

SS VOICE

Newsletter of
DBA YOUTH

WINTER 2012

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Your suggestions/articles can be
mailed to
Ssvoice.dba@gmail.com

Editorial

We are bringing you the release of yet another SS-Voice. And this time we have a very interesting topic for you all "Be Ye My Witnesses". One of the most important commands of all times in the Bible. In Acts 1:8 Jesus says "...you shall be My witnesses...".

Often we try to cover our identity. When we go to a place we dont want people to know too soon that we are children of God. In Romans 1:16 Paul says I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Well its not very easy as its told to be God's witnesses. Every moment we live, at home, office, college or school we should remember, who we are and what Jesus will do in each of the situations we are. Once a preacher told something that I still cannot forget and I have practiced that too. When you walk into a hostel, into a room full of strangers and when you are unpacking all your things, first take out your bible and place it on the center table of your room. My dad too has reminded us to do that. Often its this first impression that we throw on the people around us is going to be the best impression. This may be a very small thing to do, but here we are witnessing our God to the world. Let it be small or big, but never be ashamed to make known to the world, who you are and to Whom you belong.

In the coming days let us be true witnesses of God and may we live for His glory alone. We invite articles for the forthcoming anniversary issue taking it as an opportunity to thank God for his faithfulness over the past one year of our publication.



Sis. Sheeba Stanley

BE YE MY WITNESSES

In Isaiah chapter 43 verse 8 and 9, the Lord challenges the people outside the covenant of Israel to come up and declare the power of their gods and be witnesses for their gods.

In the next verse, the Lord says to Israel, "You are my witnesses."

What does it mean?

Before getting into that, let's go to the meaning of the word witness. It's pretty simple. You see something happening, you saw it, you tell it to others. You tell what you experienced to others. You witness the happenings to others. In courts, we call witnesses to the stand to make them tell the court what they have seen or heard.

Being witnesses of Christ means, in simple terms, talk about what you have experienced in your life through Christ. It's very important to note that it has to come from one's own experience. The reason being the witnessing has to be genuine. You can't just say that you have experienced goodness from the Lord while you live an immoral life among the people around you. You saying that is equivalent to a politician's lies to get you to vote for him in the elections.

But the part of witnessing Christ is not supposed to be a request from God. It's all part of the steps to a proper Christian life. It's simple if you think about it.

1. Accept Christ as your Lord.
2. Keep constant touch with him by reading his word and praying.
3. Learn the Doctrines and know right from wrong.
4. Apply what you have learned in your life all the while witnessing Christ in your life.

In Isaiah, God tells Israel that they are his witnesses because they have witnessed the power of the Lord. It is their responsibility to tell the attacking nations that their God is mightier than any other god, simply because they have experienced it in their lives. Can a man witness an event truthfully if he knows nothing about it? That's why these steps given above are important.

But a witness can either be right or wrong. The bible predicts that towards the end of time, there will be many false witnesses who will claim that Jesus is not the way, or Jesus is not the only way etc. But they are witnessing a false thing.

It is partly because of this that I have said that application of your knowledge is important to witness the goodness and trust of Christ.

For example, the Lord tells about seeking the kingdom of God first and all these things being added to you. It means that giving God position number 1, doesn't mean loss of all the other priorities on your life, even if you have to sacrifice, what may be an important thing at the moment. Frankly speaking, I am yet to experience this grace. But I have heard of many testimonies of servants of God who will gladly give a thousand examples from their lives alone about this promise. They telling it, is witnessing God's grace in their lives.

When God says you are my witnesses, it's sort of like we are God's representatives. It's like a messenger from the King's palace, who travels many miles, to pass the message of the King to whoever the King wants. The truthful messenger will be rewarded.

The Lord gives many examples in parables of truths relating to this. The parable of the talents can be closely related to this. We are those slaves, who have what we need to witness him. It can be dangerous, it can be a tumultuous journey, but in the end, the reward of the Father is what keeps us going forward.

Be ye witness of Christ shouldn't be a commandment. It should be an action we should gladly be doing in our lives. Spreading the good news is like a man going around sharing his fire in the candle to those in the dark. They will see where they are going and you will be the messenger who did it.

-Bro. Joab John

PUBLIC WITNESSING IN A TEEN'S LIFE

Another indispensable aspect of Christian life and growth is publically witnessing for Jesus Christ. God has chosen us as a special people and a royal priesthood. He has brought us from 'darkness into marvelous light', so that we may proclaim praises to the one who has called us' (1 Peter 2:9). We must show through our lives what he has brought in us. A witness is one who declares what he has heard and seen. A believer is one who has seen Christ and experienced the deliverance that he got from sin. It's his duty to make this known to other's. Witnessing has two -fold effect. Firstly, others will know about Christ and will be challenged to receive and follow him. Secondly, it gives us boldness before God and men and instills in us the courage to live up to the testimony we have given out.

To live a life of testimony is very difficult in a young teen's life. It is in fact very difficult to lead a witnessing life rather than saying about it. In today's rapidly moving life, especially for a teen when his friends go after entertainment and wealth, it is very often easy for him to lose his testimony. I'm saying this myself included. Sometimes we feel that, leading a spotless life in front of our friends can influence them towards Christ. But seeing their life style we incorporate those things into our life and forget who we really are. Isn't it?

BUT IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO LEAD A WITNESSING LIFE. To stand for Christ takes some courage, testing from every angle is very much certain, but those will be only to our limits. What as teens we are able to do for Christ is what you and God only knows. If you can't speak to other's about Christ then by bringing them to small bible camps, giving them tracts, sending them posts about Christian truths through social media and even by telling to them about your unique experiences with God are some indirect methods of witnessing for Christ. Though they may reject it at the beginning, later they'll at least think about what we've said. Never give up and put maximum efforts from our side. It is better if we start it with our close friends, they'll at least hear it and will not mock you. If we are at least able to do that it'll give us the boldness to move forward whatever may be the result.

Also be **CAREFUL** about your life. Even though you commit a mistake, by confessing it other's will appreciate it and try to learn it from you. **TRY** to praise God in your weakness because others will see this and be curious to know from where this guy finds so much joy and will give us an opportunity to share about Christ and also most importantly **PRAY** for them. These are simple things which we can do as young boys and girls.

As young warriors for Christ let us bear witness for him till the end of our life with his strength.



- Bro. Jensen Benoji

KEEPING A TESTIMONY

The Other day My friend Hari asked me a question very casually, "Da... Actually What's the meaning of your name? Was he someone from the Bible?" I told him with a smile about my name which the only thing I share with the Most Remembered Martyr of all time from time. He left me with the thought of what do I really share with Stephen other than the name....

Stephen is by my personal opinion one man in the bible who had the Most Outstanding testimony. The difference of his testimony was that the people who testified of what they saw in him were his Enemies or Unbelievers. We can see In the Acts of the Apostles Chapters 6-7, that these People talk about his Spirit, His Wisdom, His Faith, His Face resembling an Angel. Even while he saw his end near, Nothing ... Not even Stones Big or small could stop Stephen from looking on to the time he is going to spend with God, Each of these characters in the bible leave something for us to always learn from. Lets look at ourselves and think about how far we would go For Christ, Would we be the type that gives up early or Would We endure anything to make sure that at the end of the day it's the Lord's Flag that is Flying the highest..

Justin Martyr, who was beheaded for the faith in A.D. 165 said, "The more we are persecuted, the more do others in ever increasing numbers embrace the faith and become worshippers of God through the name of Jesus" It made me feel Proud to be persecuted at least once in awhile for Christ's sake, It also meant I was able to understand the level of influence our reaction to persecution has on other people. We can SHOWOFF our Christ at times of Troubles thru our Faith and the Way we respond to people who were not so fortunate to find him at an early age like us.

We were chosen, predestined and Separated from this humungous congregation of people in the world. There could have been so many others, but it was in his plans that we should be part of his body. Moreover we can see that we are placed in Different parts of the world for the sole reason that His name alone should be Magnified and Glorified everywhere. God has not given everyone the same Grace or the gifts required to witness him in front of others. But the common feature the Believers should share should be their testimonies, because we all have been unconditionally loved by our God.

Our testimonies should be known among both Believers and Nonbelievers alike as it is the Foundation upon which our Christian Life stands upon. Christ requires us to witness his Sacrifice, His Love, His Mercy so Why not keep it on Display as an Open Exhibition in Our Day -to-Day Life for others to see and Share!

"If every Christian is already considered a missionary, then all can stay put where they are, and nobody needs to get up and go anywhere to preach the gospel. But if our only concern is to witness where we are, how will people in unevangelized areas ever hear the gospel?"

- Gordon Olson

-Bro. Steve John Mathew

Song - 1

There is only one God in the sky
But he loves us
He has one son named Jesus (2)
He heals us when we are sick

La- La -La-La-La

He is very strong
He is our loving father
He is the mighty king
He is our wonderful king

-Master Daniel Shanly Valliyil
Age - 7

Song - 2

O God I know you are more than me
But you love us in the name of Jesus
Hallelujah.. Hallelujah .. Hallelujah ..

O God I know you loves us
We will love you all the days of our life
Hallelujah.. Hallelujah .. Hallelujah ..

Master David Shanly Valliyil
Age - 7

WITNESSING-MY PERSPECTIVE

"Ye Shall Be Witnesses Unto Me" (Acts 1:8)

Many a times we are being asked the same question from non-believers about what it means being a witness of Christ... This is easier said than done.

One person who bore witness to Jesus Christ and should be an example in all our lives is John the Baptist.

It can be put in these verses..

Acts 1:6-8

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me^[c] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

The definition of witnessing is : One who can give a firsthand account of something seen, heard, or experienced: A witness to an event or accident.

One of the most significant reasons the twelve disciples of Jesus were chosen was for the purpose of being witnesses to his life, his teachings, his miracles, and his resurrection.

STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED :- (shown by Christ himself)

- Know that you are a Christian yourself.
- Understand the empowering ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life personally.
- Learn how to present the distilled essence of the gospel so simply, clearly, and convincingly that the one with whom you are sharing will be able to make an intelligent decision for Christ as Savior and Lord.

May God help you all to be great witnesses in front of Him and others



-Rejoice Yardley

TRUE WITNESSING

As we read in Isaiah 43:10, we are to be true witnesses for the Lord. As I say this, I know that my life is not perfect or exemplary like the Lord wants, but being partakers of the heavenly abode we ought to stand for who we really are.

Personally, I find it a lot harder now being in college to testify than when I was in school/with my parents in Doha. When the surrounding situations are less comfortable, it's harder to stick to what you believe.

Whatever we do, we must glorify the Father. Christ has called us to be witnesses for Him. We should always remember that we might be the only Bible that some might read or the only Jesus others could see. So let's live lives keeping these things in mind.

-Sis Eleena Thomas

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

We were in darkness
Not worthy to call your name
We were lost, we went astray

Then you came down from heaven
That we may be your witnesses
That we may be able to call you our father

*We are light through Christ
Let us shine in darkness
That all may know that Jesus is our Savior
Our redeemer
He is Lord*

Now we shine as light
Among the crooked generation
And with every step in the world
We will stand for you lord
We won't hide our lights

Thank you for giving us a new name and a reason to live
We will praise and worship you till our final breath
(chorus)

-Jeffy, Sharon, Hannah

AN OCCASION TO WITNESS

We often attend a number of occasions like Birthdays, Anniversaries etc. Often these occasions are witnessed by our best friends and acquaintances. They are moments of joy for one another. However, they can be even more joyous if we wisely use them as avenues to share God's love.

The general trend for any occasion is to make our guests happy with much fun and entertainment. It is really important to make them happy. But it is also equally important to make best use of the opportunity we have with them. They may never come for a gospel meeting or a meeting at church. However, when we invite them for an occasion, we have a higher chance for them to take part.

I know the experiences of many believer students who have used such occasions for the glory of God. It could be a Birthday where you thank God for his faithfulness over the years. We could then relate what God has done in our lives and how we are obliged to Him. As we read in "I Cor 10:31- So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." A Christmas day is another great occasion to share the truth about Christ's birth and then about the purpose of his life on earth. Even family gatherings popularly known in Kerala as "Kudumba Yogam" can be wisely used for sharing the gospel. As God's children we have more responsibilities unlike others. We are responsible for the salvation of our loved ones who otherwise may have no other way of knowing the savior.

If you are living alone in a hostel, take the help of believer friends or youth leaders at church to make arrangements for the occasion. We can invite a senior believer student at college or a youth minister to share God's word. A testimony can also be shared by the person celebrating the occasion. I have personally witnessed such events. It is indeed a great occasion to share God's word although it requires some courage to do that in front of your friends. But if we sincerely desire and pray, God will definitely honor our commitment. Often we cherish the memories we had at college where we have made the best of every event or outing. But how many events have we organized for the glory of our Master?. We may never meet our room mate or class mate after our period at college. Those moments we had with them are indeed precious. They can never be retained after college. As C.T Studd, the great missionary rightly said:-

"Only one life and it will soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last"

These words were the motto of Studd's life. Although he belonged to a wealthy family and had a bright career in cricket, he forsook all to serve God in China and many other countries. He also was part of a student prayer group at Cambridge where around 7 of the members dedicated their lives for serving the Master famously known as the Cambridge seven. He used his influence in college as the Captain of the college team to win other athletes for God.

May God bless each and every one us to make best use of the opportunities we have for the glory of God.

-Noble Jo Mathew



-Leah Johnson

MISSION CHALLENGE: BEING A TEBOW FOR GOD

In an interview with ESPN, this is what Tim Tebow had to say about his Christian testimony:

"My relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important thing in my life. So any time I get an opportunity to tell Him that I love Him or get an opportunity to shout Him out on national TV I'm going to take that opportunity. So I look at it as a relationship that I have with Him, that I want to give Him the honor and glory any time I have the opportunity. And then, right after I give Him the honor and glory, I always try to give my teammates the honor and glory. And that's how it works, because Christ comes first in my life, and then my family, and then my teammates."

Tim Tebow has become one of the most influential athletes in college and professional sports. He is an American Football player who has also turned heads for his unwavering and bold Christian faith - a faith that has been an integral part of Tim's life, even before he was born!

Tim's parents Robert and Pamela Tebow are American Christian missionaries who moved to the Philippines in 1985. While pregnant with Tim, doctors expected a stillbirth and recommended an abortion. However, the Tebows decided against it citing their strong faith and on August 14, 1987, Tim was born in Manila. As a football player, he is unique for the fact that he rarely misses an opportunity to promote Jesus Christ.

In 2009, Tebow wore John 3:16 on his eye paint and as a result 92 million people searched "John 3:16" on Google during or shortly after the game. Tebow attracted a lot of controversy for wearing Bible messages on his eye paint and in 2010, a new rule for the next football season, dubbed "The Tebow Rule" by media, banned messages on eyepaint. Tebow is often seen praying on the sidelines of the games - the action is now widely known as 'Tebowing'. The technical definition for Tebowing is "to get down on a knee and start praying, even if everyone else around you is doing something completely different."

The reason why Tim Tebow 'tebows' and why he breaks out into spontaneous prayers and thanksgiving is simple - that is how closely he is linked to his maker. His faith is not in any religious establishment or a societal organization but in a personal relationship with a loving, living and personal Lord Jesus. For Tebow, bringing Jesus to the field with him is similar to what it is like for other athletes to bring their girlfriends to the field.

Not surprisingly, this important element in his life. Tebow knows that football is just a game and that being a child of God doesn't mean that he is going to win every match. He however gives his best during every match and plays football in a manner that has resulted in him being the subject of much controversy, But it hasn't hindered him. When people criticize this nature of Tebow's game, they are intruding into his personal choice of what and who is the most at gives God all the glory and that's what counts. Tebow is an example of how faith in Jesus should affect every aspect of one's life. He refuses to compartmentalize his life into neat categories such as "football" and "personal life" and "faith in Jesus." Instead, Tebow shows that faith in Christ spills over into all aspects of life - including the football field.

For Tebow, Christ is not to be kept in some secret closet, but rather, like the disciples in Acts, Tebow is finding it impossible to keep silent about what he's seen and heard. He is willing to be faithful in his witness despite the fact that this makes him a controversial figure. He is shrugging off the status quo that would have him be just another nice guy, or simply "religious." Instead he is making it plain that Jesus is what he's all about, and people do not like that.



The mission challenge for this month is to remind ourselves that the mission field isn't always a far away land in the middle of nowhere, but that every situation we are presented with is an opportunity to shine forth Christ.

Tebow's life and actions remind us that if we have a fear of standing up for our faith in the midst of our circumstances, then we really have to introspect our personal relationship with Christ. He is also a reminder that we should never "chicken out" when the world criticizes us for our faith or bail out because it isn't opportunistic enough for us to be in love with Christ. Indeed, Tebow's life is an encouragement to us to be willing to be faithful to Christ, despite the fact that it'll arouse controversy.

(Adapted from the article "Being a 'Tebow' for Christ" by Rijo Simon - The Christian Ledger, March 23 2012)

WOMEN AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Christian community, as a whole, usually limits the participation of women in the community. But, is the responsibility of being witnesses to our God limited only to the brothers?? Or did God intend that both men and women take part in the sharing of the mystery that had been hidden from ages past?

Matthew 28: 16-19 contains the last commandment given by Lord Jesus when He was on earth- The Great Commission. We can see that when Christ gave the Great Commission, He did not consider gender, just as gender is not a consideration when the Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts. God has chosen every believing woman to carry His message to her sphere of influence as she is filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit and anointed and equipped with His power. The mission of every believer in Jesus Christ is to communicate to the world who Jesus is and to extend to all His offer of salvation and spiritual refuge. Jesus has commissioned all believers to go to the most distant and remote points of the earth-as well as to their neighbors next door-to reach the lost with the gospel message of redemption and reconciliation.

Jesus affirmed the ministry of women in evangelism. This was most evident in His interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar. Christ's regard for this woman was truly revolutionary at the time. After their meeting, she returned to her city and presented her witness. Many believed in Him because of her testimony. At that time, women were not considered reliable witnesses; yet Christ chose a woman as His witness.

God chose women as the first witnesses of Christ's Resurrection (Matt. 28:1-8), and they were entrusted with Christ's first post-Resurrection message to His disciples (John 20:15-18). The coming of the Spirit reinforced the role of women in evangelism. The establishment of the Philippian church involved women, and women were also involved in the spreading of gospel in Berea.

We are to make the Savior known

through the spoken word (Rom. 10:14,15),

through good works (James 2:14-17),

through the example of a renewed character (Matt. 5:16,20).

Whether you are a single woman, a wife, a grandmother, or a widow, all believers are called to "go into all the world". Going does not necessarily mean leaving home and family, but it does mean making yourself totally available to serve wherever, whenever, and however He directs. The foremost manifestation Holy Spirit in a believer is that he/she will be a witness of the Lord's life and commandments (Acts 1:8). We are to be ready at all times to speak His name, tell of His marvelous works, give a defense for the reason for our hope, and tell others about His sacrifice and the abundant life He provides now and for all eternity (1Peter 3:15).

The New Testament gives certain requirements for soul-winning. The first, of course, is a genuine experience of grace through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (1 John 1:1-3). A love for Christ and for people is also essential (Ps. 126:6), as is a willingness to be used by the Holy Spirit in sharing the gospel (Acts 8:29). An effective soul-winner will determine to live a separated life (2 Cor.6:17) since lifestyle testimony is also a key ingredient. Creativity in using every opportunity for saying a word about Christ is also helpful (1 Pet. 3:15), as is a diligence in the study of God's Word, which enables the believer to explain more effectively the way of salvation (Ps. 51:13; 1 Pet2:2). All must be undergirded with specific and unceasing prayer (1 Thess. 5:17). Any woman/man willing to commit to this high and holy responsibility will indeed be rewarded by the Father. When unbelievers see those in the church generously giving their time, resources, and love to carry out the Great Commission, they are compelled to glorify the Father (Matt. 5:16).

The divine promise of Jesus Christ that He will be with us until the end of time should keep the fire of evangelism burning in our hearts. Hesitation and fear of persecution should not hinder us from spreading the Gospel. We should have the encouragement that the Holy Spirit is abiding in us.

With the power of the Holy Spirit that gives us love and enthusiasm, let's start using our gifts and blessings to spread the good news by which we were saved.

-Sis Jeswy Shaji

RHODA- THE GREAT WITNESS

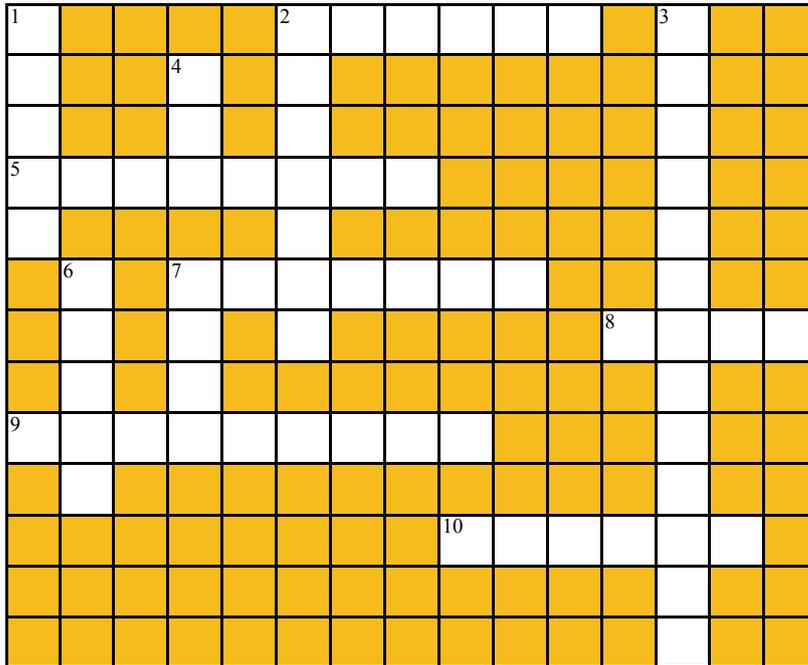
Rhoda was the first name that came into my mind when I read the word "witness". I am sure there is no need to elaborate the story from Acts 12 here- it's hard to forget Peter's miraculous escape from jail and how God brought him safely to the house of Mary - mother of John Mark where all the believers had gathered together to pray. Rhoda was the servant girl who went to answer the door. I remember playing the role of Rhoda in a skit based on this story in Sunday school. There was something so sure, so definite in what she had to say ("Peter is at the door!") to the crowd waiting to hear who had knocked. But I always thought it funny that she had forgotten to open the door for Peter...

Rhoda's part in the story is quite small, but it taught me that as a witness it is important not only to be firm in what you believe but also to do the little that you are entrusted to do. In all the excitement and joy of finding out that Jesus Christ is the risen Lord, we tend to leave out the part where we have to do something about it and like Rhoda, try hard to convince others with what we have to say. More often what is required is, to just 'open the door' and let everyone see Him through our actions. Remember : Preach the Gospel at all times, and if needed, use words. May His great name be glorified.



CROSSWORD

Sis Soumya Elizabeth



ACROSS

- 2. To Him who loved us and ----- us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 5. Surely even now my witness is in heaven, And my ----- is on high.
- 7. Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and ----- what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.
- 8. For God is my witness, how greatly I ----- for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.
- 9. Whoever is ----- of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses.
- 10. "You are My witnesses," says the Lord, "And My servant whom I have -----, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He.

DOWN

- 1. A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will ----- lies.
- 2. "Let the Lord be a true and faithful ----- between us, if we do not do according to everything which the Lord your God sends us by you.
- 3. But now the ----- of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.
- 4. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the ----- will come.
- 6. And I will give ----- to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.
- 7. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is -----

NEWS & PRAYER MATTERS



Doha, A picnic was organized by the DBA during Eid Al Adha holidays in December. It was a first time trip to the Barzan Olympic Park. The park has ample space for indoor as well as outdoor games with plenty of sunshades for group gatherings. There were lot of games and quiz programs during the excursion. Games included lemon race, sack race, "passing the parcel", tug of war, volleyball, football etc. There was also a delicious hot lunch served at the event. It was a memorable trip truly enjoyed by both the children and adults alike.



PRAYER MATTERS

- Let us remember the family of Bro Liju Varghese as both his parents are in critical condition. Especially remember his father whose condition has worsened in the past few days for recovery and healing.
- Bro A.G George who is undergoing treatment at CMC Vellore for cancer needs our prayers for full recovery.
- Sis Ammini James who is recovering at Amrita Hospital after a surgery on the brain.
- Evgt T.T Abraham from Wayanad who is ministering amongst us these days
- Those who are in need of job especially Bro Jobin, Bro Marson, Bro Paul Gaius.
- Ex-Sunday school students who are pursuing their higher studies back in India
- Let us remember dear children who have obeyed the Lords command in the waters of baptism Jobin Saju Idiculla, Jairus Renji, Joel Geogy, Jeffy Biju, Jeffy Shaji and Sis. Mary Joseph (Bitu)
- Pray for childrens ministries in India like SBS, CEF and campus ministries by EU, Campus Crusade , Biosis etc