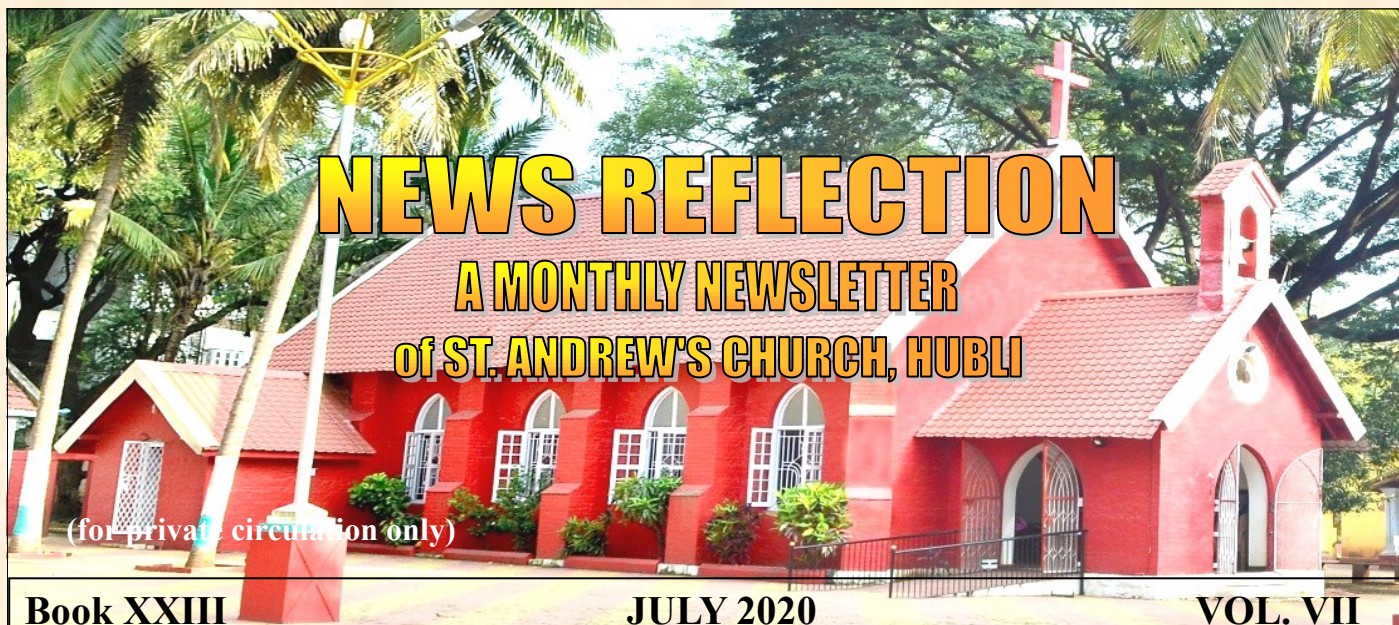




Book XXIII

JULY 2020

VOL. VII

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastoral Call and Ministry

Ambassadors for Christ

**Youth Page: COVID 19 -
The Kingdom Approach**

Almanac for July '20

Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

News in Brief

Floral Arrangements

EVENTS

**Church Worship Service -
Saturday at 5:30 pm**

**Online Intercessory Prayer
Wednesday 6:30 pm**

**Youth Meeting on Zoom
Every Tuesday at 5:30 pm**

PASTORAL CALL AND MINISTRY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Greetings to you all in the most precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

The Church of South India observes Theological Education Sunday on the second Sunday in the month of July every year. The day commemorates all the Pastors and lay people who commit their life to the cause of the kingdom

God calls people to various ministries in this world today. It is our commitment that care and compassion be exhibited through the Pastoral Ministry. We, the members of the Church, as the priesthood of believers, express our love towards those are involved in the Pastoral Ministry.

The ministry has to become the means for bringing the rules and reign of God among those who have responded to the call and invitation from God to meet the needs of the people. Thus the Pastoral Ministry becomes the extension of His glorious kingdom.

The following three passages from the scripture bring us to an understanding of the call to do the Pastoral Ministry among God's chosen people who are in need of pastoral care.

1. God called Moses – to deliver the people from bondage. *Exodus 3:1-12*
2. Paul charged Timothy – to deliver the people from false teachings. *II Timothy 4:1-5*

3. Jesus equips Peter - to extend pastoral care. *John 21:15 - 19*

1. God called Moses – to deliver the people from bondage. Exodus 3:1-12

Calling people to ministry is always God's initiative. When God sees a need in society, He chooses a particular person and proceeds to show that particular person that he is needed by the Lord to do the ministry. Here, in the narrative of Moses being called, God prepared a vision to turn the attention of Moses to speak to Him. Then God spoke to Moses. God expressed His concern over the people of Israel. God called Moses to go to Pharaoh to bring His people out of bondage and out of Egypt. When God selects individuals to attend to the cry of the people, He never makes a mistake in choosing them. The question comes to all those who are now in the Pastoral Ministry, God wants you to serve in this particular place because God needs you in that particular place. We begin to realize that God is the one who sent us to fulfill His purpose. The classic example of Jonah is a case in point.

2. Paul charged Timothy - to deliver people from false teachings. II Tim 4:1-5

As Paul gives Timothy this final charge, he reminds Timothy that he is giving it in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus. God and Christ give their approval to this charge which Paul is about to give. The following are the five charges.

1) Preach the Gospel. 2) Be prepared at all times. 3) Correct. 4) Rebuke. 5) Encourage.

Timothy must preach the Gospel diligently because the time will come when men will not accept the truth. Paul talks about the false teachers and false teachings (verses 3 & 4).

They will listen only to what they want to hear. They will have itching ears i.e., ears eager to hear any new and interesting teaching. They will turn aside to myths because myths are pleasant and enticing. They will not even know that they have wandered from the truth. Timothy must endure hardship and opposition in order to fulfill all the duties of the pastor. Since Paul's time of departure is near, Paul exhorts Timothy to follow in his footsteps and carry on in his place.

God invites us to proclaim the message, to be persistent, convince and rebuke. God calls us for such a ministry. Shall we accept the charge which God wants to hands over to us?

3. Jesus equips Peter – to extend pastoral care. John 21:15-19

a. Equipping to show Love in Action:

In this narrative, Jesus initiates saying, Simon, do you truly love me more than 'these'? 'These' refers to the other disciples. Jesus says to Peter, that you haven't shown your love by your actions. Peter did not try to prove how much he loved Jesus, because he knew he had failed. The other disciples had not denied Christ like him. Peter in his heart did love Jesus and Jesus knew Peter's heart. Therefore Peter only said, Lord you know that I love you.

In equipping Peter for Pastoral Ministry, Jesus only asked Peter about his love. Without love for Jesus, no man can love the flock and without love for the flock, no man can be a shepherd. Those who do not love Jesus do not truly love others.

b. Equipping to be an example:

So Jesus says to Peter, if you love me, do this; feed my lambs. From now

Continued on Page 4

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God was making his appeal through us" II Cor 5:2

AMBASSADOR – the word connotes something important. Ambassador is the perfect title for the life that Christ called us to. His last command was for us to go and make disciples of every nation. In that moment, he commissioned us as ambassadors to the whole world and that is why it is an important responsibility.

An ambassador is an envoy or minister of a state sent on a mission by one sovereign state to another. He is the spokesperson or representative of one state with authority to speak to the authorities of another state.

As Christians we have the honor and great responsibility of being Christ's ambassadors to the world and with that responsibility comes the need to fully understand the message and the manner in which we are to carry out the task.

Stating that "we are the ambassadors for Christ," Paul gives a beautiful picture of a compassionate and gracious God and a graphic portrayal of the service we are to render. As an ambassador for Christ, we are authorized and clothed with divine authority and power to speak his reconciling message of love to the unsaved world. We are the representatives of the King of Kings. We stand in the courts of human conscience authoritatively representing the authority of our King.

Ours is a position of divinely appointed responsibility of great dignity and prestige. The privileges and responsibilities of the office should be assumed with the greatest of humility and gratitude. The mission of the ambassadors of Christ is to diligently and adequately represent

Christ. God is still in the business of saving the unsaved and He wants to speak through us to a lost and wayward world.

By this commission our Lord intends that each one of us should be communicators of the message of redemption to who live in our world. God has chosen to work through people and the Holy Spirit will enable us with power for this task. *Acts 1:8* says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." This is a challenging opportunity and the Holy Spirit of God abides in us to bless the preaching and the teaching of the Word

To be an effective ambassador, there are three skills that need to be honed.

1. Knowledge: If we are to represent Christ, we should be well acquainted with his character, his mind and his purpose. We can't represent him well if we don't know him well.

2. Wisdom: Knowledge is important but if we do not have the wisdom to know when, where and how to use that knowledge, it won't get us very far. This is the skill that really determines whether as ambassador we will be effective or not.

3. Character: While knowledge and wisdom are more about talking the talk, character is about walking the walk.

These three skills are the foundation we all need to grow in to be effective ambassador. Every Christian should be able to confidently say "I am an ambassador for Jesus Christ."

This story is told of William Jennings Bryan:

“Late one night a salesman drove into a strange city and tried to get a room in a hotel.

The clerk informed him that there was no vacancy. Disappointed, he started to leave the lobby when a dignified gentleman offered to share his room with him. Gratefully the traveler accepted his kindness.

Just before retiring, the man who had shown such hospitality knelt and prayed aloud. In his petition he referred to the stranger by name and asked the Lord to bless him. Upon awakening the next morning, he told his guest it was his habit to read the Bible and commune with God at the beginning of each day, and he asked if he would like to join him. The Holy Spirit had been speaking to the heart

Continued from Page 2

on prove your love by obeying me. I am entrusting my lambs to you. Feed them, care for them, set them as an example and even die for them.

c. Equipping to show himself restored and reinstated:

In doing this, Jesus restored to Peter his authority as a leader in the church. The other disciples might not have accepted Peter because of his sin of denying Jesus, but Jesus here appointed

of this salesman, and when his host tactfully confronted him with the claims of Christ, he gladly received the Savior.

As the two were ready to part, they exchanged business cards. The new believer was amazed to read, “William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State.”

You see William Jennings Bryan was not only the Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson, but more importantly he was an ambassador for Christ.

The need of our world for the message of God’s love is indescribably great. God will use and bless each of us as we yield ourselves to become communicators of his love and ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

Go out this week and strive to tell at least one person about your Savior. Wouldn’t you like to be Christ’s brand ambassador?

Reuben Sathuri

Peter three times to be a shepherd in His church. Peter had been forgiven and Peter had been reinstated.

We are called not only to be the fishers of men but also to be the feeders of the flock. True, we are not all called to be leaders, but we will have opportunities to feed our brothers and sisters with words of encouragement and we must do so to accomplish the Pastoral Ministry for which the Lord has called.

With best wishes and prayers

Rev. Dr. Murphy W. Soans

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

Come in the morning and present thyself unto me in the top of the mount. (Exo.34:2)

“The morning is the time fixed for my meeting the Lord,” said Joseph Parker. “This very word morning is as a cluster of rich grapes. Let me crush them and drink the sacred wine.In the night I have buried yesterday’s fatigue, and in the morning I take a new lease of energy. Blessed is the day whose morning is sanctified! Successful is the day whose first victory is won in prayer! Holy is the day whose dawn finds thee on the top of the mount! The light is brightest in the morning. ‘Wake psaltery and harp; I myself will awake early.

(from Thoughts for the Quiet Hour)

YOUTH FORUM

COVID 19 – THE KINGDOM APPROACH

In the spiritual realm, right now there is a furious battle raging and the mighty angels of Jesus are at work which we do not see, neither can we see the tiny virus with our naked eyes. What we see right now is the turmoil and upheaval caused by the unseen virus across the world.

Paul in II Corinthians 4:18, says we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. This simply means that we as believers should for a moment, take our eyes off from the fear mongering, the cacophony, unwanted media hype, soaring figures of the dead, the political blame game in and around COVID 19. We should fix our eyes on the Kingdom strategy and the eternal promises of God.

As a nurse working in St. James Hospital, Dublin, Ireland, this particular verse has heavily impacted my attitude while working with COVID patients. Amidst the chaos of this pandemic, my faith still holds fast to the Almighty who sits on the throne and rules the universe. I know my identity in Christ and my mission and as a soldier for him, I was able to lovingly care for these wounded souls, bodies and minds with the help of the powerful Holy Spirit living inside of me.

It was a good learning curve both spiritually and professionally. During these times I witnessed most healthcare workers were afraid to nurse clients with COVID 19 and the fear was overwhelming among staff members. So it was time for me to exhibit the Kingdom mentality in my calling. I volunteered to work in COVID Intensive Care Unit from the General Surgical ward where I was deployed. I took authority over the fear related to the invisible virus and took care of the visible patients and colleagues by easing the burden of staff shortage. The supernatural help of Holy Spirit enabled me to work tirelessly for a month on the night shift. I believe whom He calls He keeps.

Genesis 1:26 speaks of God's original plan, where he gave authority to Adam to have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, over the cattle and over all the earth and every creeping thing upon the earth. But Adam failed and so as believers, it is our mandate to fulfill God's original plan by taking dominion over our situations in these unprecedented times.

The World Health Organization recommends wearing appropriate gear called Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while treating COVID patients. As a matter of experience, FFP 3 masks can be very uncomfortable and painful causing pressure ulcers on the nose and earlobes. It is also suffocating as we breathe our own carbon dioxide and also as a principle of infection control practices, we cannot touch the mask unnecessarily as it is contaminated and requires to be discarded.

Ireland also witnessed an extreme shortage of masks and relied heavily on the third world countries for manufacturing and exporting stock. We were forced to use them sparingly until stocks were replenished. Physically, this meant that hydrating oneself was limited which in turn made one severely dehydrated, tired and restless.

ALMANAC FOR JULY 2020

Date/Day/Time	Nature of Service	Lessons	Reader	Preacher
03 Fri	Thomas, Apostle of India*	Isaiah 52: 7-15	II Timothy 3:10-17	John 20:24-29
05 Sun. 7.30 am	5th Sunday After Pentecost STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY H.C. Service: Stewardship: Responsible Resource Management	Exodus 18: 13- 27 2 Cor 8: 1-15 Psalm 147: 1-11 Mathew 25:14-30	Mr Y. J. J Prakash Mr Solomon Alice Mr Samson James ELEMENTS Mr & Mrs. Suchit K	Parish Priest
12 Sun 7:30 am	6th Sunday After Pentecost THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUNDAY H C Service Equipping the People of God	Deut 6: 1-17 Ephesians 4:7-16 Psalm 119: 89-104 Matthew 7:24-29	Mrs Sujana Martin Ms Rupa Swaminathan Mr Mariadas Dara ELEMENTS Mr & Mrs Nirmal S	Parish Priest
19 Sun. 7.30 am 6.30 pm	7th Sunday After Pentecost H C Service People of God – Ambassadors of Christ PRAISE & WORSHIP	Joshua 1:1-9 2 Cor 5: 16 - 6: 10 Psalm 18: 1-6, 20-30 Mark 6:7-13	Ms Vanitha Ramarao Mrs Selma Bhasme Mr Wilson Joseph ELEMENTS Mr & Mrs Jaysheel B	Parish Priest YOUTH
22 Wed	Mary Magdalene*	Zephaniah 3:14-20	2 John 1:1-13	John 20:11-18
25 Sat	James, Apostle and Martyr*	Jeremiah 26:10-15	Acts 11:27-12:3	Mark 10:35-45
26 Sun.7.30 am	8th Sunday After Pentecost H.C. Service Ordained Ministry: Transformed to Transform	Ezekiel 33:1-9 1 Timothy 3: 1 – 13 Psalm 99 John 21:15-19	Dr. Shailesh Gokavi Mr J. D. Hanagal Mrs Mamatha Sadamal ELEMENTS Drs. Pushpa & Shailesh	Parish Priest

This experience offered me a glimpse of what Jesus must have suffered on the cross for me and not to undermine God given free air.

There came a time when there was no stock of necessary equipment in some parts of the country and health workers had to compromise on the recommendations of the Government. The policies and protocols kept fluctuating on a daily basis. Reminding myself of what Paul said, to look not at the worldly things but on things eternal, I wore everyday the Helmet of salvation for my hair net, face mask, visor shield mask and goggles, Breastplate of righteousness for my apron, shoes that walked peace, Belt that spoke the kingdom truth and went to the hospital with the Shield of faith and the mighty Sword of the spirit. As Kingdom people, we have access to this full armour of God readily available even if our man-made protective equipment is not adequate

Jesus always moved with compassion when he came across the sick and he healed them and at this time too, it was no different. The mighty presence of God moved with me as I walked through the doors of ICU. As a believer working on kingdom principles, I made sure to speak life into my patients and the rest was His agenda.

“The hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they that shall hear shall live.” *John 5:25*. People around the world are looking for divine help at present. So I urge the healthcare workers and the church not to miss this opportunity to blow the trumpet of the Good News and the hope we have in Christ that even as we continue to live, we take dominion over this dark season in fulfilling God's original plan.

Ms Lydia Sharon

BIRTHDAYS

1	Mrs. Beryl R. Chelli	19	Miss Vanitha Nancy Ramarao
2	Mr. Solomon Alice	20	Mrs. Auriene Nelthropp
3	Mrs. Beena M. Soans	20	Mrs. Selma J. Bhasme
3	Mrs. Shreya K. Chelli	21	Master Isaac Karl Lawrence
3	Master Derrick S. Koti	22	Mrs. Regina Gnanarajan
4	Miss Mamatha Eikos	22	Mr. John G. George
8	Mr. Harvey Wilfred	23	Mrs. Mamatha S.
10	Mrs. J.J. Elizabeth	23	Baby Dhanish V. Jonathan
11	Mrs. Rachel Enochbabu Billa	26	Mr. Abishai Wilhelm Joseph
12	Mrs. Sujana Martin	27	Mr. J.D. Hanagal
13	Mrs. Premlatha Calvin	28	Dr. Shailesh Gokavi
16	Miss Rupa C. Swaminathan	28	Master Arnon Harsha
17	Mrs. Shakuntala N. Pink	28	Master D. Ezekiel Franklin
19	Mr. Thomas V. Thomas	29	Master Kartavya Samuel
19	Baby Anvika P. Bangera		

Wishing You a Birthday filled with Happiness and a Year filled with Joy.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1	Mr. & Mrs. Sai Sudhanraj	10	Mr. & Mrs. Samson R. James
09	Mr. & Mrs. Y. J. J Prakash	14	Mr. & Mrs. Mariyadas Dara

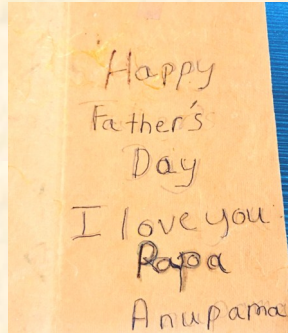
Wish You both endless Happiness, Joy and Love on your Anniversary and always

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS - JULY 20



05/07/20 Suchit S. Kotie and family
12/07/20 Mariadas Dara and family
19/07/20 Caroline R. Swaminathan
26/07/20 Priti Joel Vedamuthu and family

SNAPS/SNIPPETS/NEWS



Fathers Day was observed on 21st July. The Youth and Sunday School Children expressed their love and adoration for the fathers with beautiful statements and art work. Presented here is Ms. Anupama Hannikeri's painting, wishing her father.

NEWS IN BRIEF

* Praise God that our Church Bells will joyfully peal once again to herald the resumption of services after more than 3 months ; however due to lockdown on Sunday, Worship Service will be held on Saturday at 5:30 pm

DO'S AND DONT'S FOR ATTENDING CHURCH SERVICE

* Members above 65 years and children below 10 years are requested to stay at home. Sunday School will not be conducted until further notice.

* At present only Worship Service will be conducted with no Holy Communion.

* Members with history of hypertension (Blood Pressure), Diabetes, Respiratory breathing problems such as asthma, cough and fever are requested to abstain from coming to church.

Members living in containment areas are not allowed to come to church.

* No books will be allowed. Songs, hymns, Bible reading and order of worship will be displayed through a LED projector. For scripture readings, readers should bring their own Bibles and shall not be shared. (Only Old Testament reading and Gospel reading will be followed)

* Every member should undergo thermal screening and hand sanitization before entering the church. Their temperature, name and phone number will be recorded .

* Footwear to be left outside the church.

* Social distancing should be strictly maintained and wearing of mask is compulsory at all times. Shaking hands and physical contact to be avoided. Members shall not socialize before or after the church and shall disperse immediately after the service without loitering.

* If two members of a family come to church, they should sit on the same bench.

* Tea/coffee and water will not be served. Members to carry their own water.

* Members to use the side gate for entering the church premises. Entry into the church is from the portico and exit through the vestry.

* Offertory Box will be placed near the altar for collection, on their way out through the vestry. Hand sanitization will be provided at the exit.

* All members shall strictly follow all the instructions given above.

**The new audio system is installed in the church consisting of a Soundcraft mixer and two powerful speakers with in built amplifiers, three mikes and one stand. New cables for all the mikes and a snake cable connecting all the eight mikes will make for very good audio quality without any distortion. A cordless mic was also installed for the Pastor. We thank all members associated with this project.