



AUG 2023

Reach Out

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH | AN EXTN OF KMC



Freedom
in Christ

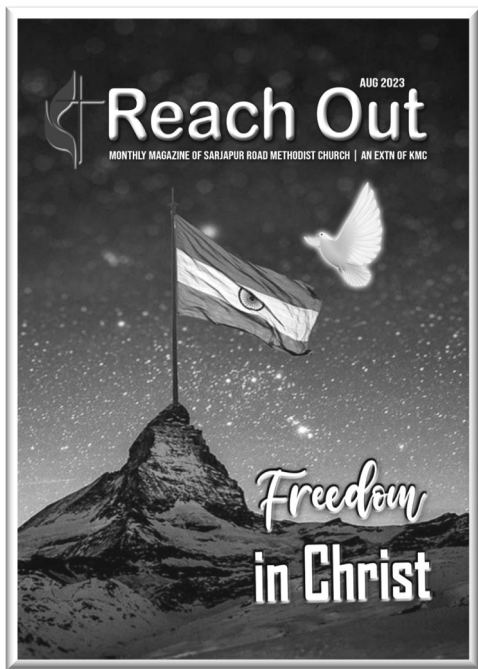
FAMILY SING-SONG & TESTIMONY SUNDAY

30 July 2023



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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 SERVICE:

9:00 AM

PASTOR:

Rev. Alfred Sudarshan

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PASTORAL LETTER



Dear SRMC Family,
Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It gives me immense joy to write to you once again all through this newsletter. God has been good to us although last month, he has enabled us to see this new month August. We are grateful to God for his blessings upon us. From the bottom of our heart, we thank God for his sustaining grace. I hope and believe that we had wonderful month of meditation last month on the topic "*being restored in the hand of potter*" God has spoken to me personally through the scriptures. As I was praying for the theme for the month of August 2023. God enabled me to think in terms of Freedom. Since we as a nation are celebration Independence Day this month. It is apt for us to meditate upon the freedom that Christ gave to us. The spiritual freedom. Therefore, the theme for this month would be "*Freedom in Christ*."

The freedom defined in Cambridge dictionary is, "*the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think without being controlled or limited.*" The world talks about the physical freedom whereas the scripture talks about the spiritual freedom. Paul in his epistles focuses on this liberty and therefore, he encourages his readers to live in the freedom that Christ has given and not to be entangled again with any sort of yoke of bondage.

Freedom or liberty has been considered as the basic human right from ages. This issue is very much discussed in the present scenario of our country. Looking at the events at this point of the history, we see that the freedom of people has been put under control. Unlike that God has given us the freedom to enjoy his goodness in this creation. Our God us a God of Freedom and Liberty. From the very beginning this aspect of God in relation to humanity has been established.

God gave freedom to Adam and Eve to work according to their freewill and make their own choices. Freedom in this sense is a God-given gift to human kind to enjoy Him. Now the Lord is

spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Cor 3:17).

The fact of freedom is also very much evident in the redemption of the people of Israel from the bondage of Egypt. God looked at their situation and heard their cry and liberated them. Exodus 2:24 says, God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and Jacob. Jesus at the beginning of his ministry he revealed the one purpose of his coming to this world that is liberation of those who are in bondage. Christ's will for us is to enjoy the freedom.

Today, as we see our country where states like Manipur and Haryana are burning, there is complete hatred and violence all over, freedom of people related to their lives, livelihood, worship, property etc. is curtailed. Not only our country was divided based on caste, now division can be seen in same religion, groups, families. People are doing whatever they want because of the distorted understanding of the freedom. The recent incidents are like plot to introduce uniform civil code, attacks on the churches, or one ethnic group are few examples of how freedom is curtailed. Restriction of the food we eat, clothes we wear, the God whom we worship, the way we live our lives are at stake. In this context it is very essential for us as individuals and church to understand the Biblical freedom declared to humanity by the divine.

Many a times, we do things as we want or whatever we want. Same with Corinthians, as they misunderstood the message of Paul and thought that they are free to do anything. "I have the right to do anything, we say, but everything is not beneficial for us. I have the right to do anything- but I will not be mastered by anything. (1 Cor 6:12). Paul also reminds the Galatians in Galatians 5:1-15 that they are called to be free. Free from sin, free from guilt, free from trying to be good, free from fear. Some people have abused this freedom, they have taken opportunity to indulge themselves, because God must have already forgiven them. Paul says that Christian freedom is not permission to do wrong but liberty to do right. True freedom shows itself in love and service to others.

Today, as we see things that are happening around us be it our society or church, a proper or right understanding and use of the Christian freedom is required. As I am writing this newsletter, I

am reminded of a philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau, who writes “*Man is born free and everywhere in Chains*” centuries after that prophetic opening sentence, we should ask ourselves if we can afford to ignore this warning, in a world dominated by flashing phones and social media, we are born free yet in chains that are even harder to see. Freedom is the deepest desire of every heart, as we meditate on the theme throughout this month, it is my prayer that the Spirit will set us free from all kinds of bondage and slavery. May the Lord God Almighty bless us all!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Alfred Sudarshan
(Pastor, SRMC)



Please continue to support SRMC's vision of a wholesome and God-loving Faith Community in this part of the city. You can send in your tithes/offerings to the Church by scanning this QR code. May God bless you abundantly.



PRAISE & PRAYER

Praise God

- ♦ Praise God for His grace, as we meditated on the theme **“Restored in the hands of the potter”** during the month of July.
- ♦ Praise God for the wonderful way He has led us and the activities of the Church, during the past month.

Remember and Pray

- ♦ Continue to pray for our Bishop N. L. Karkare, Madam Kamal Karkare, Executive Secretary Rev. David Nathaniel, Conference Treasurer, Rev. Mathew George M., District Superintendent Rev. Sebastian Ravikumar. Pray continuously for the Bangalore Regional Conference and that God’s will be accomplished through the conference.
- ♦ Pray for our dear Pastor, Rev. Alfred Sudarshan and his family. Also, kindly keep our extended Pastoral team & their families at KMC and their families in prayers.
- ♦ Pray for the SRMC Sunday School, children & teens ministry. Pray for wisdom and health for all teachers and volunteers, for the media team and for the technical challenges that are involved.
- ♦ Pray that God may raise people in the Church and outside, who can own the Project – ‘Arise, let us build’ and support in building up the place of worship at Sarjapur Road. Please pray for the right decisions to be taken going ahead.
- ♦ Pray for the Management Team of SRMC and their families as they help in various activities of the church.
- ♦ Pray for the Bible Study group, Worship team, Men's & Women's fellowships, Sunday School, Choir and all the volunteers who are striving hard to serve and raise resources for our Church.
- ♦ Pray for the sick, elders, widows and the poor, who need help in our church. Pray also for all the families that you remember at our Church.
- ♦ Pray for all the families who are still suffering due to the effects of Covid, and other illnesses, that God may give them strength to cope and hope to move ahead.

- ◆ Pray that God may reveal His Plan for us in this locality and that the SRMC family may become a channel of blessing in this vicinity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PASTORAL CARE** is available through the Church, you can avail the services by speaking to the Pastor personally.
- **REACH OUT** is the in-house magazine of SRMC and you are welcome to contribute your stories, missionary stories, testimonies, activity pages for children and other articles. You also have the opportunity to suggest the theme for the next Month and related resources.
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meetings are held every last Sunday of the month. **Women's Bible Study** is scheduled for **Fridays at 7 pm**. Please contact the women's fellowship members for more details and Zoom meeting IDs.
- **Church Bible Study** is scheduled for every Thursday, at 7 pm, via Zoom. Pastor will be leading us in the Bible Study.
- **SRMC Sunday School** is held in the Church premises, every Sunday during the Sunday Worship Service. Please encourage your children to attend the services prayerfully for a blessed time of growing in the Word.
- **Humble request:** Please be consistent in your attendance to the Church—either for the **live service in Church**, or via the **Live Stream** of the service on our website, every Sunday. This will help you to grow spiritually and it will also help the Church to grow both Spiritually and Missionally.



SUBSCRIBE
TO OUR CHANNEL

www.youtube.com/SRMCBangalore

IS BOASTING A SIN?

Many of us Christians say ‘Boasting is a sin’— right?

Indeed, it is not right to be boastful, as it has its root in pride. The Bible is full of passages on the sinfulness of pride and boasting (for example, Judges 7:2, 1 Samuel 2:3, Psalms 49:6, Proverbs 27:1 and many more). The Greek word “to boast,” appear sixty-three times in the New Testament. Most notably, thirty-nine usages are found in the Corinthian correspondence, with almost half employed in defense of Paul’s apostolic authority and ministry.



Let me take you back to the history to see the powerful King Jabin.

King Jabin, the King of Canaan was riding high. For 20 years he had held God's children as slaves. King Jabin, the Bible tells us, had reigned in Hazor (Judges 4:2). With his able head of defense Sisera, King Jabin felt invincible. Having 900 chariots of iron - Jabin ruled and he dominated. He was in control, or so he thought.

You see, Jabin was not much different from a lot of people today. He thought his word was law. He thought the country was his. He thought the people were under his dominion. He thought his army was under his power. He even thought he controlled his own destiny.

KING JABIN WAS BOASTFUL!

The Bible tells us he ruled in Hazor, northern Palestine. Evidently, King Jabin hadn't taken time to get acquainted with another King whose rulership not only covered the territory Jabin boasted about ruling over, but covered all of earth and all of heaven. For we are told in the Psalms,

The Lord that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion (Psalm 134:3). Pompous King Jabin wouldn't have had a

speck of soil to rule over if the King of the Universe, our Sovereign God, hadn't created it.

So the God of heaven and earth, sent a message to His daughter Deborah saying, now is the time, Sisera and his army and King Jabin are going to be visited by Me.

The Psalmist David in describing God's interaction with events in the universes says "God does whatever He pleases" (Psalm 115: 3). When we look at the Hebrew meaning of the word, "pleases." it means, "delights, desires. He is not a God who is taking out His anger on His children. In fact, it is just the opposite. David was referring to a loving Father who delights in doing for His children what He knows will bring them pleasure. And I can assure you, God knew it would bring joy and courage and hope into the lives of His children to release them from the tyrannical rule of King Jabin and Sisera.

The Bible says the Lord discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host. Once again I looked at the dictionary for the word discomfit, which means to utterly crush and destroy. Look at the other place where exactly same word is used in the Bible.

Interestingly, this chapter in 2 Samuel is one of the most beautiful in Scripture as David speaks of the way God has delivered him, "God sent out arrows, and scattered them, lightning, and discomfited them." (2 Samuel 22: 15).

This is the crushing blow delivered to Sisera and the boastful king Jabin who thought they ruled with their iron chariots when in fact they were no match for the God of heaven and earth. At the crushing defeat of the enemies of Israel, it wasn't only King Jabin and Sisera who learned something about God's sovereign rulership. God's children learned something, too.

When we least think God has things in control, God asks us to arise, stand up, and get ready to move, for He is about to "discomfit" the boastful Jabin and Sisera on behalf of His children.

SO BOASTFULNESS IS WRONG!

But the practice of self-praise or glory was common among popular teachers and philosophers of the Greco-Roman honor and shame culture. They spoke with pride of their accomplishment and status to advance their arguments or position and win

over adherents. However, Paul strongly opposed those who boasted about themselves, believers and nonbelievers alike (1 Corinthians 1:28–29).

BUT HERE PAUL IS BOASTING!!!!!!

Yet, on one occasion in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul said that he was forced to boast (2 Corinthians 11:16 - 18). Why?

His opponents were trying to discredit Paul and his ministry and, by extension, discredit the Christ who sent him. So, Paul defended himself by recounting his heritage (2 Corinthians 11:22), suffering in ministries (2 Corinthians 11:23–33), and even supernatural experiences (2 Corinthians 12:1–6).

A careful reading of these texts will show that when Paul boasted, we do not come away seeing Paul's loftiness. Instead, we are drawn to a passionate Paul who loved his flock; more significantly, we see Christ who sustained him.

Similarly, Paul's choice of word in Romans 5:2–3, "*And we boast in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in the sufferings...*" is significant. Likewise, Paul and those with him were "*joyfully confident with a sense of pride of their hope in the glory of God.*"

They looked forward to God's generous sharing of his magnificent glory with those who did not deserve it! So much so that they could endure suffering with confidence, with a sense of pride, in the great God whom they trusted because this suffering ultimately would lead to hope for God's coming glory.

SO CAN WE BOAST OR NOT?

Therefore, Christians today should not boast or brag about themselves. Instead, our boasting should direct others' attention to God through our lives. When we are blessed, praise God! He is the one who blesses us, not because we deserve to receive these blessings. When we suffer, we can endure not because we are more spiritual or capable but only because He is the one who enables us to go through life's trials.

As we boast in our Maker, we invite others to experience His faithfulness in every season—whether good or bad.

- Written by Mrs. Prema Sunder Raj

HYMN HISTORY

"Be Thou My Vision" (Old Irish: Rop tú mo baile or Rob tú mo bhoile) is a traditional Christian hymn of Irish origin. The words are based on a Middle Irish poem that has traditionally been attributed to **Saint Dallán Forgaill**.

The best-known English version, with some minor variations, was translated in 1905 by Mary Elizabeth Byrne in 1905, then made into verse by Eleanor Hull and published in 1912. Since 1919 it has been commonly sung to an Irish folk tune, noted as "Slane" in church hymnals, and is one of the most popular hymns in the United Kingdom. The original poem, found in two Irish manuscripts in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, may be dated as early as the 8th century.

Quite often, older hymns come to us as a collaborative effort before we are able to sing them from our hymnals. The Irish text, beginning "Rob tu mo bhoile, a Comdi cride," was translated into literal prose by Irish scholar Mary Byrne (1880-1931), a Dublin native, and then published in *Eriú*, the journal of the School of Irish Learning, in 1905. Byrne was also known for her academic publications, including *Old and Mid-Irish Dictionary*, *Dictionary of the Irish Language*, and a treatise, *England in the Age of Chaucer*. The original prose translation comes to us in 16 couplets.

The first is:

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
None other is aught but the King of the seven
heavens.*

And the last is:

*O heart of my heart, whate'er befall me,
O ruler of all, be thou my vision.*

It is at this point that **Eleanor Hull** (1860-1935) enters the story. Born in Manchester, England, she was the founder of the



Irish Text Society and president of the Irish Literary Society of London. Hull versified the text and it was published in her *Poem Book of the Gael* (1912). Following the original publication in Ireland, the hymn was included in a number of British hymnals. After World War II, the hymn came to the attention of hymnal editors in the U.S. and it has become a standard hymn in most hymnals today.

Irish liturgy and ritual scholar Helen Phelan, a lecturer at the University of Limerick, points out how the language of this hymn is drawn from traditional Irish culture: "One of the essential characteristics of the text is the use of 'heroic' imagery to describe God. This was very typical of medieval Irish poetry, which cast God as the 'chieftain' or 'High King' (Ard Ri) who provided protection to his people or clan. The lorica is one of the most popular forms of this kind of protection prayer and is very prevalent in texts of this period." The original chieftain language of the "High King of heaven" has given way to the more inclusive "Great God" in the UM Hymnal.

When Hull's versification was paired with the lovely traditional Irish tune *SLANE* in The Irish Church Hymnal in 1919, its popularity was sealed. The folk melody was taken from a non-liturgical source, Patrick Weston Joyce's *Old Irish Folk Music and Songs: A Collection of 842 Airs and Songs* hitherto unpublished (1909). It was on Slane Hill in County Meath around 433 CE that St. Patrick lit candles on Easter Eve, defying a decree by High King Logaire of Tara that no one could light a fire before the king signaled the beginning of the pagan spring festival by lighting a fire on Tara Hill. King Logaire was so impressed by Patrick's devotion that, despite his defiance, he was permitted to continue his work as Ireland's first Christian missionary.

A medieval poem entitled "On the breaking up of a School" composed by Tadhg Og O Huiginn, c.1400, refers to the death of St. Dallán which caused his school to break up and the students to disperse as they would accept no other master. In a list of ancient Irish authors contained in the *Book of Ballymote*, Dallán is called "grandson of testimony".

Compiled by Joel Dubba

Sources: umcdiscipleship.org | wikipedia.org

Name: _____

The Holy Bible Word Search



APOSTATE

BELIEVERS

JUDGEMENT

HOLY SPIRIT

CHRIST

CHURCH

JESUS

WINE

WATER

FISHERMAN

PERSECUTE

BETHLEHEM

JERUSALEM

NAZARETH

TEMPTATION

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SRMC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

SALE FOR AFFLICTED IN MANIPUR

One 30th July, the SRMC Women's Fellowship arranged a food and arts sale, to raise money for those afflicted due to the recent violence and unrest in Manipur. A few glimpses.



KINDLY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SRMC:

Sunday Worship Service

9 am, every Sunday

SRMC Sunday School

9:45 am, every Sunday

SRMC Bible Study

7 pm, every Thursday

SRMC Women's Bible Study

Every Friday

SRMC Women's Fellowship Meeting

Last Sunday of the month

SRMC Management Team meeting

First Sunday of the month

SRMC Men's Fellowship

Every 3rd Saturday

SRMC Worship Team Practice

4.30 pm, every Saturday



Freedom
IN CHRIST

SRMC

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Pulpit Calendar

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" John 8:36

AUG 2023

1st Sunday | 06/08/2023 | 9 AM

COMMUNION SUNDAY | TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

Speaker: Rev. Alfred Sudarshan

2nd Sunday | 13/08/2023 | 9 AM

WHERE THE SPIRIT OF LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM

2 COR. 3:1-17

Speaker: Rev. Alfred Sudarshan

INDEPENDENCE DAY | 15/08/2023 | 9 AM

ACTS 15:22-29

Speaker: Rev. Alfred Sudarshan

3rd Sunday | 20/08/2023 | 9 AM

PROCLAIM FREEDOM | LUKE 4:1-18

Speaker: Mrs. Prema Sunder Raj

4th Sunday | 27/08/2023 | 9 AM

CHRSTIAN FREEDOM | GAL. 5:1-15

Speaker: Rev. Alfred Sudarshan

All worship services are LIVE on www.srmcblr.org

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Besides St. Patrick's Academy, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru