

# CHRIST CHURCH OF INDIA, DALLAS, TX

JUNE 2024



## WALKING IN THE LIGHT

Summer is here!

Warm sunshine on our skin, laughter and adventure within, long days and starry nights, a season of joy and delight. Summer is akin to light. It marks the start of many activities or hobbies for everyone. So, in rhythm with the time, the theme of this edition's newsletter is Walking in the Light. "Walking in the light" is a powerful metaphor that resonates throughout the Bible, symbolizing a life lived in harmony with God's truth and guidance. In 1 John 1:7, we are reminded that "if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." This concept invites us to embrace God's radiant presence, exposing our darkest corners to His redemptive love, and empowering us to navigate life's journey with wisdom, hope, and joy. As we explore the depths of "walking in the light," may we discover the transformative power of living in the warmth of God's loving illumination.

A BIG thank you to all who contributed to this edition.

**Newsletter Team**

### THIS EDITION

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## WALKING IN THE LIGHT

On April 8th, we all experienced the wonderful phenomenon of total solar eclipse. The total darkness period gave a glimpse of how our Earth would have been before God who is Light, created Light. The Egyptians experienced the same when they couldn't see light for three days. The whole of Israel experienced it for three hours when Jesus was crucified.

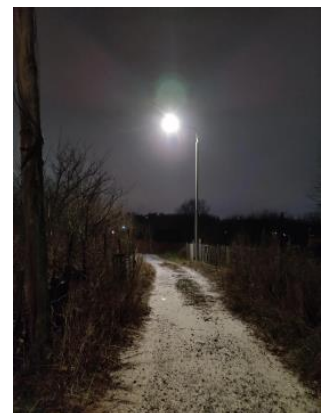
In all these instances, God was in control of the light. He created Light and saw that it was good. He shined the light on Israel while he denied it for Egypt. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world (John 8:12). At His sufferings, His crucifixion and death, the Sun simply could not shine. At the time when the **Light of the world** left the world, darkness was all that could remain for a time.

Numbers 6:25 says, "*The Lord make his face **shine** on you and be gracious to you*". This verse is part of the benediction that pastors would say at the end of Sunday services. The benediction is a request for God to look favorably on his people and grant them his presence, grace, guidance, and blessing. The "face of God" is a metaphor for his loving presence, and the word "shine" in Hebrew means "to shed light" or "illuminate". The blessing is intended to convey that God's people are the focus of his love and kindness, and that he wants to bless, keep, and protect them.

Proverbs 11:25 says, "*The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed;*". Having received the blessing of God's face (light) upon us, we are called to be blessing (shine our light) on others. Matthew 5:14-16 says, "*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*"

God dispelled darkness by shining his light. Having received His light, we are called to walk in that light and not get lost into spiritual darkness. The person who walks in darkness is blind to their own sins, and therefore does not repent. They cannot avail themselves of God's mercy.

Switching back to the solar eclipse, during the totality period all streetlights would have come on automatically. A streetlight's job is to simply shine the light and illuminate the way. Have we ever thanked a streetlight for illuminating the way? Nope, but maybe scolded it for not working 😊. We must strive to be a streetlight unto others so they can see the way to God. Walk in the light and let your light shine.



David Doss

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

One's lifestyle or way of life can be considered a "walk." Therefore, "walking in the light" is often taken to mean "acting correctly."

**In the Old Testament those who know God are of the light and walk in the light.**

Isaiah 2:5 says, O house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**In the New Testament, "walking in the light" means to follow Jesus.**

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life (John 8:12).

Therefore, Christians are meant to grow in holiness as we follow Jesus: but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ( 2 Peter 3:18).

**In the Bible light represent life and righteousness.**

Therefore, walking in the light" means growing in holiness and maturing in the faith. The apostle John writes that Jesus is "the true light that gives light to every man" (John 1:9).

In 1 John 1:7 he says, "If we walk in the light as He [God] is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

**However, the world has rejected the light.**

John writes, *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God* (John 3:19-21 ESV).



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### **Jesus Christ will live in us when we belong to him.**

We are in Him and He in us. If He is light, then we are light. Christ tells us, see to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness (Luke 11:35). He enables us to be shining lights.

### **Jesus used light as a picture of good works.**

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds (Matthew 5:16). Light represents what is good, true, and holy while darkness represents what is evil and false.

### **The apostles exhorted their readers to live in the light and to be a light.**

Put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12).

### **Live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8).**

You are all children of light and of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5).

Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble (1 John 2:10).

You are a chosen people. A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).

If we walk as a child of light, maintaining proper separation from the world and proper contact with the world, our godly life and words will expose the deeds of darkness. Some will awake from the dead and Christ will shine on them, as He has on you.

**Rev. Dr. Ninan Verghese**

## IN CONVERSATION WITH

Mother's Day is celebrated to remember the selfless love, nurturing care and unwavering dedication of all the mothers. Isaiah 66:13 says "As one whom his mother comforts,

So I will comfort you;" Let us thank God for the mothers who always prayed for us earnestly, encouraged us to follow the Lord diligently, who have never given up on us but cheered us up to achieve great things.

On this special occasion of Mother's Day, we had the privilege of conversing with our beloved Kochamma, gaining insights into her journey as a mother

### Jancy - What is the purpose of mothers?

**Kochamma** - Mothers care and protect their children. Mothers cook food and create a clean environment for the family. They help keep the family running smoothly. But they give more than just physical care and protection. A mother protects her children by teaching them about God and His commands. A mother communicates openly, make sacrifices for the family and stand by them in difficult times.

### Jancy - Mother's love is unconditional. How? Can you explain.

**Kochamma** - Mother is probably the most selfless person in this world. She starts loving her children even before they come into this world. It is a love that knows no boundaries. From the moment of conception to the end of life in this world, a mother's love is a source of comfort.

### Jancy - What does the Bible say about mothers?

**Kochamma** - Isaiah 66:13 "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you."

Proverbs 31:25-27 "Strength and honor are her clothing; she is confident about the future. Her mouth is full of wisdom; kindly teaching is on her tongue. She is vigilant over the activities of her household; she doesn't eat the food of laziness."

### Jancy - What is the spiritual meaning of mother?

**Kochamma** - A mother is a selfless, loving person who sacrifices many of their wants and needs for the sake of her children and the family. She holds the family together through her love.



**Mrs. Sosamma Verghese**

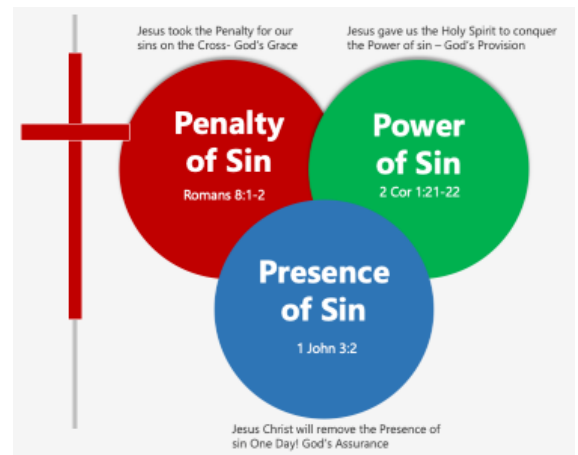
## CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

### Are You Living in Fear or Freedom?

Technology has revolutionized our civilization; engineering has changed our landscape; social media has shrunk our society; medical sciences have advanced beyond imagination. In this constantly changing world, we Christians have changed too! The way we worship, the way we read the Bible, and the way we pray have all changed. We adopted more vibrant songs with drums; we like five-minute TikTok-style devotions over one-hour sermons. No matter what changes, our foundations should remain strong. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (Heb 13:8). Our foundations should be built on the Scriptures. God said that heaven and earth may pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Mathew 24:35). In this article, I would like to focus on our foundation: how and why Christians should live in Freedom and Not Fear.

**First, a Christian can live in Freedom.** Followers of major religions live in constant fear of punishment, fear of what would be their next life, and fear of being unable to reach heaven or God. But for a Christian, the Penalty or Punishment for our sin has been pardoned. (Romans 8:1-2). God has set us FREE through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. We are **JUSTIFIED** through Christ. This is God's Grace!

**Second, a Christian can live with the Power of the Holy Spirit.** While we need not worry about the punishment for our sins, we need to deal with the power of sin that is present in our earthly life. Jesus Christ did not leave us alone; he sent us his Holy Spirit to dwell in our midst so we can overcome the power



of sin in our daily living by constantly connecting with God through prayer, devotion, fellowship, and worship. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22). We are **SANCTIFIED** through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. (John 17:17). This is God's Provision!

**Third, a Christian can live with Hope.** If our destination is clear and confirmed, we do not need to fear; we do not need to worry. God has promised that the presence of sin will one day be gone, and we will be like him (1 John 3:2). We will be **GLORIFIED** and be like Him! This is God's Assurance! In Christ, our Past, Present, and Future are taken care!

Do we have this Freedom, Power, and Hope? If you are living in fear, fighting the power of this world with your strength, and your life has no hope, you can pray to God this moment, asking Christ to forgive your sin, to help you bring comfort, confidence, and hope. If you are already living on this strong Foundation, in Freedom, Power, and Hope in Christ, please share it with your friend who needs this today. Let's make our foundations strong as we build our lives, as we build each other, and pray that God will build His Kingdom through us!

Ebby Emmanuel

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY

God has established worship, and as its expression through music as a vital part of the church. What a privilege it is to be part of the Music ministry at our Christ Church of India, Dallas. We are greatly encouraged by our enthusiastic and growing music ministry which entails people across multiple generations seeking to participate, lead, and enable corporate Church worship.

### **What is music ministry and worship?**

The Apostle Paul gives us a good definition of what authentic worship really is in the book of ROMANS. In ROMANS 12:1 he says – “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” According to the Scriptures, God created human beings in His image. As such, there is within each human person a connection with God, and this connection is worship. Likewise, when we adore and praise and worship something, we give it a title of prominence in our lives, a place of great importance. Likewise, in our Christian context this prominence ought to be given to our almighty God. When we talk about worship, we understand that it is not something we do. It is not a task that we perform. It is a condition of our hearts. When we worship, we are exalting something to the extent that it will have command over us. We must be aware of that so we can be very sure that the ‘something’ we worship is none other than God Almighty.

As we read through the book of Genesis, we find that humankind sinned, lost the original God intended glory, fell, and the light went out of people’s heart. Then human beings stopped worshipping God and instead shifted their focus and affections to the things of this world. But all was not lost because God sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to save us. So, everything God does for humankind has something to do with preparing us to worship Him and leads us into that position of worship which pleases Him. To worship God is to truly feel it in the heart. This “heart of worship”, in some appropriate manner, is expressed in a humbling attitude and composure with no pride in worship. It may come in the form of words through a hymn and choral music, contemporary praise and worship, the reading of Scripture, shouts of praise, instrumental expressions or it may come by way of an awesome and reverential silence.

As we begin to worship the Lord, the Holy Spirit starts working within us to make us even more aware of the holy presence of God in and among us. May God help us to bring ourselves in compliance with God’s Word especially in those areas that we may still struggle or compromise. And may God help us use the upcoming weeks to give our hearts, in absolute submission and worship including utilizing the vital and universal language of music, to bring glory and honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Johnny Premkumar**

# Illuminate

## LIFE @ CCI

Summer 2024

*The Lord himself will make a house for you – 2 Samuel 7:11.*

The Lord blessed the families of Jerin & Jancy, Stallin & Keren and Rubin & Nishia with new homes which we as a family dedicated unto HIM.

### Our Memories





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Summer 2024

## LIFE @ CCI

*We had a blessed time of picnic as a church family on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Lake Lewisville Park.*



## LIFE @ CCI

Young Family Fellowship had a great time camping at Ray Roberts Lake and the church worshiped together there on Sunday.

The Church family as part of outreach/volunteering, gathered to prepare food for the homeless by joining hands with Tango Charities



## LIFE @ CCI

*We are a family; we celebrate our successes together.*

Avni, Joann and Jeffery graduated this year from high school and embarked their college journey.

Our beloved Achen and Kochamma celebrated their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

*Welcome to the graduation celebration  
Class of 2024*



Avni Peter  
*Westlake Academy*



Joann Manuel  
*Coppell High School*



Jeffery John  
*Allen High School*



*If you would like to contribute any articles to the newsletter, please reach out to the newsletter team (David, Ebby, Jancy, Nishia & Cynthia)*

## PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is a powerful tool that helps us navigate life's journey.

Through prayer, we can:

- Seek guidance and wisdom
- Find comfort and solace
- Gain clarity and direction
- Cultivate gratitude and thankfulness
- Deepen our relationship with a higher power

Prayer guides our path by:

- Illuminating our thoughts and intentions
- Helping us discern right from wrong
- Granting us the strength to overcome obstacles
- Filling us with peace and hope
- Aligning our will with a higher purpose

By incorporating prayer into our daily lives, we can trust that we're not walking alone, and that a greater force is guiding us towards our highest potential. Join the weekly corporate prayer on Wednesdays 9 PM via zoom.

Missions prayer has been regularly meeting on third Fridays at 7 PM in church. We were blessed to have Aji from Kashmir Mission during April and Sis. Seema Prakash in May. They shared the missional vision and the hurdles and underlying hardships especially in the Jammu area. There is hard scrutiny on home churches in J & K. Hence the missions and believers have been ultra cautious in meeting for prayers. Despite all hurdles, they have a great desire to worship our Lord. We as a church family are called to pray for all missions. Join us every month as we hear ground up from missionaries and pray. Bring your kids as well. Mrs. Roopa Judson leads them in prayer separately.



<b>21</b> JUNE	<b>7:00 PM</b> <b>MISSIONS PRAYER</b> FELLOWSHIP HALL	<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>9:00 PM</b> <b>CORPORATE PRAYER</b> ZOOM
	<b>19</b> JULY		<b>7:00 PM</b> <b>MISSIONS PRAYER</b> FELLOWSHIP HALL
		<b>SATURDAYS</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b> <b>FAMILY PRAYER</b> ZOOM OR MEMBER HOME



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Summer 2024

## KID'S CORNER

### **1 John 1:7 - Walk in the Light**

*“But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.”*

The Bible uses the metaphors of light and darkness a lot. You’ve probably heard about walking in the light, but, if you’re anything like me, you might have had a wrong understanding of what it means. You can be doing “good things” and still be walking in total darkness, and you can fall short and still be walking in the light. Jesus is the key to walking in the light, not our behavior alone.

### **John 8:12 – Jesus the Light of the World**

*Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’*

People often think that walking in the light means to not sin, and that’s part of it, but walking in the light just means walking with Jesus. He shows us where we should go and what we should do, but He also exposes our sin. When our sin is exposed, we often choose to walk in darkness in one of two ways: we either try to hide our sin and pretend it never happened or we try to find excuses for why our sin isn’t really that bad or even go so far as to say that our sin is a good thing. Instead, when we sin, we should confess our sins to Jesus and He will forgive us and help us to improve.

### **Prayer:**

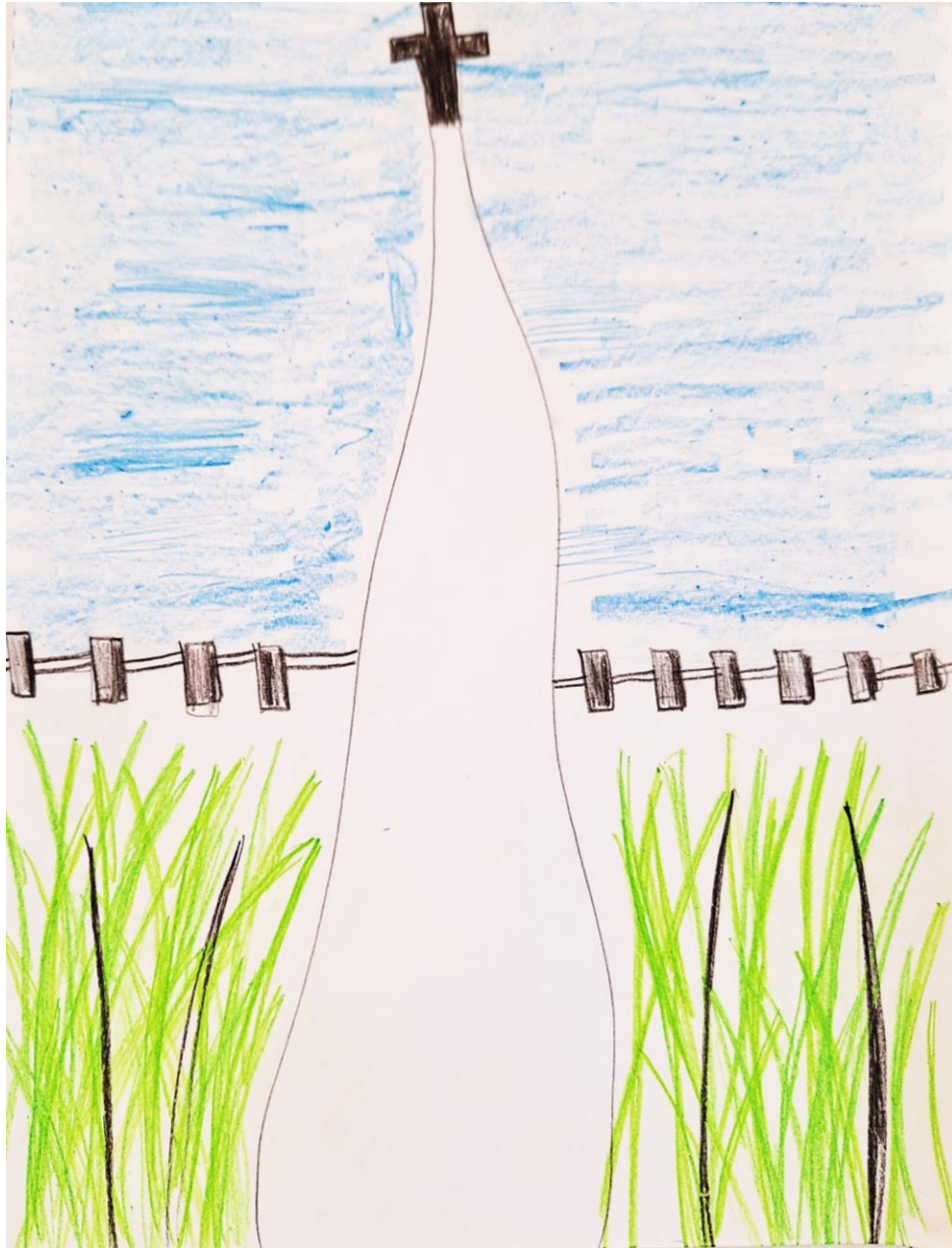
*Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Help us to walk in the light of Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

**Mrs. Cynthia John**

# *Illuminate*

## **KID'S CORNER**

Summer 2024



**Ms. Jordin Chellappan**

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## KID'S CORNER

Summer 2024



***Mast. Ryan Isaac***

*If you would like to contribute to Kid's Corner, please reach out Mrs. Cynthia John.*



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## TRIVIA CORNER

Summer 2024

Thanks to the participation in the Bible Trivia League. Below are the answers to the Trivia #1 questions.

### League Standings

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Methuselah     | 6. Lazarus          |
| 2. Three Wise Men | 7. Samson           |
| 3. Joshua         | 8. Peter            |
| 4. Elisha         | 9. John the Baptist |
| 5. King Solomon   | 10. Legion          |

Rank	Name	Points
1	Ricardo	135
2	Ryan	110
3	Ethan	110
4	Dia	100
5	Jordin	100
6	Youth	100
7	Jaden E	90
7	Jason C	90
8	Rebekah	60

### Trivia #2

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. How many <b>days</b> of creation are there according to Genesis?  | 6. How many parables are there in the Gospel of John?  |
| 2. On what month and day did the earth become dry after the flood?   | 7. Rehoboam did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and so this Egyptian king attacked Jerusalem. Who was this king? |
| 3. What month was the feast of unleavened bread to be celebrated?  | 8. Who prophesied before three kings while being accompanied by a harpist?                                     |
| 4. Jesus after healing the leper, told him to tell no one, but to go to the priests and offer the gift that was commanded by Whom? | 9. Who is called the weeping prophet?  |
| 5. What is the Last recorded miracle in Bible?   | 10. Who is the great-grandmother of King David?  |

### Rules of BTL

Right answer - 10 points | 5 Early birds - 10 bonus points | First all correct - 25 bonus points

Send you answers by July 15<sup>th</sup> , 23:59 PM



[DP5252@gmail.com](mailto:DP5252@gmail.com)



469-312-8089 (Include your name)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**21**  
JUNE

7:00 PM  
**MISSIONS PRAYER**  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

**12**  
JULY

7:00 PM  
**YFF GATHERING**  
JOHN & CYNTHIA'S HOME

**19**  
JULY

7:00 PM  
**MISSIONS PRAYER**  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

**23-27**  
JULY

6:00 PM  
**VBS**  
CHURCH

SUNDAYS

9:00 AM  
**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SANCTUARY  
11:00 AM  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
CLASSROOMS  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

WEDNESDAYS

9:00 PM  
**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
ZOOM

SATURDAYS

10:00 AM  
**FASTING PRAYER**  
ZOOM  
6:30 PM  
**FAMILY PRAYER**  
ZOOM OR MEMBER HOME