

SPECIAL MEETING AT ICA

August 3rd to 9th, 2015

GUEST SPEAKER :

REV. V.J. SAMKUTTY, LONDON

CHURCH PICTURE & LUNCH

We will have

**Lunch and Church Group Picture
taking on July 26**

India Christian Assembly Family Retreat

July 10–12

@ Refreshing Mountain, 455 Camp Road, Stevens, PA 17578
www.refreshingmountain.com

Directions to Retreat Center

1. From George Washington Bridge or (Verrazano Bridge) take I-95 S/ New Jersey Tpke S
2. Take Exit 6 toward I-276 W / Pennsylvania Tpke
3. I-276 W becomes I-76 W/ Pennsylvania Tpke
4. Take Exit 286 toward US-222 / Reading / Lancaster
5. Merge onto SR 1040
6. Stay straight to go onto Spur Rd.
7. Turn left onto N Reading Rd/PA-272.
8. Turn right onto W Church St.
9. W Church St becomes Main St.
10. Main St becomes Steinmetz Rd.
11. Steinmetz Rd becomes E Queen St.
12. E Queen St becomes Mount Airy Rd.
13. Turn right onto W Girl Scout Rd.
14. Turn left onto Stony Lane Rd.
15. Take the 1st right onto Camp Rd.
16. 455 CAMP RD is on the right.

(Total Travel Estimate: 178 miles – about 3 hours)

Registration starts Friday at 4:00 PM

Dinner time 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

WELCOME TO ICA SUNDAY SERVICE

Date : July 05, 2015



WEEKLY ICA VOICE

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS

24 HOUR PRAYER

TUESDAY 06:00 AM TO WEDNESDAY 06:00AM

WEDNESDAY - PRAYER MEETING @ 07:30 PM AT ICA

FRIDAY - SUNDAY—ICA RETREAT

SUNDAY SERVICE @ 10:00 AM TO 12.00 PM

Free or in Bondage?

Most of the nations of the world are said to be free. We value and cherish freedom very much. The people of the western world especially want to assert their freedom all the time. The United States of America proudly proclaims the freedom available to her people – the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, freedom of expression etc. We are, no doubt, so privileged to live in a free country.

But I suspect that man has taken the concept of freedom to such an extent that it has as many definitions as the number of people in the world. Anything is demanded in the name of freedom; no respect is given to the freedom and rights of others; individualism has replaced collective mentality.

Even worse, man has become morally bankrupt and put himself in bondage. God and his word have lost significance. Secular humanism is flourishing and for most men there is nothing called sin. The recent Supreme Court ruling is an example – sin is legalized by the elite of the nation. The President commented that the ruling is a victory for America. How true what Paul said in Romans 1, “Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.”

Can man say he is really free? With depraved mind, full of sin, wickedness and ungodliness man is drowning deeper and deeper into bondage. Is the world free when God, His Word and moral standards are replaced by human wisdom? Is the world free when human life is not valued by extremists of religion, any religion? Is the world free when animals and material things are afforded more value than humans?

It is a sad state of the church that even many Christians would not call sin, a sin. “The bishops of the Episcopal Church have authorized their clergy to perform same-sex weddings. In resolutions adopted here at the denomination’s General Convention meeting in Salt Lake City this week, the bishops approved changing the church’s canons, or rules, governing marriage, making them gender neutral by substituting the terms “man and woman” with “couple.” (Washington Post). Among mainline Protestant groups, only the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), both of which are smaller than the Episcopal Church, allow same-sex weddings in all their congregations.

Some citizens of the US who are guaranteed the freedom of religion are being punished these days for expressing their beliefs and standing for their faith. This is what the US constitution says: “The First Amendment guarantees freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly, and the right to petition. It forbids Congress from both promoting one religion over others and also restricting an individual’s religious practices”. Here is an explanation of that: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”

The Free Exercise Clause reserves the right of American citizens to accept any religious belief and engage in religious rituals. The wording in the free-exercise clauses of state constitutions that religious “[o]pinion, expression of opinion, and practice were all expressly protected” by the Free Exercise Clause. The clause protects not just religious beliefs but actions made on behalf of those beliefs. More importantly, the wording of state constitutions suggests that “free exercise envisions religiously compelled exemptions from at least some generally applicable laws.” The Free Exercise Clause not only protects religious belief and expression; it also seems to allow for violation of laws, as long as that violation is made for religious reasons. (Source: Legal Information Institute, Cornell Uni-

versity law School). Here is reality: “The Oregon Christian bakery owners who refused to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding on the grounds that it would violate their religious convictions have been ordered to pay \$135,000 in emotional damages, and have also been prohibited from speaking about standing up for their Christian beliefs. (Read more at <http://www.christianpost.com>). A judge in Washington State ruled that a 70-year-old florist who declined to make flower arrangements for a gay couple’s wedding violated the state’s anti-discrimination and consumer protection laws. The owners of a small family farm in upstate New York fined \$13,000 for discriminating against a same-sex couple for refusing to host a wedding on their property are fighting back.

Are our country and its citizens really free? My friends, let us be on our knees crying out to the Almighty to have mercy upon our nation. Let us plead like Abraham did for Sodom. Let us be the ‘one man’ God is looking for to stand in the gap.

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“I am the LORD who heals you”

Please pray for:

Mrs. Marykutty Thomas (Sist. Suja’s Mom), Pr. Mathew Samuel, Bro. Babu Thannickal, Sist. Shiny Chacko, Sam Mathew, Ammini George, Mariamma Johny (Kunjumol), Usha Danielkutty Kiran (Dr. Jolly Mathew’s granddaughter), Nirmala (Friend of Snehalatha Nair), & all who are sick among us.

Please pray for all the members of Ponnolil family as they are grieving for the loss of Bro. Jose Ponnolil.

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Please pray for these Countries

	Country	Popula- tion (in millions)	Chris- tians	Evan- gelicals	President	Prime Minister
Sun	Montenegro	0.6	73.9%	0.3%	Filip Vujanovic	Milo Djukanovic
Mon	Morocco	33.7	0.2%	0.0%	Mohammed VI(King)	Abdelillah Benkirane
Tue	Mozambique	27	47.1%	9.0%	Filipe Nyusi	Carlos Agostinho do Rosário
Wed	Myanmar	54	8.8%	5.1%	Thein Sein	
Thu	Namibia	2.4	87.4%	12.5%	Hage Geingob	Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila
Fri	Nepal	29	0.9%	unknown	Dr. Ram Baran Yadav	Sushil Koirala
Sat	Netherlands	16.7	44.9%	4.1%	Willem-Alexander (King)	Mark Rutte