

JULY 2011

## BAY AREA TAMIL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

இனிய தமிழால் இறைவனில் இணைவோம்



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

PRAY TO ST. MARY MAGDALENE

FEAST DAY - JULY 22

"Saint Mary Magdalene, Woman of many sins, who by conversion became the beloved of Jesus, thank you for your witness that Jesus forgives through the miracle of love. You, who already possess eternal happiness in His glorious presence, please intercede for me, so that some day I may share in the same everlasting love. Amen."

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT - THE END OF THE WORLD

**M**any times in the news we hear people talk about end of the world. And, many questions come to our mind. Is the world really going to end? For many years, people who are reading Bible regularly said the world will come to an end. But, the questions that need answers are 'When' and 'How'.

Jesus' disciples asked the same question to Him two thousand years ago "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3). Since then people in every generation have the same question.

It is not a question of whether the world will come to an end. As we read above, God's word says the world will come to an end but the question is when. If we read Bible more closely Jesus said no one knows when the world will come to an end even Jesus Christ Himself does not know. As Jesus said "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Matthew 24:35-36).

So instead of spending our times to figure out when the world will end, let us prepare ourselves for the end whenever it happens. But, how do we prepare? Jesus gives us the answer below.

**"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the**

**watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."** (Luke 21:34-36)

**"Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."** (Luke 21:8-9)

God the father only knows when He is planning to end the world. So instead of spending our time, money and energy to figure out the date and time of ending, let us always watch and pray to escape the day and to stand before the Son of Man as the day of the Lord will come like a thief.

**"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."** (Matthew 24:42-44)

Yours in Christ,  
Leenus Rich

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## SANGAMAM

BATCC's Sangaman will be celebrated on August 27, 2011. Below are the details

**Time : 2:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Date : Saturday, August 27, 2011**

**Venue: Our Lady of Peace Church,  
2800 Mission College Boulevard,  
Santa Clara, CA 95054**

Thanks to Bhuvana and Sudhahar for agreeing to coordinate the entire event. Preparation has begun and is underway . Please check with Sudhahar (tsudhahar@hotmail.com) or Bhuvana (bhusyma@yahoo.com) if you have any questions regarding participation

Let's all join together to make our 8th anniversary celebrations a huge success. Your participation will help our community grow further.

To sign up for the event, please click here

We will soon send out the link to sign up for the cultural programs.

Thank you!

## IN THE NEWS

## BATCC ELECTION

You are encouraged to make a difference in the governance of our community by participating in this year's BATCC election. We will send out details explaining the election process and open positions soon.

Your support is needed to help our community elect motivated community members.

Sincerely,

BATCC Board.

Interested in contributing to the newsletter?  
Please contact [bd@tamilcatholic.org](mailto:bd@tamilcatholic.org)

## HOSPITALITY

A couple of days ago I was so upset. I complained about almost everything. I complained about driving the kids around the town for their activities. I complained about being an unpaid 24 hours servant. I complained about not having time for myself. I complained about not having time to complete my day to day tasks. I complained that no one helps me just like Martha complained about her sister to Jesus in Luke chapter 10 verses 38-42.

*As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary (who) sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me."*

Martha showed hospitality by preparing food and doing the work to the bodily needs of her guest. But Mary showed hospitality by giving her attention to her guest. Martha was stressed out and got mad at her sister. But Mary was focused and joyfully listening to her guest. After reading this passage and meditating upon, some questions raised within me. What am I teaching my kids? What examples am I setting them? Am I giving the hospitality they deserve? I have choices. I can complain all day long and be

discontent trying to do everything in my list and complain about it or I can greet my husband and children, serve them nice snack or dinner, do their chores for one day, listen to them and enjoy their company.

Allowing my children to feel at home and to see me serving them joyfully will teach them the virtue of hospitality. By inviting a new neighbor for a tea or a friend who is having a hard time for a relaxing evening with us or sharing my knowledge to some one who is in need of help will teach them to be gracious, loving, joyful, kind, helping, welcoming to others. Sharing my blessing and joy with others is the lesson that will stay with them.

Hospitality starts at home and spreads to the world through our children. Of course it is easy to talk and write, but it is hard to practice it. Our lives are full of activities and appointments, but if we take some time off and sit at the feet of Jesus as Mary did, I think it is possible. I am going to try it. How about You?

*Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.*  
- 1 Peter 4:9-10.

Yours in Christ,  
Agnes P. Raj

## SOMETHING TO PONDER FENCE

There once was a boy who had a temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks as he learned to control his anger the number of nails hammered gradually dwindled down.

He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when he didn't lose his temper. He told his father and his father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his anger. The days passed and the boy told his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took the boy by the hand and led him to the fence. He said look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same, when you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like the ones on the fence. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I am sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Friends are very rare. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, and always want to open their hearts to us.

## THE WINDOW

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour a day to drain the fluids from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation. And every afternoon when the man in the bed next to the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed would live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the outside world. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake, the man had said. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Lovers walked arm in arm amid flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band, he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Unexpectedly, an alien thought entered his head: Why should he have all the pleasure of seeing everything while I never get to see anything? It didn't seem fair. As the thought fermented, the man felt ashamed at first. But as the days passed and he missed seeing more sights, his envy eroded into resentment and soon turned him sour. He began to brood and found himself unable to sleep. He should be by that window - and that thought now controlled his life.

Late one night, as he lay staring at the ceiling, the man by the window began to cough. He was choking on the fluid in his lungs. The other man watched in

the dimly lit room as the struggling man by the window groped for the button to call for help. Listening from across the room, he never moved, never pushed his own button which would have brought the nurse running. In less than five minutes, the coughing and choking stopped, along with the sound of breathing. Now, there was only silence—deathly silence.

The following morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths. When she found the lifeless body of the man by the window, she was saddened and called the hospital attendant to take it away—no words, no fuss. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it all himself. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall.

### Moral of the story:

The pursuit of happiness is a matter of choice...it is a positive attitude we consciously choose to express. It is not a gift that gets delivered to our doorstep each morning, nor does it come through the window. And I am certain that our circumstances are just a small part of what makes us joyful. If we wait for them to get just right, we will never find lasting joy.

The pursuit of happiness is an inward journey. Our minds are like programs, awaiting the code that will determine behaviors; like bank vaults awaiting our deposits. If we regularly deposit positive, encouraging, and uplifting thoughts, if we continue to bite our lips just before we begin to grumble and complain, if we shoot down that seemingly harmless negative thought as it germinates, we will find that there is much to rejoice about.

Mr. Barnabas Tiburtius  
<http://tib-et.blogspot.com>

