



SPIRIT AGLOW

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

Reliving the Pentecost Experience

- A Report

Special Interest Articles:

- Reliving Pentecost – A Report on Charisms Retreat cum Workshop
- School of Great Commission - A Report
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An LSS Training Manual
Compiled by Springs of Life
Prayer Group for small
parish and prayer groups.

Many believers of Jesus gathered together in one place to seek and know about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God in His mercy did not leave anyone disappointed. He fulfilled the promise of Joel 2:28 and gave new tongues, revealed prophetic messages gave Word of Knowledge and Wisdom. That was the experience of the disciples at Pentecost in the Upper Room.

The people from different prayer and youth groups in Chennai who assembled at the Upper Room, in Little Mount had a similar experience at the Charisms Retreat and Workshop held on January 29 and 30, 2011.

The 2-day retreat cum workshop was organized jointly by Youth United 4 Christ (YU4C) and Madras Service Team (MST) to help equip members from different prayer groups in Chennai with the charismatic gifts mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12.

Mae Britto from Bangalore animated the program with inputs on Charisms such as Tongues, Prophecy, Word of Wisdom, and Word of Knowledge. The workshops following each theoretical session were animated by both Mae Britto and Benjamin Gonzaga. The workshops which followed each theoretical session proved exciting for the participants who had the opportunity to exercise the various charismatic gifts.

Agnes Virginia from Ascension Church speaking about her experience at the retreat said, "I had real peace from within. I experienced a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit in my life. I have started to love God more and He is changing my heart to lead me in the right direction."

The first day, Mae Britto gave a general overview of the gifts and also the revealed the purpose for which gifts are given by God and the importance of using the gifts extensively.

- To manifest His power through us - Exodus 14: 18
- To show His love for all people - Lk 7:11-17
- To overpower Satan and his work - 1Jn3:8
- To provoke us to faith - Jn 11:45
- To bring all people to salvation - 1 Tim 2:4

After giving a general overview of the gifts, Mae Britto spoke about the gift of tongues, mentioned in Acts 2: 4.

She said that the gift of tongues is as a sign to unbelievers (Acts 2: 9 -11). She also said that at charismatic prayer meeting tongues can be used to give a prophetic message, used as prayer either to praise (Acts 10: 46) or to intercede (Romans 8: 26-27). The uniqueness of the gift of tongues is that it is so powerful that the evil one can neither speak it nor comprehend it.

Natasha from Stella Maris prayer group who experienced the gift of tongues for the first time said "I never thought that God would give any gifts in my life. Jesus showed how much God loves me and gave me the gift of tongues. "

In the final session on the first day, Mae Britto explained the importance of inner healing as a process to relive and recall painful memories of past and through prayer and forgiveness allow God to remove the hurt (Jeremiah 30: 12, 13, 17). She then took the participants through a session of inner healing which helped people surrender their ill feelings and negative behavior.

The second day touched upon the gifts of Prophecy and Words of Wisdom and Words of Knowledge. Prophecies are inspired words of God which are given to reveal God's plan and not to condemn. A prophecy will always exalt God and will correspond with Scripture and teachings of the Church. She said that people with a great desire to be prophets for God must start communing with God and to seek Jesus earnestly in prayer, for it is at the silence of heart God speaks.

Speaking about the word of knowledge and word of wisdom, Mae Britto said that the word of knowledge acts like a diagnosis to understand hidden secrets and helps uncover sin in one's life and bring him closer to God. The word of wisdom acts as the prescription after the diagnosis to reveal God's wisdom to overcome the situation or sin or problem. The word of knowledge may be a speech, scripture, vision, feelings, smells, sounds or pain in the body.

Fr. Laurence, celebrated Holy Mass at the conclusion of the Charisms Retreat and Workshop.

- Report by Alvin Ansa Raja

School of Great Commission – A Report

January 15, 16, 17 saw Chennai in a festive mood, with people celebrating the harvest festival of Pongal with new clothes and special food.

It was a different celebration for 20 youths from different parishes. It was a celebration of the commission to become harvesters of the harvest as invited by Jesus in Matthew 28.

It was this mind that these youth came to participate in the 3-day School of the Great Commission (SOGC) organized by YU4C at Jyothi Matha Aalayam, East Coast Road.

The main objective of SOGC was aimed to prepare the youth of Chennai in accordance with the call which Jesus gave to his disciples in Mathew 28: 18 – 20 and also to equip each individual with needed inputs to become better evangelizers.

The entire SOGC program was animated by Stephen Chinnaswamy from Madhavaram and Roy Anand from Our Lady of Visitation, RA Puram who understood the needs of the group and delivered the inputs in the best way possible.

Edward from St. Luke's Parish Anna Nagar on his experience said *"It was extremely refreshing, lot of new perspectives were given to some of familiar passages. Sessions were well planned and spiritually nourishing. A good experience where I was well renewed"*

Following is a brief explanation of what happened during the three days of SOGC.

The first day of SOGC was split into two sessions. In the morning session was aimed at examining one's own life. For this, the participants were asked to analyze their highs and lows in life based on the following six areas: Spiritual, emotional, physical, finance, achievement and relationship and mark the same in a graph.

This was helpful for participants to know their hurts and surrender the same in the inner healing which happened the next day. Also during the session Stephen and Roy used the Parable of the Sower Mathew 13: 3-9 to help analyze where one stands in their spiritual walk with Christ.

The afternoon session was to understand the essence of being a Christian. This session was dedicated to understand the Covenant relationship that God had made with us. At the end of this all were convinced on one point that when God is our Covenant Partner there is nothing for us to be afraid of.

The second day was meant to bring out the hidden potential of each individual. Every individual was made to come forward and the other members were then asked to give one positive attitude or a Bible verse for that person. This instilled a new confidence in each and every individual and put everyone in a positive framework.

The second day evening was dedicated to a Inner Healing session and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Juhi from Valsaravalkam parish had to say this on her inner healing experience *"the inner healing session was a first to me. They did warn me of how it would be, but nothing*

prepared me for what I experienced there, sitting at the rear of the church listening to Roy drawing out my life. It felt like something was being wrenched out of my heart - it was actually painful. The bad memories that were stocked up within, did take their toll on their way out of my heart. And quite frankly, I didn't feel any sudden drastic change after the session was over, but I could sense that I was headed for brightness"

The third day was interesting as the resource persons opened everyone's eyes to the priorities that one needs to consider in his/her daily life.

This session helped us to know things that one needs to take care to be a better witness to Christ. And the last session was tuned to help people deal sexual matters in a more matured way.

Thus with the grace of God SOGC came to a successful end and now we ask of your prayer for these 20 new leaders whom God has chosen for His mission.



Participants of the School of Great Commission (SOGC)

- Report by Alvin Ansa Raja

LSS Training Manual

As part of its vision of building up prayer groups, Springs of Life, St. Andrew's Church, Choolai has compiled a Life in the Spirit Training Manual to help give LSS to small prayer groups or parish groups.

The LSS Training Manual is the first of a series Training Modules which have been planned. The Manual contains overview of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and each of the seminars with scripture verses, reflections and prayers.



Those interested in copies of the LSS Training Manual can contact Mr. Keith D'Vaz at andrewsmusicplace@gmail.com

REFLECTIONS - A Leap of Faith

NOW [in Haran] the Lord said to Abram, Go for yourself [for your own advantage] away from your country, from your relatives and your father's house, to the land that I will show you...So Abram departed, as the Lord had directed him. Genesis 12

We live by faith, moment by moment, placing our trust and confidence in the Lord, knowing that it is in Him we live and move and have our being. We walk by faith, taking faithful steps of obedience as the Holy Spirit directs us through the daily activities of life. There are also times when we are lead by the Lord to take a leap of faith.

A leap of faith is not a leap into the dark, a leap of recklessness, a leap of presumption, or a leap of wild speculation. Rather, it is a leap of faith into a major decision or commitment that we are confident God is directing us to take. A leap of faith can mean a major change in our lives that takes us down a new pathway and away from the familiar, the convenient, or the comfortable.

A leap of faith can often come following an extended time of waiting on the Lord. During those waiting times, God wants us to be still. When the time is right, God will confirm the way, arrange the circumstances, and assure us of His timing. When the waiting time is over, God does not want us to linger, but to take a leap of faith into the change.

Vance Havner likens a leap of faith to something he did as a boy called "Gully Jumping." Here is what he says about it:

"Gully jumping means getting across a gully in one leap. The secret is in getting a good running start and going over on the first try. If you were to run up to the brink and then have your courage fail so that you had to go back and start all over, that would be disastrous. It would be just twice as hard to do next time.

Gully jumping illustrates a very vital principle in the Christian life of faith. Nothing is more disastrous than to study faith, analyze faith, make noble resolves of faith, but never actually make the leap of faith. It is running up to the edge of a gully but never jumping. Each time the process is repeated, it becomes more difficult to make the leap of full committal to the truth one knows...we do not get over the gully by feeling like it or by thinking about it. We have to call on the will and jump...no man ever jumped toward Christ but found beneath him the Everlasting Arms." - Vance Havner

Is there a gully you need to jump? Are you at a place in your walk with the Lord when it is time to take a leap of faith? Is the Spirit saying to you, "The waiting is over, it is time to move forward?" May your heart be encouraged today to do what the Lord is directing you to do, and may you be assured that beneath you are His everlasting arms.



Contributed by
Ms. Mary Forrest,
Prayer Group Leader,
Anna Nagar

Christian Humour

G.K. Chesterton once wrote: "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. Never forget that the devil fell by force of gravity. He who has the faith has the fun."

Have fun with these small snippets of Christian Humour from www.joyfulnoiseletter.com

Blessing

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said.

The little girl bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



Church Denomination

A man had been shipwrecked on a remote island in the Pacific, and was alone for 20 years. When a ship finally arrived, his rescuers were impressed with the three buildings he had built and asked him about them.

"Well," the man replied, "this is my house, and that building over there is my church. It's a wonderful church and I hate to leave it."

"And what is the third building yonder?" a rescuer asked.

"Oh, that is the church I used to go to," the man replied.

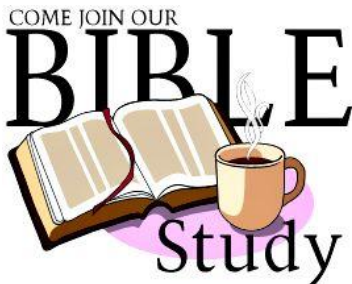
Message on the outside sign of Faith Temple Church, Sioux Falls, SD: "We welcome all denominations — \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100."



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minprays@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
www.ccrchennai.in



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!

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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.

WORSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR – Animated by Shelton Pinheiro

A 2-day Worship Training Seminar animated by Shelton Pinheiro was organised by the Madras Service Team on February 19 and 20 at Churchpark campus.

The program was organised for aspiring worship leaders as well as a refresher course for experienced worship leaders. A total of 26 members took part in the training seminar from different prayer groups in the city. The entire seminar was powerfully anointed by the Holy Spirit. As it helped the participants to fine tune their techniques in leading Praise and Worship and gave them the new insights, it took them on a journey deep within themselves.

"I learnt that to lead others to worship our Lord. I must first be a worshipper in my personal life," says Cyril, a member of YU4C. "To lead worship is a special call from God and to do that I must have a close relationship with the Trinity," states Avril from Choolai Prayer Group.

Terri another participant shares that she has learnt techniques of Praise and Worship, importance of being skilful with worship tools and is motivated to give her best in worship to the Lord.

The workshop culminated into a beautiful Taizé adoration. This time with the Lord punctuated with chants and moments of silence enabled those present to get in touch with the very core of their being – the heart of God.

Fr. Laurence celebrated a moving Eucharistic Mass which encouraged people to build bridges rather than walls in relationships.
- Report by Miriam Chakko

Celebrating the Spirit of Christmas

- A Report

The Annual Christmas Rally organised as part of Christmas Celebrations by the Madras Service team on December 12, 2010. The theme of the celebration the family with fellowship to help rejoice and also give a message to help people prepare their hearts better for Christmas.

Gangai Victor and his team from Little Mount led the gathering in praise and worship. Manuel Thomas from Santhome spoke on the family and brought out the purpose of a marital relationship. Quoting Genesis 1: 26 "God said, 'Let us make man in our own image and likeness'", he said God made man and woman to be equals. So in a marriage, God is bringing man and woman together, to co-operate with God, for His greater glory. He also stressed that each individual need to join hands with God, in order to be made in the image of God.

Sharing incidents from his own personal life, he said that we always needed to have a constant examination in our lives. Because of man's sinful nature, he said we may slip away from our actual purpose and hence the need to constantly look back at our lives and repent. In conclusion, he said that one's primary preparation for Christmas was to allow the Holy Spirit to decorate the walls our heart with peace.

There was a lot of fun and fellowship in the games that followed. And of course Santa Claus made his appearance at the end and gave away goodies to the children and winners of the games.
- Report by Alvin Ansa Raja (YU4C)

Christmas Fellowship and Thanksgiving at Anna Nagar

It was that time of the year again - of carol singing and Christmas get-togethers. Members of St. Luke's prayer group had a Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Fellowship on the 14th of December. The Don Bosco Church Prayer group, Ayanavaram, was invited to be a part of our Christmas celebration. It was an evening of warm fellowship, games and carol singing. The interaction and bonding among us left us all with a feeling of having more such inter-prayer group celebrations.
- Report by Mary Forrest

