## Reg．No．NoMAG（3）／NPP／392／2013－14 <br> Annual Subscription ₹ 100／－ <br> Email：heavenlyexpressindia＠gmail．com

## BANGALORE AG PASTORS MEETING

Bangalore：The regular AG Pastors meeting was conducted on 7 th Monday at Garden City AG Church．All the pastors earnestly interceded and prayed for the various needs and the progress of the Central district．Superintendent Rev．Paul Thangaiah gave the message which centered around church growth and encouraged the pastors to develop the ministry and enlarge the territory of the church．The pastors were greatly encouraged by his seven fold methods of Church growth in reference with the ministry of Jesus Christ when he was on earth． Rev．Paul Thangaiah prayed and officially declared the telephone Number 080－ 65333468 ／ 08065333469 of 24／7 prayer line MIRACLE PRAYER CENTRE （Central District Prayer Tower）．

## KUPF 10TH ANNUAL GENERAL BODY <br> MEETING

Bangalore：KUPF 10th Annual General Body Meeting shall be held on Sunday the 27th July 2014 at 5 pm at New Life College Auditorium，Bangalore． KUPF Working Committee Secretary Pastor E．J．Johnson has informed the same to Heavenly Express；all the registered members are expected to attend the above mentioned meeting．

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## UP－LPF Meeting

Bangalore：One day fasting prayer shall be held on 17 th June 2014，from 9：30am to 2 pm at Sharon AG Church MES Road Bangalore．Sister Leji George will preach from the word．Sisters from all denominations across different parts of the city are expected to attend this meeting．Its mentor and president Sist．Mercy Mani informed the same to Heavenly Express．






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## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

As the Assemblies of God （AG）emerges from its first 100 years，it is evident that the movement is closer than ever to the founder＇s vision of achieving＂the greatest evangelism that the world has ever seen．＂
The AG has now experienced 24 consecutive years of growth in the U．S．， according to new stats from AG national Leadership \＆ Resource centre in Springfield，Missouri．This news comes amid recent reports showing declining attendance for many other North American evangelical dominations with a significant decrease with the millennial set．
The story is different for the U．S Assemblies of God． Today the AG has 12，798 churches－more than at any other time in AG history． The priority given to planting new churches has expanded the movement into an unprecedented number of communities．

Over the past four years， 1408 AG churches have been planted，creating a ripple effect across the globe．The impact is especially evident among Latino adherents，who now make up $20 \%$ of the fellowship（more than $40 \%$ of total adherents are ethnic minorities），and millenials （ages 18－34），who accounted for $21 \%$ of the increase．

New numbers released by the AG recently detail the multiple areas of growth from 2012 to 2013．The largest gain was made among water baptism，which rose $4.3 \%$ ．Other notable statistics include the following：

## MOST＇DROP－OUTS＇RETURN

US：According to Lifeway＇s multi year study，about $70 \%$ of teens leave Church．But， in what may come as a surprise，two－thirds do ultimately return after a ＂hiatus＂．The researchers


Assemblies of God International Headquarters，Springfield Missouri
Adherents increased $1.0 \%$ The net growth of the to 3，127，857．

Membership increased 1．4\％ to 1，805，381．
Major worship service attendance grew $2 \%$ to 1，918，686．

Water baptisms rose $4.3 \%$ to 1，37，375．

Spirit baptisms grew $2.9 \%$ to 83，731．
Conversions increased $0.6 \%$ to 456,395 ．
Credentialed ministers grew $1.6 \%$ to 36,434 ．

Worldwide，the AG grew $1.7 \%$ to $67,512,302$ adherents．There are now 384，205 ministers and 366,105 churches and preaching points．
George O．Wood，General Superintendent of the General Council of the Assemblies of God，says the growth signals health of the movement，but the scope of the need remains critical．
＂I am grateful to the Lord that the Assemblies of God continues to experience growth both nationally and worldwide，＂he says．＂In the USA，we have now enjoyed 24 straight years of growth．
also found that most of the teens dint set out to reject the Church or thr theology of their parents；they simply drifted away．They just no longer found the Church to be important．

The net growth of the Assemblies of God worldwide would fill over 11 stadiums，each seating 100，000．Truly，the Holy Spirit is at work in our day．
＂At the same time，we humbly recognize that there are multiplied millions that have never had an adequate presentation of the Gospel or a local church in our community．Thus，in this our 100 th year，we must redouble our efforts to bear witness，in the power of the Holy Spirit，to reach all the world with the Gospel．＂
Worldwide AG members will join together in Springfield this fall for a Centennial Celebration， rejoicing in the unity they have shared for the past century，and the denomination globally．
The 100th anniversary will be a truly international event，with guest speakers from AG entities all over the world，and is expected to be one of the largest international gatherings of AG members，with more than 5000 individuals travelling from 99 different countries to attend．

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PASTORS ADVISED TO ADDRESS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES


Washington，May 22 ：Rev．based his remarks on Franklin Graham told a large Rev．21：8，wherein God lists gathering of pastors here to address controversial issues like abortion and homosexuality from the pulpit，declaring that＂God Hates Cowards．＂Graham， who heads Samaritan＇s Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association，

## NEW HOPE FOR MARRIAGES：

## US：Statistics show that $72 \%$ <br> marriages that are unhappy，

 of married people in US are still married to their first Spouse．＂Contrary to popular opinion，most marriages are strong and happy for a lifetime．That doesn＇t mean that most marriages are perfect；there are still plenty of legitimate concerns out there．But for our culture as a whole，the the ones that don＇t make it， are the exception rather than the rule．This is according to a new 8 year investigative study by Bestselling author and researcher Shaunti Feldhahn who has disclosed her findings in a new book called，＂The Good news about Marriage．＂

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God has a glorious design for you.
Your task in life is discovering what He has purposed in your life. Do not let it pass. Find out what God has destined you to be.

Why am I here? Isn't there something more to life? Do I have a purpose? Why do I feel alone? Is there something greater to live for? Will anyone care, when I am gone? But surely, there must me something more to share by the heartbeat of humanity. God has set eternity in the hearts of all men. Just as the way you cannot see the wind, yet believe in its existence, by its impact. So, it is with God.
Though you have never seen love, you accept its reality because you have felt it. It is the common thread that runs throughout the ages. History declares His existence.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)
There is no place you can go to, where he is not present. He is in the words, He is in the stones, He is in the thunder storm, He is in the sun set, and He is in the science. He was with Daniel in the lion's den. He was there with Jonah in the belly of whale. He was in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He is the ever present help in the time of need. His arm is not too short to save. He is the best companion for any situation. He is the Rock that cannot be shaken. He is your shield from your enemies. He is a Fortress; He is the lion of Judah. He is the Great I AM. He is the Lord of Lords; He is the King of Kings. He is the Beginning and the End.
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

No one knows you like God does. He knows you even before you were born. He knit you together in your mother's womb and he's been intimately acquainted with every detail of your life right up until now. He's aware of your weaknesses as well as your strengths. He knows your fears and your joys. He knows how to make your life fulfilling and how to make it really count for something. That's why he has plans for you. He didn't create you, and then abandon you to figure out life as you go along. He loves you far too much for that!

God has a perfect plan for your life. It's tailored just for you. It matches the things He's building into your character right now. The plan he has for you is not the same as His plans for your friends. All of your experiences, both good and bad, fit into His plans. The promises He has made to you and the things He has taught you are part of His design for your life.
How tragic to live your life and accomplish all your own goals, yet never discovering what could have been if you had sought God's direction! Be sure to spend time consulting the Master in your decisions. He will show you options you never considered. You will have no regrets when you allow God to direct your steps, for His path leads to abundant life (John 10:10).
"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he
justified, he also glorified". Romans 8:29-30.

Remember, your life is a part of God's grand design. God had a plan for your life since before time began. Your life, therefore, has a destiny. Christ is the model upon which the Father is developing your life. You are meant to have a relationship with the Father that is as intimate as the relationship between Jesus and the Father (John 17:21). Every event He allows into your life is designed to make you more like Christ.

God's call came when He invited you to join Him in the process! His call was extremely personal, designed specifically for your response. How wonderful to realize that at a particular moment in history, almighty God spoke personally to you and invited you to become His child!

What could be possibly stopping men from realizing their destiny with God? Because of sin, people could never live blamelessly. But God forgave your sin and justified you, declaring you righteous. All the spiritual debt you carried with Him was forgiven, and you were freed to enjoy God and to serve Him for the rest of eternity. In Biblical times, the glory of God's people was His presence. You, too, are glorified because the fullness of God now dwells within you, and you will one day be with Him (Col. 1:27; 2:9). He invites you to join Him in working out His will in your life-conforming you to His image (Phil. 2:12).
God has a glorious design for you. Your task in life is discovering what He has purposed in your life. Do not let it pass. Find out what God has destined you to be.


## 600,000 MARCH FOR JESUS

 showcase the country's growing Evangelical population. The march was held under the slogan " I belong to Jesus. I am a Champion", in honour of participants' faith and the

2014 FIFA World Cup hosted by Brazil. The Brazilian Bible Society planned to distribute four million bibles among those who attended the World Cup.

# THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR 

## Ephesus

Ephesus was one of the greatest cities of Asia Minor during the N.T times. Historians estimated that it had a population of more than 2, 00,000 . Under the Roman Empire, Ephesus enjoyed a long time of peace and prosperity. However, by the middle of the third cent signs of decay had appeared. In A.D. 263 Goths raided the city and caused great destruction at the temple of Diana.
Ephesus was located four miles from the Aegian Sea and possessed an inland harbour connected with the Cayster River. The city had a port and it had been bypassed by major movements of trade. The harbour was kept large enough and deep enough by constant dredging. The city felt the general economic decline of the Empire during the third cent. After the invasion by Goths in 263 it was unable to continue the dredging. By the fourth century the port was silting up fast and by the tenth century the prosperous city of Roman times was completely deserted and invaded by marshes. The inevitable happened Ephesus becomes a stone quarry for nearby communities.

## Background Of The City

The city attracted large number of people due to its political, economic and religious factors.
Politically it had become the de facto capital of the province, and the Roman governor resided there.
Its economic prosperity lay in the fact that Ephesus stood on the great northsouth road of the western Asia Minor and controlled trade flowing into the interior of Asia Minor along
the Meander and Lycus valleys (Asia Minor was in Turkey). The people worshiped goddess Artemis or Diana. The temple of Diana was one of the wonders of the Ancient world. In a year a month (march-April) dedicated to the worship of the goddess, during this time devotees came from many other provinces to participate in the festival.

Paul and the church in Ephesus
Paul's real destination of the third missionary Journey was Ephesus. During the second missionary journey, on his return trip to Jerusalem, he had stopped at Ephesus for a short while and ministered there in the synagogue (Acts 18:19). Perhaps on this occasion he realized the strategic importance of his evangelistic endeavours in this city and had made plans to return at an early date. The Christian faith came to Ephesus perhaps with Aquila and Priscilla when Paul left them there en route from Corinth to Antioch (Acts.18:18-22). On his next missionary Journey the Apostle remained in Ephesus more than 2 years as part of his evangelistic campaign.
Ephesus also attracted the ministry of other N.T. figures such as Timothy, Tychichus, John Mark and John the Apostle.

The Message To The Church In Ephesus
The writer, John begins his tour of the churches with the church at Ephesus, not only for geographical and political reasons, but also because this was the most important church in the province. In the closing decade of the first cent it





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seems to have been the literary centre of Asiatic Christianity, from which emanated not only the Revelation, but also the Gospel and Letters of John, and perhaps also at a later date the pastoral Epistles.
The Letter to Ephesus comes from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven lamp stands. From Rev.1:20 we learned that the lamp stands are churches and the stars their angels. Christ holds the angels (they are in his control) and walks among the lamp stands. He is always in their midst and therefore is keenly aware of how they are living in the context of the seven letters. His presence is better interpreted in terms of inspection and resulting knowledge. Christ, before directly addressing their problem, he admires them for their hard labour of persevering in doctoral faithfulness. They have strenuously resisted all threats to the purity of their faith, both from without and from within.
The Ephesus church paid a price to serve the Lord. They carefully examined the visiting ministers to see if they were genuine. Paul had warned the Ephesus elders that false teachers would come in from the outside and even arise from within the church (Acts.20:28-31), and John had instructed them to "try the spirits."(1 John 4:1-6)
The church had discerned doctrinal inconsistency in a group associated with the church who called themselves "apostles." They are probably claiming to be part of the outer circles of the apostles, wider than the twelve which included James the just, Barnabas, Paul, Silas, Andronicus and Junia (Acts.14:14; Rom.16:7; I Cor.15:7; Gal.1:19;1 Thess.2:6). After examining this group, the church determined that they were "false" teachers and therefore "evil" and exposed them as such. When men came to Corinth who claimed to be apostles and
produced impressive credentials, Paul dismissed them scathingly as 'super apostles', insisting that only valid criterion of apostleship was whether 'the works of the apostles' had been performed(2 Cor.12:11). The Ephesus church called them liars because they were not able to live up to their pretensions. Rev.2:2 indicates that the church appears to have improved in discernment since Paul's day (1 Tim.1:15), a practice they have continued in the decades that followed. In Matthew 7:15,16 Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets who will come into our midst as wolves in sheep's clothing. By their fruit you shall know them." Indeed, Satan has false ministers and the church must be constantly alert to detect them and reject them.
Ephesus Christians not only separated from false Christians but also from false deeds. Here we can see a group called Nicolatian means "to conquer the people." They initiated what we know today as "clergy" and "laity" a false division that is taught nowhere in the New Testament. According to 1Peter 2:9 and Rev.1:6 all believers are "kings and Priests" and have equal access to the father through the blood of Christ (Heb.10:19ff). We can meet this dangerous group again in the message to the church at Pergamum (Rev.2:12-17).
The believers at Ephesus were suffering people who patiently bored their burdens and toiled without fainting. And they did all for the sake of Christ. However, the one among the lamp stands saw into their hearts, and he had a different diagnosis from ours.
Jesus sees this church as the one really suffered from "heart trouble"- they had abandoned their first love. They displayed "works ...labour and patience" (Rev.2:2), but these qualities were not motivated by the love for Christ. What we do for the Lord is important but our intention behind it is also important. God sees

Pr. Samkutty

our heart or intentions more than our work.
What is first love? It is the devotion to Christ that so often characterizes the believer. The expression includes both love of God and love of mankind at large, but seems to refer mainly to their love for one another. God speaks through the prophet to apostate Israel. Jeremiah 2:1-2 talks about the "honey moon" love of the husband and wife. While it is true that mature married love deepens and grows richer, it is also true that it should never lose the excitement and wonder of that "honeymoon days." One of the reasons for the breaking of family life is the lack of first love. When a husband and wife begin to take each other for granted, and the life become routine, then the marriage is in danger.
It is possible to serve, sacrifice and suffer for Jesus and yet not really love Jesus Christ. Labour is not a substitute for Love; neither is purity a substitute for passion. The church must have both love and passion for Christ.
By reading Paul's epistles to Ephesians we can discover at least 20 references to love. Paul emphasized the believer's exalted position "in Christ....in the heavenly places". But the Ephesians Christians had fallen and not living up to its heavenly position in Christ (Rev.2:5). When we love Christ fervently then we can serve Him faithfully. Our love for him must be pure (Eph.6:24).
What was the fate of the church which did not exist in first love? History says that the city was attacked by Goths in A.D 263 and it became a marshy land without any inhabitants. The church no longer remained. In Jesus words the lamp stand was removed.





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## AMAZING VOICE 2014

Bangalore：The orientation of amazing voice 2014 was conducted by its organizing committee on 29th June 2014 at City Harvest Church Bangalore．Rev．Isaac Tharakan chaired the meeting．IPC Karnataka State Vice president and the President of KUPF Pr．T．D． Thomas inaugurated the meeting by releasing the Logo of Amazing voice 2014 ．Brother V．J．Traven，a well known singer，was the chief guest of the event．The songs sung by brother V．J Traven was a great blessing． Pastor Toby，Joy M George and Pastor Abraham Varghese prayed for the


Brother V．J．Traven，a well known vocalist and the chief guest，singing meeting．Chief Convener Mathew Extended the Vote Pastor Bhaktha valsalan of thanks．Pastor Bhaktha delivered introduction and Valsalan Introduced the welcome speech，Associate Heavenly Express News convener Brother Biju paper to the audience．

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## SATANISTS WANT STATUE NEXT TO 10 COMMANDMENTS

Oklahoma: It may seem absurd - or given the moral state of the nation, appropriate -- but the grounds committee for the Oklahoma State Capitol, the Preservation Commission, has been asked by The Satanic Temple, a group from New York, to place a privately funded statue of Satan, complete with pentagram and two fawning children at Lucifer's knee, on the Capitol grounds near a monument of the Ten Commandments.
In the statue, which is to be cast in bronze and is near completion, Satan is depicted as "Baphomet" with a goat's head and horns, and there is a boy on his left and a girl on his right." "It also offers a lap that visitors can come to sit on, have their picture taken with."
The Satanic Temple decided to request a permit for the Baphomet statue after a monument of the Ten Commandments was installed on the grounds of the Oklahoma State Capitol in November 2012. That monument, also privately funded, was donated by Dr. Mike Ritze, who is a member of the Oklahoma House of

Representatives. "There will never be a satanic monument on the grounds of the Oklahoma State


Capitol and the suggestion that there might be is absurd," Alex Weintz, spokesman for Gov. Mary Fallin, said in a statement to FoxNews.com.
As for why it is important to erect a statue of Lucifer next to the Ten Commandments, Greaves said, "We would have never suggested that a Satanic monument should be represented on Capitol grounds if it weren't for the fact that the 10 Commandments were already there. The idea of a solitary monument, related to any one religion, standing on Capitol grounds is offensive."


1) To which tribe did Jesus belong?
2) Which is the longest Psalm?
3) How much of Elijah's spirit did Elisha receive?
4) Which bird does Job say is "lacking in wisdom", due to the fact she leaves her eggs on the floor?
5) Who was Jacob's grandfather?
6) What did Samson carry to the top of the hill overlooking Hebron?
7) The snail is mentioned in which Psalm?
8) What did Daniel see by the river Hiddekel?
9) Where was Solomon anointed?
10) Who did Joseph's brothers sell him to?

The correct answers should reach, on or before 25th of the respective month, to the following address:
The Quiz Master, Heavenly Express, No. I55, KSFC
LAYOUT, Oil Mill Road, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore 560084.
(or) Email Id : heavenlyexpressindia@gmail.com First and second prize will be awarded for every publication.

The cost to build the 10 commandment statue was $\$ 10,000$ (around 6 lakhs) while the estimate of the satan statue open for online donations was $\$ 20000$ (around 12lakhs). But within a few days the donations reached $\$ 28,150$ (around 16 lakhs). Even the Satan Temple officials were amazed by the zeal of the people. Many Christian thinkers take this event as a symbol of increasing ungodliness spreading in the Western states.
Oklahoma was the state that ranked top 8th position in the most Christian state list in the USA with around $63 \%$ of its population as Christians. Will Oklahoma, a state where one could see Christian Churches in every nook and corner of the streets, be the site that holds the statue of Lucifer himself?

> IRAQI CHRISTIANS UNDER ISIS ATTACK

Christians are among half a million people who are fleeing their homes after the Islamist Extremist group ISIS(Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), took control of Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq, last month. In a land that has already witnessed more than a million Christian leave over the past decade, we may see the extinction of the entire community,: said International Christian Concern(ICC) Regional Manager for the middle East, Todd Daniels. Only about 400000 Christians remain in Iraq. The ruthlessness of ISIS, an offshoot of al-Qaeda has been legendary. Its beheadings, crucifixions and other atrocities toward Christians and everyone else who fails to conform to its vision of a Caliphate were in full display earlier this year in Syria.

## PREGNANT MOTHER CONDEMNED



Sudan: Meriam Ibrahim, Ibrahim is guilty of both the Christian Pregnant adultery and apostasy, for mother in Sudan who has been sentenced to 100 lashes and death, has refused to renounce her faith to save her life, sparking global petitions demanding her release. "The Sudanese Judge who sentenced her to death gave her three chances to recant- to abandon her Christian faith. Meriam refused. "I am a Christian and I will remain a Christian" 'she said. American Centre for Law and Justice Chief Counsel Jay Sekulow wrote "She won't abandon her faith. We must not abandon her." According to Sudan's Public Order Criminal Code,
marrying a Christian man and for turning away from Islam. She was allowed to give birth before her execution.
However, She was set free from prison on 23rd June (Monday) when an appeals court overturned the original conviction. The joy of her release was shortlived, however, as she and her Christian husband was detained at an airport in Sudan less than 24 hours following her release. But another update on Tuesday (24th June) has confirmed that Ibrahim has once again been released by Sudanese authorities.

## THOUSANDS ACCEPT CHRIST

Poland : Thousands came forward to accept Jesus into their lives at the Festival Of Hope in Warsaw, as Franklin Graham shared the Gospel and asked the crowd, " Will you Accept His love? God

Loves You. And God wants to give you everlasting life, but that only comes through Faith in Jesus Christ," Graham told the 30,000 crowd at the two- day convention.

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The Bible has:
773,692 words, 31,173 verses, 1189 chapters, 3,566,480 letters, 1260 promises, 6468 commands, Over 8000 prophesies, 3294 questions, 1845 references to Christ's second coming in the OT ( 318 in the NT)
Shortest verse: Jn 11:35: "Jesus wept" Longest verse: Esther 8:9, Longest chapter: Ps 119, Shortest chapter: Ps 117, Shortest book: 3 John,

Longest book: Psalms. Most used word: "the" (over 24,000 times).
The exact middle of the Bible is (Ps 118:8). The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years by 40 different authors. The longest sentence in the Bible (KJV Version) is found in (Eph 1:3-14). Nine out of every ten people own a Bible. The Bible has been translated into at least 600 languages.

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