

"For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night".

1 Thessalonians 5:2



FROM THE EDITOR

July was named in honor of Julius Caesar. Quintiles, which was his birth month, was renamed July when he died. Quintilis means "fifth month" in Latin, which represents where this month originally fell in the Roman calendar.

Caesar is responsible for the year as we know it having 365 days, and for the existence of a leap year every four years. The early Roman calendar had an intercalary month called Intercalans (or Mercedonius) that was 27 or 28 days long, added once every two years after February 23. For the years that included Intercalans, the remaining five days of February were omitted. Our contemporary calendar is still pretty much the same system Caesar instituted more than 2000 years ago.

We all know when our special days fall, some days are predicted based on the celestial bodies, some based on different calendars, but we all are uninformed of that one particular day, i.e. Jesus' Second Coming. As it is said, in **1**

Thessalonians 5:2 ESV

"For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

We are entering the darkest days and we will have to make a choice on how we will respond. We can either deny the signs of the end times that are happening all around us, or, we can start using the tools God has given us. As believers, we are engaged in a spiritual battle. This makes it crucial that we put on the whole armor of God. The enemy wants to stop the fulfilment of God's promises. In these uncertain End Times, it's important that we are equipped to defeat the enemy.

Let's use July for getting ready to face out the last days.

- Shiny Jayarajan

Pastor's Greeting

Greetings to you in the sweet name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word Vanakkam means "Vanangu" "Bow Down". We use to say vanakkam to parents, teachers and Guru. This Culture is slowly going down. But for Christian's it is a very important virtue. Our Elders and others expects us to say "Vanakkam" "thothiram" to then. When I go for visit, the elder's in the family ask their children to say vanakkam to Iyya. Then only the children greet but in some houses children's automatically say vanakkam. That means their parents used to practice it in their day to day life, by using them their children have learnt that practice and have trained themselves to do so, especially in the Christian families it is a very important quality.

Once I visited a friend's house, there I saw a different scenario, when their children were leaving their house they simply touch the elderly person feet who is sitting in a chair as they go out.

In another house, I saw all the children go to their mother to take a cross on their fore head before leaving. In doing vanakkam we have divine vanakkam, Spiritual vanakkam, formal vanakkam, friendly vanakkam, Respectable vanakkam out of this people identify us and evaluate us. Be faithful, truthful, witnessful, fearfully saying Vanakkam to your Elder's, guru and parents.

When Paul writes letters he starts the letter with greetings. Meaning entering into Other's heart with ease. When you say vanakkam surely Whoever it may be, they will accept you and admit you. Then all your dealings will also become easy and happy. In the church, the pastor asks us to share "peace" among people. What it means is saying Vanakkam Or shaking hands leads us to together.

Togetherness is strength of the church, Strength of the society, strength of the nation.

This is the things that church and pastor's are doing. If you understand in your inner heart, you will become real Christians, be a Christian, be a worshipful person and be worthful person.

- Yours lovingly,
Rev. Dr. Y.Silas Gnanadoss



KNEELING POINT

Let's take few minutes to thank God for leading us for these 6 months. We are not an accident in this world. He has customized us for His very purpose. Let us submit ourselves and let God lead us and use us for the next 6 months.

மன்னிப்போம் மன்னிக்கப்படுவோம்

மனுஷருடைய தப்பிதங்களை நீங்கள் அவர்களுக்கு
மன்னித்தால் உங்கள் பரமபிதா உங்களுக்கும்
மன்னிப்பார். மத்தேயு 6:14

எவர்களுடைய பாவங்களை மன்னிக்கிறீர்களோ
அவைகள் அவர்களுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படும்,
எவர்களுடைய பாவங்களை
மன்னியாதிருக்கிறீர்களோ அவைகள் அவர்களுக்கு
மன்னிக்கப்படாதிருக்கும் என்றார். யோவான் 20:23

- இந்த வசனத்தின் மூலமாக மன்னிப்பு என்றால் என்ன?
- ஏன் நாம் மன்னிக்க வேண்டும்?
- நாம் மன்னிப்பதால் நமக்கு கிடைக்கும் ஆசீர்வாதங்கள் என்ன?

இந்த கேள்விகளை குறித்து தான் தியானிக்க போகிறோம்!

இந்த வசனத்தின் மூலமாக மன்னிப்பு என்றால் என்ன?
மன்னிப்பு என்பது நம் வாழ்க்கையில் ஒரு முக்கியமான பண்பு.
மன்னிக்காமல் இருக்கும் மனிதர்களின் சிந்தனையில் அக்கிரமம்
அதிகமாக வரும், இரக்கம் வராது, பிடிவாதத்தனமும் கோபமும்
பிசாசுக்குறியதான எல்லா குணாதிசயங்களும் வரும்.
ஆண்டவருடைய பிள்ளைகளான நாம் மன்னிக்காமல் இருந்தால்
நாம் ஆண்டவரை பிரதிபலிக்காமல் இருப்போம். மன்னிப்பதற்கு ஒரு
மனிதன் தாழ்மையுள்ள மனதை கொண்டவனாக இருக்க வேண்டும்
- மன்னிக்கும் குணம் இல்லையென்றால் நாம் இந்த உலகில்
வாழ்ந்து ஆண்டவரை பறைசாற்ற முடியாது.
ஏன் நாம் மன்னிக்க வேண்டும்?

ஆண்டவருடைய பிள்ளைகளான நாம் மன்னிக்காமல் இருந்தால் நாம் ஆண்டவரை பிரதிபலிக்காமல் இருப்போம்.
மன்னிப்பதற்கு ஒரு மனிதன் தாழ்மையுள்ள மனதை கொண்டவனாக இருக்க வேண்டும் - மன்னிக்கும் குணம்
இல்லையென்றால் நாம் இந்த உலகில் வாழ்ந்து ஆண்டவரை பறைசாற்ற முடியாது.
ஏன் நாம் மன்னிக்க வேண்டும்?

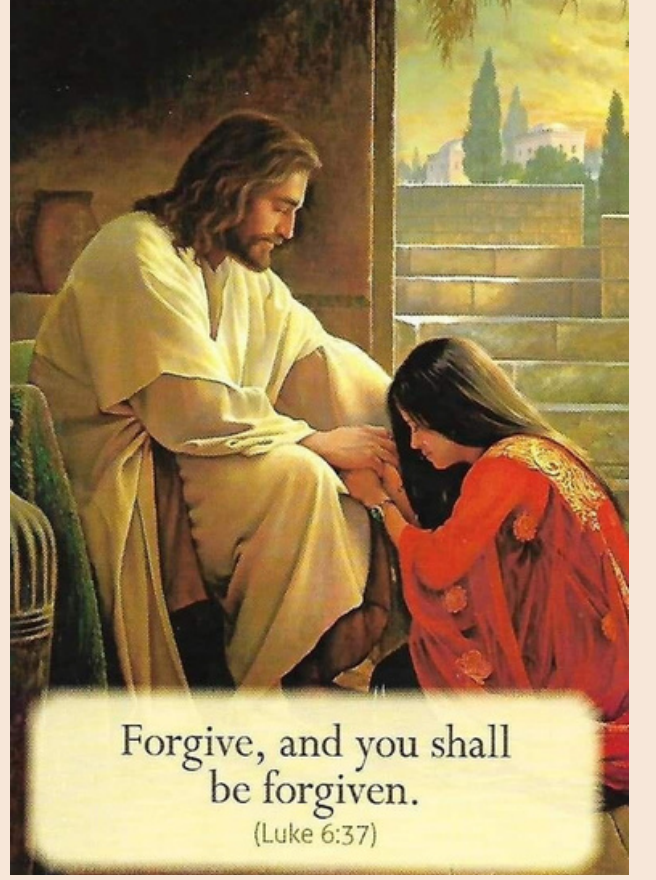
வேதம் தெளிவாக கூறுகிறது, நாம் பிறருடைய பாவத்தை மன்னிக்காமல் இருந்தால் நம்முடைய பாவங்கள்
மன்னிக்கப்படாது. நம் பரமண்டல ஜெபத்தில், “எங்கள் கடனாளிகளுக்கு நாங்கள் மன்னிக்கிறது போல எங்கள்
கடன்களை எங்களுக்கு மன்னியும்” என்று இருக்கிறது. இயேசு இந்த உலகத்தில் 33 ½ வருடங்கள் வாழ்ந்தார். எப்படி ஒரு
மனிதன் தன் வாழ்க்கையை வாழ வேண்டும் என்று முன்மாதிரியாக வாழ்ந்து காட்டினார்.

அவருடைய கடைசி நேரத்தில் அவரை அடித்து, துன்புறுத்தி, காயப்படுத்தி, அவருடைய முகத்தில் துப்பி அவரை இழிவான
வார்த்தைகளால் துன்பப்படுத்தி, அவரை சிலுவையில் அறைந்த வேளையிலும் அந்த ஜனங்களுக்காக பிதாவினிடத்தில்
மன்னிக்கும்படியாக பரிந்து பேசினார் என்பதை வேத்தில் வசிக்கிறோம் - அந்த கொடியவர்களை மன்னித்தார் என்பதை
இதன் மூலமாக அறிந்து கொள்கிறோம், ஆகவே நாம் ஆண்டவருடைய பிள்ளைகள் என்று சொல்வோம் என்றால் அவரை
போல நாமும் நம்மை வேதனை படுத்துகிறவர்களை மன்னிக்க வேண்டும்.

வேதத்தில் சொல்லப்பட்ட வார்த்தைகளை நாம் வாழ்க்கையில் கைக்கொள்ளும் போது, உலகத்திற்கு உண்டான
ஆசீர்வாதம் மட்டுமல்லாமல், பரலோகத்திற்குரிய ஆசீர்வாதத்தையும் பெற்றுக் கொள்வோம். நாம் யாரையெல்லாம்
மன்னிப்பதன் மூலம் தேவ ஆசீர்வாதத்தை பெற்றுக் கொள்வோமென்றால் நம்முடன் கூட பிறந்தவர்கள், பெரியவர்கள்,
நம்மை குறித்து தவறாக பேசியவர்கள், உற்றார் உறவினர்கள், ஆகிய அனைவருடைய பாவங்களை நாம் மன்னிக்கும்
போது அது ஆசீர்வாதமாக விளங்கும். நாம் செய்யும் செயல்பாட்டின் மூலமாக தான் இயேசு நம்மேல் வைத்து அன்பையும்,
அவர் நம் பாவங்களை மன்னித்ததையும், அவர் நம்மேல் வைத்த இரக்கத்தையும் நாம் பிரதிபலிக்க முடியும்.

ஒவ்வொரு கிறிஸ்தவ வாழ்க்கையிலும், பரலோக இராஜ்ஜியத்தில் நாம் இருக்க வேண்டும் என்பது மிகவும்
முக்கியமான ஆசீர்வாதம், அதில் மன்னிப்பு என்பது மிகவும் முக்கியமான பங்கு. ஆகவே, இன்று நாம்
தியானித்த இந்த பகுதியின் மூலமாக கர்த்தர் தாமே நம்மை சீர்ப்படுத்தி, நம்மை வழிநடத்தி நித்ய
இராஜ்ஜியத்தில் கொண்டு போய் சேர்ப்பாராக.
ஆமேன்!!

- Hlepzhibha Kerena





Into your Arms...

I may not always understand,
the things I'm going through,
Through thick and thin,
I've learned to Trust in You...
I am so depressed,
O Lord, I have no one to tell,
I know You'll understand,
cause You know me so well...
There is wickedness around me,
and it scars me so much,
Please take my hand so that I may feel Your touch...
I know I'm safe now with Your arms around me,
As long as I trust You all evil will flee...
I gave my broken heart into Your arms,
You comforted my soul with Your psalms...
I'm so ashamed of my past, as I am a loser,
But You erased it and gave me a new future...
You have written my name in Your palm,
So that no one can harm...
I thank You dear Lord that I'm back in Your care,
You've always been with me,
It was me who wasn't there...

- *J. Blessy Irene*



Come, let's know more about our Church!

Since we celebrated our **Church Anniversary** last month, we as youth tried to dig deeper to uncover some facts about our beloved St. Peter's. We had shared 1 fact each day in our group and would like to share the consolidated list with everyone. Hope this brings back fond memories and takes you on a trip down the memory lane.



Few Glimpses from the Past

1. Before the current church was built, we had a small thatched roof church (40'x20') that was inaugurated on 11th Mar '67 by Rt. Rev. Lesslie Newbigin, then Bishop of Madras. This was named "St. Peter's Church". On the same day, the foundation stone was laid for our current church which was dedicated on 1st June '69. The new bigger church (60'x50') was built around the smaller thatched church in a way that the Sunday service was not hindered even for a single week till the inauguration on 1st June '69!!
2. Our church's total land area is 7.5 grounds, out of which 1.5 grounds was gifted by late Mr. M. J. Joseph. The remaining land was purchased for Rs. 14,000. The plan approval was designed free of cost by Architect Mr. Johnson, the Proprietor of M/s Meeran Johnson and Mustaffa. The construction of the church was given to Zam Constructions. The total cost of construction amounted to Rs. 1 lack. Rs. 80,000 was taken as loan from Diocese and the remaining amount was collected from the congregation members.
3. At the end of the church construction, the then congregation fell short of about Rs.10,000. This amount in today's terms would be around 5,00,000 rupees. For this, the elders came up with an idea of conducting a cultural program, sell tickets and generate the funds. The program was conducted with the help of சென்னை கிறிஸ்துவ கலை on 7th November, 1969 titled "நான் பெற்ற இன்பம்". The elders went around sold the tickets and generated the deficit amount to build such a beautiful place of worship.
4. The first lighted cross, on the top of our church roof was mounted on the Easter Sunday of '71 (April 11,1971). This lighted cross was regarded as a model for other churches.
5. Rt. Rev. Sundar Clarke was the Bishop of Madras from 1974 to 1990. He was the Pastor of our church from 1st Jan, 1970. Rev R. T. Baskar who became CSI Bishop in Vellore diocese was also a Pastor of our church.

The Mission Work of St. Peter's



1. The first Immersion Baptism in our church was given to two brothers, of different faith, on 25th June, 1967. Following the baptism, they became members of our church.
2. Our church had only 12 families as members when it got built as a hut in 1967. Now, the count of members are more than 50 times the count at the start.
3. Currently there are more than around 600 members and 20 years ago, it would have been around 300 members. Will you believe that the strength of VBS was greater than the count of members in our church? The maximum strength of VBS was more than 400, 20 years ago.
4. In June, 1975, a Bible Woman was appointed from our church to do ministry in Nanganallur, among the women of different faith.
5. In the year 1977, as a mark of village ministry among the people of Tirusulam Stone quarry, a team consisting of Mr. Selvaswami Das, Mr. Perimbaraj, Mr. Charles Gideon and Mr. Chakravarthy, a temporary church was constructed and handed over to St. Stephens, Pallavaram. In 1978, through our missionary, a church was constructed for Rs. 8,000 in Ingridhi, Dornakal Diocese. Apart from this, our church financially supported several missionaries by paying their monthly salary. In 1975, an FMPB missionary at Gujarat was supported by paying a monthly salary of Rs. 300.
6. Our church was functioning as a mission church and below are few examples
 - 10th November, 1974, a house of prayer was started
 - 3rd December, 1974, the construction work was started for a church in Pazhavanthangal
 - 6th July, 1975, Rt. Rev. Leslie Newbigin inaugurated the Pazhavanthangal Church, which was named 'St. John's Church'
7. In 1991 Feb, a new initiative, chain of prayer was started by the then pastor where prayer points were collated from different sources and made available near the Altar. From 6AM to 6PM members come in and pray for those points without leaving any gap. It used to happen every 4th Saturday. Whenever there was a break in the chain due to some member not being available, the then Rev used to fill that slot. This initiative took many forms and shapes over the years. But somehow in between the chain broke and the prayer has lost the initial earnestness and humbleness. It is now up to us to find the missing link and rebuild the chain.
8. As part of enabling mission and mission workers take the Gospel to the corners of the nation our church has even molded its own members to be the carriers of God's word. Philip anna & Inbaraj anna, active members of Sunday class mission and youth fellowship in their times went on to become ordained CSI pastors. They are currently heading certain rural congregations in the diocese. We should remember all the missionaries who went out from our church in our prayers that God give them the wisdom to be the Good Shepherds.

Few Memories from Past

1. Recently, we had celebrated our Golden Jubilee church anniversary, but the pandemic had muted our celebration. The world was a much better place when we celebrated our 25th year anniversary. We were led by a scholarly Rev. Sekaran Ezekiel, who planned out a month-long celebration. There were fellowship lunches, family get-togethers, games and fun. The entire celebration culminated in a huge light and sound drama 'Peter' that was enacted by the then youth. It was done at a professional level. Every character was played by 2 people so that alternate scenes could be enacted from two stages. The drama was a major success which was followed by 2 other such dramas in following years.
2. As part of the 25th anniversary celebrations, 2 life size paintings of Peter were very beautifully painted by Mr. R. Immanuel. They were installed in our church for a couple of decades.
3. When Mr. J.C. Raj was youth director, the then youth presented Bible stories about the life of Jesus Christ through "Villupattu" in many churches of our diocese. The Hindustan Bible Institute tape recorded the programmes and relayed them in the Air through Manila Broadcasting station programme.
4. One of the earliest worship activities that used to happen in our church was the cottage prayer meeting. This used to happen every Saturday at 7pm and most speakers were missionaries working in the northern part of the country, who used to tell great witness stories. Once a missionary was talking of his encounter with a tiger when he was returning from mission work late in the night. These cottage prayer meetings were a good tool of building fellowship and brotherhood in the church. In later years this morphed into 12 prayer groups based on geographic spread of the congregation, these groups would take monthly turns in conducting worship, reading and other tasks in the church.



Contribution to Society

1. In 1997-1998, Mary Joseph Poor Children Endowment Fund was found which benefited many children's education
2. Among the many outreach activities that our church has taken up in its 50 years history one of the best and one that touched many needy people were the free tuitions that was held in our church. This happened for a period in the late 90s and early 2000's. Many qualified teachers from our church stepped up to contribute. In the evenings the students would drop in after school and all subjects used to be taught in the church campus. The best part was that this was a free initiative heralded by well equipped and dedicated members of the church. It benefitted all the children in our area who were not able to expend for private tuitions.
3. For the health and welfare of the needy people in Nanganallur, a small single room clinic was built by our church at the cost of Rs. 6,500. This facility was run by the medical staff from Hindustan Bible Institute. The operations started on 23rd Jan, 1976 and the clinic was functional every day from 6PM to 8PM free of cost. This facility was of great use to people in our area who couldn't afford medical expenses. Let us spare a moment and pray for those in our area who are sick and struggling to meet medical expenses.

Some Trivia and Fun Facts

- Our church has grown from a small hut to a large church and so did the number of pews. Today we have 57 pews. There are 4 columns, and, in each column, there are 13 pews. The choir area consists of 5 pews. Let's come early and occupy our place in those pews!
- The lighted cross on the church tower looks like a small cross in the pictures of our church. But will you believe that the height of the cross is nearly twice the average person's height? Yes, the height of the lighted cross is 10 feet, and the width of the lighted cross is 5 feet.
- Today we see many churches in our area. But our church is the first CSI church to be built in our area and then later we had the others.
- The first Reverend to serve in our church was Rev. C. Paulraj, 1967-1968
- All have seen the cross in the Altar, the one in the front of the church and one on top of the tower. But any idea on how many crosses are there in our church actually? Alter – 9; Window grill – 16; Door – 4; Vestry – 2; Building Front – 1; Building Top -1; Pulpit – 2; Baptism tank – 1; Song board – 2; Totaling to 38. In addition to this there are also many crosses in Compound grill around the church!!



Some Trivia and Fun Facts, contd.,

- Now, we can conduct VBS in our church, Sunday school shed and Parish Hall. When our church was a hut, there wasn't enough space in our church to conduct VBS. So, did VBS happen during those years? Yes, there wasn't any excuse for God's work. The VBS was conducted
 - The 1st VBS was held in Niger Villa (present day Arunalaya flats)
 - The 2nd year VBS was held in the kindergarten school, housed in the civil aviation quarters.
- In the times our church was founded, the people in the civil aviation colonies who are from across the nation had no place to worship. Hence to provide them with a space where they could worship in a language that they understand, the English service was commissioned in 1983.
- We have many verses written on the walls and compound of our church. Here are few that we came across. You may walk around the compound reading and unearthing more treasures.
 - மத்தேயு 5:7 இரக்கமுடையவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; அவர்கள் இரக்கம் பெறுவார்கள்.
 - 1 பேதுரு 1:16 நான் பரிசுத்தர், ஆகையால் நீங்களும் பரிசுத்தராயிருங்கள்.
 - சங்கீதம் 34:14 தீமையை விட்டு விலகி, நன்மைசெய்.
- One last fun fact to close this series of trivia is that for a period of time the church youth made it a tradition to play midnight cricket. This cricket session used to be conducted twice in a year; the night before Christmas and Easter. Youth used to assemble, finish decorating the church and then have a couple of games of cricket in whatever light was available. It's notable that even in the night, the games were competitive and no window panes were broken. It was an occasion of fun, bonding and a time that the youth looked forward to...

When we were researching for our church facts, we came across a message in the 20th and 25th years' souvenirs and it suited the current situation as well. Hence, we wanted to post it here "verbatim". What could be the best closure than this!!



"Our church owns the name of the apostle Peter who fished 3000 souls in his first sermon on the day of Pentecost. What is our record, standard or status? We have to judge and pass the verdict. Is it encouraging or discouraging? Have we really harvested in plenty bearing fruits in ourselves? If not, The Lord has been patient with us not 3 years as in the case of the fig tree but 20 long years. Ask forgiveness for all our back sliding, indifference, hard-heartedness, and disunity. Let us once again bind ourselves in chords of spiritual love to bear fruits and win souls for our Lord's kingdom."

The Walnut Tree In Our church campus



Contributors:

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We thank everyone who helped us with facts and interesting information when we reached out to you!!

Once I had a dream

Once I had a dream,
There was a beautiful garden maintained by the owner of the house.
There were many plants in this garden – Lillies, Roses, tulips, oranges, apples and
grapes
But there were a group of plants that did not fit this description too,
There were wildflowers and thornbushes too.

The gardener paid no heed to these plants and took care of them as the other
plants were taken care of,
Same water, same sunshine, same manure.

Whenever the gardener came to take care of them, the wildflower felt guilty about not
being able to be pleasant to the nose or sweet to the mouth, Yet, the gardener
took care of them all.

The wildflower thought to itself,
“Oh the master doesn’t mind my flaws!”

One day the owner of the house was taking a stroll through the house and
admiring the beautiful garden but when the gardener talked with respect to the
owner the thornbushes were furious

“Oh! Who is this person that our master speaks with respect to?”

When the owner came near the garden the thornbushes out of spite ripped the
beautiful robe he wore.

The owner didn’t mind it and was adoring the beauty of his garden.
Furious, the thornbushes slashed the owner’s skin, causing him to bleed, and the
owner was furious. Seeing the furious master,
the gardener immediately chopped the thorn bushes and the wildflowers and
cast them into the fire.

The wildflower in agony cried out to the gardener

“Why me? I didn’t harm the owner!”

The gardener replied,

“You bore nothing yet I cared for you, but when the thorn bushes decided to
harm the owner, you did nothing as well. Now do not enter my master’s territory,
you and your children!”

As the fire engulfed the cast-away plants, I woke up. Sipping my coffee I
remembered,
Once I had a dream.

- *Ashwin J*



- Flora David



- Benjamin Jasper

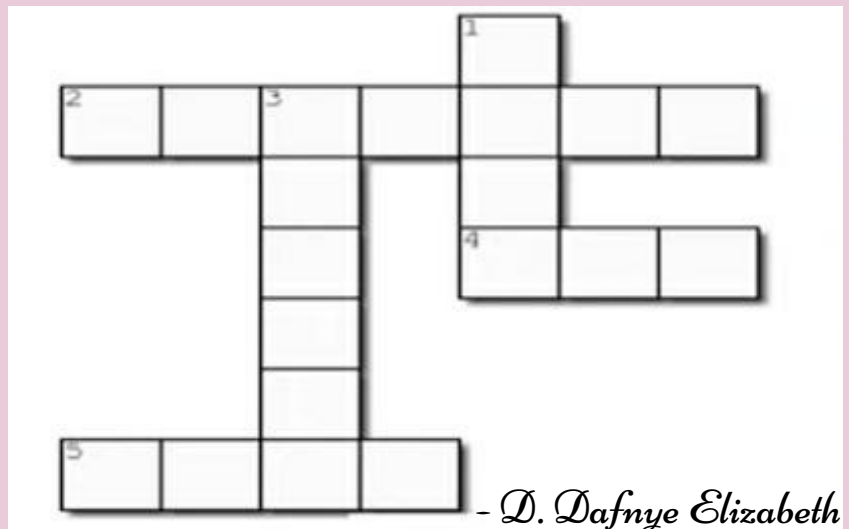
QUIZ TIME

Across

- 2. Anointed One
- 4. Supreme Being
- 5. Became Flesh

Down

- 1. Reigns
- 3. Jesus Means



- D. Dafnye Elizabeth

Last month quiz Answers

- 1. Saul
- 2. John
- 3. Nazareth
- 4. Peter
- 5. Deborah



Creative Designers of Thoni

- Jack Shelton
- Shiny Jayarajan
- C. Swetha Cazia
- Benjamin Jasper

Kindly write to peterzyouthfellowship@gmail.com or reach out to Ms. Shiny Jeyarajan (Youth Fellowship Secretary) or Mr. A. Hubert (Youth Fellowship Treasurer) for feedback and suggestions