

**From Babel, to Pentecost, to the Church**

Genesis 11, Acts 2, Mark 16:15

**Babel:** Two words that stand out in this narrative are “whole-world”, and “language”. Sin, depravity and judgement are widespread in the whole world. They had one language but few words. These ancient people moved on and settled in the plains of Shinar - a direct violation of God’s command to “fill and earth”. They learned how to make bricks and started a “building project” known in the ancient world as *ziggurat* (a temple reaching to the heavens to meet the gods). They had power, prosperity and creativity to back it up, and most dangerous of all, they had unity and a peaceful atmosphere to pursue their plans. Power, peace, prosperity and unity are not ultimate goods. If in unity we agree to bypass Scripture; if in peace we forget to pray; if in prosperity we become numb, arrogant, greedy and blind, then division could be better than collective apostasy, suffering and conflict could serve God’s purpose better than peace and prosperity. God’s judgement at Babel was necessary to preserve and protect our humanity because we are not gods; though we carry the glory of God, we cannot carry the burden of God. But in judgement there is grace, and in punishment there is mercy. Immediately after Babel, God puts together his plan to set apart a people for himself, bless them and through this nation, bless the whole world again. He calls Abraham, and the nation of Israel is born.

**Pentecost:** Acts 2, we could say the “sons of Abraham” were gathered in one place when the Spirit came upon them with power, and there the foundations of a new humanity (which we call the church) was laid. Like the Babel story, two words stand out: “whole-world” and “language”. Salvation should not be confined only to giving meaningful existence to the individual. The Spirit that blew involves the affairs of the whole world. The whole world witnessed and received the blessings, and they declared God’s wonders in all the languages of the world. The primary message of Jesus in the Gospels was that the Kingdom of God had come, and he went about preaching it, and inviting people to come and join in this grand new “building project” of building the Kingdom of God in the world.

**The Church Today:** Two stories. One question. Which story do we continue? Babel-a people full of themselves, or Pentecost-a people full of God? If we are to re-enact the Pentecost story, it may force us out of the four-walls of the church. After all, the church is *ecclesia*-called out into the world. The people at Babel were also called out to fill the earth, but they decided to stay in and settle down. We are the church not because we come to the church; we are the church precisely because we get out of it. If we stayed in we would be a cult. We are called out to tell the story of Jesus, about the Kingdom of God, that God is alive and active, that there is Hope. Here too, as in the other two stories, two words are important: the “whole-world” and “language”. The whole world is our field, and language is primary in communicating the story. Stanley Haerwas puts it very powerfully, “In telling the story of Jesus to the world, we are not just telling a nice story, but we become the story and it becomes our story. The story and the storyteller become one. We are not just telling the world that there is an alternative to violence, corruption and greed, we become the alternative-*we are the alternative*” (paraphrased).

- Kedo Peseyie



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

# City Church

## Sunday Service

- Leader : Aien Bao
- Speaker : Kedo Peseyie
- Ushers : Bongmainara & Yanglirola
- Keyboard : Vizolenuo Solo
- Flower : Neikule Doulo

### Assisting in Lord’s Supper

- Neelu Medikhru, Dr. Lulu Aonok
- Myingthungo Ngullie & Daniel Thong

### Praise & Worship

Welcome & Announcement

- Reading : Psalm 119:1-8
- Mass Prayer : Great is Thy Faithfulness
- Hymn No.311 : Great is Thy Faithfulness
- Message
- Lord’s Supper
- Hymn No.68 : And Can It Be That I Should Gain?
- Benediction

**VISION statement of the City Church:**  
*City Church seeks to honor and worship Jesus Christ as Lord and the only God; and to build the Body of Christ (The Church) with all who love Him as disciples, proclaiming Him as the Savior to all nations.*

**AIMS of the City Church:**  
**Worship:** *To Worship God and exalt His name together as a Church.*  
**Fellowship:** *To build the body of Christ with all who love Him through mutual sharing, help and growth.*  
**Evangelism:** *To witness for Christ both by proclamation and by lifestyle so as to cause others to experience God’s great salvation.*  
**Discipleship:** *To establish members as disciples of Jesus Christ through systematic Bible Studies and teaching and equip them for effective service.*  
**Mission:** *To send out people in obedience to God’s call and command to reach the un-reached for Christ.*

## PRAYER

- Pray for those who are sick among us. Pray for God’s abundant grace, healing and strength to flow into their lives and families.
- In obedience to the Bible’s command to regularly pray for those in authority (1 Tim 2:2), let us pray for the Govt. in New Delhi, our State Govt. and all the leaders, so that we will enjoy peace, justice and freedom of expression. Pray that God will intervene in the lives of our leaders.
- Continue to pray for the new church construction site. Three issues facing the workers there are constraints of space, concern for safety, and a difficult terrain. Also, pray that God will continue to provide the financial requirements for the building.

## PSALM 119:1-8

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart—  
they do no wrong  
but follow his ways.

You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.

Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.

I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.

### NAGAMESE FELLOWSHIP

#### Give Thanks to God (Psalm 100:1-5)

Thanksgiving must be given to the one responsible for whatever it is that we are thankful for. Regardless of our blessings, everyone who has a relationship with God can give thanks to God.


For example, just as a three legged stool can stand firm, the three foundations of thanks are:

- For the Lord is good.
- His Mercy is everlasting.
- His truth endures to all generations.
  - Be thankful to a merciful God who loves you very much. Do we love Him enough to obey Him today?
  - The privilege of being able to thank God for the reality of His goodness... and reality of His steadfast love... and the reality of His faithfulness in our life, only comes when we belong to Him.

Do we belong to Him?

- Robert

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**Enroute**  
presents **INSPIRE**

# WORSHIP EVENING

at the White Oak (Sakhrie Park)  
between NH-29 & AG Road

**/ JULY 16 2017 4:00 P.M /**

### DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

The discipleship class will be on  
**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017**  
**(04:30 - 06:30) pm.** This will be  
clubbed together with the  
Wednesday Prayer and Bible  
study. Please pray, plan and par-  
ticipate.

### Information

- Executive meeting today after the service at EGF Hall.
- Women fellowship every Thursday @ 5pm.
- To avail transportation for Sunday service, contact Myingthungo Humtsoe @ 9402936043/ 8794172936.
- Children's choir practise every Saturday at 4pm.

### **Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

Tithes: ₹ 1,16,950

Offering: ₹ 32,737

Thanksgiving: ₹ 81,900

Building Fund: ₹ 50,05,000

Mission: ₹ 13,500

Nagamese: ₹ 340

Total: ₹ 52,50,427

### **Notes:**