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GOOD SHEPHERD GOSPEL CHURCH

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

LIVING TO SERVE

MAY 2025

- **SUNDAY SERVICE**

(BILINGUAL TAMIL & ENGLISH)
10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM

- **HOLY COMMUNION FOLLOWS**

THE 1ST SUNDAY SERVICE

- **FASTING PRAYER**

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
@ 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

- **BIBLE STUDY**

EVERY THURSDAY
@ 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

- **YOUTH MEETING**

EVERY MONDAY @ 6 AM
2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
@ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- **MEN'S MEETING**

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- **LADIES MEETING**

2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
@ 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

- **UK NATION PRAYER**

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
@ 8:30 PM - 9:15 PM

- **KIDS CLASS**

EVERY FRIDAY @ 4:30 PM

- **FAMILY PRAYER**

EVERY FRIDAY @ 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

- **LEADERS PRAYER MEETING**

EVERY FRIDAY @ 5.30 AM - 6.15 AM

Birthdays

01ST MAY – YUDTHA
06TH MAY- ASHLEY
07TH MAY – ANDERSON
14TH MAY – SIS. ANNIE SHEEBA DINESH
16TH MAY- BABY SIYAN
18TH MAY- BABY SHAKAINAH
20TH MAY – JOHN PAUL
22TH MAY – BRO. PRADEEP
31ST MAY – SIS. SHERIN

Anniversaries

14TH MAY – BRO.SOLOMON & SIS KANCHANA
16TH MAY – BRO. DAVID & REXLIN
22ST MAY – BRO. DINESH DANIEL AND SIS. ANNIE SHEEBA

LEAD MINISTER -PASTOR RAJAN ROBERT

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From the Pastor's Desk

MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." - Psalm 121:2

Psalm 121, often known as a Song of Ascents, was sung by Israelites as they journeyed to Jerusalem for sacred festivals—Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Though they looked toward the hills, their faith was never in the hills themselves but in the God who reigns above them. Today, we don't journey to a physical Jerusalem—God dwells within us. Our lives are spiritual pilgrimages, and we must anchor ourselves in the presence of God.

In life, we often seek help from many sources—strength, riches, or people—but Scripture reminds us that lasting help comes only from the Lord. John 6:63 tells us, "The flesh profits nothing," and Proverbs 11:4 says, "Riches profit not in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death." No idol or worldly support can compare to the help God offers.

Let's look at three powerful ways God helps us:

Gods helps in times of Repentance:

When Israel strayed, God allowed the Philistines to dominate them. Under this spiritual oppression (Spirit of Philistine), they lacked discipline and strayed from God's will. Yet through the prophet Samuel, God called them back: "Return to the Lord with all your heart... rid yourselves of foreign gods... and serve Him only" (v.3). True help came when their hearts aligned with God.

Our hearts can be defiled by thoughts and actions that separate us from His presence (Mark 7:21-23). Like King Solomon, even the wise can turn away from God when led astray by worldly distractions (1 Kings 11:2-12). But when we repent wholeheartedly, the Holy Spirit begins the cleansing work within us.

Straighten your heart: At Mizpah, the Israelites gathered, confessed, and recommitted themselves to God. Mizpah represents a place of spiritual separation—where we leave behind what hinders us and dedicate ourselves fully to God. As we do this, challenges will arise. The Philistines didn't ignore Israel's spiritual renewal; they came to fight. When the Israelites gathered at Mizpah (1 Samuel 7), they not only repented but took a crucial step: they removed what was not of God and represented themselves wholly to serve Him. Removal begins in the heart. God desires inward repentance—not just outward change. The people of Israel put away foreign gods and dedicated themselves afresh. Likewise, we are called to remove anything that separates us from His presence—be it pride, distractions, ungodly habits, or spiritual complacency. Representing ourselves to God means coming before Him with a sincere heart, ready to be used for His glory. It's not enough to attend church or serve occasionally. True representation is a daily commitment to walk with Him, obey His word, and live a life that reflects His holiness. Likewise, when we seek to live holy lives, spiritual resistance will come. But we don't face it alone.

Divine Intervention: When the enemy approached, "The Lord thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines... and routed them" (v.10). Israel didn't fight alone—God fought for them. He still does today. Our responsibility is to keep our hearts aligned with His will. Zechariah 1:3 reminds us: "Return to Me, and I will return to you," declares the Lord. Let us be encouraged: help does not come from our abilities, wealth, or connections—but from the Lord, who is ever faithful. As we walk this journey of faith, may we continually lift our eyes to Him and walk in the power of wholehearted repentance, spiritual discipline, and trust in His deliverance.

Gods helps in our times of trouble:

In 2 Chronicles 14:1-14, we read about King Asa, a righteous leader who walked in the ways of David. He removed altars of foreign gods, tore down high places, and commanded Judah to seek the Lord. Asa himself lived a life that sought after God, and because of this, the Lord gave him rest and peace. His nation was fortified, and his army was strong.

However, peace doesn't mean a life free from challenges. Asa faced a massive threat—an Ethiopian army larger and mightier than his own. But instead of panicking or questioning God, Asa turned to Him in prayer. He didn't rely on his strength but cried out to the Lord, saying, "It is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power" (2 Chronicles 14:11).

Asa acknowledged that the battle belonged to the Lord, and he trusted God to fight for them. In response, God struck down the Ethiopian army, giving Judah a great victory. The enemy fled, unable to recover, and the fear of the Lord fell upon the nations. This reminds us that God is our ultimate helper in times of trouble. As Psalm 34:6 declares, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Psalm 37:39-40 affirms, "The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: He is their strength in time of trouble."

When struggles arise, may we, like Asa, cry first to God—confessing His power, resting confidence in His name, and trusting in His victory.

Gods help in our times of famine:

Likewise, in times of famine, God remains faithful. In 1 Kings 17, during a severe drought, the brook that sustained Prophet Elijah dried up. Though Elijah had obeyed God by proclaiming the drought to King Ahab, he too faced its consequences. Yet, God provided for Elijah—first through ravens at the brook of Kerith, and then by sending him to a widow in Zarephath.

Even in a place of scarcity, God's provision was sure. The widow, preparing to eat her last meal and die, encountered Elijah, who asked her to feed him first. She obeyed, and miraculously, her flour and oil never ran out during the famine. This act of obedience brought an unexpected blessing—not just for Elijah, but for the widow and her household.

Psalm 33:18-20 reminds us: "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him... to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and our shield." No matter how dry or hopeless our circumstances may seem, the Word of the Lord remains unchanging and faithful.

Conclusion: The life of Job also reflects this truth. Once prosperous, he experienced deep suffering and was abandoned even by his friends. Yet, Job continued to hope in God. Psalm 118:13 testifies, "Thou hast thrust sore at me that I might fall: but the Lord helped me." The same God who helped Job will help us today. Genesis 49:25 speaks of Joseph, who led a fruitful life because God was his helper.

Whatever our situation—whether in battle or in famine—God is our refuge. Psalm 146:5 declares, "Happy is he... whose hope is in the Lord his God." Let us remember that we carry the presence of the Mighty One within us. God is our help and our shield, our sustainer in need, and our strength in weakness.

May we be encouraged to seek Him earnestly, trust Him fully, and obey Him faithfully—for He is ever willing and able to help us.

Pastor Rajan Robert



Notable Events

BAPTISM SERVICE

WE REJOICE IN THE LORD FOR THE WONDERFUL BAPTISM SERVICE BEING HELD IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025 IN OUR CHURCH BEFORE THE START OF OUR REGULAR SERVICE. FEW OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE DECLARED THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.

IT IS GOING TO BE A BLESSED OCCASION AS THEY TOOK THIS SIGNIFICANT STEP OF OBEDIENCE, SYMBOLISING THEIR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST. THE CONGREGATION KINDLY JOIN IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP TO CELEBRATE GODS TRANSFORMING WORK IN THEIR LIVES. WE CONTINUE TO UPLIFT THEM IN OUR PRAYERS, ASKING GOD TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH AND GUIDE THEM IN THEIR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY. MAY THEY BE A SHINNING TESTIMONY OF HIS LOVE AND GRACE.

HONOURING YOUR DEDICATION AND UNITY IN CHRIST FOR CHURCH DEDICATION

- GREETINGS IN THE PRECIOUS NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST!
- WITH A HEART FULL OF GRATITUDE, WE WANT TO EXTEND MY SINCERE THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, UNWAVERING SUPPORT, AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGHOUT OUR CHURCH DEDICATION. YOUR COMMITMENT, PRAYERS, AND JOYFUL SERVICE WERE A BEAUTIFUL REFLECTION OF CHRIST'S LOVE AND UNITY AMONG US.
- FROM THE PLANNING STAGES TO THE FINAL MOMENTS OF CELEBRATION, YOUR HANDS AND HEARTS WORKED TIRELESSLY—WHETHER IT WAS THROUGH ORGANIZING, DECORATING, COOKING, CLEANING, GUIDING GUESTS, OR SIMPLY BEING PRESENT WITH A SMILE. AS IT IS WRITTEN IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 – “THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD.” EACH OF YOU HAS ABOUNDED IN THE LORD'S WORK, AND IT DID NOT GO UNNOTICED. EVERY ROLE, SEEN OR UNSEEN, MATTERED AND ADDED TO THE BEAUTY AND BLESSING OF THE OCCASION.
- A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO THOSE WHO CAME FORWARD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEDICATION SERVICE, ALL THE CHURCH WORK LEADING UP TO THE EVENT. YOUR PRESENCE AND SERVICE MADE IT TRULY MEMORABLE AND GLORIFYING TO GOD.
- MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU ABUNDANTLY AND REWARD YOUR LABOR OF LOVE. LET US CONTINUE TO BUILD HIS CHURCH TOGETHER, NOT JUST IN BRICKS AND WALLS, BUT IN FAITH, LOVE, AND UNITY.

LIST OF GOD'S SERVANTS ATTENDED THE CHURCH DEDICATION

- **PASTOR THOMAS FRANKLIN DOSS** (ELSHADAI GLORIOUS CHURCH, BOURNEMOUTH)
- **PASTOR CAESAR ANTONY PILLAR** (THE ZION CHURCH OF GOD, LONDON)
- **PASTOR ARUL KANAGAIYAH** (CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, FELTHAM, LONDON)
- **PASTOR PAUL LOHAN** (ZION WORD MINISTRIES, LEICESTERSHIRE)
- **PASTOR EBENEZER** (IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, EASTHAM, LONDON)
- **PASTOR DAVID** (INDIA)
- **PASTOR SHERWIN JALEEL** (HOPE CHURCH, SOUTHAMPTON).



FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR BELOVED PASTOR S.J. DHINAGHARAN (GOSPEL FOLLOW-UP MINISTRIES):

PASTOR S.J. DHINAGHARAN OF GOSPEL FOLLOW-UP MINISTRIES IS A HUMBLE SERVANT OF GOD, FAITHFULLY DEDICATING HIS LIFE TO THE SERVICE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. THROUGH GOD'S MIGHTY HANDS, HE HAS TOUCHED COUNTLESS LIVES ACROSS THE WORLD, SHARING THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE GOSPEL. INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, PASTOR DHINAGHARAN PREACHES THE WORD OF GOD WITH PASSION AND CONVICTION, BECOMING A TREMENDOUS BLESSING TO GOD'S KINGDOM.



CHURCH DEDICATION SERVICE



Announcement

CHURCH FOOD LENDING ANNOUNCEMENT

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AND SHARE FOOD AFTER OUR CHURCH SERVICES. TO ENSURE SMOOTH COORDINATION, PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

DONATIONS & FOOD REQUESTS – ANYONE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE CAN EITHER DONATE AN AMOUNT OR REQUEST A QUOTE FOR THE PREFERRED FOOD TO BE SERVED.
COOKING REQUIREMENTS – THOSE WHO WISH TO COOK FOOD AFTER THE SERVICE MUST HOLD A VALID FOOD HYGIENE AND SAFETY CERTIFICATE. THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHURCH FOR RECORD-KEEPING.

LOG BOOK MAINTENANCE – A LOG BOOK WILL BE MAINTAINED WEEKLY TO RECORD DETAILS OF WHEN THE FOOD IS COOKED AND SERVED.

YOUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION IN THIS INITIATIVE ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. LET US CONTINUE TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP.

REVERENCE IN WORSHIP AND SERMON

TO MAINTAIN THE SANCTITY OF OUR WORSHIP AND ENSURE A FOCUSED SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE, WE KINDLY REQUEST THAT MOBILE PHONES NOT BE USED INSIDE THE CHURCH FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CHECKING BIBLE VERSES – PLEASE USE A PHYSICAL BIBLE FOR READING SCRIPTURES.

SINGING DURING WORSHIP, OFFERING, AND HOLY COMMUNION – KINDLY REFER TO HYMN BOOKS OR PRINTED LYRICS INSTEAD OF MOBILE SCREENS.

LET US GIVE OUR FULL ATTENTION TO THE LORD, WORSHIPPING HIM WITH UNDIVIDED HEARTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

Testimony

SIS VADHANI AND HER SISTER TESTIFIED THAT THEY HAD LOST A RING DURING THE CHURCH DEDICATION DAY. THEY REALISED IT WAS MISSING EARLY THE NEXT MORNING AND IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO THE CHURCH, SEARCHING THROUGHOUT THE PREMISES. AS THEY SEARCHED, THEY FELT GOD'S GRACE PROMPTING THEM TO PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, SENSING THAT THE LOSS WAS PART OF GOD'S PURPOSE TO LEAD THEM INTO PRAYER AT THAT SPECIFIC TIME. EVENTUALLY, THEY FOUND THE RING AND WERE DEEPLY MOVED, REALISING THAT WHEN GOD HAS A PURPOSE, NOTHING IS TRULY LOST.

SIS. ESTER

DID YOU KNOW?? SOME FACTS ABOUT “CAVE OF PATRIARCHS”

- NO ONE HAS EVER GONE INTO THE CAVES OF THE PATRIARCHS ITSELF, WHICH LIES DEEP UNDERGROUND. LEGEND TELLS THAT NONE OF THOSE WHO DARED SUCH AN ATTEMPT EVER RETURNED. ONLY ONE JEW, RABBI ABRAHAM AZULAI, THE KABBALIST KNOWN AS THE “CHESD L’AVRAHAM,” IS KNOWN TO HAVE DESCENDED INTO THE CAVE AND COME OUT ALIVE. THE STORY TOOK PLACE APPROXIMATELY 300 YEARS AGO. THE TURKISH SULTAN HAD MISTAKENLY DROPPED HIS SWORD INTO THE CAVE. AFTER A NUMBER OF THE SULTAN’S SOLDIERS WERE LOWERED DOWN TO RETRIEVE IT, ONLY TO DIE UNDERGROUND, THE SULTAN ORDERED THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TO SUPPLY A VOLUNTEER WHO WOULD RETRIEVE THE SWORD. IF NOT, THEY WOULD ALL BE KILLED. RABBI AZULAI, WHO WAS THEN ELDERLY, SOLVED THE DILEMMA BY VOLUNTEERING TO GO DOWN HIMSELF. WHEN HE RETRIEVED THE SWORD SUCCESSFULLY, THE JEWS OF HEBRON CELEBRATED. THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS AND NIGHTS RABBI AZULAI SPENT TEACHING HIS STUDENTS KABBALISTIC SECRETS. ONE WEEK AFTER HE HAD BEEN LOWERED INTO THE CAVE, HE DIED AND WAS BURIED IN THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN HEBRON.
- ACCORDING TO MIDRASHIC SOURCES, WHEN JACOB DIED, ESAU TRIED TO STOP JACOB’S SONS FROM BURYING THEIR FATHER IN THE CAVE OF MACHPELAH. WHILE FLEET-FOOTED NAFTALI RAN TO EGYPT TO RETRIEVE THE DEED TO MACHPELAH IN ORDER TO PROVE THEIR OWNERSHIP, DAN’S DEAF-AND-DUMB SON, HUSHIM, SAW THE COMMOTION AND CUT OFF ESAU’S HEAD. IT ROLLED INTO THE CAVE AND CAME TO REST IN THE BOSOM OF HIS FATHER ISAAC, WHERE IT REMAINS BURIED UNTIL TODAY.
- 194 YEARS LATER, A YEAR AFTER THE JEWS LEFT EGYPT, CALEB BECAME THE FIRST RECORDED JEW TO MAKE THE JOURNEY TO THEIR RESTING PLACE AND PRAY. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY COUNTLESS OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE AGES.



Thou hast
found Grace
in my Sight

EXODUS 33:17



BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL LENDING HANDS!!

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR FOOD MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO PREPARED AND SERVED FOOD AFTER THE SUNDAY SERVICE.

For Prayer Request

Taking other's hands and praying for them is a powerful blessing you can give another person. We are here to support you through prayers.

Send your prayer requests by SMS or call
07916123274 / 07871872086

