



St. Andrew's Church Newsletter

OCTOBER
2015

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Letter from the Presbyter

*"The true treasure of the Church is the holy Gospel . . . and the grace of God."
Martin Luther. Thesis#62*

Thanksgiving for the Reformers and the Reformation

In October we remember the Reformers and the Reformation with thanksgiving. Reformers were people who showed the people the way to God in a society that had become negligent and forgotten their true duty to God.

Reformation actually began with our Lord Jesus. Our Lord challenged the practices of the religious leaders of his day. Jesus said, *"you leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."* Mark 7:8

Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. Luke 11:39

Our Lord Jesus denounced the practices of the clergy, namely, the scribes, Pharisees and the lawyers of his day. He told the Pharisees that they cleansed the cups and dishes but were full of

greed, wickedness and hypocrisy inside. They tithed mint, rue and every herb but neglected the love and justice of God. Jesus emphasized that tithing and justice should go hand in hand. They also built the tombs of the prophets whom they themselves persecuted and killed.



Reformation also happened in the reign of King Josiah of Judah when they discovered the Word of God, and read it, and confessing their sins and evil ways, believed and obeyed it.

And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.

2Kings 23:2

King Josiah (*2 Kings 23:4-9*) removed from the temple all the vessels made for Baal, Asherah and all the hosts of heaven.

In 1517, Martin Luther wrote *The Ninety-Five Theses*, where he stated that the selling of indulgences, purgatory, and the doctrine of the merits of the saints had no foundation in the gospel. Many doctrines and devotional practices had actually no scriptural basis.

The three truths that have been taught by the Reformation are i) the sole authority of Scripture, ii) justification by faith and iii) the priesthood of the believer. The watchword of the Reformation was ***sola Scriptura*** (*by Scripture alone*)

As we give thanks for our Reformers may God give us grace to know and to speak the truth of the saving gospel of our God.

Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns. (Revelation 19:6)

As **St. Andrew's Church celebrates 200 years** of its life and work on 29.11.15, we are so grateful for the contribution of the last Scottish Minister, Rev John Weir Cook (1962-1969), who invited the Moderator, Rev Archibald for the 150 years service in 1965.

Rev Cook also prepared the ground for uniting of SAC to the CNI. Mrs. Cook visited SAC with son, Peter, who was born in Calcutta, and daughter-in-law



Dr. Shireen Mondal, of St. James' Church, spoke in a program organized by the DWFCS



on *widows* on 2.10.15. Her husband, Rev Dr. D.A.K. Mondal, who taught Church History in Bishop's College, had an untimely death.



Mr. Harsh Biswas, (born 28.11.1926), the father of our bishop, the Rt. Rev Ashoke Biswas, expired on 30.9.15. His funeral service held in Holy Trinity Church, and interment in the Bhowanipore Cemetery. Let us uphold our bishop and his family members in this time of bereavement.



Harry Johnstone, the sick person for whom we were praying went home on 21.10.15. We thank Rev James Gomez for attending his funeral which was held on the same day in Budge Budge. Let us uphold Carol and Mrs. Johnstone in our prayers.



Miss Ann Colquhoun slept in the Lord in UK. Her funeral was held on 19.10.15. She served in the Dr. Graham's Homes Kalimpong from 1955 for many years in the Kindergarten. Even after her retirement she continued to sponsor students. *Well done good and faithful servants!*



Prof Dr. Laltluangliana Khiangte, principal of Serampore College with his wife, visited our church on 25.10.15. He gave thanks for the support of SAC annually in training presbyters.



Mr. P.C. Daniels, Principal of St. Thomas' Church School, Howrah, along with his family members have been attending worship in our church. Mr. Daniels served previously in St. Stephen's School, Barrackpore Diocese and in the Dr. Graham's Homes School, Kalimpong. We welcome them warmly.

Dr. John Abraham, of Scottish Church College fame, has been installed as the C.E.O. of Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong from October, 2015. Mrs. Abraham is also very happy looking after the children in the cottages. Let us uphold them in our prayers.



Dr. Gillian Hart had to undergo surgery suddenly on 4.10.15, after the Bicentenary Quiz. She is recovering quickly. W.G. service on 22.11.15 in Patuli

St. Andrew's Church meets Dr. Neeta Das in Scottish Cemetery

A historic meeting of our Deacons' Court took place with Dr. Neeta Das, Conservation Architect of the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust, an NGO, an engineer and others took place in the Scottish Cemetery on 19.9.15. Most of the issues plaguing the cemetery were discussed cordially with tea and snacks. The meeting was followed by a tour of the cemetery and the road bordering the graveyard on the south and east. Local people came and talked with the church people regarding the vehicles parked outside the cemetery. Following the meeting various letters have been sent to the police and KMC requesting security, an increase in the water supply, help in cutting branches and removing garbage. Plans for a second gate at the cemetery and classes for the children of the area have been approved.



SAC Bicentenary Quiz Competition

A spellbinding bicentenary event took place in our church lounge on 27.9.15. This was a quiz competition hosted by the SAC Bicentenary Committee to involve children in our celebrations! Planned by Dr. Gillian Hart, chairperson, and Mrs. Bhaswati Samaradivakera and with help from Rev James Gomez, **Mr. Nikhil Biswas** of St. Paul's Cathedral was chosen as the quiz-master. Nikhil did a super job of quizzing with a power-point presentation on the theme, "*the miracles and parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*". Four teams of three persons each from the neighbouring Cathedral of the Holy Rosary, Ling Liang Church, Sacred Heart Church and St. Andrew's Church took part. Participants from St. Francis Church, Old Mission Church and Jesus Calls also took part. Above all it was great to have Father Hansel, Father Peppins, Rev Pradip Nanda and Rev Souren Sarkar with us. A big thanks goes to Ms. Louisa Jackson and Mr. David John for the physical arrangements and Mr. Ashok Pasricha and Mr. Behera for the food.

