

Grace Christian Fellowship

May 2025 - Newsletter



Welcome to May

Hi everyone, I'm sure you've all seen the beautiful blossom appear on the trees and transform the dull winter landscape, with shows of glorious flowers. Apparently, the Cherry Plum, a thorny shrub or small tree, frequently planted in urban areas, is one of the first trees to come into flower in the spring.

In Israel, it is the almond tree that blossoms first in spring. However, although it is the first to blossom, it takes a long time to produce ripe fruit. From the Hebrew word for almond, '*shaked*', comes another word, '*shakdanoot*'. This is applied to an industrious person and to someone who studies the Word of God with perseverance and diligence. In the Book of Jeremiah (1:11-12) '*shakdanoot*' also denotes watchfulness.

In Jeremiah, God says, *"Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said: 'I see a rod of an almond-tree.' Then said the LORD unto me, 'You have well seen; for I watch over my Word to perform it.'"*

It seems that there is a link between God's word producing results and coming to pass, and the almond tree bearing fruit. Although the almond blossom is the first to flower, the fruit takes a long time to grow. It is the same with the Word of God in our lives! We can have a big showy burst of colour at salvation, but the real fruit that comes from studying, believing and obeying the Word, takes a long time to develop and only comes through hard work, perseverance and watchfulness.

So let's remember, as we see the blossom trees around us, that we need to daily read, study and pray about the Word, so we can see spiritual fruit develop in our lives and stand strong in adversity. Serena

Hope Community Trust India - Update

Nicky and Samuel have been working hard to develop the ministry in India. The school on the campus now has 130 pupils and the children's home has 50 pupils. Some of the school pupils are paying pupils which brings some money into the ministry and Samuel would eventually like to have some paying children in the children's home.

It is Samuel's plan to open 50 churches in the areas of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, and he and his pastors are regularly showing God's love by feeding the poor and preaching the gospel in rural areas. Here are some of the projects they have completed...

- In the last year, they have made a lot of advancements in the ministry. The school has been developed and is now three times the size.
- They have had 27 baptisms since July 24.
- They have built a church and a house for a local pastor and his family.
- They have five Bible College Students who are being trained for the ministry.
- Samuel goes out to feed the poor every week. He has given out approx 5040 meals in the last 10 months.
- They have been preaching the gospel in remote tribal areas and as a result they have 21 tribal children in the home.
- Samuel has started work on a grocery store and breakfast centre at the edge of the campus, as there are 500 families on the new university campus site, just down the road.
- The ground floor of the new boys building is completely finished.
- They have built a new dining room and kitchen for the campus, where 300 people can be seated

Hope Community Trust India - Prayer Requests

Here are some needs that Nicky and Samuel would like the church to pray for. Please pray for...

- the new dining room roof to be completed
 - some new bunk beds for the children's home
 - some new staff and a sponsor for the new cook and warden
 - a new building on some free land that was given, so the land is not taken away from them.
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Prayers

Please remember to pray for Georgie, who may come to church next week.

Let's pray that when Nicky goes to Spain to minister and when Samuel goes to America, that they are blessed and many doors of opportunity will be opened for the ministry.

Please pray for our nation, that many people are turned to Christ and the government shows more support for Christianity.



Grace Christian Fellowship

Meetings/Programme

Church Service - every Sunday 11am at Saints Event Venue

Communion Service - first Sunday in the month

Prayer Meeting - 10am before service at SEV / first Sunday of the month

Charity Offering - third Sunday in the month

Live from India - Nicky usually preaches on the last Sunday of the month

Forthcoming Events / Church Programme 2025

Saturday 3rd May - Nicky goes to Spain

Saturday 24th May – Church event / day out with Nicky and Samuel?

Saturday 31st May – Samuel goes to America

Thursday 19th June - Nicky and family return to India

Saturday 23rd Aug - Church Day Out?

Sunday 28th Sep - Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 19th Oct - Church Birthday/Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sunday 2nd Nov - Service with Fireworks

Sunday 9th Nov - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 14th Dec - Christmas meal

Sunday 21st Dec - Carol Service

If you would like to donate to the church, you can give during the service, donate by bacs, or go to the 'donate' button on the 'Contact' page of the website and make a payment there. If you would like to donate by cheque, please make the cheque out to
Hope Community Trust.

GCF supports Hope Community Trust India, which is a Christian ministry, run by Pastor Samuel Zion and his wife Nicky. The ministry has a campus in Andhra Pradesh, with a children's home, school and Bible School. Please see the GCF website for further details.

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Grace Christian Fellowship is part of registered charity

Hope Community Trust - 1000798

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Sunday Services are held at **Saints Event Venue**,
217 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0SQ from 11am-12.30pm