

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrong doing. It does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres." ~ 1 Corinthians 13

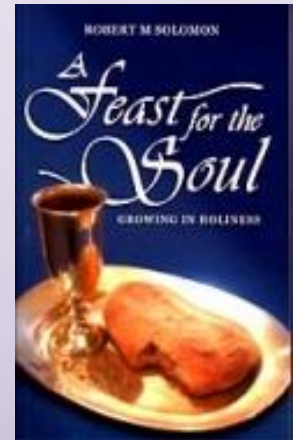
The engagement of Pastor Anil Kumar Samuel and Sister Ruth was held the day before the wedding on 19th January 2011 in Chennai. The long-awaited wedding was held at The Madras Centenary Telugu Baptist Church, Chennai, India on 20th Jan 2011. Certainly, it was great to experience the 'Lord's doing' and it is one of the happiest moments in their lives. This was followed by a reception at Pastor Anil's home town, Kurnool on 23rd January 2011 as per the family custom. Says Pastor Anil, "I had a joy of being with my childhood friends and with my mother church where I grew up and came to know the Lord".

Finally, a reception in Singapore was held on 12th February 2011 at Tamil Methodist Church, Short Street with exuberant joy and in the fellowship of ETAC Pastors, local friends and church members both Telugu Methodist Church, Singapore and Tamil Methodist Church, Short Street. A blessing service was held followed by a sumptuous dinner prepared by the Telegu Fellowship. It was truly a joyful time of laughter, fulfilled hopes and God's goodness.

Says the blissful couple, "We, as a couple, are committed to the Lord and one another. Our desire is to grow in the life of discipleship and holiness and continue to be a blessing in serving God's church".

Truly, we wish you all the joy and love in holy matrimony.

Reading Recommendations



If you have enjoyed *Fire for the Journey*, you will devour this new book from one of Singapore's most distinguished Christian leaders...

This is a tome with a lyrical spirituality that borders on the sublime and surreal, with a unique penchant for the devotionally-minded believer. Intertwined with its devotional theme is a simplicity that is heart-gripping, intellectually provocative as well as earthy in its approach and quality.

Using a broad sweep of a deft intellectual hand, Bishop Dr. Robert Solomon dabbles into a wide range of contemporary issues, from the sexuality crisis of modern times to the postmodern philosophies of the contemporary church. Compiled from his numerous articles in the *Methodist Message*, this timely devotional is set to remain perennially in your hands testifying to the glory and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A book worthy of its title...truly a feast for the soul...

"...has been a model to me of how a Christian leader should address issues facing the individual Christian, the Church, and the nation in a biblically based, relevant and easily readable way." - **Ajith Fernando**, National Director, Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka

"..represents a rare and splendid gift to the contemporary church. His work is a rare combination of theological depth, spiritual wisdom, and earthly relevance. Everyone...can feed off this feast."

- **Dr. William Abraham**, Albert C Outler Professor of Wesley Studies, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

About the Author:

Bishop Dr. Robert Solomon is the Bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore. Before embarking on a full-time Christian ministry, he was a practicing medical doctor in government service. He was also the pastor of two Tamil congregations and the Principal of the Trinity Theological College before being ordained as the leader of the Methodists in Singapore. Dr. Solomon holds a doctorate majoring in Pastoral Theology from the University of Edinburgh. He is currently a Fellow of the *American Association of Pastoral Counselors*, an International Advisor for the *Journal of Pastoral Counseling* and also on the Editorial Board of *Conversations*, an international journal on Spiritual Formation.

Acknowledgements: SKS Books Warehouse [http://www.sksbooks.com/catalogue/1147]

Church Retreat

Camp Theme: GROW: Get Real, Overcome the World

Venue: Le Grandeur Palm Resort, Johor

Date: 16th to 18th June 2011

Interesting events have been line up. Come and be blessed. Please contact the church office or the following persons for more information and registration: Solomon, Isaac, Deviki & Melvin.



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A quarterly publication by Tamil Methodist Church



The Message From The Empty Tomb

The marvel of God's power has been demonstrated in raising Jesus from the grave. In resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ, the Satan and his most fatal weapon death have been defeated and destroyed. One of the greatest themes of Christian theology is 'Christus Victor' - meaning Christ is the victor. This victorious Christ gives strength and hope to all those who believe in Him and His resurrection.

Very interestingly there comes a message from the empty tomb on the day of resurrection. The angels at the tomb saw some women with spices. Mary Magdalene whose life Jesus had changed was there at the tomb. She was a not only a great fan of Jesus but also was an ardent follower. Her life was filled with joy because of Jesus. She closely watched the journey of Jesus from Galilee to the cross and to the grave. One Sunday morning, the third day after crucifixion she went to see Jesus in the tomb. To her surprise the tomb was empty. She sobbed in despair thinking that someone had stolen his body. Immediately angels at the tomb spoke out- Why are you weeping? Why do you search the living among the dead? He is risen! He is not here!

The problems in life may appear to be bigger than the tomb. We may be going through the turbulent situation in life. May be we are left alone; those who are close to us may have deceived us; finances in life may be crumbling down; future career may seem uncertain; many a doubt might be bombarding our faith life. In such moments we need to look into the empty tomb. Why? Jesus defeated the deadly sin and death. He is the Victor! We should understand that God does not save us *from* suffering and death but he saves us *through* suffering and death – His own. It is because of His resurrection we have hope and future- bright future in Christ.

And so with the resurrection of Christ, the message to the world is that life alone is the answer to death. As the sinking sand of hopelessness threatens to engulf us, as the debris of the modern society piles up around us, let us be assured that it is the Christian faith- which can douse our despair and fan the flames of hope. G K Chesterton once said, "Christianity has died many times and risen again, for it has a God who knows the way out of the grave." Is there someone who doesn't see glimmer of hope breaking through the gloom of despair? Is there someone who has eternally erased the word 'hope' from his/her dictionary? It is time to look at the empty tomb. Christ is not there! He is risen! He alone is the hope and joy for the humankind.

Your Pastors in Christ,
Rev James Nagulan
Rev Anil Kumar Samuel
Rev George Barathan

CHURCH CALENDAR

May

- Mother's Day
- WSCS Sunday

June

- Church Retreat
- Evangelism Sunday

July

- Thanksgiving Sunday
- Mission Sunday

Ongoing Programmes

- Friday Praise & Prayer session 7.30 to 9pm
- Parish group meeting every 4th Saturday of the month, 6pm at Tampines, Bukit Batok and Central

TAMIL METHODIST

CHURCH

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After having served the Television Corporation of Singapore as a journalist for 6 years and Media Corp Radio News for 7 years as an Executive Editor, I joined Serving in Mission (SIM) as its Mobilization Director on 1 February 2008. On 2 January 2009 I was appointed as the National Director of SIM Singapore. But my visits to the mission field and interactions with missionaries constantly impressed on me the commitment I made when I was 18 years old to serve as a missionary on the field. During my visit to Zambia last year along with my wife Viji, daughter Sangeetha and son Santhosh, I felt strongly God calling us to serve in Zambia, Africa. Thus after much prayer and consultation with the family and the leadership of SIM I decided to leave for the field in June 2011. We, as a family thank God for this privilege of serving Him on the mission field in Zambia.

Mission challenges

Zambia has a population of twelve million people. It has one of the world’s most devastating HIV and AIDS epidemics. More than one in every seven adults in the country live with HIV and the average life expectancy has fallen to just thirty nine years. In 2009, nearly 83,000 adults were newly infected with HIV that is about 200 new infections each day. Among young women aged 15-24, HIV prevalence is nearly four times that of men in this age category. Over 30% of all children under the age of 15 are orphans, mainly AIDS orphans. Eighty percent of the people in rural areas live below the poverty line. Half a million young children are living on the streets, with no one to look after them. Some of the social challenges in the country are poverty, HIV-AIDS, low life expectancy, lack of education facilities and unemployment.

Ministry in Zambia

We want to reach out to Zambians who are oppressed by poverty, unemployment and HIV Aids with the love of Christ. We hope to focus on building bridges with Zambians, counselling those suffering from HIV Aids, conducting discipleship classes and mentoring new believers to be witnesses for Christ. As part of the ministry of SIM Indian Ministry Centre, we will also be reaching out to the non-Christian Indian community in Zambia with the Gospel.

Major Prayer pointers

- Pray for our son Santhosh who would be moving with us to Zambia and continuing his studies there and for our daughter Sangeetha who would be continuing her studies in NUS.
- Pray that God may fill us with His compassion and love to reach out to those suffering from HIV AIDS pandemic and poverty.
- Pray that God may prepare us emotionally and physically to withstand diseases like malaria etc.
- Pray that we may be able to motivate and mobilize the Zambian Church for world missions.
- Pray that God may keep us as a blessing to the Zambian Church.



We look forward to serving on the harvest field and letting you know regularly all about how God has worked through us. We wish to thank the church for its prayers and support in our missionary journey.

*Yours in His Service,
Watson, Viji, Sangeetha & Santhosh*



New Faces



In this section, we interview a young couple, Mr John Alaichamy and his wife. Having recently arrived in Singapore, we ask him of his first impressions of the country and through this interview, we get to know them better. It is our way of extending a warm welcome to our church.

- 1) When did you arrive in Singapore?
► I arrived in Singapore on April 20th, 2010. My wife Priya joined me here in Singapore on July 31st 2010.
- 2) What were your first impressions of this country?
► Singapore is very modern and clean with beautiful greenery everywhere. It really is a wonderful country that anybody will fall in love with as soon as they land.

- 3) What is your favourite local dish so far? Why?
► Nasi Goreng Ayam. It tastes great and I like the sound of the name.
- 4) When did you come to know Christ?
► I became a born again Christian when I was around 9 years old. That was when I first understood the significance of the sacrifice Jesus had made for me. From that point onwards, I have had a close relationship with Christ and have felt His presence guiding and caring for me in all aspects of my life.

Thank you Mr.& Mrs. Alaichamy and welcome to our body of Christ!

Reading Recommendations

Two thousand years ago, God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. But that isn’t a mere historical event. It isn’t simply a theological doctrine. It is rather a “huge moment” that reverberates powerfully and meaningfully throughout history. Even today. Even in your life.

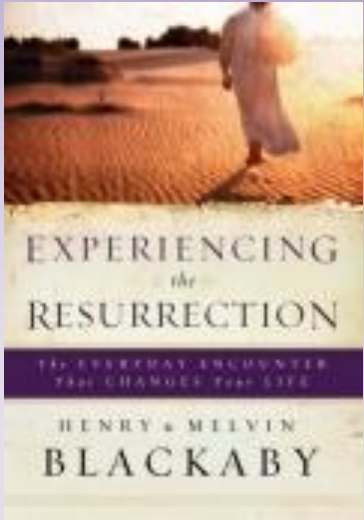
When God raised Jesus, He also made it possible for Christ’s life to reign eternally in His followers. The resurrection is the foundation of your total freedom and complete victory in Christ and so it is an event—an experience—that’s worthy of your daily celebration.

Experiencing the Resurrection is the second in a groundbreaking trilogy by the world-renowned spiritual leader Dr. Henry Blackaby and his son, Dr. Melvin Blackaby that guides you into experiencing the gospel of Christ in its fullness. In this book they offer you a deeper understanding of the glorious, joyous dimensions of the resurrection, with the goal of revealing the living Lord at work in your daily life.

This is the first step to fully knowing and experiencing the peace, joy, power, purpose, and confidence that God promises you through the resurrection of His Son.

Author: Henry & Melvin Blackaby

Acknowledgements: SKS Books Warehouse [http://www.sksbooks.com/catalogue/10164]



Timely Help To Flood Victims



The Batticaloa region in Sri Lanka is covered with lagoons, lakes and water tank. The recent heavy, continuous rain in the month of Jan 2011 caused heavy floods in the region. The entire Batticaloa area got affected due to the flood and cyclone. It brought huge devastation in terms of displacement, properties and livelihood. This is a sudden and unexpected disaster and people went through severe hardships. Most of the interior areas, which are close to lagoons and tanks were badly affected and people sought refuge in many places including churches, schools and other common buildings.

Our Church, recognising the needs of the people through the appeal from Rev Terrence responded immediately by contributing a sum of S\$1000 and shipping 1 cartoon of new/old clothes for the relief effort undertaken by Methodist Church Puliyanthevu Circuit, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.

The money will be used in providing food packs, plastic mats, bed sheets, kitchen utensils, mosquito nets for the affected families. Kindly pray for the affected families and the country for their speedy recovery to gain their normal life.

