



## EDITORIAL

*Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!*

This month we stepped into a brand new year – 2014. Along with a new year come new resolutions, new blessings and.....new struggles. We want every year to be a year of victory for us. So does God. The problem is, people want victory but they do not want battles. Can there be victory without a battle?

The Bible says "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12). Every day we fight against depression, fear of losing someone we love, sickness, lack of faith and a hundred other problems. And most of the time, by the grace of God, we win, if we "put on the full armour of God" that he has provided for us. So every morning this year, try to concentrate not on the struggles that we will face but on the armour that the Lord has provided to overcome it. The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the readiness of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph. 6). If we are equipped with these, we will win every battle that is waged against us and come out victorious.

From this issue onwards, we bring you the testimony of one victorious Christian every month as a special feature on Page 3. Hope these will be a blessing to you and help you along in your Christian journey. If you have testimony that may be of encouragement to someone please do send it to us.

May the New Year be a victorious one for all our readers.

*"... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*

Romans 8:37

**Editorial Team**

**Blessy Roshan, Annie Royson, Nisi Samuel**

When he was preaching, he talked about the dream of Jacob mentioned in the book of Genesis. Explaining Jacob's dream, he said that there are some steps which we should take to reach heaven and Baptism is one of them. God spoke to my husband through this and he decided to take baptism. And by God's Grace, we took baptism the next week at a water tank in the factory where my husband worked. After this, our friends stopped interacting with us and we were left out from their social circle.

Some months later, my husband lost his job and we had to go back to Kerala. The days ahead were days of great suffering for us. We took baptism at a time when we were ignorant about the Pentecost movement and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. When we reached Kerala, we started attending a church which did not believe in the anointment of the Holy Spirit. Two sisters from another Pentecostal church used to come to our house regularly for prayers. They used to come during the daytime when my brothers and father were away as my family members were strongly against Pentecostal people and their prayers. One of those sisters was from a Hindu background, she had accepted Jesus and was a prophetess. One day when we were praying, that sister told me that God spoke to her that He is going to anoint me with the Holy Spirit if I submit myself. Earlier when they used to say Hallelujah and praise God loudly, I used to ask them why they are shouting while praising and was it not enough to praise God silently. But when she told me this, I submitted myself to God and started praising God a little louder. Within a few minutes, I felt the sound of strong winds inside my ears. My voice started becoming louder. I was not able to control myself. I started praising myself forgetting all about my surroundings. All of a sudden, I began uttering a new language. This continued for some hours. Glory to God. He anointed me with His Spirit which he gives to His people who obeys His commandments. If we obey God without questioning, He will fill us with His gifts.

After being anointed with the Holy Spirit, I also started seeing visions. I became a completely changed person. I felt a desire to do the Lord's ministry. When I had come to Kerala after my baptism, I used to wear my wedding chain. I would remove it while going to church and later wear it when I am back from church. I did this to please the people as my relatives used to insult me if I didn't wear any ornaments. But after getting the anointment of Holy Spirit, God spoke to me one day. I realized that taking back what we have abandoned is similar to a dog turning to its own vomit as mentioned in 1 Peter 2: 22. I stopped wearing ornaments from that day.

Few years later, God called us to work in His Vineyard and by God's grace. He helped us to do the Lords ministry for many years. God made us the preachers of the movement which we had hated the most. All Glory and honor to God alone.



**SARAMMA JAMES**

1. What was the name of Hezekiah's wife?
2. In whose bosom does anger reside?
3. What is more bitter than death?
4. Who was the last judge of Israel?
5. Who was a spreading vine?
6. Who is a flat loaf not turned over?
7. Who died of a heart attack in the Bible?
8. Who is a great prince who protects God's people?
9. Name Esther's father.
10. Which creature gathers food in the summer?

Winner of December Ablaze Quiz

**Mrs. Sony Habel**

**Sharon Church, Nadiad**

(Answers of December Ablaze : Palal, 2, Ai, Debir, Rabbah's, Achish, Sibbecai, Zippor, Jehosheba, Jeremiah)





## BE PERFECT IN HOLINESS

PASTOR V.A. ALEXANDER

The Greek term for the word saint is Hagios. Hagios means “the one who is set apart for God”. In a saint’s life, Jesus is the foundation. His present life is a reflection of the future hope. The most important attribute of God is His Holiness. God is the only one who is always worthy to be attributed holiness. Be Holy as I am Holy [Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16] is the commandment that is applicable to the people of God in all times. God refers to himself as the Holy One [Isaiah 40:25]. The Holy God wants His people to be holy [1 Peter 1:15] . This is what the scriptures mention about Jesus Christ. ....One who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. [Hebrew 7:26].

There is a close relationship between holiness and truth. So only those who lead a holy life can be honest. The goal of a church’s calling and election point towards holiness. The basis and rule of holiness is our Lord. At the same time, the holy people of God are referred as a holy priesthood, a holy nation. [1 Peter 2:21, Ephesians 2:21]. The Lord wants us to be stand steadfast and complete in holiness.

Nowadays, people talk only about outward holiness. They are not interested in following the rules that God has laid or to live in holiness. People are content living in ungodliness even when they are aware that it is impossible for God to dwell with sin. God wants people living a holy life to be rich in spiritual gifts. God who sanctifies the people of God wants them to be holy.

Let us look at some verses that speaks about awesomeness of God’s holiness.

“Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you--majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” [Exodus 15:11]

“.....holy and awesome is his name.” [Psalms 111:9]

“Go into the rocks, hide in the ground from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty!” [Isaiah 2:10]

“Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning? He who walks righteously and speaks what is right..... shuts his eyes against contemplating evil, this is the man who will dwell on the heights.....” [Isaiah 33:14-16]

“...God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see....” [1 Timothy 6:15-16]

“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified.....that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable...” [1 Thessalonians 4:3-5]

In this New Year, I pray that God helps us to lead a Holy life.



## WHAT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE

ANNAMMA RAJAN

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was leaving the room after a visit, and said, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.” Very quietly the Doctor said, “I don’t know.” The man said, “You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?” The doctor was holding the handle of the door, from the other side of which came scratching sounds. As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager shoe of gladness. Turning to the patient the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he

sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death but I do know one thing; I know my Master is there, and that is enough. And when the door opens, I shall pass through with no fear, but with gladness. Aren’t many of us faced with the uncertainty of what will happen on the other side? What will happen after I die? Jesus promised to prepare mansions for us in His Father’s house before he came back for us. Whatever be on the other side, we can rest assured that our savior who gave His life for us and defeated death on the cross, will be on the other side of the door.

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(1 Corinthians 15: 55 – 57)



## Ablazer of the Month

My Story, My Voice

Praise the Lord!

I was born in a traditional Orthodox Christian family in Kerala. I was a person who lived enjoying all the worldly pleasures. My greatest weakness in life was watching movies. As my mother was a person who lived a prayerful life, she always advised me not to watch movies. But I went to the movies regularly along with my siblings. My husband also was interested in this. We used to go to theatres at least once a week to watch movies. Each time after returning home, I used to have a guilty feeling. But I used to ignore that feeling. In the meantime, my husband, who was working in Cochin, got a job in Gujarat and we moved to Veraval in Gujarat. I was 5 months pregnant at that time. I had a feeling inside my heart to do something for the Lord. But I used to ignore that feeling and ran behind the worldly pleasures. When I was my home in Kerala for my first delivery, I took a resolution in my heart not to see movies again and to lead a life that is pleasing to my Lord. I decided to stand firm in my decision in spite of the all the temptations. God started working on my decision. I started becoming closer to God. After my delivery, I came back to Gujarat. I started facing many temptations. We used to get free tickets for movies. But God helped me to stand firm in my decision.

Dearly beloved, our God is a God who works on our decisions. When I stopped going to movies, my husband too stopped.

In the early months of 1979, a team called OM Team came for evangelization to the place where we were staying. That was the time when I had started to feel the joy of salvation. My husband did not realize the need for being born again. The evangelists of OM team used to come home and talk about salvation. But my husband argued with them. He was of the opinion that as he was born in a Christian family, there was no need of salvation for him. At that time, one day, our eldest daughter who was two and half years old slipped and fell down from the terrace. But God protected her without even a slight bruise. At a place where children died of virus attack, God protected our one and half year old son who also suffered from the same disease. These were some of the incidents that affected our family. By the prayers and work of an African missionary, my husband submitted himself to God and was born again.

As days passed, a young Pentecostal pastor, Pr P.D Raju, came to Veraval for the Lord’s ministry, which was a place without a single church at that time. We attended the prayer meetings conducted by that pastor. But when he talked about water baptism, we argued with him. Later God spoke to me about the need the water baptism though the verses in Romans chapter 6 in the Bible. I decided to take baptism. But when I shared about this to my husband, he told me that he is not interested in this and that if I wanted to take baptism, I can do when I go to Kerala. I started praying for him. In those days, Pastor T. K. Joseph came to share the word of God in a fasting prayer.



Sis. Annie Jacob is a member of IPC Chungam Church, Coimbatore.