



SPIRIT AGLOW

Sep - Nov, 2011
Volume 2, Issue 3

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

A Charismatic Worship Evening Indeed – September 24, 2011

The evening of September 24, Saturday was a celebration of the wonderful love of a Father and a tribute of praise and worship to Him. Fr. A J Thamburaj, SJ prayed a blessing and prayer of protection over all those gathered before handing over to the worship team.

Robert Martin from Bangalore was the worship leader who led the dynamic worship team of young Catholic musicians taking us to the 'Heart of Worship'. The event held from 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart school auditorium in the Church Park campus and organized by the Madras Service Team (MST), witnessed great joy and zeal from the 160+ people who had gathered.

Right from the first song 'Trading my sorrows' to the last song 'Consuming Fire' the evening helped each one gathered, experience the love of God expressed in scriptures through song. Everyone wholeheartedly participated. This was aptly expressed by Cynthia Mariadas a student from Madras University, who said, *"With all the songs, we became like little children dancing for the Lord. We weren't concerned about the people around us."*

Margaret Rosaire from Peravalur Parish expressing the joy she had experienced said, *"It was an evening of natural peace and awareness of God's presence and love. Also it was Spirit filled and a realization of our nothingness as we opened ourselves to this deeper experience."*

Ronald Doggett from Lourdes Shrine Perambur Parish said *"The evening reminded me that we are created to praise. When we come together to praise it helps us to experience the presence of the Infinite."* The evening concluded with thanksgiving by the Chairperson of the Madras Service Team, Irene Preeti.



The worship team who animated the evening featured Gerard D'Monte on the bass guitar, John - male vocals, Robert (worship leader and rhythm guitar), Nancy - female vocals, Bruce on the lead guitar and Cline on the drums.



- Report by Alvin Ansa Raja, Member YU4C

National Day of Intercession at Chennai - October 2nd, 2011

The Madras Service Team (MST) along with the Madras Intercessory Network (MIN) observed October 2nd 2011 as the National Intercessory day. Prayer groups from all over Chennai assembled at 9:30 am to pray with one mind and heart for the intentions marked by the NIN. The day began with a vibrant praise and worship by the Elohim Catholic Community where the children of the community literally captivated all hearts with their joyful singing and choreographies. This was followed by an hour of adoration cum intercession where different prayer groups from across the city prayed for the infilling of the Holy Spirit while lifting up various intentions for the leaders of the world, our country, CCR and the Priests.

The adoration and intercession was followed by a hard-hitting talk by Ronald Doggett who exhorted all intercessors to be true to their calling and to 'Fill in the Gap'. The day was made more meaningful by celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Ignatius Prasad, Rector of the Sacred Heart Seminary, Chennai. The day ended with Mrs. Margaret Rosair exhorting the people gathered to join the various central intercession meetings organised by the MIN at the following places by stressing the importance of praying together as a team.

Group	AREA	DAY	TIMING	PLACE
North Chennai Prayer Groups	Choolai	2 nd Monday	6.30 to 8 pm.	St. Aloysius Convent Chapel
South Chennai Prayer Groups	Little Mount	2 nd Monday	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Youth United 4 Christ (YU4C)	Nungambakkam	All Saturdays	7.30 – 8.30 am	Parish Hall

- Report by Clare D'Cruz

Special Interest Articles:

- Worship Evening – A Report
- National Day of Intercession - A Report
- Anna Nagar and Velachery Retreat Reports
- Reflections – Inner Movements of the Spirit
- Christian Humour
- LSS at St. Andrews, Choolai



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

ST.LUKE'S GROWTH RETREAT – A REPORT

"Intimacy with God alone satisfies the soul. Die to things of the world and be open to God" said Paul Srinivas, a missionary from Bangalore in the two day Discipleship retreat held at Divine Mercy Anna Nagar on September 17th and 18th.

This retreat was held especially for the members of St. Luke's Prayer group of Anna Nagar parish. The major objective of this retreat was to help the members of the prayer group to deepen their relationship with God and recommit themselves totally to Christ. Paul Srinivas, full time missionary from Bangalore and Gangai Victor from Little Mount Parish, led the group in strengthening themselves once again to God.

The entire retreat was split into five sessions with three on the first day and two on the last. On the first day the prayer group was led to the truth that one has to be "God chasers" for our soul to find rest, we have to be intimate with God. He also taught the four stages God would make a soul to undergo before it attains fullness of life.

Explaining the condition of our true self Paul Srinivas quoted that Christ died while we were yet sinners. Also for a person to be supremely blessed he has to surrender his entire self to God, for everything comes from God and the soul has to be dependent on Him alone. The participants then went through a session of inner healing allowing themselves to be healed and surrender their lives to God.

With the first day giving insights of complete surrender, the second day took people to the living presence of God in the Word and the Covenant love which God has for each one of us. Quoting Proverbs 4: 20 – 23 he explained for a person to receive God's Word in its entirety he has to be attentive, listen carefully, have the Word constantly at your sight and guard it at the bottom of your heart. He also stated that through the Word one can become pure and the Holy Spirit constantly teaches through the Word.

Speaking on the Covenant he opened the truth that God has made an everlasting agreement with human kind through which he no longer lives for himself but for us. Because of which man in return has to die to his selfishness and yield himself totally to God. For the ultimate aim of human life has to be that our soul has to reach God.

Sharing his experience with Spirit Aglow, Xavier a member of the prayer group quoted "The retreat had a greater impact on me. I could see my prayer life getting strengthened and I also had the experience of God's call growing deeper in my heart." Susan, a youth member of the prayer group revealed her joy "I could relate myself to the talk. I realize now the truth that God doesn't see how successful I am but how committed I am to Him. Even if I fall to sin He forgives me and lifts me up."

The retreat came to a close with the Holy mass celebrated by Fr. Gregory, Parish Priest of Anna Nagar St. Luke's Parish. After the retreat many who attended joined the prayer group.

- Report by Alvin Ansa Raja, Member, St.Luke's Prayer Group

RELIVING THE POWER EXPERIENCE

The church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Velachery, Chennai, witnessed a retreat where more than 100 hearts were ignited for Jesus Christ at "POWER - 2011" on 5th and 6th of November 2011.

The day began with an opening prayer and blessing by Rev Fr. Bernard Laurence, Parish Priest. The retreat was animated by Rev Fr Cyril Stanislaus and supported by Dr Dominic Joseph and Ronald Doggett.

The retreat was based on the theme **"More Love, More Power and More of Jesus in my Life"**. The sessions filled with the power of the Holy Spirit included workshop style talks on Forgiveness, Adoration, Inner Healing and culminated with a rekindling of the Holy Spirit. Confession and Holy Eucharist were a part of the retreat and it was a renewing opportunity to many.

A large number who participated experienced the Love and Power of the Lord. It was a unique experience for the Prayer group members too, who organised this retreat.

Kavitha and the worship team led the retreat participants in exalting Our Master in one body, mind and spirit. The worship team played a crucial part in helping build up each session and prepare the participants hearts to receive the Word.

With the children under the care of YU4C volunteers, the parents were able to focus on the retreat while the tiny tots were engaged with fun activities and games on both days.

Even weeks before the retreat the intercessory team was at work with fasting and prayer in many homes. The MST as well as the MIN supported the retreat with their prayers.

Some of the retreat participants shared their experiences...

According to Mrs. Cini Jose the retreat was a total package of Healing and Anointing while Mr. Rayan had a different experience of being renewed, especially during the laying on of hands.

Mr. Yesupadam, a prayer group member felt it was spiritually enriching and wished that there were more and more retreats like this.

Messages were highly soul searching and focused on personal lives says Mrs. Preeti Cherian adding "My mom as well as a few others with whom I interacted, shared that were happy they came and would like to attend the regular weekly prayer meetings."

"Being my initiation retreat, it was a great exhilarating spiritual experience," said Mr. Prem" who was also amazed with the PNW and Inner Healing sessions. He also said that it was a very well organised retreat.

- Report prepared by Col. James Susainathan (Retd), Velachery Prayer Group

REFLECTIONS - INNER MOVEMENTS OF THE SPIRIT

Inner movements of the Spirit or discernment of Spirits is distinguishing between one kind of spirit with another, namely, good and evil. It is the "movements of the soul". These interior movements consist of thoughts, emotions, inclinations, desires, feelings, repulsions, and attractions. Discernment of spirits involves becoming sensitive to these movements, reflecting on them, and understanding where they come from and where they lead us.

Both from the teaching of the Church and our own experience we know that serving God and following Christ is not easy or a smooth path but at times extremely difficult. It involves conflicts. The conflict is not only with or within us or with the world or other human beings but a conflict or war with the evil spirits. We know the evil spirit can surely test or tempt the weaknesses we have, using it to the advantage of exploiting our passions. He can most certainly use other human beings, as he often does, to lead us into temptation.

We know that God's grace is active in our souls, impelling and inviting us to the practice of virtue. Given these two situations, "that on the one hand we are being tempted by the evil spirits", "on the other hand we are being invited by God's grace", it is most important for us to be able to recognize one impulse from the other. In other words, to be able to distinguish inspiration from instigation, grace from temptation. This will enable us to respond to the one, and resist the other.

Critical problems today are due to failure in discernment and not so much due to ill will, or malice but because people are not able to distinguish between one impulse and the other. And later when they are caught in the web of demonic temptation it becomes very difficult to free them. By our attitude, peace and confidence, we can be more alert to distinguish between the two spirits? One spirit that wishes to draw us closer to God because the spirit comes from God, and the other away from God because it is the instigation of the evil spirit.

Attitude

In order to recognize temptations and distinguish them from graces, the first indispensable precondition is the proper attitude, and it is an attitude of will to recognize anything in the spiritual life. The bible (both Old and New Testaments) talks about being properly disposed in heart. The proper attitude of will is essential in order that you might have the grace to be able to distinguish between good and evil.

Our attitude should be an honest and sincere desire to do God's will. Maybe we have sinned; maybe we are still sinning. Maybe we are not all that we should be. Maybe there are things that should be uprooted from our lives. If we are honest, no matter what our past has been or our present is, our future is secure, because then we will be given the corresponding light to recognize temptation from inspiration. It is God's light that we first need. The pure of heart, they shall see God. They will be able to recognize Him when He speaks and distinguish His voice from the seductions of the evil one.

Peace

One of the best ways of distinguishing between temptations and graces is to find out whether they bring peace or anxiety to the soul. The effect of grace is peace. Christ is the Prince of Peace. Peace may involve suffering, trials, the Cross.

On the other hand, temptations of the evil spirit are the opposite. The evil spirit causes confusion, doubt, insecurity, despondency, anxiety, worry, and despair. When we are in darkness, we grope, we stumble, we are paralyzed and don't want to move.

Confidence

The last element is great confidence in God that He does not deceive His chosen. "Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid." He wants us to trust Him implicitly. This is the guarantee of perseverance in His grace once we have discovered that it is His grace.

Once we have decided what God wants, we are to forge ahead, no turning back. Lord Jesus, make us open to your grace. Let us trust you because you have overcome the world, that we too can overcome all our own inclinations. We trust our God for we know He will never fail us.

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

CHRISTIAN HUMOUR - Source: Internet

The Army of the Lord

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

Parking

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note. "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."



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+91 96771 91057

E-MAIL PRAYER REQUESTS:
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 (late) Sr
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.

MST CALENDAR

December Christmas Get-together

Date: Saturday, December 10th, 2011

Time: 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Church park Campus, Tamil School Hall

Christmas message by Fr. A. J. Thamburaj, S.J. on the theme of "HOPE"



Holiness Retreat - A Stay-in Program

Details of the Date, Venue and Resource Person
will be announced soon.



English Retreat in Little Mount Parish

Dates: January 21 and 22, 2012

Preached by Pota Team

LSS FOR FAMILIES AT ST. ANDREW'S, CHOOLAI

The Springs of Life Prayer Group in its mission to introduce families in the parish of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Choolai to the 'Life in the Spirit Seminar' had prepared a 'Life in the Spirit' Training Manual which would help small groups and families experience a Life in the Spirit Seminar by themselves.

On October 4th, 5th and 6th, 2011, about 35 participants several of them participating in the program as families, made use of the manual to better understand the dynamics of the Life in the Spirit Seminar. Some of them were participating in an LSS for the first time.

Each day began with a session of praise and worship led by different members of the prayer group. Each session was followed by a workshop with the participants breaking into groups. AV clips were also used for each seminar to summarise the theme of the talk.

After the final session of 'Infilling of the Holy Spirit' the participants were bubbling with joy and several of them expressed their unique experiences. For the resource people too, the experience was unique because some of them were involved in an end-to-end LSS for the first time.

- Report by Springs of Life Prayer Group

LSS for Catechism Children

The Springs of Life Prayer Group of St. Andrew's Church, Choolai conducted a two day life in the spirit seminar for the English speaking catechism children of the parish between 9th and 12th standards.

The children enthusiastically participated in the retreat which was also supported by the St. Andrew's Youth Prayer Group (SAY-PG). The sessions were interactive and filled with interesting fillers like Audio-Video clips for each talk to help engage the young audience to the message being shared.

Some of the children who were restless at the beginning of the retreat said that they wished every catechism session was like this after they had a beautiful experience during the final session of laying on of hands for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

- Report by Springs of Life Prayer Group

YU4C National Meet at Chennai

The YU4C National Team and the Southern Regional Team comprising Salem, Coimbatore, Ooty, Dharmapuri and Hosur met at Chennai.

Prof. Constantine, Chairperson, National Service Team, shared with the YU4C Team Members the vision of the NST to establish prayer groups at the diocese level. He encouraged the YU4C to continue their efforts in building the Kingdom of God by sharing in the vision of NST.

- Report by Benedict Jai, YU4C