CHRIST CHURCH OF INDIA, DALLAS, TX

MARCH 2024



BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW



Welcome Spring! The season of new beginnings. As the winter fades away and the sun shines brighter, we're reminded of the cycle of life. Buds burst forth, flowers bloom, and the world awakens from its winter slumber.

The crisp air fills with the sweet scent of blossoms and the cheerful chirping of birds. Hope and possibility abound, inviting us to shed our heavy coats and embrace the promise of growth, renewal, and endless possibilities. Spring reminds us that change is in the air, and with it, comes the chance to start anew.

The theme for this fresh edition of our newsletter is **Behold**, **I make all things new!!** It signifies new beginnings, transformation, hope, and redemption. It brings comfort, encouragement, and inspiration, reminding us of God's power to transform and renew our lives. A Big thank you to all who contributed to this edition.

Editorial Team

THIS EDITION

Editorial Note

From the Pastor's Desk

Committee's Address

Women of Faith

Young Family Fellowship

Youth Fellowship

Children's Ministry

Prayer Ministry

Kid's Corner

Trivia Corner

Upcoming Events

F



BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

New is one of God's promises to us, and all his promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). As believers, our hope rests in the promise that Christ will come back for us one day and make all things new (Revelation 21:5).

The scripture is full of stories that show us how God makes things new for his glory and for the good of his people. I would like to touch upon the aspects of new beginnings, transformation, hope and redemption.

God through the gift of forgiveness and justification can restore us to a right relationship with Him. Joel 2:25 states, "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter. The great army sent among you". That's sounds awesome. Not only he renews our life and future, but also redeems our past.



The Old Testament has many restoration stories from Jacob, Job, Ruth etc. In the New Testament Jesus did a restoration ministry. The blind saw, the lame walked, the deaf heard and dead came alive. In all these miracles, Jesus restored life, security, and hope. What has God restored to us? Time? Relationships? What are we hoping in Christ for in the new year?

Throughout the scriptures, God at times gave new names to people. Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, Saul to Paul etc. When God gave someone a new name, it was always a sign of renewed purpose and a redeemed life. They received new identities in Christ as they forsook life in the flesh. When one becomes a Christian, may not always receive a new name but surely receives a new identity. Due to Jesus Christ's sacrifice, our sins were washed white like snow, pure and clean. We get to put on Christ's righteousness every day.

As we look ahead, we can trust and hope in the new identity in Christ. God's mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3: 22-23). If we are in Christ, we have been given a new name, a new identity. Are we living accordingly with a renewed purpose and redemption?

God has power over death and Easter is a great demostration of the same. Romans 8:11 says, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you". This empowerment gives us great hope. We can lay down our weakened self every day and can trust that God will resurrect with new life.

As we start this new season in our life, we can commit to hope in God's power to make things new. He restores lost time, bestows new identities, and creates new life. He offers renewed mercy to his own with each day. There will be new blessings, new trials, new failures, and new victories, but his goodness will guard them all.

David Doss

Illuminale

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In Revelation 21: 5 Jesus said, "Behold I make all things new."

This has great significance because in Genesis 1:31 says, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. However, from Genesis 3 to Revelation 20 all human beings experienced sin. Sin brought chaos and destruction to God's creation. The world was "good" no longer. When Adam and Eve sinned, God gave glimpses of this promise as He handed down judgment on sin and promised the Messiah (Genesis 3).



Then, after a while promises a new heaven and a new earth. There will be no more suffering, sin, pain, and death. Paul declared, Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind, because all sinned (Rom 5:12).



In Revelation 21 John talks about seeing the new heaven and new earth.

He sees a beautiful Holy City, where God dwells among His people. It is here that God promises to wipe every tear from His people's eyes. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. Finally, all creation will be free from the control and effects of sin. After observing all this, John sees Jesus seated on the throne declaring, "Behold I make all things new." This new heaven and earth are what believers long for, along with all creation. Romans 8:19 says, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Paul said that when someone trusts in God for salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells him, and he becomes a new creation.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Cor 5:17-18). The believer is no longer under the control of sin; we become new creations, able to please God and live in His ways. We begin to experience newness: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Gal 2:20). No longer do we live for ourselves, but we live for the One who gave his life for us.



Becoming a new creation affects the way we live.

Jesus' declaration, "Behold I make all things new," gives the hope that one day we will be free from the consequences and effects of sin and will live with Him in a new heaven and earth. This truth makes us live with great expectation, seeking to know Him more, become more like Him, and make Him known. God's Word reminds us to put off our former, sinful ways of life 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 (Eph 4:22-24).

Instead of living in sin and for ourselves, we are called to put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator (Colo 3:10). Regeneration happens at the moment of salvation, but sanctification continues as we grow in faith and in His likeness: And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Cor 3:18).

Some of the ways we grow are through studying God's Word, praying, having fellowship with other believers, and suffering.

Rev. Dr. Ninan Verghese



COMMITTEE'S ADDRESS

Hello Church family,

These are truly exciting times for our church, especially after the tumultuous year of 2023.

As we all know, we faced significant challenges last year. It was a painful and disheartening period, but our unwavering confidence in God never wavered. Thanks to the prayers of the Church family and the countless hours invested by Achen, leaders, and members, we ensured that everything within our control was done to allow God's miracle to unfold at the right time. And indeed, He made it possible for us to gather in our church building for Thanksgiving and Christmas without any legal obstacles.

Despite the challenges, this experience brought us even closer together as a church family. We had an enlightening family retreat, a first for us at this time of the year. The well participated Talent Night event showcased the incredible talents that God has bestowed upon us. We had our Lenten convention recently with Rev. Dr. Raja Singh Elias sharing the message.

Exciting changes are also on the horizon for our Church. We now have a new name: "Christ Church of India." Soon, we'll unveil a new logo, and we're diligently working on new governing documents to enhance the structured functioning of our Church.

Amidst all these developments, let us remain steadfast in our core beliefs. We are a church family that glorifies God through worship, prayer, and the study of His Word.

Vinod Alexander

Illuminale

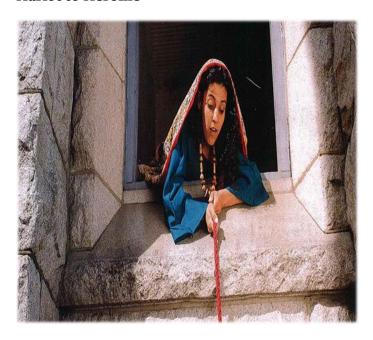
WOMEN OF FAITH

Revelation 21:5, which says, "And he who was seated on the throne said, Behold, I am making all things new. This verse is part of a vision of the new heaven and the new earth.

As we embark on this journey of exploring renewal, each of us carries a unique set of challenges and struggles, be they in relationships, personal growth, or spiritual battles. Through acknowledging our vulnerabilities, we come to understand the universal need for restoration. It's within these sufferings, God's promise to make all things new shines as a beacon of hope, inviting us to surrender our brokenness to the One who specializes in mending the shattered pieces of our lives. These biblical narratives of faithfilled women illustrate the transformative power of trusting in God amidst challenges. Their stories serve as beacon of hope, demonstrating that, through faith, God can turn the pages of our lives, rewriting stories of pain into tales of redemption and restoration.



Harlot to Heroine



Let's draw inspiration from the story of Rahab in the book of Joshua. Despite her past as a harlot, Rahab's faith led her to protect the Israelite spies. Through her courageous act and trust in God, she not only transformed her own life but became a crucial part of the lineage of Jesus (Matthew 1:5). Rahab's story teaches us that faith has the power to redefine our identity and shape a legacy that extends beyond our wildest imaginations. In the transformation similar to Rahab's journey from harlot to heroine, God will exchange your former sinful heart for hearts that are obedient and of flesh. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you have the ability to lead a life that brings joy to God. Pleasing God involves adhering to His standards of holiness and righteousness. The empowering influence of God enables you to break free from the bondage of sin; you need not be a captive to it any longer.

Illuminale

A NEW CREATION:

EMBRACING GOD'S TRANSFORMATIVE POWER

Another remarkable example is Mary **Demon Possession to Devotion** Magdalene, who experienced profound transformation through her encounter with Jesus. Once tormented by seven demons, her life took a dramatic turn when she encountered the Savior. Mary's unwavering faith and devotion to Jesus led her to witness His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. She became a loyal disciple, demonstrating the transformative power encountering Christ and placing trust in His redemptive love. Mary's transformation from a tormented soul to a devoted disciple is a testament to the extraordinary power of God to make all things new, even in the face of the darkest spiritual afflictions. It underscores the idea that no depth of despair or bondage is beyond the reach of God's redemptive love and transformative grace.



Suffering to Healing



In the Gospels, we encounter an unnamed woman with a 12-year issue of blood. Despite societal stigmas and her prolonged suffering, her faith compelled her to reach out and touch the hem of Jesus' garment. Instantaneously, she experienced healing restoration. This woman's story reminds us that, in our moments of desperation, faith can bridge the gap between brokenness and wholeness, ushering in the healing touch of Jesus. The Gospels recount instances where individuals suffering from various diseases and infirmities were healed through their faith and Jesus' compassionate touch.

These stories emphasize the idea that God's power can transform and renew our bodies, illustrating the belief that God can make us "flesh new" by alleviating and healing our physical maladies.

Mrs. Nishia Rubin

YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

I am delighted to greet all the young family in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As in Revelation 21:5, The Lord said "Behold, I make all things new" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are faithful and true." We believe in God's promises which never let us down.

As we begin another successful journey of our Young Family Fellowship, I hereby summarize few of our works which started last month. It was a blessing to start with Gods unconditional Love towards us. Mrs. Eben, one of our esteemed members of our YFF shared the message on the topic "Agape". The fourth form of love and the most mentioned in the New Testament.

Agape is God's love for man and its sacrificial. In the scripture we read: "God so loved (agape) the world that HE gave HIS only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life". Yes, it's true and that's why we are here blessed with our beautiful family and children that every day we cherish. We had a wonderful time learning more about Gods love, sharing our thoughts, testimonies, etc. We witness countless testimonies on how God has been faithful in the YFF's lives.

We are meditating on the series "Your Marriage God's way" a biblical guide to a Christ-Centered Parenting. As a part of this term, we will walk through each chapter which teaches us our relationship with God and follow God's worthy commandments to love and cherish your spouse unconditionally. If you need a copy of this book kindly reach out to me or you can order online in any eBook stores.





We start with the word of prayer followed by a powerful praise and worship which makes us to lean on the presence of God to prepare our mind and soul to hear the message, continued with children quality time, games, quiz and so on. This couldn't be possible without families like you joining us giving your time to build our younger generation in God's word.

YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

A healthy praise and worship team is vital for the spiritual growth and effectiveness of the entire church. Worship team lead by John Clement and Stallin Dinakaran plays an important role in our fellowship. A strong and effective worship team can lead powerful worship experiences that deepen congregants' connection with God. All our YFF are talented in different ways by taking part in the events conducted by our church as a family or individual to thank and praise God for his unbelievable blessings.

Childrens @ YFF

Keeping in mind that this is a "family" fellowship, we have a parallel session for the kids. It is a creative time of fellowship for them. Kids are learning a series on Names of God lead by



Mrs. Nishia Rubin who is talented in handling kids providing them her creative thoughts according to Bible. "I AM who I AM" is the name God told Moses, but the Bible has many other names for God. Knowing the meaning of God's names help us to know more about him. God's Word is clear about how we are to treat his name. we should not take his name in vain.

Grateful for your support

God's Word has the power to change lives, and He will work through us as we put our trust in Him. Matthew 18:20 says "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them". Strive to be the kind of friend/family you would like to have. By simply being a consistent, loving presence in someone's life, you will establish a space in which to share the Gospel with impact and blessings. We as a YFF connect every month second Friday in one of our YFF members house as per the signup sheets provided. Encouraging all the young family's members to join in this journey!!

Mrs. Jancy Jerin

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

In Revelations 21:5 The Lord says, "Behold, I make all things new". Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

As we continue to grow in this new year, this verse has resonated deeply with the Youth as it captures the essence of hope and renewal. This chapter reminds us that regardless of the difficulties we endure, God has a plan to restore. It speaks directly to our hope for a better future and gives us a profound reason for placing our hope in God.

God works through the everyone, even the Youth.

God works through the Youth in ways that can profoundly impact the lives of others. 1 Timothy 4:12 says "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."



God empowers the youth to be bold in spreading the message of hope and renewal, this can be through sharing the word of God, leading worship, volunteering or offering support to those in need. Strive to set an example to those around you and spread light in a world of darkness. By doing this, we can create a space to share the transformative power of God's love and grace to the world.

Over the last couple of months, we have been reading and meditating on the book of Ecclesiastes, which reflects on life's true meaning and purpose while pursuing wisdom. Throughout these weeks, we have focused on topics like the Vanity of Life and Wisdom versus Folly, emphasizing the values of discernment and understanding. The author ponders the fundamental question of life's purpose. He explores various avenues of fulfillment, from pleasure and wealth to wisdom and labor, only to find it all ultimately unsatisfying. However, amid these existential findings, the book suggests a perspective of acceptance and enjoyment, finding joy and embracing the life and gifts bestowed upon us by a benevolent Creator.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 says "You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment." In summary, this verse encourages the youth to embrace the joy and opportunities we find ourselves in, while also reminding us of our duty to live in accordance with God's will and values.

Ms. Bernice

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Revelation 21:5

"And he who was seated on the throne said, "**Behold, I am making all things new**." Also, he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true. "As Christians, we can trust that the God will keep His promise.

Hello, Children of God!

Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end of all things. He promises that one day He will take all things and make them new again. We don't know exactly what Heaven will look like, but we can be sure that God will take away all our sadness and tears and turn them into joy.

You know what I've noticed? Life can be tough. It is full of challenges and difficulties. And there are a lot of things that we need to face the hardships that come our way. For instance, tissues! Sometimes we feel sad and need a tissue to dry our tears. Or you might get a cold and need that tissue to blow your nose. You might also feel sick and need medicine to help you get better. Or sometimes you get hurt, and you need a band-aid to patch things up. Or how about this? Flashlights! There are times when things get dark, or perhaps the power goes out. It's important to have a flashlight ready to guide your way. Oh, and don't forget about sustenance! We need snacks and plenty of water to keep us going.





Phew, this sure is a lot of gear to lug around! Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't need all of this? In fact, wouldn't it be nice if we didn't face sickness, or sadness, or darkness at all? Well, guess what? I have some great news for you. Someday we won't need tissues or bandaids or medicine, or even water! We have some beautiful promises from God about how things will be in Heaven. God tells us that He is going to make all things new. When we finish this life on Earth, a new home awaits us, better than anything that we can imagine now.

God says that He will wipe away every tear. We won't need tissues! There will be no more sorrow or sickness. There won't be pain. We won't even need the light of flashlights or the sun because the light of Jesus will shine brightly. We won't need water because God will give us living water. All these things that trouble us now will be gone. No burdens, no hardships at all!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Of course, we don't know all the details. We don't know when we will go to Heaven, and we don't know exactly what it will be like. But we have the hope that it will be wonderful. It's sort of like when you have a rough week at school, but you know there's something special or fun waiting for you when you get to the weekend. You can think about that special thing and feel a little better when times get rough. It is the same way in our lives. Yes, we have joyous moments, and we want to make the most of every day. But sometimes things get hard. When those times come, we know that this world is not our home, and difficulties won't last forever. God promises us eternal life with Him, free from all trials and pain. We can rest assured that something spectacular is waiting for us! So, when we feel sad or encounter challenges, we remember that there is hope in Heaven. God will make all things new, including our lives!



Let's pray and thank God for the hope of Heaven and a future with Him.

Dear God,

Thank you for the hope of Heaven! We know you will comfort us with your peace and wipe away our tears. Help us to remember that when things are hard. Thank you for loving us. We love you, Lord!

Thank you for Jesus! In His name, Amen!

Mrs. Cynthia John



PRAYER MINISTRY

On the LBJ freeway, in Dallas, at the exit to Webb Chapel Road, there is a sign which says "PRAY, GOD LISTENS" set up by a local Christian Radio Station. It is an invitation to prayer ... in fact aimed at any hurting soul, which desperately seek consolation and comfort. When all else fails, come to the one who can resolve the seemingly unresolvable. This reminds me of the words of Jesus recorded in the gospel of Mathew as follows:

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

It seems we tend to seek help when life becomes desperately out of control. In addiction counseling, a Counselor usually find the client making very little progress until he/she hits the rock bottom, which usually is referred to as the 'trough'. The trough is a human experience in which we feel utterly helpless, and all human resources seemingly have dried up. And Jesus says, "Come to me ..." Time to pray.



How shall we then pray? Many of us do not know how to pray. So were the disciples of Jesus. *Luke 11:1 (NKJV)* Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Who is better than Jesus to teach us how to pray! He taught us to pray "Our Father ...". (Matt. 6:9–15). He said he is the way to the Father, and this is why Christians pray in the name of Jesus. Always conclude prayer in the name of Jesus, because through Him we can come to the Father.

Allow me to share an incident from the pages of my own life. The year was 1962. I was in my early 20's... seems so, so, long ago... comfortably settled in life. Then I felt the Lord's call to move to a large city in India. I did move, leaving my comfort zone. In the new place the friends whom I knew were around me. I was introduced to a wonderful church and a Christian fellowship of college students. All new, all wonderful; yet I was lonely for the familiar surroundings and my people of my home town. The loneliness I felt was so strong that it existentially paralyzed me. I almost decided to go back home. Then in my desperation I called on the Lord, and He gave me a comforting verse.

John 11:3 (ESV) So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom YOU love is ill."

It was not "he who who loves you is ill" but "he whom You love is ill.' This is how it is when we call on the name of the Lord through Jesus Christ. We are already loved and He is waiting to hear from us.

Corporate Prayer

Our church is engaged in on prayer every Wednesday nights, Saturday morning (Fasting) and Saturday evening (Family), they are very special occasions when we come to Him as a community with all our burdens and uncertainties. The Wednesday prayer started during our time of exile. One day I had a call from Preetha Johnny, asking if I would moderate a zoom prayer call on Wed nights at 9:00 pm and I agreed to do so. Now the responsibility is carried on by Anitha Catherine and please feel free to call her with any request for prayer. You can call the undersigned also. We work together.

The call is "Come to prayer!" The Lord bless you.

Phillip Pothen

PRAYER MINISTRY

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Missions Prayer

Jesus gave us the great commission as he was ascending to heaven. Prayer is an essential part of the battle plan in mission work. As church we are called to pray for the missionaries and the mission fields. Our church has started prayer for the various missions we support.

We had our first prayer on Feb 16th. We were blessed to have FMPB missionary Mr. Sukinlal from Keonjhar Mission field in Orissa join us via Zoom. This is where Graham Staines and his sons were killed by the locals in 1999.

Sukinlal works among the Ho people group whose population is around 20 lacs. He detailed about the work that is happening in the mission field and the challenges they face. People here don't have a fully translated Bible (NT only). Child Marriages and Liquor addiction are much prevalent. There is opposition from groups like RSS, VHP & Bajrang dal. Anti conversion bill as well exists. There are about 150 house prayer groups and overall, 50 churches in Orissa. In his mission field, the new believers have given their own land to construct 3 churches. We are called to pray for all the hardships/challenges and the church needs in this mission field.





We plan to have a missionary join us in these prayers every month. In April, Aji from Kashmir missions will be joining us. Do join in the prayer every 3rd Friday of each month at 7 PM in our fellowship hall.

Judson Jebadoss





KID'S CORNER

Divisions of the Bible New Testament – Prophecy

Revelation

Who Was John?

John and his brother James were two of Jesus' twelve disciples. They were probably Jesus' cousins. John wrote five New Testament books – John (a gospel), 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John (letters), and Revelation (prophecy). When John was an old man, he was put on an island as punishment for preaching about Jesus. On the island John saw a vision (dream) of Jesus and wrote the book of Revelation.

Messages for the Churches

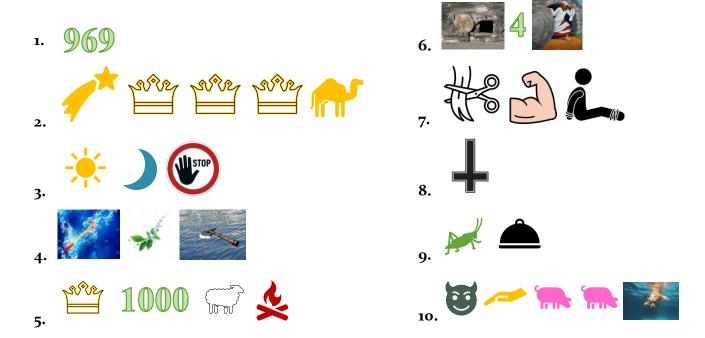
Jesus gave John messages with advice for seven churches in Asia. These are found in Revelation 2 and 3. Here are some of the things he said.

20	21	18	14		6	18	15	13		25	15	21	18	
19	9	14	19											
8	15	12	4		6	9	18	13	12	25		20	15	
23	8	1	20		25	15	21		8	1	22	5		
23	8	15	5	22	5	18		8	1	19				
5	1	18	19		12	5	20		8	9	13			
8	5	1	18		23	8	1	20		20	8	5		
19	16	9	18	9	20		19	1	25	19		20	15	
20	8	5		3	8	21	18	3	8	5	19			
1 A	2 B	3 C		4 D	5 E	6 F	7 G	8 H	9	10 J	0	11 K	12 L	13 M
14 N	15 O	16 P	6	17 Q	18 R	19 S	20 T	21 U	22 V	23 W	3	24 X	25 Y	26 Z



TRIVIA CORNER

Introducing our Bible Trivia League (BTL). Find the character(s) from the Bible using the given picture clues. The clues are about the person(s) directly or an event related to the person(s).



Rules of BTL

- 1. Each right answer carries 10 points
- 2. First 5 Early birds get 10 bonus points
- 3. First one to get all 10 questions right gets 25 bonus points
- 4. Send you answers by April 30^{th} , 23:59 PM
- 5. League restarts every 4 editions



UPCOMING EVENTS

