

SAU House of Prayer

The Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown implemented by the governments has caused enormous disruption and disorganized the life of society. Religious communities worldwide were not spared, and the churches had to transform their functioning and become accustomed to new ways of shepherding their members.

SAU House of Prayer moved to online worship services during March 2020 and have been streaming live Sabbath worship services in association with Hope Channel India. Over the past six months, SAU House of Prayer celebrated special Sabbaths focusing on various themes initiated by the world church. On the Sabbath of July 17, 2021, Elder Anil Kandane and Pr. Augustine Daniel from WIU visited SAU church to release a book entitled “Covid-19: How to Prevent Getting Infected.” Written by Dr. Rajarathnam Abel was later distributed to our church congregation. The Children of our Church led the Sabbath services of July 23 & 24, 2021, on the theme “I Will Go: Called to be Different.” The Sabbath of August 13 & 14, 2021, focused on the theme “Global Mission Outreach.” The Sabbath of September 10 & 11, 2021, was celebrated in view of Family Togetherness, centering on the theme “Living Fruitful Love.” As we began a new academic school year at Spicer Adventist University, the Sabbath services of September 17 & 18, 2021, were led out by the University Administrators.

The Sabbath school department took up the worship services on September 24 & 2, 2021. We had the single adults who led worship services on October 8 & 9, 2021. As the world church set aside October 23 as Creation Sabbath, the Science department faculty and students took up the Sabbath weekend worship services. The Sabbath of October 29 & 30, 2021, was celebrated because of Adventist Heritage. November 12 & 13, 2021, were special days for Spicer Church as our Church’s children led out in worship services. The services on December 3 & 4, 2021, were headed by the Stewardship department. December 10, 2021, was a night filled with music as we focused on the theme “We are the Reason.” On December 25, 2021, we had a guest speaker Dr. Boxter Kharbteng who spoke on “What is Christmas all about?” We celebrated the end of 2021 with a Year-End Thanksgiving prayer session where members of our Church shared their testimonies.

When the lockdown eased, our Church opened for in-person worship services, which allowed us to conduct communion service on November 5, 2021. We also hosted Week of Spiritual Emphasis from December 5-10, 2021, on the theme “The Three Angels Messages.”

This pandemic has been a learning experience, and it not only tested our faith in God but has strengthened our hope in God’s soon return. As we are encouraged to adapt to the “new normal” and learn to live with the situation around us, we, the Adventists, await the coming of the King of Kings—Lord Jesus Christ.

Although there was a fright of “what will happen next?” people have come together to help, encourage and support one another during these times. Although this period was filled with heartaches, painful experiences, and families bidding hardest goodbyes to their loved ones, these testing times have made us resilient. This year 2022, as much as we celebrate life and God’s blessings, we grieve and pay respects to those who have gone before us. We have seen the hand of God working in the growth and

enrichment of our Church. God has never left our side. We continued to experience God's love, mercy, and grace.

We hope to bring normalcy, peace, and healing to our members as they worship with us from home. We are committed to providing a live worship gathering every week through our online services, where our members can experience God through worship, prayer, and studying his Word. Our prayer is that it helps their faith grow stronger until our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comes in the clouds of heaven.

**Spicer House of Prayer,
Spicer Adventist University**

Picture Courtesy: Reginald C.

