



SPIRIT AGLOW

Dec - Nov, 2010
Volume 1, Issue 4

A Newsletter of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Chennai (For Private Circulation Only)

Special Interest Articles:

- Christmas Message
- National Day of Intercession - A Report
- Reflections
- Christmas Cheer
- Planning Meet - A Report
- Core Group Training Seminar - A Report
- Planning Meet Report and Calendar

**Are you interested in
learning more about the
Word of God?**



Welcome to the Bible Study
@ St. Luke's Church, Anna
Nagar.

Nirmal Ephraim conducts
regular Bible Study classes
at St. Luke's Church on
Mondays at the time below.

Days: Every Monday
Time: **7 p.m. to 8 p.m.**
Venue: **St. Luke's Parish
Hall**

Nirmal is a student of Sister.
Claude and has been a part
of the resource team for
'Word of God' seminars
conducted in the past.

All are welcome to attend!

It's Christmas Time – A Call to Each One of Us!

Each Christmas season, the call for each believer is to pursue the character that reflects God's own.

As St. Paul writes in Philippians 1:6, 9-11 *"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus... And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."*

We have many ways to thank God. To show our love and help one another, but the best way is to pray for one another.

All that is selfish and petty is purged out of our hearts by that act of prayer. Suspicions and doubts fade away when we pray for those whom we love and those whom we struggle to love.

Many a broken relationship or unforgiveness would have healed and melted like the morning mist if it had been prayed about.

Tenderness and delicacy would be added to our relationships like the bloom on ripening grapes.

Can we test our 'loves', 'our relationships' this Christmas with this simple criterion - Can we pray about them? If not should we have them? Are they blessings to us or to others?

We can wish nothing better for one another than growth in the love of God.

Let's wish each other that we grow in the love of God, even as we remind ourselves of God's love for us this Christmas season.

And let's not forget our role in protecting our love relationship with Jesus as the Song of Solomon in 2:15 reveals "Catch all the foxes, those little foxes, before they ruin the vineyard of love, for the grapevines are blossoming!" (2:15).



Calling all members of the renewal to come together to pray for one another that we might grow in the love of God at the central intercession meetings!

Where? When? Whom to Contact?

Join Centralized Intercession on these dates and time:

2nd Mondays in 2011

Jan 10	Feb 14	Mar 14
Apr 11	May 9	Jun 13
Jul 11	Aug 15	Sep 12
Oct 10	Nov 14	Dec 12

North Zone Intercession

Venue: **St. Aloysius Convent, Choolai**

Time: **6.30 to 8 p.m.**

Coordinator- Anita Johnston: 9841627827

South Zone Intercession

Venue: **Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Little Mount Church**

Time: **7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.**

Coordinator - David Joshua: 9884036462

YU4C Intercession

All Saturdays throughout the year

Venue: **St. Thresa's Church Campus,**

Time: **7.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m.**

Coordinator - Benedict J: 9840887161

Let us respond to the call this Christmas Season to pray for one another that we might grow in the love of God!

By Spirit Aglow Editorial Team

National Day of Intercession at Chennai - Saturday, October 2nd, 2010 – A Report

The need to revive Intercession as a ministry was felt very strongly by the Madras Service Team and so the National Day of Intercession on Saturday, October 2 provided the right platform to revive this ministry on a full scale.

We began by reconstituting the core team of the Madras Intercessory Network (MIN) in the month of September. With the new MIN core team in place, new avenues for Intercession were explored.

A decade of the rosary and Holy Eucharist at different parishes was offered by all Service team members as part of our efforts. A Night Vigil at St. Teresa's Church with a focus on Intercession was also organized. In addition, the prayer groups in Chennai had regular intercession for the intercessions as part of their prayer meetings. Some prayer groups dedicated one particular weekly prayer meeting with Intercession as the central theme with adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and teachings on Intercession.

The National Day of Intercession, itself, in a sense was a celebration of prayer at Chennai on October 2nd, 2010. Instead of merely organizing Intercession, we decided to have a rally to mobilise, motivate and train intercessors as well as have a day of prayer.



Romeo Fernando from Mumbai led those gathered from different prayer groups in the city in a workshop style of instruction on intercession. In the very first session all the participants could experience the anointing of the Spirit as Romeo gave an altar call for those who wished to answer a commitment to the ministry of intercession. Almost the entire hall of people responded to the call and came forward to be prayed over.



The people were led in a workshop style of intercession covering various attitudes and dispositions of intercessors. After each aspect, the group was led in intercession which reflected each attitude and disposition shared. The intentions of the NIN were broken down and prayed for at appropriate places.



In the afternoon session Romeo spoke about methods of intercession, a need to have a place for prayer both personal and community, praying in the Spirit and the need to give from our worship life to God. He then spoke about the need to discern the needs of Chennai and the renewal in Chennai.

Even as those who received a word from the Lord came forward and shared, the prophecies were discerned. The need to pray for forgiveness between youth and elders was discerned and shared with the entire gathering.



Even as those who received a word from the Lord came forward and shared, the prophecies were discerned. The need to pray for forgiveness between youth and elders was discerned and shared with the entire gathering. In a spirit of unity, both youth representatives from the YU4C and youth groups present and elders in the renewal both asked each other for forgiveness and prayed for healing to take place in any broken relationship between elders and youth.



The Madras Intercessory Network (MIN) announced three venues for centralized intercession on the day. The day concluded with Holy Eucharist and a commitment call where 30 people gave a commitment to intercede daily and to be a part of centralized intercession.

Praise the Lord for helping raise prayer warriors for the city of Chennai!

- Report prepared by Irene Preeti Gangai

Reflections

Let's not forget the REASON for the SEASON

It's that time of the year when you take down all the decorations from the loft, put up the Christmas tree, find the missing Star to put up on the tree.

You need to hang up the Christmas star on your porch or the entrance to your house. You got to beat your neighbour to it.

You need to go with the choir to complete the carol rounds. And not to forget the Christmas parties and the New Year celebrations that you need to plan.

You have to sign and mail those Christmas greeting cards too. Programs at church, in your office or school. There is the Sunday School kid's Christmas do, where you need to go dressed as Santa.

And then there's the shopping, the dresses, and the cakes to bake. You should take care not to forget your friends and ensure the Christmas lunch turns out right.

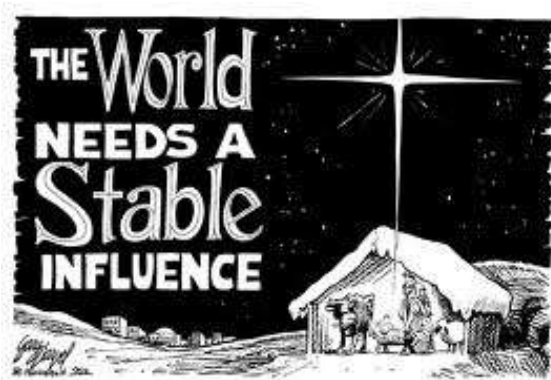
And oh, let's not forget Jesus is the Reason for this Season!



**Put the Right Reason First this Season!
Merry Christmas!**

- Contributed by Joseph Pradeep Raj R

What the World needs this Christmas?



Christmas Cheer

If Joseph and Mary were to enter Bethlehem today...



100 points to get into Heaven

A man dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates.

St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."



"Okay" the man says, "I attended church every Sunday"
"That's good," says St. Peter, "that's worth two points"

"Two points?" he says. "Well, I gave 10% of all my earnings to the church"

"Well, let's see," answers Peter, "that's worth another 2 points. Did you do anything else?"

"Two points? Golly. How about this: I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's certainly worth a point..." he says.

"hmmm...", the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

"THREE POINTS!!" the man cries, "At this rate the only way I get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Come on in!" answered St. Peter.

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+91 96771 91057

E-MAIL PRAYER REQUESTS:
minprays@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

www.ccrchennai.in

Editorial

Even as we prepare to bid good bye to '2010' and welcome '2011', it's time to look at what has gone past and look forward to what might be.

In the four issues of Spirit Aglow this year since we launched in June, 2010 we have attempted to reach out to all prayer groups to keep all those part of the English speaking Charismatic Renewal in Chennai updated about the latest happenings and programs.

If you are interested in being a part of the Editorial Team or would like to contribute to Spirit Aglow either with your time, reports and updates from your prayer group, helping with circulation, or even sponsoring an issue or part of the expenses, you are most welcome.

Please contact any of the MST members in your prayer group or write into

- Spirit Aglow Editorial Team

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The Madras Service Team:

The Madras Service Team is a body of servant leaders serving the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Chennai representing various prayer groups.

CORE GROUP TRAINING SEMINAR – Animated by Colin Calmiano

The Madras Service Team organised a 2-day workshop style formation program for core groups of various prayer groups in the city and also potential leaders in October. The program was held in two batches in two different venues on different dates to make it convenient for members from different parts of the city to attend. The program was organised in the North Zone on October 9 and 10 and in the South Zone on October 30 and 31. A total of 44 leaders attended the program in both zones and benefited with insights.

Marie Surrao, Springs of Life Prayer Group, Choolai speaking about the experiences that the core group members from her prayer group had about the seminar said, *"The training seminar gave us pointers that opened our eyes to our own drawbacks. It has pushed us to do better and improve ourselves as servant leaders. As a prayer group, it has helped us evaluate ourselves during the workshops and identify where we needed to improve. The session on commitment and re-ordering lives reminded us of the seriousness of our calling as leaders and what we need to do to live up to that commitment."*

The sessions began with an introductory talk by Dr. Dominic, Little Mount Prayer Group leader on the origins of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He went on to speak about the five fold function of the Charismatic Renewal in the context of prayer groups and their importance to the functioning and spread of the renewal.

Colin then animated the sessions alternated by practical workshops and open discussions where the respective core groups of different prayer groups met to evaluate and ideate based on the talks they had heard.

Colin began by highlighting the qualities of a prayer group leader and what a prayer group is meant to do and presented guidelines on its functioning. He also spoke about 22 qualities of a leader and the need to constantly evaluate so that those called to leadership grow in their calling.

He devoted an entire session on "Re-ordering Our Lives" where he illustrated the importance of leaders prioritising and balancing their lives to avoid the danger of burning out or neglecting their relationship with God which was the most important aspect of their lives. In the second batch of the seminar, Colin also dealt with the importance of intercession especially the need to have a burden to pray for prayer group leaders and core group members.

Immanuel Alphonse while sharing with Spirit Aglow about his experience from the seminar said, *"It was a new exploration that I had. One good thing that I learnt was that we always tend to get involved with activities and programs, but instead we should instead balance ourselves, take care of our health and rest so that we can work for the Lord our entire lives and avoid getting burnt out."*

Speaking from the YU4C perspective he said, *"The training helped us re-evaluate our core group using the worksheet. The workshops and talks helped us identify where we were lacking and where we need drastic change. More importantly, the guidelines gave us the idea of how we as a YU4C Core Group should ideally function."*

The program was animated by Bro. Colin Calmiano. He is part of the People of Praise Community, Bangalore.

Report prepared by Joseph Pradeep Raj R

Planning Meet 2011 – A Report

The Planning Meet 2011 was held on November 21, Sunday 2010 at St. Ursula's. About 30 prayer group leaders from different prayer groups attended to plan programs in 2011 that would meet the needs of the renewal in Chennai. The main vision that had emerged was that of "Strengthening Prayer Groups".

Several areas of concern were shortlisted as part of the vision, which included Worship, Teaching, Charisms, Leadership, Fellowship, Evangelisation and Word of God.

- Report prepared by Irene Preeti Gangai