

WOW MINISTRIES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
he has appointed me
to preach Good News to the poor:
he has sent me
to heal the brokenhearted
and to announce that
the blind shall see,
that captives shall be released
and the downtrodden shall be
freed from their oppressors.*

Luke 4:18

BERNARDSHAW
Destined to be HIS disciple
Determined to make disciples



SCRIPTURE PORTION

TYPES OF WORSHIP

(continuation of last week)

HARVEST FESTIVALS

The Old Testament mentions three major festivals which seem to have related to the agricultural year. The Scriptures link them, however, more to the great events of Israel's history than to the cycle of seasons.

- *Unleavened bread* was related to the barley harvest, but was celebrated at the same time of year as the Passover. This meant that the two festivals were closely connected and together commemorated the escape from Egypt. We see this in Leviticus 23:9-14 and Numbers 28:16-25.



- *Weeks or Pentecost* celebrates the end of the wheat harvest, and special offerings were made at all the sanctuaries. In time, this became the festival when God's people celebrated the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. We see this in Numbers 28:26-31; Leviticus 23:15-21 and Deuteronomy 16:12.
- *Shelters or tabernacles* came at the end of the growing season and celebrated the fruit harvest. It was an especially joyful festival, and the worshippers lived in flimsy shelters for seven days – partly because this was what the farmers did to protect their crops, but mainly to remember their ancestors' journey through the wilderness when they slept in rough tents.

This festival celebrated Israel's covenant faith, and many scholars believe that it included a moment when the people dedicated themselves again to the demands of God's law and covenant. We see this in Exodus 24:7; Leviticus 22:33-44; Deuteronomy 1:13-17; 27:9-10; 31:9-13; Joshua 24:1-28; Nehemiah 8:13-18.

OTHER FESTIVALS

Each year, God's people also celebrated three other important festivals which were not related to the agricultural year.

- *Trumpets* – the day of trumpets is mentioned in Numbers 29:1 and Leviticus 23:24. It was called 'a memorial of blowing trumpets' and 'a Sabbath'. On this day, God's people rested from work, worshipped Him with sacrifices, and celebrated their nationhood.
- *Purim* – this feast was a later addition to the Jewish religious year, and is described in Esther 9. It was established by Mordecai to commemorate the Jews' remarkable deliverance from Haman's plots, and it was a day of feasting, rejoicing and practical jokes.
- *Atonement* – the Day of Atonement is described in Leviticus 16. It was an annual national sacrifice for sin – in contrast to the regular personal sacrifices for sin. It was the most important day in the Jewish year, and the only occasion when 'the holy of holies' was entered, and then only by the high priest.

VARIED WORSHIP

We have seen that Old Testament worship was a very varied experience, but it did not include preaching.

Nehemiah 8:7-9 shows that the law was expounded during worship after the return from exile, but the main emphasis in earlier days was always on praise and celebration.

Worship was the people's response to God as He made Himself known through the events of history and in their everyday experience. As they went to the sanctuaries, they were reminded of God's past goodness and so were given fresh hope for their lives. They were, however, also challenged by God's holiness, as they faced their need of repentance and forgiveness, and they offered sacrifices to secure this.

As time passed by, the repetitive nature of much Old Testament worship led the prophets to question its effectiveness, and to see it as merely one stage on the road to a closer and deeper covenant relationship with God.

(To be continued next week)

THE BRAHMINS – An Update



Another house visit to the Brahmin family was exactly made at the right time as they were looking for some love and care in the midst of sickness and depression. They feel rejected and abandoned in society as well as in their family circle.

Meenatchi needs prayers for improvement in her

health. Of late, she is not able to consume any kind of solid food and hence feels very weak which has confined her to bed. The doctors have told that she has no problem with her digestive system since she is able to swallow saliva and takes liquid food. They suspect it to be something related with cardiac issues and she will be undergoing medical tests for that.

James 5:14-15

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Continuous sickness of Meenatchi has made her son Narayanan feel depressed. He finds it very hard to concentrate on his work as he has to take his mother for regular check up and medical treatment.

Please remember this small family in your daily prayers for their healing, salvation and that they would know that Jesus loves them.



FROM THE COMMUNITY

PLEASE PRAY

This particular family has been good friends to us and has been of great help in many things for our church. Their children are part of our church and the parents attend our fellowship occasionally. This lovely family is filled with so much of love which makes me sometimes wonder where they get such joy and love in them because I have seen many (so called) Christian families lacking such joy and

peace. Even though the parents are still Hindus, they have JESUS in their hearts and that makes the real difference. The head of the family Perumal has been sick in the past few weeks and is hospitalised now. His arm pit got injured when he fell of from a considerable height while he was working on a construction of a house. He did not go for any treatment that time and this has now developed into a big damage which has resulted in breakage of a bone and blood clot. He will be operated on 29th of this month (Tuesday). Please pray that the operation would go on well and his hand would be healed and that he would return to work as soon as possible because he was asked not to go for work all these days and hence his wife Mageshwari has found a job now to support her family.



SHORT TERM GOAL

RESCUE HOME

After toiling around to find a building for our proposed Shelter home, we have discovered a newly built house to be offered right in front of our house. The owner is so happy to rent his building out for a good cause by willing to rent it for 5000 Rupees per month. We have requested the owner to give us some time until God provides all our needs and we hope that the offer doesn't go out of our hands as the building is right in front our church which will make things easier for us. Would appreciate your prayers.

Help us to Help others

We do not want to stop with raising financial support towards the education of the underprivileged kids in our village but are also intending to take another step ahead to put them in an atmosphere that would help them in their unperturbed studies and stay away from problematic situations that they had been through all their childhood days.

We have been praying about providing the disadvantaged kids with a good proper shelter by starting a SHELTER HOME in our village. It seems to be a huge task but I believe, Jehovah Jireh will take care of all the needs towards setting up one

We need Indian Rupees 13000 per month to take care of these three boys which includes their food, travel expenses (to & fro to School), cooking stuff and etc. and 5000 per month for the building rent and so altogether we would need Indian Rupees 18000 per month to run the Rescue Home.

We encourage you to remember this in your daily prayers and help in any possible means that you could which would help the down trodden to break the shackles in their lives and experience a new way of living and of course experience salvation by tasting the love of Jesus.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We would appreciate your prayers for the financial needs to provide education, food and shelter for the three under-privileged boys who we have desired to take care of. The three boys are staying at our church premises at the moment.

Prakash Raj has started going to School after holidays and since he is in a Government School, he needs only INR 2000 for the whole year as his School Fees.

The other two boys need:

School: Emmanuel Methodist High School (Recognised by the Government)

Fee Structure: (for 2 boys) per annum

Particulars	Amount (In Indian Rupees)
Initial Fee (Annual)	8000
Notebooks fee & Stationary	2000
Monthly Fee (600*12)	7200
Exam Fee	2000
Shoes & Socks	1200
Total	20400

Luke 6:38 For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give--large or small--will be used to measure what is given back to you.

PRAYER POINTS

- Lakshmi Narayanan – for a baby
- Bernard – for the audio album to be completed soon
- Kannan – for his business
- Kalai & Beulah – for marriage
- Melinda – for her parents' salvation
- Prakash Raj
 - a. For his alcoholic father - he quarrels with his wife everyday.
 - b. For his mother's healing - she has a feeling of numbness in her hand
- Sarasu - for joy, peace, healing and deliverance in her family
- Virudhambal – to get her money back from people – few people have borrowed from her but delaying in returning the money
- Christy – for re-union with her husband & for her husband's healing
- Gomathy – for a baby

