

AUGUST 2024



InTouch

A private circulation mothly magazine of Koramangala Methodist Church



TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.
Galatians 5:13



MISSION STATEMENT

"To be obedient, cheerful, compassionate, humble stewards of God's Word and resources, in utter dependence upon God through prayer, so that we as a congregation and those we reach out to, will experience transformation through the saving grace of God and grow as Christ-centered people, guided by the Holy Spirit."

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00am | 6:00pm (1st Sunday)

PASTORAL TEAM:

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PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Beloved KMC Family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we step into the month of August, our hearts are still overflowing with joy and gratitude from the 37th Anniversary celebrations of our church last month. What a blessing it was to come together and reflect on God's faithfulness throughout these years! The memories we created, the testimonies we shared, and the spirit of unity we experienced are truly remarkable. I am deeply thankful for each one of you who contributed to making the celebration a success. Your dedication and love for the church are evident and deeply appreciated.

August is a month of dual significance for us. As we celebrate the Independence of our nation, we are reminded of the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices that were made for us to live in a free and democratic country. Let us take this time to pray for our nation, its leaders, and all its citizens, that we may continue to walk in peace, justice, and unity.

Our monthly theme for August is ***"Freedom in Christ."*** As we meditate on this theme, let us remember the words of Galatians 5:1, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."* True freedom is found in Christ alone. While we cherish the political freedom our nation enjoys, it is the spiritual freedom granted by Jesus that brings us eternal peace and joy. This freedom liberates us from the bondage of sin, fear, and worldly concerns, allowing us to live a life of purpose and fulfilment in Him.

What is this freedom that the writer to the Galatian Church is saying? Adam and Eve when they were placed in the Garden of Eden, they were a carefree people. When sin came into them, they became slaves of the devil. The Freedom they enjoyed without sin was taken away. But by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have again been set free from the bondage of the devil. We need to know that only Christ can free us.

How do we use this freedom that Christ has given us in our minds and hearts? Unless we are washed in His blood we cannot enjoy the freedom.

PASTORAL LETTER

The first thing that this freedom gives is the love of God. Obeying Him, following Him and His word.

The second thing this freedom gives is Love for people and to forgive and forget the past.

The third thing is that this freedom gives is not to fear suffering, persecution or any trials that come our way.

Throughout this month, I encourage you to delve deeper into what it means to be truly free in Christ. Reflect on areas of your life where you may still be holding onto chains that Christ has already broken. Seek His guidance and strength to fully embrace the freedom He offers. Let us also be mindful of those around us who may still be in bondage, whether spiritually, emotionally, or physically, and find ways to share Christ's liberating love with them.

We have several events and activities planned for this month that will help us explore and celebrate our theme of freedom in Christ. I invite you all to participate wholeheartedly and make the most of these opportunities for fellowship, growth, and service.

May we, as a church family, continue to grow in our understanding of the freedom we have in Christ and live it out in our daily lives, being a witness to His grace and love.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mathew George M

On behalf of Pastoral Team

REPORT

FELICITATION OF FOUNDING MEMBERS

Celebrating Our Elders

Felicitation of Founding Members of KMC at Koramangala Methodist Church on 37th Church Anniversary

We are blessed to have so many elders in our Church who have sown the seeds for the Methodist Church in Koramangala. Their dedication and faith have nurtured these seeds into the flourishing congregation we cherish today at the Koramangala Methodist Church.

On the 14th of July 2024, we had a felicitation program to honour the elders who have been instrumental in building our church into what it is today. This celebration was not just about acknowledging their past contributions but also about recognising the ongoing wisdom and maturity they bring to the affairs of our families, church, and the larger community.

The event was graced by the presence of our Transport Minister, Government of Karnataka, Shri Ramalinga Reddy, who is also the MLA for our constituency. His willingness to join us and honour our elders added a special significance to the occasion.

Minister Shri Ramalinga Reddy also spoke about importance of our elders' contributions, not only within our church but also in the broader community. The felicitation program was a beautiful reminder of the strength our elders provide in the Church.

We are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate our elders and thank Shri Ramalinga Reddy for his gracious presence. This event has not only honoured our past but has also inspired us to continue building a vibrant, faith-filled community for future generations.

Jeffrey Dare,

Chairperson, Social Concerns

REPORT



Shri Ramalinga Reddy
TRANSPORT MINISTER, GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

REPORT



**CELEBRATING
OUR
ELDERS**



TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Much of us face our future with a yearning to be free. Free from something or free to do something. A freedom that is often defined by the world we live in rather than the Word we are called to live by. As believers, we must remember that our lives are always influenced by two things - The world / the Word. The choice to let one or the other influence us is often a subconscious choice and given our fallen state, we gravitate towards the former rather than the latter. Which means that we must make an intentional decision to define freedom as the Word defines it and to live that out in our lives.

Our verse for this month states:

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)

We see how liberty or freedom is a calling. Earlier in the chapter that this verse appears, we see that liberty is a position we receive in Christ:

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1)

Take note that the calling and position of freedom in Christ comes with warnings to us as believers. Let us meditate on the two aspects of freedom we have with their respective warning.

Position of freedom | Do not return to bondage (vs. 1)

Once we come to Christ and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, we are born again and robed in His righteousness. We move from being the object of God's wrath to being loved as He loves Christ. This exchange comes with mutual agreement on both sides. Christ willing gave His life as a sacrifice that I might be redeemed and made free. I then willing choose to accept His gift of salvation and come under His Lordship. This position of freedom is one that the world can never give nor take away - but you and I can walk away from it. That is why we then receive the warning to not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage! Despite the beautiful freedom we now experience in Christ, we can be deceived into letting ourselves get under the very bondage that Christ freed us from!

TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Lord grant us the grace to guard our hearts and minds from this deception. May we remember the greatness of Christ's sacrifice and the majestic freedom that you and I have in Him. The enemy and our own sin will come to tempt us to walk away from that freedom as Paul continues to expound in the chapter, but we must stand fast. Stand in your position in Christ, Stand with Christ in your life and Stand for Christ in your decisions.

Called to freedom | Do not abuse the calling (vs. 13)

This verse so interestingly describes that our calling to liberty moves us towards a life of servitude. As seen above, we first stand in a place of liberty and then we're told that we're called to liberty. This freedom then provides us with an opportunity that can be used either for me or for my brother/sister.

We see in the story of Zacchaeus that once he received freedom in Christ, he was moved to use that freedom to pay back four times more to those he had cheated and to provide half his possessions to the poor. Christ did not tell him to do it, but the freedom that Zacchaeus now experienced was far greater than the security and pleasure that his riches masked as freedom. He then used that freedom to serve others than to indulge his flesh. What might an indulgence of the flesh look like? Paul gives an impressive list in **Galatians 5:19-21**.

Let us not let the world normalize or glamorize this list for us dear ones. Be careful with anything and anyone who pulls you towards anything on this list. Also remember that the pulls starts in the heart before its seen in your actions. The antidote? Is in verse 25, ***If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.***

Lord our heavenly Father, we're so grateful for Your love and Your Son Christ Jesus who came to give us a freedom so beautiful and wonderful. A freedom that comes in our position in Christ and expresses itself in the way we live. We fail to see the seriousness of the sin we have been saved from and the evil that reviles the love of Christ. This leads us to take Your love and the freedom You give us for granted. Grant us the strength to live in the Spirit and not in the flesh. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Alvina Joanna

Vice President, Young Adults Fellowship

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRAISE GOD

- Praise God for all the way God has lead KMC family as we stepped into August 2024
- Praise God for hearing the prayers of HIS people and answering.
- We praise God for all protection, providence given to us.
- Praise God for wings of the church as they to do programs and activities that keep the Church on its feet
- Praise God for the new individuals and families who has joined us as full time members of KMC family.
- Praise God for the continued rains.

REMEMBER AND PRAY

- Pray for our Bishop N.L. Karkare and Madam Kamala Karkare for their Episcopal leadership to the BRC.
- Pray for Conference Officers, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, with our Bangalore District Superintendent, all pastors, preachers, Deaconesses, Evangelists, and Heads of Institutions and their families.
- Pray for the Mission Hospitals, Hostels which comes under BRC.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

- Pray for the Bangalore Regional Conference its ministry and its needs.
- Pray for those who are suffering through the tribulations that they go through because of wars, famine, floods and calamities
- Pray that God will continue to help the Pastoral Team of KMC to cater the spiritual needs of the church through prayer, planning, recording the necessary worship services and the Bible studies for the live streaming.
- Pray for the Pastorate Committee Members and their Leadership.
- Pray for those who are sick and are admitted in the hospitals.
- Pray for the Land Purchase for the Sarjapur Methodist Church.
- Pray for the challenges faced by youth and the young couples particularly in the broken families.
- Pray for the Children and the Teachers in our church who have begun attending the new academic year in various schools
- Pray for the families of victims of recent landslides and floods in various parts of our country especially in Waynad, Kerala. May God give them comfort and strength to bear the loss of their loved ones.
- Pray for the Tech Team who are sacrificially helping the church to minister for those worshipping online.
- Pray for the resources needed for the ministry at KMC.

"Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses." - **Acts 13:38-39**

INFORMATION ON GIVING

*Each one must give as he has
decided in his heart, not
reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

✦ You can give in the following ways: ✦

- Offering Bag



- UPI Transfer



- Online bank Transfer



Beneficiary: **KORAMANGALA METHODIST CHURCH**

A/C Number: **0885101017344** (SAVINGS ACCOUNT)

IFSC code: **CNRB0000885**

Branch: CANARA BANK, **KORAMANGALA LAYOUT**

FREEDOM IN CHRIST-BIBLE QUIZ

In the “land of the free,” we often confuse the true nature of freedom. For many of us, freedom has become synonymous with personal independence — the ability to make our own decisions and choose our own path in life, to do whatever we want, whenever we want. It’s what I call **“outside freedom.”** But this is not the freedom in Christ that we have been given.

When Jesus revealed himself as the Messiah, He said that He had come to Earth to **“proclaim freedom”** (Luke 4:18). And on another occasion, He said, **“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”** (John 8:36).

Jesus was not setting us free to do whatever we wanted; He was freeing us to do what we ought to do. He was liberating us to walk in relationship with God and to be the kind of people He created us to be. This spiritual freedom in Christ is what I call **“inside freedom”** — the ability to obey God and choose His will for our lives. And this is the freedom in Christ that sin had long denied us.

Jesus shocked the Pharisees, the spiritual leaders of His day, when He stated, **“I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin”** (John 8:34). Jesus was asserting that we are all under the power and control of a natural tendency to sin; we can’t get away from it by ourselves.

Sin brings a penalty that, by ourselves, we can’t escape either. The Bible says, **“The wages of sin is death”** (Romans 6:23).

How do we find freedom from the penalty and power of sin?

That comes through accepting Jesus Christ’s death on the Cross as the payment for our sin. As we submit to Christ, sin loses its power — Christ’s power takes over. As we choose to trust and follow Him, our sinful habits, thoughts and attitudes lose their control. Guilt disappears, and peace of mind dominates. Right habits become the norm. That’s freedom in Christ — true freedom!

Source : <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/freedom-in-christ/>

Click the link below or scan the QR code using your camera app to play a **BIBLE QUIZ** on Freedom and Slavery.

<https://forms.gle/jLKKoqGn13pXhZGD8>



PULPIT CALENDAR

“TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST”

AUGUST 2024

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”
Galatians 5:1

1st August 2024 Thursday (Physical & Live Online Service)	6.00am*	Rev. John Shikamani
4th August 2024 Sunday (Physical & Live Online Service)	9.00am*	Rev. Mathew George M
4th August 2024 Sunday (Physical Service)	6.00pm*	Rev. John Shikamani
11th August 2024 Sunday (Physical & Live Online Service)	9.00am	Rev. John Shikamani
18th August 2024 Sunday (Physical & Live Online Service)	9.00am	Rev. Daniel Ezra Naveen
25th August 2024 Sunday (Physical & Live Online Service)	9.00am	Mrs. Lynette Johnson

*Holy Communion Service

INDEPENDENCE DAY - FLAG HOISTING

15TH AUGUST 2024 @ 8:00 A.M.

INFRONT OF CEB HALL

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