

Emmanuel House of Worship

Weekly Update - Secunderabad. ` branch – 4th October 2009

I was so desperate that I had began to ask God to either make me understand the dream or to take me away. Finally, just a couple of days after Ramzan last year (this was the first Ramzan that I didn't take part in the fasts) I called up the Joyce Mayer ministries and told the person on the line that I was a seeker and wanted to know more about the Christian faith. I told him that I wanted to speak to someone who knew Hindi.

That was a Friday and I went to the office and was able to meet Sister Manorama, who spent more than an hour explaining the faith to me. She invited me to come to her church (Emmanuel House of Worship, at Secunderabad)

That night I had another dream. It was a takeoff from the earlier one. This time, the haze was not there and I was able to clearly see the man on the cross. He was bleeding but still he had a smile on his face. He opened his eyes and looked into mine and it was such a comforting look that all my fears just vanished. When I went near, drops of blood fell on me.

I woke up startled and experienced a tremendous peace. I knew that the Lord had washed me with his blood and saved me from eternal damnation. The following day (Sunday), I eagerly went to church and since then my faith has grown stronger by the day. But there have been several trials that I have had to go through because of my new found faith. My father has disowned me and my mother grieves over my loss. My in-laws too wanted my wife to divorce me and they took away the children too. However, the Lord has been merciful and gave my wife the sense to return to me. She, however, clings to the Islamic faith. But I am sure that the Lord will open her mind and heart.

It has been a year since I have decided to follow Jesus and hence do want to make a public statement about my faith in the waters of baptism.

Don't we observe that so much is on the rise in this day? For example, interest rates, unemployment, fuel, and food prices are all on the rise. While these are on the rise, some things are also declining such as rupee value and confidence in values of leadership at various levels in the government.

What should we do as Christian when that which should rise is falling and that which should fall is rising? Please do not spend ample time on that which you cannot change. A high dose of this negativity will greatly discourage you. We spend our time on what we can change in this present situation; we seek to make changes through the ballot box and through falling on our knees in prayer to our God.

Consequently, We realize that it is necessary to spend time investing in something that is worthwhile. Doing so will bring joy, happiness, and peace to our life.

Here are some suggestions

Count your blessings

- *Pray*
- *Live a life of kindness toward others*
- *Serve our Lord and others*
- *Spend time with family—much of your time should be spent talking to, playing with, and spending with your family and mate*
- *Get involved in Christian service*

- *Consider the finish line. Do not destroy your chance to reach the finish line over the turmoil and obstacles of today. The Apostle Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 3:14*
- *Have a positive spirit—The Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." –Philippians 4:13 "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy." –Acts 20:24 "We are more than conquerors." –Romans 8:37*

Some people see this as a day of gloom and doom. But we see it as a great day of opportunity. What a very special time to live in, right before the coming again of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for He is coming again! "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thessalonians 4:16-17) What a wonderful time it is to be alive! Please do not spend your time focused on that which is so negative, depressing, and discouraging. Some things are rising that should be falling and falling that should be rising, but we remind you that you cannot change most of that. – **Bro Vijay Kumar**

Church/Branch	Place	Timings	Contact Person
Nacharam,	St Peters School	9 AM-11:30 AM	Br Jaisurya – 9849491114 jjaisurya@gmail.com
Mallikarjuna Nagar	Bhega School, GautamNagar	9 AM-11:30 AM	Br MM Prasad - 9849003738 iechap@sify.com
Begumpet	Jeeven Jyothi Retreat Center	9 AM-11:30 AM	Br Sunil Lazarus – 9849095239 sunil_laz@rediffmail.com
Secunderabad,	4 th Floor, Amsri Shamira,	9 AM-11:30 AM	Br Vijay Kumar – 9849096222 vvk1000@gmail.com

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Bro John Wesley - 9885239425, Bro Preetham – 9849033997

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To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing. Martin Luther King Jr

For the sick, elderly and suffering:

- Mr. Kumai & Mrs.Sookja
- Bro Edgar Satuluri –Full recovery
- Solomon (USA)
- Mrs. Renuka (sister/of of Br Sunil Lazarus)
- Bro. Samuel & Mrs. Samuel
- Bro. Moses Pradeep Kumar (USA)
- Harish (Brother of Diyva)
- Stephen Sumanth (S/o of Br. Jayasurya)
- Bro. Prasad – suffering from Fits
- Bro. Joshua Nathaniel-Kidney Fail
- Bro.Reuben – Paralyzed
- Sis. Sheeba Devavaram
- Bro.Christopher (Kazipet)
- Mrs Regina
- Mrs.Ruth D/o. Bro.Vedanayagam
- Bro David(Gautam nagar)
- Bro Abraham Samuel
- Mrs.Sunanda Bhaskar Rao
- Nathan S/o.Preetham
- Mrs.Lalitha Ajit
- Bro.Jacob Raju
- Nancy D/o Fatima Rani, Toronto, Canada
- Archana D/o.Sis.Susheela
- MJS.Wesley B/o Pastor
- Sis.Buela –suffering from Fits
- Pastor Bhasker Rao’s uncle eyes.

- Sis Vasumathi
- Sis Phyllis
- Sis David

Widowers

- Bro Rajan Paul
- Bro Victor Paul

Orphans

- Raj Kumari
- Ruth

In the Family way...

- Sis. Blessy Vijay Kumar
- Sis.Mahima Srinivas
- Sis.Susan Subramanyam
- Sis Mary Supriya(w/o Br Paul Steven)
- Sis Lisa Bose(w/o Dr Prasanna Kumar)

For couples to be blessed with Children

1. Thabitha & Simon
2. Jyothi & Ravi
3. Mr. & Mrs. Johnson.
4. Kaantaraju & Syamala
5. Prakash & Buelah
6. Srinivasaraju & Praveena (USA)
7. Rama & Cornelius

Special Points:

1. For all families in the Church.
2. Pray for the lone believers in the non-Christian families who face various types of opposition at home
3. Those who lost the Jobs / Those looking for jobs
4. Those looking to get settled in marriage

“Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need” I Timothy 5:3 Widows

1. Sis Rosy Daniel
2. Sis Ratna
3. Sis Shilohini
4. Dr.Mrs.Jane
5. Sis.Mary Elisha

The Elderly

- Sis Rita
- Sis Behera
- Sis Jemima
- Sis Spratt
- Sis Kathiyaynee

Testimony – Bro. Mohd. Jaffar Shareef

Before I begin, I would like to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for saving me, and I declare that all that is written below accurately describes why I became a Christian. Whatever I am today it is purely by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This testimony is for the glory of God and to show that the Lord is able to save unto the uttermost.

I was born to very devout Muslim. My father is a respected religious (Murshid) figure in the Islamic faith. He has thousands of followers who respect and honour him. My mother too is a devout Muslimah. I am the eldest of six siblings (three brothers and three sisters) and could not complete my education. I was able to study only till Class VII and when I was around 15 I left for Saudi Arabia. I worked there for almost six years before returning to Hyderabad in 1995. I got married in the same year and now have four children (another daughter died in her infancy a couple of years ago).

Since my childhood I have been practicing the tenets of the Islamic faith. I was sent to the Madrassa to learn Arabic and despite my best efforts couldn’t really master the recitation of the Quran. Nevertheless, I never had any doubts about the faith. I always believed that the Islamic faith was the best one on the face of the earth.

During my stay in Saudi, a deep desire to know more about my faith grew in me and I started to read about the various aspects of the Islamic faith. I did not know to read or write Urdu then but somehow learnt to read. Now I can read Urdu quite well but still can’t write it.

I went through most of the books about my faith and there were some disturbing questions that troubled me. However, I still clung to the faith as any good Muslim does. In fact, I started preaching about the true faith to other Muslims asking them to return to the original faith as stated in the Quran. This went on

for quite some time and some of my community members didn’t like the way I was speaking about controversial issues. My whole aim at that time was to reform the faith and to set it free from all the unnecessary practices that people were indulging in. At that time I didn’t know that the Almighty God had different plans for me and all that was only a training ground for me. The doubts about my faith began to grow and somehow I was losing ground. I began to feel very uncomfortable about a lot of issues. During this time (almost three years back), I began to have a dream. It was a very disturbing one and I would wake up profusely sweating. The dream was about me being surrounded by mist and through that haze I was able to see a man hanging on a cross. The image was not very clear but it was sufficient enough to trouble my soul.

I tried to make sense of the dream but couldn’t really find the answer. I tried asking several Muslim friends of mine about it but didn’t get a satisfactory reply. I asked my Moulvi and some more learned friends of my father but they dismissed it as too much of thinking. One of them said that I must have been going past a Church quite often and hence was seeing the man on the cross.

As the days went by the frequency of the dream increased and I was unable to sleep properly. I thought I was losing my mind and became desperate for an answer. During this period of confusion, I started watching a couple of Christian television programmes. I wanted to meet some Christians and find out the significance of the dream. I called up a number in Bangalore but they said they couldn’t be of much help. In fact, I felt they were not interested in ministering to a Muslim.

I then saw a program by Joyce Mayer Ministries. I noted the address and also took the telephone number. Their office is quite near to my house.