... – the nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me – Ten lords a leaping, nine ladies... – the ten lords a leaping are the Ten Commandments.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me – Eleven pipers piping. Ten lords... – eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.

On the twelth day of Christmas my true love sent to me – Twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers...-Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle Creed.

Contributed by Togy Arulanantham

## CHILDRENS PAGE

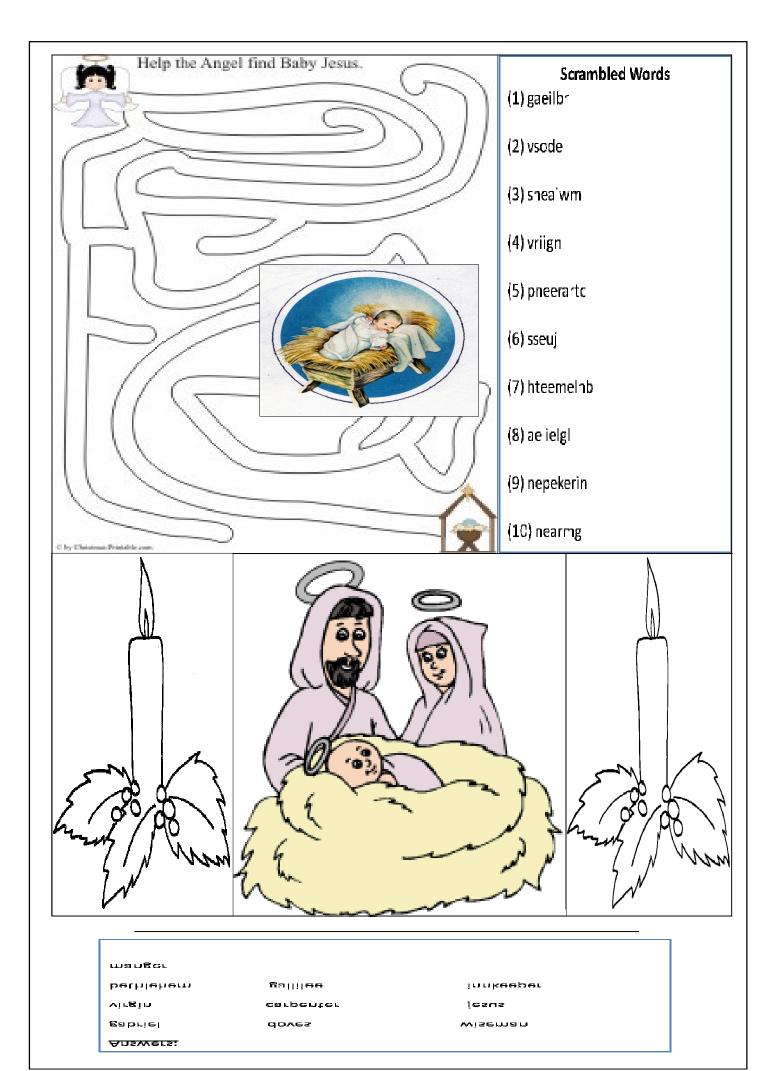
**Christmas Cross Word** 

S J ш G н N J N В R в N ı K G K М F R S S В Α K S Z м т D м х В R м Т х J Z Z D в Е S Z U G G н Q N х S ĸ R Т А S Е Р н R м E н J В в K н N н Z O В В м А

> JOSEPH BETHELEHEM MARY JESUS WISE MAN

MANGER NATIVITY REJOICE SHEPHERDS INN





#### Fellowship by the sea-side

Little Hampton on August Bank holiday - an LTCC trip to the sea-side! What was in it for those of us who thought: 'This was what we did with our children when they were young. Should we join on this trip suited to the young, and the very young'? Would it be bizarre to join? Asking around we found that there were a few older people joining – and for the sake of supporting this initiative of LTCC we 'oldies' joined in. Would we regret it later I wondered?

Excitement mounted as we awaited several people due to join outside South Harrow Methodist church early that mild morning on August 29th. Some breezed in last with a valid enough excuse before we moved on to Hounslow in time to pick the rest of the crowd. A couple of people could not join because of urgent last minute demands on their time. These v.i.ps were missed, but their spouses made a massive difference to the 'spirit' of the outing. So it came to pass that our very own sportive priest started us off with a prayer for a safe trip.

A coffee stop made someone remark, 'Don't sit holy holy in the front – come and join in some singing at the back of the coach'. So we did, and never regretted it. The singing talents of the coach-riders became exposed! 'Paatukku paatu' was a novel singing competition, 'poattikku potti' – when new and old film songs were sung in teams with judges at hand. This was no event for singing the usual lyrics. The 'away day' was a break from that, and new energies were certainly tapped! This helped us to cover the long miles to the seaside venue. The enjoyment of everyone was apparent. It was amazing to hear the repertoire of Tamil songs, and the knowledge of the Tamil language as well. It leaves us to ponder about our 'Tamil heritage' for our young Tamils! That is something we valiantly try to build at LTCC.

No doubt our greatest concern was 'what if it rains'? The weather seemed to spare us – an occasional drizzle only when we were inside the coach made it possible to enjoy our picnic lunch and the interesting games that were planned by the enthusiastic Youth and Junior church leaders. It was so well organised that every detail was seen to. Large sheets were laid out by a thoughtful member of LTCC Council – ready for the vast variety of food and drink contributions. Fun and laughter filled the air as games were commenced after the lunch. Apart from a new version of 'dog and the bone' for children and others, we had old and new games. Couples faced a 'Mr. & Mrs.' cross-examination. How much does one know of their spouse?



No outing is complete without a game of cricket – the open field next to the picnic area was suited to this sport. After that everyone drifted in different directions following their own interests – to the hot-dog stalls, fish and chips, coffee or ice-cream. Some opted for a long walk to explore the area perhaps to buy souvenirs. When two of us returned after a ride on the mini-train along the sea-front with ice-cream cones we joked that we had won a competition. Some were about to rush off asking us where? A few groups managed to wet their feet stepping beyond the cobbled stones onto the sand and surf as the tide came in. We watched these people in the distance silhouetted against the sky in the fading light trying to make out who's who. Finally these jolly trippers even managed to do some dancing on the coach - CDs given by some members were played by the friendly coach-driver [Refer photos on web-site!]

A very successful trip indeed, beyond our expectations for it had enjoyment for every age group. The Secretary, and all LTCC members made it a great 'fellowship' event. Since then we see new members coming to the church services. What is the secret of our success? It is the selfless service of those who continue to participate, volunteer and contribute - which we take for granted. Fellowship for all, friendship for many, yet it is the 'spirit' of this London Tamil Christian Congregation known world-wide that has not been diminished for 40 years!

'This little light of mine I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine'

Punitham Perinparaja



#### Narrative report on Preschool at Nediyamadu

We are really thankful to the LTCC U.K and the welwishers for your kind financial assistance towards Pre-school at Nediyamadu Unnichai. As you know that most of the children are very poor and their living condition also very bad. We appreciate your kind support and the help towards needy children. There were several activities took place at this centre and children were encouraged.

#### Children Day

This centre celebrated children day along with their parents on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Children were gallant and welcomed by teachers and parents as well. Parents gave presents and celebrated the function effectively. Each parents brought presents and it was distributed in pot luck manner. Children were highly taken up and enjoyed it.





The same day government forces came to this centre and celebrated the day with special snacks and sweets. It was awesome day for the children and parents and all thoroughly enjoyed.

#### Year end programme



Church Organized the Christmas tree programme for these children along with the villagers and there were many government officials participated in this programme. Children came out with many programmes such as dances, recited Tamil, English Poems and speeches as well. There were large gathering of people came for this function and the building was full of people. Even some people stayed outside of this centre.

Village leaders were welcomed by the children, Gramaniladhari officers, School principals and child protection officers were present

## Large gathering of people and program was started with opening prayer



### Welcome dance was staged and kind of dances as well by kits



Gifts were given to children by various officers such as Gramaniladhari, child protection officers, principal and leaders from villagers as well. Next year School going Children were given with school bags and others (aged 4) given Water bottles and lunch boxes.

#### Year end party for children



#### Children having their lunch inside the preschool

The pre-school children were invited for the year end lunch party and celebrated on the 29th of November 2011. There were 44 children, three teachers, cook and few helpers participated on this day. The chicken meal with two vegetables was served among them.

#### New dresses and uniform issued

New sets of uniform and new dresses were given to 44 children

We spend your money for the respective purposes like special meal, special dress and set of uniform for children. Parents and church bore the expenses of stitching of uniform. Once again we extend our thanks and gratitude to the members of LTCC U.K, the well-wishers and others who have supported this project so far. We will send an official receipt to you in due course.

Rev.S.S.Terrence









## YOUTH 2011







FUN DAY 09/07/2011





Carol Service

Christmas Tree

New Year Eve ...

## Y0117H2012



### **Youth Service**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2012 at 4pm in our Hammersmith church Followed by LTCC Bake off







### **Fun Day**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 {venue to be confirmed}

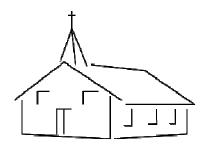








#### Monthly Praise, Worship & Fellowship



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 4 pm South Harrow Methodist Church. Walton Avenue. South Harrow, Middx. HA2 8QU

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 4.30 pm The United Reformed Church. Vicarage Farm Rd. Hounslow. Middx. TW5 0DR

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 4 pm Holy Communion Central Worship Service Rivercourt Methodist Church, King Street. Hammersmith, London W6 9JT

Bible Study Forums & Fellowships are held at various venues. Please contact respective Prayer Fellowship Co-ordinators for details.

Minister: Rev. Jessie Anand

Further information :  $020\ 8577\ 7788\ /\ 020\ 8572\ 0330$ 

www.putneychurch.org

#### A big thank you...

to all our Members who contributed with their articles, time and talent. It is much appreciated. God bless.

Newsletter of the London Tamil Christian Congregation Rivercourt Methodist Church, King Street, Hammersmith London W6 9JT Registered Charity No: 1040952 December 2011