

A quarterly publication by
Tamil Methodist Church

124TH
ANNIVERSARY

Issue Three
September 2011

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--- George & Janet Barathan serving with Operation Mobilization ---

It has been our privilege to work with OM India for the past 2 years and it has been amazing to see what is happening in this great land of India with many tribal and backward caste people turning to Christ. We will continue our work with OM India through our offices in Vancouver and Port Colborne (Ontario) Canada. At the same time we plan to visit Singapore once or twice a year to maintain relationships with the 8 churches who have been involved in India. They have partnered to source different projects such as the construction of fresh water wells, building of schools for the Dalit children, empowering and equipping pastors of emerging churches among the tribal people so that churches will grow strong and become effective. We are simply 'conduits' to encourage churches to bless the work in India so that the poor will find dignity and know the love of God.

She came to the pipe village as a new bride 11 years ago, seeking to escape the jobless poverty of her home village. She and her husband together make \$5 a day, more than most Dalits. For three years she was barren. Then, a young Dalit Christian named Bangarraju (most Dalits are known by a single name) came to Shivamma's home to pray for her. "I didn't know why he came or to whom he prayed. I thought Jesus was one of the gods." She conceived and gave birth to a son, and later had a second child, a girl. When her daughter was three months old, the girl became severely jaundiced, passing blood. Bangarraju came to them and prayed again, and the daughter was healed. "I realized that Jesus is the living God. We used to drink and every day we would fight, fight, fight. Jesus Christ brought peace to our family. I have no fear, because I have come to know the living God. I trust him."

As an evangelist and church planter, Bangarraju began outreach in the pipe village in 1996. He taught illiterate children in an informal school that met under a tree. He arranged for weekly medical visits through his organization, Operation Mobilization. For his first year visiting the village, Bangarraju said nothing about Jesus. It took three years before he baptized a convert. Now a large proportion of the pipe village follows Christ.

India's church has grown and is getting larger. It now comprises over 70 million members, according to *Operation World*. That makes it the eighth largest Christian population in the world. Across the vast nation, a visitor hears of unprecedented numbers of people turning to Christ. Operation Mobilization, one of India's largest missionary groups, has grown to include 3,000 congregations in India, up from 300 in less than a decade. Many Indian Christians say that doors that were closed for centuries are swinging open. Such transformations contribute to the breakdown of religious traditions, especially India's caste system. "Hinduism is a tool to keep us oppressed," says T.V. Joy, a church planter in north India. "The gospel is a message of deliverance, not just for heaven. It is a message of freedom."

We have also enjoyed being part of Short Street TMC. It is a church with a rich history that have impacted many lives some of whom are with the Lord now. It is like a spiritual 'lighthouse' helping people find God and leading people to have a stronger relationship with Him. We thank God for each of you and for the support and encouragement the church has been to us.

(Below, I have extracted an article by Tim Stafford, a senior writer for Christianity Today based in northern California. John Stott Ministries has provided a grant to Christianity Today for reporting on international issues. The article below is a glimpse of the kind of work OM is doing in India.)

Shivamma stands in front of her house, braiding her little girl's hair. She is the face of the new Christianity in India. Her home is nestled inside a concrete storm sewer discarded by the factory where she and her husband work. Her family of four lives within 84 square feet. For a Dalit and a woman, Shivamma is doing well because to be Dalit is much worse than being poor, for no matter how much education or wealth a Dalit accumulates, he or she remains polluted, a shame on the face of the earth. Dalits are like biblical lepers, except that in mainstream Indian culture, they cannot be healed.



/ V / V --- Showers Of Blessings, Pass Them On --- / V / V

A visitor to the Heritage Exhibition held at Tamil Methodist Church (TMC) in October 2010, after learning of our history and heritage left us with the prayer-blessing as found in Numbers 6:24-26. This priestly blessing as given by God to Moses and Aaron, is the Benediction that we receive at the close of each corporate worship.

What a wonderful blessing for the church to receive from a fellow believer of another church! She must have seen the wonders that God has done these 123 years, through clergy and laity of Tamil Methodist Church. She believed that TMC had found favour with God. Moved by this thought, she believed that it was appropriate to encourage us to continue the ministry of God's church by remembering that we His people are valuable to Him and that He will always be with us.

We will be celebrating 124 years of this five-fold blessing in the life of TMC. Our history and heritage bear witness to this fact: that God has been and is with us in whatever we have done in obedience to His will; there has been fruit and further blessings in individual lives and that as a community.

As we sincerely meditate on these said verses and reflect Thanks be to God.

on the history and heritage of TMC, we cannot but praise God for His favour and protection from all forms of danger; we cannot forget His hand of mercy and compassion when we sinned; we cannot but remember the numerous times He gave His approval when we pleased Him; and we just have to acknowledge that He gives us peace when we ask His love and peace on others.

God's blessings have been on this community of believers in the past and it is still ours today. Each time that we receive this benediction, the pastor is obeying God who told Moses that with these words, "you shall bless the children..." [Num. 6:23]. When we recite this blessing, [MYFers of my time always closed their meetings with these words.] we are asking for God's divine favour to rest upon others. This blessing is not ours to keep but for us to pass it on.

These blessings after Sunday corporate worship gives us the opportunity to learn of how we can demonstrate love, encourage others and provide a model for caring for others. The next time when the Benediction is to be pronounced, look full at the cross in our sanctuary and be reminded of what Jesus Christ has done for you and for all who worship Him.

/ V / V / V --- Enhancing Your Golden Years --- / V / V / V

The Young@Heart had their evening fellowship in church on the 13th August 2011. This session was keenly attended by members who wanted to learn more about the theme for the evening: "Enhancing your golden years", a message given by Rev. Gnanasekhar.

As most people advance in age, they tend to develop the "grasshopper mentality". They look to their slowly diminishing strength and physical conditions and develop the "cannot do" attitude. However, this is not so with the Young@Heart of TMC who have learnt that they can still achieve great things and contribute to the church not by their natural strength but through Christ who strengthens them. Just as Caleb in the book of Joshua 14:6-13, the Young @ Heart believe that they are "just as vigorous to go out to battle now" as they were then!

After the message, Mr Ashley Jayapaul, an occupational therapist shared on how the Young@Heart could look after themselves through proper diet and exercise. It was indeed a rather fulfilling session as members asked questions and received tips on how to improve ailments that have been troubling them.

As shared by Rev. Gnanasekhar the following are quotes that are beneficial to all. Read on, enjoy and remember to smile!

"Throw out all non-essential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let your doctor worry about them. That's why you pay him the big bucks."

"Keep cheerful friends. The grouches suck you into their spiral of misery."

"Keep learning - computer, languages, skills, crafts. Keep the brain active. An idle mind is a major cause of Alzheimer's."



"Laugh often, laugh long and laugh loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath."

"Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, books, and hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge."

"Cherish your health. If it's good - preserve it! If it's unstable - improve it! If it is beyond what you can improve - get medical help!"

"Don't take guilt trips! Take a trip to the mall - to another part of the country, to a foreign country, but not where the guilt is."

"And keep smiling - everyone will wonder what you are up to."

Extract from: <http://www.humor-laughter.com/baby-boomers-humor.html>.

Tamil Evening Fellowship Sports Evangelism



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