

PAGE FOR ALMANAC



BOOK XXVI

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XX

FRAGRANT OR FOUL?

(Lessons from the life of Dinah)

IN THIS ISSUE

Fragrant Or Foul?

Generation Z-Tech

Pictorial memories

Birthdays/Wedding
Anniversaries

Floral arrangements.

EVENTS

World Sunday
School Day - 3rd

Girl Child Sunday –
17th

St. Andrew's Day 30th

Bible study - Wed.

Women's Fellowship
– Sat

P & W Practice – Sat.

Dearly Beloved!

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

At a time when parents are perplexed as to how to raise their boys and girls, here is the story of a girl child, whose life throws light as to how Christian culture counters the surrounding one. The Bible tells us about Dinah in Genesis 34. She was a young girl who went out 'sightseeing' in a foreign city called Shechem. Shechem was a culturally and religiously foreign place to this young girl, who belonged to a Yahweh – worshipping family.

Dinah was the great granddaughter of Abraham, a man of supreme obedience to God. As a reward for the obedience of Abraham, his descendents were blessed of God, as recorded in Genesis 12:1-3.

The Abrahamic generation would be a blessing to all people on earth and the people who bless them would be blessed.

The Abrahamic descendents were nomadic. Their moving around was also the plan of God. God wanted this nomadic group to be "Yahweh-carriers." They

were supposed to bless people whom they came into contact with, with the fragrance of their one God – Yahweh.

Given the Yahweh-centered background, it was foolish of Dinah to go around a sinful city to see “women.” Shechem of that city saw her and violated her. Dinah never expected that because she thought that she could take care of herself but she could not.

Choices and Struggles

How often have we thought that we can take care of ourselves but have miserably failed? Dinah could not take care of herself in acquaintance with a Yahweh-minus individual or community. Foolish choices can lead to gigantic spiritual struggles. To make the right choice, we therefore need wisdom and discernment in us which can be given to us so freely by God only. For God says, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.” (Psalm 32:8)

After violating Dinah, the young man wanted to marry her! It would have sounded fair to Dinah’s ears; but poor Dinah! Shechem had a malicious intent in the marriage proposal. He thought through the marriage, he could grab the livestock and all of the property of Dinah’s father, Jacob for him and his family.

Dinah’s brothers were enraged at the way their sister was violated by Shechem. They devised a hidden plan which also was not right. They agreed to the marriage contract on the condition that the male members of the city should undergo circumcision. This

they said was as an identification rite for the family of Shechem to identify with the Yahweh worshippers. When the men of Shechem did that, the brothers of Dinah went ahead with their plan.When the men were all still in pain from the circumcision rite, the brothers massacred all of them. Violence and abuse against a woman and malicious intentions led Shechem and his family to be wiped out!

Behaviours and Attitudes

The scripture is against men being abusive to women and violent behaviour with evil intentions. The Bible exhorts us to be nonviolent in our behaviour and honest in our contacts. For this we need an attitudinal change. You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Only Jesus can make us truly righteous and just, in places where we would otherwise need to be violent. He helps us not to be abusive.

Fragrant or Foul?

Dinah had to lead the rest of her life as a victim of lust and violence. Looking at Dinah and the stench of the bloodshed in the city, Jacob lamented to his children: “You have brought trouble on me by making me a stench to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land,” Genesis 34:30. A family which ought to have blessed others and be a fragrance became a stench to the people!

BIRTHDAYS

01	Baby Jordan Stevens	14	Baby Andrew Harsha
01	Master Tom Premasagar	17	Mrs. Naina John
04	Baby Emily Ann Libin	18	Mrs. Pramila Hublikar
06	Mrs. Shaila Birnur	19	Dr. Shirley Salins
10	Dr. (Mrs.) Deborah Augustine	21	Mr. P.E. Johnson
11	Mr. Y. Jaya Jyothi Prakash	21	Baby Keren Norah Johnson
12	Mr. Lesley Birnur	23	Dr. Renate Samuel
12	Mrs. Edna Dharamshi	24	Miss Y. Barbie
13	Mr. Darryl Lawrence	25	Mrs. Suneetha J. Hanagal

May the Grace of God enfold you, the love of Christ uphold you and the Spirit of truth set you free, this birthday and always.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

01	Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Joseph	12	Mr. & Dr(Mrs.) Amit Samuel
06	Mr. & Mrs. Kumar M	21	Mr. & Mrs. Leslee S. Sullad
09	Mr. & Mrs. A. Solomon	24	Mr. & Mrs. J. Bhasme
11	Col. & Mrs. E. J. Birnur	25	Mr. & Mrs. S.B. Hannikeri
11	Mr. & Mrs. John Swaraj		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Congratulations on another year spent in togetherness. Wishing you Love and Laughter for the years to come.



FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

3rd Mr. Sydney Gandhi & family
 10th Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Birnur & family
 17th Mr. & Mrs. Lesley Birnur & family.
 24th Dr. (Mrs.) Shirley Salins & family.
 30th **St. Andrew's Day – CHURCH**

!!! ATTENTION !!!

As most of you are aware we were planning to start our own Church website, that dream is soon going to be a reality. We want to thank the Almighty for all the efforts that are going in to see the dream come true. Plans are afoot to launch the website on St. Andrew's Day.

We request members to share any letters/documents/photographs connected to events relevant to Church History (will be duly returned). Photos of past Bishops and Pastors and any important event are welcome.

