NOVEMBER 2026 | MALAR 11 | ITHAZH 11

TGC TIMES

The Official Newsletter of Tamil Gospel Church



PASTOR AND MEMBERS

by Pastor Solomon

What is the role of a Pastor? A member? The answer to these questions depends on and differs based on the Christian cultural tradition one grows up in and how people interpret the roles considering their experiences both culturally and traditionally. I would like to provide some answers for consideration based on Biblical teaching rather than our cultural or traditional experiences.

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Role of a Pastor – The only scripture passage in which the Greek word 'poimen' is translated as 'pastor' is in Ephesians 4:11. The word means 'shepherd.' In other instances, 'poimen' is used in the context of shepherds and sheep. The other Greek words used in the context of church leadership are 'diakonos' (translated as deacon), 'presbyteros' (translated as elder), and 'episkope' (translated as bishop/overseer). Interestingly, the qualifications required for all these roles are similar as described in Acts 6, I Timothy 3, and Titus 1. These passages teach that Godly character supersedes Giftedness/Ability. The function of a shepherd is to lead, to feed, to protect, and to care for the flock of sheep under his care. The apostle Paul writes in "Ephesians 4:11-13, " [11]So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12]to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13]until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

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Therefore, we understand that equipping the people/members for works of service to build up the body of Christ and encouraging the spiritual growth of the people to maturity in their knowledge of Jesus Christ, thus conforming to His image, becomes the work of the five-fold ministers of the church. In other words, it is to teach (knowledge) and to train (skill) the people in their specific giftings to serve in the body of Christ.

Role of a Member – In the body of Christ, there should be no hierarchy among those professing Christ because as one quote says, "the ground is level at the foot of the cross." When we experience salvation at the foot of the cross, we all are brought into the fold or membership of the body of Christ (church). Within the church there are different roles and ministries that people are gifted with to serve, amongst which the role of a pastor is one such role. There are no spectators in the body of Christ, but all are servants, serving each other. However, there are different skillsets for the different roles, and the Lord who is the Spirit grants the ability as we read in I Corinthians 12:4-11, "4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good ……. 11All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."In addition, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:6-8, and I Peter 4:10-11 mentions more skills/abilities; these lists are not comprehensive as different abilities and skills beyond what Scripture mentions are required in keeping with the evolving changes in the world. The methods change but the message remains the same.

Scripture clearly exhorts us to respect and value each other in our respective roles and function in harmony witheach other (but that is a discussion for another time). As members of the body of Christ, when we do not clearlyunderstand our roles or lack respect and value for each other, there will be conflict and the victim/casualty is the body of Christ (church). The body will feel the pain, and growth will be stunted, deformed, or non-existent.

Dear TGC family, may the Lord grant us the grace to understand the Lord's desire for His bride - the body of Christ – and let us strive to fulfill His heart's desire.
PS



Contribute to the Newsletter? Contact Pastor or Elders

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Immanuel	November 02
Abron Wins	November 04
Shalin Manoj	November 05
Sharon Samuel	November 06
Raja George	November 06
Isai Nirmal	November 06
Andrea Raj Andrew	November 07
Susan Charles	November 07
Steve Jesukanth	November 08
Grace Dinesh	November 08
Samuel Jebaraj	November 09
Juliya Newton	November 11
Rajesh Jebaraj	November 16
Charles Jeyasingh	November 19
Benita Sharon Samuel	November 20
Ryan Noah Manoj	November 20
Richy Gerard	November 26
Jagan	November 27
Karthikeyan RM	November 28

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Geopher Stephy & Becca Geopher
November 24

Benneaser John & Sasirekha Benneaser
November 30

November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 **5 pm:** • Sunday Service • Sunday School • Tamil Class	2	3	4 **8 pm:** • Wednesday Night Prayer	5	6 **8 pm:** • Small Groups	7 **7 am:** • First Saturday Morning Prayer (Zoom) **8 am:** • AICC Sports Outreach
8 **5 pm:** • Sunday Service • Sunday School • Tamil Class	9	10 **7 pm:** • Elders Meeting	11 **8 pm:** • Wednesday Night Prayer	12	13 **8 pm:** • Small Groups	14 **11 am:** • Fasting Prayer
15 **5 pm:** • Sunday Service • Sunday School • Tamil Class • GB Meeting	16	17	18 **8 pm:** • Wednesday Night Prayer	19	20 **8 pm:** • Small Groups	21 **8 am:** • CUP
22  **5 pm:** • Thanksgiving Service • Sunday School • Tamil Class • Youth Group • Thanksgiving Sale	23	24	25 **8 pm:** • Wednesday Night Prayer	26	27	28 **5 pm:** • Carol Rounds
29 **5 pm:** • Sunday Service • Sunday School • Tamil Class	30					

