



GOOD SHEPHERD GOSPEL CHURCH

நல்ல மேய்ப்பன் சுவிசேஷ சபை

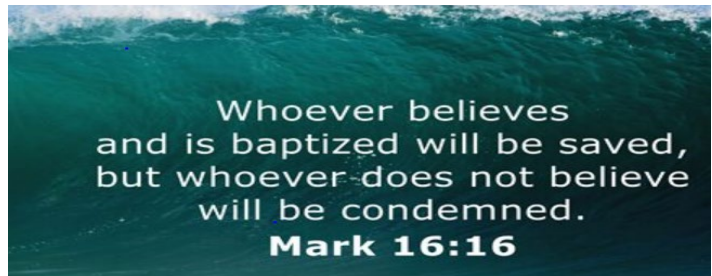
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

LIVING TO SERVE

FEBRUARY 2024

Key dates

- **Sunday Service**
(Bilingual Tamil & English)
10.00 am to 12.30 pm.
- **Holy Communion follows**
The 1st Sunday Service
- **Fasting prayer**
1st Saturday of the month
@ 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **Bible study**
Every Thursday
@ 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM
- **Youth Meeting**
Every Monday @ 6 AM
2nd Saturday of the month
@ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Ladies Meeting**
2nd Friday of the month
@ 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Kids class**
Every Friday @ 4:30 PM
- **Family prayer**
Every Friday @ 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM



Whoever believes
and is baptized will be saved,
but whoever does not believe
will be condemned.
Mark 16:16



Birthdays

- 02nd Feb** – Ninian
- 09th Feb** – Mr. Anand Prince
- 13th Feb** – Ms. Andrea
- 15th Feb** – Mr. Siva Prakash
- 16th Feb** – Mr. Hary Praveen
- 20th Feb** – John Benjamin
- 21st Feb** – Ms. Princy
- 25th Feb** – Noah Solomon Asher

Anniversaries

- 09th Feb** – Mr. Jeyaprakash & Mrs. Jeba Franklin
- 23rd Feb** – Mr. Roshan & Mrs. Karybell

Lead Minister - Pastor Rajan Robert

07916123274 / 07932698951
rajanrobert70@gmail.com



Our Location

@ Lordswood Community Centre,
Sandpiper Rd,
SO16 8FD, Southampton



FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit.

Greetings in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. The promise for us this year is *Isaiah 27:6* “**In the days to come, Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit**”, emphasizing divine purpose in all actions. Jacob, named Israel by God, symbolizes both an individual and a generation (Dt 7:6). Genesis 49:10 reveals a royal lineage within Judah, leading to King David and ultimately to Christ. The Lord's purpose is to bless the earth through the spiritual descendants of Abraham, the Israelites, in faith.

God calls us with a divine desire, using metaphor vine branches (spiritual life). Isaiah 27 discusses spiritual life and blessings for Israel, extending this promise to us. To be fruitful, God seeks to accomplish certain things within us.

1. God Roots Us:

Hosea 14:5 assures that the Lord will root us in Him, strengthening our foundations like the lily plant. In times to come, He will work within us, ensuring our roots are firm like Lebanon.

(a) God Keeps Us: Isaiah 27:3 emphasizes that the Lord safeguards us, despite our past challenges. Psalms 121:4,5 reiterates that the Lord, who never sleeps, protects us. Satan's influence in our lives will be eliminated, and any serpentine hindrances will be addressed. God promises to handle issues too overwhelming for us.

(b) God Waters Us: Deuteronomy 32:2 signifies that God not only keeps us safe but also provides nourishment, ensuring we won't be spiritually dry. His blessings will shower upon us like dewdrops.

(c) God Guards Us: Psalm 12:7 acknowledges God's protection from destruction. Isaiah 27:4,5 urges us to eliminate spiritual negligence and resist thorns and briars.

The Lord promises to **uproot carnalities**, drawing a parallel to Jacob's deception of his brother. Prayer for divine wisdom over worldly cleverness is urged. The removal of self-vision (**Uproot self-vision**) is illustrated through Moses' actions in Exodus 2:14,15, emphasizing the need to wait for God's appointed time. Caution is given against self-driven actions, likened to King David's ill-fated decision to count soldiers, highlighting the peril of worldly desires (**Uproots worldly desire**).

Acknowledging wrongs and seeking reconciliation with God is emphasized, reflecting David's response to the consequences of his actions. God's mercy is underscored for reconciliation, and Psalms 2:2-4 is invoked to illustrate divine protection against adversaries like Haman and Amalekites, symbolizing a serpent-like spirit hindering spiritual growth. Believers are urged to avoid spiritual ignorance and impurities, with the metaphor of pruning, cultivation, watering, and rain symbolizing spiritual growth.

2. God Blossoms Us:

John 15:5-7 illustrates that God not only roots us but helps us blossom and bear fruit. Holding onto God's presence and adhering to His word are vital for growth. (a) Attachment to God's Presence: Psalm 16:11 emphasizes the need to remain in God's presence for true joy. Attachment to God and His fellowship is crucial for blossoming in our unique callings.

Referencing 1John 1:1 to 4, Apostle John's fellowship with God the Father and God the Son is facilitated through the Holy Spirit within him. True fellowship transcends mere companionship; it involves living with God in joy.

(b) Attachment to God's Word: Psalm 1:1-3 stresses the importance of God's word in our lives. Detaching from worldly influences and holding onto God's presence and His word are essential for fruitful lives.

We are like soil, and our hearts determine the harvest from the same seed of God's word. The parable of the seeds underscores that the issue lies not in the seed but in the soil, symbolizing the heart. Some receive God's word but lack deep roots, leading to stumbling, withering, and backsliding when faced with challenges.

3. God Fills the World Through Us:

Genesis 45:5-6 illustrates that God uses us to fulfil His promises and bless the world. Through you this generation and world is going to be blessed as it says in Isaiah. Therefore, Holdfast to God because he strengthens you by establishing fruit, he rooted you so cannot be moved, he planted you so shall flourish in the courts of our God, He purposed you to fulfil his promise.

In conclusion, fruit of faith is crucial for spiritual growth, resembling the story of the 12 years sick woman who touched Jesus' garment and got healed. Zechariah 8:23 suggests that people will hold fast to those who reflect God's character. Like Sarah in Hebrews 11:11, let us trust in God's faithfulness, placing our hope and confidence in Him. For he is Zealous God to Fulfil his Promise as said in Isaiah 37-31, 32.

Amen.



Dear Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, celebrating 17th anniversary of Good Shepherd Gospel Church and God's work gives me a great honour and privilege. There was a calling and there was a vision and above all his grace which has directed and guided me continually in every path and turns. It's been a rough road with toils and sacrifices, not only of mine but my family's, but it is not enough to thank God for his provisions throughout this ministry. I want to thank my wife, my children, Hary, the elders of the church and all the church members who have encouraged, supported and been a pillar to the church and to my personal life. Though it was a humble start with just 2 families having a worship at my place God has enlarged our borders and increased the numbers according to his promise and now he is feeding his Word to more than 20 church families through me. What can I say more than a thank you with utmost humbleness?! With God everything is possible. I'll continue to rely on His grace and mercy, please uphold our church in prayers.

-Pastor Rajan

It was an emotional day for every church member on the first Sunday of the New year when we celebrated GSGC's 17th anniversary. Each family came forward to testify God's love and their personal relationship with pastor and his family. We cannot thank enough pastor's wife, Ms Banu Rajan for her support and sacrifices she has made along with her children to support the church and its members. We pray God that he keeps pastor and his family in good health and meet their needs as they solely rely on His grace and mighty hand. Would a simple thank you do justice for our pastor, never, a big hamper of gifts was given as a token of our love. We love you Pastor and Banu sister.

-Church family



Water baptism is an ordinance or sacrament instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, to be practiced until the end of the age, symbolizing a profound connection between believers and Christ in His life, death, burial, and resurrection. Additionally, it signifies one's membership in the church, which represents God's new covenant people. While water baptism serves as an outward symbol, it mirrors the inner transformation experienced when an individual accepts Jesus Christ as their personal saviour.

Let us all Join and keep in prayers for our GSGC family members who are going to be baptised in the name of our Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on 03rd Mar 2024 between 9am and 10am.

Jesus came and told his disciples; I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:18,19

Your **TEST** will become
your **TESTIMONY**

Celebrating our Church's 17th anniversary, we share a heartfelt testimony of God's grace through our Pastor's family. During the hardest times Pastor and Banu Sister helped a lot without any limits. I wondered how they are showing love towards us and everyone passionately.

-Sasi Pradeep

Although our own family Isn't here to support us during my Pregnancy, the Lord supported me with hand help, food, and post-partum care through Pastor family.

-Karybel

During my last trimester, my parents and husband were unavailable when I unexpectedly went into labour. With my house key inside, I took my daughter to school, and my amniotic fluid broke on the way. God sent Pastor and family to act as a surrogate support system who helped me access my home, took me to the hospital, and cared for me until my husband returned from his official visit to another county. A true lifesaving miracle!

-Annie Sheeba

Me and husband would like to express our gratitude to the divine for the guidance and support provided by Pastor and Sister Banu during our difficult days. Their love and pastoral care have been instrumental in nurturing our spiritual journey, leading us to embrace God, undergo baptism, and walk in the spirit.

-Sasi Roche

Did you Know?? SOME FACTS ABOUT Adam, Eve and Eden

Seth was born when Adam was 130 years old "a son in his likeness and like his image".

Paul sees Adam as a forerunner to Christ, "a type of the one who was to come" (Romans 5:12). As Adam initiated human life upon earth, so Christ initiates the new life of humanity. Because of the sin of Adam, death came upon all. Because of the righteousness of Christ, life is given to all.

The death that Adam and Eve died, on the day they sinned, was spiritual death, the loss of eternal life (Romans 7:9-10; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13).

Adam and Eve, initially made in God's image, fell short of the intended glory as described by David as said in (Ps. 8:5). Despite their disobedience, God's plan involves transforming those made in His image from one degree of glory to another. The ultimate anticipation is the resurrection glory, where believers await transformation to be like the glorious body of the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 3:20-21).

Eden, once entirely good, carried a vulnerability to evil. The serpent's deceit and the intrusion of death marred its purity. Yet, Revelation 21 assures a future flawless garden, immune to impurity, exclusively for those written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev. 21:27).

Eden cradled the tree of life, but Adam and Eve, barred from it, confronted expulsion. The tree's fruit symbolized a reward for obedience, a banquet reserved for those who triumph over temptation (Rev 2:7). However, Adam and Eve yielded, unable to master their desires, leading to their banishment and the deprivation of the tree's sustenance.



**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
Matthew 11:28-30**

GSGC family retreat 2024 is to be held in Devon from May 27- 30. Please contact Pastor Rajan for more information about booking and confirmation. More information about the retreat will be published in the coming months.



Taking other's hand and praying for them is a powerful blessing you can give another person. We are here to support you through prayers. Send your prayer requests in SMS or call – 07916123274 / 07871872085.

BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL LENDING HANDS!!

We are grateful for our food ministry volunteers and their family who prepared and served food after the Sunday service.

CALL FOR DONARS/ VOLUNTEERS



We seek your support in raising funds for Church building. Let us be encouraged in giving generously according to the scripture 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 **“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work”.**

*Please contact Pastor Robert Rajan for further details about donation in
[07916123274](tel:07916123274).*