



Welcome

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Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
 Warm greetings in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for the first newsletter of ACFI , ACFI Messenger. I want to thank Vinoth & Shalini Rajkumar who are leading this effort in communicating ACFI programs and activities to everyone through this newsletter.
 We plan to have this printed every two months. We hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter and find it much informative and inspiring to you.
 The Lord is setting a new avenue for ACFI to reach out and be His witnesses in the Austin area through this newsletter as it gets circulated.
 I like to wish God's blessing on all the efforts and pray that ACFI will be a great blessing to many.



Mani Rajaia
Chairman ACFI

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1a)

Yours in Christ
Mani Rajaia
(Chairman)

ACFI ministries

include:

- Prayer
- Mission
- Children
- Music
- Ladies
- Men's

ACFI timeline

Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI) is a Non-Denominational Church meeting the spiritual needs of all people in the Austin metro area.

This Church started as a small cottage prayer meeting in December 2000 at an apartment complex in Austin. At that time, 3 families staying in the same apartment complex would meet

every Saturday to study the Word of God and have a time of fellowship.

Later this fellowship was revived in September 2001 and named as Austin Christian Fellowship of India. Ever since, Almighty God has been wondrously enabling the growth of this Church spiritually and in number to reach out

to the Austin Metro area and beyond. In early 2003, ACFI was registered as a Non-Denominational Church and a Church Board was formed.





Worship Ministry - Bro. Onesi Gnaniah

Since January, God's hand has been moving in an awesome way in the worship ministry. We have ventured into new songs and have changed the format of worship to prepare the congregation for God's word that precedes the time of worship.

We've also included a welcome song to get the congregation's focused turned towards to worship as they enter the service.

The inclusion of regional songs has also been a blessing. We've had several members of ACFI sing in various languages during offering and we've also started singing regional songs the first Sunday of each month.

Our goal is to continue to fine tune our worship time continuously so that the congregation's thirst to experience the presence of God becomes deeper and deeper.

If anyone is interested in joining the worship team, please contact me as we always need volunteers to lead our congregation in worship.

Prayer Ministry - Bro. John Ramesh

Greetings to you all, in the Prayer answering name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer has been the foundation on which the Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI) stands. We derive our strength from it. From the very beginning of this year there has been a concerted focus on prayer. As a church ACFI recognizes the strength in prayer and spending time in the presence of our God, communing with Him and placing our requests at His feet and getting answers from Him, We serve a prayer answering God who listens and answers our prayers..

The various Prayer activities that we at ACFI are undertaking can be categorized into:

Worship time Prayer : On every Sunday as part of our worship we dedicate a time to testify and place our request at His presence.

Powerhouse prayer : The first Saturday of every month we gather in a small group at 8:00 AM in the morning focusing on prayer for 3 hours to start the month at the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

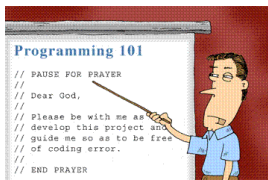
All Night Prayer : The fourth Friday of every month we have been gathering in various homes celebrating Jesus Christ and spending all night reveling in His glory. Note worthy among them is in the month of February we had a family from a local church requesting us to hold the all night prayer in their home and it was a wonderful time that we had.

Fasting Chain prayer : During the 40 days of Lent leading to Good Friday, we had a chain of 40 prayer warriors who fasted and prayed for various need and healings, for ACFI ministries our children, for revival in the Austin metro area, in Texas, the USA and also in India. We had some wonderful and miraculous answers to our prayers.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, the door is opened.

- Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you."



Ladies Ministry - Sis. Sujatha David

Bible Study :By God’s grace, the Ladies Bible Study has continued to meet very 3rd Friday of the month. At the beginning of the year we continued the topic of ‘How to present the gospel to those who believe in other gods?’ These sessions were very interactive; we heard testimony for ACFI ladies who came into the faith from other religions, the role-play session was especially effective, so much so that we extended the discussion on topic for 3 more weeks than originally planned. We hope to equip and train ourselves so that we can be better prepared to be Ambassadors for Christ.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1a

For the month of March, April and May we are studying Hebrews 11 – a study on Faith,

led by Alice John.

In the month of February, we have added a new section in our Bible Study called ‘Getting into the Word’; the objective is to read the Word of God regularly and attempt to commit to memory as many verses as we can. We have started by reading the Book of Ecclesiastes, reading 3 chapters of the Book for each Bible Study.

To make the study fun, there games conducted based on the section of reading. Alice John & Iris aunty conducted quiz and true or false games on the chapters. Also, Iris aunty very graciously volunteered to do a summary for each of these chapters, which has been a tremendous help in learning the nuggets of wisdom within these chapters.

Showers:

Well, it was sort of pouring and we were glad for it. We

had baby showers for Prema, Melody & Manisha during the month of February to uphold the ladies and their families in prayer as they prepared for the birth of their child.

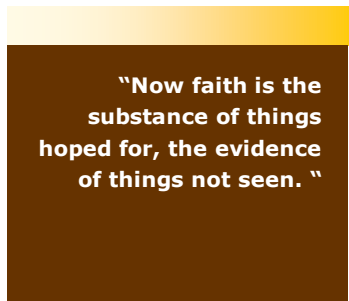
Special Songs:

During the Easter worship service, the ACFI ladies sang a couple of special songs. We plan to sing one or more special songs once every 3 months

"You are my witnesses," declares the LORD... Isaiah 43:10a

I am very excited about the various activities we are planning and the level of commitment and volunteerism in the ladies. I want to thank all the ladies who have been doing various roles in the past months and for those keeping us in their prayers.

Ladies come join us to share, learn and grow in God’s word.



Children Ministry - Sis. Angeline Emmanuel

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Proverbs 1:7

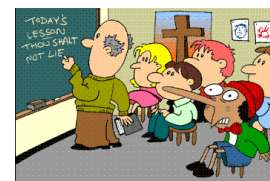
With this is mind, the Sunday school teachers of ACFI work towards raising our younger generation in the Fear of the Lord. We teach them the Word of God, make them memorize the verses from the lessons and bring out the talents in them for His Glory. This year too our children have been giving

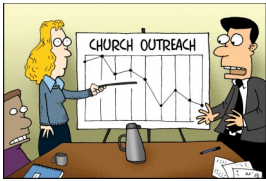
special songs in the Worship service every second Sunday and recite the memory verses they have learnt.

We have introduced monthly quiz competitions for the senior class to encourage them to learn their lessons. Our toddlers and kindergartners are getting ready to display what they have learnt on “Creation” during our Annual Family retreat 2007 . We have also

started teaching Bible Songs and Choruses for our infants during the last month.

We would like to thank the all parents who have been praying for us and encouraging and supporting us in every aspect. Your children are special to us and we will continue to help them learn the Word of God and grow spiritually.





Outreach Ministry - Bro. Patrick Pitchappa

ACFI family as part of our International outreach ministry support few missions in India, both by regularly praying for their needs and supporting them financially. We uphold them in our weekly prayers, Power house prayer and all night prayers; we set aside one day for each of the mission prayer needs in the 40 day fasting prayer during the Lent season. The following are update for the Missions that ACFI supports

Reaching Hand Society: is the mission founded by Dr. Iris Paul to cater to the medical, economical and spiritual needs of the Bondo tribal people in the remote hills of Malkangiri and Rabhagudda, We had the privilege of having aunty Dr. Iris Paul in our midst for

six months as she encouraged and blessed us during her stay in Austin with son Mano and Sangeetha Paul. India Mission Association has awarded RHS with an excellence award for taking care of the missionaries

Promised Land Orphanage: is a mission for orphan children in coimbatore India headed by Sis. Radha White. They provide immeasurable support and loving care for the orphan children. They work amidst great opposition and danger. Recently they rescued 4 girl babies from female infanticide. Bro. Vetrivel and wife Sis. Gladys Indian Evangelical Mission: ACFI supports Bro. Vetrivel and wife Sis. Gladys who work in sharing the gospel and catering to the spiritual needs of new converts in

Khammam District in Andhra Pradesh. They are being transferred to the Koya field from April 2007. The missionaries have health needs and ACFI regularly prays for them.

The Ward Family: The Ward family. Jeff & Trish and their children Luke and Victoria are native of Austin, USA. They got the call of God to serve sacrificially, training leaders in the north eastern part of India called Siliguri. The Ward family will be visiting Austin on Friday, May 11th at 6:30 pm at First Evangelical Free Church and invite every one having a passion for missions in India to enjoy dinner and stories from the mission field.

"We uphold them in our weekly prayers, Power house prayer and all night prayers; we set aside one day for each of the mission prayer needs in the 40 day fasting prayer during the Lent season."

Men's Ministry - Bro. Harry Maddela

Psalms 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" The beginning of this year marked the birth of the full fledged men's ministry in ACFI. As a kick off event a bowling night was scheduled on March 02 at the Main event. 12 men participated that night and it was a memorable time of fellowship and fun. We had a Bible quiz and a crossword puzzle during the bowling time. Men are meeting Monday evenings to keep fit and play tennis. The intention of the men's ministry is to have fun and fellowship and grow to-

gether in the Lord and support each other to become better husbands and fathers that the Lord has intended us to be and assume the role of the strong spiritual head in our own families.

Furthering the vision of ACFI, We men also intend to coordinate with the ladies fellowship and hold our fellowship gathering on the same day as theirs.

We also desire to be used as a group to provide spiritual guidance to the men of ACFI that helps and grow stronger in faith and service to the Church and committed to honor Jesus Christ by helping to find the

reality of the Spirit-filled walk with Christ and to lead their family, friends, and community into the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ by bringing together in friendship and fellowship and Share God's Plan of Salvation with a lost world through Bible study, sporting events and special events with children. The men are challenged and supported in providing spiritual leadership to their families and friends



Kid's Korner - Sis. Shalini Rajkumar

On the lighter side



YET ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO FIT A CAMEL THROUGH A NEEDLE

Crossword puzzle - Abraham

ACROSS

- 6 First wife's original name
- 7 Abraham's original name
- 8 A daughter-in-law
- 12 First son
- 15 Land promised to Abraham's

DOWN

- 1 Wicked city destroyed by God
- 2 Wicked city destroyed by God
- 3 A grandson
- 16 Second wife

ACROSS

- 3 A grandson
- 4 First Wife
- 5 Wife's handmaiden
- 9 King of the Philistines
- 10 Second son
- 11 I will make of you a great
- 13 A grandson
- 14 A nephew

Mark 10:23 -25
 Looking at his disciples, Jesus said, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who 'have it all' to enter God's kingdom?" The disciples couldn't believe what they were hearing, but Jesus kept on: "You can't imagine how difficult. I'd say it's easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for the rich to get into God's kingdom."

**Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
 Matthew 19:14**

Know your Bible

1. What did God place at the garden of Eden's east entrance, after he drove Adam out?
2. What happened when Jesus condemned an unproductive fig tree?
3. Whose mother-in-law was healed of a high fever by Jesus and arose to serve her guests?

1. Cherubims & flaming sword
 Gen 3:24
 2. It withered away
 Mat 21:18-19
 3. Simon Peter's
 Luke 4:38-39

Fond Memories

Mrs. Pauline Mary (Feb 14, 1934-Feb 15, 2007)

“I was very fortunate in God's decision that I be given to you as your Son, for it was you who showed me how to care, how to love, how to feel, how to pray and how to live in Christ's love. Also, God was kind enough to let my mother to live till my daughter saw her. Mom, my thoughts and my heart will always remember you.”

-Irudaya Samy Charles



Some of our ACFI members have lost their near and dear ones, who have gone to be with the Lord. The ACFI extended family consoled and comforted them in their time of sorrow and loneliness.

Mrs. Rajamal Chelliah (May 3rd 1916 - Feb 6th 2007)

“It was a real blessing for us to have you as our Grandma. You were a good friend, an adviser, a teacher and a guide for us to lead a Christian challenging life. Your prayers strengthened us much and you are now with God as a counselor for us.”

YOU ARE ALWAYS WITH US GRANDMA

Vinod & Angeline Emmanuel



*If tears could build a stairway
And memories were a lane,
I would walk right up to heaven
To bring you home again.*

Spiritual Helpline

What is praising God?

It is Worship : “...the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him” (John 4:23), Real praise for God is a true heart felt expression of gratitude, love, adoration and worship all rolled into one.

It is a sacrifice : “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Hebrews 13:15). It is a sacrifice of total abandonment of oneself in humility and the only desire that is left is to honor God and exalt His name. It is an expression only the heart can understand and no words can explain or define it.

It is not lip service or meant for others to see: “This people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me” (Matthew 15:8). – It needs to be between you and God; God knows every heart and understands every thought. Outward expression does help but should not be for others.

Do you have a question about God, Jesus, the Bible?

Have you ever needed help understanding a Bible verse or passage?

Are there any spiritual issues in your life for which you need advice or counsel?

We'll get all the above answered and publish couple of questions with answers from our elders in the section.

Please send your questions to rvinoth@gmail.com



News and Events



- ACFI prayer meeting for Vinod's grandmother's demise was held at Vinod & Angel's home on 02/06
- ACFI VISION Sunday was held on Feb 11 and all the members were sharing their thoughts and suggestions for a new ACFI.
- ACFI prayer meeting for Charles's mother's passing away was held at Charles & Subha's home on 02/15
- ACFI men helped move John Cherukuri's house on 3/10
- We welcome the new additions Shiloh Parishudh Mittra, Aaron Joel George, Faustina Danielle Selvaraj and Vinathi Rachel Potireddy to the ACFI family
- Celebrate the ministry of the Ward family along with his friends and family at First Evangelical Free Church on 05/11

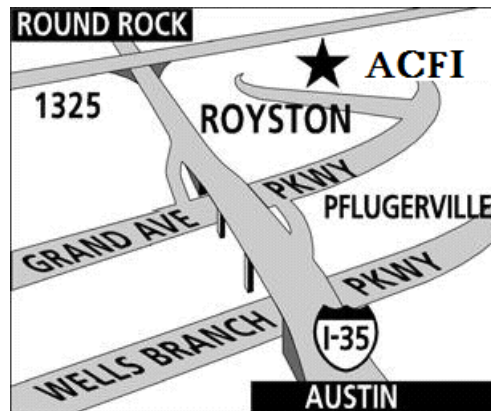
Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI)

Location

Grace Christian Center
1500 Royston Lane,
Round Rock, TX 78664

Mailing Address

Austin Christian Fellowship of India
PO Box 5672
Round Rock, TX-78683



Our web address www.acfi.cc

Program Schedule

- Worship service - Sundays , 5:00 PM
- Powerhouse Fasting Prayer - 1st Saturday , 8:00 AM
- Home Fellowship - 3rd Saturday , 7:00 PM
- All Night Prayer - 4th Friday , 10:00 PM
- Ladies Bible Study - 3rd Friday , 7:00 PM

