

# Shepherd's Voice

pooja pipil

"Kashmere Gate station, doors will open on the right, please mind the gap", came the announcement in the metro train while I was on my way back to home from office after a long tiring day. As soon as the doors opened, everyone rushed out as if released after 1 year imprisonment. I made my way through the crowd towards the escalator leading to platform no.4.

A little girl was running ahead of me to hop on to the fascinating moving staircase. As she approached it, she realized she can't make it on the steps alone. She turned back seeking help as she knew her father is coming behind. And there I was, right behind her. I offered my hand to help her get on, trying to befriend her with my smile. The girl looked at my hand and was about to give me hers but her eyes lifted up to see my face, and immediately she pulled back her hand. She didn't know me. I was a total stranger to her. She looked back for her dad. I tried to grab her hand and help her on to the escalator but she just won't give me her hand, instead gave me a look. "Ok fine! Relax darling, I won't touch you", I said, as I murmured to myself...uff, today's generation...!!

However, this small incident at the metro station brushed up a truth for me. How often devil comes with a smiling face and offers what seems like a helping hand. But are we like that kid who decided not to place her hands in the hands of a stranger, how much ever good or reliable the stranger appeared to be? Do we decide to say a No and wait for our Dad, even if it means delays?!

**Jesus said, - John 10:27: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."  
John 10:5: "But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."**

## Kidz Block

join  
the  
dots



### Grace News:

- Ps. Geo and family left for Kerala on Saturday for Sis. Jincy's wedding which is to be held on April 18, 2009 while Ps. Binny would be joining them next week.
- Heaven's rejoiced even as five people from GFAG were baptised on March 28, 2009. Kindly uphold them in prayer as they endeavour to grow in their relationship with the Lord.
- Bro. Tushar lost his sister Trupti in Mumbai on March 23, 2009 due to cardiac arrest. Sis. Trupti had been suffering from multi-organ failure since several months. God has comforted and strengthened the family in these testing times.

### Contacts

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**Answer to last quiz:  
It is not in the Bible**

# GC Grace Chronicles

Ahmedabad, Sunday, April 05, 2009

**"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**



Nothing seems to sum up my salvation testimony as much as this verse. Somebody said, "The real testimony that one was a sinner and Lord Jesus saved him. Everything else is a war story." Well, probably, I can endorse that too.

It wasn't like I was sick and received a sudden miracle healing that led me to faith. Or that I was convict or an outlaw who was led to salvation on a distant night. It is only now my profession of journalism which reiterates the fact that I asked questions and gradually found my answers in Lord Jesus. Born to staunch religious parents in a Hindu Brahmin Kannadiga family in Baroda, ideally I should have gone on to become one of those dedicated priests or religious scholars. But for my trait of asking the question 'why'.

Since a very young age, I had felt a vacuum, an emptiness, and a seemingly eternal thirst for knowing why I was on this earth. I literally used to stand in front of my mirror and touch my face and ask myself "Who am I?" In spite of my parents telling that human life on earth was just one of the stations that we stop at before moving on under the 'karmic law', something told me there was more to it than met the eye.

Prone to asking questions, I kept pestering my parents for an explanation to purpose and

existence of probably every single god among the 33 million-odd and of why our lives were determined not by our cleanliness of heart and soul but by cleanliness and purity of body. As for my parents, all that they had to say was, "We don't know. That's how it has been since ages."

It was then in my late teens that through some of my Christians friends (and later through the then ICPF staff worker Aji Markose) I came to know that Jesus is the One who looks at our heart and not outward appearance; that He is more concerned about our soul than how adept we are at performing rituals and living out traditionally. The very fact that He loved 'me' personally so much that He died for me so that I can have a continuous eternal relationship with Him was what brought me to my knees.

But being with my parents it was tough to grow in the Lord and seeking Him earnestly was getting tougher and tougher day-by-day. Thankfully, I finished my college in 2006 and got a job opportunity in The Indian Express newspaper in Ahmedabad. God, in His divine purpose, then led me to Grace Fellowship which I describe as the rocket booster that propelled in my knowledge and relationship with Lord Jesus.

After meeting people at Grace Fellowship strengthened my faith in Jesus as the only true living and loving God; a God who cares more about our soul than our achievements and status in the society. It is these traits of God which when exhibited by people at Grace Fellowship left a mark on my heart. And even as I am sharing my vision with theirs, I see a grander purpose of God unfolding in front of us for the world. I desire and pray that may God touch others and lead them through an purposeless life to finding their destiny in Him, just like He led me.

God bless.

**Vinay Umarji**

# ECHOES OF GLORY

John Wilbur Chapman was born in Richmond, Indiana, on June 17, 1859. His parents Alexander H. and Lorinda Chapman prepared him for a life of Christian ministry. The young man felt he could never pinpoint a date for his conversion, but did make public his acknowledgement of Christ at age seventeen.

In 1876 Chapman joined the Richmond Presbyterian Church and later that year left to attend Oberlin College. After one year at Oberlin, Chapman transferred to Lake Forest University where he received his B.A. in 1879. His seminary years, 1879-1882, were spent at Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, during which time he was ordained on April 13, 1881.

Chapman began his evangelistic work full time in 1893, preaching with D. L. Moody at the World's Fair and conducting many meetings on his own. He hired William Ashley "Billy" Sunday as an advance man, thus giving him his start in evangelism. At this same time, the evangelist Sol C. Dickey set up a Bible Conference Center in Winona Lake, Indiana. This center held lifelong interest to Chapman along with the others he helped develop in Montreal, North Carolina, and Stony Brook, Long Island, New York.



Life under FOCUS

John W Chapman

After returning to the active pastorate for a short time, at the end of 1895, Chapman was appointed Corresponding Secretary of the Presbyterian General Assembly's Committee on Evangelism. He directed the activities of fifty-one evangelists in 470 cities and also found time to write one of his numerous books, Present Day Evangelism. In 1905, John H. Converse, a wealthy Presbyterian layman, offered to underwrite Chapman's expenses if he would return to full time evangelistic work. Converse also set up a trust fund to provide monies even after his own death.

From 1904-1909 Chapman began to develop and promote a new method of urban evangelism. His idea was to hold several meetings throughout a city simultaneously, thereby reaching more people and stirring more hearts to enter into Christian service. The first city to try Chapman's theory was Pittsburgh in 1904. The city was divided into nine districts with nine meeting places as the revival was conducted. Chapman took the central position and his assistants the rest. Another campaign was planned and executed in Syracuse, New York, in 1906; however, there were still unfinished details to be worked out for the method to be widely accepted.

Charles McCallon Alexander, world famous song leader, who had been traveling with R. A. Torrey, joined with Chapman in 1907. The first Chapman-Alexander worldwide campaign left Vancouver, British Columbia, on March 26, 1909, and returned November 26. Stops along the way included: Melbourne, Sydney, Ipswich, Brisbane, Adelaide, Ballarat, Bendigo, and Townsville in Australia; Manila in the Philippines; Hong Kong, Kowloon, Canton, Shanghai, Hankow, Peking and Tientsin in China; Seoul, Korea; Kobe, Kyoto, Tokyo, and Yokohama in Japan.

Chapman continued his non-stop evangelistic efforts in both the United States and Europe in 1910, including a very successful Chicago meeting from October 16 to November 27. However, Chapman's technique of mass evangelism lost much of its popularity. A series of unsuccessful campaigns were conducted in Bangor and Portland, Maine, and Dayton and Columbus, Ohio. Chapman was not credited with the failures, and so from 1912 on all the revivals were mass meetings led by Chapman.

Many services were conducted by the evangelist in the next couple of year in Australia, Scotland, Ireland, India, New Zealand, and the United States, averaging three to five sermons a day in many places. His career as evangelist ended with the Chapman-Alexander campaign January 6 to February 13, 1918.

The Presbyterian General Assembly elected him Moderator in May 1918. The strenuous routine required for the position combined with all the energy expended during his campaigns created a collapse of Chapman's health. He was forced to undergo emergency surgery for gallstones on December 23 and died on December 25, 1918.

## - HOLINESS -

The founder of Kraft Foods was an outstanding Christian. Mr. Kraft spent the last few winters of his life in Miami. He had an invitation to address a convention in San Francisco, and the newspapers of Miami made note of it. The night before he left for San Francisco, the telephone rang. A woman's voice, filled with sadness, said, "Mr. Kraft, I see by the paper that you are going to San Francisco tomorrow. I want to ask a favor. My son is in Alcatraz for life I write him and send his gifts, but he has never responded. Would you please go see him, and ask him just to write me a note? Kraft agreed to the lady's request. He went to the prison and was granted permission to visit the young man. He started down the corridor to where it turned right, to the visiting room. Just as he made the turn, a big hand shot out in front and clamped him by the chest, and a voice said, "Stand perfectly still, Mr. Kraft, don't move for a moment." Kraft said he heard a buzzing sound... then a voice said, "OK, Mr. Kraft, you're clean." Offended, he asked, "What do you mean, 'I'm clean?'" Of course I am!" "I mean," said the guard, "that you don't have anything that you should not take to the visitor's room." The guard told Kraft what he had in his pocket. He went on down the hall thinking to himself, "Suppose Christ would stop me around the next corner and say, "'Stand still, Kraft, let me see if your heart is clean inside.'" Said James Kraft, "I stopped where I was and asked God to examine me."



# Learning to Defend

Navin Thomas

Couple of weeks back when I was speaking on the month's theme of spiritual warfare I was talking how often we are on the defensive and hardly ever on the offensive. But that was not the least bit to undermine the role of defense. If you are watching a football match and you have a team score ten goals we just assume that the team must have won the match. But we often witness some amateur games where despite scoring so many goals, the team has lost. Not because the forwards in the team were not good enough but because their defense was poor.

So just like any game, we cannot make winning game plan on a weak defense; we cannot win the spiritual battle with a weak defense. Probably defense is the first thing required to make a motivated attack. So many times the morale of the attack is built on the confidence that they have on the defense. A weak defense leaves the attack demotivated and always under the constant pressure to perform. We, the warriors of Christ are so often faltering in our defenses that we hardly get a chance to attack in our spiritual warfare.

That is why Paul asks the church to put on the 'full armour' of God. Even the usage full armour suggests that we cannot win the war with the sword alone but everything else that prepares us to 'take our stand against the devils schemes' (Ephesians 6:11). And that is why it is very important to know what our armour consists of and not miss out on the details.

To start with, the belt of truth this holds all things together. In ancient times a roman soldier would normally be wearing a loose tunic or outer garment which would be his primary clothing which if not tucked away in to his heavy leather belt, would hang out loosely. Since most of the combat was hand to hand, loose clothing would be a hindrance and also show the lack of preparedness of the warrior. Similarly if we are not prepared which is the first step for going to war, then we lack the very basic thing. Secondly Isaiah 11:5 says that faithfulness or sincerity is the belt around our waist. If we are not faithful and sincere as a warrior of Christ, then we ourselves become a threat and danger to the army of God. So Paul is calling us to the readiness in the truth of God's word and the faithfulness to stand by it.

The breastplate of righteousness protects our heart and mind from the attacks of the devil. The word of God in Galatians chapter 3 states how we have achieved our righteousness through our faith in Christ. When he died on the cross, we sinners were imputed with the righteousness of God which now allows us to stand before the throne of God and every scheme of the devil. The word says that the devil is the accuser of the brethren and he continuously slanders us before God but we stand justified before God because we have the breastplate of righteousness which Jesus Christ bought for us through his death on the cross.

The feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 1 Corinthians 1:18 says that 'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God'. A disciple of Christ will get the strength which is in the gospel, to go on the rugged paths of life and the trials that we will face to keep our faith intact. The message of the cross gives us continuous strength to keep going, the readiness to be continuously on the move. Any warrior will tell you that stopping and resting is the most dangerous thing that we can do when the enemy is chasing us.

The enemy will shoot those flaming arrows which will set us on the fire of hell. He will come with questions, trials, doubts and temptations from the world for things that we can see and feel. But the word that we need to remember here is that 'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see' (Hebrews 11:1). When we see the world around us happy and enjoying the pleasures of this world, we will be thrown in to confusion but these are just the ways of the enemy to make us stray from our target, the hope of eternal life and the great promises that we have in Christ which are unseen which has no other evidence to prove itself today, but our faith. That is why in 2Cor4:18 it says 'So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal'.

Finally, the helmet is the hope of salvation (1Thess 5:8). Any man who has lost hope has lost the meaning and purpose of living and striving for our eternal goals. A man can fight with a broken limb and a bleeding eye but a burst open skull? And so it is so important to protect the enemies attack on the intellect, power to reason and our thoughts which if lost out to the enemy can leave an aimless man who has lost all hope as he has lost the battle in his mind. Therefore it is the hope that we have in the salvation provided by the gospel that keeps us a servant of God, lest we become a slave of the devil (Col 1:23).

So have you put on the full armor of God, today?



### Bible Quiz 23:

What was the first language that Scripture was translated into?