



JAN 2023

Reach Out

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

Living a New Life

In Christ

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

6.30 pm, every Friday

SRMC Women's Fellowship Meeting

After service, every 4th Sunday

SRMC Management Team meeting

7:00 pm, every 2nd Sunday

SRMC Men's Fellowship

After service, every 2nd Sunday

SRMC Worship Team Practice

4.30 pm, every Saturday

SRMC Choir Practice

3 pm, every Saturday

Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11

**Best wishes from the SRMC & KMC Pastoral team,
and the Management team and Pastorate Committee.**

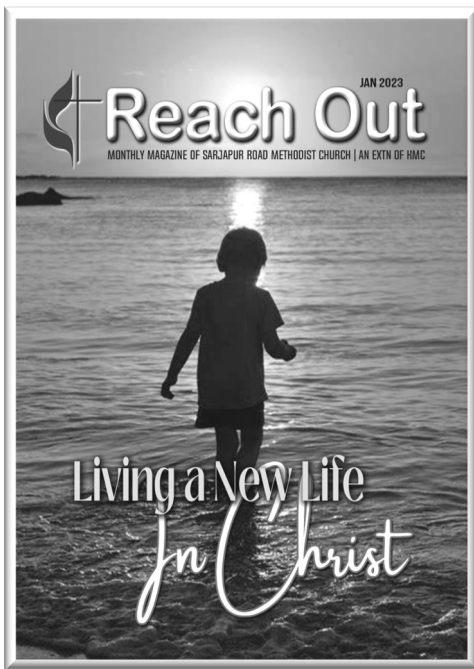


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MISSION STATEMENT

"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 Raju

Mobile: +91 98445 64695

Email: alfredsraju86@gmail.com

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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PASTORAL LETTER



Dear SRMC Family,
Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It gives me immense joy to write you all once again through this newsletter. God has been faithful to all of us. He has enabled us to see one more year in our lives through his grace. As we enter this new year, we are filled with awe and wonder for the opportunities that are in front of us.

Every new year ushers in new opportunities and goals. As we are in the New year, as the new year dawns, we harbour new hope and new aspirations. It offers us a chance to improve ourselves from what we were in the previous years. It gives us courage to look forward with great anticipation that 2023 is going to be a great year in Christ.

I would like to encourage each one of us to have new perspective towards the new year. We might have gone through failures and losses in 2022. We might not have been able to achieve things that we decided in the beginning of 2022. But we are given yet another chance to reflect, renew our commitment towards living our lives as pleasing to God. In Christ it will be possible for us to achieve things. As William Carey, Father of Modern Missions, said, ***“Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God”***. Let us approach this new year with this attitude, so that we may be able to achieve greater things for God, with the help of God.

How do we understand the theme *Newness*? As Paul writes and encourages the believers in Corinth, (2 Corinthians 5:17) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”* Although he doesn’t use the terminology of being “born again” he surely has - in view - the same concept as Jesus in John 3:3-8 “Jesus answered him, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God....”* and Peter, *Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God* (1 Peter 1:23) and John,

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God (1 John 3:9). The new creation that the scripture talks about does not mean merely the mending of one's ways, the changing of bad habits or embracing a new list of dos and don'ts. It refers to a radical, pervasive, spiritual re-creation of the inner being.

No wonder Paul calls for our undivided attentiveness to this glorious truth with the declarative: *"Behold! Be stunned, be very stunned!"* That we are an utterly new creation, the spiritual product of the gracious and life-giving power of God, is a breath-taking reality. Behold! Stop and consider this remarkable and triumphant truth. In other words, he is simply saying, don't pass it causally, give it some focus.

Today, many of us (Christians) struggle and languish because we fail to grasp the far reaching and spiritually radical implication of being a New Creation. It is because we live unnecessarily enslaved to "old things". The truth of v17 has not drawn our attention. We continue to live in bondage of old things, stubborn habits, deceptive values, and destructive relationships. God was kind enough to create us anew. We are now *"in Christ"* we are *"a new creation."*

The old things have passed away. Let us stop living as if they had any claim on our lives. New things have come; a new covenant (Luke 22:20; Heb 8:8), a new creation (Gal 6:15), a new humanity (Eph 2:15), a new name (Rev.2:17), a new city (Rev. 3:12), as well as a new standing, new power, a new hope, and a new destiny.

To understand the concept of new creation, **firstly** we must grasp that it is in fact a *creation*, something created by God. John 1:13 tells us that this new birth was brought about by the will of God. we did not inherit the new nature from our parents or decide to recreate ourselves anew. Neither did God simply clean up our old nature; he created something entirely fresh and unique. The new creation is completely new, brought about from nothing, just as the whole universe was created by God. *"Ex nihilo,"* from nothing.

Secondly, *"old things have passed away"* the old refers to everything that is part of our old nature - pride, love of sin, reliance on works, former opinions, habits, passion. Most importantly, what we loved the

most has passed away, especially the supreme love of self and self-righteousness, self-promotion, self-justification. The new creature looks outwardly toward Christ instead of inwardly towards self. Along with the old passing away, the new has come. Old things are replaced with new things full of life and glory of God. The new born soul delights in the things of God and abhors the things of the world and flesh. Our purposes, feelings, desires and understandings are fresh and different. We see the world differently.

Our assurance in Christ Jesus makes it possible for a *new self* (new creation), liberated, transformed and eternal living. Let's enjoy the "newness" of God on a day-to-day basis throughout this year.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed New Year!

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



We believe in the power of small groups, clustered based on locations, where we can learn, build and grow each other in the Lord. Please contact Pastor, to find out who your NFG representative is, and join the SRMC family, for Godly meditations and discussions, birthday/anniversary wishes and a wholesome, fruitful fellowship.

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 **“Celebrating God’s Gift on Earth”** during the month of December.
- ♦ Praise God for the ministry of **Rev. J. D. Vijay Kumar**, for helping us participate in Holy Communion and also bringing the word of God unto us, during the month of December.

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 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.

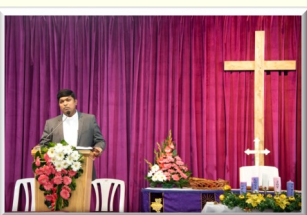
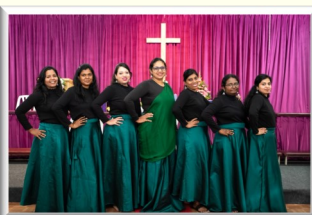
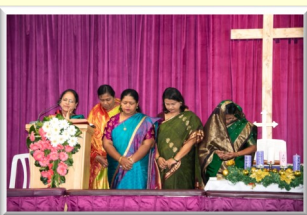
- ◆ Pray for all the families who are still suffering due to the effects of Covid, that God may give them strength to cope and hope to move ahead.
- ◆ Pray that God may reveal His Plan for us in this locality and that the SRMC family may become a channel of blessing in this vicinity.
- ◆ Pray for SRMC to become a separate Pastorate, as decisions to that effect would likely be taken in this year.

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.
- Please continue to support through your **tithes**, faithfully every month. You can offer **offerings and tithes** by utilizing online payment options given in our website (www.srmcblr.org) or cash. It is only through your contributions that we 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.
- **SRMC Sunday School** is held in the Church premises, every Sunday during the Sunday Worship Service. Please enroll your children immediately.
- **Humble request:** Please be consistent in your attendance to the Church. This will help you to grow spiritually and it will also help the Church to grow both Spiritually and Missionally.
- Participate in the **activities** of the **wings of the Church**. Women’s & Men’s fellowships, Choir, Worship Team, Church Bible Study, can be chosen from.

SRMC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS

December 11th 2022



SRMC CAROLS SUNDAY

December 18th 2022



SRMC CAROLS

DECEMBER 2022







SRMC CHOIR AT KMC (11 DEC 2022)



VISIT TO SURYODAYA BOYS HOME

December 11th 2022



SRMC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS AND CANDLELIGHT DINNER

December 17th 2022



ADVENT SEASON 2022 @ SRMC



Candle of Hope



Candle of Love



Candle of Joy



Candle of Peace



***Lighting the
Christ
Candle***

NEW YEAR IS BORN!

Dear Lord, as this new year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith what paths
I cannot understand.

Whatever coming days may bring
Of bitter loss, or gain,
Or every crown of happiness;
Should sorrow come, or pain,

Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To bear me to that farther shore
Before another year,

It matters not — my hand in Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask, loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My guiding light upon the path
Till, blind no more, I see!

- Author Unknown

Hymn History - PRAISE HIM, PRAISE HIM!



"Praise Him Praise Him!" is a hymn written by Fanny Crosby in 1869. This hymn celebrates Jesus as our "blessed Redeemer" and praises his amazing gifts of salvation and redemption.

Because of who and what He is, we should praise the Lord God of heaven and earth. "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (*Heb. 13.15*). This continual sacrifice of praise to God should include joyful songs to His Son, Jesus Christ for

what He has done for us. One song which does exactly that is "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

The text was written by Mrs. Frances Jane Crosby VanAlstyne, better known by her maiden name **Fanny J. Crosby** (1820-1915). Perhaps one of the best known gospel song writers of late nineteenth century America, she may possibly be one of the greatest writers of gospel songs who has ever lived. Although blind from the age of six weeks, she began with poems for popular ballads. After marrying Alexander VanAlstyne in 1858, she turned from secular to sacred song and at one period in her life she was under contract to the Biglow and Main Co. to produce three hymns a week.

"Praise Him! Praise Him!" first appeared under the title "Praise, Give Thanks," in 1869, with the tune (Joyful Song) composed by Chester G. Allen, who was born in 1838. In spite of the popularity of this melody, there is very little information about this composer besides the fact that he worked with William B. Bradbury, William H. Doane, William F. Sherwin and others in the production of several Sunday school songbooks, such as *Bright Jewels* in which this song was originally published, for Biglow and Main. Allen died in 1878.

Crosby was known as the "Queen of Gospel Song Writers" and as the "Mother of modern congregational singing in America", with most American hymnals containing her work. Her gospel songs were "paradigmatic of all revival music", and Ira Sankey attributed the success of the Moody and Sankey evangelical campaigns largely to Crosby's hymns. Some of Crosby's best-known songs include "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour", "Blessed Assurance", "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home", "Praise Him, Praise Him", "Rescue the Perishing", and "To God Be the Glory".

Some publishers were hesitant to have so many hymns by one person in their hymnals, so Crosby used nearly 200 different pseudonyms during her career.

Crosby also wrote more than 1,000 secular poems and had four books of poetry published, as well as two best-selling autobiographies. Additionally, she co-wrote popular secular songs, as well as political and patriotic songs and at least five cantatas on biblical and patriotic themes, including *The Flower Queen*, the first secular cantata by an American composer. She was committed to Christian rescue missions and was known for her public speaking.

At six weeks old, Crosby caught a cold and developed inflammation of the eyes. Mustard poultices were applied to treat the discharges. According to Crosby, this procedure damaged her optic nerves and blinded her, but modern physicians think that her blindness was more likely congenital and, given her age, may simply not have been noticed by her parents.

At age eight, Crosby wrote her first poem which described her condition. She later stated: "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me." She also once said, "when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior". According to biographer Annie Willis, "had it not been for her affliction she might not have so good an education or have so great an influence, and certainly not so fine a memory".

Crosby's hymn writing declined in later years, but she was active in speaking engagements and missionary work among America's urban poor almost until she died. She was well known, and she often met with presidents, generals, and other dignitaries. According to Blumhofer, "The popularity of Fanny Crosby's lyrics as well as her winsome personality catapulted her to fame".

Crosby died at Bridgeport of arteriosclerosis and a cerebral hemorrhage on February 12, 1915 after a six-month illness, aged 94. She was buried at Mountain Grove Cemetery in Bridgeport, CT near her mother and other members of her family. Her family erected a very small tombstone at her request which carried the words: "*Aunt Fanny: She hath done what she could; Fanny J. Crosby*".

Compiled by Joel Dubba

Sources: hymnstudiesblog | wikipedia

ENJOYING A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

"Therefore we are buried with him [Jesus] by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).



Twenty-five years ago, a story appearing in the news shocked people throughout the nation. A seventy-one year-old woman, who weighed only fifty pounds and had begged door to door for food, died of malnutrition in a nursing home after spending the last few days of her life there.

When the authorities investigated her case they discovered that she had left behind a fortune. There was more than \$1 million of assets in two safety deposit boxes - \$800,000 of the sum was in cash, and the remaining worth was in valuable shares of stock. She had such wealth at her fingertips, and she probably had enough money in that safety deposit box to buy the best restaurant in the whole city, yet she died because she didn't have enough to eat.

Some people might say, "She was a fool," but today, sitting in churches all over this nation and around the world, there are Christians who are just as foolish as she was. What do I mean by that? I mean that there are Christians who are living in spiritual poverty even though Christ has made them rich!

You see, whatever the Bible says belongs to us is ours - we're heirs and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:17)! Yet not all Christians avail themselves of the riches of Heaven that have already been put into their accounts through Jesus. The riches are available to them - all they have to do is open the safety deposit box, so to speak, pull out what they need, and start using it.

Yet there are many Christians today who are wasting away. And if they're not careful, they will die in a condition of spiritual, physical, mental, or emotional poverty.

But it isn't God's fault if they live and die in that condition. It's their own fault, because they didn't use what God had already made available to them through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In the case of the lady who starved to death, no one but her had anything to do with her dying in that condition. And just like her, if people today don't enjoy the new life that Christ Jesus provides, it's not

anyone's fault but their own.

When you received new life in Christ, you were given a new position in Him. You were made a new creature, a child of God, and a joint-heir with Jesus Himself (2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 5:1; Rom. 8:17)! You need to learn to live in this new position and to receive all the benefits that go along with it.

Unfortunately, many Christians don't live at the level that they should, and many times it's because of guilt. They may realize that God in Christ has forgiven them for mistakes they made, but they have a hard time forgiving themselves. So they carry guilt around, not because God is laying it on them, but because they are laying it on themselves.

Our new position in life through Christ Jesus doesn't include any guilt. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Remember, once you're born again, you have a new life and new position in Christ. All things have become new - the old things have passed away and don't exist anymore (2 Cor. 5:17)!

Sometimes, you may fight the memories of the past in your mind. The devil may keep bringing up the past - what you've done, how bad you've been, or how much you've messed up. Just stand on God's Word, and tell the devil, "I'm in Christ and I have a new position in Him; therefore, I have no condemnation or guilt. Go peddle your goods elsewhere, because you're not going to accomplish anything here!"

It's not your own spirit bringing those condemning thoughts, because your spirit is pure and free. And it certainly isn't God condemning you. It's just the enemy sitting on your shoulder, so to speak, whispering in your ear, and reminding you of past mistakes. But if you'll renew your mind with the Word of God, you'll get rid of any guilt or feelings of condemnation (Rom. 12:2).

Let's live this new life in Christ knowing that no outside force can separate us from God or keep us from receiving God's best (Rom. 8:35-39). The only thing that can keep us from receiving God's best is the person who stands in our own shoes. And once we have brought ourselves under control and are being led by the Holy Spirit, then there isn't anything that can keep us from living a victorious life in Christ!

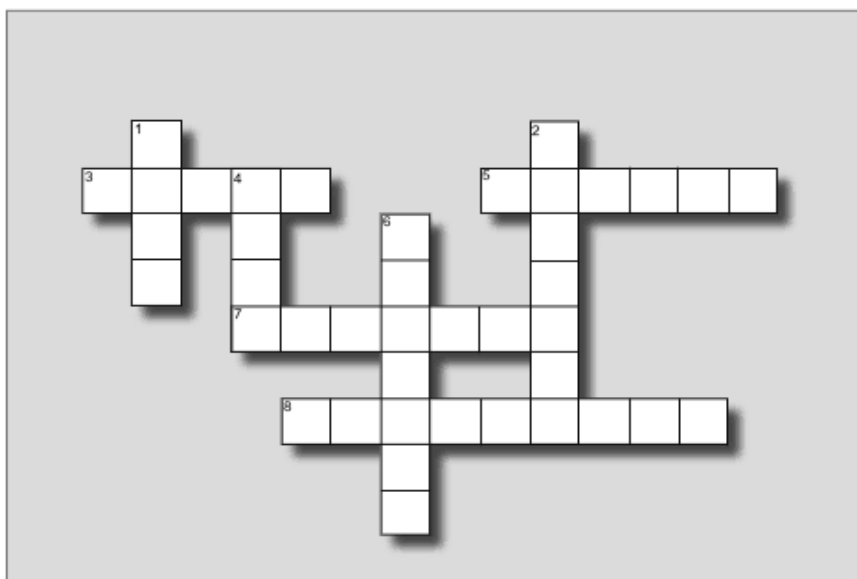
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Written by Kenneth W. Hagin

Faith Library Publications

BIBLE CROSSWORD - JAN 2023

Jesus Raised Lazarus From the Dead Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

3. Opposite of life
5. When she heard Jesus had come, she went to meet him.
7. Not sister, but _____
8. This group plotted to kill Jesus.

DOWN

1. Another word for "cried"
2. Jesus raised him from the dead.
4. Like a grave; where a dead person is placed
5. Village where Mary, Martha and their family lived

SRMC CHOIR (JUNIOR & SENIOR)



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY!

ORGANIZED BY SRMC MEN, FOR LESSER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

December 4th 2022





Living a New Life **IN CHRIST**

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Pulpit Calendar

"Therefore, If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor. 5:17

JANUARY 2023

1st Sunday | 01/01/2023 | 9 AM

COMMUNION SERVICE | NEW YEAR & A NEW YOU
2 COR. 5:11-21 | SPEAKER: REV. ALFRED S. RAJU

2nd Sunday | 08/01/2023 | 9 AM

REMAINING IN CHRIST

JOHN 15:1-15 | SPEAKER: REV. ALFRED S. RAJU

3rd Sunday | 15/01/2023 | 9 AM

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

EPH. 4:17-31 | SPEAKER: REV. ALFRED S. RAJU

4th Sunday | 22/01/2023 | 9 AM

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

GAL. 5:19-21 | SPEAKER: REV. ALFRED S. RAJU

5th Sunday | 29/01/2023 | 9 AM

NEW COMMITMENT IN CHRIST

PHIL. 3:13-14 | SPEAKER: REV. ALFRED S. RAJU

All services are LIVE STREAMED on www.srmcblr.org

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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