



THE TRIUNE

Monthly Newsletter from Asian Indian Christian Church



September 2016 | Volume 23 | Issue 9

Editor's Note

The Triune is a monthly newsletter that serves as a means of expression for the members and friends of AICC. It also serves to report on the activities and events of AICC.

The Editors encourage all members to contribute testimonies, articles, ideas, view points, etc., for The Triune. Kindly submit your articles by 20th of September for inclusion in our next issue, October 2016.

We sincerely hope and pray that this Newsletter will glorify God and edify its readers.

Please direct your questions/comments to Pastor or Editors.

In Him,

Triune Editors

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ON LINE WORSHIP

1st Day of every Month @6.00am

PRAYER TIME

Every Wednesday @9.00pm

ASIAN INDIAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE" - JOHN 17:21

172 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, NJ 07922

WORSHIP SERVICE

Every Sunday @10:00am

HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of every Month

Matthew 24:35

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

Our Vision

"To establish a worshipping and witnessing church to cater to the spiritual needs of the Asian Indian community in the USA, enabling them to come together for worship, fellowship and service in the community at large through activities such as regular Sunday Worship, Sunday School, Teen Ministry, Youth Ministry. Music Ministry, Counseling, Evangelism, Missions and Social Activities.

Our Mission

As a Community Church, AICC strives to bring together Christians to be blessed with the Word of God and Holy Sacrament to unite as a congregation for worship, fellowship, service and witness; to bridge cultural, ethnic and social barriers; to build a cohesive spiritual community rooted in the Biblical teachings and the love of Jesus.



Rev. Dr. Kamalesh Stephen

Let's Talk About GRACE

While going on my regular walk this morning, I was reminded to write about grace as we embark on another new academic year with new day care, new school and probably, a new place of work. But, why grace? When we talk about grace, we often refer to the redeeming aspect of grace. That's what the hymn writer says:

"Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found.
Was blind but now I see."

The famous John Wesley mentions this as the prevenient grace; the grace of God that will not let us go. It is the grace of God that was with us even before we became aware of it. It is the grace of God that relentlessly pursues us in order to redeem us from the ways of the world.

However, I am interested in this

aspect of grace that is beyond the redemption of our hearts and souls. The one that got my attention and the one that God laid on my heart to write is this - the sustaining nature of grace. Look again, this is what the hymn writer says:

"'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead us home."

The summer went by very quickly and we enjoyed our time as a family; many things could have gone wrong but by His grace we were sustained. We embarked on a mission trip with the teens and so many things could have gone wrong but it is the grace of God that sustained us thru and thru. We could not have done this without the grace of God sustaining us.

I know a friend who has to do regular exercise to keep his blood pressure down but is unable to because of his arthritis in the knee. This morning as I went for a walk God was reminding me of the grace that is given to me to keep up my regular exercise schedule. I hardly thank God for His unceasing grace in my life. Sometimes the small trials of life seem to overwhelm us and we do not get to see the big picture where God is in control and doing amazing things in and

Pastor's Desk

through us.

Finally, this grace of God is also a sanctifying one. We, who have been redeemed by grace tend to make light of this by continuing to live a life that is not pleasing to God. As Bonhoeffer says, "grace is free but it is not cheap." The grace of God that redeems us is also interested in sanctifying our lives to the fullest until we become like the Son. The reason for our sanctification is that we might show the love of Christ to the world through our words and deeds. It is not enough to be redeemed but it must be lived out in our daily lives.

Let me close with the words of the Apostle Paul in Colossians 4:6: "Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person (NASB)." As we begin another new academic year, may we be reminded to thank God for His sustaining grace but most importantly, allow the sanctifying nature of this grace to do its work in our lives so that, "others may see the good works and give thanks to our Father in heaven."

Let grace abound...



“Strangers in the Land” (continued from August Issue) - Reggie Rao

As we all know, the Bible is the world’s greatest treasure of poetic expression and Truth. In a particularly poignant and poetic moment, in the Old Testament, Jehovah illustrates the importance of setting aside a portion of our harvest for strangers in the land.

As the story unfolds, we begin to understand the complexity of Divine Will and Purpose. We see a picture of Ruth, a young, forlorn widow, standing before some barley fields in Bethlehem. It is the beginning of harvest time.

Ruth is a stranger from Moab, a land despised for its incestuous infamy. She has of her own free will chosen to accompany her mother-in-law Naomi, as she returns to Bethlehem, after losing her husband and both sons. Ruth had been married to Naomi’s younger son. This was a dangerous journey for two lonely widows to even attempt. Evil, violent, desperate robbers and scoundrels frequented the roads linking villages, towns and cities.

But then, Jehovah, the origin of Love and Mercy, had heard Ruth’s heartbroken sobs on Naomi’s shoulder. And He had noted Ruth’s refusal to leave her mother-in-law’s company, even as Naomi bitterly rejected her heart-rending pleas to stay. He had heard with great satisfaction to Ruth’s thrilling statement of steadfast sacrifice and love, to her mother-in-law:

“Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God”. (KJV).

This statement of undivided love, allegiance to the memory of her late husband, unshakeable faith in her mother-in-law, wins Ruth, a coveted crown - a major branch in the tree of His only Son’s lineage.

We hold our breath meanwhile, for that complexity of Divine Will and Purpose to unfold. Jehovah has set

His mark on the forehead of a despised Gentile, born low but in her loss and steadfast love, lifted high above the clouds.

A little later, we have a touching picture of Boaz, painted by the same Divine Artist, the God of Dreams. The Master Creator chooses many varieties of brushes. They vary from the silkiest sable to the roughest camel. Words in brilliant pastels, sober brown and black fill his canvas. He has the power to roll up the canvas and the very heavens if it is His Will. But it is not time yet for that.

Boaz, a kinsman of Naomi, with the quick eye of a landlord and employer, spots forlorn Ruth. He feels immediate compassion for the stranger in the land. He remembers the commandment and deals with the stranger, in obedience to God’s Word. He has chosen well - a stranger favored by the God of Ancient Times.

...(to be continued)

My Visit to India - Anish Gupta

I went to Ramabai orphanage, Pune, India on August 10th to meet Rupali and Kasturi. We took a taxi and it was a long ride. We saw blind people making baskets. We got to ride a motorcycle. Kasturi sang a song. We gave Rupali chocolates. We got a tour around Ramabai. We got to play and eat Indian food for lunch. I feel sad that some kids do not have parents. I will give them money. I will send them Christmas cards. I will visit them again next time I go to India.





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Annual Retreat - Shyamala

The 2016 AICC family retreat was a blessing to us. It was a well deserved break from the daily routine, away from New Jersey, in a scenic place. Each day was fulfilled and entertaining. The early morning devotions on seeing God in unexpected places/people, urged us to look for God in the unexpected. Lively worship before each session made us lift up our voices to our Maker and sing out praises to Him.

The Spirit inspired, challenging and encouraging messages of the guest

speaker either confirmed what God had been telling us individually, or challenged and encouraged our daily walk as Christians. Different games gave something for the grey matter to work on, while entertainment kept us riveted to our seats. Sport & swimming kept the sportive ones, teens and tiny ones active, while jewellery making confined the less active ones indoors but brought out the creativity in us. Splitting us up into different groups instilled a sense of team spirit and we were all children once again, trying to

cheer on our respective teams and earning 'points' to up our scores every day whether it was quiz or other team based activity. Meal times gave us an opportunity to sit with different families around the table and get to know them better.

Sitting around the camp fire singing songs, playing games, gazing at the starry sky, eating s'mores and trundling back to our rooms, we were content. A small slot allotted for talent show on the last day just before lunch and check-out was a fitting end to this short, refreshing AICC family retreat!





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Rev. Anand Veeraraj, who shared God's word with the Grand Parents at AICC, compared our life's journey to that of an Olympic sport. The spectators, the

athletes and the judges are part of this grand sport. We were urged to shed all that hinders us and follow Jesus with endurance and perseverance in order

to win the race. On a practical note, the preacher asked us to live in the present instead of looking at the past.

Mrs. Lily Veeraraj enthralled us with a special number. Alice Poorna did an excellent presentation on the awareness of depression and dementia about seniors in this country -our thanks to Alice. Powerful testimonies were shared by the participants. All of us cherished every moment of the day with good message, great singing, sumptuous food and light games. We extend our sincere thanks to Beulah Samson, Sunitha Immanuel, Sophie Samuel, Jeffry Samson and Leslie Samson.

AICC Grand Parents Day - Kirubakaran Rajamoni





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AICC Teens Mission Trip - Divya Pakianathan

Six girls, Six boys, three adults, and one professional weed wacker embarked to West Virginia in a rented van and a Toyota Highlander early this August. With little experience, and for many, suitcases packed with untouched equipment and work boots, the prospects of the trip seemed uncertain. After all, even with the best of intentions, how much work could a group of teenagers really accomplish in one week? Arriving in West Virginia, it was clear we weren't in New Jersey anymore. Coming from one of the most ethnically diverse states in the country, we had arrived in a state with a population that is 95% white. It was also a town where cellular data access could only be found on a singular stretch of road for about ten minutes, and the only place with WiFi was the local Dairy Queen. Even our evening devotion sessions were radically different — with the songs featuring way more banjos and country roads than we were accustomed to in our usual worship. In short, we were far out of our comfort zones. Yet, in the short week we spent in Appalachia, we adapted. For some of us, it was the first time mopping bathrooms or cleaning dishes. Without internet, we spent the week clueless about the latest news or developments in the election. However, all of the new changes in our environment enabled us to focus, without

distractions, on the task at hand — the home.

Every morning, before loading up the van to the worksite, we made our own ham and cheese or PB&J sandwiches to go. We packed up the tools, loaded our self-cleaned paint brushes, and after my Thatha took several photos, we were ready to leave. With the help of ASP volunteers Mike and Keith, we took on different responsibilities as we sought to transform Happy's home. Some of us took on the job of completely remodeling the back of the house, even removing an entire section. Others learned how to fill concrete for the first time, building a pathway for Happy to walk on comfortably. Several took on the task of priming and painting the exterior of the house blue. We had certain individual responsibilities as well, with my Thatha earning himself the nickname, "Joe the weed wacker" after successfully and

purposefully ridding the home of weeds. We even had our own resident "wasp patrol", ready to quickly inform the rest of us of incoming threats, as well as a team of people trying to catch a cat attempting to make its way into the home. Perhaps the most important job, however, was getting to know the homeowner, Happy. It's easy to separate the house and the work from the actual human being who lives there. However, several members of our team worked to establish meaningful and personal relationships with Happy and her puppy Humini, forming connections likely to last longer than the house itself.

It's true that the remnants of primer and fluorescent blue paint will soon fade from our hair, jeans, and work boots, and while the newly furnished exterior of home may eventually crack and the weeds will grow back, what will not change is a home and a life transformed by Christ.





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With Hearts Full of Thanks,
Let Us Come & Praise the Lord
For all His Blessings Showered Upon Us

HARVEST *festival*

September 25th 2016 | 11.30 am

Asian Indian Christian Church

172 Springfield Avenue Berkeley Heights NJ

***Auction & Sale *Food Court**

***Thanksgiving Baskets arranged by Women**

***Games *Cultural Programs *Music**

for More Details Please Contact Rev. Dr. Kamalesh Stephen 908.464.9777
visit us www.aiccnj.org



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Asian Indian Christian Church

172 Springfield Ave Berkeley Heights NJ

Church Picnic Apple Picking

September 17th 2016
11am - 4pm



Picnic

Round Valley Recreation Area
1220 Lebanon-Stanton
Lebanon, NJ 08833

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/round.html>

Apple Picking Orchard

Valley Crest Farm
14 Allerton Road
Lebanon, NJ 08833

<http://www.valleycrestfarmnj.org>

visit us: www.aiccj.org

for More Details Please contact Rev. Dr. Kamalesh Stephen 908.464.9777



*"On the first day of the ... month
shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the
tent of the congregation."*

Exodus 40:2

FIRST OF THE MONTH

Join us Online as a Family on first of each month

service Time



6 - 6:30 AM

Dial 866-576-7975

Access code 825147#



Asian Indian Christian Church

172 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
Visit us online at www.aiccj.org

"New Month New Morning New Mercies"

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... they are new every morning"



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“HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHERN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY”

AICC hosted the 3rd annual prayer vigil “Pray for India” on Friday August 12th, 2016, prayer started at 7:30 PM & finished at 12:30 AM. The 5 churches and their congregation came together

to participate in oneness of mind to Praise and Pray for India. We spent time singing, worshipping, sharing testimony and praying for different States, Missionaries, Christian who are being

persecuted every single day in most parts of India. We also prayed for our leaders, politicians, for peace and harmony in our country.

Prayer vigil was streamed online and had participants from NY, PA & TX

Asian Indian Christian Church

The number of people gathered together to pray for India and its needs, was encouraging. Eight states of India were allotted to AICC's prayer slot plus members of the congregation prayed for certain global issues, some specific & pressing needs of these states. Singing choruses in-between the prayer points broke the monotony. Other churches followed the first slot and we worshiped with them, they prayed with fervency, enacted skits, and shared the Word of God. Coming together single-

mindedly for one cause, we left with the assurance that the Lord would have

heard our humble prayers for India.
- Shyamala Easter



My Prayer Night Experience

Lord who loves the whole world has created India in a special way. We all feel proud that the name of India mentioned in the Bible - Esther 1:1, 8:9. Even St. Thomas was unwilling to make a trip to India because Our God loves India, HE appeared in a vision and encouraged him to visit. When I started praying in prayer night with others, I had a feeling Why I need to do this, Next day important tasks in my list kept reminding me to go home early. Why I need to beg God to save India because He already loves the nation so much. I

am sure; He wants to save them more than I want to see the country saved.

Here I was trying to persuade God 's grace and mercy for each and every state in India. But it was the other way around. After hours passed by, God was building depths of compassion, mercy, and peace in my heart. God is giving everyone a chance to stand in the gap for the nation. When individuals pray, God works a softness and tenderness in hearts because we are talking to the One who is all mercy, all beauty, all powerful, all kind and all loving. We

become most like the things that we worship. I felt like God was testing me to see if I was interested in my upcoming schedules or God's concern. By the grace of God, I passed the test by staying until the end.

It was a pleasant evening that churches came together and prayed for our Mother Nation with love and passion. We heard others' hearts in prayer in a way we can't find anywhere else and effects that unity to become deeper and richer.
- David Stephen, AICC

Cornerstone Church, Plainsboro-NJ

“It was awesome to see people of the lord come under one roof and pray for a cause. To see that He is rising up a new generation to stand in the gap was very encouraging. It's a great initiative from AICC team” - **Pastor Andrew**





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Tamil Gospel Church

When we think about Pray for India I remember the time of Nehemiah, that time he was in the top position and had a very good life style. He was in the palace with the King, on that moment he remembered his own country Israel. He gathered all the news about Israel and Fasted & Prayed. We have to learn a lesson, living in USA even though we have a good and wealthy life we should not forget our mother land India. We should love and Pray for India. This is one way of Gratitude and a more

powerful thing we can do for our country. Thank you AICC...

Praise the God!

Rev. Joseph Samarasam



Friends of Edison (LOJ)

We have been attending Independence Day all night Prayer meet conducted by AICC for the past 3 years. We thank God for giving us burden to pray for our country. It's been a special fellowship for every one of us to pray and praise our Lord Almighty with group of churches. Our special thanks to AICC team for organizing inter church prayer meet and fellowship every year to pray for our country.

Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB)

Last few years we have been taking part in AICC prayer night, "Pray for India" and it has been such a blessing to us. As the bodies of Christ come together and stand in the gap for our Nation it is truly a powerful time of Worship & prayer. As

2 Chronicles 7:14 says, God is healing our Nation as we humble ourselves, repent and pray & seek His face. Focused prayer for each state and other pressing needs that we intercede for are being answered by our Lord Almighty.

It is a privilege to be a part of such a

prayer and we are grateful to our Lord Jesus for this opportunity. Thank you AICC Church for organizing this prayer and faithfully doing it every year.

- Gracia Hope

Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB) It was such a great blessing to see so many churches participate in unity and pray for India. It was a unique opportunity to gather together with fellow Indian to consciously pray for each state's need and authorities in power. We felt Gods spirit move in our hearts as we interceded for our mother country. We have a new perspective and a renewed burden to continuously pray for our nation.

- John Peter & Mary





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Birthdays

- September 03 Roshini Stephen
- September 04 Solomon Karunakaran
- September 07 Edward Asirvatham
- September 10 Ryan Matthew
- September 11 Preethi Kumar
- September 11 Priya Pakianathan
- September 11 Alethea Poornaselvan
- September 15 Jason Thomas
- September 18 Rebekah Mamidi
- September 20 Jeffrey Samson
- September 20 Joshua Abhay Samuel
- September 23 Phillip Isaac
- September 27 Rachel Padmini Kumar
- September 30 Jennifer Thompson

Wedding Anniversaries

- Sep 08 Mr. & Mrs. Satyavan
- Sep 15 Shoba and KarthiganSrinivasan
- Sep 17 Mal and Gunamozhi Praveen
- Sep 17 Easter and Shyamala

Fellowship Hour

Interested in hosting Fellowship Hour after service, Please contact Sumitra Stephen or Beulah Samson.
email fellowshiphour@aiccny.org

Correction & Omission

Any correction or omission, please bring it to the attention of triune editors.

Month at a Glance

Sep 01	Thursday	6.00 am	Online worship
Sep 04	Sunday I	10.00 am 10.30 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion Service Sunday School Classes Teen Meeting
Sep 06	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Cell Groups - Edison
Sep 08	Thursday	7.00 pm	Cell Groups - Hillsborough
Sep 11	Sunday II	10.00 am 10.30 am 11.30 am 12.00 am	Sunday Worship Service Sunday School Classes Teen Meeting Council Meeting
Sep 13	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Cell Groups - Edison
Sep 14	Thursday	7.00 pm	Cell Groups - Hillsborough
Sep 17	Saturday	11.00 am	Apple Picking/Picnic
Sep 18	Sunday III	10.00 am 10.30 am 11.30 am	Sunday Worship Service Sunday School Classes Teen Meeting
Sep 20	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Cell Groups - Edison
Sep 22	Thursday	7.00 pm	Cell Groups - Hillsborough
Sep 24	Saturday	10.00 am	Sunday School Teachers Training
Sep 25	Sunday IV	10.00 am 11.30 am	Sunday worship Service Harvest Festival
Sep 27	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Cell Groups - Edison
Sep 29	Thursday	7.00 pm	Cell Groups - Hillsborough

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About Us

Asian Indian Christian Church (AICC) was born out of a vision to bring together people of Indian origin for Christian worship, fellowship, service and mission. It was established in July 1989 with a commitment to fulfill the spiritual, social and cultural needs of the Asian Indian community.

Over the years, AICC has witnessed tremendous growth in membership and expansion in its ministry and presently worships at the 172 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. AICC is a vibrant church with several ministries, programs and activities designed to spread the Good News of the Gift of Salvation to all people.

AICC has touched the lives in many people in the Tri-state area over the past 25 years by sharing the love of Jesus, while helping them to grow. Worship services are conducted every Sunday at 10 am in English, Sunday School at 10.30 am and Teen Ministry at 11.30 am.

AICC serves as a shining beacon for families desiring a unique worship and fellowship experience.

Programs Offered

Sunday School

Teen Ministry

Youth Ministry

Women's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

Praise and Worship

Mission and Evangelism

Bible Study

Confirmation Classes

All Night Prayer

Annual Church Retreat

Annual Revival Meeting

Monthly prayer Fellowship

Music Ministry



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