



# ICA VOICE

A NEWSLETTER OF INDIA CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY NEW YORK

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## Pastor's Note

*Pr. Samuel John*

***Therefore encourage one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11.***

The new pastor has come! Now what?

You might have asked this question quietly or not so quietly, or at least wondered what is in store for us as we move forward. In the last board meeting I explained some of my personal priorities:

**# Spiritual worship experience # Personal spiritual growth of all members # Ministry talent development of all members # Integration of everyone, young and old, into all aspects of church body life**

I am not proposing immediate dramatic changes. However the environment should be created for the right kind of sustained improvement in all of the above and more.

Project Nehemiah is a brilliant initiative. In my opinion, it had created a foundational framework for growth and progress in several relevant areas. However, we must build on it. No doubt, there is a long way to go.

I did not yet have the opportunity to meet and discuss with each department leaders about goals and plans they may have. I would be doing that over the course of next few months.

Since church is a living organism, not an organization governed by merely human rules and ideas, life is its most important attribute. Growth and change are part of life. The life we are part of is eternal and was purchased by the costliest means in the universe, the life of Jesus Christ. That perspective should eclipse all others, and boost our energy level for sacrificial action.

We need uncompromising disciplines to keep going in all seasons. Among them are:

**# Primacy of the Word of God** - studying it continually

**# Passion for prayer and worship** - lifting our hearts to God at all times in prayer and worship, and not neglecting corporate prayers

**# Constant concern for hell-bound fellow humans** - sharing the gospel

**# Heart of compassion and love for all** - showing love in practical ways

**# Lifestyle of purity and holiness** - staying away from all manner of compromising situations and people, and always striving for right living before God

**# Priority of character over charisma** - not being enamored by success without principles

**# Inner peace** - learning to resolve inner-personal and inter-personal conflicts of all manner, working on correcting temperamental and character defects

**# Practicing the presence of God** - being aware of God's presence in our life and living in continual response to that awareness

These are essential for success. We must continually develop these disciplines into our life.

Bringing glory to God is our supreme goal, not merely feeling good. That should govern all our choices.

We had set the goal that our church must be the "church of choice". We will follow well-laid principles of the Bible with prayerful and passionate action to achieve that goal.

While all changes must be relevant and meaningful, enthusiasm and involvement by everyone in the process is a must for achieving results. We are building the Kingdom of God, and in that process, building each other for good works and for eternity.

## POV

## Fading Star

*George Pappachen Jr*

Hearing that Jordan was returning from retirement was a moment of joy for me. Flashbacks went to all his fabulous artistry on the basketball court. Won't it be great to sit back on Sunday afternoons and watch the great one do it all.....again? Did you know that ESPN anointed Michael Jordan the greatest athlete of all time? Yep, it'll be great!

Fast-forward to his first game back: hey, why is he settling for so many jump-shots instead of taking it to the rack recklessly

*Contn to .....Pg.3*

## CHECKUP WITH JESUS

I went to the Lord's clinic to have my routine check up and it was confirmed I was ill.

When Jesus took my blood pressure, he saw I was low in tenderness.

When he read my temperature, the thermometer registered 40 degrees of anxiety. He ran an electrocardiogram and found that I needed several "love bypasses" since my arteries were blocked with loneliness and could not provide for an empty heart.

I went to orthopedics because I would not walk by my brother's side and I wouldn't hug my friends, since I had fractured myself when tripping with envy. He also found I was shortsighted since I couldn't see beyond the shortcomings of my brothers and sisters.

When I complained about deafness, the diagnosis was that I stopped listening to Jesus' voice talking to me on a daily basis.

For all of that Jesus gave me a free consultation thanks to his mercifulness so my pledge is to, once I leave this clinic, only take the natural remedies he prescribed through his words of truth.

Every morning, take a full glass of gratitude. When getting to work, take one pill of patience, one cup of brotherhood, and one glass of humility.

When getting home, take one dose of love. When getting to bed, take two caplets of clear conscience.

Do not give into sadness or desperation for what you are going through today.

God knows how you feel. God knows exactly and with perfection what is being allowed to happen to you in your life at this precise moment. God's purpose for you is simply perfect. He wants to show you things that only you can understand by living what you are living what you are living and by being in the place you are now.

May God give you:

For every storm, a rainbow

For every care, a promise

And a blessing in each trial.

For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share,

For every sigh, a sweet song

And an answer for each prayer.

**Source unknown**

## EDITORIAL & ADVISORY BOARD



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## SPECIAL PRAYER MEETINGS FROM SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> THRU OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009

Date	Day	Meeting will be held at the residence of or @ ICA @ 7.30 PM
14-Sep	Monday	Rev. Samuel John
15-Sep	Tuesday	Babu Varghese
16-Sep	Wednesday	Rev. Joseph T. George
17-Sep	Thursday	Benny Abraham
18-Sep	Friday	George Abraham
19-Sep	Saturday	ICA / Sunday School Anniversary
20-Sep	Sunday	P.I. Kurian
21-Sep	Monday	George T. Cherian
22-Sep	Tuesday	Samuel Chacko
23-Sep	Wednesday	K.E. Eapen
24-Sep	Thursday	Samuel Abraham
25-Sep	Friday	P.A. Samuel
26-Sep	Saturday	ICA
27-Sep	Sunday	Samu Ponnolil
28-Sep	Monday	Michael Johnson
29-Sep	Tuesday	Sam Thomas
30-Sep	Wednesday	Kurian T. Thomas (Syosset)
01-Oct	Thursday	Thomas George (Shaji)
02-Oct	Friday	Saji Pathalil
03-Oct	Saturday	ICA

## Today, I live.....

*Annamma Varghese*

How I conduct my life today-right now-is in my own authority and free will. My yesterday is gone. If I regret any of my doings of yesterday and want to change one moment of it, it is not possible. My actions of yesterday have become a permanent record.

Tomorrow ... I have no control over it. If I plan to do something tomorrow, will it happen? Immediate plans may seem possible but there is always an uncertainty that hangs over our plans for tomorrow.

Bible instructs us to say "If God willing, we will go.., do.." etc

Now there is an eternal God who changes not by time, who holds everything in his hands. He knows what is, what was and what is to come. Such a God instructs us to conduct our "todays" diligently. "If you hear His voice today, do not harden your hearts".

Psalms 1:1,2 says "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD and in his law he meditates day and night."

Walking, standing and sitting are three positions of the wakeful human body. We are instructed not to walk in the counsel of the wicked because wicked counsel can only lead to wicked actions. Instead we are to walk in the straight and true path that will lead us to eternal life.

Standing is an inactive but ready position. When you stand in the path of sinners you will be pushed along unknowingly,

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## Fading Star

like he used to? Why is he not getting that 'sick' lift he used to have? Why can't he stay in front of speedy point-guards like he used to?

It struck me that Michael Jordan, for all of his obvious greatness as a basketball player and an athlete, was another mortal who also must genuflect before Father Time. I'm always a bit saddened at the scene of fading superstars trying to hold on to their former glory. Whereas the memory of great things done should be uplifting, it often becomes a reminder of the present inadequacy.

It reminds me a little of "yester-year greatness" stories I hear: you know, things like "I remember when I was growing up, the fervor in the house of God was so palpable!" or "Unlike now, the move of God was so powerful then" or "those were the days when we were on fire for God"

Don't get me wrong – I'm not discounting the importance of experiences....it can be an effective instrument to grow faith and as well a tremendous encouragement to greater endeavors and deeds. But where it is a crutch that encourages coasting and complacency or dampens (even unknowingly) the desire and capacity to push the needle higher, real harm can result.

When this diminishing factor is channeled toward the things of God, there is an even more insidious process at work – the subtle suggestion that God (somewhat like a fading superstar) has lost a little on his fastball....yea, he's good or even great.....but not in the same way as before. I know none of us think that way but how terrific would it be if our knowledge of Him actually fuels us to expect more and subsequently, attempt more. His promises are true and His mercies are fresh and constantly renewed in our favor. Why not compel it to be transformative?

I love this verse:

**LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known. Habakkuk 3:2**

I see a proper acknowledgement of what God's been – we too stand in awe of His deeds. That foundation is then a launch pad to reach for a greater 'next' thing (in our time). More or less, this is what Habakkuk is saying – God, since your star never fades, all I ask is that You just do it.....again!

I really like Habakkuk's take on things. What do you think?

**"God will not ask for what you don't have, but He will ask for what you want to keep."  
Josh Mathew**

## Scripture Cake

**¾ cup Genesis 18:8 (found in the first four words)**

**1 ½ cup Jeremiah 6:20**

**5 Luke 11:12**

**3 cups Leviticus 24:5**

**¾ tsp. 2Kings 2:20**

**3 tsp. Amos 4:5**

**1 tsp. Exodus 30:23**

**¼ tsp. 2 Chronicles 9:9**

**½ cup Judges 4:19 (last part)**

**½ cup Genesis 43:11 (last part of the verse only)**

**½ cup Jeremiah 24:5**

**½ cup 2 Samuel 16:1**



**Heat oven to 350 degrees.**

**Thoroughly mix Gen 18:8, brown sugar and Luke 11:12; combine dry ingredients and add alternately to creamed mixture with Judges 4:19. Stir in nuts and fruit. Bake in two oiled cake pans for 30 to 40 minutes.**

**This is a real cake.**

*P.A Samuel*

## ADDRESS CHANGES

**SEBASTIAN V. ROCKY & ALICE  
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Williston Park, NY 11596**

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**REV. BIJU VARGHESE & PHEBA  
Home Phone # 718-343-1149**

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**Today, I live.....**

into destruction. Do not sit in the seat of the scornful. Of the three, sitting is the most harmful position. It is also an inactive position. While sitting in the company of mockers you may be a passive observer but at the same time you are a party to whatever is going on there. A believer should rather get up and run away from all these.

There is a fourth position of the human body, that is resting or lying down'. Let us say with David "He makes me to lie down in green pastures'. Meditate in His law day and night so that our souls may find rest in its redeemer.

Child of God if you say with Paul 'today' I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave His life for me, rest assured that He will take care of your tomorrow !

## MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER 2009

Wednesday, Sept 2	Prayer Meeting 7:30 PM @ ICA
Friday, Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fasting & Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM @ ICA
Saturday, Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Church Picnic 9:00 AM @ Bethpage State Park
Sunday, Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School & Worship Service @ ICA
Wednesday, Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Meeting 7:30 PM @ ICA
Friday, Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fasting & Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM @ ICA Special meeting @ 7:30 PM @ ICA (Guest Speaker: Rev. P.I. Abraham)
Saturday, Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Special Meeting @ 7:30 PM @ ICA (Guest Speaker: Rev. P.I. Abraham)
Sunday, Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School & Worship Service @ ICA (Guest Speaker: Rev. P.I. Abraham)
<b>Monday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup> –Saturday, Oct.3<sup>rd</sup> Fasting &amp; Prayer Meetings 7:30 PM @ ICA &amp; Members House.</b>	
Saturday, Sept.18 <sup>th</sup>	Fasting & Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM @ ICA
Saturday, Sept.19 <sup>th</sup>	PYFA Talent Competition 1 Sunday school Anniversary 6:30 PM @ ICA
Sunday, Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School & Worship Service @ ICA Mission Sunday
Friday, Sept.25 <sup>th</sup>	PYFA TBN 3 Fasting & Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM @ ICA
Saturday, Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	IPC Eastern Region Sunday School Assn. One Day Seminar 9:00 AM @ IPC, Queens Village. Prayer meeting @ ICA
Sunday, Sept.27 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School & Worship Service @ ICA

## Prayer Requests

- † Pastor. M. I. Thomas
- † Varghese Thannickal
- † Ammini George
- † Kunjamma Thannickal
- † Sam (Susan Mathew's son)
- † Leeba' father
- † Aney George
- † Pastor Antony Rocky
- † Joel Jacob
- † Blessy's mother



**"Worship is the steps on which a righteous person walks to approach the Mercy Seat."**

**Rev. John Ninan**

**"When you give up something you deserve, god will provide beyond your dreams."**

**Rev. John Haggie**

## Congratulations to the Newly Weds

**Joji & Pheba  
Stalin & Blessy  
Sigy & Nibu  
Siny & Stanly**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## SEPTEMBER 09

Joel Mathew	09/01
Jency Daniel	09/06
Vincent Varghese	09/09
Stephen Varghese	09/10
Andrew Johnson	09/15
Nicholas Thomas	09/17

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