

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016/17 BY THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
For the period 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2017

1. Management Committee

The 2016/17 Management Committee positions (comprising 14 executive members) were nominated for, and the nominees for all positions were elected to office uncontested at the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 21 September 2016 at the Yaarl Function Centre in Pendle Hill.

During the year, two casual vacancies arose consequent to (i) the resignation of Mr R Naganathan (Assistant Secretary) in May 2017 and (ii) Mrs J Navaratnam (Committee Member) went overseas in mid May 2017. The Management Committee appointed Mr R Manickaraja (Assistant Secretary) and Mrs K Sivanandarajasingam to fill the vacancies.

The first meeting of the Committee was held at the Bates Street Community Centre, Strathfield on 29th Sept 2016. Since then the Management Committee has met monthly, totalling 11 committee meetings so far. Each meeting was held with more than eighty percent of the members participating in the deliberations.

2. Membership

We started with 786 members on 1st Sept 2016. Twenty one new members have since joined and eighteen members departed. Our membership at 20th Aug 2017 is 789. No member resigned during this period.

3. The Tamil Senior Citizens' Benevolent Society (BENSOC)

More than 600 TSCA members are subscribed to our affiliate BENSOC, which is planning its 25th anniversary this year. BENSOC Board of Trustees comprises nine members. Seven elected uncontested and two nominated by TSCA.

The current Trustees of BENSOC are:

Mr R K Pillai – President, Mr S Sriganeshwaran – Secretary, Mr N S Thiru –Treasurer, Mr Ratnakumar – Assistant Treasurer, Mr S Logenthiran – Assistant Secretary, Mr M Balakrishnan – Assistant Treasurer, Mr Thisairasa – Assistant Secretary, Mr K Seyon – TSCA Representative, Mr Samy Pasupati – TSCA Representative.

4. Yoga Classes

We continued with regular yoga classes at our get-together on the first and third Thursday of every month. Thanks to Mrs Sunenthra Kanagaratnam, Mrs Sarojini Nallanthuvan and Mr P Panchadcharam we are able to continue this activity with enthusiastic participation. Many members make a particular effort to come and take part in the sessions, thus improving their physical fitness.

5. Art and Craft classes

During the year we held art and craft classes at our get-together on the second Thursday of every month, culminating in an Art & Craft Exhibition on 24th August 2017. Thanks to Mr & Mrs Thisairajah and Mrs Yoga Subramaniam for coordinating this activity. All exhibits displayed at the exhibition are products created by our members. As was In previous years, this year too we have invited Mayor/Deputy Mayor of Strathfield to declare open the exhibition.

6. Member's Day

The fourth Thursday of every month is celebrated as 'Members Day', with special programs such as talks on topics relevant to members' interests, singing programs and others. More detail is given in the section Thursday Programmed Activities 2016/17'.

7. Indoor Games

Indoor games are a special attraction at our meetings every Thursday. Chess, Carrom, Bridge, Scrabbles, Draughts and Table Tennis are facilitated at the Community Centre for the benefit of members. As in

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previous years, an Indoor Games Tournament was held in March to coincide with the celebrations of Seniors' Week.

8. Website and Photographs

The TSCA's website was actively managed by Col V Ramanathan during the early part of the year, and is currently being managed by Mr Thevarajan with the Weekly Journal. Mr Kunaseelan has been covering photographs of our weekly events and photo albums. Col Ramanathan is continuing to help with posting of Obituary Notices promptly. Thanks to Rama for all his efforts in designing and maintaining our website for all these years, keeping our members and the world informed of how active we Tamil seniors in Sydney are!

9. Computers for seniors

The TSCA continues to maintain the computers now installed at Bates Street, which are available for use by our seniors. These run Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, etc. The broadband internet is temporarily disconnected.

10. URAVU

The TSCA magazine 'URAVU' was published three times this year. Each issue of the magazine covers all important events that have occurred (with beautiful coloured pictures) and other information relevant for circulation during the period it covers. The TSCA is taking advantage of technology, as many of our members receive 'URAVU' by electronic mail, enabling them to access it from any part of the world. With the escalating cost of postage it also saves costs to the TSCA.

11. Financial Aspects - Charity

Following the floods in Sri Lanka in May 2017, arrangements are in progress seeking voluntary cash donations. All collected funds are to be sent to the Sri Lankan High Commission Flood Relief Fund. In addition, \$1200 was donated from our funds for the Unifund Project to support deserving university students in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

12. Weekly celebrations and Day excursions

Our Members celebrated almost every Thursday during this year with a number of events, amongst which were:

- Cultural events, including Women's Day, Grandchildren's Day and Men's Day
- Religious events, including Navarathiri, Christmas, Pongal, Tamil New Year and Deepavali
- Recreational and sports events, including Paaddukku Paaddu and an Indoor and Outdoor Games Gala

Members also enjoyed day trip outings organised three times this year, namely,

- i) Nelson Bay trip on 21st Jan 2017
- ii) Sydney Harbour Cruise on 25th February 2017
- iii) Hunter Valley and The Entrance trip on 4th June 2017.

13. TSCA -Thursday Special Programmed Activities – 2016/17

6.10.16 - Saraswathy Pooja was performed in the Bates Street Community Centre Hall by Mr. Velupillai to invoke the blessings of the Goddess Saraswathy. Mr. Thevarajan sang the Pancha Puranam and a speech was rendered by Mrs Balam Lakshmanan on the importance of the celebration. Mrs. Kanageswary Jeganathan sang Sakala Kala Valli Maalai and a few devotional songs. Mr. Ponmailainathan, Mrs. Manonmany Krishnasamy, Mrs. S. Nalanthuvan and Mr. Thevarajan too sang devotional songs. Prasadam was served to all who participated in the Pooja.

27.10.16 - Mr. T. Thirunandakumar spoke on "Gift of Reading" which was well received. He kept the audience engaged by interacting with them instead of just speaking to them. He proved himself to be a consummate speaker. Mr & Mrs Krishnasamy hosted the lunch for the day.

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03.11.16 – “Deepavali Celebrations” – Mr. V. Eelalingam spoke on Deepavali describing the spiritual significance of the celebrations to mark different historical events and stories but they all symbolise the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. His speech was followed by a short hilarious drama “Doctor, Doctor” acted by Mr. S. Suntheralingam, and Mr. VM. Thevarajan. Dr. Mrs Sivarathy Ketheswaran employed her rich melodious voice with magnanimity during her rendering of songs on Kannan which were mesmerizing to the audience. The Asst. Secretary Mr. Naganathan delivered the vote of thanks.

10.11.16 – Vedanta Philosopher Shri M.K. Angajan spoke on “ Sound sense of values to live a retired life”. He explained his philosophy with suitable anecdotes. and his speech was illuminating and rejuvenating. It was well received by the audience. Secretary Mr. P. Arumugam delivered the vote of thanks.

17.11.16 - Mr. Abdul Jabar, a senior journalist spoke on the “Present status of media in the Tamil speaking world”. He shared his experience in the field and detailed the problems faced by journalists. His speech was appreciated by the members present. Mr. Ponmailainathan gave the vote of thanks.

22.11.16 – Dr. Paran Sithamparakumar spoke on “Healthy Life of Elders”. He approached the life of elders psychologically and explained how well we can face the reality of aging. He was focusing on the life of elders with chronic diseases with which they will have to live with. His speech was very appealing and beneficial especially to the seniors. Mr. Thevarajan delivered the vote of thanks. Mr. Perumynar Arumugam hosted the lunch.

15.12.16 – Christmas Carol Service was held at Bates Street Community Centre Hall in a grand manner. Mr. S.Thissairasa offered the opening prayer which was followed by the Welcome Address by our President Mrs Pathmavathy Thangarajah. Scripture lessons were read by Mr.V. Gunaratnam, Mrs. Rita Sathiyamoorthy, Mrs Hope Rajendram and Mr. Charles Dickens. Congregational Songs were sung by the Senior Choir of the Sydney Tamil Christian Fellowship and the members of TSCA. Christmas Message was delivered by Mr. Reginold Jeganathan and the Benediction was pronounced by Rev. G. Nadarajah. The expenses for the lunch were met from the funds of the Association.

05.01.17 – Dr. Arjuna Sivananthan spoke on “New Challenges faced by the Tamil Community”. His speech detailed many of the problems and issues concerning the Tamil Community which are yet to be resolved. He also focused on some of the immediate issues that concerns political impasse. The speech was informative and enlightened audience

19.01.17 – The speech by Sydney Murugan Temple Sivacharya Brammashri Bala Indra Kurukkal on “Thamilar and Pongal” was the highlight of the Pongal Celebrations of this year. He spoke in detail about how the Pongal festival captures the quintessence of Tamil Hindu culture in all its entirety and traditional practices. Following the speech the book “Muthal Vanakkam Engal Muruganukke” authored by Dr. K. Rupamoorthy was launched with the introductory speech of Mr. Thevarajan. Bala Indira Kurukkal and the author Dr. Rupamoorthy spoke about the book. A good number of our members bought the book. The Secretary Mr. Arumugam delivered the vote of thanks. ‘Pongal’ was served to all present.

21.01.17 – Excursion to Nelson Bay – About 39 of us boarded the bus at about 8 a.m. at Bates Street, Homebush and reached Nelson Bay at about 12 Noon. We shared and enjoyed the lunch which we took individually in the lovely beach. We also went to Anna Bay where we watched camel rides. The excursion was memorable, informative and great fun for all of us. We returned to Bates Street at 4.30 pm with sweet memories.

16.02.17 - Maravanpulavu K. Sachithanatham spoke on “Australian Aborigines”. He spoke in detail about the similarities in certain Tamil words still used in the language of the aborigines. He also quoted several customs and cultures which are similar to us and said that we as Tamils should welcome them as our kith and kin and invite them to our temples in Sydney. The speech was very interesting and he held the audience spell bound for about an hour. The Secretary delivered the vote of thanks.

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23.02.17 – Mr. Bagavathas Sriskanthathas spoke about the poems of Kannathasan under the heading “கண்ணதாசன் எடுத்ததைத் தொடுப்பான் நன்றாய்”. Even though the poet Kannadasan was most familiar for his song lyrics in Tamil films, Mr Sriskanthathas spoke about the songs which he wrote apart from the film songs. He also mentioned about a few of the interesting events in the poet’s life. He captivated the audience and kept their rapt attention throughout his speech. Mr. Nicolas Rajanayagam delivered the vote of thanks and concluded the event.

16.03.17 - Outdoor Games for seniors – Due to bad weather the games were played indoors in the Community Centre Hall. Games were organized offering opportunities for every member present to actively engage in some kind of sports like Book Balancing, Lime and Spoon and Musical Walk. It was a memorable day for all participants. “Trophies carries dust, memories last forever”.

23.03.17 - Cricket Match scheduled for this day was postponed due to bad weather. The Award Ceremony was held in the Community Centre Hall and the Chief Guest Hon. Jodi McKay, MP for Strathfield Julia Finn, MP for Granville and Dr. A. Balasubramaniam gave away the awards and prizes to winners of the Outdoor and Indoor Games held during the Seniors Week. Mr. S. Navaratnavel celebrated his birthday and hosted the lunch.

06.04.17 – Mr. V.S. Ganeshan spoke on “ehd; fz;l ghujp”. In his speech, he mentioned about some interesting facets of Bharathiyar and captivated the audience. His speech was followed by that of Mr. A. Santhiravar who spoke on “Bharathan” an important character in the epic Ramayanam. He quoted several poems from the epic and gave an interesting speech which was well appreciated by those present.

13.04.17 – The Cricket Match which was postponed on 23.03.17 was played on this day with the enthusiastic participation of members and the weather too cooperated. The Secretary’s Team won the match. The award for the winning team was given away at the Community Centre Hall by the President Mrs. Pathma Thangarajah.

20.04.17 – As this was the first meeting after the Tamil New Year Mr Radhakrishnan delivered a speech on “Sithiraip Puthaandu” elaborating on how we should celebrate this day devoting our soul and mind to the almighty God. His speech was followed by a divine discourse by Swami Sarvaroopanadaji from the Ceylon Ramakrishna Mission. Dr. B.S.Bharathy delivered the vote of thanks in his usual poetic form which was well received by the audience. “Pongal” was served to all on the eve of the Tamil New Year.

27.04.17 – Dr. Aaruthirumurugan, President of Thellippalai Durga Devasthanam, delivered a talk on “Tamil Inba Thamil”. In his speech he mentioned that Tamil is one of the world’s oldest and longest surviving classical languages. He spoke on its glory quoting Tamil epics of the Sanga period. Mrs. S. Suntheralingam delivered the vote of thanks followed by lunch hosted by Mr. R. Manickarajah, Mr. Nicolas Rajanayagam and Mr. Charles Dickens.

04.05.17 – “Women’s Day’ was celebrated on a grand scale with dramas, dances and songs. Two dramas were staged namely “ சுந்தரி பாட்டியின் லூட்டி” and “சிட்னியில் ஓளவையார்” which were greatly appreciated by the audience. The lyrics and direction was by Mrs Thevaky Karunakaran. Mrs. Sarojadevi Suntheralingam, Mrs Niranjani Naguleswaran, Mrs. Balambikai Gananadha and Mrs Sarojini Nalanthuvan acted in this drama. Mrs Sarojadevi Suntheralingam, Mrs Padma Thangarajah, Mrs Manonmany Krishnaswamy and Sukuna acted in the drama “Sydneyil Avvaiyaar”. There was two dances by Mrs Rita Sathiyamoorthy and her group. Songs were sung by Mrs Rita Sathiyamoorthy> Mrs Elizebeth Rodrigo and Mrs Manonmany Krishnasamy. A plaque was presented in appreciation to Mrs Thevaky Karunakaran for producing and directing the dramas.

18.05.17 – Mrs Subathra Velauthan and Mrs Sue from the STARTTS delivered a speech on “Social Changes faced by Elder Refugees”. Their speech covered the traumatic experiences the refugees have been through violence, deprivation and loss. The challenges faced in resettling in a new country too was discussed in detail. The presentation was well appreciated and the audience listened spellbound. Mrs. Rita Sathiyamoorthy and Mrs Rani Wijeyaratnam hosted the lunch for this day.

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25.05.17 - Mrs. Rabia Charouk from the Centrelink spoke about the different categories of Pensioners who receive Age Pension, Special Benefit etc. with special mention about the recent changes made by the Australian Govt.. Mr. S. Karunalayan and Mr K. Ratnakumar hosted the lunch..

01.06.17 – On this Members’ Get Together day lunch was hosted by ‘Bridge Players Group’ in memory of Mr. S.S. Dharmapalan who was also in the group. Speeches were made about him by a few members.

04.06.17 – About 44 of our members went on an excursion to Hunter Valley and Hare Rama Hare Krishna Farm by bus. For us who travelled miles away from home, the wine tasting tour was truly memorable and fun filled. We participated in the Raja Bhoga Arati and Lunch Prasadam at the Hare Krishna Temple and gave a voluntary donation to the religious organization. We returned to Bates Street at about 6 p.m. after a fabulous time.

15.06.17 – Mr.P. Panchadcharam, President, Sydney Eastern & Western Astrological Society, spoke on “Movement of Stars, Jupiter and Predictions. In his speech he gave scientific explanations to prove his astrological themes. This was greatly appreciated by the audience.

22.06.17 – ‘Paaduvor Paadalaam” was conducted by Dr. Rajayokan who himself was a stage singer. There were 14 contestants and Mr. Thirunavukkarasu was awarded the first prize for the best singer while Mr. Kuganathan got a prize for singing the highest number of songs. Mr. K. Thangarajah and Mr. V.M. Thevarajan hosted the lunch.

29.06.17 – Prof. (Mrs) Gnana Kulendran spoke on “jkpopy; ghlj; Jzpe;j jkpod;”. In her speech she said that Isai Arasu M.M.Dhandapani Desikar was endowed with a rich voice which could traverse all the octaves with ease. He conducted music “kachcheris” in Tamil at a time when Thelungu songs were dominating the stages in Tamil Nadu. His services in protecting and enhancing the Carnatic music will ever be remembered.

01.07.17 – The Grand children’s Day held at the Homebush Boys High School, gave a wonderful opportunity to our grandchildren to showcase their skills and talents. Councilor Raj Datta graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The various programmes of speeches, dancing, singing and playing of musical instruments presented by the grandchildren were a great treat to the audience. In fact they are obviously very talented and accomplished. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to all participants by the President and senior members of the Association.

27.7.17 – Mens’ Day Celebrations started with a speech by Mr. G. Santhiran on “Why Men’s Day?”. He highlighted important issues like male suicide rates, underperformance of boys in schools, and many other inequalities when compared to women. Two dramas were staged namely “ குருவுக்கு மிஞ்சின சீடர் “written and directed by Mr. V.M.Thevarajan and “ சந்தேகம் ஒரு புகம்பம்” written and directed by Mr. S. Kanagasingam, Messrs. S. Suntheralingam, V.M.Thevarajan, A. Naguleswaran, and S. Velupillai acted in the first drama while Messrs S. Suntheralingam, A. Nauleswaran, P. Panchadcharam and S. Kanagasingam acted in the latter. Film songs were sung by V.M.Thevarajan, S. Kanagasingam, Bala Thirunavukkarasu, K.S.Thisairasa, M. Mahalingam, Dr.A. Ganeshalingam, Messrs. S. Ponmailainathan, K. Kanagasingam and Shanmuganathan. Mr. C. Sivasooriyar played a film song in his mouth organ splendidly. A speech of appreciation was delivered by Mr. Radhakrishnan and Vote of thanks by Mr. R. Manickaraja. Dr.A. Ganeshalingam hosted the lunch on this day.

14. Acknowledgements

The weekly TSCA get together is a successful reality because of the contributions made by individuals in a number of ways. It gives the Management Committee great pleasure to gratefully acknowledge all volunteers

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whose support has made our meetings a pleasurable experience.

Our sincere thanks to:

- Strathfield Council for providing the venue and facilities enabling us to meet every Thursday for community activities
- Mr Murugesu, Mr Logenthiran and others for organising the hall early in the morning, making the venue ready for meetings and other play groups
- Mrs S Kanagaratnam, Mrs S Nallanthuvan and Mr P Panchadcharam for guiding the fortnightly Yoga sessions
- Mr Mohankumar, Mr Kunaseelan and Mr Manickaraja for ensuring our refreshments are available on time with adequate stock of cutlery
- the ladies Pathma, Niranjini, Kamala, Manon, Subadra, Sarojini, Suguna and others including Mr Veluppilai for ensuring our regular and special lunch programs are organised in an orderly fashion, with Mr Naganathan, Mr Naguleswaran and Mr Manickaraja on the mike. Smooth and timely distribution of our lunch is the result of their dedication, sacrifice and team spirit
- Col V Ramanathan and Mr Kunaseelan for covering our weekly event photographs and circulating to all members
- Col V Ramanathan and Mr Thevarajan for managing our website
- Mr Ponmailainathan, Mrs Navaratnam for organising ‘one day excursion trips’
- Our appreciation goes to Mr. Thevarajan for the fabulous “Uravu” he produces doing the layout and designing in addition to being the Editor and Mr Rangan for his efficient printing of it beautifully.
- Dr Sri Ravindrarajah for capturing our special events on video and making them available on Youtube
- Mr Thevarajan and Mr Panchadcharam for their enthusiastic support in setting up the audio visual equipment, music and other technical support to conduct our programs
- Mr Thisairasa and his team for regularly meeting and taking our well wishes to our members at the Nursing Homes.

A big thank you to the grandchildren who brought excitement and entertainment to our members with their performances on the ‘Grandchildren’s Day’, and to Homebush Boys High School for the hire of their hall for the event. We also wish to acknowledge all of our members whose contribution enabled us to put forward the special resolutions ably drafted by Mr Samy Pasupati.

We acknowledge with thanks our honorary auditor Mr Hariharan Alagan for his timely services. Although our Honorary Returning Officer, Mr A Sivathondan resigned from the position, we wish to put on record our sincere thanks for his services for almost fifteen years as our Honorary Returning Officer.

We also wish to acknowledge the sponsors of special lunches during this year - Mrs P Thangarajah, Mr & Mrs T Krishnasamy, the family of the late Mr K Veluppillai, Mr P Arumugam, Dr V Sabaratnam, Mr S Navaratnavel, Mr N C Rajanayagam, Mr Charles Dickens, Mr R Manickaraja, Mrs Rita Sathiamoorthy, Mrs Rani Wijeyaratnam, Bridge Team of TSCA, Mr R Ratnakumar, Mr & Mrs S Karunalayan, Dr & Mrs A Ganeshalingam, Mr V M Thevarajan and Mr & Mrs K Thangarajah and RAMS for their efficient catering services.

Our sincere thanks to all volunteers in case I missed any of you and to all members, as without your moral support and financial contributions the organisation would not be able to exist.

15. Concluding Remarks

TSCA has almost completed twenty six years of service to its members. This year we have carried on successfully under the able leadership of our President, Mrs Pathma Thangaraja, whose dedication and sacrifice has inspired many new members to get involved in the activities of the organisation. The Management

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Committee, after robust discussion and also gathering the wisdom of the general membership, is putting forward changes to the constitution to make the organisation more inclusive of our community. Thanks to our volunteers, we were able to manage our expenses to a minimum this financial year, whilst continuing to provide engaging programs in all spheres of members' interests, including the production of three editions of our magazine 'URAVU'.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I wish to record my deep appreciation and gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in us in all our endeavours. We wish the organization and each and every one of the members a healthy and fun filled future in the coming years.

SPECIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Notice is given, and the committee recommends, after due deliberation, that the five resolutions as per the annex, be considered and passed as special resolutions at the Annual General Meeting.

Perumynar Arumugam

Honorary Secretary

On behalf of Management Committee 2016-17

2017 ~18 ஆண்டுக்கான சந்தாவை செலுத்திவிட்டீர்களா ?

வருடாந்தப் பொதுக்கூட்டத்தில் பங்குபெற்றவோர் இவ்வாண்டுக்கான சந்தாவையும், இதற்கு முந்தைய வருடங்களுக்கான சந்தா நிலுவையில் இருந்தால் அவற்றையும் செலுத்தியிருத்தல் வேண்டும் ஏனும் விதிக்கமைய உங்கள் சந்தாக்களை உடன் செலுத்தி ஒத்துழைப்பு நல்கும்படி வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறோம். நிலுவையிலுள்ள சந்தா தொடர்பான விபரம் அறிய பொருளாளரை 9631 1531 எனும் தொலைபேசி இலக்கத்தில் தொடர்பு கொள்ளலாம். சந்தாப் பணத்தினைச் செலுத்த இறுதி நாள் செப்ரெம்பர் 21ம் திகதி வியாழக்கிழமையாகும். வங்கி ஊடாக செலுத்த விரும்பின் கீழ்காணும் வங்கிக் கணக்குக்கு வைப்பிலிட்டு ரசீதை பொருளாளருக்கு அனுப்பி வைக்கவும். வங்கியில் வைப்பிலிடும்போது உங்கள் TSCA அங்கத்துவ இலக்கத்தையும் பெயரையும் (பெயரின் முற்பகுதியையாவது) குறிப்பிட மறக்கவேண்டாம் :-

Name of Bank : Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account No. 062 256 1017 3352

To my aging friends

Secrets of Life in six words:

Before middle age – Do not fear

After middle age – Do not regret

Do not wait till you cannot even walk just to be sorry and regret. As long as it is physically possible, visit places you wish to visit. When there is an opportunity, get together with old classmates, old colleagues and old friends. It is just that there is not much time left ! Money kept in the banks may not be really yours. When it is time spend, just spend. Treat yourself as you get old. Whatever you feel like eating, just eat ! It is important to be happy. Eat things which are not good for your health, eat less but do not abstain from them totally. Treat sickness with optimism, whether you are poor or rich. Everyone has to go through birth, aging, sickness and death. There is no exception, that's life ! Do not be afraid or worried when you are sick. Settle all the outstanding issues before hand and you will be able to leave without regret. If worries can cure sickness, then go ahead and worry ! If worries can prolong your life, then go ahead and worry ! If worries can exchange for happiness, then go ahead and worry ! Let the handle your body. Let God handle your life. But be in charge of your own moods !

Running water does not flow back. As is life ! Make it happy.