



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:

- Pentecost Rally – A Report
- School of Great Commission - A Report
- LSS Training Manual
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- Christmas Celebrations – A Report



An LSS Training Manual
Compiled by Springs of Life
Prayer Group is available for
use in families, parish prayer
groups and youth groups.

Acts 2: 4 - "All were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak."

2000 years ago, 120 people, stricken with fear, locked themselves in a room, waiting for something to happen from the Lord. The merciful Lord then sent a strong rushing wind, which filled the whole room, and His Holy Spirit, appearing as tongues of fire, rested on each one of them. This mighty outpouring of His Spirit is what we now celebrate as the feast of Pentecost.

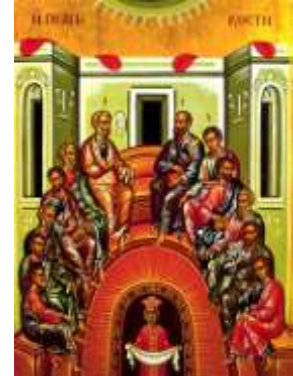
Did this powerful manifestation of God's love end with the apostles? On June 12 2011, marking the feast of Pentecost, the Madras Service Team organized a one day Pentecost Rally at St. Teresa Church Nungambakkam, where God once again recreated the Pentecostal scene, just for the people of Chennai. This year around 200 people participated just to be filled with the Spirit.

The worship team led by Br. Gangai Victor of Little Mount Prayer group led the gathering in worship to exalt God in one body, mind and spirit. As the worship came to an end, everyone were unified, waiting to hear the good news which Paul Srinivas, a full time Catholic lay missionary from Bangalore was about to give.

Paul began the session with his testimony. He introduced himself as a person coming from a Hindu family, and an ardent lover of nature. One night God revealed himself to him through a dream. This was the beginning of his conversion, from a Hindu culture to a full time missionary for Christ. As the Lord took him through his varied stages of life, Paul grew intimately with the Lord, and he constantly tells that more than anything else it is the intimate relationship with God matters the most.

Mary Forrest from St. Luke's Parish Anna Nagar shared her edifying experience of the testimony "It was a strong message and I personally felt so anointed listening to the testimony. In the soft voice of his, he gave a renewing experience to me. He had showed us that one can definitely listen to God and is possible by all."

Paul drew lessons from Genesis 15, to show how God immerses people in His Love.



He showed how God makes an eternal covenant with Abraham. *Genesis 15:18 – On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram saying "To your descendants I have given this country from the river of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates".*

A covenant is an agreement made between two parties. By making this covenant, God assures that He will no longer live for himself and mankind agreed that he will live for God and not for himself. But man has broken this agreement countless times but God has always been faithful to bring it back.

God restored the promise made to David, even after he committed adultery with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11 and 12). When Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus was faithful to revive the covenant once again with Peter (John 21: 15 -17).

This love which God has for everyone was then communicated in a creative manner by the youth members of Youth United for Christ (YU4C). Through a dance they delivered the message of "Christ the Savior of the world". It was followed by a testimony from Ronald Dogget who shared his faith story of how he experienced the love of God.



... Contd on Page 2

National Training for Trainers for Prayer group Leaders organised by the NST

This year the National Service Team (NST) organised a program on "National Training for the trainers for Prayer Group Leaders" at the Divine Call Center, Mulki, Mangalore from May 14 to 18 May 2011.

The objective of the program was to build up leaders so that back home they could carry out this program in their respective regions. The conference was attended by 150 delegates from all over India including four priests, four nuns and one delegate from Kuwait.

Prof. Constantine, Chairman NST in his keynote address spoke about the importance of the charismatic renewal and highlighted how the experience of the renewal should flow from the person to his / her family and ultimately to the whole church.

Mrs Leela Moreas, Secretary NST highlighted how prayer group leaders were getting more involved in conducting the prayer meeting rather than build healthy relationships among prayer group members.

Savio Fernandes from Goa emphasised the need for leaders to have a 'servant heart' and the pitfalls of leadership.

Francis D'Souza, Vice-Chairman of the NST taught about 'shepherding'. He also spoke about the origin and structure of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR).

Mae Britto, a former NST member spoke about the hallmarks of a leader, exercising charisms and communicating God's word effectively.

Manoj Xavier, Assistant Coordinator, YU4C spoke about Accountability and 'Facing the Giants' in day to day life.

On the final day Mae Britto gave a talk on Discipleship where she emphasized that everyone is called to be a disciple. She highlighted the five points in the call to discipleship: (1) A call to intimacy with God; (2) A call to new life in Christ (3) An invitation to be disciplined (4) An invitation to live in fullness and sincerity (5) An invitation to accept hardships.

We were broken into groups at the end of the program according to different regions to chalk out the steps they would take in their respective regions for the growth of the renewal.

We felt enlightened by the Conference and felt very privileged to be part of it.

Report prepared with inputs from Clare D'Cruz and David Joshua who participated from Chennai in this program.

Pentecost Rally Report (Contd from Page 1)

Then it was time for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, this is where people united as one call out the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of God recreates the scene of Pentecost. As the worship team began to invoke the Spirit the people joined in.

As they were prayed over, many received prophetic messages, and many were delivered from the bondages of the evil one as they experience a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. Thus there was an overwhelming presence of the Spirit who came down pouring abundantly the gifts from the Father.

Maria Nita from St. Teresa's Church, Nungambakkam revealed how the Lord has been faithful in giving His gifts. She said "I was asking God to pour out His gifts, and I believe I received the gift of understanding the Word. For earlier I used to read the Bible as a story book now I am able to read it with great depth".

Philip Lazarus from Lourdes Shrine parish, Perambur, expressed his great joy regarding the anointing he had during the BHS. He said "It was a very good experience. I sensed myself moving an inch forward in my relationship with the Lord. The session was very much an anointed one."

For the six young boys from Little Mount Parish it was a special experience as they were deeply moved by the Spirit and after the program was over they expressed a deep desire to be a part of the renewal. Praise be to God for his marvelous works.

The Pentecost Rally was then concluded with mass by Fr. Arul Raj, Parish Priest of Little Mount Parish, who gave a perfect ending to this powerful manifestation of the Spirit during the whole day.

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 - Discernment

Discernment is an excellent practical tool for personal decision making in everyday life. St. Ignatius tells us that our choices and decisions should come not so much from the emotional level or the reasoning level as from the heart level where we experience spiritual consolation and desolation. Discernment is a practical method for decision making. To have a clear discernment, the preconditions are:

1. Detachment (inordinate attachment)
2. Indifference (keeping a distance from things)

The above enables true vision possible in order to choose correctly, backed by sound knowledge of the Word of God and being fully aware of His will and therefore desire to do what is pleasing to God and the most loving thing. Besides,

- Faith in a loving God who is concerned about us
- The particular examination of conscience done twice a day (morning and night), daily personal prayer time including reading and contemplating on the Word of God and sacramental life will surely lead to an intimate relationship with God. A commitment to look for God's will.
- An awareness of your inner movements, your thoughts, feelings and desires. These play an important part in your choices and decisions
- Inner freedom from fears and anxieties, prejudices and false beliefs, attachment to persons and things, unhealed wounds of the past etc. A need to ensure that none of these factors control or influence your decision making process.
- Courage to take risks – fear may prevent you from doing so

Being clear in your mind on the above, the next thing is the need for God's Grace. Grace of increased awareness of how He is guiding and shaping your life. Also for a greater awareness of the obstacles you put in His way. Are Christ's values influencing your choices? Is there an abiding sense of peace and joy in your life, despite the ups and downs? It is also important to always seek God's Forgiveness and healing. Resolution to face the future with greater awareness of His guiding hand. Respond to God's call with greater faith, more humility and more courage.

Make discernment a "way of life" for you, trusting and believing that your God is faithful and loving and will guide you in the right direction. The Lord will surely guide you in taking the correct decision in respect of great financial risks, your career, your job choices, choice of professional studies and even your marriage. God will speak powerfully through the Word of God and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. At times, through the guidance of a spiritual director or a mentor as a way of confirmation.



Contributed by Celine Satur, Prayer Group Leader, St. Teresa's Nungambakkam

Christian Humour

Bear-Hunting Preacher



A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday and head to the hills to do some bear hunting. As he rounded the corner on a perilous twist in the trail, he collided with a bear, sending him and his rifle tumbling down the mountainside. His rifle went one way, and he went the other, landing on a rock and breaking both legs.

That was the good news. The bad news was the ferocious bear was charging at him, and he couldn't move.

"Oh, Lord," the preacher prayed, "I'm so sorry for skipping services today to come out here and hunt. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish: Please make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me. Please, Lord!"

That very instant the bear skidded to a halt, fell to its knees, clasped its paws together and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: "Dear God, bless this food I am about to receive..."

This is Heaven

This 85-year-old couple, having been married almost 60 years, died in a car crash. They had been in good health the last 10 years, mainly due to her interest in health food and exercise. When they reached the pearly gates, St. Peter took them to their mansion, which was decked out with a beautiful kitchen, master bath suite and Jacuzzi.

As they oohed and aahed, the old man asked Peter how much all this was going to cost. "It's free," Peter replied. "This is Heaven."

Next they went out back to survey the championship golf course in the backyard. They would have golfing privileges every day, and each week the course would change to a new one, representing the great golf courses on Earth.

The old man asked, "What are the greens fees?" Peter's reply, "This is Heaven -- you play for free."

Next they went to the clubhouse and saw the lavish buffet lunch with the cuisines of the world laid out.

"How much to eat?" asked the old man.

"Don't you understand yet? This is Heaven, it's FREE!" Peter replied with some exasperation.

"Well, where are the low-fat and low-cholesterol tables?" the old man asked timidly.

Peter lectured, "That's the best part -- you can eat as much as you like of whatever you like and you never get fat and you never get sick. This is Heaven."

With that the old man went into a fit of anger, throwing down his hat and stomping on it, and shrieking wildly. Peter and his wife both tried to calm him down, asking him what was wrong. The old man looked at his wife and said, "This is all your fault. If it weren't for your blasted bran muffins, I could have been here 10 years ago!"

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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!

MST CONTACT INFO

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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.

MST CALENDAR

LSS Retreat at Ayanavaram

Dates: September 10th and 11th
Preached by Babu Victor
Organised by Ayanavaram Prayer Group

Worship Evening

Date: September 24th
Time: 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Venue: Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher
Secondary School Auditorium, Church Park
Campus

Leaders Follow up Meet - Update

The follow up to Planning Meeting happened on
Saturday August 6 evening at St. Teresa's Church,
Community Hall was attended by prayer group
leaders and core group members of various prayer
groups in Chennai.



SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION LITTLE MOUNT PRAYER GROUP

The Little Mount Prayer Group celebrated its Silver Jubilee on the 17th of June 2011.
The Silver Jubilee Mass started with the candle light procession with 25 members
holding lighted candles comprising of children, youth, couples, two religious sisters
and a priest, followed by the celebrants.

Fr. Arul Raj, the Parish Priest of the Little Mount Church carried the logo and installed
it on a special stand. He then welcomed the gathering and also explained the meaning
of the logo depicting "Celebrating the fullness of life". The Prayer Group Leader Dr.
Dominic then went on to explain the theme for the Silver Jubilee Celebration. This was
followed by a choreography "Who am I" by Melanie, Mella and Tanya.

Immediately after this the Eucharistic Celebration began with Fr. Thamburaj as the
main celebrant, the co-celebrants being Fr. Arul Raj, Fr. Lawrence, Fr. Patrick, Fr.
George and Fr. Roy. In his homily Fr. Thamburaj stressed upon the use of Charisms
for building up the body of the Church and said that the Charismatic Renewal should
be integrated into the life of the Church so as to make the services more lively and
meaningful. After the Mass, Bro. Benjamin read out the history of the Prayer Group
and went on to felicitate the many Priests, Retreat Preachers and musicians who have
helped the prayer group to grow over the last 25 years.

At the end of the session, Dr. Dominic
proposed a vote of thanks and also put
forth the future plans for the Jubilee Year.
The celebration ended with a grand dinner.
Past and present members of the Madras
Service Team as well as Prayer Group
Leaders of all Prayer Groups and all the old
timers of the renewal including the entire
Little Mount Prayer Group with their families
were present at the celebration.

- Report Benjamin Gonzaga, Little Mount
Prayer Group

