



SISHYA Newsletter

November 2012

Greetings from the Sishya family in the matchless Name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. We are grateful to God for His faithfulness and to you all for your prayers. He has sustained us thus far and continued to use us for His kingdom's expansion. Here's what happened in the last month.

Ministry Among Students

Ministry in Madurai

6th & 7th October 2012

The Sishya team members Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam, Ajith Vedhanayagam, Johnson Kevin, Naveen Thilagan, Patience Augustine, Mrs. Cherub Victor, Swarup Singh, Mr. Moses Sampath and family and Mr. Suthan David and family ministered to the students of Keswick Public School, Lady Doak College and to the church members and youth of Divine Patience Church in Madurai for two days.

Just before the trip Arpith Vedhanayagam was down with lung infection and severe fever and so Mrs. Sheila Vedhanayagam and Arpith had to stay back in Chennai.

The team ministered through **skits** and **songs**. Ashok and Cherub shared the message in Keswick Public School while Suthan David conducted the games. It was encouraging to see almost 90% of the students committing their lives to Christ.

In Lady Doak College God's Word came powerfully through Ashok and many people committed for full time missions. The team members did songs and skits while Suthan David did the activities and games.

Bishop Heber college

21st October

Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam along with Mrs. Sheila Vedhanayagam, Mr.s Moses Sampath and Mrs. Christina Moses ministered in the Church at Bishop Heber College. Ashok spoke in the morning worship service. After the service the team ministered in a half day retreat.

St. Paul's Church Sunday School and Teens Camp

Believers Church Padappai
27th October

Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam along with Mr. Swithun Manoharan, Mr. Suthan David and Mrs. Selvi Victor ministered to the teens and Sunday school kids of the St. Paul's Church on the 27th October in Believers Church campsite, Padappai. Ashok spoke in the morning while Suthan did the games. The afternoon saw practical talk for guys and girls separately. Swithun and Suthan handled the guys sharing their own experiences and testimonies while Mrs. Selvi Victor handled the session for girls. Mrs. Selvi also did a common session for both guys and girls, speaking from the prayer of Jabez. Ashok handled the Sandhya session sharing the message and also

his testimony.

Youth Retreat - C.S.I. St John's Church

28th October 2012

The Sishya team had the opportunity to go and minister to the youth of St. John's Church, Avadi on the 28th of October. Mr. Ashok shared the message in the worship service prior to the retreat. The retreat started at 11 AM; around 60 people attended the retreat.



The team started with a few familiar choruses and then Mr. Suthan David conducted the games. The team then did a package of songs and skits before



Mr. Ashok gave the message. Then we had small groups in which the team encouraged the youths

to take a stand and make God their first priority. The post lunch session had a series of games and the team package with songs.



The delegates were then split up into small groups and were taught how to have a quiet time. Then Ashok closed with the final challenge.

Please Pause and Pray...

Pray for the team's ministry in:

- The youth camp for the youths of **Santhome English Church** (23rd and 24th Nov)
- The Christmas program at IIT, Madras (29th Nov)

Ministry Among Couples

Three Strands Seminar

12th to 14th October 2012

Sishya's marriage enrichment camp was held at Joe Beach resort, Mahabalipuram from 12th to 14th October. Mr. Sunny Matthews from the U.S, Mr. Valentine Davidar, Mrs. Vasantha Thomas, Mrs. Deepa Ranjith and Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam were the speakers.



Morning Quiet Time for Couples

Mr. Sunny Matthew spoke on **apology, forgiveness and reconciliation**. Mr. Ashok Vedhanayagam spoke on salvation, 'not compete but complete' talk on gender differences, personality differences but through which God makes a perfect balance in the family and that couples are called to celebrate their differences together.

For the first time workshops were divided based on the number of years of marriage.

For couples married for 0-3 years the topic was **Extended family and Adjustment** by Mrs. Vasantha Thomas, Solomon and Jenita.



Balancing Act

For couples married for 3-6 years, the topic was **Balance between family, work and ministry** by Sunny Mathew, Sampath Moses and Christina.

For couples who are married for more than 7 years, Ashok Vedhanayagam, Oze and Samula spoke on **Parenting**.

The evening saw the couples have a mini Olympics where they played ten different games in half an hour. It was extremely competitive and enjoyable. It was followed by a high-energy cricket match for the men and swimming pool games for the women and children.



During one of the sessions

In the evening Sandhya, Ashok Vedhanayagam spoke on God's blueprint for marriage which covered marriage in the context of mission, permanence, intimacy and holiness.

The day ended with a candle light dinner for the couples and games conducted by Deepa Ranjith. On Friday night (12th Oct), the movie **One Night with the King**, based on the story of Queen Esther, was screened.

The Sunday morning service was a wedding renewal service with communion; the service was conducted by Pastor. John Simeon (Pastor of Emmanuel Methodist Church, Chennai). He spoke on forgiveness. After this there was a

session titled 'HOH', during which Mr. Valentine Davidar addressed the husbands on being the 'Head of the Home', while Mrs. Vasantha Thomas and Mrs. Deepa Ranjith addressed the women on 'Heart of the Home' and time management. Valentine Davidar and Rita Davidar spoke on roles and responsibilities.



Participants of the Three Strands Seminar

The afternoon session had two case studies where the men and women debated on 'Going to church on time' and 'Conversation vs. Communication'.

The camp ended with a challenge by Ashok Vedhanayagam and the couples wrote three decisions taken during the camp on a commitment form, which will be mailed to them at regular intervals.

The highlight of this camp was the childcare provided by Evelyn and team. The camp catered to couples who were one month into marriage to those who were fifteen years into marriage. The camp was a blessing and the couples went back challenged and motivated.

Ministry In Bangalore

October 2012

Please Pause and Pray

Pray that God will give open doors to minister with college/school students in Bangalore. Please pray that the Lord will help start a Bible study for college students in Bangalore.

Community Development Ministry Ministry in Khammam, Andhra Pradesh

Bro. Sam and Sis. Vasantha had a fruitful time ministering in different places to various crowds. They conducted a youth meeting for the rural youths in which Shankar Ramachandran and Swarup Singh had the privilege to minister.

Here's a brief report of the meeting:

The camp was held at a Catholic Retreat Center in the town and saw attendance from 85 young people. Envisioned by Bro Sam and Sis Vasantha, the objective of the camp was to bring the young people in the villages together to train them in Biblical principles and to encourage them to live Godly lives bearing fruit in their communities. This was keeping in mind the critical role these young people would play in the church in the coming years.



Shankar & Swarup at the church in Namalapada

Youngsters were mobilized mainly by the pastors (who are supported by Sishya) from their respective churches and villages. These included the churches at Karepalli, Puttan Thanda, Jeela Cheruvu and Namalapad.



Delegates arriving for the camp

The delegates arrived for the camp on 22nd Oct evening. After dinner, the sessions began with tone setting, forming teams, selecting leaders and an ice breaker game. Specific instructions were given to the delegates regarding the rules to be

followed at the camp and the schedule for the next day.



Shankar & Swarup taking Sessions

The second day began at 6:30 AM with **praise and worship** followed by **quiet time**. Swarup illustrated the ACTS (Attributes, Confession, Thanksgiving, Spiritual food) method of Bible study and the same was done in their respective groups. This was followed by the **devotion** where Shankar shared a message titled 'Do not waste your life'. The gospel message was also presented during the devotion and around 20 youngsters came forward to commit their life to the Lord during the altar call. Bro. Sam Dongre spoke to those who committed to follow Jesus about the importance of their decision and the next steps.

All the sessions were translated into Telugu by Pastors Joji and Peter. After breakfast the **workshops** were conducted in two different halls. The delegates were divided into 2 groups to attend the workshop. The sessions on the first day included 'Spiritual Disciplines' and 'Pursuing holiness'. Each workshop was repeated twice in a day so that all delegates get to attend both the workshops.



During one of the sessions

In between the two workshops, Swarup anchored **activities/games** each with a Biblical principle to be learnt. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants. Post lunch the delegates were given some time to relax after which outdoor games were organized. All the teams actively participated in the outdoor games which was highly competitive.

In the evening the sessions began with different groups singing songs, a skit put up by one of the teams, a **skit** by Swarup & Shankar and a banjara dance by some of the delegates. Swarup shared the message for the evening from the life of Prophet Jonah, discovering God's will for one's life and living according to His will. After the message 16 of them came forward to affirm their decision in living according to God's will. They later spent some time with Bro. Sam Dongre.

After dinner delegates were divided into 4 groups for the **quiz competition** from Matthew 1-2 and Genesis 1. The portion for the quiz was given in advance for the teams to prepare. The teams actively participated in the quiz and the highlight of the night was the bonus mark question. On being asked to recite Psalm 1 without looking at the Bible, one hand went up. Jyothi recited the

entire psalm without a mistake. What made her response all the more valuable was the fact that she was almost fully blind. She reads the Bible in big letters with a lot of difficulty. It was very encouraging for all of us to see her faith and commitment.



Games and Activities

The third day of the camp began with quiet time anchored by Swarup. The delegates were taught another method (Observation, Interpretation, and Application) to go about their quiet time. Shankar shared the message, which was a continuation from the previous day's devotion. An altar call was again given to those who wanted to commit their life to Jesus that day. Two of them came forward in response to the altar call to commit their lives.

The topics for the workshops on day 3 were, facing your giants and taking a stand for Jesus. At the end of the workshops, many delegates committed to stop lying, stop using foul language, studying the Bible etc.

The **workshops** on day 3 were followed by a Q & A session where the delegates asked a whole lot of

questions. It was heartening to see their interest in understanding many of the Biblical principles and the questions ranged from understanding the Trinity to salvation by faith alone, why God does not save all mankind, how the Bible was put together, etc. The delegates were also given time to share their learning and experience from the camp. Many came forward and shared their experiences and how the camp had impacted their life.

Swarup gave the **final challenge** message using two simple stories to illustrate and drive home the point that they needed to go back and do their part. All of them were encouraged to go back and be a light in their communities and to use whatever they had learnt to bear much fruit.



Participants of the camp at Khammam

The Lord's grace and help was experienced throughout the camp and most of the participants went back edified and with a new zeal to live for Jesus.

Please Pause and Pray

Pray for the ministry in Khammam, for Bro. Sam and Sis. Vasantha and for the Pastors and animators who assist them.

Regular Team Activities

Apart from the events mentioned above, the Sishya family was involved in the weekly Bible studies (CAT groups) in different parts of Chennai. The CAT group for couples met every Tuesday in the Sishya office and every Friday in Tambaram. The CAT group for guys and girls met on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in different places. New CAT groups have been started in the last one month.

Please Pause and Pray

Pray for the time of training and planning with Jay Clark on the 10th and 11th of November in the LITE seminar hall. Pray that this time will enable us to refocus on our vision and mission as an organization and will help us to plan better.

Pray for the CBSI training on the 17th and 19th of November in which leaders will be trained to take Bible study for kids and teenagers.

Pray for Ashok and Sheila's trip to Kuwait during the 3rd week of November.

God Bless you.
With regards,
Sishya Family