



# திருச்சபை தூதன்

## THIRUCHABAI THOODHAN

OCTOBER 2016

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[WWW.INDIANSFORCHRIST.ORG](http://WWW.INDIANSFORCHRIST.ORG)

**IFC Mission – To proclaim, communicate the love and life-changing power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the South Asian Community in the Washington DC metropolitan area. We desire to equip believers through discipleship, enabling them to evangelize to the nations of the world, support missionaries, help them be a part of God's family and magnify His name.**

### From Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Isravel Jayaraj



Greetings in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

God has blessed us as we enter into the fourth quarter of the year. Our Lord said, "Where two or three have gathered together in My name I am there in their midst" (Matthew 18:20). We are not alone; we are united with each other and with Jesus. It is a joy to be in the family of Indians for Christ. We experience the presence of God as we worship Him in the power of His Spirit and Truth. It is in this type of atmosphere that people are able to discover God's purpose for their lives.

In the past months, God enabled us to have a wonderful worship services, well attended and successful 2016-Retreat, annual picnic and women's retreat. It was truly a blessed time for the congregation members to get together with other families and share the happy moments and pray

for one another. We had regular intercessory prayer, mission prayer, fasting prayer, teleconference prayer time, teleconference Bible study, Sunday school ministry, choir ministry and admin council activities.

In the coming season we are going to have many activities like Thanksgiving/Harvest Festival, carol rounds, Christmas service and New Year-2017. Let us prepare ourselves to be involved and blessed.

I believe, the Apostle Paul says it best in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

It is my prayer that you will be able to join us for as many of the different events as possible. Please know that you are ALWAYS welcome to worship with us at IFC.

### IFC Mission Support...a brief update

#### Gospel Echoing Missionary Society, Bihar

##### **Missionaries:**

Mr. Benjamin Franklin Norton & Mrs. Shajela Norton

##### **Praise:**

A special gathering was organized in the area of Manaar. Land was registered for the church in Jaynagar. The Lord helped Norton to take part in the training of SYIS in Dehri.

##### **Pray:**

- For the ministries
- Spiritual growth of the believers
- For the construction work of Bible College in Darbanga.

#### Gospel Partners Movement

##### **Missionaries:**

Rev. Ananda Gahale & Mrs. Sumitraben

##### **Praise:**

Foundation stone was laid for a church in Zaran village. In Subir village, 18 people took baptism, and celebrated ground breaking for building a Kacha Church.

##### **Pray:**

- For Zaran Church construction
- For the 40 people ready to be baptized in 6 churches.
- Hadod village to begin night meetings & Sunday service.

#### Mission to Asia, Kashmir

##### **Missionary:**

Mr. Komal

##### **Praise:**

Rafiq, a farmer who was heart-broken over his yields, accepted the Lord.

##### **Pray:**

- For safety of Khan, who is targeted for his Christian faith. Khan was shot few years ago for his Christian faith. The Moulvi has instructed via local radio, to kill all Christians;
- Pray for workers safety. Pray for financial needs, health and salvation of people in the area.

#### Friends Missionary Prayer Band

##### **Missionaries:**

Rev. Ranjit James & Mrs. Alice James

##### **Praise:**

District malaria officer visited the project and promised to provide sufficient medications. One day spiritual program was conducted for children.

##### **Pray:**

- For electricity and water for the Rajmahal Children's Home at Belbadari.
- For road to be constructed from Miracle Girls Home to Talbadia Chowk.
- Malto community to realize the importance of education.

**Who we are...**

The purpose of the choir ministry is based on **2 Chronicles 5:12-14, Psalm 96: 1-2**. We share the gospel of Jesus Christ through songs that encourage believers in their walk with Christ, lead the congregation in worship and provide an avenue through which individuals may use their gifts and be an integral part of the worship.

IFC Choir has an indispensable role in church worship. We support and lead the congregation in singing hymns and worship songs. In order to fulfill this calling, all choristers, no matter the talent or skill, strive for excellence in all that is done and practice regularly.

**What we do...**

We, as choristers, thoroughly rehearse the hymns and worship songs to be sung during the worship service, so that we can lead the congregation and also help the congregation learn new songs.

**Sunday Choir:** Based on the Bible verse **Ephesians 5:19, Psalm 150:1-6** every Sunday we lead the congregation in singing and play musical accompaniments during the worship service and also help the congregation learn new songs.



**Comfort Ministry:** As we read in Matthew 5:4, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted". We meet families who have lost their loved ones recently and console them by singing about the God of comfort along with other congregation members.

**Concerts:** During the Advent season, we organize and perform Christmas concerts that help instill the Christmas spirit in the hearts of the audience. The children and youth of our church participate in these concerts making it livelier.

**Caroling:** To keep the Christmas spirit alive, we visit the houses of our members and non-members (if invited) and proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ through carols. All members of the congregation including children have an open invitation to join the caroling group.

**Other Church Ministries:** We take part in weddings, funerals, and/or other events to be held at the church and help to arrange music for special projects, ministries, and other church related activities in cooperation with appropriate individuals or groups.

**Membership:** Do you want to join the choir ???

- No paperwork needed !
- No hassle !

- If you are above 18 and have the heart to sing, praise and make music to the Lord, you are eligible to be a member of the choir.

Please contact the [choirinfo@indiansforchrist.org](mailto:choirinfo@indiansforchrist.org)

**Children's ministry is serving children and helping them to grow in relationships with God and others.**

IFC Children are a blessing from the Lord. With these blessings also come responsibilities. As stewards of God's children, teachers are helping our children grow physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Our mission is to have our children experience the presence of God each week by investing a time in worship and learning age – appropriate lessons in their individual classes.

**Worship time:** Every week we start our Sunday school session with a prayer and by singing songs. During the worship time we also collect offering, we try to teach about giving to the lord. After the worship session we go to individual lesson classes.

**Lesson Plans:** We have different curriculum for each grade level. Each week we have lessons and worksheet for every class. Children memorize Bible verse and we have memory verse test every second week of the month. As said in Bible "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you ". Our hope and prayer is that our Sunday School children will know the Lord, love and serve Him from these days till the end of their lives.

**Other Activities: JBQ :** Last year we started a new activity known as Junior Bible Quizzing (Grade 1 to Grade 6) and we participated up to regional level quizzing.

**TBQ:** This year we have formed a small team to participate in Teen Bible Quizzing for Grades 7 -12. We encourage all teens to participate in this Quizzing activity. Our first meet will be on Dec 3, 2016.

**Upcoming Event:**

**Christmas program** along with our Choir on **Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. Stay tuned!**

**Meet the Teachers**

**Ages 2-3** Sunitha Mathew  
Radha Arunkumar

**Ages 4-5** Jebakiruba Thangiah,  
Salomi Charles, Angeline  
Emmanuel, Praywina Prakash

**Grades 1 & 2** Jansi Barath,  
Mercy B Gnanaravi

**Grades 3 & 4** Sofia Solomon

**Grades 5 & 6** Dalphy Manuel,  
Christina S Chandran

**Grade 7 & 8**—Sudha Mathew,  
Jasper Jeba Prabhu

**Food for Homeless:** We were able to provide a meal (sandwich with snack items) for 70 homeless people twice last year. We will be continuing this outreach to teach our kids to share the blessings that God has given us.

Junior Bible Quiz

Sofia Solomon & Sheela Martin

Junior Bible Quizzing (JBQ) was created and designed to help children develop a love for the Bible and an understanding that its truth can guide their daily lives. This Program enables the children to memorize the Bible verses and to learn more about God's word. Bible Quizzing offers a fun, exciting way to motivate children to understand the all-important truths in God's Word. JBQ is the fastest growing discipleship program in children's ministry. We have started this program in our church in 2015.

Through cooperative learning, children work together in teams to learn and understand the questions and answers from the Bible Fact-Pack. Then, using cooperative competition, the children meet with other church teams for a fun quizzing match. There are twenty questions in a match, with two teams of quizzers trying to beat each other to the buzzers to get the first shot at the answers.

JBQ is divided into a primary division and a junior division. The primary division consists of 1st-3rd graders and covers 288 questions. The junior level consists of 4th-6th graders and covers 576 questions. The purpose of the Primary level is to get the kids started in JBQ and to expose them to the way quizzing works and to some of the questions they will need to know as juniors. The highest level of competition available for the primary division is District-level. The Junior level is a bit more challenging. These kids are pushed a

little bit harder and more is demanded of them. They are responsible for more questions and the rules tend to be enforced to a higher degree. Quizzers must display a high level of self-discipline in order to be successful. Our church (IFC) has got an opportunity to join with JBQ - Baltimore league for their 2015-2016 matches.

Find the tournaments/schedules for the seasons **2015-2016** and **2016-2017** below:

- <http://www.baltimorejbq.org/tournaments/2015/>
- <http://www.baltimorejbq.org/tournaments/2016/>





UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS



**Retreat!**

We are currently planning our next youth retreat. Suggestions and ideas for speakers or activities are welcome and can be sent to

[indiansforchristyouth@gmail.com](mailto:indiansforchristyouth@gmail.com)

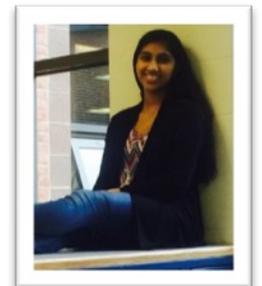
**New youth members!**



We are happy to welcome the new high schoolers: Ethan Barath, Jeremy Prem, Shalomi Nimesh, and Ryan Santhoshkumar to our youth ministry!

**Congratulations**

to our high school graduated senior, Ashwini Canagarajah! Ashwini is now a first year student at *Drexel University* in Philadelphia.



Continue to pray for our **college youth members!**

- Asir Noble** (UMBC)
- Kishore Joseph** (Virginia Tech)
- Praveen Rajaguru** (UPENN)
- Preethi Rajaguru** (NYU)
- Rachel Prem** (UMD)
- Ashwini Canagarajah** (Drexel)



# Youth Ministry

Last year's Vacation Bible School theme was "Ocean Commotion". It was run entirely by the youth team. Over the course of three days, the children of IFC learned how to stand for God, obey God, trust God, and thank God. The youth team worked diligently to plan, organize, teach, and engage the fifty kids who came out. We will also be taking over VBS 2017 "Operation Arctic," so please continue to show your support!



The youth were also privileged to conduct a special Easter event for the Sunday School children as well. The team grew closer to God and strengthened our own faith by leading the kids learn about the miracle of Christ's resurrection. The day's activities were a success, filled with bowling, painting, Easter story time, and of course, an Easter egg hunt!



Being an Elder of IFC for two years was definitely a calling for me. Serving the Lord and IFC family gave me joy, peace and happiness. In the past, I said "NO" to the prospect of Eldership at both churches I attend because of overpowering fear and hesitation. My hesitation was that I always felt that as a sinner, I am not the right person to lead or guard the spiritual life of our church from false teachings and doctrines. I was not sure if I would be able to serve as a meaningful Elder since it requires the utmost humbleness, complete dedication of servant hood, to be a prayer warrior, peacemaker, and other qualifications of a church Elder per the NT. When I was approached by some of the IFC members to become an Elder in 2013, I said "YES" immediately without praying about it or consulting with my family. Immediately after, my previous fear overpowered me and I questioned why I had agreed. I started reading the qualifications of a church Elder repeatedly and the fear went away and I was at peace with it. Even if I fulfill one of the five or six expectations of an Elder, wholeheartedly, with truthfulness and integrity, my Lord will be happy of me and I would be glorifying His name. Moreover, I began to realize God does not choose us for what we are, but to make us what He wants us to be.

First and foremost, becoming an Elder transformed me personally. Every

time I spoke or acted, I thought to myself, "I am an Elder and have to be Godly". This disciplined my life personally, professionally, and in my church life. Secondly, the serving mentality of my life increased and I wanted to serve the needy and elderly (physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually). In many circumstances, I had to sacrifice my time, my needs, and my work in order to help others. I will continue to do so, whether I am an active Elder or not. I value my American church Disciples of Christ belief that, "Once you are dedicated as an Elder you remain Elder forever whether you are in the office or not".

The other most important change being an Elder brought to my life was that it helped me to improve my prayer life. I learned to pray for others more than I prayed for myself and my family. I had many opportunities to pray with young ladies of our church in person and over the phone. Visiting their homes was my joy. I felt that I was able to comfort others with the Lord's promises bravely because I was an Elder.

Building relationships is my passion. I wasn't able to do it to the extent I wanted, but did it to my best of my God-given ability. I was and am able to relate to many of the IFC congregational members irrespective of age, which helped me to seek their cooperation and commitment

for church activities. The role I enjoyed the most was building and maintaining the love, fellowship, and unity of my beloved church IFC. I learned and practiced the importance of saying "hello" and greeting every person in the church, including members and visitors. Additionally, I encouraged youngsters to greet the older folks and visitors in our church. I made sure our visitors felt welcomed at our church. I am very happy to receive messages and telephone calls from visiting parents even when they return back to India.

Even last week two of our young ladies said "Aunty, varango, let us go and greet the older people". I enjoyed texting/calling people or sending them birthday messages. I took time to personally call and communicate with those whom I did not see in church for a few weeks. All these things I could gladly do because I was an Elder and God enabled me to do. When I heard people talking or laughing in the fellowship hall about everything from sports to politics, I always felt happy because I could see the fellowship and sense the unity.

Besides being a place of worship, the Church is a place to fellowship, learn, and get to know one another. Many of you may have felt uneasy when I persuaded ladies to dance in the retreats, asking to wear the same colored saree for mother's day or father's day, or sing a song at the altar. The reason was to create an oppor-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Give Thanks to the Lord, for HE is good...

## Harvest Festival

*Raffle prizes, Food Stalls, Biryani, Games, Fun and much more...*

*IFC Harvest festival &  
Thanksgiving on 20th November 2016*



(Continued from page 5)

tunity for togetherness in church. Those who willingly participated always expressed joy after whatever we did together. Without a doubt, I believe God enjoys us being together and it lays the foundation for doing greater things for His glory.

I need to mention my fellow Elders and Deacons. We were one team with good understanding and love between us.

We respected each other and our opinions, even when we disagreed. We solved problems in a peaceful and amicable way, without raising our voices. Thanks to Kasi Annan for his leadership, Franklin, and my younger brothers - Nakkeran, Arleen, and Selvin. Elder or not, I will continue to serve IFC as long as Lord leads me and give me strength.

In conclusion, I must remind you all what our Lord and Savior Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but **with God all things are possible.**"

## Women's Fellowship One Day Retreat

Bad weather did not stop 26 women from gathering in the Fellowship Hall for the annual retreat on October 1, 2016. Our Retreat began with a welcome address, prayer and worship hymns. The guest speaker was Sister Helen Vin-



cent. She encouraged us with devotions on traits of 'the Wise Woman' (morning session) and 'With Christ' (in the afternoon); she shared her witness and faith journey, focusing on the woman's role in the family and community. We were challenged to bring out the in-built anointing in each of us and be a witness to our Maker.

The men did their share - setting up the electronic equipment and providing snacks, lunch and tea throughout the

day.

Three participants recounted experiences of their visit to the Holy Land, with pictures. We fostered our team spirit with light hearted mind games. Catherine Wallace helped us create professional-looking bows, just in time for the season. The event ended with Sis. Vincent praying and laying hands on each one in the prayer ring.



Sincere thanks to the Coordinator Bhamini Prem, all volunteers, leaders and participants for a remarkable 2016 women's retreat.



Please share your comments and ideas with [editorialboard@indiansforchrist.org](mailto:editorialboard@indiansforchrist.org)