



Reach Out

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH | SEPT 2024



**BE THE
CONQUERORS**

"NO, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN
CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED" ROMANS 8:37

SRMC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us in this 14 week bible study facilitated by Dr. Prema Sunder Raj

Every
Wednesday 7:00pm

REGISTER NOW



Book of Daniel



FOR AGES 15 - 25

CALLING ALL JUNIOR YOUTH!

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.
Psalm 25:5

Every Sunday at 10 AM

Co-ordinator & Mentor: MR. RABBI JAYAKARAN



SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

MAHIMA HO YESHU KI!



MONTHLY HINDI WORSHIP

FROM 22ND SEPTEMBER | 6:30 PM ONWARDS

Please join us for fellowship dinner after the worship service

Reach Out

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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. ”



**Rev. Hosea
Mathew**

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SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
BESIDE ST. PATRICK'S ACADEMY, KODATHI GATE,
SARJAPUR ROAD, BENGALURU - 35



Visit us at www.srmcblr.org



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9 AM ONWARDS**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear people of God,
Greetings in our Lord Jesus's precious name. We as a church have experienced the goodness of God in the past month. As SRMC family we all came together for a retreat, and all of us had a wonderful time. Children and teenagers had separate sessions while others were led in an encouraging session on the topic ***The Thriving Church*** and a great time of singing and fun. Thanks to **Rev. Paul Royappa** and **Mr. Jerald and his wife**. Also many thanks to the organizers and other volunteers who made every arrangement to spend the day fruitfully. Thanks to all for your participation, prayers and generous support. God bless us all.

Praise be to God for His grace that brought us to the new month of September. Let's prayerfully join in worship services on Sundays and other spiritual activities planned for this month. The Sunday School is organizing their special day on the third Sunday of this month. We praise God for the ministry among children. May the Lord bless our children and teachers and others who voluntarily extend their services equipping the children spiritually. Wishing all teachers a **Happy Teacher's Day** as India celebrates Teacher's day on **5th** of this month.

"BE THE CONQUERORS", the theme for the month of September, invites us to study the Biblical characters who won great battles under the mighty power of God. Jesus Christ is the great conqueror as He conquered the death and redeemed the people through His own sacrificial death and resurrection. Thus, given us the privilege to be the overcomers when we are falling into sin. The words *"more than conquerors"* from Romans 8:37 invites us to embrace a life of victory through faith in Jesus Christ. He has authority over everything and has power to deliver us from toughest of situations.

There are many conquerors we find in the Scripture, whom God called with entrustment of fighting several battles. Although they were weak and simple, they won great battles. They were people of faith, obedient to God's calling. Hebrews 11 gives us bold heroes of faith who stood against enemies and come out victorious. Jesus Christ who won the victory over sin and death and these people of faith, should inspire us to face our battles and have unwavering faith in the power of God. On Sunday each week we shall meditate on life of some faithful people

whom God entrusted to do great tasks and how they won miraculous victories.


Living the Christian life isn't always easy. In fact, we are often forced to deal with difficulties and struggles. At times we surrender to defeat and feel as if we lack the ability to overcome. The enemy loves for us to live in fear and uncertainty.

However, the Lord desires us to live victorious lives in Him. We are more than conquerors in Him. Often the Lord uses the weak and inadequate to accomplish His will. We find ourselves in desperate days, but God is looking for those who will stand for Him despite the difficulties of our day. While this will require a strong faith and sacrifice on our part, but the God who has called us is sovereign one can empower us to overcome. Nothing can stop when God is fighting our battles. Let us surrender ourselves to His mighty power to make us conquerors in Him.

- Rev. Hosea Mathew (Pastor, SRMC)

No, in all these things
we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.

Romans 8:37



JOIN SRMC'S

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY


EVERY THURSDAY | 7:00PM

STARTING 20TH JUNE '24

VIA ZOOM

Comprehensive study on the GOSPEL OF MARK

Conducted by Rev. HOSEA MATHEW



Praise & Prayer

PRAISE GOD

- ♦ Praise God for His grace, as we meditated on the theme **SPIRITUAL MATURITY** during the month of August.
- ♦ Praise God for the wonderful way **SRMC Annual Retreat** was conducted, and for **Rev. Paul Royappa** and **Mr. & Mrs. Jerald** for their time, support & the knowledge imparted.

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. Hosea Mathew** and his family. Also, kindly keep our extended **Pastoral team** at **KMC** and their families in prayers.
- ♦ Pray for the **SRMC Sunday School & Children's ministry**. Pray for wisdom and health for all teachers and volunteers and for the challenges that are involved.
- ♦ **Pray for the future of our church, we are in the process of becoming a separate Pastorate under the Bangalore Regional Conference of MCI. Pray that the process is smooth, and due committees are formed to take SRMC forward.**
- ♦ Pray for the **Church Bible Study group**, resource personnel who are conducting it, that God may bring revival and growth to our congregation.
- ♦ Pray for the **Worship team, Choir, MMF, WSCS & MYF fellowships**, 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 suffering due to the effects of

illnesses, economic difficulties, familial tensions, etc, that God may give them strength to cope and 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

- **Sunday Worship Service** begins at **9 am** every Sunday, with services being live-streamed on our website **srmcblr.org**.
- **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.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held at **10 am every Sunday morning**. All parents are encouraged to enrol their children to help them grow in the word of God.
- **Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) Monthly Meetings** are held every last Sunday of the month. **WSCS Bible Study** on the **Book of Daniel**, conducted by **Dr. Prema Sunder Raj**, is scheduled for **Wednesdays at 7 pm**.
- **Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF)** is held on **every Sunday @ 10 am**, during the Worship Service.
- **Church Mid-Week Bible Study** is scheduled for every **Thursday, at 7 pm**, via Zoom. Current study is on the **Gospel of Mark**, conducted by **Rev. Hosea**; it is an inductive study in collaboration with Taftee.
- **Methodist Men's Fellowship (MMF) Monthly Meeting** is held on the **3rd Saturday of every month**, at **7:30 am**, followed by fellowship breakfast.
- **SRMC Sunday School Sunday** is scheduled for **15th September**. **Mr. Jerald** has accepted the invitation as Guest Speaker.
- **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.

HYMN HISTORY - *A Mighty Fortress is our God*

A **Mighty Fortress Is Our God** is a cornerstone of modern Christian hymnody. Its origins are every bit as grand as its legacy, being written by one of the most famous and beloved Christians in history, and being used as a battle cry during times of persecution.

Martin Luther, the Great Reformer who sparked the Protestant Reformation, hardly needs an introduction. On October 31, 1517 in Wittenberg, Germany, where Luther lived and taught theology, he nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church to challenge the Catholic Church's sale of indulgences. Luther is well-known for beginning the Reformation, but is less known for his ongoing fight during it. His passion for each believer to experience a personal relationship with God never budged, and one of his key proposals for such a relationship involved the grand purpose of music. On music, Luther proclaimed, "If any man despises music, as all fanatics do, for him I have no liking; for music is a gift and grace of God, not an invention of men."



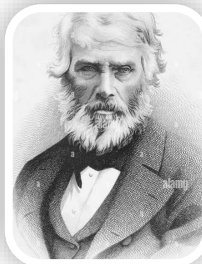
So important did Luther deem music, he even stated he "*would allow no man to preach or teach God's people without a proper knowledge of the use and power of sacred song*". Many of history's greatest hymns come from reverends soon after Luther's time, showing the impact he had on congregational worship. Luther understood that actions speak louder than words. It is how he began the Reformation, and it is how he emphasized the importance of music. Luther took to writing his own hymns; hymns that congregations took joy in singing; hymns that broke the concept of needing a middle man to commune with God.

There is some debate among scholars as to whether Luther wrote the music to *A Mighty Fortress* or adapted it from an existing melody. Some sources attribute the tune to Luther himself, based on his musical training and skill. Others suggest that the tune may have been derived from a Gregorian chant or a secular song that Luther modified. He composed the hymn tune between 1527 and 1529, naming it EIN FESTE BURG from the first line of the text. The tune is in a rhythmic meter that differs from the later isometric version that is more commonly used today.

Luther was a skilled musician who played the lute and the flute, and he wrote many hymns to express his faith and encourage congregational singing.

Enduring in Translation: The English Versions of a Mighty Hymn

Though originally written in German by Martin Luther, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God has been translated into many languages over the centuries, including several popular English versions. One of the earliest and most poetic English translations was done in the 19th century by **Thomas Carlyle**, a Scottish historian and essayist with great admiration for Luther. Carlyle's translation, beginning "A safe stronghold our God is still", captures the beauty and strength of Luther's original German lyrics.



However, Carlyle's version is less literal and not as widely used in English-speaking Protestant churches as some other translations. The most popular version outside of Lutheran denominations is by Frederick H. Hedge from 1853, beginning "A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing." Another oft-used translation is the composite version from the 1868 Pennsylvania Lutheran Church Book, which starts "A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon." In recent decades, the 1978 translation from the Lutheran Book of Worship ("A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious") has also gained popularity among English-speaking Lutherans.

On 17 February 1546 after 8 pm, Martin Luther experienced chest pains. When he went to his bed, he prayed, *"Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God"* (Psalm 31:5). At 1 a.m. on 18 February, he awoke with more chest pain and was warmed with hot towels. He thanked God for revealing his Son to him in whom he had believed. His companions, Justus Jonas and Michael Coelius, shouted loudly, *"Reverend father, are you ready to die trusting in your Lord Jesus Christ and to confess the doctrine which you have taught in his name?"* A distinct **"Yes"** was Luther's reply. He died shortly afterwards at 2:45 a.m. on 18 February 1546, aged 62, in Eisleben, the city of his birth. He was buried in the Schlosskirche in Wittenberg, in front of the pulpit.

- Compiled by Joel Dubba

Sources: hymncharts.com / wikipedia.org

A Prayer for Teachers

God of Love, Thank you for every teacher who notices a child's special gift. Thank you for teachers who are listeners and gentle guides. Thank you for teachers who expect much and love enough to demand more. Thank you for the special teacher each one of us remembers.

God of Mercy, Sustain teachers who give everything they have. Strengthen teachers who assume the blame for so many problems beyond their control. Help exhausted teachers rest.

God of Strength, Encourage teachers to care and inspire them to nourish. Motivate teachers to keep on learning for the fun of it and to make learning enjoyable for children.

We wonder at teachers who know how to quiet a class of five year olds or help fourth graders be empathetic. We admire teachers who enjoy middle school writers, or teach physics or math or history. Bless the people who are expected to accomplish these miracles and who know how to comfort children when miracles don't happen.

God of Justice, help and support teachers in their special calling, wherever they teach and whatever obstacles they must face.

We pray these things in the name of our great teacher, Jesus Christ.
Amen



FLAG HOISTING @ SRMC



SRMC ANNUAL RETREAT

SUGGEE RESORTS - ANEKAL | 17 AUGUST '24





Full Report on the Retreat will be published in Oct edition of Reach Out

DODDAKANNELLI NFG (AUG '24)



"The Church remains in fellowship by edifying one another and investing into the life of families"

Fellowship groups in a church can help Christians connect with one another, build relationships, and grow in faith. Small groups, in particular, can help people get to know each other and practice loving people by sharing stories, hopes, and struggles.

Let us strive to revive our fellowship groups, to help, support, share, care and love each of our brothers and sisters in Christ

NFG coordinators and persons-in-charge will be notified soon in the coming days. Please contact Pastor if you want to host NFG meetings in your homes.

TO HIM WHO IS ABLE

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us," (Eph. 3:20)

"So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord." (John 21:11-12) I have always wondered, how I would have felt if I had been fishing all night and once daylight began to break, I realized that, I was not able to catch even one fish. I think my spirit would be "down in the dumps." I would have probably said to myself, "what a useless night that was."

No doubt, Jesus' disciples felt defeated, too.

And then, a figure on the shore said "Put your net down on the right side of the boat." Jesus was able to see that the disciples were blinded from being able to recognize - not only the fish in the water, but also Him on the shore. When we look at the totality of this fishing expedition, there are three specific blessings which Jesus poured out on His disciples in a very short period of time. Here they are:

Blessing 1: After catching nothing - when with an obedient and teachable spirit the disciples followed Jesus' instructions, they didn't just catch a few fish, Jesus provided them with a bountiful catch. I like the way Matthew Henry portrays this incident as he notes that the disciples 'had the curiosity to count the fish'. The fact is there were 153 and the Bible tells us that they were not tiny little unwanted ones - these were large fish. Furthermore, this huge catch was more than they needed for their present supply. Jesus provided enough for the day as well as an extra amount which could be sold and could provide the disciples with the funds necessary for their upcoming ministry when they returned to Jerusalem.

As I read about this "fish counting" endeavor, I thought of a song I have always loved, Count Your Blessings. I love the words in verse one of this hymn and as you read these words, think of yourself sitting on the beach with the disciples and a tremendous catch of fish and you are counting every last one in order to see what Jesus had done for you:

*"When upon life's billows, you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done."*

Sometimes, when we are overwhelmed by the challenges we face, we should start counting one-by-one - the very blessings which God has showered upon our own lives. And just like the disciples, we might be surprised - just how many blessings we've received - more than 153 on one day.

Blessing 2: The Apostle John is very clear when he states that even with this tremendous catch of huge fish, "the net did not break." Just think what would have happened if the net had ripped apart. The catch would have been lost. However, in spite of the huge catch, the net held firm. Have you heard these words before, where God guides, He provides. True! Also I would like to add out of my own experience that, what God provides, none can stop! God watches and He knows just what is needed and when it is needed.

Blessing 3: Jesus had breakfast all prepared for the disciples, too! Just having 153 fish in a solid net would be more than enough blessings for most of us. But then on top of Blessings 1 and 2, Jesus had breakfast prepared and laid out for His dear friends. It's very likely that after a long night at sea, the disciples were not only tired but very hungry. And their kind Friend took note of this and so He not only provided for the extras, He did so after seeing to the necessities. It was Jesus way, I believe, of reminding His followers down through time that there is no detail in our lives which is too insignificant to miss His attention. Matthew recorded Jesus' own words, *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care"* Matthew 10:29. If you can review these three blessings on the beach, I believe you will find the reason that I began writing this with the words of the Apostle Paul to his Christian friends in Ephesus.

This particular text is one of my favorites! To get a better idea of the word "exceeding" in Greek which is - **hupêr**. I did some research and found that it is used to mean "for the sake of". And I asked myself, 'for the sake of whom?' Well, it is for Christ's sake, His power works on our behalf to do in us and through us more, higher, wider and deeper than we can imagine. So the next time you feel your net is empty, look out. Exceeding, abundantly above all you ask or think is coming your way. All I can say is you'd better start counting! Those blessings are coming! 153, 154,...531, 532...1,251, 1,252!!!

Isn't it encouraging to us Christ's children... that we may depend upon Him, and have faith to trust God's bounteous care, even when from all outward appearances our journey on earth appears difficult?

- Written by Dr. Prema Sunder Raj

*Being a **WARRIOR** For God*

Have you ever met a real warrior? I'm not talking about the ridiculous version of the steroid-laced macho-man peddled by the movies. I'm talking about a true warrior. They are a different breed. Warriors carry themselves differently than most people. They speak with purpose. They are not people who usually stand out in the crowd. However, others will look to them in times of great difficulty. You won't hear a true warrior bragging about how awesome they are or about the things they have done. A warrior may have a sense of humor, but they never play the fool. Warriors usually have a quiet confidence that comes from another source. When you meet a true warrior, you will know it. Simply put, warriors operate differently than most people.

Being a Christian and a warrior are two ideas seldom connected in the modern world. Many people associate Christianity more with weakness than strength. Some prefer to think of Christians as soft, pliable, and accommodating. Others have far worse opinions of Christians. Sadly, I can think of more than one example that reinforces a bad stereotype. However, I'm convinced Christians should be warriors. Let me explain. I'll start with a qualification: I'm not remotely suggesting that Christian ideals or spiritual change should be enacted through physical violence, making bombs, or any other crazy and unbiblical idea. I am referring to the embrace of a warrior's ethic and mindset. If Christians embraced the ethic and discipline of warriors, our world would see radical change. I believe this shift would cause an unparalleled resurgence of strength, leadership, sacrifice, courage, and love in our world. Below are a few observations on embracing a warrior's ethic as a Christian.

A WARRIOR IS HUMBLE

Warriors do not feel the need to brag about their own abilities or accomplishments. In fact, pride and arrogance are often viewed as liabilities by many communities of warriors. A warrior doesn't seek validation from the crowd. Nor do they care about impressing a stranger. The true warrior knows who they are and what they are capable of. They are not trying to prove themselves, they are already engaged in constant self-examination and refinement.

The Bible has a lot to say about the value of humility and the danger of pride. James 4:6b says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Plus, humility is a virtue we see clearly in the life of Jesus

Christ. Jesus is God's only begotten Son. He existed with God the Father in eternity past. Yet, this heavenly Prince was born in a barn, raised by two teenage parents, and likely learned to work with his hands as a young man.

Are Christians known for their humility? Not always. Yet, humility should be at the core of our call as Christ-followers. By the way, true humility is not having a low opinion of yourself. Humility does not mean you speak about yourself in depreciating language. Furthermore, humility is not a weird case of low self-esteem.

True humility means that you think of yourself LESS. A humble person is not self-focused. A humble Christian is a God-oriented person whose ultimate confidence is found in the power of their God. They rest in the confidence that the Lord they serve is great. A Christian warrior fights against pride and embraces humility. They do this by focusing on God and others, instead of personal preferences and foolish wants. Humility enables a Christian to be a true learner of the ways of Jesus and a real friend to others.

A WARRIOR IS ACCUSTOMED TO GREAT SACRIFICE

One of the things that separates warriors from others is the price they are willing to pay. Warriors train long hours. They endure great difficulties and pain. They are willing to sacrifice their own personal comfort, preferences, and selfish desires. Every sacrifice is made in the service of a greater cause.

Great sacrifice is required to be a Christian. Jesus spoke clearly about what it takes to follow him. Luke 9:23 says: "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" Being a Christian is awesome. The price for my sin is paid in full by Christ. I cannot earn salvation, nor am I paying it out on an installment plan. It costs you something to be a Christian. Jesus tells us to count the cost before we make this all-important decision (see Luke 14:27-33).

The Christian call to be a warrior means that we shred pride in our lives. This is a daily battle. Humble men learn. Proud men are a liability. The call to be a warrior is the call to embrace long-term sacrifice. What are you willing to give up so that you can faithfully follow Jesus? Would you give up a job? A financial goal? Your own personal safety? Are you willing to let go of your ideal future and trust God to take you along a fierce and unknown path?

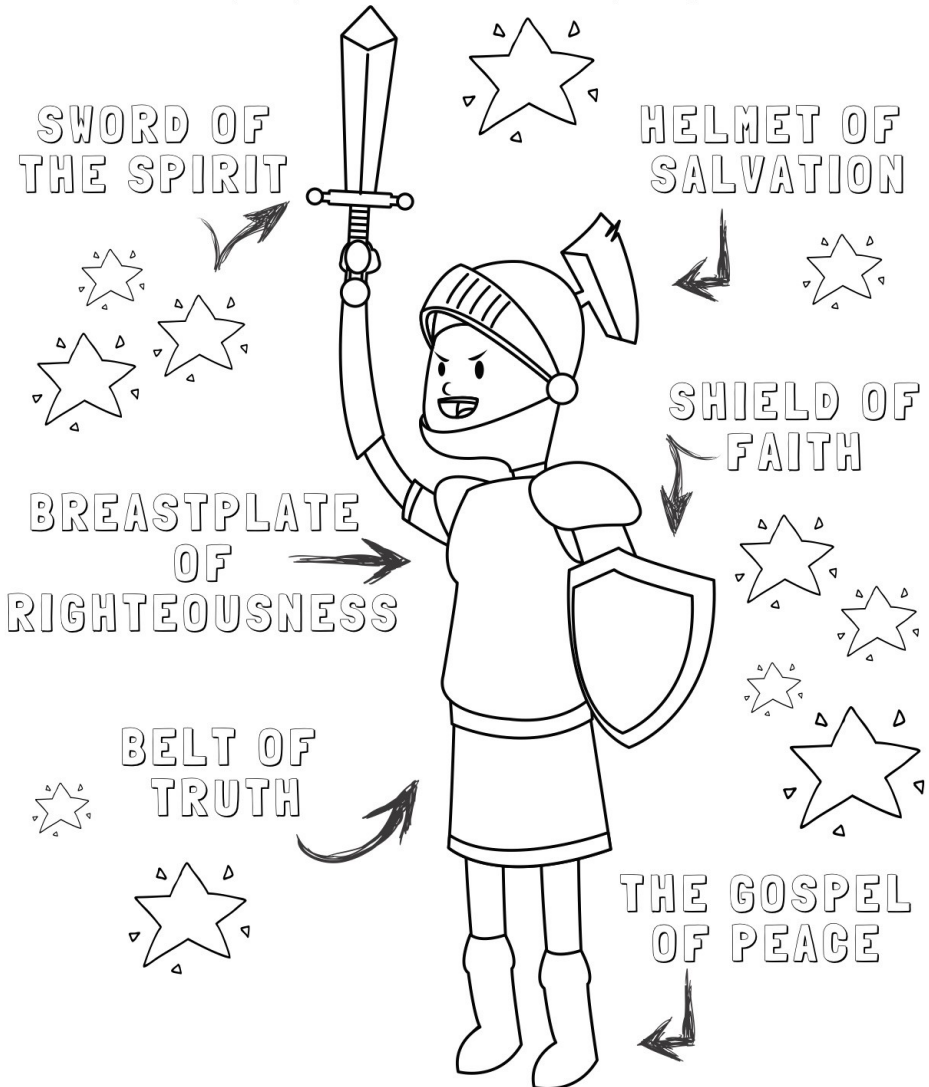
- Written by Dace Clifton

Professor, Arlington Baptist University

Kids' Corner

THE ARMOR OF GOD

That is why you need to get God's full armor. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. - Ephesians 6:13



***NOTES* | Week 1: OVERCOMING OUR RELUCTANCE**

***NOTES* | Week 2: EYES OF FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT**

NOTES | Week 3: SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY

NOTES | Week 4: DETAINED, BUT NOT DEFEATED

On a lighter note...



"You know, of course, there's a toll."



KINDLY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SRMC:

Sunday Worship Service

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sunday School

Mid-week Bible Study

WSCS Bible Study

WSCS Meeting

MYF Meeting

MMF Meeting

Worship Team Practice

Choir Practice

9 AM, every Sunday

7 PM, 1st of every month (Zoom)

9:45 AM, every Sunday

7 PM, every Thursday (Zoom)

7 PM, every Wednesday (Zoom)

Every 4th Sunday, after service

10 AM, Every Sunday

7 AM, every 3rd Saturday

4.30 PM, every Saturday

3.30 PM, every Saturday

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!



MYF SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2024

1 Sept	LEARNING GOD'S RULES	EXODUS 20:1-17
8 Sept	MAKING A DIFFERENCE	MATTHEW 5:13,14
15 Sept	BEING A GREAT FRIEND	GAL 5:13-15; 22-26 JOHN 15:13 PROVERBS 17:17
22 Sept	LET IT SHINE	2 COR 4:6,7 LUKE 11:33-36 PROVERBS 13:9
29 Sept	UNANSWERED PRAYERS	JOHN 14:13,14 LUKE 22:41-44



REACH OUT
SEPT. 2024

PULPIT CALENDAR

01 SEPTEMBER | FIRST SUNDAY | **HOLY COMMUNION**

OVERCOMING OUR RELUCTANCE

PREACHER: REV. HOSEA MATHEW

08 SEPTEMBER | SECOND SUNDAY

EYES OF FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

PREACHER: REV. HOSEA MATHEW

15 SEPTEMBER | THIRD SUNDAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY

GUEST SPEAKER: MR. JERALD

22 SEPTEMBER | FOURTH SUNDAY

DETAINED, BUT NOT DEFEATED

PREACHER: REV. HOSEA MATHEW

29 SEPTEMBER | FIFTH SUNDAY

TRIUMPHANT OVER DEATH

PREACHER: REV. HOSEA MATHEW

BE THE CONQUERORS

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
WWW.SRMCBLR.ORG