

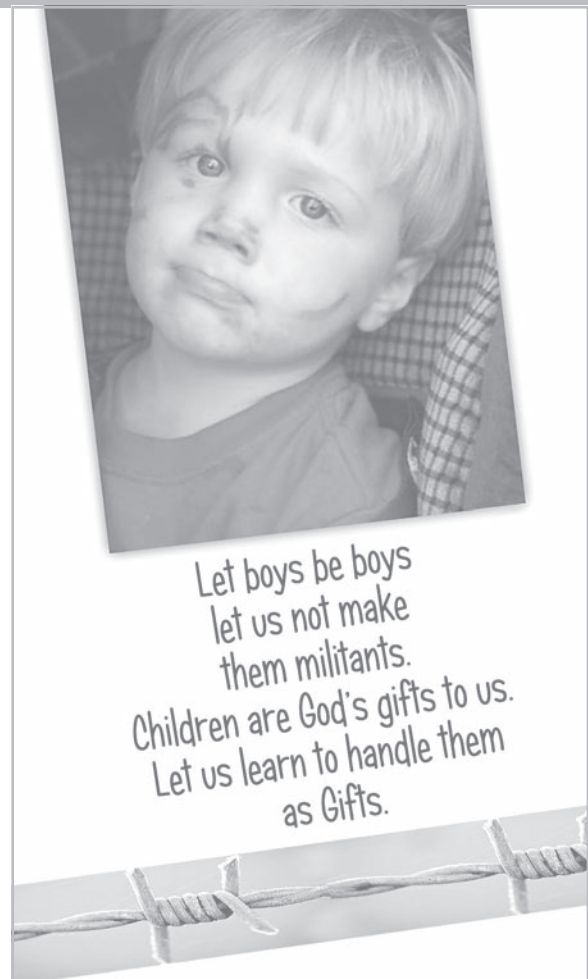
## Together ON A RESCUE MISSION

Taliban are buying kids as young as 7 years for Rupees 5 lakh to act as suicide bomber, said a Pakistan's minister in Islamabad. The Taliban is buying children for Rupees 500,000 to 2.5 million to convert them into suicide bombers, and execute barbarous terrorist activities. The price depends on how quickly the bomber is needed and how close the child is expected to get to the target. In some cases, he said, the children are kidnapped and then sold

While the Taliban's are busy purchasing children for their bloody mission, the Tribals in India are seeking permission from the government to sell their children. To whom? Whoever is the buyer and can pay the price...we only pray it is not to the Taliban. The tribals of Palugu Tanda under Narayanakhed mandal have petitioned the State Government and the State Human Rights Commission sometime ago seeking permission to sell their children as the drought has rendered them jobless and penniless.

The harsh drought in many parts of India has forced farmers either to flee to cities or resort to distress sale of their cattle. The same is prevalent in other tribal areas India. "I do not want to see my daughter go away from us but we are happy that she would grow in a better environment and eat three meals a day," said Matta a tribal from Chhattisgarh. Naik of Orissa says, 'If my daughter is given eructation I would be really glad, but we are happy if she gets to eat and live comfortably.'

Drought from scanty rainfall, unemployment, lack of good, family debts, lack of medical amenities and exploitation by the businessmen from the plain areas have been the reasons for the tribals to. Ringi deplored that people are giving away their daughters for prostitutions into cities. The middle men make the money while the parents are assured a monthly income. Orphans have no one to tend for them and control them hence, Naxalism (Maoism) terrorism and other destructive avenues are an open invitation. Children are God's gifts to us. Let us learn to handle them as Gifts.



**Fountain of Life (FoL)** is an inspirational, interdenominational, apolitical (non-political) contemporary missions magazine published bi-monthly from, Visakhapatnam, AP., India.

FoL includes articles, messages, thoughtful comments and relevant news written from a Christian perspective thereby bringing an awareness of missions and missionary endeavour. The articles are aimed at challenging the readers with the issues and happenings on the missionary frontiers and thereby impact their spiritual lives to take up missions as a lifestyle. Other features include the Hebrew Connection, Spirit of Missions, Jews in News, book and music reviews, counselling, youth matters, family pages, matrimonial section etc.,

**Our Vision:** To be an effective tool committed to inspire, inform, invigorate and encourage the Church to take up missions as a lifestyle.

**Our Mission Statement:** In pursuit of awakening a missionary spirit.

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**Fountain of Life (FoL)** is a bi-monthly magazine circulated among Churches, Christian organizations, Bible colleges and university students, in India and overseas. Column viewpoints are of its respective authors, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the FoL management or staff.

We welcome free-lance contribution of any article on missions and missionary work in India and Asia. FoL being a missions magazine aims at keeping a balance 60/40 per cent of missions and other articles. Inspiring articles, first hand miracles experienced in challenging situations and other related articles that help Christian growth can be sent to us. However, the final decision to accept or reject depends on the editorial team. It is preferred that the articles be accompanied by good quality photographs in color. You may send them by email too. Digital photographs must be in 300 DPI and in Tiff /Corel Draw/JPG format preferably.

**FoL** endeavours to keep a good standard of articles and so kindly write to the Editor for *Writer's Guidelines* before sending your articles. **Fountain of Life** is published 6 times in a year. Subscriptions are by a suggested donation (see page 31 for details.) Advertising space is available to those targeting Christian community. For distributorship, subscriptions, membership and advertisements, write or call the Registered office in Visakhapatnam. Contents copyright ©2010 by Fountain of Life, India.

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## Editor's Note

The times we live in are neither the best nor the worst as Charles Dickens penned in the opening lines of his classic *The Tale of Two Cities*. Yet, it is a promise the Bible assures the Church that we can hope against hope no matter 'how good the times are' and 'how bad the days are.' Each passing day is a glorious passage into the future and finally into eternity. This is the synopsis of the words, "This is the day the Lord had made and we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24. Wow! What a promise, what a hope that we the Church have in enjoying such a state of mind in spite of the odds we see all around us. We do not know the future and we need not to know; we know the One who knows the future and that is all we need to know. This issue of the FOL carries the message that God is on a triumphing agenda leading His Church to an incomprehensible conclusion against the devices of the devil to destroy God's purposing plan. Read through the invisible handwritings of God and of His works on the pages of history and in the sky for all the generations everywhere to see and read. I am sure you will be blessed reading the cover story, 'God's Winning Streaks.'

My greatest joy was in interviewing Philip Yancey the giant of a writer in the Christendom today. His interview would prove to be a ready recipe from an acclaimed world class writer's lab to young and aspiring writers and also to all his readers who like me wondered as to why he writes the way he writes and titles his books, *Disappointment with God*, *Where is God when it Hurts*, *The Jesus I Never Knew* in such iconoclastic style.

'The Unseen The Unheard' carries the story of Golu a young teen aged girl who was sold off for a mere \$75 by her widowed mother in the flesh market of street dancers and the lives of hundreds waiting to be delivered like Golu who met her Redeemer, I call it Her Date with Destiny. Further, I am sure you would enjoy 'Becoz you asked' a new column that answers some of the unanswered questions of lay Christians who struggled for answers like me.

Happy reading...

*Sunny Joseph*  
(Sunny Joseph)

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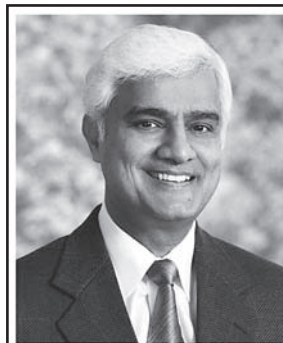


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Dr. Ravi Zacharias

# Tetelestia... It is finished

## Christ from the Cross

by Sunny Joseph

The two most viewed works of art in the world today are the nativity scene (birth of Jesus) and the crucifixion (death of Jesus). Why do these paintings still have such a lingering lasting influence on the mankind even though it has been 2000 years since these events? When we talk of these two pictures, it is obvious it is the person of Jesus that is central in these paintings. Why is the person Jesus such a mystery and why is He such an enigma?

Philosophy has two problems. While it answers many questions, it leaves unanswered the most asked question the 'death.' Philosophy has not explained death decently or meaningfully or in a way that it answers man's question. What happened on the crucifixion day was exactly what philosophy had left unanswered, the meaning of death. In Jesus' death all questions defining death are answered.

In the Old Testament we see a tabernacle that God ordained the Israelites to set up as a temporary structure where He could meet with them. This later became the Temple in Jerusalem... a permanent construction. The integral part of the Temple was the veil that divided Holy of Holies and the Most Holy Place. Only the ordained anointed high priest met with God on an appointed time ones in a year on behalf of the people to atone for their sins beyond the veil. The veil symbolized separation of man from God because of his sin of man in the Garden of Eden.

On the day Jesus was crucified, the progression of events was leading up to a culmination of bringing down of the ancient divide between man and God, the removal of the thick veil. How it happened is the defining moment the heavens and the creation waited to see. It is dramatic, it is climactic; it was eventic. It was the one single event that divided history, time and our calendar too into two.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," He did not mean, 'Oh my, this is finally done!' No, it was not a sigh of relief. The Greek verb translated as "It is finished" (*tetelestai*) means more than just this. It means 'it's done . . . complete,' 'What must be finished is finished.'

*Tetelestai* comes from the verb *teleo*, meaning 'to bring to an end, to complete, to accomplish.' It's a crucial word because it



What happened on the crucifixion day was exactly what philosophy had left unanswered, the meaning of death. In Jesus' death all questions defining death are answered.





signifies the successful end to a particular course of action. It means “I did exactly what I set out to do.” Tetelestai is in the perfect tense in Greek. When Jesus cried out “It is finished,” he meant ‘it was finished in the past, it is still finished in the present and it will remain finished in the future.’ The act for human redemption is finished... *Tetelestia*.

Death is every man's fear. Fear itself comes from the fear of dying. Man needed someone to go ahead of him to see and face death so he could pass death without fear. Jesus stepped into the need of man as a Mediator to bridge man back to God. And it was Jesus that paid the cost for human redemption. The long held fear and the mystery of death had come to an end. It is finished...Tetelestia.

Someone one said that if a man is born like a man, grows like a man and dies like a man, he truly is human. But if a man is born like a man, grows like a man and dies like a man and rises from the grave to life like no other human, then He truly must be divine and must be GOD. Only Jesus stands qualified in the place as one who overcame death. He is not God because

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Only Jesus stands qualified in the place as one who overcame death.  
He is not God because He defied death. He is God and so He defied death.

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He defied death. He is God and so He defied death. Many men, god men have come and gone but it is the tomb of Jesus alone that lies open for the world to witness that He does not lie among the dead but lives today because He is God and He is above death.

(“Tetelestia; It is Finished” was part of a short sermon by Sunny Joseph for Good Friday & Easter Special to CBN India's TV programme )

...if a man is born like a man, grows like a man and dies like a man, he truly is human. But if a man is born like a man, grows like a man and dies like a man and rises from the grave to life like no other human, then He truly must be divine and must be GOD.



Having studied Hinduism I already knew that Hindu and Buddhist monks were no less intelligent than Christian monks. The philosophies they constructed, the caves that they sculpted, and the temples that they built testify that they were second to none in imagination, ingenuity, architecture, engineering, discipline, and organization.

Christian monks shared a common problem with the Buddhist monks: neither of them had wives to haul water, grind wheat, or find fuel for cooking bread. One difference was that the Buddha required his monks to beg for food while the New Testament said that whoever does not work should not eat. Christian monks invented machines because they had to bring their own water, clean their own dairies, grind their own wheat, and bake their own bread. Christian monasteries developed technologies because their religious requirement to work was coupled with a spiritual quest for salvation from sin and its consequences, including toil; a theological commitment to the dignity of every human being - male or female, high or low; and a religious obligation to cultivate the human mind.

An excerpt from Vishal Mangalwadi's latest book. *Truth and Transformation -Amanifesto for Ailing Nations*. WYAM publishing, 2009.



## Why the U.S. owes Haiti billions



By Bill Quigley

The U.S. has worked to break Haiti for over 200 years. We owe Haiti as a matter of justice. Reparations. Not charity. Why does the U.S. owe Haiti Billions? Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State, stated his foreign policy view as the "Pottery Barn rule." That is – "if you break it, you own it." The U.S. has worked to break Haiti for over 200 years. We owe Haiti. Not charity. We owe Haiti as a matter of justice. Reparations. And not the \$100 million promised by President Obama either – that is Powerball money. The U.S. owes Haiti Billions – with a big B.

The U.S. has worked for centuries to break Haiti. The U.S. has used Haiti like a plantation. The U.S. helped bleed the country economically since it freed itself, repeatedly invaded the country militarily, supported dictators who abused the people, used the country as a dumping ground for our own economic advantage, ruined their roads and agriculture, and toppled popularly elected officials. The U.S. has even used Haiti like the old plantation owner and slipped over there repeatedly for sexual recreation.

Here is the briefest history of some of the major U.S. efforts to break Haiti.

In 1804, when Haiti achieved its freedom from France in the world's first successful slave revolution, the United States refused to recognize the country. The U.S. continued to refuse recognition to Haiti for 60 more years. Why? Because the U.S. continued to enslave millions of its own citizens and feared recognizing Haiti would encourage slave revolution in the U.S.

After the 1804 revolution, Haiti was the subject of a crippling economic embargo by France and the U.S. U.S. sanctions lasted until 1863. France ultimately used its military power to force Haiti to pay reparations for the slaves who

were freed. The reparations were 150 million francs. (France sold the entire Louisiana territory to the U.S. for 80 million francs!)

Haiti was forced to borrow money from banks in France and the U.S. to pay reparations to France. A major loan from the U.S. to pay off the French was finally paid off in 1947. The current value of the money Haiti was forced to pay to French and U.S. banks? Over \$20 Billion – with a big B.

The U.S. occupied and ruled Haiti by force from 1915 to 1934. President Woodrow Wilson sent troops to invade in 1915. Revolts by Haitians were put down by U.S. military – killing over 2000 in one skirmish alone. For the next nineteen years, the U.S. controlled customs in Haiti, collected taxes, and ran many governmental institutions. How many billions were siphoned off by the U.S. during these 19 years?

From 1957 to 1986 Haiti was forced to live under U.S. backed dictators "Papa Doc" and "Baby Doc" Duvalier. The U.S. supported these dictators economically and militarily because they did what the U.S. wanted and were politically "anti-communist" – now translatable as against human rights for their people. Duvalier stole millions from Haiti and ran up hundreds of millions in debt that Haiti still owes. Ten thousand Haitians lost their lives. Estimates say that Haiti owes \$1.3 billion in external debt and that 40% of that debt was run up by the U.S.-backed Duvaliers.

Thirty years ago Haiti imported no rice. Today Haiti imports



nearly all its rice. Though Haiti was the sugar growing capital of the Caribbean, it now imports sugar as well. Why? The U.S. and the U.S. dominated world financial institutions – the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank – forced Haiti to open its markets to the world. Then the U.S. dumped millions of tons of U.S. subsidized rice and sugar into Haiti – undercutting their farmers and ruining Haitian agriculture. By ruining Haitian agriculture, the U.S. has forced Haiti into becoming the third largest world market for U.S. rice. Good for U.S. farmers, bad for Haiti.



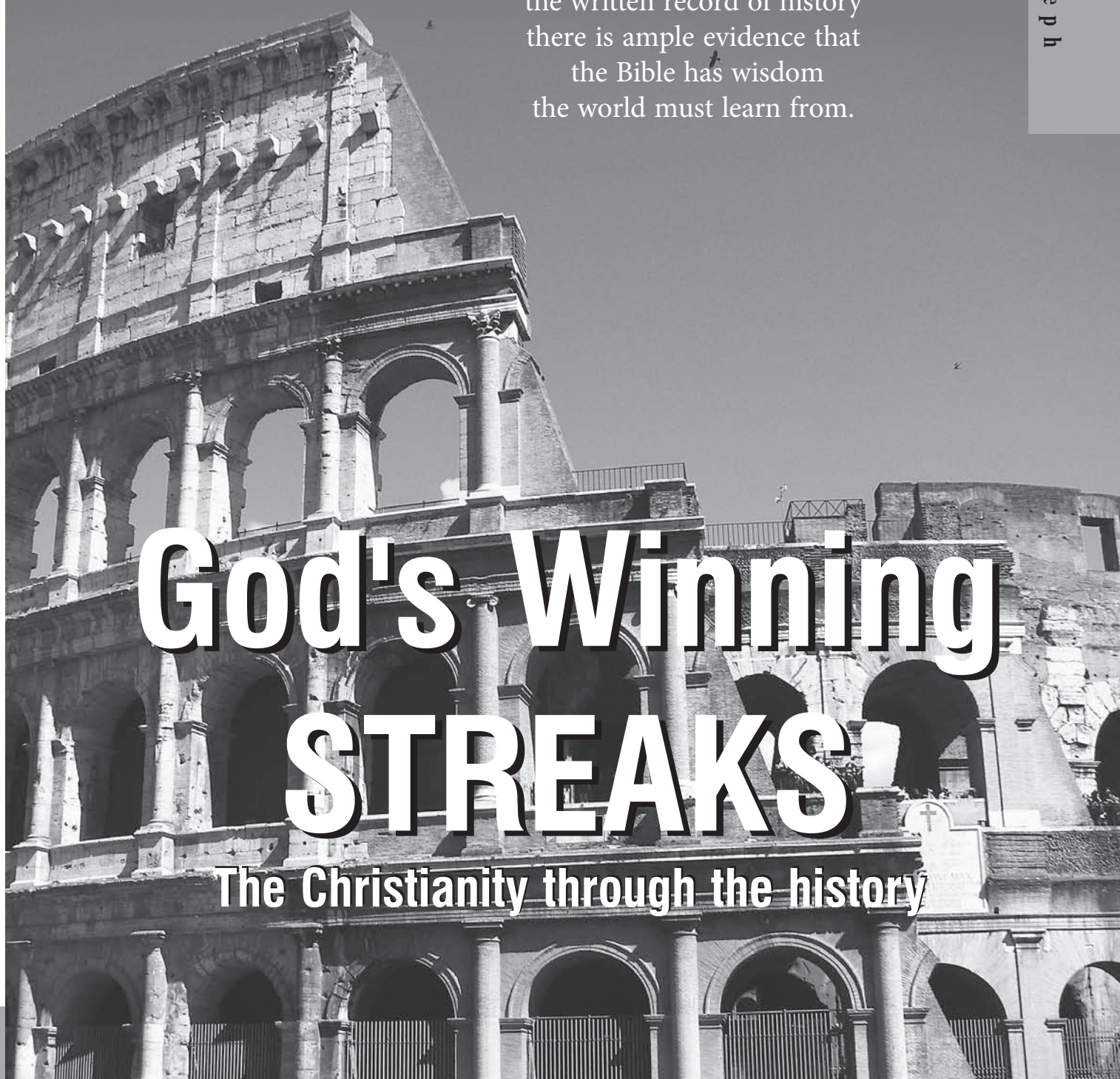
## Cover Story

By Sunny Joseph

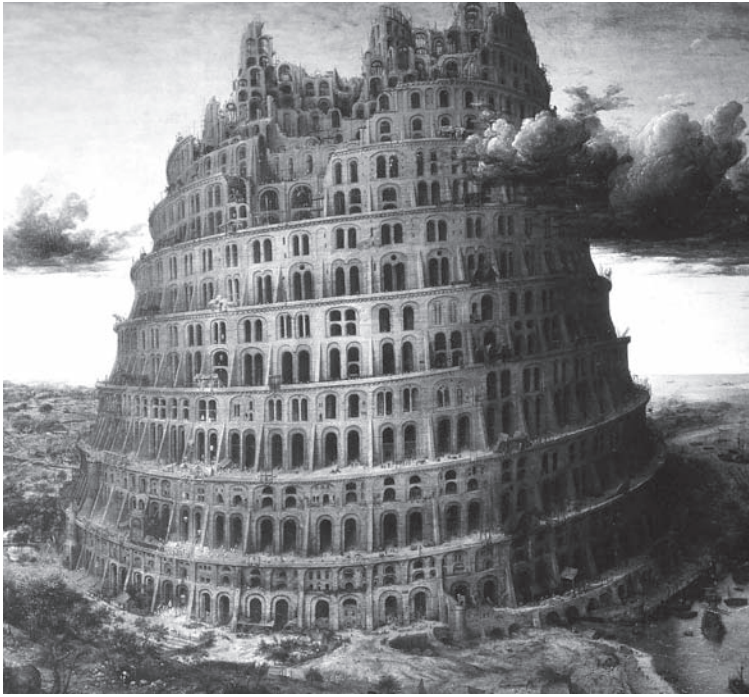
The Church has two thousand years of history; not to mention the invisible period of preparation God took in the history preparing a line for Christ and Christianity. Surely with its varying ups and downs in the history the Church had come a long way. The Church hasn't always got it right but if we point to the objective standard of the written record of history there is ample evidence that the Bible has wisdom the world must learn from.

# God's Winning STREAKS

The Christianity through the history



# Church: God's Answer to the world



'When we look at the persecution of the early Church...thousands of those who fled the Roman Empire and thousands more who denied the faith and differed their faith, the words of Christ, 'I will build my Church' seems rather stubborn and absurd. But consider the fact that there were 7 million Christians by the end of the second century in the entire Roman world and the world all over.'

**T**he Church is God's image bearer to the world and a messenger of life to a dying world. While there are incidents we hear daily of the church under oppression, suppression and persecution, it is not a wonder that we are not forewarned about this. In fact, this is our lot that we would face persecution. Jesus said that the world hated Him and it would hate us too. Is the servant greater than the Master? It was a story written in blood by the infant Church but the Church kept on triumphing winning the world for Christ.

We read that the overall god conscious has increased in the recent years worldwide. Religious movements are increasing; more god men, astrologers and prophets are emerging from not just India but from every country. Earlier it was only India that supplied god men and pseudo gods to the world. We hear Islam is growing rampantly in Europe and in the US. The growing statistics of Muslims, Hindus and other religions are ever on the growing side. While Church buildings in Europe and other places are turned into restaurants and art galleries and even Hindu temples, doesn't it seem the thought 'God's Winning Streaks' a deviation? Just a century ago Nietzsche wrote God is Dead, only 40 years ago *The Time* magazine ran a famous cover story questioning whether God was "dead." To the many informed observers back then, religion appeared exhausted, publicly irrelevant, and increasingly on the defensive.

When we watch the trends now, the centre of gravity in politics is more religious in direction. According to a 2000 Public Agenda survey, "Americans strongly equate religion with personal ethics and behaviour, considering it an antidote to the moral decline they perceive in our nation today." Nearly a decade after the 9/11 attacks, a shift has certainly occurred. Religion is finding its way into mainstream analysis. About Christianity, we hear nothing but divisions, growing cults emerging from within Christianity, and the persecuted Church. Does this information contradict God and His faithfulness to build His Church?

May I divert your attention to the flip side of the coin and see what is happening on the Church growth side of Christianity. FMPB recently has shown that the Indian Christianity has risen from 6 to 8 %. This is great news. But the figures on paper are different. Imagine such unknown facts and figures.

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Though we do not fancy in figures it is something to take note of.

I borrow these words from Eugene Peterson's *Earth and Altar*, "Everybody else is noisier than God. The headlines and neon lights and amplifying systems of the world announce human works. But what of God's works? They are unadvertised but also inescapable. If we simply look, they are everywhere. God mounts no publicity campaign to get our attention. He simply invites us to look: 'Come, see the glorious works of the LORD' (Psalm 46:8). Take a long, scrutinizing look at what God is doing. This requires patient attentiveness and energetic concentration."

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## God has an Agenda... And He is on a Mission to accomplish it no matter who cares

Jesus said, "...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

When we look at the persecution of the early Church in the first two centuries and the reported killing of 3,000 Christians, apart from thousands of those who fled the Roman Empire and thousands more who denied the faith and differed their faith, the words of Christ, 'I will build my Church' seems rather stubborn and absurd. But consider the fact that there were 7 million Christians by the end of the second century in the entire Roman world and the world all over.

God's timing was and is never early or late. When the fullness of time comes He makes His uncompromising move no matter what the circumstances are. History is a witness to this. If we fail to see God's move we fail to understand His agenda and where He is leading us to.

The primary purpose the Lord kept the Church on the earth is to be a beacon of light to the world groping in the darkness. This is the mission Jesus gave to His disciples after His resurrection. If God was only interested in having us in heaven, we must have all been dead and gone to heaven by now. But that is not how the Lord planned. Thus, it is clear that the Church is God's answer; to be a bridge builder between God and His people; between the Maker and His man.



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Since the infancy and the childhood days of the church, the Church had maneuvered through rough centuries. If not for the foundational suffering, the Church would not have been what it is today. Persecution is not a new feature to Christendom. It's been there since the first century and the Church had lived with it all through. What surprises the historians and the persecutors alike is, the more the Church was persecuted the more it grew in numbers turning even the pagan nations into Christian nations. Many tried their wit, wisdom, whip and even weaponry but the Church had outlived its persecutors.

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*Δ peek into the yester centuries  
of the Church.*



“...Church is God’s answer;  
to be a bridge builder between  
God and His people;  
between the Maker and His  
man.”

Decius became the Emperor in AD 249. The earlier year, AD 248 was the thousandth year of the founding of the city of Rome. But there were no celebrations against the usual practice of celebration and festivity. The reasons being, Roman Empire was experiencing the worst feared threats from the Christians that could cause the Empire to decline. There was no province in the Roman province where there were no Christians. Pagan temples were being deserted against the growing Christian gatherings. Christian disputes were being brought to the Church Bishops and solved among themselves and not to the magistrates of law appointed by the Government. There seemed nothing more dangerous to the Romans than the Christians and their unstoppable growth. The Emperor believed the reason for the decline of the empire was due to the negligence of the temple worship. One out of 10 persons was a Christian.

Alerted, Decius aimed at erasing Christianity once and for all, and so began an empire-wide persecution in AD 250, which until then was only a persecution at the local level. As a step towards achieving his purpose he introduced the following decree, which read as follows:

**(i) Certificate of Sacrifice**

Every citizen was expected to carry a ‘Certificate of Sacrifice’ with ones own signature. The certificate demanded the bearer to have a declaration of obedience to Decius’ order to worship the emperor. It contained the details such as name, father’s name, age, identification marks and address.

**(ii) A Trial**

Those who did not obtain or carry a Certificate of Sacrifice were arrested, tried and tortured to make them obey the decree.

**(iii) A Statement of Bishop.**

The Bishop had to give a written statement that the person thus caught was not carrying a ‘Certificate of Sacrifice.’ Those tried and found adamant to obey the decree of sacrificing to the Roman gods were to get a Bishop’s statement in which the Bishop must declare the manner of the death the Christian had to be put to death. In spite of this, the Church grew and triumphed.

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*Rome bows before Christianity:  
Oh how the Great and the  
mighty have fallen*

But considering that God was committed to His agenda of build the Church, we see in history, Christianity turned into a tolerated religion from being a persecuted religion.

Persecution ceased gradually and Christianity was tolerated by the Roman Empire not because they wanted to, but because they were forced to. There was no alternative. The more the Church was being crushed, the more it grew proving the words of the Church Father Tertullian, 'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.'

#### **a. Christianity Tolerated - 313 AD**

During this time though Christianity was supported, not made legal, not free from taxes, it was at least not persecuted. It was tolerated.

#### **b. Christianity Preferred - 323 AD**

After defeating Licinius Constantine became the sole Emperor of Rome. During the time of Constantine, he made Christianity a preferred religion. He joined the Church and State and called it Church and State Union. When he saw that the Roman Empire was disintegrating he decided to cement it with the Church. Thus the Roman Empire bowed its knees to Christianity.

#### **3. Christianity Legalized - 378 AD**

Under the Roman Emperor, Theodosius I the Great, Christianity moved to the next level. Christianity became an official religion, where Christians received support and were free from taxes.

To the Romans the Emperor was a god. One of the reasons why the Christians and the Jews were persecuted was because they denied the emperor worship. While everyone called, 'Hail Caesar,' the Christians called Jesus Christ alone the Lord and none else. But as the Church grew even under such severe persecution, the Roman Empire was declining. When the Roman Emperors realised this, they gradually came into terms with the Church. The Roman Emperor with his entire empire bowed before the Church. Think of this; Roman Empire the world ruler in its time kneels before Christianity accepting it as a recognised religion. History has not stopped with the bowing down of the Rome, the saga continues. This great



To the Egyptians Pharaoh was a god. But after the last plague Pharaoh calls Moses and asks him to bless him which required Pharaoh to bow before Moses in order for Moses to bless him. The Egyptian god Pharaoh bows before Moses, God's man for the hour. Egypt was the greatest nation during its time.

phenomenon started much before Rome bowed to Christianity. Consider the three great world empires Babylon, Persians and Greece and the fourth and the last Roman empire all bowed to the great God of the Bible. Beginning from Egypt all the world rulers one after the other have stuck their knees to the ground before God. History is a witness to this. How true, the words of Christ, 'I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail.'

When Moses went to speak for God concerning the deliverance of the Hebrews from Egypt, Pharaoh said, "Who is the

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 God has an Agenda and He is  
 accomplishing His Mission.  
 But His means of achieving His  
 goal is His Church  
 — — — — —

LORD that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2). To the Egyptians Pharaoh was a god. But after the last plague Pharaoh calls Moses and asks him to bless him which required Pharaoh to bow before Moses in order for Moses to bless him. The Egyptian god Pharaoh bows before Moses, God's man for the hour. Egypt was the greatest nation during its time.

Fast forward. Catholicism, Darwinism, Nazism and many such isms that have defied Christianity have fallen behind and are buried into the pages of history. Greatly accelerating God's "winning streak" was the decline in 1980s and the final downfall of Soviet Communism in the early 1990s. Soviet communism was perhaps the most politically powerful and globally successful anti-religious movement in history.

Subash Chouhan of Bajrang Dal once said, "In the country of India, Orissa is the second (to Gujarat) Hindu Rajya.' (Hindu kingdom or State). While Gujarat is boasted as the first 'Hindu Rajya,' it should also be remembered that India's first and all Christians village (100%) is in Gujarat itself; Wallacepur, in Bhavan Nagar district, Gujarat.

Consider the recent years' incident in Kandhamal where thousands of Christian houses were brought to dust by the Hindu fundamentalists and more than a 60,000 Christians fled their homes and hamlets to live in the poorly provided refugee camps for more than a year. In spite of the lost lives, property, health, career of the kids and even seeing death, it was an incredible display of faith that the Kandhamal Christians have displayed. They were prepared to let go everything. Even after almost 8 months though there is no assurance of compensation and safety, these Christians have deliberated to face the odds but refused to denounce their faith. This is strange phenomenon which even puzzled the Hindus and their authorities. Ultimately it was the Chief Minister of Orissa Naveen Patnaik who decided to atone his governance by announcing his "secular" credentials and promising security to all religious communities in the state. In the backdrop of the Kandhamal violence, the BJD chief while releasing the party manifesto, assured protection to all communities to perform religious programmes and further said he will give special emphasis on the advancement of education, health, economy and culture of minorities. The 40-page manifesto was captioned "Each bone of my body is secular."

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## 2 The Church is on its Agenda

History is full of pages filled with such stories of how those who opposed God had ultimately come to bow before Christ and Christianity.

God has an Agenda and He is accomplishing His Mission. But His means of achieving His goal is His Church.

The Secret of Success is Concentration

The Secret of Concentration is Elimination

The Result of Elimination is Focus

And what you focus on Expands

And when it so expands, it fills every fabric, faculty and fibre of our being.

That focus must be our Mission

And our mission must be People

Bob Sorge writes the story of a young man driving a bike on an intercity high way. From a distance he notices two doves on the middle of the road. The young man is in no mood to apply breaks for these love birds. He tells himself that if the birds do not move off his way, he would run his bike over them. He closes in on them, the birds do not budge. The bike runs over them and they are gone. The doves die. 'Good for the stupid and stubborn birds that do not budge,' thinks the young biker.

Unlike other birds and bugs, doves do not have peripheral eyes. They can see only one thing at a time and cannot see in a wide angle. More so, it is in the nature of the doves that when they are with their mating partners, they see nothing and none other but his/her partner even if it means death from an oncoming motorist. The Bible says, 'Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair thou hast doves eyes.' Song of Songs 1:15. Dove in Hebrew is yo-naw' a dove (apparently from the warmth of their mating):

Contextually it was Solomon conversing with his beloved. In general this is God speaking to the nation of Israel. But symbolically, it is Christ speaking to the Church, His bride.

The Lord says that the Church has dove's eyes. If the Lord is saying this, it must be true. But how does this level with what we hear about the controversial church, the divided church, the different doctrines and the persecuted church. Has the Church got dove's eyes for the Lord? Yes, the real Church has. The real Church had always had dove's eyes for Christ and thus dared every foe and defied death and quenched every attack. How true the words, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."



"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure.

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."

-Hellen Keller

Like the dove the Church must have its eyes focused on the vision which the Lord has given which is the result of having eliminated man made inhibitions. What we focus on expands and it fills our vision eliminating all that is mortal and earthly. Unless we stay focused on the object that is the people and the passion for the passion for the perishing, we shall not fulfill the purpose of our existence on the earth far from justifying our lives and existence. The day the Church loses its focus on the perishing world it has lost the purpose of its existence.

God's Winning Streaks

God's Winning Streaks

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GOD'S WINNING STREAKS

God's Winning Streaks





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- G. K. Chesterton

3

*The Church all over is growing;  
Are we joining God  
on His Agenda?*

The Church is God's answer to the world and an image bearer of the divine. While the world cannot see God we are His image on the earth. The world is looking to the Church for answers. Imagine issues like the Sati, child infanticide, child marriages, taboo on girls education and such were all the national issues that ruined our nations at a time in the history as terrorism, unemployment, corruption, politics are today. Why has the church not provided answers to such when the Church has done so well in the past? There is something radically

wrong with our outlook. Daniel Schipani a Christian Educator says, 'the church (including young people) is called to be an effective living witness of liberation, an agent of hope...involved in the struggle against oppression and alienation. The Christian Gospel is essentially prophetic, utopian and revolutionary.'

Helen Keller, author, speaker, and advocate for disabled persons, asserted, "Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." Everything in life brings risk. G. K. Chesterton wrote, "I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act; but I do believe in a fate that falls on them unless they act." The less you venture out, the greater your risk of failure. Ironically, the more you risk failure—and actually fail—the greater your chances of success."

Prayer:

If God lives and we believe He does;  
If Gospel brings hope and we believe it does;  
If Christ's commission is for us and we believe it is;  
If outside Christ there is no hope and  
we believe there is not;  
Then we have no excuse if we fail to use every means,  
In every way to expand our Christian witness;  
Until every person in the rapidly developing age  
Has the opportunity to hear and accept Jesus Christ.  
If we know the truth, then we are responsible.

Human life is endowed with sanctity because we are the "image of God." Though we claim that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us and makes us one family we still live in contradiction. One brilliant truth the missionaries showed to India was that in Christ we are one. The blood of Jesus makes the sinner and the saint one. One paramount truth they taught was that man is made in God's image and we respect man's dignity not by his caste but for who man is, that he is God's created being made in God's own image. But after missionaries left, the Indian Church has gone back to its vomit. It is a known fact that the caste system is written into the cultural DNA of the Indian sub continent. But the tragedy is that the blood of Christ has not cleansed the Church of such stains. We still are in a bondage concerning some truth the very that must liberate the human race.

The challenge is to model our lifestyle and to point the young people and the future generations towards Jesus, who modeled it perfectly, who always was willing to give up His life to set our imbalanced and imperfect world straight. ▲

God's Winning Streaks  
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God's Winning Streaks





## News Focus



### Studies: Belief in God Helps Relieve Depression

The "Big Man Upstairs" is getting accolades from mental health specialists who say they are finding that a belief in God plays a positive role in the treatment of anxiety and depression, the Washington Times reports.

University of Toronto psychologists reported last year that "believing in God can help block anxiety and minimize stress," their research showcasing "distinct brain differences" between believers and nonbelievers.

A new study released Wednesday by Rush University Medical Center in Chicago took the idea a step further.

In patients diagnosed with clinical depression, "belief in a concerned God can improve response to medical treatment," said the new research, which has been published in the Journal of Clinical Psychology.

The operative term here is "caring," the researchers said. "The study found that those with strong beliefs in a personal and concerned God were more likely to experience an improvement."

### Luis Palau preached to 14,000 at Chinese megachurch



Evangelist Luis Palau and the Rev. James Meeks preached to more than 14,000 people in China March 20-21 at the Hangzhou Chong-yi Christian church.

Palau spoke Saturday to a crowd in excess of 8,000. Speaking from Isaiah 55, Palau invited the young audience to pray a sinners' prayer and to become followers of Jesus Christ. Chong-yi Senior Pastor Rev. Joseph Gu then invited those who had prayed with Palau to stand. More than 500 responded to the invitation. Each decision-maker was given a Bible. Hangzhou Chong-yi Church is also offering each decision-maker an eight-week course on the Christian faith followed by an opportunity to be baptized.

"Christianity is no longer viewed as a foreign religion in China," Palau continued. "The Chinese by the millions are saying Jesus Christ is for China and China is for Jesus Christ."

### Church minister encourages costly sacrifice during Lent

A Church of Scotland minister has planned a 'Chocolate Sunday' this weekend to encourage his flock to think about sacrificing something greater than the usual chocolate during Lent.

While the Rev Albert Bogle, of Bo'ness St Andrew's, suspects that a chocolate fountain and chocolate sweets for parishioners may entice some non-churchgoers, he insists he is holding Chocolate Sunday this weekend to remind his congregation about the true meaning of Lent.

"We're inviting people to debunk the secularity of Lent – too often we give up the things that cost us very little," he said.

"We won't change the world by giving up chocolate but we can if we take up a cause that's worth dying for.

"Although it's a bit tongue-in-cheek, people can eat the chocolate, but what we really want to do is take up our crosses and start serving others."

### Bhagwad Gita in Indian Schools

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's plans to introduction of Bhagwad Gita as a moral science subject in school curricula has brought sharp criticism from eligious corners. Earlier it was the sun worship, the the yoga and now Gita teaching. The strategy is clear to saffronise the schools.

"The Shivraj Singh led government wants to do everything that will annoy the minorities. That is their aim," said Congress MLA Arif Aqueel. He questioned, "I don't have any problem with introduction of the Bhagwad Gita but than why not the Quran, the Bible or the Guru Grant Sahib?," said Arif Aqueel, Congress MLA.

Madhya Pradesh Catholic Churches' spokesman Fr Anand Muttangal said, plans to introduce only a Hindu religious book is as an attempt to incite communal feelings. "We would say the government must introduce all religious scriptures into the educational system in the larger interest of society," he added.

The BJP-ruled government in the past had made surya namaskar (sun worship) and yoga mandatory for students in schools.

## Jews in News

### Oil found in Israel

An oil exploration company has announced that it has found "significant quantities" of oil in Israel, buoying hopes that natural resources are prevalent in the Holy Land and could enable Israel to become energy independent.

An Israeli company, the Givot Olam Oil Exploration Limited Partnership, announced in December that it found oil at its drill site in Rosh Ha'Ayin, about 10 miles inland from the Tel Aviv coastline. Gas was also found during the drill. This reduce its dependence on imports. An oil reserve would do the same.

In Deuteronomy 33:18-19, Moses blessed the tribes of Issachar and Zebulun saying, "They will summon peoples to the mountain and there offer sacrifices of righteousness; they will feast on the abundance of the seas, on the treasures hidden in the sand." Also, in Deuteronomy 33:24, it is said of Asher "let him bathe his feet in oil."

Taking that to be natural oil and not olive oil, and presuming that "treasures hidden in the sand" may indicate natural resources such as oil, Zion Oil and Gas secured two onshore exploration licenses covering about 162,000 acres between Tel Aviv and Haifa and a permit to explore 165,000 acres to the east. These regions of Israel include the land allotted to the tribes of Asher, Menashe, Issachar and Zebulun.

### Better Place electric cars to debut in Israel



Israel is taking on one of the most pressing problems of our times and trying to solve it for the world, says Shai Agassi, whose electric car venture Better Place will be installing its cutting edge network in Israel first. Located in California, the start-up that's out to combat the world's dependence on oil will have its first network installed in Israel, with electric cars running on local roads and dozens of recharge stations in place, by 2011.

Anyone for a recharge? Better Place shows off its recharging network at the new demonstration center in Ramat Hasharon, Israel. Agassi's brainchild, Better Place intends the Israeli pilot to be a model for a worldwide electric car grid. Next stop is Denmark, and the company has plans to expand in Europe and the US. HSBC just signed a \$350 million deal with Better Place, and in Israel, the Dor Alon gas station chain signed an agreement to install battery replacement points for the electric vehicles at all of its stations.

### Thousands of hours of battery, and it's green too

Perhaps it was Israel's deserts and dunes that supplied the inspiration for Prof. Yair Ein-Eli's battery that lasts for thousands of hours and has a silicon power source that reverts to sand when it's spent.

The research was conducted at the Technion - Israel Institute of Science and recently published in the journal *Electrochemistry Communications*. The article explores how this new breed of portable electrochemical battery produces thousands of hours of charge from an abundant and non-polluting fuel source.

Being small and portable (the battery ranges in size from less than a third of an inch to an inch or so), it could replace the batteries used in hearing aids. Thinking ahead, this technology could replace the two-to-three hour battery lifespan of laptops, allowing them to run for hundreds of hours on a single charge. And it could ultimately evolve into a new kind of battery for electric cars and solar panels, or a power source for space stations on the moon.

Based on silicon the battery works by enabling this abundant material to revert back to its original form as sand. The battery can sit on a shelf for years before it's activated.

Ein-Eli started working with batteries decades ago, and was raised he says, as an electrochemist. "When I did my PhD in this area it was not so popular - first I worked on lithium metal batteries and then changed to lithium ion in 1993," he recounts.

Working under one of the world's leading battery researchers - Prof. Doron Aurbach at Israel's Bar Ilan University - Ein-Eli says he was fortunate to have a good base, and from there went on to a post-doctorate post at Harvard. Later, while at a Bet Shemesh company called Electric Fuel, Ein-Eli discovered metal air, the basis of his new invention.

The great day of my initiation came when I was dressed nicely and taken to the owner of the dance troupe. The first question I was asked was, 'Do you like dancing?' My mom's eyes pierced me prompting me to say in the positive which I did. After the necessary formalities my mother received Rs 3,000 (\$ 75). Ever since then I carried a tag, 'Street Dancer.'

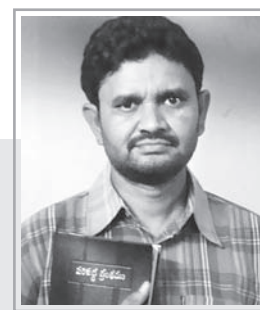


no longer bear the harassment, I gave in. The great day of my initiation came when I was dressed nicely and taken to the owner of the dance troupe. The first question I was asked was, 'Do you like dancing?' My mom's eyes pierced me prompting me to say in the positive which I did. After the necessary formalities my mother received Rs 3,000 (\$ 75). Ever since then I carried a tag, 'Street Dancer.' I began to earn money and bring home everything required. My mom began to enjoy a better life style. And in fact it grew to be luxurious. Further, without my knowledge, my mom made another loan against me from the company to a tune of Rs. 20,000/- (\$500) Though I was earning money and our financial life improved I was so lonely and cursing myself within. I used to earn Rupees 300 per programme (less than \$ 8) per day.

My life slowly took a different shape and style. The purpose why recording dancers were booked was for pleasure where we were expected to do all nasty and vulgar things. It all begins from your dress code which is the primary step. It is an unwritten law that one should expose the flesh as much as possible. The more you do the more you are in demand and preferred. After that you are trained slowly to be communicative through body language, expressions and looks. The very looks and the words we speak would be so out of line with anything that is normal. Eventually I began to travel the country and being away from home brought freedom and all its evils. This life brought upon me a tremendous desire to be a great dancer and I began to do everything to be a successful and preferred dancer. A successful dancer is one who could attract the most men at all times.

While a desperate desire was killing me to be the best dancer no matter what cost me, my life was growing bitter and miserable. I began to hate my life for its vulgarity and awkwardness. Many a time I went to the dressing room crying yet did my job just to please my troupe, earn my money and keep my mother happy.

When we came to this area a couple of years ago, this place where the Church stands today was a dumping yard for all the garbage of the colony. People even used this place for their nature calls. Everyone opposed for a Church construction in this area. Many pastors negated my idea and threatened about God's curse. But today it is such place that has transformed many a life like Golu. This place as Golu's was such a rejected place but God today turned the rejected place into such a blessed place. Golu began to visit our home regularly which is just a few hundred yards from the Church, many people warned me from allowing her to our house lest they would stop coming to our place. But I did not heed to their words. I was convinced one sinner is what heaven rejoices at than 10 self-proclaimed saints.



-Pastor Ravi Alajangi



My life slowly took a different shape and style. The purpose why recording dancers were booked was for pleasure where we were expected to do all nasty and vulgar things. It all begins from your dress code which is the primary step. It is an unwritten law that one should expose the flesh as much as possible. The more you do the more you are in demand and preferred.



December 3rd 2006. I casually entered Christu Devalayam (Christ's Temple) a Church in our neighbourhood that was celebrating its inauguration. Our colony was notorious for every bad thing in the society. It is unusual to find liquor shops in residential areas but our area had a liquor shop right in the middle of the residences. So, a Church in such a notorious colony was curious to me and I was thinking of who was this pastor that dared a church in our colony. I went there to have fun with my friends as everything seemed to be in a mood for celebration and colourful.

As I sat through the programme, I could see some faces eyeing me thinking how come this girls here. Some boys too were giving me odd ogles. I felt out of place but something made me sit. Though there were people who were giving me odd looks there were a majority of them who welcomed me and made me feel home. The songs, the music and the testimonies somehow how attracted. A new sense of calmness began to overtake me which I began to relish. It was a feeling I never had at least after I entered the dancing company. Though I wanted to leave, I could not for the sheer pleasure of the calmness I was enjoying.

As the Pastor began to speak, for the first time I felt someone telling me of a true, pure and clean love. He was talking of forgiveness and taking an all satisfying new life. I felt so attracted to what he was preaching. For a while my whole life reeled before me like a movie. I thought, if this man promises what he is preaching to be true, I will take this life and leave my dancing, start all a fresh and bid good-bye to my old life. Just when I was beginning to enjoy what he was preaching, he asked those who want this pure love and life to walk to the front. Without a second thought, I stood up and walked shamelessly to the front. I knew people were looking at me strangely. I just walked to the front and received Jesus Christ which was followed by baptism. I began to enjoy my new found faith and life. For the first time I felt so clean, so neat and so peaceful within my heart. Coming out of the dance company took a long time.

Even after coming to the Lord I was secretly attending the dancing programmes. I fell badly sick with jaundice. In spite of my health I was doing the shows but all through the dancing time I used to feel guilty which was never there earlier. My friends



'... for the first time I felt someone telling me of a true, pure and clean love. He was talking of forgiveness and taking of an all satisfying new life...For a while my whole life reeled before me like a movie. I thought, if this man promises what he is preaching to be true, I will take this life and leave my dancing, start all a fresh and bid good-bye to my old life.



in the troupe began to see the change in me. I was not as the same as I earlier used to be. When my pastor knew this, he began to visit us at home and constantly counseled how it displeases God. But my situation was that I could not easily come out as I was liable to pay the huge loan taken by my mother from the company. My pastor assured the repayment of the money if money was binding me to the troupe and so he encouraged me to pray to God for the money.

My biggest challenge was when our troupe was preparing a big time dancing season. I was praying how best to avoid. As a preparation, the company owners gave my mom a good some amount. I was pretending to prepare and pack my baggage for the shows. But when the time to leave home finally came I stood my ground and refused to go. That was when all hell broke loose. My mom, our neighbours, friends and even my owner threatened to beat me. I refused to budge an inch. The owner even threatened to lodge a complaint with the police. I only prayed and did not change my decision. Finally the police were contacted but even that did not work in their favour. I am grateful to God for our pastor and the Church that prayed for me.

Slowly the company owner who is a very notorious person slowly calmed down and at least requested the money to be returned. Eventually as the days went by I began to pray and shared the Gospel with him. Finally he waived half the amount and requested the rest of the money. As he began to see a change in my life, he finally asked only a quarter of the full loan amount of Rupees 20, 000 (\$500) It is two years since that day, he has not asked me for the money and I meet him daily but he has stopped asking me the money. I am glad my mom who never used to work began to work. Today my mom and my brother Paidi Raju pray daily.

I have visited hundreds of houses in my vicinity and shared the gospel house to house. My neighbourhood has seen my change and many have come to the Lord through me and attend the Church today. ▲

There are nearly 10 dancing companies in the district of Vizianagaram alone. Each troupe consists of nearly 40 dancers which include both male and female. Larger companies have dancers up to 200 but they are in the big cities. There are thousands of such groups all over the country. Unlike the earlier days when these dancers were employed during the festive seasons, these are more in demand where they have programmes round the year with the least are no off days. Street dancing is a flesh market of sorts. Life in the dancing company is a life sold out for the market and for the people. Living under the guise with pastes and powders each dancer tries to hide his/her pain, sorrow and loneliness in the loudness of the music and in the brightness of the flash of the colour shimmering lights. But each face tells a story. You only need to scratch the cosmetic paste on the face you will pull out a mask and the (wo)man behind the glamour. You will hear the tearful stories living a lie and some living for money.

Talking to Shashikala, a dancer from Tenali, in Guntur district, it revealed that while their mothers dance to earn money they live such miserable lives. Children carry a painful stigma and belong to the rejected stock of the society.

# THE CHRISTIAN WALK BIBLE

KING JAMES VERSION

**Dr. Mathews Vargis**

**Breaking  
New Earth in  
Christian Walk**

In an Editor to Editor interview  
Dr. Vargis, speaks to the Editor, FoL

A serious student of the scriptures is Bro. Dr. Mathews Vargis. What he discovered for himself as the inadequacies in the Bible of his mother tongue, he took a journey no Indian has dared to take. His concern for an up-to-date translation of the Malayalam Bible his mother tongue which is the 7th most popular language in India has resulted in a love's-labour for his God and his people. Vishudha Sathya Veda Pusthakam, the Malayalam translation has seen the daylight after a decade and a half of hard work and labour. The same passion led him to take on another giant leap in bringing out a Study Bible on Fasting and Praying a daring mission by an Asian for the first time in the history of Study Bibles. In a one-on-one interview the Executive Editor of The Christian Walk Bible talks to Chief Editor Sunny Joseph why and what of Dr. Vargis' passion for an up-to date Bible Translation and his passion for an in-depth study on the Bible. Grab The Christian Walk Bible and read for yourself the nuggets on Fasting from a man who has undergone the ordeal of disciplining himself on the 'Lord's Chosen Fast,' and taught thousands across the globe in for over two and a half decades.



SJ: What made you translate the Bible into Malayalam when there was one already existing?

MV: The Malayalam Bible is a 100 year old translation. While having my personal Bible study as a young man I had always faced difficulty with the understanding of the Bible. As I said that out dated translations are as good as not having any translations, and so I began to ponder on the need and the possibility of a better translation. And so as I began to pray for the same, the Lord began to lay on my heart for the need for a translation. At that time I was working in Dubai. It took my nearly 15 years to complete the translation. At this time I am thankful to my wife and daughters for not only putting up with my project but for cooperating with the work. After I finished my manuscript, I it to the Bible Society of India office and showed them my work. They advised me that I should show it to the Kerala BSI and then get it approved and after which I was told that the Kerala BSI must put up a need for a new edition of the existing Malayalam translation. I knew this would never see the daylight and so prayed and was prepared for the same and ventured to publish the Malayalam Bible, Vishudha Sathya Veda Pusthakam which became the first path-breaking bible translation in the history of the Malayalam Bible, in over 100 years.



MV: Though I enjoyed the whole translation journey of the Malayalam Bible, it was not an easy task specially while working full-time in Dubai. But that was on the personal side and the sacrifice I had to put in. But my major disappointment came from within the Malayalam Christians who did not accept or approve the translation. And so they lodged a complaint with the Dubai government the result of which I was deported by the King of Dubai. It meant a complete uprooting of our family, profession including the education of my daughters which had a major blow. We never complained but took it all as from the Lord.

SJ: Why another Bible with the subject on Fasting?

MV: For anyone to have a healthy Christian life Bibles are essential. They lead people to have a closer relationship with God. God has given His Word so that people can understand Him and know His will and purpose in their lives and in the world they are living in. He first gave His people the Word at Mt. Sinai. Then He called Moses and gave it in writing to them with His own fingers becoz He wanted them to read it and refer it regularly. He also purposed that the same Word should be passed on to generations. So Bible is essential for a healthy and holy spiritual life. After I came into the full-time ministry I felt the need for an up-to-date Bible translation. We have many translations in the Bible. But I am sad to say that many translations are out dated translations. Out dated translations are as good as not having any translations because the language, script in fact everything becomes different. Outdated translations can never be effective.

Coming to the subject on Fasting; God intends every born-again Christian to walk in a holy relationship with Him. But how can a fallen man inured with the nature of sin live a holy life. The key is through fasting. This is the principle aspect of the Bible. Unless we learn to discipline to harness our bodies and bring to an absolute submission it is not possible to live God's intended holy life and this is possible only through fasting and praying. Man is a slave to his belly. Eden proved this and many incidents do the same and God's remedy for this was and is fasting. When we fast our concentration is shifted from ourselves to God. This paves a way to a deeper and a closer walk with God resulting a holy and God centered life.

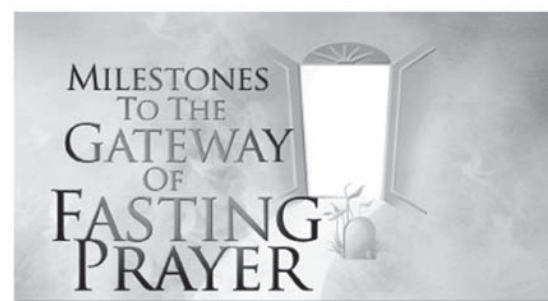
SJ: Why did you choose King James Version when there are other popular versions?

MV: Popular as you said, 'Yes' they are popular because of they for an easy reading but not for a serious reader. The so called popular versions are either paraphrase versions which means they are made for easy reading while sacrificing the original intended message or if they are not paraphrases, they have dropped some of the texts. Many translations have replaced the emphasis on the fasting praying to just praying. Example, refer Matthew, Mark, Luke...

Dr. Vargis is also the director and overseer of the Paniya New Testament translation and the Jenu-Kurumba translation, both pioneering achievements for the first time in the history of the world, for these ethnic tribes. A compassionate philanthropist, Bro. Dr. Mathews Vargis is the founder of numerous Good Samaritan missions, striving to provide education and offer support and assistance to the weak and disabled. He is an acclaimed best-selling author, he has penned numerous books on a variety of topics ranging from fasting to tithing, including the best-selling daily devotional in Malayalam, 'Athiravile Thirusannidhiyil'. Over 180 songs in 3 languages stand to his credit for writing and composing. He is also the founder of Wordtoworldradio.com, the first online Malayalam ecumenical Christian radio.

The Chairman of the foreign units of Inter Denominational Christ Fellowship and the President of Inter Denominational Christ Fellowship, USA, he is also the President-designate of the Inter Denominational Christian Fellowship. He is the founder, pastor and president of the Inter Denominational Christ Church.

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## Jungle Fest in Mission Chintapally

The two Jungles Fest programmes were conducted recently in Peddapalem and Kommangi in Chintapally mandal. The two programmes were attended by more than 100 young people both put together. The idea behind a Jungle Fest was to have the young people in the tribal villages come in the name of a Jungle Festival which includes Aata (games) Paata (song or music) Maata (Word). It was a two day event with lots of fun and games, music, singing, camp fire and the message of Jesus Christ. Games included, cricket, piñata, arrow shooting, jungle goal, a game imitating food ball or hockey but instead of a foot ball or a hockey stick we used a rubber ring.

The PF Visakhapatnam team arrived around 10 am on the a Saturday and quickly got into the games after initial refreshments. After a brief break for lunch the games resumed which went on till the dusk concluding with piñata.

The night bonfire (camp night) was attended by young people from the neighbouring villages. The highlight was the dhimsa the traditional dance by the tribal boys and the girls with background music of drums and flute. The moon was full. The rich lush of the moon-lit night made the dancing worth watching and worth joining. It was a night to remember. This was the same in both Peddalalem and Kommangi. Later, after the traditional dancing set the tone for the villagers to gather, the PF team, enacted an interesting skit and led night gatherers into worship which concluded with a brief testimony and a message.

The Jungle Fests ended with a half-day retreat on the day next after a joyful time of singing, message, dramas and a delicious love feast. Many young people rededicated and committed their lives to Jesus when the altar call was given. Kuda Sathyanarana and G. Ravi Babu preached in Peddapalem and Kommangi respectively.

The evening concluded with tea and snacks. A team of 15 people from People Focus Vishakapatnam went to be part of the Jungle Fest. The Child Evangelism Fellowship staff conducted special programme for the kids. Stories with flash cards, action songs and kids' games with memory verse learning were all a new feature for these tribal children.

The accommodation was in the UNICEF and Action Aid sponsored anganwadi. Due to lack accommodation some of us slept in the Hindu Ramalayam (Ram Temple). A rare experience truly it was.



Jungle Fest story time



Jungle Fest singing time



Jungle Fest Campfire





# Prayer Altar



## People Focus Prayer needs - Summer 2010

### Church Construction in Chintapally :

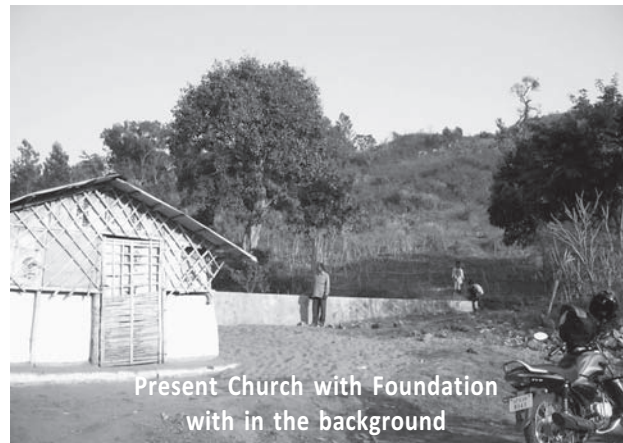
It is known to our readers and prayer partners about the complications we were facing concerning church land for Moriah Fellowship in Chintapally. We also informed you of the way the Lord helped us build a bridge with the trouble making neighbours. There is peace with the neighbours and the construction work had begun. The foundations have been laid and we were just waiting for the finances to come by for the continuation and the completion of the construction which must be finished before the monsoon sets in June or July of 2010. Kindly pray for the finances and the completion of the church constructions. The budget is Rupees 1,50,000 for the construction of the Church.

### Church Construction in Mullimetta:

Please pray for the speedy construction of the Church in Mullimetta. The total budget for this Church construction is Rupees 1,25,000. The foundations have been built with nearly Rupees 30,000. There is a need for the remaining Rupees 95,000.

### Other Church Constructions:

There is an urgent need for the construction of Churches in Labbangi and Vangasari. Both require Rupees 50,000.00 for



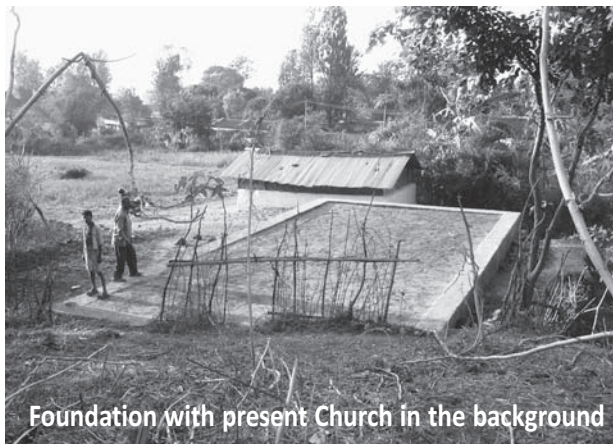
Present Church with Foundation  
with in the background

the constructions. Land has been provided in these places.

**Summer Programmes:** Please pray for the summer programmes for the youth and children both in Chintapally and in Narsiptnam.

### Cycles Provided:

Mrs and Mr. Sam Srinivas have donated two BSA cycles to the ministry of People Focus. Mrs Hemangini Samuel called us to inform that she would provided a full set of stainless steel kitchen ware to one of our mission workers. We have been praying to provide complete kitchen needs to Praveen and his wife Seetha who are PF's mission workers. Praveen pastors the Labbangi tribal Church. Please pray for Mrs. Hemangini who is recouping for Cancer.



Foundation with present Church in the background

You may send us your prayer requests by mail/email/phone.  
People Focus and FoL meet for prayer every Tuesday.

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## Remembering April 1912



A doubt never entered my mind as to the ability of divine power to save me. These words from the 91st Psalm came to me so distinctly: "He shall give His angels charge over thee."

Only 705 of the 2228 passengers of the Titanic survived. How would you react in a similar catastrophe? Would you cling to God? Read the testimonies of two survivors who were supernaturally saved.

The experience which follows shows that Divine Principle is to be relied upon at all times.

While the Titanic was sinking, and during the whole time I was working at the boats, I held to the truth, thereby eliminating all fear. I was on the port side where all boats were got away without a hitch, the last one, a flat-bottomed collapsible, floating off the deck.

I called on men to follow me up on top of the officers' quarters to cut adrift the last boat. We had no time to open it up, so just hove her down to the deck.

I ran across the deck and could see that all material work was finished, so from where I was above the bridge, I walked into the water. The sudden immersion in this penetratingly cold water for a few seconds overcame all thought, and I struck out blindly for the crow's-nest which is on the foremast and then just above the water. I found myself drawn with great force against the grating covering the mouth of the huge forward blower. In this position I went below the surface with the ship.

A doubt never entered my mind as to the ability of divine power to save me. These words from the 91st Psalm came to me so distinctly: "He shall give His angels charge over thee." Immediately, I think, I was thrown away from the blower and came up to find a piece of wood in my hand which seemed to be attached to the top of the funnel by a wire. A second time I went down and again came to the surface. My piece of wood was gone, but alongside me was the flat-bottomed collapsible boat which I had thrown down on the other side of the ship. This I laid hold of, but made no attempt to board it.

It was clear to me there was a divine power and it seemed perfectly natural to rely on it with the spiritual understanding spoken of in the Bible. With the sinking of a great ship like the Titanic, there was also the fear of suction to overcome, and at this time the forward funnel fell, throwing the boat, me, and other survivors about twenty feet clear of the ship, so that of suction we felt nothing.

About thirty of us floated the remainder of the night on the upturned boat. At daybreak we found two life-boats floating nearby, into which we were taken.

Reaction or effects from the immersion were none; and though surprise has been expressed by very many, it only goes to prove that "with God all things are possible".

(Source: Article by Lieut. C.H. Lightoller, RNR, Second Officer on the Titanic, in Christian Science Journal, October 1912)



## Cherokee Legend

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of Passage? His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own. The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man!

Finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm. We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, Sitting on the stump beside us. When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him.



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### Wanted Bride

**A Software Engineer** working in the US is looking for a godly spinster. The groom's details: Born in September 1980. Qualification: B.Tech., Computers M.S., Computers – USA. Height 5'9. Mother tongue Telugu. The bride must be M.S.USA/ B.Tech. Computers/MCA Computer Science/ MBBS. **For details contact: Tel # 9885893625**

**An Australian citizen** working for a software industry in Australia is looking for a godly Christian spinster. The groom's details: Born in July 1978. Qualification: B.Tech. Computer Science, M.S., Computers, Australia. Height 5'7. Fair in complexion. The spinster must be an MBBS/ M.Tech., Computers/ B.Tech. Computers. The girl preferably must be from either a Lutheran or a CSI church denomination, with a height 5'2 and above. The groom hails from North Andhra. **For details contact: Tel # 9885893625**

**A Software Engineer** working in the US is looking for a godly spinster. The groom's details: Born in October 1979. Qualification: B.Tech. (Computers) B.E., Height 5'7. Mother tongue Telugu. Wheatish brown in complexion. The bride must be preferably an engineering and must be a god fearing Christian. **For details contact: Tel # 9885893625**

### Wanted Bride Groom

**Wanted a suitably educated bride groom** for a fair looking October 1982 born Junior lecturer working for a corporate Junior college. Qualification: M.Sc., B.Ed., Height 5'4. Spinster hails from W. Godavari living in Vishakhapatnam. **For details contact: Tel # 9885893625**

**Wanted a god fearing, born again and a suitably educated groom** from a good Christian family for a fair looking god fearing spinster born in May 1983. Qualification: M.Sc., B.Ed., Height 5'4. Spinster hails from E. Godavari. **For details contact: Tel # 9885893625**

**Wanted a groom from a good Christian family** for a spinster born in November 1984 working as a Civil Asst. Surgeon in a CHC. Qualification: MMBS, Height 5'4. The groom must be a Doctor with PG, either working for the State Government or near Vishakhapatnam. Spinster hails from Coastal Andhra. **For details contact: Tel # 9885893625**

Interested readers can send in their details in not more than 50 words. Two insertions costs Rupees One hundred only (Rs.100/-) Send MO only to the address below. All requests must reach FoL office on or before 20th of the present month for printing in the following issue of FoL. Details may be sent via email also.

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# GETTING TO JUDAIC ROOTS

## The Hebrew Connection

### What is it about PURIM?

"That is why they called these days 'Purim' from the word 'pur'." (Esther 9:26)

**During the period of time between the destruction of the First Temple and the building of the Second Temple, the Jews came very close to being annihilated because of the evil scheming of Haman with the King of Persia, Achashverosh. The Fast of Esther is held on the day before Purim. We fast the whole day in order to commemorate the fast that Esther fasted before she went before the King Achashverosh to plead for mercy for the Jews. On this day we remember the dire situation that the Jews were faced with in those days and many times throughout history.**

Purim meaning lots" is a festival that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people of the ancient Persian Empire from Haman's plot to annihilate them, as recorded in the Biblical Book of Esther (Megillat Esther). According to the story, Haman cast lots to determine the day upon which to exterminate the Jews.

Purim is celebrated annually according to the Hebrew calendar on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar (Adar II in leap years), the day following the victory of the Jews over their enemies. Purim begins at sundown on the previous secular day. In cities that were protected by a surrounding wall at the time of Joshua, including Shushan (Susa) and Jerusalem, Purim is celebrated on the 15th of the month, known as Shushan Purim. Purim is characterized by public recitation of the Book of Esther (keriat ha-megilla), giving mutual gifts of food and drink (mishloach manot), giving charity to the poor (mattanot la-evyonim), and a celebratory meal (se'udat Purim);[1] other customs include drinking wine, wearing of masks and costumes, and public celebration.

Jewish exiles from the Kingdom of Judah who had been living in the Babylonian captivity (6th Century BCE) found themselves under Persian rule after Babylonia was in turn conquered by the Persian Empire. According to the Book of Esther, Haman, royal vizier to King Ahasuerus planned to kill the Jews, but his plans were foiled by Esther, his queen. Mordecai, a palace official, cousin and foster parent of Esther, subsequently replaced Haman. The Jews were delivered from being the victims of an evil decree against them and were instead allowed by the King to destroy their enemies, and the day after the battle was designated as a day of feasting and rejoicing.

Alternatively, it is possible the Sages chose the name "Purim" to teach that Haman's casting of the lot was itself the roots of the Jewish people's redemption. This idea is derived from

the verse, "It is a time of adversity for Jacob, but he shall be delivered from it" (Jeremiah 30:7) -- that is, the deliverance shall actually emerge from the "time of adversity." y choosing the name "Purim," the Sages emphasized that we have as much of an obligation to thank God for the trials our forefathers faced in the days of Haman as for the miracles He performed to redeem us from destruction. As King David said, "I praise You, God, for You have afflicted me and become my deliverance" (Psalms 118:21) -- in other words, "You became my deliverance by afflicting me..."



## Star of Pakistan – Sitara-e-Pakistan

Son of Lutheran missionaries to Tanzania, Greg Mortenson was a Nobel Prize for Peace nominee and the recipient of Pakistan's highest civil award, Sitara-e-Pakistan ("Star of Pakistan") for his dedicated and humanitarian effort to promote education and literacy in rural areas for fifteen years. Greg Mortenson is the co-author with David Oliver Relin of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Three Cups of Tea* and the author of the bestseller *Stones into Schools*.

**Tom Brokaw** the American TV journalist rightly put it, "One ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, who is really changing the world."

In 1993 while recovering from K2 the second highest mountain in the world in the Karakoram Range, Greg Mortenson met a group of children in a village Korphe who were sitting



opportunities existed before. To this day many question with a surprise why the 131 schools that Greg's Central Asia Institute has built, none has been shut down by the Taliban.

He paid the cost, that included serving 3 death threats, escaping Taliban kidnapping in Pakistan, being held hostage, hiding under animals skins for 8 hours, Islamic mullahs, facing two fatwas for educating Muslim girls, CIA investigations, Afghan opium war lords and even fellow Americans.

Mortenson believes that education and literacy for girls globally is the most important investment all countries can make to create stability, bring socio-economic reform, decrease infant mortality, decrease the population explosion, and improve health, hygiene, and sanitation standards globally. Mortenson

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in the dirt writing with sticks in the sand, and made a promise to help them build a school. Returning to the States, Greg slept in the back seat of the car rather than wasting on a flat, signed for the most unpopular shifts in A&E University CA and ate economically. He wrote 580 letters when not working, and one received cheque for \$100. His mom's students collected 62,245 pennies (\$623, 45). Money trickled by. An article that appeared about Greg in the American Himalayan Foundation brought connections. After a frustrating time trying to raise money, Mortenson convinced Jean Hoerni, a Silicon Valley pioneer, to fund the Central Asia Institute. The mission of CAI—a non-profit organization—is to promote education and literacy, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Hoerni named Mortenson as CAI's first Executive Director.

What began as just a dream came to its fulfillment as years rolled by. As of 2009, Mortenson has established or significantly supports 131 schools in rural and often volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, which provide education to over 58,000 children, including 44,000 girls, where few education

believes that "fighting terrorism" only perpetuates a cycle of violence and that there should be a global priority to "promote peace" through education and literacy, with an emphasis on girls' education. "You can drop bombs, hand out condoms, build roads or put in electricity, but unless the girls are educated, a society won't change," is an often-quoted statement made by Mortenson. Because of community "buy-in," which involves getting villages to donate land, subsidized or free labor ("sweat equity"), wood and resources, the schools have local support and have been able to avoid retribution by the Taliban or other groups opposed to girls' education.

In August 2008, Mortenson met with then-President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, and discussed the book *Three Cups of Tea* over tea, and later met with new President Asif Zardari for a cup of tea, upon receiving the Sitara-e-Pakistan award. Greg is the proud recipient of 39 general awards, 13 book awards including *The Time Magazine - Asia Book of The Year* and 17 doctorate awards. In November 2009, U.S. News & World Report magazine featured Greg Mortenson as one of America's Top Twenty Leaders in 2009.

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## DAD'S EMPTY CHAIR



A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me", he said. "No, who are you?" said the father. The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up." "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bed-ridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head." "I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus.'"

Here is what I suggest: "Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, 'I will be with you always'." "Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now." "So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm." The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon. Did he die in peace?" he asked. Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek.

When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?" The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that." He explained how her father laid his head in the lap of the Lord and breathed his last.

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive. I asked God for water, He gave me an ocean. I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden. I asked God for a friend, He gave me all of YOU...If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

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# From p.21

I give a lot of illustrations. My visit here included a lot of notes taking and I am sure this will pop up in some book sometime in the future.

**SJ:** What is your advice to the young and promising writers of India and the world all over?

**PY:** Read, read and read. Early in my life, I made that commitment to read only those writers who are better than I am. I didn't get to spend time on the news papers. You can spend a lot of time reading a news paper but you would not learn anything about writing from news papers. I used to get some high quality magazines like the New Yorker and would buy good books on writing. So that is one part of it. And another part is not to do it alone. Better find companions in the field, the writers' group or you can read material that is in progress out loud and get feedback from other people. It is hard for a writer to get a feedback and by the time you finally get it, it is very late because the book is already in print. So my advice is

please get a few trusted people who can give you honest feed back in the process and that will prove to be a great gift.

**SJ:** To whom do you give your allegiance and owe your success to apart from God?

**PY:** I started as a journalist writing for a teenage magazine called The Campus Life. There were a lot of Christian books written by experts, theologians, pastors, leaders, athletes. But I was none of these...I was a journalist...just a journal-ist. I knew a lit bit about a lot of things and I had a curious mind and so I was prepared to tackle anything. For example, I would go around and write about motor-cycles even when I did not know anything about motor-cycles but my job was to find this out. When you write as a journalist, you represent the reader. You do not know anything about motor-bikes but someone who is ignorant wants to know about it and so you communicate about such so that other people could relate to the subject. So, when writing Christian literature, again it is not the stance of an expert or a professional, it is the stance of one asking your reader, 'will you go with me exploring these questions?' When I began to do this, people began to respond because life is complicated and they are seeking answers and they look to you. When you go to a Christian book stores, you see books such as 10 Ways to Do this 10 Ways to Do That and stuff like that. I do not want be a professional professing I know it all. Rather, I want to put myself in the place of the reader and explore the answers for the readers first for myself and then for my reader. ▲

"...when writing Christian literature, again it is not the stance of an expert or a professional, it is the stance of one asking your reader, 'will you go with me exploring these questions?' When I began to do this, people began to respond because life is complicated and they are seeking answers and they look to you."





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## Signs of the Times...

## Is **Earth** more **active** than **Before?**

The Ryukyu Islands of Japan were hit with a 7.0-magnitude quake recently. Early this year we heard of the the Haiti earth quake and now Chile may make it seem as if Earth is becoming ever more active. But in the grand scheme of things, geologists say this is just Mother Nature as usual.

However, "relative to the 20-year period from the mid-1970s to the mid 1990s, the Earth has been more active over the past 15 or so years," said Stephen S. Gao, a geophysicist at Missouri University of Science and Technology. "We still do not know the reason for this yet. Could simply be the natural temporal variation of the stress field in the earth's lithosphere." (The lithosphere is the outer solid part of the Earth.) The Chilean earthquake, and the tsunami it spawned, originated on a hot spot known as a subduction zone, where one plate of Earth's crust dives under another. It's part of the active "Ring of Fire," a zone of major crustal plate clashes that surround the Pacific Ocean. "This particular subduction zone has produced very damaging earthquakes throughout its history," said Randy Baldwin, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey. The largest quake ever recorded, magnitude 9.5, occurred along the same fault zone in May 1960.

**How Close are we to the End?**



**The Time Ticks on...**

# Reversing the World Order

Advertising strategists have researched to establish the fact that child based advertisements have proved to be more successful to any product that need not necessarily be a child product. Products such as cars, TVs, loans, real estate and some such products that are directly not child based earn more mileage when children are featured in the ads. Now coming to children products not just most of them, but all of them appeal to the physical benefit of a child. While how genuine are they can be questioned, the advertisers have successfully captured the attention of both the parents and the kids' minds. All the products from dental pastes through the soaps, chocolates, clothes to health drinks, all have a fantastic appeal to the physical well being of the child. And this is essential. We all need these products based on the need of a child. If the child is short there are products that promise height. If the child has bad teeth, there are companies that offer healthy pastes. It cannot be debated what our kids need these products. While we look for products that enrich the health and the well being of our children, may we not forget that this is only a part of the truth and the essentials? On the flip side, the Bible emphasises a different kingdom principle. We read in Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God

and man." Observe the word 'wisdom and stature.' I am intrigued by the order of words Dr. Luke the writer of the gospel chose to put. He placed wisdom before Stature giving a careful but a strategic observation that it is the spiritual wellbeing that must be the priority in the raising of the children more than the physical. The words wisdom renders more to spiritual notion and the stature to the physical. Let this be clear to us the parents what we prioritise on when it comes to our children and their spiritual growth. A simple reversal can cost a whole life of a child. The reason why Eli was listed as one of the prodigal parents in the Bible is the reason why he failed to set priorities in the lives of his children. His fundamental mistake was that he failed to give his sons Hophni and Phenias some early spiritual training. 1Sa 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. It is a simply equation. If you know not the Lord personally, you are not of the Lord which obviously means a child of the devil. Belial in the old testament refers to a pagan god. (Used with permission © 2008 Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. All Rights Reserved.)

## A Slice of Infinity

Dr. Ravi Zacharias



### Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times

"No physician can cure a prejudice, which is a blindness of the mind."  
-- Jewish Folk Saying

Gratitude is the memory of the heart."  
French Proverb

The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.  
Anon

"Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade."  
-Rudyard Kipling

"Failure lies not in falling down. Failure lies in not getting up."  
-Chinese proverb

"What will your children remember? Moments spent listening, talking, playing and sharing together may be the most important times of all."  
-Gloria Gaither

"Action is the foundational key to all success."  
-Pablo Picasso

"We must get good at one of two things: planting in the spring or begging in the fall."  
-Jim Rohn

