

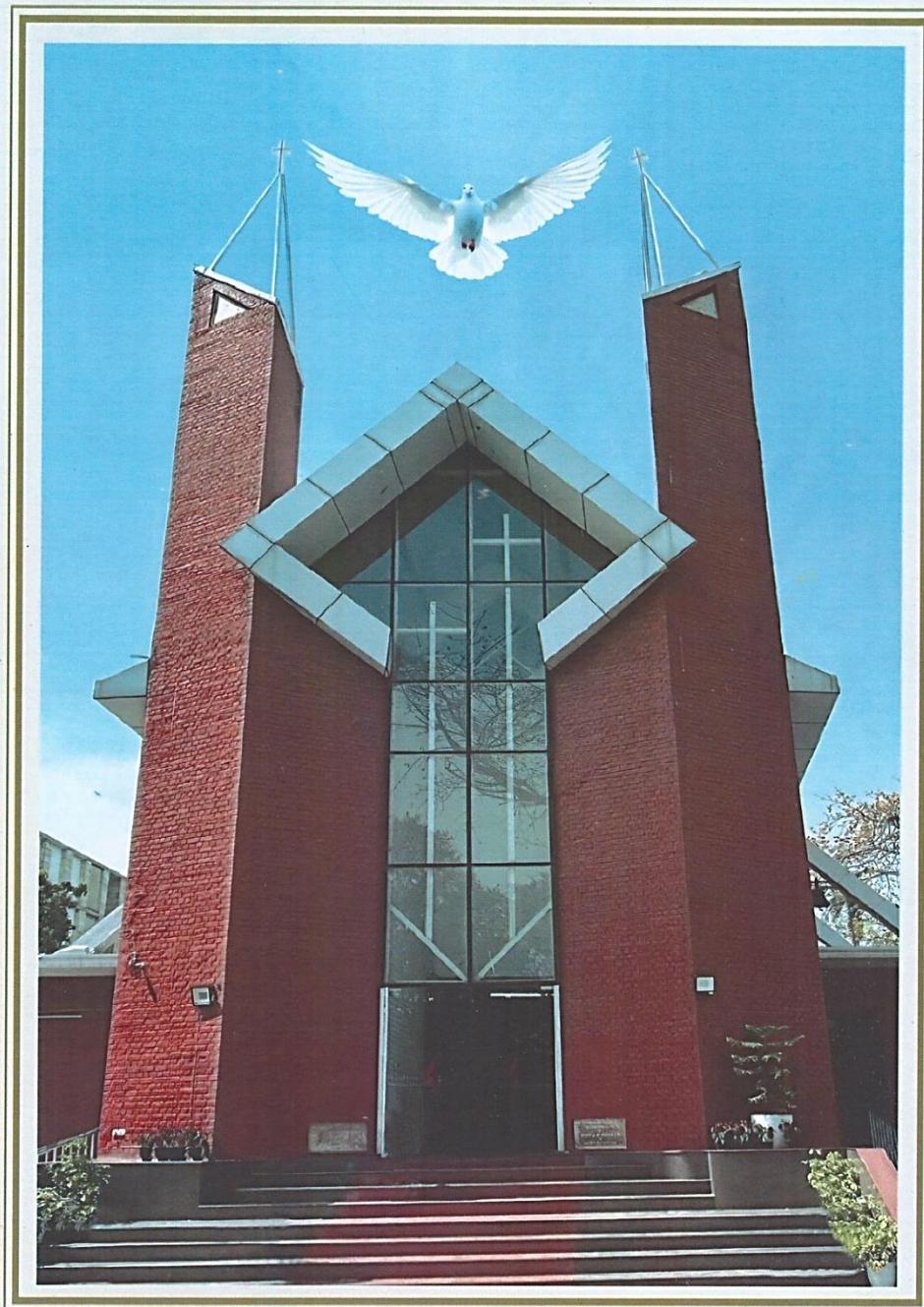


Centenary Methodist Church

English Congregation



SOUVENIR 2023-24



“The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

– John 14:17

From Sin To Newness Of Life

By Anand David

Once a man claimed that he was a loyal employee. But his boss wanted to test him. One day, before he went on a brief business trip, he gave his worker a small box with the instruction that he should not open it till he returned later that day. The worker got restlessly curious by the hour. When no one was around, he quickly flipped open the box. To his shock, a tiny bird swiftly flew off from within and vanished into thin air. His claim of loyalty was disproved. This is called Adamic nature, the tendency to sin, despite a resolve. The Bible defines sin and its subtle nature, in clear-cut terms: *"All unrighteousness is sin"* (**I John 5:17**); *"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins"* (**James 4:17**); *"Everything that does not come from faith is sin"* (**Romans 14:23**). Sin is a psychological burden, to say the least. King David lamented, *"My guilt overwhelms me—it is a burden too heavy to bear"* (**Psalm 38:4**).

Good works cannot save you from sin: Once in a church, a man donated a ceiling fan with his name painted on the blades of the fan as the donor. The Pastor inaugurated the fan with a prayer and switched it on. To the donor's dismay, the name was rendered unreadable as soon as the fan began to turn. So, he whispered to the sexton to switch it off during communion so people could know that he was the donor. This is how the sin of self-glory may lurk even in a good work.

Admit you are a sinner: American talk radio host, Dr Laura Schlessinger explains -- repentance in terms of four R's -- responsibility, regret, resolve and repair, as follows: "The first is responsibility: We

must recognize that we have done wrong. The second is regret: We must have true remorse for doing wrong and for the pain and problems we've caused. The third is resolve: We must be committed never to repeat the act regardless of the temptations or situation. The fourth and probably the most difficult is to repair the damage we've done, or at least do what we can to apologise directly to the injured party." The Bible says, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (**Romans 3:23**).

Be willing to turn from sin: A young college dropout worked for a call centre and boasted about his flair for English and arithmetic ability. His shocking complaint was that there were no intellectual thinkers in the church. So, he wanted to start a forum of friends to have intellectual discussions about God. He didn't have a teachable spirit. Evangelist *Billy Graham* wrote, *"First, you must be convinced that you need God. If you feel that you are self-sufficient, capable of meeting life head-on and under your own power, then you will never find Him."*

Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead: Self-help gurus tell you to believe in yourself. Atheists tell you to believe whatever they say. Astrologers tell you to believe in celestial objects.

Only the Bible tells you to believe a Person: The Lord Jesus Christ, because He took the punishment for your sin on Himself and died in your place on the Cross. The Bible says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (**John 3:16**).

Paul who once persecuted followers of Christ wrote, *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"* (**Romans 10:9**).

Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Saviour: The highest privilege in life is for a mortal, sinful man to talk to Almighty God with a penitent heart through a prayer of faith. The Bible talks of great truths in simple terms: *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (**Romans 10:13**).

On that basis, you may pray this suggested prayer of faith: *"Almighty God - the Heavenly Father, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that You sent your only Son Jesus Christ who took the punishment for my sins and died on the cross - in my place, for my sins. With divine help, I am turning away from my sins. I now invite Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Saviour. Let the Holy Spirit lead me into all truth. I pray this prayer in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, with thanksgiving for accepting me as your Child. Amen."*

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Walk in Newness of Life: The Bible says, *"if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

- **Read and study your Bible every day to get to know Christ better:** Ask an older Christian to guide you as you grow. The Bible says, *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth"* (**2 Timothy 2:15**).
- Talk to God in prayer every day: The Bible teaches, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"* (**Philippians 4:6**).
- Be baptised, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority: Attend a church that exalts the Name of Jesus, who came in flesh and lived a life free of sin. The Bible says, *"Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching"* (**Hebrews 10:25**).
- **Tell others about Christ:** When you begin to taste and see that the Lord is good, you will naturally be filled with the joy of Salvation that you will invariably end up talking about the saving grace of God to others. Paul said, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile"* (**Romans 1:16**).

The Bible assures, *"Yet to all who did receive Him (Jesus), to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God"* (**John 1:12**). May God bless you with a new consciousness that you are His child!

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