



St. Andrew's Church Newsletter

NOVEMBER
2016

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Esther Simick and Samuel
Joseph were married in St.
Paul's Cathedral on
14.11.16



The blockage of Reformation (or hindrances to Reformation) Sermon preached by Mr. Rajan Joy, YWAM and a church member on Reformation Sunday

As we celebrate today reformation Sunday let us study and evaluate ourselves as a church whether we are reformed or not?

What hinders us from being transformed as individual and reformed as church? I believe if we need a reformation or a spiritual awakening. I believe first of all we personally need to be transformed. Therefore today I am going to speak on 5 points that blocks transformation or reformation.



Luke 11.37-44

The portion of God's Word set before us today is a very important section. We'll see Jesus' condemnation of the religious system that the Pharisees and the Scribes had built in His day.

As we look to the condemnation of the religious leaders, let's be very careful that we don't write off these verses because we think that they don't apply to us. We all have a root of Phariseeism living within us. We must kill it and guard against allowing it to guide us. If we allow hypocrisy and legalism to dominate us we will miss the Gospel and miss holiness.

They were associated with God but He was not the center of their life. For them, God was simply one part among many things they worshipped.

As I read this text, please let's place ourselves in the room and understand Jesus is speaking to us as well. He points out our sinfulness as well as theirs. Understand the difference. we are not condemned with them but if we listen to Jesus' condemning words, we are given grace. Our responsibility is to use the searchlight of Scripture and shine it into the dark reaches of our souls to see if there is any trace of Phariseeism within us.

1. Judging Others By Human Standards/ traditions

"Thinking is difficult that's why most people judge"

Lk 11:37 While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table.

Lk 11:38 The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner.

The Pharisee is utterly shocked because Jesus did not first wash his hands. This shock is not coming from hygiene. But from not following ceremonial cleanliness.

When man-made rituals are added to God's Word, the traditions of man always become the standards and not the Word of God.

The scriptures hold warnings against any traditions, customs, that are in opposition to God's commands as written in the scriptural record. We must be cautious of the emptiness of the traditions of men passed down through time ... even those from our own forefathers or elders.

Do not judge people. Let us not keep human standards as our spiritual measurement but the word of God. The way we pray, worship, our generosity and model of our life to this world should be guided by the word of God. Not by the human guidelines. Man made traditions are the real blockage for a great reformation in this generation. God wants us to follow not the tradition but the word of God.

3. The Mark of Looking on the Outside and Ignoring the Inside

Lk 11:39 And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

Jesus addresses the issue. The Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but are full of greed and wickedness inside. You are worried about outward purity but give no concern to inward purity.

These religious leaders were more concerned with looking holy than actually being holy. Here the point is that if the inside is clean the outside will be clean as well.

So what's the remedy to the disease of hypocrisy?

4. Realize that God looks at the heart

1 Sm 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For

the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

The Pharisees believed the lie that God sees as man sees. In other words, what they thought would impress God was what impressed most everyone around them. They were wrong. God sees with ex-ray vision the true nature of our soul. He sees what man does not see.

Ask yourself, *Is my Christianity mainly for others to see or for God to see?*

5. The Gospel of Grace Luke 18:10-14, the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector

The Pharisee is puffed up and proud of his many accomplishments while the tax collector understands his wretchedness and pleads for God to be merciful. The Gospel of Grace is the best remedy for us today. We are saved by not by our works but by God's grace.

Thank you.

Mr. James Simpson, the Conservation Architect attended worship on Reformation Sunday, 30.10.16, and read the intercession.



Later, he met the elders and discussed about the restoration of the roof of our church. He also met Norman and Loretta Hall in the cemetery and took this picture. **Mr. Norman Hall**, 71, slept in the Lord in the Scottish Cemetery on 23.11.16 peacefully with Loretta and loved ones near him.





The Harvest Festival of St. Andrew's Church was celebrated on 6.11.16. We were very happy to have Rev John G. Webster, former chaplain and Farm Manager of Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong to bring the Word of God to us. He first addressed the children with placards and made it meaningful to them. Then he spoke to the congregation. All the ladies took part in the service by reading the scripture, prayers, The La Martiniere boys say a special number which had been composed by Mr. Quentin Pope. The proceeds in kind were taken to the Mulvaney Home for the Aged in Amherst Street. We are grateful for the help of Mrs. Snigdha Simick, Mrs. Bhaswati Samaradivakera and Mrs. Zeena Mondal for helping with the transport for the same.



The 175 year celebrations of the Gospel coming to the Khasi Jaintia Hills took place from 18-20 November, 2016 in Cherrapunji, Meghalaya. Rev A. Simick and the Clerk to the Deacons' Court, Elder, Mr. Charles J. Nyss had been invited to this conference by the Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Assembly from St. Andrew's Church as the grave of **Rev Thomas Jones**, lies in our Scottish Cemetery in Karaya Road. Rev Jones, of the Welsh Presbyterian Church, came in 1841 bringing the Gospel to these hills. and taught the Khasi script in Roman letters. Thus he is highly revered. A bust of the famous missionary was also unveiled. The services included thanksgiving, praise, the preaching of God's Word, a Bible Study, a seminar where a paper was presented, intense prayers and above all beautiful singing in four part harmony by choirs from Churches all over these hills. On the final day a total of 1.85 lac people attended the worship which had been arranged on top of a rolling hill. The solemnity of the services, the inspiring singing by over 20 choirs, the preaching and prayers made it a unique first-time experience for us from Kolkata.

Bring the whole **tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Malachi 3:10

St. Andrew's Church, Kolkata

<http://standrewschurchkolkata.in/>

Roster for December, 2016.

4/12/16. Sunday School Thanksgiving Service (Advent II) *Through Holy Scripture God gives us encouragement and hope.*

Conductor & Preacher : Revd. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb

Isaiah 40: 1-11: La Martiniere for Boys

Luke 4: 16-21 : La Martiniere for Boys

11/12/16. 2nd Sun before Christmas, Advent II! *The message of John the Baptist—a model for Christian ministers (Bible Society Collection)*

Conductor & Preacher : Rev Andrew Simick

Isaiah 11: 1-6 : Bishop's College

Matthew 3:1-12 : Mrs. Anita Mukherjee

Meeting of the Deacons' Court and Kirk Session

18/12/16, Sun before Christmas (Advent 4)

6p.m. The service of Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight. Conductor Rev James Gomez

25/12/14. Christmas Day *Theme: The birth of the Saviour who is the Word made flesh. HOLY COMMUNION*

Celebrant and Preacher : Rev Andrew Simick

Isaiah 9: 2-7 : Mr. C.J. Nyss

Hebrews 1: 1-12 : Ms. Louisa Jackson

John 1: 1-14 : Revd. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb



Two of our hard-working staff in work gear—**Sarat Mahala** and **Ajit Rout**.



The C.N.I. Wesleyan Church Celebrated 150 years on 16.10.16 in a grand manner. The Chief Guest was Rev L.N. Mel-lor the President of the Methodist Church in U.K.



Mr Dhiru Dutt Subba, the son of Rev H.D. Subba of the UCNI Church Kalimpong visited Rev Simick on 28.9.16. Many years ago Dhiru

played the guitar for the Sunday School of SAC as a student in St. Xavier's College. He teaches I.T. in the Salesian College in Siliguri.



The CNI and the UCNI church of Kalimpong celebrated the **125th anniversary of the Macfarlane Church** on 2.11.16 in a joint thanks-

giving service. **Rev Dr. John Anderson Graham** was one of the builders of this landmark of Kalimpong town.