

TUVIA

April - June 2019 | Vol: 34

ATHENS VBS 2019

This year the VBS at Shelter House Church was like one we had never witnessed before. Athens: Paul's dangerous journey to share the truth, was one we had to put much scriptural preparation into.

The VBS took place from the 8th to the 12th of April. However the work of transforming the church sanctuary into the ancient city of Athens started weeks ahead with our creative team who came up with beautiful decor ideas. Many hands helped in bringing life to their ideas. Our VBS director, Sis Sheba Ashley masterfully led the entire team each day, making sure every segment went as intended, easy but effective.

As the children gathered on the first day awaiting what this year's VBS held for them, to their excitement teachers dressed in Greek attire came in dancing with tambourines to the Athens theme song "God loves us. Yes, it's true!" It was since then for the next 5 days kids were so engrossed with the theme of the VBS. Each day began with 'Celebration time' wherein children were led to an exciting time of learning and singing new songs centered around the love of God. Children learnt the Bible point and verse of the day at their Oikos station. The children were taught a lot of scriptures and of the adventures of Paul from the Bible. Sessions on various trades and inventions that were popular in Apostle Paul's time were also conducted. The children also had a wonderful afternoon after a scrumptious snacks playing the Arena Games. The sanctuary was filled with screams and cheers.

The most memorable part of the Athens VBS was the time kids spent with 'Uncle Paul' in Paul's tent. The Bible passage they learnt from their Oikos time was brought alive with Apostle Paul himself explaining his adventures and learning. The kids loved introspecting with Paul, sharing their burden for members of their family unsaved, being chased by a mob because of Paul and just experiencing some of Paul's moments in prison. The kids were moved by the love Apostle Paul carried for Jesus. We had a special session of the cross where the kids could confess their sins and nail it to the cross. Many kids testified this moment to be their life changing moment when they felt free from the weight of all they had done wrong.

Parents testified of children returning home from this year's VBS sure of seeing the love of Jesus through the life of Paul. The 5-day miracle of Athens VBS came to a beautiful end with Pastor Ashley addressing the young ones on Grace, how important it was when you have Jesus in your hearts. As the kids left Athens on the last day, we witnessed how much they were impacted by the word of God. They left with Paul's encouraging letters in their hand and a determination in their hearts to become like Uncle Paul one day. Words and hugs of gratitude from the kids moved the entire VBS team to tears. Certificates were handed over to the students and teachers for doing a commendable job.



- Sis. Sharon Angel

PASTOR'S DESK:

It brings us great happiness in bringing out yet another edition of Tuvia. It's a record of His goodness in our ministry and church life. Moments to thankfully remember and to set our vision on the challenges that lie ahead. We approached the election season with much prayers asking God for a government that would bring in peace and prosperity to all sections of society. God is sovereign over all nations. The nations are like a drop in a bucket (Is 40:15) He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. (Daniel 2:21) If we look at the book of Daniel, we see many kings and even empires changing but the man of God remained steadfast and God prospered him through it all. (Daniel 6:28) Irrespective of the governments that come and go, we have a sacred mission and that is to represent the kingdom of God. It's my prayer that as we move forward we will leave no stone unturned to pray and persevere in His presence. Ultimately Daniel drew strength from the presence of God. This is our secret place that keeps us strong and stable and this should be our undeterred passion to be there at His feet. Please utilise everything we provide at Shelter House for your spiritual growth. Keep reading, keep leading, keep serving, keep believing. In John Piper's language - "Be fervent in spirit." Romans 12:11
 Be fervent = boil. Ask God for this. Read the enflaming books, and associate with the passionate people, that make this happen.



Blessings,
 Pastor Ashley Benjamin

MISSIONS



Discipleship and Church Growth Conference at Kovaipudur

IPA Redeemer Gospel House

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

On June 1st, a special prayer session was conducted for the children of Shelter House as they entered their new academic year.

Pastor Ashley encouraged the children with the READ principle - to read good books especially the Scriptures, enjoy the schooling, have good association and decide to honor God everyday.

Pastor then prayed for the children individually that God's grace and protection would be with them in this new academic year.

I JUST WANT TO...

Thank you Lord, for the salvation.
I just want to thank you for giving me the best family, my mother who showed the right path.
I just want to thank you for your protection from all evil at school.
I just want to thank you for the Sunday school teachers who taught me what is right in the sight of God through the best characters in the Bible.
I just want to thank you for the book of life "THE BIBLE" to guide me at all times in my life.
I just want to thank you for the health, happiness and safe life.
I just want to thank you for the career and success.
I just want to thank you for the best spiritual leaders who came into my life as shepherds protecting me with their prayers and spiritual blessings.
I just want to thank you for standing with me when I was singled out for being a Christian.
I just want to thank you for the ability to tithe continuously.
I just want to thank you for my child.
I just want to thank you for standing with me during failures and mistakes and guiding me to be on track.
I just want to thank you for saving me from all mishaps.
I just want to thank you that I did not perish in any natural disasters and lived to thank you.
I just want to thank you for being the MAN in my life and taking care of me.
I just want to thank you for the ability to laugh and walk without a hunch or a limp.
I just want to thank you for the blessing to pray for others.
I just want to thank you for the ability to pray for my country and world.
I just want to thank you for the souls I could witness your glory and testify your miracles.
I just want to thank you for giving me a wonderful spiritual place to worship you with dear brothers and sisters.
I just want to thank you for the shepherd at Shelter House and his family who prays for us, guides us and loves us as their dear children.
Above all, I just want to..
THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING ME TO BE YOUR DAUGHTER AND BEING A GREAT FATHER.
If I have YOU nothing else matters.

- Sis. Vijaya Majji

TESTIMONY



Praise the LORD, I'm Indira. I thank God and Shelter House for this opportunity to share my testimony. I got conceived in the year 2012 when we were in Gujarat. Throughout my pregnancy period God carried and protected me in every situation. In January 2013 I went back to my home town for delivery. The doctors had given me a due date of 7th May 2013. On April 8th 2013 i.e. one month before my due date, early in the morning I suddenly started having bleeding. I woke my sister and told her, then she called the doctor and by God's wonderful grace the doctor immediately responded and asked us to come to hospital as soon as possible as any further delay may cause a threat to the baby's life. The hospital was about half an hour distance from my parent's house. We didn't know how to get to the hospital as it was in the early morning hours and we didn't have a vehicle to get to the hospital. But, as God cares for us always and will never leave us, He wonderfully made a way for us to go to the hospital.

My sister had a contact number of an auto driver who used to drop children to the school where she worked but she had never called him before. He stays near to my parent's house. Without any second thought having faith in our Heavenly Father my sister called the auto driver. He received her call and immediately accepted to come. Soon we reached the hospital and the doctors started the process for C-section. By 6 am in the morning, the operation was completed with God's presence in the operation theater and without any complication I delivered my baby boy. I thank God with all my heart for the wonderful way He protected my son and me and was with me throughout this period. Everything happened according to God's wonderful plan. God made way for us to go to the hospital in that emergency situation with the help of that auto driver who agreed to drive us to the hospital. I thank God for all His grace and mercies.

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 9:1)

GOOD FRIDAY & RESURRECTION SUNDAY SERVICES

The Good Friday Communion Service took place on the 19th of April. Pastor Ashley shared on how broken people continue to break others but the good news was God sent His Son so that a new creation would emerge whose spirits are active towards the Lord. He ended the sermon with the question - "Are you a part of the broken world or are you a part of the new creation?" As new creation people, the Church was encouraged to bring the kingdom of God into their lives and the lives of others.

The Resurrection Sunday Healing Service took place on 21st April. Pastor shared the 7 blessings of Resurrection and how the resurrection power should be at work in our lives everyday. He also prayed individually for the healing of everyone who attended the service. It was a blessed time at the Lord's presence for everyone who attended.

CLIMB 2019



Church Leadership Initiative for Motivation and Building Meet was conducted on 23rd June at Lemon Tree. The various church activities were reviewed and the performance of each team was appreciated. Pastor shared on the ways in which one could attain leadership excellence and encouraged everyone to have excellence in their lives. Bro. Bewin presented the vision for the community hub project. At the open house, Sis. Sharon emphasized on bringing up the children with commitment and use every opportunity at Church to serve God and Bro. Winston thanked the Pastor for the spiritual leadership. The Meet came to an end with a fellowship dinner.

GET TO KNOW

Name: Winston Arokiaraj

Birthday: January 30

Wedding: October 24

Child: Oliver

Working as: Talent Acquisition

Interest: Research, watching animal series

Favorite Food: Biryani, non veg dishes prepared in chetnad style

Favorite Sports: Badminton, chess, cricket & swimming

Hobbies: Sports

Vanitha Winston

February 27

Freelancer

Listening to music, baking, gardening, great passion for cooking

Mutton biriyani, simple home cooked food

Badminton

Craft work



What does Shelter House mean to us:

We have been part of Shelter House for the past 3 years. We always feel the presence of God in this church. Feel blessed to be part of this church. All glory and honor be to God.

A Memoir of my Grandparents

*Grandparents - a precious gift from the Lord to treasure and cherish -
a delightful blend of laughter, love and care..*

My grandpa was born in the year 1925 and was brought up in a lower middle class Catholic family. Due to the financial stress in the family, he discontinued his studies and joined Navy at the age of 17 and went to London. His financial support helped his siblings to pursue their further studies and get married in decent families. He came back to India at age 23 and joined work at a company in Madurai. Meanwhile, he developed his skills inherited from his father and became a builder. Apart from his regular work, he started constructing many churches, schools, Christian institutions in and around Madurai & Trichy. He was hardworking and the Lord blessed the work of his hands. By 1980 he became a very successful and a reputed builder. Though my grandparents were from a Roman Catholic background they were very God fearing. As the Bible tells that the Lord sets apart for Himself him who is godly; He gave them the precious gift of salvation and the entire family accepted the Lord in the year in 1991. After accepting the Lord as their personal Savior, their lives were transformed and they opened their house in Trichy for weekly prayer meetings. A lot of special meetings were conducted where hundreds of people gathered and were blessed. They stood committed in honoring God throughout their life and would never miss a Sunday Service in spite of any emergency work that would come their way. Their house was always open to all the ministers of God who would love to stay at my grandparent's house every time they came to Trichy. They were known for their hospitality and were generous in supporting ministries through their cheerful giving and by helping in building projects.

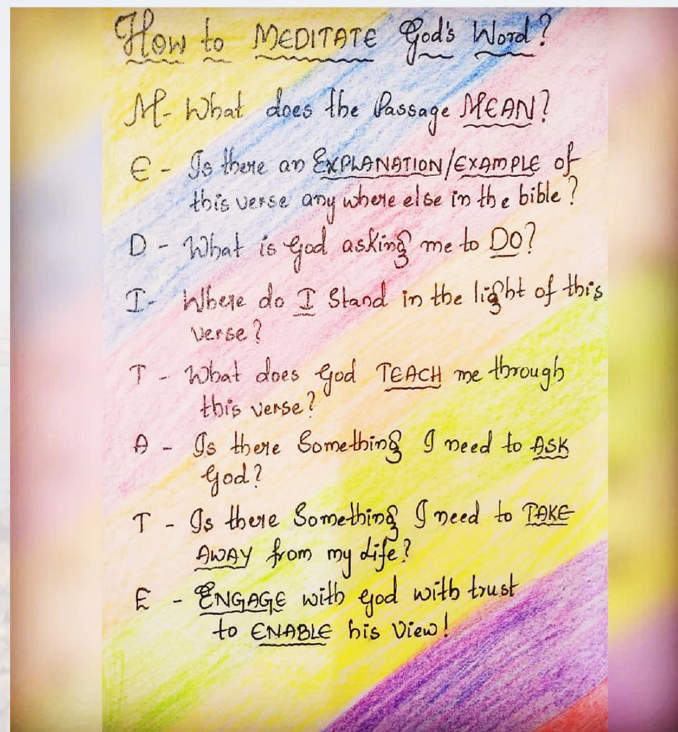
My grandma was a great pillar of strength to my grandpa and supported him in all his endeavors. She was always full of unconditional love. She was good at everything her creative hands would touch from cooking to hospitality; from gardening to craftwork.. She was very hardworking, determined and a perfectionist who always expects us to be at our best at all times. Her never tiring hands were always at work at something and she never retired to do anything that would bless others. She had an unshakeable faith in the Lord and believed that prayers were the only answers to all the problems. She never spoke about her problems but only made it known to God. After her death, we saw a notepad under her pillow containing prayer points of which she never spoke anything to anyone.

My grandpa's last project was at Jebathottam at his age of 75 where he stayed for six months and successfully completed the project and my grandma who accompanied him worked on a beautiful garden at Jebathottam. They wanted to be fruitful even in their old age and God granted their desires to be a blessing to many people even when they were old.

My grandpa was always an encourager and was good at lightening heavy hearts with his sense of humor. He was a knowledgeable person and always had loads of values and principles to share from his life experience for every season of life. And yet, with all of these stories, we never heard them complain about anything in their life. They acknowledged that there had been difficult times, but never murmured about anything. They always testified of the goodness of the Lord in their lives. They were cheerful givers and their hearts were for people in need and found happiness in making others happy.

I thank God for giving me such wonderful grandparents who have been a great role model for me. In His time, He has taken them to be with Him in glory. My memories are filled with their sacrificial love, times of laughter and joy, examples of generosity and their commitment to the Lord. Though they are greatly missed, I am rest assured that I would meet them on the other side of the shore. A lasting legacy they have left behind for us to follow...

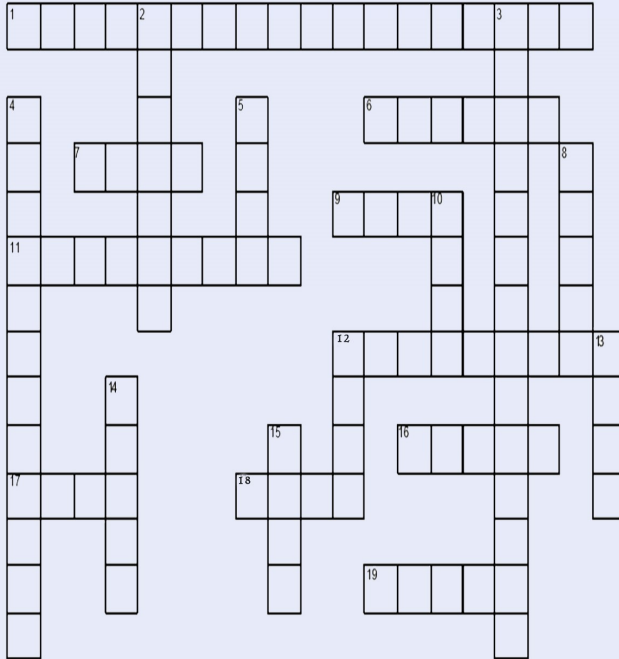
- Shalini Bewin



- Vinamratha

CROSSWORD

Book of Ruth



ACROSS

- 1 Which words of Ruth were a beautiful confession of faith?
- 6 In the days the _____ ruled, there was a famine in the land of Canaan.
- 7 Who became the wife of Boaz?
- 9 How many people belonged to the family of Elimelech?
- 11 To what town did Ruth and Naomi go?
- 12 Where did Boaz live?
- 16 Who was Jesse's son?
- 17 Who was the son of Boaz?
- 18 Who was Ruth's second husband?
- 19 Who was the great-grandson of Boaz?

DOWN

- 2 As Boaz was a Benjamite, by marrying Ruth, a _____, God's grace and lineage of Jesus extends beyond the Jews.
- 3 After the two women settled in Bethlehem, what did Ruth do to provide food for Naomi and herself?
- 4 Who did Elimelech's sons marry?
- 5 Boaz showed kindness to Ruth by taking her as his _____.
- 8 Who was the grandson of Boaz?
- 10 Who did not go with Naomi to the land of Judah?
- 12 Who owned the fields in Bethlehem?
- 13 Where did the wives of Mahlon and Kilion come from?
- 14 To which land did Naomi and her daughter-in-law now wanted to return?
- 15 After ten years in the land of Moab, how many of Elimelech's family were still living?

Correct answers to previous edition crossword given by:

Tia, Kevin, Sharon Angel, Sheeba Sajani

Send in answers to the Crossword to 8971705050 before 20th July.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

25 August - Bible Quest 2019

THE KINGDOM AGENDA

Study on the Gospel of Luke



Dr. Jacob Cherian

(Professor of New Testament, Vice President & Dean- CGLD)

July 27th Saturday 09:30-2:00 pm
Reg Fee: Rs. 200
(including Lunch and Study Materials)

