

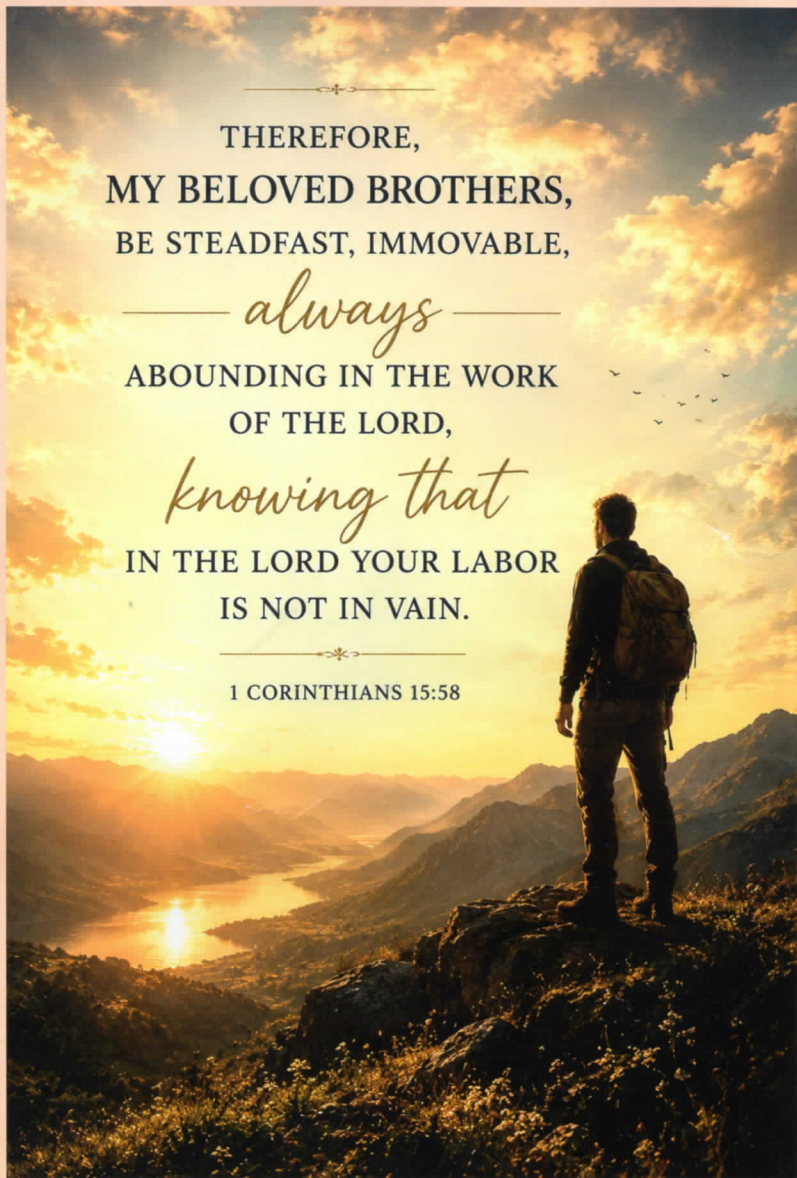


Koinonia

JULY - AUG 2026 Issue 4 ENGLISH, MALAYALAM

THEREFORE,
MY BELOVED BROTHERS,
BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE,
— *always* —
ABOUNDING IN THE WORK
OF THE LORD,
knowing that
IN THE LORD YOUR LABOR
IS NOT IN VAIN.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58



A bi-monthly newsletter of the
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Price ₹1



SUVISESHA SEVICA SANGHAM - 1ST COMMITTEE MEETING - JUN 13, 2026



YUVAJANA SAKHYAM ACTIVITIES INAUGURATION - JUNE 7, 2026



STUDENTS DEDICATION SERVICE - JUN 14, 2026

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK



CALLED ANEW: OUR COMMISSION TO BE CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

"Then Jesus came to them and said,

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations..."

- Matthew 28:18-19

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on our identity as members of the Body of Christ, we are reminded that our faith is not a private possession to be kept, but a divine commission to be lived. To follow Jesus is not merely to believe in His teachings, but to enter into His life—to think as He thought, love as He loved, and act as He acted. A new beginning in our walk with Christ is fundamentally a recommitment to our primary vocation: being His disciples and bearing witness to His transformative power in the world.

The Call to "Come and See"

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
(Matthew 4:19)

The call to discipleship begins with an invitation to intimacy. Before we can be sent out, we must be drawn in. A disciple is, by definition, a learner—one who returns daily to the feet of the Master, opening their heart to His instruction through prayer and the study of His Word. Discipleship also requires a shift in priorities, a movement away from asking "What do I want?" toward asking, "Lord, what would You have me do?"

The Commission to "Go and Serve"

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21)

Once we have been shaped by Christ, we are empowered by Him to be His hands and feet. Our commission is not reserved for the ordained or the

eloquent; it is the natural outcome of a life changed by grace. In a divided world, our lives should serve as bridges—we are commissioned to carry the message of hope, forgiveness, and healing to those who have yet to encounter the love of God. We are sent not to distant places alone, but into our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. It is in the mundane tasks of daily life that our discipleship is most tested and our witness most needed.

The Discipline of the Cross

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

Discipleship is a beautiful commitment, but it is not without cost. To follow Christ means choosing humility over pride and service over status, resisting the culture of self that surrounds us. It means persistence in the face of struggle—when the path is difficult, we do not turn back, but lean on the One who carried the cross before us. And it means embracing community as our support, for we do not walk this path alone. We are called to support, encourage, and sharpen one another as we seek to grow into the full stature of Christ.

A Season of Renewed Mission

Dearly beloved, the world is waiting for the authentic witness of Christ's followers. Let this be a moment of renewal—a time to strip away the distractions that keep us from our purpose and to embrace the mission God has entrusted to us.

May the Holy Spirit ignite in you a fresh passion for the Gospel. May your life be a living testimony to the call of Christ, and may you find joy in the privilege of being His disciple, today and all the days of your life.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Shaimon Elias

Vicar, Madras Mar Thoma Syrian Church, Chetpet

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,

because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

- 1 Corinthians 15:58

NEW MEMBERS

1. Mr. MANU VARGHESE

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Prayer Group: Kilpauk

3. Mrs. VALSA MATHEW

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OBITUARY

Name	Age	Prayer Group	Date of Demise
1. Mr. Varghese P.K.	82	Ayanavaram	June 05, 2026

Our heart-felt condolence to the Bereaved Family



PROGRAMMES



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sunday School | : Every Sunday after the 1st Service |
| 2. Yuvajana Sakhyam | : Every Sunday after the 1st Service |
| 3. Monthly Meeting of
Sevika Sangham | : Every 4th Saturday at 4:30 p.m. |
| 4. Edavaka Mission | : Every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. |
| 5. Fasting Prayer | : Every Friday at 10:00 a.m. |
| 6. Special Fasting Prayer | : Every 4th Friday at 10:00 a.m. |
| 7. Choir Practice | : Every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. |
| 8. Senior Citizens'
Fellowship | : Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday
at 4:30 p.m. |
| 9. Holy Communion Service
for Senior Citizens | : Every 4th Saturday at 8.30 a.m. |
| 10. Sevika Sangham
Bible Study | : Every Friday 4:30 pm to 5:30 p.m., online |





WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

July 2026 : **Chetpet**

August 2026 : **Choolaimedu**



WORSHIP TIMINGS

JULY 2026

- 05-07-2026 7.30 A.M. Divine Service in English (Yuvajana Sakhyam)
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
(Choir Dedication Sunday)
- 12-07-2026 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion in English
(Sevika Sangham Breakfast Sale)
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
(Sevika Sangham Breakfast Sale)
- 19-07-2026 7.30 A.M. Divine Service in English (Sunday School)
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
- 25-07-2026 8.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam (Senior Citizens)
- 26-07-2026 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion in English
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam

AUGUST 2026

- 02-08-2026 7.30 A.M. Divine Service in English (Yuvajana Sakhyam)
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
- 09-08-2026 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion in English
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
- 16-08-2026 7.30 A.M. Divine Service in English (Sunday School)
(Yuvajana Sakhyam Breakfast Sale)
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
(Yuvajana Sakhyam Breakfast Sale)
- 22-08-2026 8.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam (Senior Citizens)
- 23-08-2026 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion in English
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
- 30-08-2026 7.30 A.M. Divine Service in English (Sevika Sangham)
9.30 A.M. Holy Qurbana in Malayalam



LECTIONARY



JULY 2026

Date	Lessons	Epistle	Gospel
05 Sunday	Tithe Offering Sunday Sharing God's gift with joy Sixth Sunday after Pentecost		
	1 Chron 29:10-18	2 Corinthians 9:6-11	St. Luke 16:19-31
	1 Timothy 6:17-22		
12 Sunday	Clergy Sunday Ordained ministry: Call to be sacrifice Seventh Sunday after Pentecost		
	Jeremiah 1:4-10	1 Peter 5:1-4	St. Matthew 20:20-28
	Ephesians 4:7-16		
19 Sunday	Edification of the church through theological education Eighth Sunday after Pentecost		
	Nehemiah 8:1-12	1 Peter 2:1-10	St. Matthew 13:16-23
	Acts 28:23-30		
26 Sunday	Marriage: Celebration of Unity and Partnership Ninth Sunday after Pentecost		
	Genesis 1:24-31	Ephesians 5:21-32	St. Matthew 19:4-6
	1 Corinthians 13:1-13		

AUGUST 2026

Date	Lessons	Epistle	Gospel
02 Sunday	Mission Sunday Mission: Compassion in Action Tenth Sunday after Pentecost		
	Isaiah 58:6-10	1 John 3:16-24	St. Mark, 2:13-17
	Acts 19:8-12		
09 Sunday	Identity in Christ marked by baptism Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost		
	Exodus 14:15-31	1 Corinthians 12:12-20	St. John, 3:1-8
	1 Peter 3:18-22		
16 Sunday	Reformation Sunday Reformation: A call for renewal Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost		
	2 Kings 23:1-6	Romans 11:1-6	St. Luke 5:36-39
	Titus 3:3-8		

23 Sunday	Holy Qurbana: Table of Reconciliation Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 24:3-11 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 St. Matthew 5:23-26 2 Corinthians 5:11-21
30 Sunday	Embracing the migrants and Refugees Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Leviticus 19:9,10,33-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 St. Luke 10:25-37 Acts 10:30-35

ANSWERS TO NEW BIBLE QUIZ SERIES - 26

- They are the remnants of the Amorites (2 Samuel 21:2)
അവർ അമോര്യരുടെ ശേഷിപ്പാണ് (2 ശമുവേൽ 21:2)
- Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 21:7)
മെഫിബോഷെത്ത് (2 ശമുവേൽ 21:7)
- Rizpah the daughter of Aiah (2 Samuel 21:2)
അയ്യാഹിന്റെ മകളായ രീസ് പ (2 ശമുവേൽ 21:2)
- David (2 Samuel 23:2)
ദാവീദ് (2 ശമുവേൽ 23:2)
- Benaiah son of Jehoiada (2 Samuel 23:22-23)
യഹോയാദയുടെ മകൻ ബെന്നായ (2 ശമുവേൽ 23:22-23)
- Go and take a census of Israel and Judah (2 Samuel 24:1)
നീ ചെന്നു യിസ്രായേലിനെയും യെഹൂദയെയും എണ്ണുക (2 ശമുവേൽ 24:1)
- Joab, commander of the army (2 Samuel 24:3)
യോവാബ്, സൈന്യാധിപൻ (2 ശമുവേൽ 24:3)
- 8,00,000 men in Israel and 5,00,000 men in Judah (2 Samuel 24:9)
ഇസ്രായേലിൽ 8,00,000 പുരുഷന്മാരും യെഹൂദയിൽ 5,00,000 പുരുഷന്മാരും (2 ശമുവേൽ 24:9)
- 70,000 men (2 Samuel 24:15)
70,000 പുരുഷന്മാർ (2 ശമുവേൽ 24:15)
- Araunah the Jebu (2 Samuel 24:18)
യെബൂസ്യനായ അരവ്ന (2 ശമുവേൽ 24:18)

NEW BIBLE QUIZ SERIES - 27



(1 Kings 1 - 5)

1. Who tried to make himself king while David was still alive?

ദാവീദ് ജീവിച്ചിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ആരാണ് സ്വയം രാജാവാകാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചത്?

2. Who did David command to be anointed as king?

രാജാവായി ആരെ അഭിഷേകം ചെയ്യുവാനാണ് ദാവീദ് കൽപ്പിച്ചത്?

3. How did the people respond after Solomon was anointed king?

ശലോമോനെ രാജാവായി അഭിഷേകം ചെയ്തതിനുശേഷം ആളുകൾ എങ്ങനെ പ്രതികരിച്ചു?

4. What final instruction did David give Solomon before his death?

തന്റെ മരണത്തിനുമുമ്പ് ദാവീദ് ശലോമോന് നൽകിയ അവസാന നിർദ്ദേശം എന്ത്?

5. Why was Adonijah put to death by Solomon?

ശലോമോൻ അദോനിയയെ വധിച്ചത് എന്തുകൊണ്ട്?

6. What happened to Abiathar, the priest, under Solomon's rule?

ശലോമോന്റെ ഭരണകാലത്ത്, അബ്യാഥാർ എന്ന പുരോഹിതന് എന്ത് സംഭവിച്ചു?

7. For what did Solomon ask God, in his dream at Gibeon?

ഗിബെയോനിൽ വെച്ച് സ്വപ്നത്തിൽ ശലോമോൻ ദൈവത്തോടു എന്താണ് ചോദിച്ചത്?

8. How did Solomon determine the true mother of the living child?

ജീവനുള്ള കുഞ്ഞിന്റെ യഥാർത്ഥ അമ്മ ആരാണെന്ന് ശലോമോൻ എങ്ങനെ നിർണ്ണയിച്ചു?

9. What was Solomon renowned for throughout the surrounding nations?

ചുറ്റുമുള്ള ജനതകളിൽ ശലോമോൻ എന്തിനു പേരുകേട്ടവനായിരുന്നു?

10. Who provided materials and assistance for Solomon to build the Temple of the Lord?

യഹോവയുടെ ആലയം പണിയാൻ ശലോമോന് ആരാണ് സാധനങ്ങളും സഹായവും നൽകിയത്?



PRAYER MEETINGS

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JULY 19, 2026**AYANAVARAM****Mrs. SHANA SUSAN JOHN**Flat - B, 24/2, First Floor, Lakshmi Apartments, VOC New Colony,
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You may send your
suggestions/inserts
for future issues of Koinonia
with your Name, Address,
Prayer Group & Contact Number to:
office@mmtsc.org

Walking in the Light of Christ

A Sermon, based on John 8:12–20

- Fr. Sachin Baby, OFM Cap

Introduction

In John 8:12, Jesus makes one of the most powerful declarations found in the Gospel:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

These words were not spoken casually; they were proclaimed during the Festival of Tabernacles (Festival of Tents), one of the most joyful celebrations of the Jewish people.

The Context: Festival of Tents and the Lighting Ceremony

The Festival of Tabernacles commemorated God's faithfulness during Israel's journey through the wilderness. During this festival, a magnificent ceremony known as the Lighting of the Lamps took place.

Four enormous golden lamp stands were erected in the Temple courts. Their flames illuminated Jerusalem throughout the night. The lights reminded the people of the Pillar of Fire that guided the Israelites through the desert.

Against this backdrop, Jesus stood and proclaimed:

"I am the light of the world."

He was declaring that He is greater than the Temple Lamps, greater than the Pillar of Fire, and that He was the True Light sent by God to guide humanity.

This passage presents three important questions before us.

1. Do We Allow Ourselves to Be Guided by the Real Light, Christ?

Jesus not only claims to be the light of the world; He is The Light itself.

Many people turn to human wisdom, popular opinion, social media voices, long held traditions, or the pull of personal desire in search of guidance. Yet Christ calls us beyond these fleeting lights, inviting us to walk in His way and follow Him.

The Conversion of Mr. Vallivel

Mr. Vallivel lived without knowing Christ personally. However, through God's grace, he encountered Jesus and experienced a transformation in his life. The light of Christ entered his heart and changed his direction completely.

This transformed him from living only for himself to eventually become a missionary serving in Gujarat, dedicating his life to sharing the Gospel with others.

His story reminds us that when Christ becomes our light, our lives gain purpose, direction, and meaning.

Reflection

Who is guiding my decisions?

What influences my choices?

Am I truly following Christ, or merely following my own preferences?

The promise of Jesus is clear:

Whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness.

2. Do We Judge God by Human Standards?

The Pharisees challenged Jesus:

"You are testifying about yourself; your testimony is not valid."

According to their legal understanding, a person's testimony required another witness to be accepted. They attempted to evaluate Jesus using merely human standards and earthly reasoning.

Jesus responded by saying that His testimony is valid because He knows where He came from and where He is going. Furthermore, the Father Himself bears witness to Him.

The problem was not lack of evidence; the problem was their spiritual blindness.

Our Modern Struggle

We often do the same thing.

We expect God to act according to our plans, our timetable, and our expectations.

We ask:

Why did God allow this?

Why hasn't God answered yet?

Why doesn't God work the way I think He should?

Sometimes we place God within the limits of human logic and understanding.

But God is greater than our understanding.

Reflection

Faith requires trust even when we do not fully understand.

Instead of judging God by our standards, we must allow God's truth to reshape our standards.

3. Do We Really Know God?

Jesus tells the Pharisees:

"You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

This is perhaps the most serious statement in the passage.

The Pharisees were religious experts. They knew the Scriptures, observed rituals, and participated in worship. Yet Jesus says they did not truly know God.

A Warning for Us

It is possible to:

Attend church regularly.

Pray daily.

Read the Bible.

Participate in ministry.

And still not truly know God personally.

Knowing about God is different from knowing God.

Christianity is not merely a set of religious practices; it is a relationship with the living Christ.

The Evidence of Knowing Jesus

People who truly know Jesus begin to resemble Him.

They grow in love.

They become more forgiving.

They develop humility.

They seek holiness.

They show compassion.

Just as children often resemble their parents, believers who know Christ increasingly reflect His character.

The closer we come to Jesus, the more His image becomes visible in our lives.

Reflection

Do I know facts about Jesus, or do I know Him personally?

Is my life becoming more like Christ?

Can others see Jesus in me?

Conclusion

John 8:12–20 confronts us with three searching questions:

1. Am I allowing Christ, the true Light, to guide my life?

2. Am I judging God by human standards, or trusting His wisdom?

3. Do I truly know God, or am I merely practicing religion?

Jesus stands before us today with the same invitation:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

May we follow the true Light, trust God's ways, and grow into a deeper knowledge of Christ so that our lives increasingly reflect Him to the world.

Amen.

A Catholic priest of the Capuchin Franciscan Order, Fr. Sachin Baby was ordained in November 2025; he currently serves at Atmabodhi Youth Centre, Rayarome, Kannur.

A youth mentor gifted with talents as musician, vocalist, guitarist and social media influencer, he is passionate about inspiring young people through faith, music, motivation, and digital evangelization.

GOD GUIDED ABRAHAM

KID'S
CORNER

The region of ancient Mesopotamia serves as the setting for this week's story. During this period, the Old Babylonian civilization was at its cultural and political peak. It was a time of magnificent cities, flourishing arts and culture, and well-established legal and religious systems. It was from this advanced society that God called a man named Abram, whom He later renamed Abraham.

The Bible does not tell us how God's call was communicated to Abram. There is no mention of a dream, vision, or visible appearance. Instead, it simply states, "The LORD said to Abram" (Genesis 12:1). This is significant because Abram lived in a culture deeply rooted in idolatry. Yet, despite his surroundings, he heard the voice of the one true God and chose to obey.

Why did God call Abram? Even before creation, God knew that humanity would need a plan of redemption. Abram's calling was an essential part of that divine plan. Just as creation began through God's spoken word, His plan of redemption also began with His voice. God chose to reveal Himself and His purpose through a special nation, and Abram would become the father of that nation.

Although God had chosen Abram, he still had the freedom to ignore God's call. Instead, Abram chose faith. This was not an easy decision. In those days, remaining with one's family and clan was vital for security, identity,

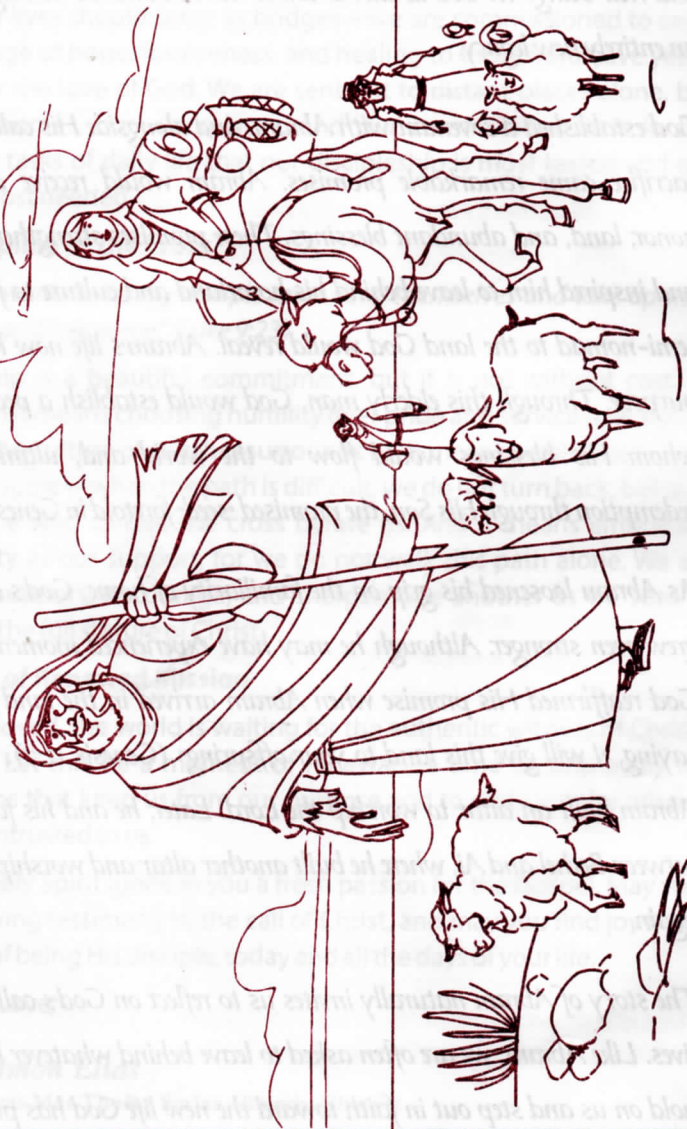
and well-being. Yet God asked Abram to leave behind his heritage and begin an entirely new legacy.

God established a covenant with Abram, and alongside His call to personal sacrifice came remarkable promises. Abram would receive descendants, honor, land, and abundant blessings. These promises strengthened his faith and inspired him to leave behind his homeland and culture to journey as a semi-nomad to the land God would reveal. Abram's life now had a divine purpose. Through this elderly man, God would establish a people through whom His blessings would flow to the world and, ultimately, bring redemption through His Son, the promised "seed" foretold in Genesis 3:15.

As Abram loosened his grip on the familiarity of home, God's hold on him grew even stronger. Although he may have experienced moments of doubt, God reaffirmed His promise when Abram arrived in the land of Canaan, saying, "I will give this land to your offspring" (Genesis 12:7). In response, Abram built an altar to worship the Lord. Later, he and his family settled between Bethel and Ai, where he built another altar and worshiped God once again.

The story of Abram naturally invites us to reflect on God's call in our own lives. Like Abram, we are often asked to leave behind whatever has a strong hold on us and step out in faith toward the new life God has prepared. We, too, are called to be channels of God's blessing and hope to others. Faith requires us to let go of what is visible and temporary and hold firmly to what is unseen and eternal. That is the essence of true faith.

GOD GUIDED ABRAHAM



Please send all official communications for the Vicar
to the new email address.

Vicar's Email: vicar@mmtsc.org



**SUVISESHA SEVIKA SANGHAM
HOUSE VISITS TO SENIOR CITIZENS
- JUNE 18, 2026**



**VBS 2026
- MAY 2, 2026**





SEVIKA SANGAM

MISSION TRIP to MINJUR

With hearts of love and service, Sevika Sangam is organising a Mission Trip to Minjur.



DATE:
AUGUST 8



PLACE:
MINJUR

LET US COME TOGETHER TO
PRAY, SERVE AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE.



PRAY



SERVE



SHARE

Your presence and prayers
will make this mission special.



"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."
— 1 JOHN 3:18



SEVIKA SANGAM
BREAKFAST SALE
12-07-2026





IDIYAPPAM & CHICKEN STEW

MUTTON BRIYANI

VATTAYAPPAM

COOKIES

CUTLET

PICKLE (PRAWNS & BEEF)

INJICURRY

PASTRIES COUNTER

POTHICHOR



MTC YUVAS

BREAKFAST SALE

FUELING FAITH. SERVING OTHERS



16TH
AUGUST
2026

AFTER
1ST & 2ND
SERVICE



MADRAS
MARTHOMA
SYRIAN CHURCH

ENJOY A DELICIOUS
BREAKFAST
AND SUPPORT
OUR MISSION!



A FUNDRAISER FOR THE
MISSION TRIP
OF MTC YUVAS

*Get
Encouraged
Refreshed
Make a
Difference!*

EVERY PLATE MAKES AN IMPACT.
Thank You For Being Part of the Mission!

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