



May 2021

Reach Out

Monthly magazine of the Sarjapur Road Methodist Church | An extension of KMC

For internal circulation only



PARTNERS IN HIS MISSION

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Worship Service

Sunday | 9:00 AM



PARTNERS IN HIS MISSION

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."

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Beside St. Patrick's Academy, Kodathi Gate, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore - 35.

Web: www.srmcblr.org

YouTube: youtube.com/srmcbangalore

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SarjapurRoadMethodistChurch

Pastoral Letter

REV. ALFRED SUDARSHAN RAJU



Dear SRMC family,

Greetings to you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope that all of you are safe under the mighty wings of our Lord. It brings me immense joy to write to you all again through this monthly magazine. God has been faithful in each one of our lives. He has protected us and sustained us thus far. I hope and believe that we had a great last month meditating on the topic, ***Resurrection: Hope for new Life***. I believe that God has spoken to each one of us in our own situations.

As I was pondering upon the theme for the month of May, the Lord led me to think on “*Missio Dei*”, a Latin Christian theological term which means Mission of God or Sending of God. It is a concept which has become increasingly important in missiology and in understanding the mission of the church since the second half of 20th century. Since the beginning of creation, God has always invited Human beings to be part of his Mission on this earth. He created Adam and Eve and blessed them to multiply on the earth and also to take care of God’s creation. Thus, we who are God’s creation are invited to participate in his Mission. Therefore, the theme for our meditation in the month of May 2021 would be “***Partners in His Mission***” I pray that God would speak to us on this topic and encourage us through the power of Holy Spirit.

Yes! We are indeed going through difficult times. Fear has gripped us, the situation around us is so scary and we are living in social isolation. We look at each other with a suspicion. We have lost hope, we have no fellowship, we have no unity. The very purpose that we were created for has been at stake. The Corona Virus has completely devastated our socio-economic, political and religious arenas. For situations like this, we have only one way, that is to put our trust in the Resurrected Jesus. We have only one hope: Jesus Christ. We human beings are limited; we cannot fathom God’s work during this Pandemic. Situations like this has made human beings to kneel and pray to God to heal the land and its People. We are invited to encourage the world also to repent of their sins and to turn to God. God alone can save this world

and its inhabitants. The mission which was Church-centric and Anthropocentric has to move towards “Theocentric”. The church is no more gathering these days, in this line we have to think of the way we can move forward with God’s mission, that is to take the Church to the places wherever people are, taking Church to the painful areas of humanity. Each and every believer is called to be a missionary during these times of despair, distress, difficulty and discouragement.

Therefore, we need to ask ourselves, WHAT IS MY MISSION AND HOW TO FULFILL IT? The Risen Lord spells out clearly in Luke 24:44-49 ***“Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see. He said to them, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not Christ has to suffer these things and then enter his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening’ the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.”***

These words may have been spoken on the first resurrection day or they may represent a summary of what Jesus taught the disciples over the 40 days between His resurrection and His ascension. It is this teaching that transformed these men from confused, discouraged and fearful into bold, courageous witness who were willing to die for their faith and mission. Our Lord’s teaching here is not just for the apostles. It is to every member of Christ’s body to be involved in seeking first the kingdom of God. We all must make Christ’s mission as our mission; Christ’s purpose as our purpose.

In Gospel according to Luke, Jesus clearly spells out what should be our mission and how can we fulfil it. Therefore, let us consider this invitation to partner with Him seriously and engage in the Mission of God. Our mission according to scriptures should be to proclaim repentance for forgiveness of sins in Christ’s name to all the nations. Therefore, we can derive three important lessons for mission from Luke 24 as Jesus says, firstly, the source of our mission should be God and God’s word, secondly, the subject of our mission should be the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross; thirdly, the scope of our mission should be the world.

Therefore, dearly beloved, mission should be the essence of any

Church. As God the Father sent his only begotten Son, As the Son empowered his disciples by breathing the Holy Spirit. We are to receive both the Son and Spirit and to engage in the mission. As Theologians like Keshishian asserts, “the Church itself has no mission” and C. Wright expands this assertion with, “it is not so much that God has a mission for his Church as that God has a church for his mission.” As God made it possible for the nation Israel to participate in God’s mission. God makes it possible for the Christian Church and persons to be part of the *Missio Dei*. The church, the community of believers, is the most visible witness of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. There are many ways of thinking of a church in today’s context. An appropriate understanding of the church and mission is the need of the hour to engage in mission during this pandemic.

In the above understanding of mission of God and God’s invitation to participate in His mission, it is my encouragement to each one of us during this epidemic that we be the people with a mission, carrying the mission of God as individuals, families and church. Let us pray, lift those of us who are suffering from various issues to God’s presence. As Jesus came from heaven to fulfil his mission on earth, he sends us out on mission to the needy people. As Christians we are all on a mission from God, we may all not be pastors or missionaries, but we are called to share the gospel to those around us and to participate in the world-wide mission of bringing the gospel to all the nations.

If we are on God’s mission, it calls us to see people who are suffering as God sees them, it calls us to cater to them as God provides for them. We need to make God’s priorities as our priorities. It is my humble prayer and request to you all that you touch one life during this pandemic. to be partners in God’s mission to cater to the needs of the those who need help, be it prayer, financial help, moral support, counselling or assuring them that you are there for them when they are going through sore trial in their lives. May the risen Lord help us to be his partners by empowering and engaging us in his mission.

God bless us all!

Yours, in Christ,

Rev. Alfred Sudarshan Raju
Pastor, SRMC

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 the 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.

**Please continue to support through your tithes,
faithfully every month.**

- ♦ **ALL WORSHIP SERVICES** of the Church are currently being held online due to the rising Covid-19 cases all across the country.
- ♦ You can offer **offerings and tithes** by utilizing online payment options given in our website (www.srmcblr.org). It is only through your contributions that you can build the Kingdom of God. Giving is a sign of a good Disciple.
- ♦ **Project – ‘Arise, let us build’ contributions** can be made through our website as well.
- ♦ **Sunday School** is on vacation currently. Once reopened, it will be conducted via **ZOOM**, at **12 PM** every **Sunday**. Please encourage and motivate your children to attend without fail, for a blessed and fruitful time.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **ONLINE LIVE STREAMING** of our Sunday Worship Services can be viewed on our website www.srmcblr.org. Please do attend the service virtually, if you are unable to attend the service in Church, in person.
- ♦ Please note the **new address of our Church**, it is “Beside St. Patrick’s Academy, Kodathi Gate, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru—35.” You can easily find the location on Google Maps under “**Sarjapur Road Methodist Church.**”

Praise & Pray

Praise God

- ◆ Praise God for His help, as we meditated on the theme “*Resurrection: Hope for New Life*” during the month of April.
- ◆ Praise God for the miraculous way that he has kept us safe amidst this Pandemic and has helped us congregate online to worship Him.

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 Raju and his family. Also, kindly keep our extended Pastoral team & their families at KMC; Rev. Mathew George, Rev. Daniel Ezra Naveen, Rev. John Shikamani and our Pastorate Committee members and their families in prayers.
- ◆ Pray for all the Covid-19 frontline workers who are striving hard to attend to patients of this pandemic. Also, pray for all the families who have lost their dear ones to this disease, that God may give them strength to cope and hope to move ahead.
- ◆ Pray that God may raise people in the Church and outside, who can own the Project – ‘Arise, let us build’ and support God in building up the place of worship at Sarjapur Road.
- ◆ 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 wings of our Church.
- ◆ Pray for the technical teams, the volunteers who are striving hard to ensure the services of our Church keep functioning for God’s glory.
- ◆ 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 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.

Praise the Lord! It gives me immense joy to write about the completed Online VBS – Karate Camp this year. We at SRMC committed to keep the Spirit of VBS even in the Year of Pandemic. We ministered to about 65 Children of age group 3-16 years through this year Online VBS which was conducted through ZOOM. While there were 75 children registered, few of them could not participate due to personal issues.



We conducted in the dates April 26 – 30 through zoom and the recordings were shared through youTube channel from May 3-7 for the children who could not attend the zoom sessions.

KARATE CAMP – the curriculum is originally designed by the Second Baptist Church, Houston. As volunteers and teachers, we took the curriculum and modified to suit our children needs and used it effectively. We made it more lively by introducing the Karate Belt, which children can make every day, with the memory verses on it. 56 children earned the Black Belt by attending all 5 days and doing the activities regularly. 8 children got Participation Certificates, meaning they earned the Yellow Belt.

I cannot thank enough of the technical team support given by Brother Joel by re-recording all the songs, helping with uploading the sessions digitally on youTube and Brother Krishna Kumar who helped in formatting the documentation and was in-charge of Zoom related issues.

Brother Joel and Sister Hannah did the intro sessions in a very lively manner, which encapsulated the children to watch the sessions. Teachers Bro Rajashekar & Sis Chitra handled the Intermediate class, while Sis Felycia Rajakumar & myself handled the Juniors class, Sis Jebaslin Kiruba & Sis Manjari handled the Primary class and Sis Nita Thomas & Sis Joy Jenish handled the Beginners class. I thank each and everyone of them personally for the labour of love rendered for children.

Lastly, I thank our dear pastor Rev Alfred Sudarshan Raju for giving me a opportunity to co-direct the VBS this year. Many thanks and God bless each of you. Please stay safe and protect yourself from the pandemic with the word of God. God bless you all.

- Mrs. Shereen Anpu
VBS Coordinator

:: SOME GLOWING FEEDBACK BY PARENTS ::

"This online vbs focused equally on all areas like songs, prayer, moral value, crafts ,story time, songs and activities. Enjoyed the space given for children to show their crafts."

"It helped my son knowing more from the Bible and entire video was really engaging. Thank you team!"

"The thought of reaching out to the children during these difficult times and encouraging and entertaining and engaging them is what we liked."

"I appreciate you all for opening it to children beyond Methodist churches. God bless you!"

"Thanks for all the efforts taken for the VBS initiatives... It was a lovely time and Kids were very eager for next day sessions... God bless you all. Special thanks to the person who handled the craft session as well. Activity sheets and craft time they enjoyed."

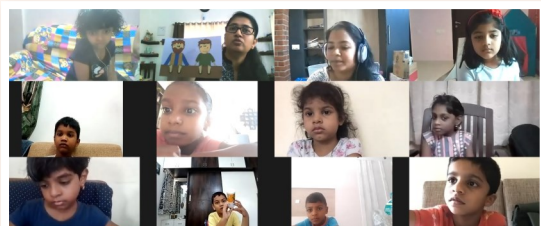
"In a short duration you folks have done a amazing job in choosing the right theme, stories, activities, craft and presenting the content and a very apt way without compromising on learning the Word.. Children loved the stories and crafts"

"In lockdown our children are feeling so depressed and tension by this VBS they feel happy and joyful"

"Dedication of the admin team. Hats off to you. Thank you KK anna, Joel brother and Hannah"

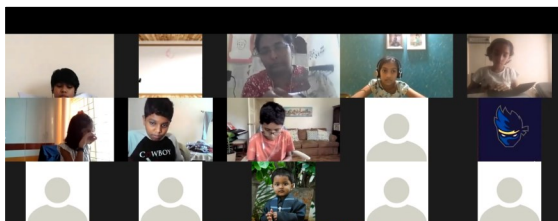
"Children were taught basic concepts in good way"

"Amazing teachers and amazing coordination of teachers with all the kids"

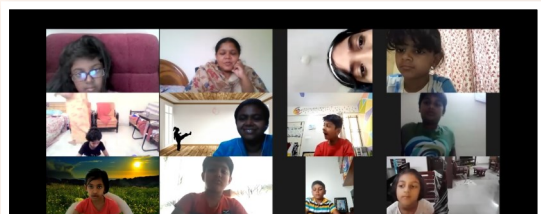


BEGINNERS

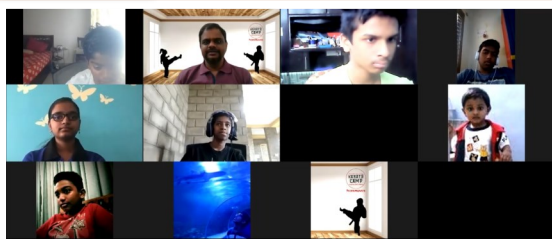
PRIMARY



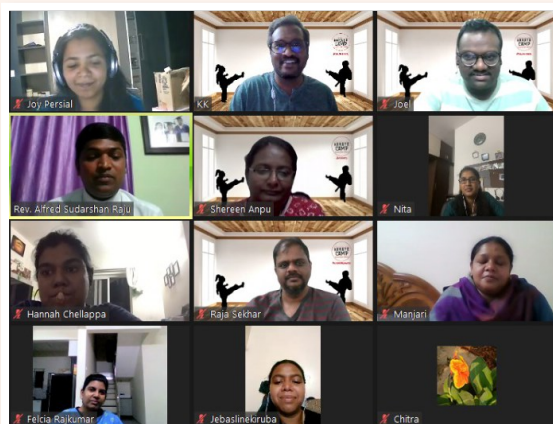
JUNIORS



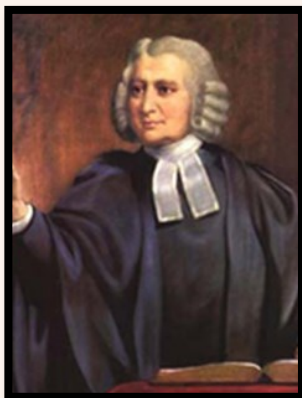
INTERMEDIATE



TEACHERS & VOLUNTEERS



Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was a prolific hymn writer of the 18th century. Coming from a musical family, he left a lasting legacy of congregational song. The youngest of 18 children, Charles possessed prodigious talents that soon blossomed. Little did he know that “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” would rise to become one of the most popular and consistently vocalized Christian songs.



Writing hymn texts that are solidly based on the Scriptures gives them an appeal across denominational lines. It is estimated that during his lifetime, Wesley penned more than 9,000 poems of a spiritual nature, 6,000 of which are hymns. His writings were passionate and well-crafted, conveying the true essence of Christian teaching.

Wesley married Sara Gwynne in 1749. She was a constant companion to him on his evangelical journeys. Only five of their eight children survived infancy. Charles Wesley Jr. (1757-1834) and Samuel Wesley (1766-1837) were musical like their father, and his daughter Sarah (1759-1828) was gifted in spiritual poetry.

A substantial number of his writings were completed while riding on horseback to his evangelical meetings. What really set Charles apart from other hymn writers was his effective use of scriptural allusions, providing a spiritual roadmap whereby individuals could imagine a Christ-centered life.

Scholars suggest that he was able to compose about 10 lines of verse daily for 50 years. Charles' brother John sometimes served as editor to his hymns. John's typical response was, “some were good, some were mediocre, and some were exceptional.” John can also be credited with improving the singability of Charles' hymns.

Both John and Charles were instrumental in changing the spiritual environment of Britain during the 18th century. In doing so, they

formed the bedrock of what Methodism has become worldwide. Their unwavering devotion to expressing Christian spirituality through hymns has impacted individuals across all denominational lines.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” was first published in a collection of hymns entitled *Hymns for those that Seek, and those that Have, Redemption in the Blood of Christ* (1747). The incipit (opening line) was a play on the opening line of John Dryden’s (1631-1700) poem “Fairest Isle, All Isles Excelling” set to music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695) in the generation before Charles Wesley was born.

The tunes BEECHER or HYFRYDOL typically accompany the text in most hymnals. The hymn is written around a progression of thoughts: (1) our prayers for the Holy Spirit, (2) praying for the return of our Lord through the second coming, and (3) prayers for the finalization of his new creation.

In comparing hymn stanzas across several denominations, very minor variances did occur, mainly in single word changes. However, in the Hymnal 1982 (Episcopal) stanza two is omitted. The original stanza expressed the Wesleyan concept of the “second rest.” When Charles referred to this in his hymns, it specifically applies to the “second birth,” “second blessing,” “second gift.” All of these are directed toward achieving full “sanctification” or “Christian perfection.” This is an important theological tenet of Methodist preaching from the very beginning.

There is no better way of describing the culmination of adhering to the biblical teachings of Christ, than in stanza four of this hymn. Wesley’s phrase, “changed from glory into glory” is almost a direct quotation from 2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV). Wesley describes that day in heaven when “we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.”

We are fortunate to be the recipients of the poetic genius of Charles Wesley. He influenced Methodism more than any other hymn writer. Upon hearing of Charles’ death, an elderly Londoner asked, “Who will write poetry for us now?” What better way to be thought of, than by your poetic and spiritual impact on congregational song?

Compiled by Joel Dubba

Source: www.umcdiscipleship.org

CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF DEATH & LIFE

SERIES I

There are different outlooks in this world when it is said “Death” and “Life”. But we as Christians how do we look at it? Or how we ought to look at it in Christian or biblical perspective? Because that matters to us and the rest of the world in order to edify one another. Let’s begin with Death. Because that is how it starts. That is the order in which the Lord God created life out of death not death out of life. That is not the original plan of God. Bible says in *Matthew 22:32* “God is not the god of the dead, but of the living”. *Ezekiel 18:32* says “I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies” says the Lord God. Before we get into the topic “Death”, it is important to know what man is. Man is made up of what? When I say man, it refers the entire mankind. Probably every Christian knows man consists of Spirit, Soul and Body. Let’s look into each of them in detail.

Spirit

Man is a Spirit. Bible says in *Genesis 1:27* “So God created man in his own image; in the image of God He created him”. What is his image? Bible says in *John 4:24* “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”. Now what is spirit? Air set in motion by breathing is called Spirit, that itself is called Life as well. Who gave the spirit to man? Bible says in *Genesis 2:7* “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”, So God is the real source of Oxygen which we breathe. In order for this cycle to continue, God made trees and other plants on 3rd day, well in advance.

So it is evident that, until God breathed into the nostrils of man, man is dead. That’s why we believe it is life out of death, whether it is referred creation or eternal life after death which will be discussed later. But the World believes it in the other way as death is an end of the life and no more or nothing more after death, So as long as we live on this earth let’s do all we can, and finish this race just like that.

Soul

Now let's come to the point. In order for a spirit to live, God created Soul and Body. In other words, Spirit functions in two instruments called Soul and Body. What is Soul? Soul is the immortal and immaterial part of man which belongs to God. *Ezekiel 14:3* says "Behold, all souls are mine". It is the most vital asset of man which morally senses right and wrong and greatly influences one's behavior. In order for this immaterial part of man to function in human body, it requires two organs called heart and brain.

In and through our hearts thoughts are conceived and the brain processes it and gives command to an appropriate organ. Through this only, words and action or behavior takes place. Similarly heart stores whatever is processed through brain. That's why Paul writes in *Romans 7:8* "But sin taking opportunity by the commandment (processing and storing), produced in me all manner of evil desire". Bible says in *Proverbs 18:21* "Death and life are in the power of the tongue". Tongue is a part of the body. But how does the power come to tongue? It is through soul. Bible says in *Luke 6:45* "For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks". So it the soul that brings all whether, good or bad. *Proverbs 23:7* says "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he".

That's why God commands his people (each soul) to be (filled) with biblical virtues. Let's see what is expected from each soul according to bible. Soul has the abilities to believe God, love God, not to sin against God, prosper and survive in God. The duties of soul are as follows:

- to seek the Lord
- to keep his commandments
- to love God more than anything
- to serve the Lord
- to store God's word in his heart
- to keep God's law
- to obey God
- to get his Wisdom
- to flee from fleshly lusts
- to be away from evil desires
- to be wise
- to get delivered from hell
- to be purified by obedience
- to enrich with Word of God
- to reign with Christ
- to be generous
- to be satisfied with righteousness
- not to be delighted in abominations

Body

The next instrument where spirit lives is called Body. Body is the physical structure of human seen as single organism, In other words, the fleshly or corporeal nature of a human. Bible says in *Genesis 2:7* “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground”. It consists of various organs to do various functions in the body. Bible calls our body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and we are not our own. Moreover, God expects us to present our body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable. Why?

The outcome of soul is revealed on body which either glorifies or criticizes God. Our deeds and acts are sole responsible for reflecting God, as we are image bearers of God.

If God willing, let’s get into the topic “Death” under his revelation in the next month. Until then, Peace be with you.

Written by Sam Daniel

(To be continued next month)

We praise and thank God for his mighty grace, that He has enabled our Church to have an online presence, during this lockdown due to the drastic effects of the Coronavirus.

Please do join us for online worship services on our website:



Also, please subscribe to our YouTube Channel, for regular messages from the pulpit, by

our dear Pastor
Rev. Alfred Sudartha

YouTube / SRMCBangalore

The people are walking in darkness, Lord.
The darkness of pestilence and disease
The darkness of insouciance and neglect
A dark age of scientific disdain
A dark age of deliberate ignorance
A dark age of unproven magic
A dark age of believed lies.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.
Shine your light and brighten our way
That the people may come out of the darkness
To receive the oil of healing and wholeness
To experience empathy and care
A new age of curiosity and discovery
A new age of enlightenment
A new age of God's revelations
An age wherein the people prefer
Your Truth to any lie.
And may Thy Will be done.

A-men.

© *By Marilyn E. Thornton*

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL SRMC MOTHERS!

There are

Angels

God puts on this Earth

Who care for us and guide us.
You can feel their love and gentleness
as they walk through life beside us.

They do great things for us every day
they whisper in our ears,
they even hold us in their hearts
when we are filled with all our fears.

They are always there to give a hug
and try to make us smile.
They treat us with respect and love,
they treat us like their child.

God blessed me with an Angel,
I'm proud to call my own.
She's been with me throughout my
life, been with me as I've grown.

She's guided me the best she can,
she's taught me like no other,
and I'm thankful I'm the lucky one
who get's to call her...

Mother

Kathleen J. Shields - May 14, 2006



JUST FOR FUN!



08-25-2014

CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN
FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY
PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?



06-24-2013

BRINGING WORK HOME AGAIN?

MAY 2021

PARTNERS IN HIS MISSION



"As Christians we are all on a mission from God, we may all not be pastors or missionaries, but we are called to share the gospel to those around us and to participate in the world-wide mission of bringing the gospel to all the nations."

1st Sunday - 02/05/2021*

EMPOWERED BY THE RISEN LORD

John 20:11-18

2nd Sunday - 09/05/2021

COMMISSIONED BY THE RISEN LORD

Jeremiah 9:1-10

3rd Sunday - 16/05/2021

ENCOUNTERED BY THE RISEN LORD

Luke 24:13-35

4th Sunday - 23/05/2021

MISSION FROM GOD

Matthew 10:1-15

5th Sunday - 30/05/2021

CHRIST'S INVITATION TO BE AN EXPRESSION OF MISSION

Ezekiel 34:25-31

***Holy Communion**

SARJAPUR ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH

**Beside St. Patrick's Academy,
Kodathi Gate, Bengaluru - 35**