

THE FELLOWSHIP  
OF  
**LIFE,  
LIGHT &  
LOVE**

OF  
**SOUTH ASIANS  
AT  
FIRST ASIAN  
INDIAN  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF METRO ATLANTA**

### **Special Points of Interest —**

- † **Light came to man to dispel the darkness... From the pastor...**
- † **Special holiday activities for the whole family**
- † **New Year celebrations**

### **Inside This Issue —**

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# CALL TO LIFE

JESUS SAID,

**"I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE  
AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL."**

JOHN 10:10

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST ASIAN INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF METRO ATLANTA

December, 2005

From the Pastor's Pen—

## **Out of the darkness came LIGHT...**

My dear Church family and friends,

Greetings in the most Wonderful and Matchless Name of our beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We have seen our world go through tragedy after tragedy this year. After 9/11 most of the world was fearing terrorism – human hands causing havoc, destruction and pain. But it seems that nature has joined hands with terrorists to terrorize and bring colossal damage to whole nations. The tsunamis, the hurricanes, forest fires, mud slides, floods, earthquakes, and other natural and man-made factors have killed thousands across the globe. In this devastation people see signs of God's wrath and fury. In the Bible we read of signs God posted before a calamity fell on a nation.

While we continue to serve and help those in need in the aftermath of these tragedies, we also see signs of Christmas around us, the signs of its approach in the malls and other places, reminding people to get ready for Christmas. Churches are getting ready by placing orders for poinsettias and other Christmas activities. But centuries ago, there were not many signs about the birth of a child whose life would change the world forever. Luke, a doctor and historian, writes of the visit by angels to the shepherds, "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. *This will be a sign to you;* you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'" (Luke 2:8-12)

The shepherds who were keeping a watch over their sheep were suddenly interrupted and given a sign that God had come to them as a Savior who would deliver them from sin and death. The sign that was given to them was "a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." A strange sign, but God's ways are mysterious.

Another thing we notice is that the sign was given at night. We see the glory of the Lord shining in the darkness of the night. The Magi in the East also saw a star at night. I would like to mention here that one of the Magi ("wise men") who saw





— Continued from Pg. 1

the star was most probably from the city of Sirkap near Taxila in Pakistan. The shepherds were visited and given the news at night by the angels. The Wise Men who came to pay homage to Jesus were guided by a star at night. We still continue to have Christmas celebrations after night falls. We have carol parties singing carols at night. Houses are lit up after night. Christmas eve services and other lightings all symbolize that Jesus Christ is the light that came into the world to remove the darkness that surrounds us. Later on Jesus claimed, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

We still continue to live in much darkness in the world. The lives of many are wrapped up in darkness. Many will continue to celebrate Christmas in spiritual darkness, never understanding and experiencing the light, life and joy that Christ came to give. We celebrate Christmas to remind the world that in the person of Jesus Christ, God entered our dark world to bring light into our very lives. We celebrate Christmas to remember that the Savior has come, the Christ of God, the Messiah, the Spirit of God, the Deliverer, the one who came to rescue men and women from the bondage of sin has come. We know that many people are captives of their sin nature, they cannot give up their mean nature. They are mean to their wives, children, friends, colleagues; sometimes, wives are mean to their husbands. People cannot give up drugs or other sinful habits. Well, friends, the good news is that help has arrived. Paul wrote in Galatians 4:4, "but when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, under the law." Jesus Christ is the Savior who has come into the world to deliver us from our sinful nature. The news that this world still needs today is, no matter who we are, sin still keeps us captive. Sin binds us, trips us, pulls us down, and seeks to destroy us. But Jesus Christ comes into our life to give us hope and freedom. We are freed from every bondage through Jesus Christ alone.

As we come into the season of Christmas, we must fully understand the freedom, the joy, the eternal hope, the victory, the happiness, that Christ gives to our lives. He came as a Savior at night. But let us remember how He came. He did not come in a royal palace. He did not come as a warrior. He was not born into the home of some high Roman official, nor did He belong to a high religious establishment. He, the incarnate God, entered the world as a tiny baby. The Gospel writer and beloved disciple of Jesus John wrote, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) It is astonishing to read that the Spirit of God would enter this world with so much humility, gentleness, modesty, quietly and lovingly.

We who live in an age where the emphasis is on the rich, the powerful, the elite, and those who have contacts with the aristocrats, the bureaucrats, the financially strong and well-connected cannot understand the power that Jesus has. He came into this world in manger power, so radically different in its unpretentious, quiet way of God.

Therefore, when God entered the world, he chose to come in the form of a baby at Christmas time. In the helplessness of an infant, God came to our rescue to help us. In human frailty, we discover the Divine nature. Through this gentle entrance, the child of Christmas

. . . This will  
be a sign to  
you . . .

would unleash a revolution, a change the world had never seen before.

This Christmas we must also remember the place where Jesus was born. He was born in a manger. In urban America we do not have a real manger, but on farms and in the rest of the world, especially rural parts of the sub-continent of India and Pakistan, there are still cattle stalls where the animals are fed. The manger in the cattle stall indicated the lowly state of the birth of this child. Jesus was not born in a palace or big mansion or a grand hospital. The conditions surrounding the birth of Jesus were humble – humble shepherds, his mother a lowly maiden, and in an ordinary cattle stall. In the birth of Jesus we come to know of a God who knows the life we live and who desires to bless our life, especially if lived in humility and obedience to Him.

This Christmas let us especially remember all those who have lost so much due to the tsunami which killed and injured thousands in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and other countries. For special reasons God arranged for me to help provide relief in these countries. I saw the hopelessness and loss in the faces of the survivors of these nations. There are the victims of Katrina,



Rita and Wilma here in America, the victims of earthquake in India and Pakistan. We are helping with clothes, food and shelter. In the birth of Jesus, we know that God has identified himself with the broken-hearted, the outcast, the lowly, the poor, the ill, the deaf, the blind, the needy, the sufferings of the widows and orphans. Charles Wesley, in his famous human "O for a thousand tongues" wrote in the fourth stanza, "Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb. Your loosened tongues employ; Ye blind, behold your Savior come; And leap, ye lame for joy." God knows that this condition of helplessness

will come to the rich and the poor, people of all positions will face sickness and death and will grieve, so He identifies with all of us, particularly in these distressing moments of life. If you are going through times of bereavement, sickness, lostness or hopelessness, come to Jesus this Christmas. The One who came into this world in a manger introduced a new kind of power into the hopelessness of

our lives. The power of Christ's manger is paradoxical. In His adult life, Jesus would show that the weakness of love is stronger than the force of hate, that the spiritual will outlast the material, that the foolishness of God is wiser than man, that when man encounters the power of the manger child, his life would never be the same, that his narrow way leads to the authentic vastness of life, and the peace that He offers will be the only peace that will sustain us in the midst of the worst circumstances. It is our prayer this Christmas that the terrorists may experience and understand manger power, and stop their bloodshed bombings across the globe.

... you will  
find a baby  
wrapped in  
cloths and  
lying in a  
manger ...

In the sight of God, every human being exists on an equal level. The message of Christ comes to both the poor and the rich, the famous and not so very famous, those who are known and those who are not known. In the eyes of God each one of us is the same. When we stand before God, we may hold any position in the world, whether we are powerful or weak, president, prime minister, billionaire or pauper, CEO or waiter, we are all poor, needing his grace, his love, his favor and goodness. We all have needs, dreams, desires and hopes. We are all needy people with sinful hearts needing to be changed and made clean.

This Christmas remember what the shepherds received. They received joy. The shepherds' hearts were filled with great joy. The angel said to them, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people." Jesus is good news of great joy. God wants you to re-

ceive joy this Christmas. The joy is that God is with us. Spread His joy to other people. Involve them in your celebrations and share your joy with all people. This joy is for all people. The hurting people everywhere need this joy. Christ has come to set us free from our sinful nature and empower us to experience real, genuine life to a full measure of joy and success.

Why is there opposition to Christmas here in America and to Jesus Christ in many countries? Because the child born at Christmas is a threat to kings and the world's power structures. While the powers of this world struggle against and tremble at the power of the manger, may the hearts of God's people take courage and rejoice.

In Jesus  
Christ, God  
is with us,

and His promise "I am with you always, to the end of the age," is with us and stands forever.

May you all have a great and wonderful Christmas as you receive and share His love with others.

Yours sincerely in Jesus,  
Younis and Surriya Farhat





**First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta**  
cordially invites you  
to

**AN HOUR OF  
CAROL SINGING AT THE SQUARE  
IN BEAUTIFUL MARIETTA**

**Saturday, December 17, 2005**

**6:00 pm**

Please come and join us in this hour to publicly profess  
your faith in Jesus Christ and witness a beautiful manger  
scene as well as experience Manger Power in your  
personal life.

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN JONESBORO**

**Drs. Chandler & Paddy Sharma**

cordially invite you for  
Christmas Celebrations

**Saturday, December 10, 2005**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Location**

9069 Betony Wood Trail, Jonesboro, GA 30326

R.S.V.P. Dr (Mrs.) Paddy Sharma

President: IACA

Home 678-817-3333 • Office 404-329-1444

For more information and details, kindly contact:

Rev. Younis Farhat, Senior Pastor or Rev. Johnson Macdonal, Associate Pastor

First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta

570 Piedmont Road, N.E., Marietta, GA 30066

Phone: 770-516-5751, 770-422-2566 • Fax: 770-423-0125

E-mail: [aibc1@yahoo.com](mailto:aibc1@yahoo.com)

[www.faibc.org](http://www.faibc.org)



**\$12 = a blanket**





First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta

**Wishes Everyone**

**A Very Happy and Joyous Christmas**

And Invites You To

**Christmas Day Celebrations**

**Sunday, December 25, 2005**





**11:30 a.m.**

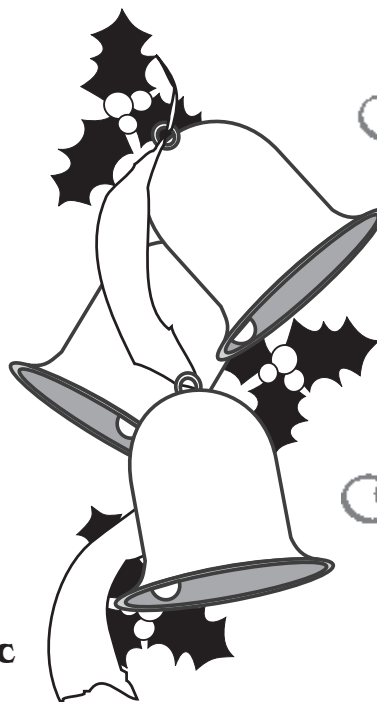
— — — **Message** — — —

**"Immanuel –  
God With Us"**

—————  
**Christmas Day Celebrations**

**Include**

-  **A Great Worship Experience**
-  **Celebrated and Anointed Music and Singing**
-  **A Delicious Indian/Pakistani Luncheon (Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian)**
-  **Gifts for All Ages**
-  **Witness Christmas Scenes**
-  **A Joyous and Friendly Fellowship**



*Glory  
to God  
in the  
Highest,  
and on  
Earth  
Peace,  
Goodwill  
toward  
Men.*

Co-sponsored by Indian and Pakistani community leaders of metro Atlanta.

For more information and details, kindly contact:

Rev. Younis Farhat, Senior Pastor, or

Rev. Johnson Macdonal, Associate Pastor.

First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta

570 Piedmont Road, N.E.

Marietta, GA 30066

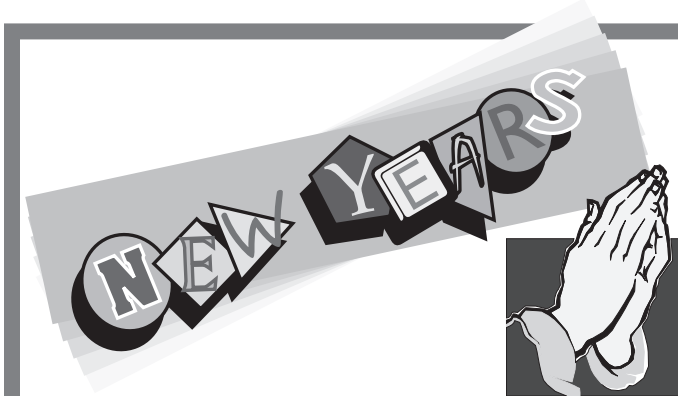
Phone: 770-516-5751, 770-422-2566 • Fax: 770-423-0125

E-mail: aibc1@yahoo.com • website: www.faibc.org

 **Please Do Not Miss This Occasion** 

**\$25 = a mattress**

*My gift for  
Jesus*



**A Midnight Service  
and  
Celebration  
to**

**Welcome the New Year**

**Saturday, December 31, 2005**

**11:30 p.m.**

**For Information and Details,  
Kindly Contact Pastor Younis Farhat**

**First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta  
Wishes Everyone**

**A Very Happy and Blessed New Year 2006**

**And Cordially Invites You To**

**A Wonderful New Year's Day Service**

**New Year's Day Service**

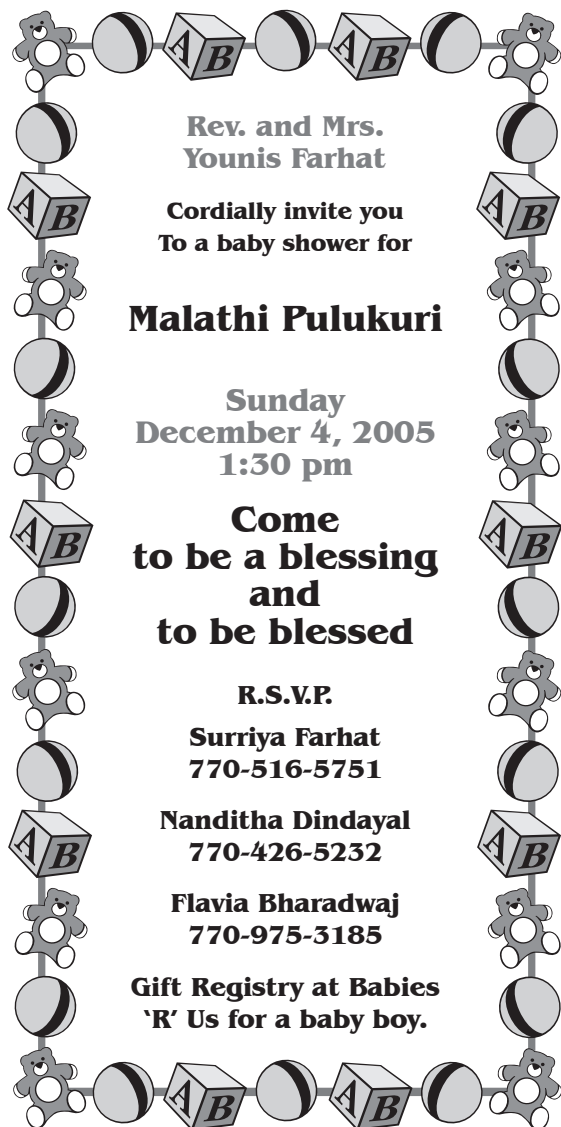
**Includes:**

- ★ **A Wonderful Worship Experience**
- ★ **Anointed Singing and Music**
- ★ **A Delicious Indian/Pakistani Luncheon  
(Vegetarian/Non-Vegetarian)**
- ★ **Fun for the family and children**



**For more information and details, kindly contact:  
Rev. Younis Farhat, Senior Pastor, or Rev. Johnson Macdonal, Associate Pastor.  
First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta  
570 Piedmont Road, N.E.  
Marietta, GA 30066  
Phone: 770-516-5751, 770-422-2566 • Fax: 770-423-0125  
E-mail: aibc1@yahoo.com  
www.faibc.org**

 **\$50 = food provisions  
for a family of five**



**Rev. and Mrs.  
Younis Farhat**

**Cordially invite you  
To a baby shower for**

**Malathi Pulukuri**

**Sunday  
December 4, 2005  
1:30 pm**

**Come  
to be a blessing  
and  
to be blessed**

**R.S.V.P.**

**Surriya Farhat  
770-516-5751**

**Nanditha Dindayal  
770-426-5232**

**Flavia Bharadwaj  
770-975-3185**

**Gift Registry at Babies  
'R' Us for a baby boy.**

**The First Asian Indian Baptist Church is  
dependent on your generous  
support for this ministry to  
reach out to the South Asian  
residents of metro Atlanta  
with the good news of our  
Lord Jesus. Your gifts may be  
sent to the church Treasurer:**

**Mrs. Sushma Dersch  
2931 Summit Top Rd.  
Marietta, GA 30066**



# **Help Urgently Needed!**

# **EARTHQUAKE**

## **Relief for India and Pakistan**

**A devastating earthquake measuring 7.6 on  
the Richter scaled rocked India and Pakistan  
on October 8, 2005. It was centered 60 miles  
northeast of Pakistan, and killed tens of  
thousands, destroying homes, cities and towns,  
and leaving 400,000 homeless. They are in  
urgent need of tents, food, medicines, blankets,  
stoves, water purifiers and other necessities  
of life. Please make a gift for these hurting  
survivors this Christmas.**

**\$12 = a blanket**

**\$25 = a mattress**

**\$50 = food provisions for a family of five**

**\$150 = an insulated, waterproof tent for six  
people**

**For more information and details, kindly contact**

**Rev. Younis Farhat  
770-516-5751**

**or**

**Rev. Jerry Baker  
770-926-5217**

**e-mail: [jbaker@gabaptist.org](mailto:jbaker@gabaptist.org)**

**\$150 = an insulated,  
waterproof tent for six**



## ABOUT OUR CHURCH

# CELEBRATING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS 2005 AND NEW YEAR 2006

### Sunday, December 4, 2005

11:30 am The Lord's Supper/Holy Communion  
Message: "Jesus Christ, the Light of the World"

1:30 pm Baby Shower for Isaac and Malathi Pulukuri

### Saturday, December 10, 2005

6:30 pm Christmas Celebrations in Jonesboro, hosted by Drs. Chandler and Paddy Sharma

### Sunday, December 11, 2005

11:30 am Special Christmas Service  
  
Guest Speaker Dr. David Housholder, Director of Ethno-Serve USA, veteran missionary and celebrated ventriloquist

### Friday, December 16, 2005

6:30 pm Carol Singing with family and friends

### Saturday, December 17, 2005

6:00 pm Carol Singing at the Square in Marietta

### Sunday, December 18, 2005

11:30 am Special Christmas Celebrations for Children and Youth

### Saturday, December 24, 2005

6:00 pm Please join us at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Piedmont Baptist Church

### Sunday, December 25, 2005

11:30 am Christmas Day Celebration

### Saturday, December 31, 2005

11:30 pm Midnight Service to welcome the New Year

### Sunday, January 1, 2006

11:30 am New Year's Day Celebrations

Good News  
Good News

Come and Experience  
the Warm and Friendly Fellowship  
Of the Congregation of the  
**First Asian Indian Baptist Church  
Of Metro Atlanta**

**A church where the only  
language known is the language  
of love**

And is committed to

- † Genuinely loving you
- † Truly caring for your needs
- † Teaching and practicing the timeless truths of the Holy Scriptures

And is ministered personally by an experienced and internationally-known pastor and his devoted congregation

Join Us This Sunday  
and Every Sunday  
at 11:30 a.m.

For a great worship experience

For more information and details, kindly contact:

Rev. Younis Farhat, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Johnson Macdonal, Associate Pastor  
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aibc@comcast.net

Website: www.faibc.org

- Invite your friends  
- Americans, Indians,  
Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri  
Lankans, and Nepalese
- Sunday School for everyone  
toddlers thru adults following  
worship service