

The e-Scroll



*“For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers,
neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the
love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

- Romans 8:38-39.



Pastor's Message

By Revd. Sandeep David

Mourning But With Hope



It is human nature that we rejoice when we meet but when we depart our hearts fill with grief. At the fall of man in the book of Genesis human race was inflicted with the curse of death. In this fallen world one who is born has to leave this earth only to be resurrected on the day the Lord returns, followed by the judgment and places allotted either in the New Jerusalem or in hell. Therefore, death is not something permanent. Even in hell there is no death.

The prophet Isaiah says in Isaiah 38:18, "For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot sing your praise; those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness." Therefore, praising God and hoping for His faithfulness has to be done while we are alive. In other words, the one who fails to do this is as good as dead on earth.

Phil. 1:27 says, "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." We are given this life only once. Christ says in Mathew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." The way we live and relate to others gives a true picture of us. This life is given to us to do the will of God, and this proves our existence in Christ.

When someone leaves this Earth it is often said, "He/she has passed onto glory". Is it true? Do we really pass onto glory when the word of God, in the book of Revelation chapter 20 verse 12, says that we will be judged according to our deeds? We, therefore, have to evaluate how much have we got closer to eternal life and how much time we are left with to get any closer to it.

During this time of Pandemic I performed 10 burials at different graveyards out of which 6 were from our parish rest from other churches. This was within a span of 27 days. Though these were not the only burials conducted this year. There was a terror of death everywhere. It was heart-breaking to see only the families of the deceased in the graveyards because of the government guidelines and more than that because of the fear of the pandemic.

As pastor it became extremely challenging to face all this and at the same time to encourage the mourners. No words, no philosophy, nothing works at such times. The only comfort is you are present and grieves with them in their sorrow. It is only your prayers that work.

It is not possible to forget the one who has rejoiced at your birth, at the first day of your school and at every small progress you made in life. That person had a plan for you and a vision. The memories of him/her spending time with you and making sacrifices for you are so cherishing. He or she is never going to return.

Pastor's Message

By Revd. Sandeep David

The loss of the loved ones is real loss. You cannot undo it. Therefore, love and respect each other as long as your loved ones are with you so that at least you have the satisfaction that you did your job. Everyone has to leave this world someday or the other. The way we treat our elders or sick becomes precedence for our generations to treat us and to each other.

In all this we have a promise from God through the Apostle Paul in 1 Thess. 4:13, "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope." We have the hope that our Redeemer lives and the way He was resurrected we will also rise again to spend eternity with Him. Death is just another stage of life bringing us closer to our Creator.

Therefore, live your lives responsibly, one day you will have to face your Creator. Also, treat each other with love and respect so that once your loved one is gone you will have the satisfaction that you did your job faithfully. At present the vacuum that has been created due to the loss of a loved one can only be filled with His Spirit and that is what I, as pastor, pray for you.

May God grant you His grace to cope up. We do not mourn like those who have no hope.

God be with you!
Rev. Sandeep David
Presbyter in charge
Christ Church Noida

Till We Meet Again

By Anandkumar Peter

It has been quite some time since we published an edition of The eScroll, our church newsletter. Like everything else in this world, the mysterious virus COVID – 19 threw our schedules and plans into a spin. We were looking for an appropriate theme and decided that COVID-19 is certainly not the one. Much is said about it by all and sundry, we have nothing to add. While we were wondering about God's plan for us, we realised that one after another, a number of our church members went to be with Jesus in rapid succession. The editorial team decided to celebrate the lives of all those co-worshippers and friends as a tribute to them.



As I got older I concluded that there is a relationship between the maturity of my faith and how I handle suffering. You see, it is when we face suffering, the level of our faith in God and our relationship with Him is revealed.

All of us know someone whose faith has been devastated because of suffering in their life. If we are going to grow and mature, sooner or later we are going to have to come to grips with the issue of suffering. We are going to have to move from a level where we ask 'Why' to a level where we understand the realities of suffering. In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Paul shares how he came to grips with his suffering. What Paul reveals in this passage is not so much the reason for suffering but rather the realities of suffering. Let us move on...

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." - Revelation 14:13.

Some may want to argue that the martyrs, those who have suffered death for the Name and Sake of the Lord Jesus Christ are in consideration here. And that these are the persons, more especially intended in the above verse. They are, therefore, those who die in the Lord, or for the Lord, for His Sake, in defence of His Cause, and to bear testimony to the Truth of His Gospel, though there does not appear sufficient reason to determine, that these are the only persons intended here.

I like to interpret the words more generally, as including not only confessors and martyrs, but all good Christians, who died in the Lord, i. e. in the Faith of the Lord Jesus, united with Him, seeking the Mercy of God through Him.

Being in Christ is peculiar to good people, good Christians, and certainly is descriptive of their character as such. Though the lives and death of all our friends who have gone to be with Jesus may not, at the outset, qualify as martyrdom for the sake of Christ, all the narratives we read about them tell us that they certainly would qualify as good Christians.

Till We Meet Again

By Anandkumar Peter

All of them, in their given circumstances in their lives, had kept Christ central to their lives and did their bit for the Kingdom of Jesus. They, I am sure, would enter the blessedness of Christ and rest in peace for eternity.

I am unable to accept the doctrine that their spirits go to a Place of Purgation, to be cleansed for a paradisaic state. I also do not believe that they 'sleep' with their bodies, till the general Resurrection.

If we may give credit to the Revelations of the Scripture, there is no room for doubt that the soul survives the funeral of the body: nor can it reasonably remain a question or doubt. In that sense, all those who die in the Lord, believing and trusting in Him should immediately pass into His Glory. Paul certainly thought those good people were happy and in the eternal peace of the Lord instantly upon their death. To die is 'gain'; 'to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord'; and 'to depart hence, is to be with Christ, which is by far better than to abide in the flesh which sin and decay.

Let the lives of all our friends serve as a beacon for us. As the works of good Christians do follow them into God's Kingdom, let us all labour to abound therein. Our good deeds, done in faith and love, focussed only on Christ, and for His glory, are the only things we can carry with us into the New Creation of Jesus. And the more and better our works have been, the greater and more glorious will our reward be.

“There Will be no more Death or Mourning”

By Shefali John



He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away”

Revelation 21:4

March – May 2021 had a lasting impact on almost all our lives. “The Second Wave” of COVID - 19 crippled all of our country and brought us down to our knees.

Many members of our church fell sick with the virus while, some lost their loved ones. The anxiety of getting text messages everyday about the illness of friends and family had us all in shock and sometimes, even afraid to tap our phones screens open.

For those of us who suffered with this virus, it was the loneliness associated with this disease, amongst other things, which haunted us. The isolation process for both the patient as well as their family had become frightening, traumatic and created a feeling of helplessness. It is because of this isolation that some of us even lost their loved ones without saying goodbye.

Revelations 21 talks about a new world to come and verse 4 gives us a comforting promise. While this verse tells us a lot about the new world, for now I would like to draw our attention to the first part of it. Our tears whether they are due to loss of a loved one, for the grief of our sinful nature or due to regret or compassion will be wiped away by God in His compassion, mercy and love. This verse serves acts as a solace for those suffering with this loss that God will wipe our tears. Our suffering will no longer be in isolation. God will be with us, He Himself, will wipe our tears and comfort us and our grieving will no longer be quarantined but in the presence of God.

Let us in this edition of the e-Scroll, remember our church members who’ve slept in the Lord in this COVID second wave. Let us remember and cherish their lives, their legacy and celebrate them. Even though the current lockdown does not let us grieve together in funerals, prayer meetings or memorials, let this e-Scroll be a reminder to our fellow church members that even quarantined, we are not isolated in our grieving.

Mr. Edwin Morris Levi

By Rita A Masih

Mr. Edwin Morris Levi, my paternal uncle was born on 23rd August 1948 in Old Delhi. He had an elder brother late Mr. O. V. Levi. He got his primary education from 'Presentation Convent' at Old Delhi and further went to 'D.A.V' Old Delhi.

As our family was a close-knit family, we always spent our vacation together either in Delhi or Mughal Sarai (as my parents were posted at Mughal Sarai). As such we had a lovely memorable time spent together during that period we visited Kolkata, Jamshedpur, Patna, Varanasi and many other places too. He was a jolly, humorous and loving person. Late Mr. Edwin Levi met his spouse, Ms. Ruby Levi, in his early days of life, since they were school friends and neighbour too and finally got married in December 1971. He left behind 3 loving affectionate and hardworking children. Ms. Mona Levi work at AIIMS New Delhi, Mr. Joy Levi work in a private firm and Ms. Sunita Sharma owns her own business, all are well settled in Delhi. He also has 4 grandchildren.



My uncle had a great passion for music, he used to play many musical instruments with great efficiency, he played hymns on the organ, congo, jhaanj, and other instruments during the church services. He had a very special talent for cooking, he was a great cook and he loved preparing delicious dishes on special occasions and get together for everyone. He always loved to keep a biryani stall for everyone during the church fete every year. He got retired serving 36 years from Delhi Transport Corporation in August 2009. He was a committed and devoted Christian. He always had a positive attitude towards life. He was a very loving and humorous person.

I will always remember him as my friend and guide as well as my favourite paternal uncle.

MAY GOD ALMIGHTY KEEP HIM SAFE AND GIVE HIM PERFECT PEACE TILL WE MEET AGAIN

By Anandkumar Peter

I received the news of passing into the glory of Mr Levi with much sadness in my heart. I had shared a special relationship with him, right from the time I started worshipping in CCN. As an outgoing and warm person, I recall him walking up to me, a stranger then, and making small talk. It made me feel welcome to the CCN family. Mr Levi seems to have been in CCN all the time until sickness made him housebound.

No function in the CCN was complete without Mr Levi participating. Running around with his helping attitude. More so with food. He was the 'biryani man' of CCN. He used to cook amazing biriyani when called for. We used to have light-hearted discussions on making different types of biriyani.

He used to sing well Hindi hymns. His favourite song was 'Teera ho abhisek, aman ke rajkumar' during Christmas Time.

May his soul rest in the eternal peace of the 'Aman ke Rajkumar.'

Col. John Tressler

by Mrs. Dorothy Ann Tressler



My husband, Col John Tressler 11.02.1942- 28.04. 2021 - was born and raised in Allahabad. He completed his school education in St. Joseph's School and then joined Allahabad University.

He joined the Indian Military Academy in Dehra Dun and was commissioned on 11th December 1962 in the Corps of Artillery.

He was very fond of sports and played cricket for his university. He loved music and played the Hawaiian guitar. He even made an electric guitar himself.

My husband and I got married on 6.6.66 and would have celebrated our 55th anniversary this year.

Once he retired from the army, he worked as Regional Representative for Christoffel Blinded Mission, an international NGO.

John was a good father to our two children, Kevin and Sheila Ann. He will always be remembered by those who knew him.

May his soul rest in peace.

“

Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so, we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

”

Mr. Tarun A Srivastava



TARUN ABHISHEK SRIVASTAVA

(10.01.1979 to 05.04.2021)

A. Basic Information:

- a. Date of Birth: 10.01.1979
- b. Place of birth: Gwalior, M.P.
- c. Siblings: One older sister Chetna w/o Dr. Justin Masih
- d. Any childhood memory: Tarun was a very obedient, respectful and caring brother.
I remember, he used to take me to school on his bicycle and bring me back home on it so that I wouldn't get tired. Even during our vacations, when all cousins used to gather, Tarun was always the most obedient and caring child. He would always be given the household chores to do and he would do all of them very happily.
I remember when our father Late Lt. Col. T. A. Srivastava used to come back from office, both of us used to stand at the gate welcoming him saying "salaam sahib" and salute him and get five rupees each.
Also, when our mother Mrs. Romila Srivastava read bible stories for us, we would get very excited. He was very close to my mother and would spend a lot of time with her helping her too.

- e. Schooling and College: Since our father served in the Indian Army as an officer, he was transferred every three years and hence my brother Tarun did his schooling in different places in India. He mostly studied in Army Schools or Central Schools and did very well in studies.
He did his B.Tech., in Agricultural Engineering, M.Tech. in Farm Machinery and Power Implements and MBA from Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Allahabad (SHUATS).
He was a very good student, laborious, intelligent and prompt in all his works and all his teachers were highly appreciative of his discipline and punctuality in terms of completing his work and assignments, etc.

- B. Early life and marriage: Tarun was a very quiet, soft-spoken, down to earth person. He took a lot of interest in sports and games. During his early years he travelled to various places like Gwalior, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Ratlam, New Delhi, Faridabad, etc. along with the family.

He married Priyanka who is basically from Greater Noida, U.P. He is survived by his wife and a five year old son Aadvik studying in L.K.G.

- C. Travel, Hobbies, Skills: Tarun loved to travel. He loved food of various tastes. He not only loved eating but he also loved feeding people and he was very hospitable. He enjoyed the family dinners and often organized lunches and dinners so that all family members could gather together and have fellowship over a meal. He was a doting father to his five year old son Aadvik. He loved listening to music and reading books.
- D. Tarun had a very optimistic approach towards life. He loved the Lord and helped the needy in every possible way. He was a good Christian, and served the Lord in all possible ways. He was a fighter, when it came to fighting illness. He was a brave young man and kept smiling all the while. He kept repeating Psalm 23 and sung/heard *"Dhanyawaad ke sath stuti gaunga"* during his time in the hospital. When he was put on the Bi-pap machine to support his breathing, he kept asking me to pray for him in his ears. When he wasn't able to speak, he would tap on my hand and wrote *"dua"* and asked me to pray for him. We miss him terribly, he was too young for his home-call yet we believe that God is God and He is the Sovereign King and He knows the best for us. We believe that one day we will see Tarun again and until then, while we are on earth, we will keep thanking God for Tarun's life.

The following bible verses are the source of encouragement and hope for us:

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints"

"यहोव के अक्तों की मृत्यु उसकी दृष्टि में अनमोल है।" (Psalm 16:15)

"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain"

"मेरे लिए जीना मसीह और मारना लाभ है" (Philippians 1:21)

Respectfully submitted by

Mrs. Romila Srivastava (Mother)

Mrs. Chetna Masih (Sister)

Mrs. Priyanka Srivastava (wife)

Mrs. Ramola Cecil



“

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.

”

Philippians 3:20-21

Dr. Matthew

By Anandkumar Peter



Dr Matthews, as most would know, was an active member of CCN for many years till he moved to Delhi. Every time our church bell rings it reminds me of him. He had, enthusiastically, got the bell cast by specialists in Tamil Nadu. He was always there for church functions and special days like Christmas and Easter. He took it upon himself to decorate the church with flowers on Christmas and Easter. One could see him on the church float singing away, year after year.

Dr Matthew started the NOIDA camp of the Gideon Ministry, in which many of us participated. That gave me a good opportunity to know him closely. He was indeed a kind man, ready to help anyone in need without any hesitation.

We stayed connected for many years and the last was in January 2021. He did not let me know that he had a serious health problem. I will miss him, like I do many others.

“

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand. ... Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God
Philippians 3:20-21

”

Mr Abraham Daniel



By Anandkumar Peter

It is so distressing; I do not know what to say. I will surely miss his early morning call, virtually daily. He was always concerned about various aspects of the Christian faith in India. Was the right persons to represent CCN in NCWA. Malayalees in Noida and Delhi will miss him. He seems to know almost all of them. A man with lots of energy, during one of his trips to his hometown, he visited me in Trivandrum. There was silence from him for few days and I called up to check on him. He told me about Supriya testing positive and that he has also taken the test and was awaiting the report. The last conversation we had was that.

May his beautiful soul receive eternal peace in the Holy and Glorious presence of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

By Alex John

It's never to easy to write about someone who departed from this world, and it becomes even more difficult when that someone was close to you.

Abraham Daniel uncle was one of the few Keralite member from our CCN congregation that I had a chance to meet and interact, I always looked up to to him for his counsel and guidance when I was part of the youth team.

Pre-pandemic time I had always seen him having a smile on his face and not shying away from saying hello to everyone around him. My initial interaction with him was during the time he was a member of the NCWA, on the day of the ecumenical service held at our church.

The news of his hospitalization and death came as a shock for both my family and I. The grief and despair that his family went through is unimaginable and we pray for their comfort everyday. These few months have been difficult for a lot of us and in these times the only place we get hope and comfort is by being right next to Jesus Christ.

Mrs. Lalitha Miller A Tribute to a Beloved Daughter, Wife and Mother

Rested in the Lord on May 27th, 2021

By Stella Miller



My mother, Mrs. Lalitha Miller, was born as an answer to my grandmother's prayer for more daughters. She was part of a large family of five brothers and three sisters. My grandfather was a government doctor, whose refusal to pay any bribes for plum postings meant that they were transferred often, without much notice, to remote villages in Andhra Pradesh. This upbringing fuelled an independent and adventurous streak in my mother, which was evident through-out her life. Mum prized education very highly and chose to become a teacher. She was also an accomplished singer.

My parents were married for 59 years and spent most of their lives in Calcutta, Kanpur and Delhi. My mother devoted herself to her family and supported my father at every turn. My brother, Victor, and I, bear witness to her amazing patience and loving kindness. She was never harsh with us, and she neither raised her hand nor voice – no matter how much we tested her patience. My brother is fond of recalling the time he dismantled ma's favourite watch. He did manage to put it back together, only now it was missing one hand! When mum next put it on, she kept squinting to try and tell the time – a hard task when the watch had not only stopped functioning but had only one hand stuck at 4! Both my brother and I agree that a good spanking was in order – but my mother only admonished him to stay out of her things. Another time, my mother came back after a long day at school, to discover a red, plastic bucket moving in a random pattern across the floor. Wondering if the children that she taught had actually driven her across the bend, she picked up the bucket, only to discover a little puppy that my brother had brought home. She laughed and allowed him to keep it!

She would oppose injustice where she saw it. She once single-handedly stopped a policeman from beating up a vegetable seller. The crowd that was watching the show (without a peep) slinked away, ashamed. Her thirst for knowing Christ was amazing. She and Bishop Santram spent long hours discussing and sharing their experience of the Beloved saviour.

In later years, mum had a fair share of challenges to her health. She not only survived three heart attacks and three bouts of pneumonia, but she thrived – all by the grace of God. Her doctors were often in awe of her – many asked her to bless them before they operated on her.

How many lives did this astonishingly beautiful lady touch? Her innate graciousness drew people to her. Absolute strangers would stop in the market to touch her feet. Several would ask if they could take a photograph with her. Acquaintances would ask for her advice and follow it. Relatives and friends would ask for prayer and would feel the Lord's loving touch as she prayed for them. An unshakeable faith in the Living Christ, Godly wisdom and unswerving courage – these words characterised my mother's life. Her passing has filled us with unspeakable sorrow. May she rest in peace and arise in Glory. May her memory always be a blessing!

By Anandkumar Peter

Another kind friend of mine has gone to be with our Lord, Jesus Christ. May her soul find eternal rest in the glorious presence of Jesus.

Though I have seen her in the church services, I got to know her during one of the Family Retreats of Christ Church, Noida, during the time Rev. Dr Paul Swarup was pastoring Christ Church. I found her deep-rooted in spirituality. She was softspoken and was a person of few words. Each time I delivered a message, she would tell me that it was good. I ran a series on my Holyland tour in the Scroll. When I stopped writing she came up to me and asked me to write more.

I will surely miss her gentle presence.

Remembrance

By Anabhara Thomas

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him

1 Thess: 4:13-14

Each person who died in the Covid-19 pandemic leaves behind them friends, family, colleagues, neighbours, and acquaintances. Death is a natural part of our being. From the moment we are born, we begin our journey towards death, secure in the knowledge that we will be united with God. We know that. We understand that. We believe that. May all who have died rest in your peace O Lord.

Yet this death is different, and those grieving over loved ones lost to this pandemic, cannot grieve in the ordinary way.

In a short time, you will no longer see me, and then a short time later you will see me again.

John 16:23

Then some of his disciples said to one another, 'What does he mean, "In a short time you will no longer see me, and then a short time later you will see me again," and "I am going to the Father"? What is this "short time"? We don't know what he means.'

Jesus knew that they wanted to question him, so he said, 'You are asking one another what I meant by saying, "In a short time you will no longer see me, and then a short time later you will see me again." 'In all truth I tell you, you will be weeping and wailing while the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman in childbirth suffers, because her time has come; but when she has given birth to the child, she forgets the suffering in her joy that a human being has been born into the world.

So, it is with you: you are sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy, and that joy no one shall take from you. When that day comes, you will not ask any questions. In all truth I tell you, anything you ask from the Father he will grant in my name.

Communicating grief over text is never easy. In a pre-pandemic world, we would go to the funeral, prayer meeting, even be physically and emotionally present for friends and family. These rituals and traditions allowed for mourning

Remembrance

By Anabhara Thomas

There was nothing anyone could say to really make one's family feel better. But a friend's holding hand, the ability to hug and cry without having to say anything, did make it a little easier to come to terms with the fact that one would not see their loved one again. This ability to share grief makes it easier to breathe and even give myself permission to feel the loss. The mourning allowed for the loss to sink in.

The pandemic has taken away our mourning rituals. We miss the social soothing these rituals provide, allowing us to accept the loss. The prayer meeting after the funeral is an opportunity for family members to know the deceased through the eyes of their friends and family, which can be very healing. Whether it's a wake or a funeral reception, they used to help us find some closure and celebrate the legacy of the person who had died. Now, though we have moved to Zoom and other setups for funerals, it seems cold—not the same. As a result, we have lost the feeling of community and social support which allowed a safe space for grief.

Since we are still in lockdown, I find it useful to tell grieving friends and family: That they can find peace and move on from from grieve through allowing God close to them. Let them know they are not alone, there is more comfort in His presence.

By Uma David

Prabha and I go a long way with over 38 years of friendship. 'Friend' I would say would not be an appropriate title she was my precious younger sister.

Her name was Chandra Prabha Gupta but we all called her Prabha. Highly intelligent and well educated with a double masters in Hindi & Economics was a teacher in St John's Sr Secondary School Meerut. She was a colleague of mine and that's where a cup of tea together during the break time in school made us sail together for so many years.

Through me, she met my family and blended so well and became part of our family. No event whether sad or happy went in our family without her presence. I lost my husband and was keeping very sick those days. Prabha was a balm to me and just absorbed my sorrow and grief never made me feel that I am alone.

Coming from a different faith she accepted Christ and thereafter a true follower. Her greatest strength was her Bible which she carried wherever she went. A heart of pure Gold and always believed in one motto "Give till it hurts!! A true follower of the Bible. She only gave and gave. Was not materialistic or had any greed for any worldly things. She came from a well educated and settled family. Her own family consists of three sisters and their husbands and nephews and nieces.

Prabha was spirit-filled and her life revolved around Jesus. There was no fixed time for prayers I have seen her praying from very early hours in the morning till late at night. She lived a beautiful spiritual life she enjoyed travelling, loved to see new places loved food and different Cuisine. She loved watching movies and playing indoor games. Full of life and had a beautiful smile and was calm always and could take a lot of pressure be it work or family issues.

Today I miss her but at the same time, I am happy that her suffering is all over and she is sitting with our Lord and Saviour.

Prabha I will miss and love you always

By Rajiv (Son)

It goes a long way when I was in my 9th grade in school. We had just shifted to Meerut from Delhi and so there was a change of school and a culture shock. I joined St John's Sr Sec School in Meerut where Mam Gupta was teaching. On the first day of school, I got a nice tight rap from her as I got a place to sit amongst some rowdy students. That slap created beautiful bondage between the two of us and resulted in her being a second Mom to me.

She was not only a mom but also a dear friend, teacher, and above all a father figure when my father passed away she steered my teenage life and showed and guided me in a beautiful direction as my mom was unwell for some time. She was a friend with whom I could share anything. Though there was an age difference always felt that we are the same age. She played these three roles so beautifully that today her absence has made me feel lost and I don't know with whom to share my sorrow.

Mrs. Chandra Prabha Gupta



Mam is also known as Chandra Prabha Gupta came from a well educated and settled family in Meerut. She has three loving sisters their husbands and her nieces and nephews.

Known for a heart of gold she believed only in giving rather than receiving. Her compassion and reaching out to the poor or someone socially weak was commendable. She came from a different faith but became a follower of Christ and her greatest wealth was her Bible. She was far from the materialistic world had no worldly desires and was always happy and contented in whatever she had. Her greatest wealth was her spiritualism and being close to God.

Highly qualified with a double masters in Economics & Hindi but was humble and rich in humility. She loved to travel see new places enjoyed good food and a nature lover.

This tribute can just continue and have no end and in no comparison to her greatness and the inner beauty that she had. She always smiled from her heart which demonstrated her pure soul. In the end, I would say our Lord and Saviour has got a beautiful angel and a true follower of him.

Mom, I love you and miss you always.

By Shirley Ramsay

God chose Prabha as His Child from a family belonging to another Faith. She was then transformed into a Blessed Lady from Meerut.

I consider myself very fortunate to have met her through Mrs Uma David. Over the years, Prabha, Uma and I had many Bible Study sessions together. Prabha, a cheerful and strong believer made our Bible Study sessions most vibrant. It was very clear to me that she always gave first place to God. Sharing the Word of God and praying not only with Christians but with non-Christians also was a part of her life. It was her eagerness to continue worshipping God with me even over the Phone from Meerut. We did that quite regularly and enjoyed those moments thoroughly and felt blessed.

I will always cherish the blessed times spent with Prabha. May God grant eternal peace to the noble soul of Prabha.

By Usha Dyes

It has been hard writing these lines because I couldn't find the exact words to describe our relationship and all the feelings involved in it.

Chander Prabha Gupta or simply Prabha to me was a precious friend for over 30 years. Covid never gave us time to say goodbye or even hug her to tell her how much I loved and adored her. She had an aura around her and had a unique quality that wherever she went, she left a lifetime mark on the hearts of the people.

Prabha was a simple, selfless and extremely prayerful soul. Many accepted Jesus simply seeing her life. Her life was prayer, her house was a house of prayer and whoever came to her house got peace and comfort. Such was her faith and interaction with Jesus.

My life was blessed through her friendship. Her cheerful smile and pure laughter are some of the treasures I will carry all my life. I must thank you, my dear Prabha, for having such an impact on my life, and making it rich with

Mrs. Raj David



By David Family

As the bird frees itself of its cage, so your beautiful and loving soul is free from the strife and sorrows of this life. Dear Mom, we know you are rejoicing in your eternal home with the LORD.

You have fought a good fight and have finished the race and kept the faith till the very end. You are alive in the hearts of each one of us. We look up to you in gratitude for all the sacrifices you have made for us.

Your strong chords of love bound us together. Your incredible strength to face all odds and your unrelenting spirit to go on through thick and thin has taught us to face the world bravely and wisely. We will treasure the gems of wisdom you have left behind for us. We promise you that we will never forsake your teachings for they are a graceful wreath for our heads and necklaces for our necks.

We are consoled by the truth that one day we will be reunited again in another realm. Rest in your eternal Home Mom till we meet again.

A good and kind heart is the best of all qualities.

"Shed not for her the bitter tear nor give the heart to vain regret. It's but mere mortal remains that lie here. The gem that filled it sparkles yet."

Love you, Maa. Loads.

“

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me

Psalm 23: 4

”

Memories of Second Wave

By Kamna Cowasjee

March, April and May have been deadly and heart-breaking months with the spike in the second wave of covid cases mounting by the day. Besides numbers catapulting on a national level, this wave touched close home, making it all the more dreadful and sombre. This was more so because multiple members of families were getting infected together, leaving each member in an incapacitated state to keep the home-fires burning. Despite being sick themselves, family members were running around trying to seek admission for wives, husbands, children, who were in a worse state than they themselves, or standing in queues to get cylinders refilled for home-station care, employing an aid to monitor the same. Opening WA, once a jubilant "Good Morning" chapter of the day, now turned into a harbinger of worry, death and sorrow. I remember spending umpteen days, on the phone, morning to night, along with my son, searching for beds, oxygen cylinders, reaching out to Dr friends, Voluntary groups coordinating help in procurement of beds and cylinders, organising food deliveries to families struck down with covid, not only in the NCR, but other cities as well. It was a nightmare 24 x 7, with a feeling of helplessness, for not being able to help more. And it took its toll, willy-nilly, leaving families devastated, children orphaned, widows, widowers wondering if they could have done more, if they had fallen short, and dreading the thought of the years ahead without a spouse, a child, a parent. These thoughts took larger than life proportions, and required endless comforting, consoling, counselling to remove feelings of guilt and despair.

Our Church family too, came under this gambit. We lost some senior citizens, friends, fellow-worshippers and a pastorate committee member with whom we were interacting in the group, almost daily. His wise words of caution, dedication to the Church, and meticulous study of policy matters and advice on innumerable issues concerning welfare of the Church and Diocese will be there on record, for future generations to mull over. Some members will be missed for their quiet presence, the examples they set of dedication and faith over the years.



Some would be missed as close friends, spouses or parents of friends, as father-figures, as pastors in the Diocese of Delhi.

Equally we rejoice over those who recovered from their battle with covid. And there are many in the last category. We have a lot to be thankful for; for the many lives that the Lord helped to respond to treatment, even if it was a long battle, we praise God. We thank him for His mercies, new every morning; we thank him for the comfort and solace He has given to the family members who lost a dear one; for helping them come to terms with their loss. We entrust them into the Lord's care. He has promised never to forsake us. Let us remember His promise and call on His name whenever we are feeling despondent and open our hearts and minds to receive His loving embrace.

Remembering and thanking God for the lives of Rev. Raj Murch, Col. John Tressler, Mrs Raj David, Mr. Abraham Daniel, Mr. Edwin Levi, Mrs. Ramola Cecil, Mrs. Lalitha Miller, my mamu Mr. Joseph Santram, my cousin's wife Mrs. Manju Phillips, my friend from childhood's son Mr. Anjum Daniel who left behind a wife and small son and last but not least my young neighbour Archana, who has left behind a young son in Class X now and a husband who had to be reassured time and again that he did everything he could. My heart bleeds for these young ones, snatched too early in life. There would be many more I know, but these come to mind at this point.

Prayer for Sick and Those who've Lost their Loved Ones

By Anabhara Thomas

Lord,

Today we pray for those who are suffering from the ravages of COVID -19. We ask that you bring healing to those who are currently suffering from this virus.

Lord, help their bodies stay strong. Help them fight this illness. Turn the sick to you in their hour of need and save them both physically and spiritually.

We ask that you comfort those who have a loved one currently suffering or have already lost someone dear to them.

Give them the peace that only you can give. We ask that you remove this disease from the world as quickly as possible. Help us to follow recommendations so that we may be free from the threat that Covid-19 currently poses to our world.

You are the Great Healer. You alone have the power to cure all disease. We ask that, if it be your will, you will slow the spread and hasten the discovery of a remedy.

In the name of your son, Jesus, we pray these things.

Amen

Editorial Team



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Front Cover

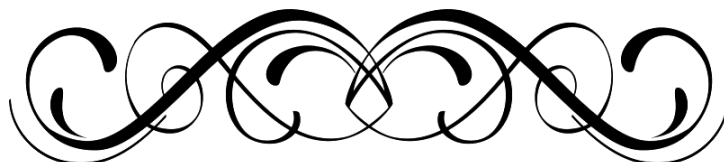


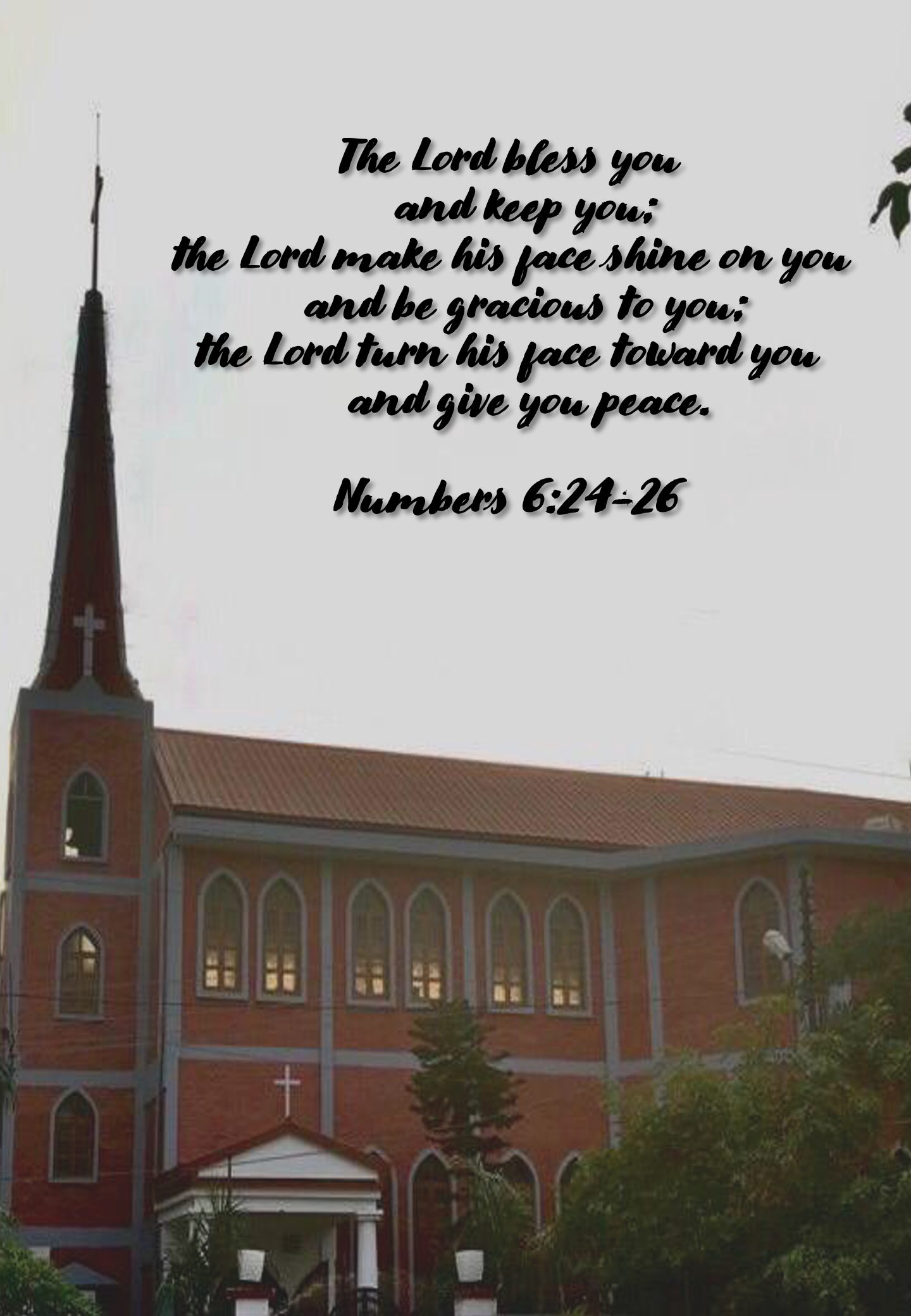
Stuti Titus

Consulting Editor



Anandkumar Peter



A photograph of a red brick church with a tall steeple and arched windows. The church has a prominent steeple on the left side, topped with a cross. The main body of the church features a series of arched windows, some of which are illuminated from within. The roof is a reddish-brown color. The overall scene is set against a clear sky.

*The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26