



## SHELTER HOUSE CONFERENCE 2019

Shelter House hosted this year's Conference from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February. Shelter House Conference 2019 was at its best with the wheels of preparation started rolling months before as the people of God came together in anticipation of moving into a whole new realm in their walk with the Lord.

The theme of this year's Conference was "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The Conference began with the introduction of the theme by Pastor Ashley Benjamin.

We had wonderful worship sessions led by Pastor Pradeep and team. The children had simultaneous special sessions to help them grow in the Lord. Every day began with thought-provoking devotions, mesmerizing worship and back to back sessions from our esteemed speakers.

As we sat to hear from the Lord there was never a dull moment, with both speakers teaching from Paul's letter to the Colossians; challenging us to do our best to show forth Christ in us the hope of glory to the hurting world.

Dr. Finny Philip's sessions on the shrinking city and shining church, Christology and glory of God always ended with us surrendering at the cross of Jesus. The sessions not only beautifully elaborated on the theme but was an opportunity to see the true supremacy of Christ in our lives.

Bro. Anand Pillai got all of us fired up with his sessions on excellence and beyond success into significance to glow in our workplaces for the glory of God. Some of the eye-opening truths that we dealt with is learning to be your best and not the best, how to know the will of God and letting our career be the carrier of the Gospel. His presentations and special online question sessions helped us understand the importance for hard work. Apart from the formal sessions, we also had the opportunity to spend time with these wonderful men of God wherein they were kind enough to answer our queries and help us understand how important the word of God is in our lives.

Some of the most dotting moments of the Conference had to be the campfire, the treasure hunt, cricket matches and the moments of fellowship we had with one another at the serene ECC campus.

This year's Conference ended on a high note with the special closing session and prayer for children, the Holy communion and life-changing testimonies of God's goodness through this Conference.



- Sharon Angel

## Pastor's Desk

Dearly beloved in the Lord,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As you read this, we are in the most crucial time of our nation. Election season is on and whole India is looking at what would unfold on May 23<sup>rd</sup> as the results would be out. The church in India witnessed an unprecedented wave of persecution during the past five years. This is the time where the church should awake from its slumber and persistently knock the doors of heaven for the healing in the land. We ought to pray for the elections and the leadership that comes post the elections. Prayer brings down the power of God. It's not about majority or minority, it's about one man or woman determined to seek the face of God. The Bible is full of individuals who shook nations as they stood for the Lord. If you are ready, God is ready. Elijah knew the God whom He served as He took on the prophets of Baal. David knew the power of God as he took on Goliath. Abraham knew the righteousness of God as he interceded for Sodom. Esther, the queen of India fasted for three days and then approached the king for a deliverance. In the New Testament, it's about individuals working strongly within the local church so that the power of God is displayed in the nation and communities they lived. Our God is a living God and He is a faithful God. He will answer when we call. I encourage all of you to pray as much as you can, vote for the right candidate and cultivate that "never give up" attitude as we trust in the Lord.

"There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. A horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;" (Psalm 33:16-18)

Blessings,  
Pastor Ashley Benjamin



## FASTING AND PRAYER

A day of fasting and prayer was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Pastor Ashley spoke on hearing God's word by having our spiritual senses tuned to the Spirit of God.

He encouraged the Church to practise hearing from God as our position in heavenly places qualifies us to hear from God.

The session ended with Pastor praying for everyone individually. It was a blessed time and it stirred the desire in everyone to always have the shepherd's connection.

## PRAYER FORCE TEAM AT SHELTER HOUSE

Everyday Intercessors pray for you. Send your prayer request to [info@shelterhouse.in](mailto:info@shelterhouse.in) or WhatsApp to 9620764264

Congrats to Shalini Bewin and Steffy Wilson for winning All India Level Prize in the Campus Crusade Bible Quest!

## TESTIMONY



*Praise the LORD! I am Anusha Kanthi and I am so glad to be a part of Shelter House family for the past 3.9 years. I have been blessed alot after I started my journey with Shelter House be it my professional life or my personal life. I started attending the Church from June 2015 when I was doing a course to get a job and before I finished my course I was placed in a reputed MNC and my career started from there. Pastor and Sheba akka were always there with me, especially during the toughest time of my life when I lost my Mom. I was greatly surprised when Pastor came down from Bangalore to my village in Andhra to visit me and my family, to strengthen and support us in our hardest situation when my Mom passed away. The support which I got from Pastor, Sheba akka and the Church members made me stand strong through that situation and if not Shelter House I would not have been able to come out of it and would have gone away from GOD because of that situation. I always get constant support from Pastor in all stages of my life and I really appreciate the concern he shows towards his sheep.*

*The biggest blessing for me in Shelter House was my dad's healing. After I attended the three days of fasting prayer last year, my father was healed like never before and till today I have not heard him say that he is ill. I have never seen him being so healthy in the past few years because his health was so unstable to the extent that sometimes he couldn't even sit or stand or sleep and there were times that in a day he used to be somewhat okay in the morning, within minutes he would get sick. It was really painful to see my dad in that condition. But I thank God now for the healing He has given my dad.*

*Another blessing was my nephew's schooling. He used to not even go to school properly but after I attended the fasting prayer which was conducted for kids before the start of the academic year, he started going to school regularly and now he stands first in academics in his class. I was greatly surprised and came to know the power of fasting prayer through these two instances.*

*The worship which happens every Sunday, the fasting prayers, and Pastor's sermons are really touching and it encourages me and keeps me away from going in the wrong path. The Conferences which happens every year are life changing. I have been a part of Shelter House Sunday School through which I have learnt alot and have grown much in my spiritual life through the constant guidance of Sheba akka. The efforts which she puts and the passion she has for Sunday School is appreciable. Shelter House is more than a family to me. Pastor and Sheba akka are more than parents for my spiritual life. I am so thankful to GOD for blessing me with such a wonderful Church.*

## LAUGHTER - A GOOD MEDICINE

### *A Child's Point of View!*

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

## CONFERENCE BYTES

### Dr. Anand Pillai:

\* People don't put in their best effort despite their best intentions. They put their best effort under compulsion.

\* Whatever you do, do it to your perfection. Never compromise because compromise is the language of the devil.

\* Excuse is the exit gate for an opportunity.

\* Excellence is being better than yesterday and matching your practice with your potential.

### Dr. Finny Philip:

\* Jesus Christ befriends us, sinners, complete enemies of God and then He fits His holiness in us reconciling us to God, the Father.

\* Your children are like arrows in the hand of a warrior, launch them strategically.

\* The people of Israel were disoriented and disorganised until God asked them to encamp around the tent of the meeting with every family facing the glory of God in His tabernacle. Our lives are well organised when we keep the focus on the glory of God.

\* When the people of the world go seeking after the high and mighty, our Lord beckons to the shrinking church.

\* There is a secret behind our sufferings and that is Christ is with us in them all.

## Serve as Jesus Served

Of all the times we see the bowing knees of Jesus, none is so precious as when He kneels before His disciples and washes their feet.

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing... and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. - John 13:1-5

It has been a long day. Jerusalem is packed with Passover guests, most of whom clamor for a glimpse of the Teacher. The disciples enter, one by one, and take their places around the table. On the wall hangs a towel, and on the floor sit a pitcher and a basin. Any one of the disciples could volunteer for the job, but not one does.

After a few moments Jesus stands and removes His outer garment. He wraps a servant's girdle around His waist, takes up the basin, and kneels before one of the disciples. He unlaces a sandal and gently lifts the foot, places it in the basin, covers it with water, and begins to bathe it. One by one, one grimy foot after another, Jesus works His way down the row.

In Jesus' day the washing of feet was a task reserved not just for servants but for the lowest of servants. The servant at the bottom of the totem pole was expected to be the one on his knees with the towel and basin. In this case the one with the towel and basin is the King of the universe. Hands that shaped the stars now wash away filth. Fingers that formed mountains now massage toes. And the One before whom all nations will one day kneel now kneels before His disciples. Hours before His own death, Jesus' concern is singular. He wants His disciples to know how much He loves them.

You can be sure Jesus knows the future of these feet he is washing. These twenty-four feet will not spend the next day following their Master, defending His cause. These feet will dash for cover at the flash of a Roman sword. Only one pair of feet won't abandon Him in the Garden. One disciple won't desert Him at Gethsemane - Judas won't even make it that far! He will abandon Jesus that very night at the table. What a passionate moment when Jesus silently lifts the feet of His betrayer and washes them in the basin! Within hours the feet of Judas, cleansed by the kindness of the one He will betray, will stand in Caiaphas's court.

Behold the gift Jesus gives His followers! He knows what these men are about to do. He knows they are about to perform the vilest act of their lives. By morning they will bury their heads in shame and look down at their feet in disgust. And when they do, He wants them to remember how His knees knelt before them and He washed their feet. He wants them to realize those feet are still clean.

*You don't understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later.* - John 13:7

Remarkable. He forgave their sin before they even committed it. He offered mercy before they even sought it.

### From the Basin of His Grace

Oh, I could never do that, you object. The hurt is so deep. The wounds are so numerous. Just seeing the person causes me to cringe. Perhaps that is your problem. Perhaps you are seeing the wrong person or at least too much of the wrong person. Remember, the secret of being just like Jesus is "fixing our eyes" on Him. Try shifting your glance away from the one who hurt you and setting your eyes on the One who has saved you.

Note the promise of John, *But if we live in the light, as God is in the light, we can share fellowship with each other. Then the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from every sin.* - 1 John 1:7

Aside from geography and chronology, our story is the same as the disciples'. We weren't in Jerusalem, and we weren't alive that night. But what Jesus did for them He has done for us. He has cleansed us. He has cleansed our hearts from sin.

Jesus washes our feet for two reasons. The first is to give us mercy; the second is to give us a message, and that message is simply this: Jesus offers unconditional grace; we are to offer unconditional grace.

The mercy of Christ preceded our mistakes; our mercy must precede the mistakes of others. Those in the circle of Christ had no doubt about His love; those in our circles should have no doubts about ours.

What does it mean to have a heart like His? It means to kneel as Jesus knelt, touching the grimy parts of the people we are stuck with and washing away their unkindnesses with kindness. Or as Paul wrote,

*Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.* - Ephesians 4:32

"But, Max," you are saying, "I've done nothing wrong. I'm not the one who cheated. I'm not the one who lied. I'm not the guilty party here."

Perhaps you aren't. But neither was Jesus. Of all the men in that room, only One was worthy of having His feet washed. And He was the One who washed the feet. The One worthy of being served, served others. The genius of Jesus' example is that the burden of bridge building falls on the strong one, not on the weak one. The one who is innocent is the one who makes the gesture.

And you know what happens? More often than not, if the one in the right volunteers to wash the feet of the one in the wrong, both parties get on their knees.

Don't we all think we are right? Hence we wash each other's feet.

Please understand: relationships don't thrive because the guilty are punished but because the innocent are merciful.

### Your Turn

Are you ready with a basin of water? Whose feet do you need to wash? It doesn't matter if you're right. It doesn't matter if other people would do it differently. It doesn't matter if you have the right to walk away. Whose feet do you need to wash?

- Max Lucado

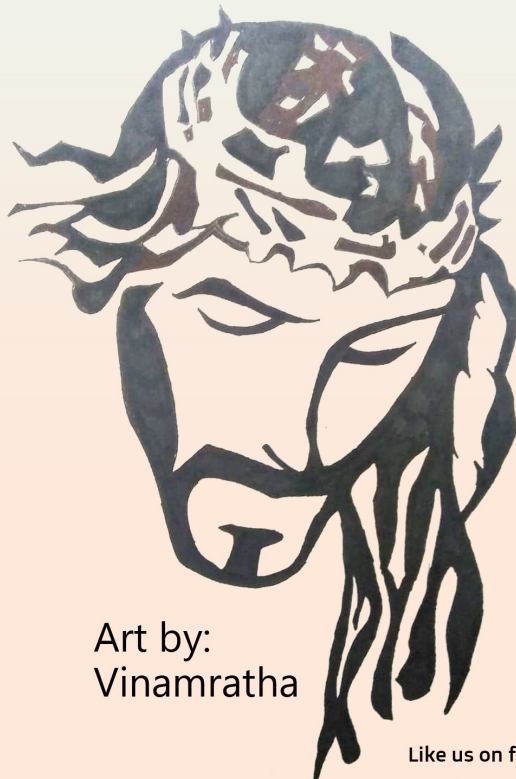
## GET TO KNOW

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| Name:            | Suphil Philip  | Anusha S   |
| Birthday:        | 15/07/1988   | 22/10/1991   |
| Wedding :        | 06/10/2018   |  |
| Working as:      | Senior Software Developer                                      | Software Developer   |
| Interest:        | Creative hands&craft, music,<br>watching series, documentaries | Coding, sports, music  |
| Favorite Food:   | Lasagna, kappa & beef  | Alfredo pasta, butter chicken, anything husband<br>& dad cooks |
| Favorite Sports: | Basketball, paint ball,<br>Skateboarding                       | Basketball, badminton  |
| Hobbies:         | Sports activities  | Listening to Music   |



### What does Shelter House mean to us:

Shelter House is like a family for us. Pastor has been a great shepherd for us and both Sheba chechi and Pastor have been a role model for our family. Shelter House is also a training ground for us to learn various aspects in a ministry. Ultimately we love the truth, and our church loves the truth of God's word.



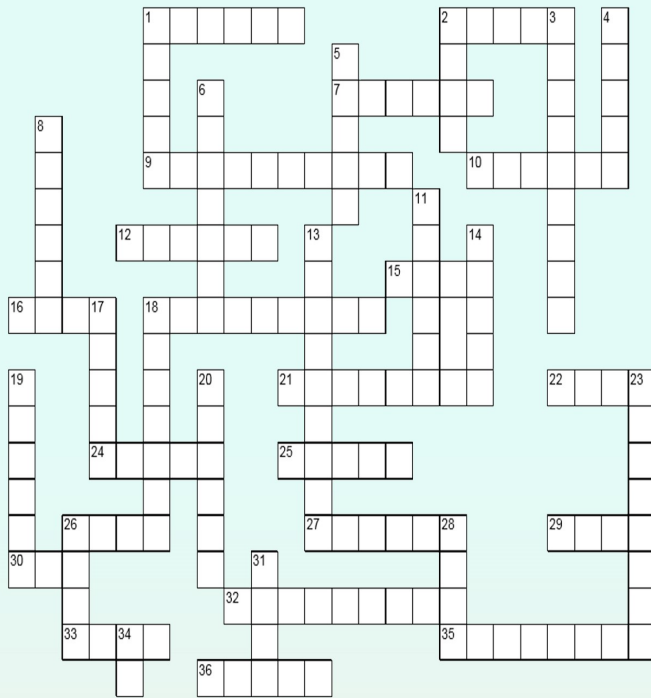
Art by:  
Vinamratha

## PASSION SESSIONS 2019

*Lent is a season where we reflect on the most precious gift of God received graciously through His Son.*

*The Church gathered every Wednesday during the lent season to pray and hear the preachings of great men of God that was projected on the big screen.*

## CROSS WORD:



Send answers to the Crossword to 8971705050 by April 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Correct answers to last edition Crossword given by Sharon Angel.

### Across

- 1 Place where the curtain was torn
- 2 Pilate prepared a notice written in this language
- 7 Who gave orders to have the tomb guarded?
- 9 Miracle on the day Jesus died
- 10 The day of the week when Jesus died was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12 Who set Barabbas free?
- 15 Jesus was offered a drink of \_\_\_\_\_ mixed with gall.
- 16 The sign on the cross read, "This is the King of the \_\_\_\_\_."
- 18 Who said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God?"
- 21 Jesus said, "It is \_\_\_\_\_."
- 22 Darkness covered the entire \_\_\_\_\_.
- 24 These were placed into the hands and feet of Jesus
- 25 Pilate used this to wash his hands
- 26 Who was commended into the care of John?
- 27 Jesus said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit my \_\_\_\_\_."
- 29 Person who took care of Jesus' mother
- 30 Number of criminals who were crucified with Jesus
- 32 Holy city where the temple is located
- 33 The sign on the cross read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews."
- 35 Criminal who was set free
- 36 Person who died to forgive us our sins

### Down

- 1 Number of hours darkness was over the entire land
- 2 The soldiers cast \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus' garments.
- 3 Who helped Joseph of Arimathea lay the body of Jesus in a tomb?
- 4 Jesus said, "\_\_\_\_\_ you will be with me in paradise."
- 5 The soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 What was torn in the temple from top to bottom?
- 8 The man who carried the cross of Jesus was from this place.
- 11 Some thought this prophet would save Jesus.
- 13 Those who were crucified with Jesus were called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14 Became a friend to Pilate
- 17 Who was forced to carry the cross of Jesus?
- 18 The people shouted, "\_\_\_\_\_ Him!"
- 19 Jesus said, "I \_\_\_\_\_."
- 20 This man asked for the body of Jesus; he was from Arimathea.
- 23 Condition of the sky when Jesus died
- 26 The chief priests, teachers of the Law, and the elders did this to Jesus.
- 28 Joseph of Arimathea laid the body of Jesus in a new \_\_\_\_\_.
- 31 What did the soldiers break to hasten the death of the two criminals?
- 34 Did the soldiers break the legs of Jesus?

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 8-12 - ATHENS VBS
- April 18 - Election Day
- April 19 - Good Friday Service
- April 21 - Resurrection Sunday Healing Service
- June - Launch of Community Hubs

You can partner with the Church - Own Facility Project by depositing a cheque in favor of "Shelter House Trust Church Building Fund"

Savings A/C Number: 914010007634658  
IFS Code: UTIB0000009  
Bank: Axis Bank, Bangalore Branch

To Transfer Offerings and Tithes:  
A/c name: Shelter House Trust  
Savings A/C number: 520401000042483  
Bank: Corporation Bank  
A/C Branch: Arekere Gate  
IFSC Code: CORP0000507

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