



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

AUG 2025

"Equipping and Empowering Congregation in God's Mission"



"You will be my witnesses"
(Acts 1:8)

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From the Presbyterian's Desk

"You will be my witnesses"

(Acts 1:8)

The ministry of Jesus continues to help us in our understanding of understanding and doing God's mission in this world. It is ironical that the departure of Jesus after the completion of the earthly ministry, inaugurates the beginnings of the church, the recognition of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the worldwide mission. One of the vivid models of mission is tucked away in the Ascension story in Acts 1:6-11. The story of Apostles and the early church in Acts is considered as a continuation of the ministry of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospel according to Luke. Luke concludes the ministry of Jesus in a fitting manner (*Luke 24:50-53*). In one of the rare words of Jesus in Acts, Jesus calls the disciples and all the believers then and now to be witnesses (*Acts 1:8*), to the experience and message of the risen Christ and to be committed to the values of the kingdom of God. The message of Jesus, "You will be my witnesses" (*Acts 1:8*) is a call that transcends boundary and time. To be witnesses in '*Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and to the end of the earth,*' can also be understand as the literal geographical expansion and the outline of the Book of Acts which is missional in nature. The key message is the essential role of the Holy spirit in carrying out God's mission and the work of the Church in being faithful to God's mission.

We are preparing to the celebrating the '*Mission month,*' as has been our practice for some time. And we will be focusing on the different ways of understanding Mission with relation to being witnesses. The focus will be on the Book of Acts with the supporting texts in the Gospel of Luke and the Old Testament. It is our hope that we will together rediscover another biblical model of missions as recorded in the Book of Acts. Indeed a detailed study of the Book of Acts, which is rich with historical notes and stories recorded with much care, is the need of the hour.

As part of the Mission month, we will be focussing on our mission field at Tubagere, and our second mission field, 'Project Andrew,' in partnership with the Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM) with a mission base at Malur. In addition, we will be introduced to other mission networks and God's servants who are closely working with mission, during this month. May our listening to the different voices renew our own spiritual lives and enable us to pray more earnestly that 'We will be witnesses,' to share the good news of the message of Jesus Christ. Shalom!

Your Presbyterian

Rev Dr Dexter S. Maben

MISSION MONTH

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries

Sunday School



On Sunday, 13th July, the Kannada Sunday School children joyfully rendered two Kannada songs during the Kannada Worship Service:

1. ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಪೋರನಾದ ದಾವೀದ್ 2. ಚಿಟ್ಟೆ ಮರಿಯು ಹಾರುತ್ತಿದೆ

- A meaningful meeting with the parents of Kannada Sunday School children was held on 27th July. The team effectively communicated the vision of nurturing children on a strong biblical foundation through collaborative efforts.
- On the same day, the English Sunday School children presented a delightful special song titled “Sing High, Sing Low” by Jana Alayra, bringing smiles to the congregation.
- The **Bible Union India - State Level Bible Exam 2025** was also conducted on 27th July. A total of **44 enthusiastic participants** took part in the exam, showcasing their dedication to studying God's Word.

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohan Raj
Sunday School Superintendent

Young Couples Fellowship

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12

This month's session emphasized the strength of unity in marriage when grounded in God. We were blessed to have Mr. Nishanth Kunder and Mrs. Reema Raj lead the session, sharing their personal testimony and biblical insights under the theme “3 Unbroken Strings.”



They reminded us that the original design for marriage included a threefold cord *Adam, Eve, and God*. Despite the enemy's ongoing efforts to divide, as warned in *St. John 10:10*, the sustaining grace of God empowers couples to remain strong through trials.

The couple's heartfelt sharing from their 12-year journey, including challenges like illness and job loss was a testament to God's enduring faithfulness in their marriage.

Key takeaways from the session were:

1. Conflict Is Natural-Even in Healthy Marriages

- Every marriage experiences disagreements.
- Conflict, though painful, can be a tool for deeper understanding and connection.
- When guided wisely especially with the “third string” (spiritual or external support) conflict becomes an opportunity to grow as a couple.

2. The Journey of Marriage: Ups, Downs & Plateaus

- Marriage includes seasons of joy (ups), hardship (downs), and routine (plateaus).
- Just as the God of the mountain is also God in the valley, faith remains steady across life's highs and lows.
- The “plateau” seasons when life feels routine or quiet are crucial. They shape how couples respond to both future challenges and celebrations.

3. Snakes & Ladders Analogy

- Life is like the classic game: progress can come swiftly or be set back suddenly.
- It's not just about the highs or lows, but how we move during the quiet moments between them.
- Intentional actions during peaceful times prepare couples for life's unpredictability.

It was an inspiring and spiritually enriching gathering for all who attended.

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohan Raj

YCF Convener

St. Andrew's School

Honouring Our Teachers & Vision Camp

Celebrating Our Teaching Team

The role of a teacher carries great responsibility and demands a high standard of accountability. Teachers are not just educators-they are mentors who guide students in their pursuit of knowledge and character development. At St. Andrew's School, we are blessed with an energetic and devoted teaching team:



[From right to left: Manjula Bai, Joy, C. Sheela Bharathi, Myriam Sudha (HM), Usha Rani, Shubha Kanthi, Sadiya Begum K]

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their commitment, dedication, and the positive impact they make in the lives of our students. Their unwavering support, love, and hard work do not go unnoticed, and we remain deeply thankful for their service.

Vision Camp - Caring for Our Children's Sight

With a vision to support our students' health and learning, a Vision Camp was conducted at our school in collaboration with the Lions Club and a team of ophthalmologists from Carl Zeiss.

The initiative aimed to:

- Identify vision issues early.
- Provide timely interventions like prescription and distribution of spectacles.
- Raise awareness among students and parents on the importance of eye health.

Our students were excited to participate in the screening process. Spectacles were distributed on the spot to those in need. We sincerely thank the Lions Club and Carl Zeiss team for their impactful support and continued engagement with St. Andrew's School.

Mr. Wilson Prathap
Convener

Women's Fellowship

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."
Proverbs 31:25

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Women's Fellowship gathered on 5th July for our monthly Bible Study. Having reflected on the transforming role of the Holy Spirit in aligning our lives to God's will, this session focused on the spiritual gifts granted to believers who are filled and led by the Spirit. We were reminded that living by the Spirit requires intentional choices moment by moment to forsake the desires of the flesh. As Galatians 6:7 - 9 encourages us, "Let us not grow weary in doing good," for we will reap a harvest at the proper time if we do not give up.

The Bible Study concluded with a time of testimony-sharing, where members reflected on how God's hand has been evident in their lives. These stories served as powerful reminders that God's presence is revealed when we pause and reflect.



One-Day Women's Retreat

On 12th July, a one-day retreat was organised by the Women's Fellowship for the women of St. Andrew's Church at Elim Resorts, Kanakapura Road. We were blessed to have Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben as our speaker, who delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking message. His words called us to recognise our identity in Christ and trust Him wholeheartedly.

Drawing from Proverbs 31, Rev. Dexter Maben reflected on the 22 characteristics of a virtuous woman symbolically aligned with the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. He reminded us that a woman of God is clothed with strength and dignity, and that:

- *She laughs in the face of adversity*
- *She does not fear the future*
- *She relies on a sovereign God who provides help and grace in every Situation*

He further highlighted that such a woman is wise, speaks with kindness, manages her household with diligence, and is a woman of substance and grace. Her children call her blessed, and her husband praises her.

The session concluded with a touching story, followed by a time of prayer and blessings. The rest of the day was filled with joyful fellowship, games, and rides, leaving everyone refreshed and grateful for the time spent together.

Bible Quiz Participation & Outreach

On 19th July, the KCD Women's Fellowship conducted a Bible Quiz based on the Book of Matthew (all 28 chapters) and the Book of Micah (all 7 chapters). Four ladies from St. Andrew's Church represented us with enthusiasm and are eagerly awaiting the results.

Moving forward, our committee has decided to meet every third Saturday to create handcrafted articles. These items will be sold to support outreach initiatives. We welcome volunteers from the congregation who wish to contribute their skills or time in teaching and crafting.

We thank our Lord Almighty for His abundant grace and blessings upon the Women's Fellowship. May we continue to grow in faith, wisdom, and service to His kingdom.

Mrs. Daisy Richards

Secretary, Women's Fellowship

Youth Fellowship



We greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We thank God for His guidance throughout the month of July, which brought the youth together in prayer, fellowship, and service.

On 5th July, members of the Youth Fellowship visited Mrs. Nargis Peters, a respected elderly member of our church now residing at Grace Land Elderly Home, Rajajinagar. During this visit, the youth were privileged to learn about her life and her long-standing contribution to the church choir. The visit was also a joyful time of singing and interaction with other residents and caregivers, whose faithful and cheerful service was deeply inspiring.

The Evening Worship Service on the second Sunday was led by the Youth Fellowship. The service was blessed with a thoughtful message from Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna, which encouraged all present.

In continuing our commitment to community support, the youth actively participate in the Care for the Elderly Ministry, contributing to their monthly meetings. They also support Sunday School through leading praise and worship sessions.

Regular spiritual activities continue to enrich the group's journey:

- Online Devotion & Prayer is held every Saturday at 8:30 A.M.
- Bible Study sessions take place every Sunday after the English Worship Service, led in rotation by mentors and youth members.

The verse that continues to encourage us is Galatians 6:9:

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

We humbly seek your prayers for God's continued guidance and protection in the days ahead.

Wishing everyone a blessed and joyful month ahead!

Miss Vivian Shiri & Mr. Prajwal Jacob

Conveners Youth Fellowship

Mission and Evangelism

St. Andrew's Church continues its mission and evangelism efforts across Tubagere and Malur, focusing on expanding worship services and strengthening community outreach through dedicated fieldwork.



Tubagere

- A special worship service in Hindi has been initiated for families from Banaras. Currently, around five families (approximately 20 members) are attending.
- There are now two worship services: the first in Kannada from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM, and the second in Hindi from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.
- Kindly uphold Mr. Praveen Kumar and his family in your prayers, for strength in their ministry around Tubagere, as well as for the new families from Banaras.

Malur

- The Wednesday women's prayer meeting at Chinnapura village is steadily growing, now with about five regular attendees.
- A tuition ministry for children from migrant families has been launched in Bingipura village.
- Please pray for the above ministries and for Mr. Satish Kumar and his family, that the Lord may strengthen and protect them as they continue outreach in new villages.

Mr. David Soans

Convener, Mission and Evangelism

Care for the Elderly



We thank our Lord Almighty for His continued grace and blessings upon our ministry. By His abundant mercy, we were privileged to hold yet another enriching monthly fellowship at church.

The speaker for this month's gathering was Rev. Vasudevan, who shared an inspiring message on the theme: **“Let the weak say I am strong.”** The session began with a heartfelt time of **praise and worship led by the Youth Fellowship**, creating a spirit-filled atmosphere.

Rev. Vasudevan encouraged the gathering with a message rooted in faith and perseverance. He reminded us that it is **in our suffering that we discover God's sustaining grace**. Even in pain, we are called to give thanks and dwell in His presence. Life is not to be lived for ourselves alone but in **service to others**, through which we become a blessing to the world around us.

Rev. Vasudevan encouraged the gathering with a message rooted in faith and perseverance. He reminded us that it is in our suffering that we discover God's sustaining grace. Even in pain, we are called to give thanks and dwell in His presence. Life is not to be lived for ourselves alone but in service to others, through which we become a blessing to the world around us.

Drawing from **Hebrews 11**, he emphasized the lives of the faithful who believed in God's promises even without seeing them fulfilled in their lifetime. Their unwavering faith is a model for us to walk by faith, not by sight, and to trust in God's divine plan despite our circumstances.

Rev. Vasudevan closed with a powerful reminder:

“With every burden God allows in your life, He gives you sufficient grace to bear it. I am weak, but His grace is sufficient for me.”

Let us continue to live by this faith and hold fast to the promises the Lord has given us.

Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri

Convener, Care for the Elderly Fellowship



Welcome friends. In the Bible, not only do we encounter stories of powerful men and women, but also the stories of famous couples. Successful and godly relationships are a huge part of God's plan for humanity. That's why throughout the Bible, we learn of couples that glorified God, overcame obstacles, and fulfilled their goals together. Are you ready for a fun activity? Rearrange the words below to reveal names of couples found in the Bible.

COUPLES UNSCRAMBLE

1. OESHA AND GEORM	11. LFEXI AND SRDLLUIA
2. OEMSS AND APHIRPZO	12. XETAREXRSA AND HTERSE
3. HBAA AND EEEBJLZ	13. ZABO AND THUR
4. IVADD AND IGABILA	14. DEROH AND DASHEROI
5. RMAHAAB AND AASHR	15. LAQAUI AND ARSLIPCIL
6. SAICA AND AEKERHB	16. LCMIEHLEE AND ANOMI
7. POJHES AND AYMR	17. OCAJB AND ACLRHE
8. AAHKNEL AND NNAHH	18. JHSEPO AND HAANTES
9. MANOSS AND LDHLEIA	19. EREHB AND ALEJ
10. AIUHR AND BASHATEHB	20. IEAHZARCH AND TAEIHBEZ

Correct entries will be published in next month's Newsletter along with Answer Keys. Send your **printed** answers to the **Church WhatsApp number 9741401874** by **20th August 2025** in the following format:











Name

Serial number – Answer

SPIRITUAL GARDENING

10 Important Mountains in the Bible

Considered to be places “close to God”, mountains and hills have had great significance. In the Bible, mountains are mentioned not merely as geographic settings but as sacred places where Heaven and Earth meet-where the Divine presence joins humanity to provide instruction, direction, and hope for the day when all of Heaven and Earth are finally one. Mentioned more than 500 times, about one-third of the mountains listed in Scripture had at least one major event occur on them.

	<p>1. Mount Ararat (3896 m) Genesis 8:4 It's where Noah's Ark rested after the flood while he and his family waited for the waters to recede.</p>
	<p>2. Mount Sinai (2285 m) Exodus 19 and 20, Exodus 31:18 Exodus 34:2, Leviticus 7:38. 25:1, 26:46 & 27:34, Numbers 1:1, 3:1 & 9:1, Deuteronomy 23:2 This is where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.</p>
	<p>3. Mount Gerizim (881 m) Deuteronomy 11:29, Joshua 8:33, John 4:19-21, Judges 9:7-15 Mentioned a few times in the Old Testament, this mount is where the Israelites proclaimed the blessings before entering the Promised Land. On the same mountain, Jotham delivered the parable of the trees. In the New Testament, Mount Gerizim is not mentioned by name, but it's implied in the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.</p>
	<p>4. Mount of Olives (826 m) Luke 22:39, Acts 1:9-12, 2 Samuel 15:30, Zechariah 14:4, Matthew 21:1 Mark 11:1 Many events happened on this mount during Jesus' time on earth. This is where Jesus went to pray before His crucifixion and from where He ascended to heaven. This is also where David escaped from his persecutors.</p>
	<p>5. Mount Nebo (808 m) Deuteronomy 32:49, 34:1 From this mount, Moses saw the promised land. Here he also died and was buried by God.</p>
	<p>6. Mount Moriah (768 m) Genesis 22:2, 2 Chronicles 3:1 Where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac and where Solomon built God's temple.</p>
	<p>7. Mount Zion (740 m) 2 Samuel 5:1-10, 1 Kings 8:1 The word Zion occurs 150 times in the Bible. It's mostly used in a theological and spiritual sense, referring to Jerusalem, the temple built by Solomon, Israel, heaven or God's people.</p>
	<p>8. Mount Tabor (575 m) Judges 4, Matthew 17:1-9, Isaiah 8:18, Isaiah 24:23, Psalm 2:6, Psalm 74:2 Known as the Mount of Transfiguration, this is where the glorification of Jesus' human body occurred after He had acknowledged Himself as the Messiah.</p>
	<p>9. Mount Carmel (546 m) 1 Kings 18:16-46, 2 Kings 2:25 This is where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal.</p>
	<p>10. Mount of Beatitudes (200 m) Matthew 5 - 7 The setting for Jesus' most famous Sermon, read in Matthew 5-7. The Mount of Beatitudes (also known as Mount Eremos) is a small mountain in northern Israel in Galilee near the town of Tabgha on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.</p>

Children's Nook

WHO AM I?

The Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Match these actions to the person it refers to:

1. I gave Jesus water at the well	A. Jairus
2. I climbed a Sycamore tree to see Jesus	B. John the Baptist
3. I was a fisherman before Jesus called me	C. Samaritan woman
4. I took Jesus' body off the cross	D. Zacchaeus
5. I baptised Jesus	E. Simon of Cyrene
6. I tempted Jesus thrice in the desert	F. Pontius Pilate
7. Jesus raised my daughter from the dead	G. Mary Magdalene
8. I helped Jesus carry the Cross	H. Satan
9. I washed Jesus' feet with my tears	I. Joseph of Arimathea
10. My wife warned against crucifying Jesus	J. James

Scripture Hunt Answers for the Month of July 2025

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numbers 22:28 2. 2 Kings 6 3. Joshua 10:13 4. Genesis 37:3 5. Genesis 19:26 6. Exodus 32 7. Daniel 3 8. 1 Samuel 17 9. Exodus 14:21 10. Genesis 6:14, Genesis 7:11 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Daniel 6 12. Numbers 17:8 13. Esther 5:14, 7:10 14. Matthew 7:26 15. Revelation 5, 6, 8 16. Judges 6:37-38 17. 2 Kings 2:11-12, 2 Kings 6:17 18. Acts 16:26 19. Exodus 8:2 20. Mark 12:42, Luke 21: 1-4 |
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Marvellous Winners for the Month of July 2025

1. Leanne Charisha Rao Esampally
2. Esther Suguna Simeon
3. A. N. Indiradevi
4. Felicia Manoraj
5. Annie Felix
6. Deepan Elbert Pramodan



7. Parimala Jayaraj
8. Daisy Mark Prabhu
9. Lynette Natasha Karkada
10. Gitanjali Lazarus
11. Rosabelle Prabhakar

Calendar for the First Week of September 2025

*7th September 1st Sunday	13th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Education Sunday		
	Theme: Education as a Ministry Of the Church		
	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service		9:00 a.m
Old Testament	Nehemiah 8: 1 - 8	Mr. Wilson Prathap	
Epistle	Acts 18: 24 - 28	Mrs. Asha Franklyn	
Gospel	St. Matthew 5: 1 - 12	Mr. J. A. Prakash (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m

Mission Month Calendar for the Month of August 2025			
*3rd August 1st Sunday	8th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Mission Sunday		
	Theme: You will be my Witnesses		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
Old Testament	Jeremiah 29: 1 - 9	Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath	
Epistle	Acts 1: 6 - 11	Miss Vivian Evangeline Shiri	
Gospel	St. Luke 4: 31 - 37	Wg Cdr I D Soans (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m
10th August 2nd Sunday	9th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Charismatic Witness		
	Preacher: Rev. Chacko Thomas	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Krupanand	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Isaiah 12: 1 - 6	Mr. David Udaya Kumar Bangera (K) Mr. David Jayaprakash Soans	
Epistle	Acts 3: 1 - 10	Ms. Gabriella Tannishtha (K) Mrs. Annette Jannet Furtado	
Gospel	St. Luke 20: 1 - 8	Mr. Anoop Justin (K) Mr. Arnav Graham	
Evening Service	Youth Fellowship		6.15 p.m
15th August Friday	 Independence Day 		8.00 a.m
*17th August 3rd Sunday	10th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Prophetic Witness		
	Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben Preacher: Rev. M. B. Kotian	*Kannada Holy Communion	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Jeffery R. Kotian	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Ezekiel 11: 14 - 21	Mr. Praveen Salins (K) Mr. Winfred Joshua	
Epistle	Acts 14: 8 - 18	Mrs. Elizabeth Vinodh (K) Dr. Ebenezer Janifer	
Gospel	St. Luke 22: 66 - 71	Mr. David Soans (K) Mrs. Nalini Lawrence	
*Evening Service	Holy Communion Service - Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		6.15 p.m
24th August 4th Sunday	11th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Pioneering Witness		
	Preacher: Mr. Samuel Caleb	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. E. D Rajasingh	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Daniel 7: 11 - 14	Miss Sunaina Peters (K) Mr. Cris Benjamin	
Epistle	Acts 16: 1 - 10	Mr. Ashwin Salins (K) Miss Daisy Priyasha Vepuri	
Gospel	St. Luke 8: 27 - 33	Mrs. K. Vijaya (K) Mr. Keaton Abraham Franklyn	
Evening Service	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Samuel Sunith R		6.15 p.m
31st August 5th Sunday	12th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Liberating Witness		
	Preacher: Mr. Praveen Kumar J	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Micah 6: 1 - 8	Miss Reya Bangera (K) Miss Joanna Christopher	
Epistle	Acts 8: 4 - 13	Mrs. Roopa Praveen (K) Mrs. Renita Wilson	
Gospel	St. Luke 17: 11 - 19	Miss Navya Shree (K) Mrs. Rachel Sudha Kishan	
Evening Service	St. Andrews Church Musical Event		6.00 p.m

Note: Kindly keep the Church Office informed in advance about your inability to be present for the Scripture reading as scheduled.