

Fountain of Life

Ken Blanchard
...in face a' face

Same Sex is Old New Sex is In

Krish Dhanam

On Corporate Success

If Modi Made It Chaiwala to Chief Minister to ???

A Little Girl Confirms It is "Osama bin Laden"

15 Years after the Staines were burnt...alive

GLADYS STAINES' Exclusive Interview

When

1000

+ 1000

Cover Story p. 12

The image shows two dark, elongated, and slightly curved structures, possibly antennae or sensory appendages of an insect. The top structure is oriented horizontally, while the bottom one is angled downwards and to the left. Both structures appear to have a segmented, ribbed, or textured surface.

Cover S



O u r I n d e p e n d e n t I n d i a

People Focus
India

**"GIVE ME BLOOD
I WILL GIVE YOU
FREEDOM."**

~Netaji Subhash C Bose...
The man who gave
India 'Jai Hind.'



**I WILL GIVE
MY BLOOD
YOU TAKE
FREEDOM.**

~Jesus

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd giveth his life for the
sheep.

Fountain of
Life



Five Walk into Death FOR 60 TRIBALS

Leaving
Five widows
Nine Orphans

If we could understand God, we would be God."

~Jewish philosopher Ibn Pakuda

For us widows the question as to why the men who had trusted God to be both shield and defender should be allowed to be speared to death was not one that could be smoothly or finally answered in 1956, nor yet silenced in 1996.... I believe with all my heart that God's Story has a happy ending.... What God means by happiness and goodness is a far higher thing than we can conceive....

The massacre was a hard fact.... It was interpreted according to the measure of one's faith or faithlessness - full of meaning or empty. A triumph or a tragedy. An example of brave obedience or a case of fathomless foolishness.

But we are sinners. And we are buffoons....It is not the level of our spirituality that we can depend on. It is God and nothing less than God, for the work is God's and the call is God's and everything is summoned by Him and to His purposes, the whole scene, the whole mess, the whole package - our bravery and our cowardice, our love and our selfishness, our strengths and our weaknesses. The God who could take a murderer like Moses and an adulterer like David and a traitor like Peter and make them strong servants of His is a God who can also redeem savage Indians, using as the instruments of His peace a conglomeration of sinners who sometimes look like heroes and sometimes like villains, for 'we are no better than pots of earthenware to contain the treasure [the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ], and this proves that such transcendent power does not come from us, but is God's alone.'" 2 Cor. 4:7 NEB.
[Elisabeth Elliot, Through Gates of Splendor, Epilogue '96]

Today it is estimated that 40 percent of these tribal people profess Christianity. Anthropologists who are usually sceptical about Christian works have reversed their opinion on the five missionaries who gave their lives for the Auca. Some anthropologists, such as Boster, who is a professor at the University of Connecticut, say Christianity was pivotal in ending the tribal violence.

Boster told *Christianity Today*, "I believe that conversion to Christianity was instrumental in saving the Waodani.". He says the five missionaries' refusal to fight back, despite their guns, and the forgiveness shown by the missionaries' close kin showed the Waodani the power of Christianity.

They were "the worst people on the earth...a pure Stone Age people, they hate all strangers, live only to hunt, fight and kill. Their most notable products are needle-sharp, 9-foot, hardwood spears for use against human foes...Even their neighbours, the Jivaros, famous for shrinking human heads, live in constant fear of the fierce Auca."

~Time



Fountain of Life (FoL) is an inspirational, interdenominational, apolitical (non-political) contemporary missions magazine published quarterly 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 endeavours. The articles are aimed at challenging the readers with the issues and happenings on the missionary frontiers and thus impact their spiritual lives to take up missions as a lifestyle.

Our Vision:

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

Our Mission Statement:

In pursuit of awakening a missionary spirit.

Team FoL

Chief Editor: Joseph [Sunny] Mylabathula

Cyril Godwin

David Raj

Mark Raja

Shiva

Correspondent: A.J.Papabithini

Response: Melac David

Fountain of Life (FoL) is a quarterly magazine circulated among Churches, Christian organisations, 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 abroad. 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/reject depends on the editorial team.

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 4 times in a year. Subscriptions are by a suggested donation. Advertising space is available for those targeting Christian community. For distributorship, subscriptions, membership and advertisements, write or call the Registered office in Visakhapatnam, India. Contents copyright ©2014 by *Fountain of Life*, India. This issue of FoL is sponsored by the Kingsway Bible College.

FoL Office:

Post Box # 373
Visakhapatnam, 530003
AP, India.
Tel # 91-891-271 5921
<folasia@aol.com>



From the Editor



From our entry into this world from the womb, [for that is where we must make our entry from] we live in close proximity to the tomb ever living ever waiting for the time to consume us. While many of us think we are here forever, the truth of the matter is not so. We are here for now; the question is how long the NOW is? Explore the beauty of the NOW in the beauty of Psalm 90.

Read on the personal interview with Gladys Staines the widow of the Australian missionary in Orissa who was burnt alive along with their two pre-teens sons. It is saga of the depth of forgiveness and the length of forgetting the gory incident. Also is Ken Blanchard the bestselling author of *One-Minute Manager* and other articles.

With the coming of a *Hindutva* government back to power after two terms, the nation looks brightly towards the dawn of a new emerging India, but what does that mean to the Christians and the other non-Hindu minorities is a question of sorts. Whatever the lot of the Indian minorities, the hope of the Church is in the Lord who declares, “And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings...” Daniel 2:21. It is for us to leave the governance to God the Sovereign whose reigns supreme and eternally. On our part, let us remember that our days on earth gets closer to a closure each passing day and so remember to pray, “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” [Psalms 90:12]

Happy reading

Sunny Joseph
(Sunny Joseph)
Editorial

Contents

1000+1000=2

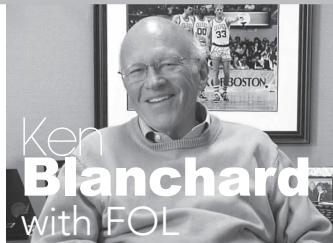
Cover Story **12**

Gladys Staines after 15 years



Interview Exclusive **18**

face à face



**Ken
Blanchard**
with FOL

24

Missions



30

Conversations



34

**Spearhead Recipe
for Corporate
Christians**

Readings by the Lampside
In the Beginning...the End

Culture

Same Sex is Old...New Sex is In
p.10

Hebrew Connection

Learning to Learn; Not to Teach
p.36

p.37

Columns



If Modi Made It

p.7



David Brown

p.9



Elizabeth Daghfal

p.32

**The Beginning
of Wisdom**



p.38

Ravi Zacharias

Now that **Modi Made It**

From a Chaiwalah to
a Chief Minister to a Prime Minister



| Team FoL

The BJP has long been in the wilderness of opposition and a straight defeat for the third time could have been catastrophic and possibly predict its slow decline and extinction. So for the Modi-BJP it was a 'now or never' situation and so in its desperate effort it has placed all the cards possible at stake and played each of it very well. The result...they made a sweeping return like the never before of its kind. The show down indicates, they are here to stay long and longer than any could predict.



This year's General Election for the 16th Lok Sabha in India was the most historic since Independence. With 814.5 million voters which included one million first time voters, it makes the largest electorate in a single election worldwide. This was also the most expensive elections in terms of money for India so far.

It is the first time that 'Hindu fundamentalist' Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ran its campaign on the personality-centric figure of Narendra Modi. Among the party leaders within BJP and Rashtriya Swayam Sevak (RSS), Modi was not the preferred candidate though; the party had none to field but Modi as its Prime Ministerial candidate. Was it an acceptance or tolerance was the question, but the election proved it all.

Though Modi was the poster boy, he was not the party's darling and Modi knew it well. Hence, he ensured that many rival leaders within BJP and RSS stayed clear from his path. He would not have any unwanted leader on his way to the Prime Minister's office and so he did not spare even iconic veteran leaders like LK Advani and Rajnath Singh. He showed them their place. Those who did not agree with him were made to leave the party; Jaswanth Singh is an example. While on one hand, he turned many a heavy weight leader who did not suit his taste into a light weight showing them

their place, diplomatically though, he turned a few light weight leaders – those who agreed with his policies - into heavy weights. Well, everything is fair in love and war and more so in politics.

Modi is not an intellectual, yet is a hard worker, a disciplined individual and a street smart politician. He knew how to play his cards; the fact that he kept his marriage concealed until recent times is the latest example. In *Aaj Tak* he said that as a person from Ahmedabad, or more likely, as a Gujarati, he knows how to pay less and extract more work; on how to take a double journey on a single ticket. That is Modi. No wonder, he was able to rope in the Bollywood super star Amitabh Bachchan as the brand ambassador for Gujarat tourism without paying him a single rupee. Of course it was Mr. Bachchan's gesture that he did not demand money for the services rendered. One has to wonder if it was the actor's kind response for the tax waiver the Bachchans got for the movie *Paa* in 2009 in Gujarat.

Modi is a strategic marketer and a remarkable champion of Hindutva in the garb of governance and progress that was showcased in a few preferred businessmen to project Gujarat's development.

now that BJP made its way through the election, could it be possible that the white stripe on the India tri-coloured flag would go missing leaving the saffron and the green alone heralding the flag of the two-coloured BJP flag?

The BJP had long been in the wilderness of opposition and a straight defeat for the third time could have been catastrophic and possibly predicted its slow decline and extinction. So for the Modi-BJP it was a ‘now or never’ situation and so in its desperate effort it had placed all the cards possible at stake and played each of it very well. The result...they made a sweeping return like the never before of its kind. It broke all previous records. The show down indicates, they are here to stay long and longer than any could predict.

The BJP had a mixed up manifesto that the common voter did not know whether Ram Temple in Ayodhya was on their agenda or not. In an attempt to woo both the Hindu and secular votes, Modi-BJP used a coin which had two sides. While some leaders campaigned with the proposition of Ram Temple, some other leaders from the same party denounced the fact or sidelined the truth about Ram Temple project and kept it in the shadows, at least for the campaign and until the Election Day.

On page 41 of BJP’s *Election Manifesto 2014* under the heading *Cultural Heritage*, the issue of Ram Mandir was clearly mentioned along with Ram Sethu, Ganga and Cow protection. It was all but clear that Modi’s BJP had under its saffron sleeve religion, Hindutva and Ram Temple on its agenda. What more, speaking to *Seedi Baath* Subramanian Swami a BJP leader and the former president of the party, said that Ram Temple will be and must be constructed if Modi becomes the Prime Minister. In an interview to *India Today* Suresh ‘Bhaiyyaji’ Joshi, general secretary of the BJP, on the issue of Ram Temple and other issues, said, “These are there in the BJP manifesto but they might take some time. We are hopeful they will happen.” [India Today, May 5, 2014]. Further, the words of Giriraj Singh a BJP leader from Bihar if taken seriously could pose a threat. Campaigning in Godda in Jharkhand, he said, “Modi’s critics must find a place in Pakistan”. VHP leader Praveen Tagodia said that Muslim owners must leave Hindu dominated area in Gujarat.

Logically speaking, the Indian mentality swings for a change and it did. After two terms of BJP came the Congress. Now after giving Congress its two terms [2004-2014], the swing let BJP in. The Congress had not been able to keep its house

in order and was fighting a severe anti-incumbency. The ruling party had been riddled with corruption and there seemed to be no end of the scams that have kept erupting time and again. In such a scenario, the mood swing of the Indian voters went well with the logic of shift and change and made Modi India’s Prime Minister. Whether is for good or for bad, only time will tell. Contrary to critics and public opinion, in the first few weeks of his days in the PMO, Mr. Modi started off very well. But we need to watch how well he would finish for it is said, ‘better is the end than the beginning there of.’

Now that Modi Made it...

The blood of many a Muslim in Gujarat still cries over Modi for the post-Godhra massacre. Modi was blind eyed and deaf eared to the riots; the analogy is of Nero playing a fiddle while Rome was burning. Following the Gujarat riots, were the atrocities on Christians in Kandhamal, Orissa, occurred in 2007 and 2008, where Praveen Tagodia, the VHP leader, said that after Gujarat under Modi which turned into a Hindu state, Orissa is the next laboratory for a Hindu Rashtra [Hindu State]. Hindutva fundamentalists feel Gujarat and Orissa riots as feathers in their cap. Post Kandhamal riots, the tribal Christians are still suffering from the wounds of the riots with no promised compensation coming to see its day of fulfilment.

During the Kandhamal riots, many Christian tribals were reconverted to Hinduism under the programme *Ghar Vaapsi* [home coming]. If reconversion is one of VHP’s visions [which is] apart from construction of temples and anti-cow slaughter then it is an issue of secular concern for the nation now that Modi’s BJP made it. Modi for sure would put India on the world map, but what concerns the Muslims and the Christians is would the promise for communal harmony and equality be assured?

On a final note, now that BJP made its way through the election, could it be possible that the white stripe on the India tri-coloured flag would go missing leaving the saffron and the green alone heralding the flag of the two-coloured BJP flag?

Praise: God's Blitz in Hell

Part III



PRAISE IS: PREPARATION FOR REVELATION

Our spiritual father of praise and worship, King David, proclaimed this by the spirit, "I will incline mine heart to a parable; I will open my dark saying upon the harp" (Ps 49:14). Mysteries and secrets are revealed as we praise the Lord. Those treasures hidden and locked up in dark places are broken into and captured, to be claimed rightfully by the overcoming child of God through the power of praise.

In the book of 2 Kings 3:11, King Jehoshaphat of Judah asks this question, "'Is there not here a prophet of the Lord, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?' And one of the kings of Israel's servants answered and said, 'Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.' And Jehoshaphat said 'The word of the Lord is with him.' So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. And

Elisha said unto the king of Israel, 'What have I to do with thee? Get thee to the prophets of thy father and to the prophets of thy mother.' And the king of Israel said unto him, 'Nay, for the Lord has called these three

by Dr. David Brown

kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.' And Elisha said 'As the Lord of Hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehovah the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. But now bring me a minstrel.' And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him." Later in the narrative you will see that Elisha prophesied a hidden and strange strategy for the kings to implement, which lead to the defeat of all three kings' common enemy! Victorious strategies are released as we praise God and plunge into his revelation for our victory!

PRAISE IS: A COVENANT RELEASING AGREEMENT

When we as anointed ones or Christians praise the Lord, we release the power of agreement. Matthew 18:19 affirms this in red letters, "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven." Praise is a loud, tumultuous demonstration about whom God is, what God does, what God has done, and what God will do! We are encouraging ourselves, with the testimony of praise and the agreement with other anointed ones, or Christians, that God has done it and will do it again; He is ready to honor the precedent of

the testimony now, to do it again for you as a believer! In this we edify and exhort each other as believers to be enthused and encouraged that God is who the Word says He is!

When we agree that God is good all the time, His goodness begins to manifest in and through our lives. When we agree that our God is a mighty fortress whose bulwarks have never been compromised, we are liberated from the stress and fear that evil will ever be able to touch us! When we agree that His grace is amazing, His favor manifests upon us! When we agree that there is power in the Blood, the benefits of that power are released in us! Praise releases the TIMES TEN anointing of Deuteronomy 32:30, one will chase a thousand and two will put ten thousand to flight! Psalm 133:1 proclaims, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment (anointing oil) upon the head, That ran down upon the beard, Even Aaron's beard, That went down to the skirts of his garments. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forever more. Praise is the ULTIMAE UNITY AGREEMENT!

A Little Girl Confirms... It is, “Osama bin Laden.”



Declared a Public Enemy No. 1 by Bill Clinton in 1998, listed among the FBI's 10 Most Wanted in 1999, announced as America's No. 1 priority to find him by President Bush in 2001, Osama bin Laden was the most hunted down terrorist in the recent history. He carried a reward of \$ 25,000 million later raised to \$ 27,000 million.

Holed up in a hide-out in the suburbs of Abbottabad, in Pakistan, the fugitive Osama was either nursing his wounds or mustering his muscles probably for his next diabolic operation. Whatever his state was, the veteran was not done with the war he asked including the 9/11 attack on the US.

The little role his 12 year old daughter played seemed the most significant at least for a few moments, minutes after Osama's killing in May 2011.

After more than a decade, the hunt for the US most wanted terrorist Osama bin Laden ended in wee hours of May 2, 2011 when the US Navy SEALs Operation Neptune Spear undertook a highly confidential air raid on Osama's elusive hideout in Abbottabad in Pakistan. The night's raid lasted for 38 minutes killing and capturing the body of Osama. He was buried at sea in the Arabian Ocean within 24 hours of his killing. There were four others who were killed in the raid including Osama's son, two men and one woman.

After Osama fell to the bullets from the SEALs, the raiders wanted to confirm verbally from the very mouth of Osama's wife Amal if the man who was dead and lying on the floor there was Osama bin Laden. The woman replied vaguely saying that the man was a Sheik. The interpreter insisted, "Sheik, who?" She gave many aliases but did not confirm. Frustrated, the man moved to the children standing in the balcony; kneeling down next to the 12 year old girl Safia or Amesha supposed to be Osama's daughter, the SEAL asked who the man was that was lying there dead in their bedroom. The girl replied, "Osama bin Laden." The man smiled and asked again if she was sure that is was Osama bin Laden and the girl replied, "Yes." He thanked her and moved on. This

was their first verbal confirmation the SEALs got from the killing spot minutes after Osama was shot to death.

This was one of the many confirmations that the SEALs received apart from others including Amal's later confession that the man they killed was Osama bin Laden or UBL as the SEALs nicknamed Osama.

Eye witness Mark Owen [name changed] one of the SEALs who was watching the conversation writes in his book, *No Easy Day*, "The girl did not know to lie."

Of all the vices the little girl must have watched and wrapped around in her mind, one virtue remained silently embedded in her white heart. In the plethora of negative happenings like the very death of her father, she could not lie to the killers of her father. She did not know how to evade, avoid or even dodge her response. In spite of the many odds, truth came to her naturally. She made the job easy for the SEALs. Innocence and integrity are the very stuff children are made up of.

Children carry an incomprehensible amount of purity, innocence and a white heart inside of them. When and how they become corrupted is a mystery, though, is not a mystery in fact. If we are sensitive to know what we sow into them, we can sleep a peaceful sleep that the fruit they bear would be worth the good sowing. It is not untrue that someone said that children are like wet concrete, what falls on them remains forever.

Same Sex is Old

New Sex is In



If you thought sex outside marriage was immoral, well it is a thing of the past now. If you abhorred same sex marriage and thought it bizarre and unnatural, you are old fashioned.' The now and the latest hype is marriage between humans and animals. If you ask me between 'what genders?' my reply is, 'how does it matter when it does not matter for humans?'

Early when the same sex movement hit our culture in the mid-90s, it was considered bizarre and an aberration from what was natural. But the following decades saw the movements' penetration into our real time culture and its successfull bold strides into our mainstream lifestyle and later into our law books. Though awfull and unexpected, they are now matters legally acceptable or at least legally arguable.

When *Fire* a same sex movie hit the Indian cinema in November of 1998 Indians, especially fundamental Hindus vehemently opposed. *Shiv Sena* and other Hindu outfits stormed theatres in Mumbai, Delhi Surat, Pune, Calcutta and other places destroying the theatres causing near or complete sabotage. The then Maharashtra Chief Minister Manohar Joshi supported the protests to shut down screenings of *Fire*, saying, "I congratulate them for what they have done. The film's theme is alien to our culture."

Today, a decade later, we have some of the top celebrated movies around the subject of homosexuality. Is it toleration, acceptance or participation that we have more movies on the subject that go unnoticed in the film industry while legal fights and debates are underway to make the gay rights movement legal? In just ten years the gay rights movement which was considered alien to our culture, is now with us to live and stay put up with our culture.

Though the movement in the US is nearly a century old it was only found in isolated cases then. The movement began as a small trickle with The Society for Human Rights in Chicago that became the country's earliest known gay rights organisation in 1924. Later The Mattachine Society, the first national gay rights organisation, was formed by Harry Hay, considered by many to be the founder of the gay rights movement in 1951. The first lesbian-rights organisation in the United States, the Daughters of Bilitis, was established in San Francisco in 1955. By 1969 it was said that there were nearly 50 homophile organisations that sprung thought they were insignificant in their operations. Now after 6 decades America is drunk with the new wine of Gay Rights Movement challenging every moral, ethical and Biblical standard and on a highway to making it legal. With 15 odd States that legalised Same Sex Marriage, the victory is now not a distant dream. Think of the many nations apart from the US in whose lap the movement is breeding whose ugly face could erase the original intent of the institution of marriage when our children would have to search through history to see if there was anything like a marriage between a female wife and a male husband.

While gay rights movement is growing, let us be also aware that a new movement is going to pose us a greater challenge when human marriages would move to marriage between humans and animals. The thing is already in. A 47-year old woman in the UK has 'married' her pet terrier dog, Sheba because the canine had all the qualities she needed in a life partner. The wedding was attended by 200 people. [Times of India March 11, 2014.] If you heard of the wedding of Doll, Kitten and Brynn, from Massachusetts, they were joined together in a marriage-style ceremony in August 2013 and are expecting a daughter in July 2014. Kitten, 27, is pregnant after undergoing IVF treatment using an anonymous sperm donor, and the trio eventually plan to have three children - one for each of them. Being married to more than one person is not currently legal. The so-called 'throuple' worked with a specialist family lawyer who drew up the paperwork and drafted the ceremony so that all three of them were obligated and bound to each other.

While Brynn and Kitten are married, Doll is hand-fasted to both, so the threesome are as equally married to each other as legally possible.[Source:www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2611020/Meet-worlds-married-lebian-threesome-baby-make-four-July.]

The same sex marriage is now old fashioned and the new marriage among more than two and between humans and animals are now the in thing. How long the new fashion of new sex would be around we are not sure, but as long as God is on His throne which He will be, the marriage He pronounced 'Honourable in all things,' is here to stay no matter what movements or who would challenge God's original intent of marriage.

Alas men would know the dangers of Sodomy whose last page is written in the final chapter of the Bible, 'For without [outside] are dogs and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.' [Revelation 22:15] In the light of the dogs mentioned in Deuteronomy 23:18, the dogs mentioned are the people who practice male prostitution or unnatural sex.

Divorced UK woman 'marries' pet pooch

London: A 47-year-old divorced woman in the UK has 'married' her pet dog because the canine had all the qualities she needed in a life partner.

Dismayed by men, Amanda Rodgers, from south London, married her loyal pet terrier, Sheba.

The wedding ceremony took place in front of 200 people in Split, Croatia in August 2012. 'Metro' reported. "Sheba had been in my life for years, making me laugh and comforting me when I was feeling low," Rodgers said.

"I couldn't think of any-

thing more I'd need from a life partner," she said.

Rodgers had married a man 20 years ago but the relationship ended within a few months, the report said.

"I got down on one knee and proposed. I could tell by her tail wagging that she said 'yes,'" Rodgers said.

"I'd dreamed of a perfect wedding dress since I was young. I made it myself for the ceremony. The day was wonderful, more fun than the marriage. I gave her a kiss to seal the deal and then everyone threw confetti. It was a wonderful moment," Rodgers added. AGENCIES

Think of the many nations apart from the US in whose lap the movement is breeding whose ugly face could erase the original intent of the institution of marriage when our children would have to search through history to see if there was anything like a marriage between a female wife and a male husband.



1000+1000=2

Math of a Another Kind

Sunny Joseph

One day, is that not enough for you...one day we were born, one day we shall die, the same day, the same second, is that not enough for you? They give birth astride of a grave, the light gleams an instant, then it's night once more."

~ Samuel Beckett,

Waiting for Godot

We all have heard the catchphrase ‘think outside the box.’ While this management concept became instantly famous, this could be a distracter to Christians. I would say, ‘think from inside *The Book*’ which is the Bible and that itself would ensure results like or more like ‘outside the box’ results. The metaphor outside the box means to think differently, unconventionally, or from a new perspective. What could be anything newer than what Solomon who already instructed, “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new”? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.” [Eccl. 1:9-11]

Further, John Wright writes, “We live in Dark Ages. Do not be deceived by our technological marvels. The era after the fall of Rome in the Western lands of Europe was also an age of unparalleled technical advancement, from eyeglasses to clockworks to horse collars to wheelbarrows to stirrups. What makes this age Dark is not merely contempt for reason, but an inability of the educated classes to reason coherently when called upon to do so. A man who thinks he can reinvent his own human nature by an act of will is a man who, ultimately, does not believe that truth is true.” This is exactly what the Bible says.



$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1000+1000=2 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000=3 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000=4 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=5 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=6 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=7 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=8 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=9 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=10
 \end{aligned}$$

Before we embark on reading this rather ambiguous article, may I caution you that the content you are about to read is a meat only for the strong to eat. Thus said, let me take you into the journey I myself have embarked on, a few decades ago but only realised in the recent past how different, difficult and distant my understanding of the journey was.

When man embarks on a journey beginning from the womb [for it is from there we all must make our entry into this world] we more often believe than less understand that we are here forever. While the notion is partly true, it is also partly a lie. For, from the moment we are delivered into this world, we live daily inch by inch in a close proximity to the tomb. Some realise this but many ignore it, reasons being fear of such a thought or mere ignorance. Though the truth of the ignorance is beautiful, we are not exempted from the realities of death hanging over our lives constantly; day in and day out.

Hebrew Wisdom:

In Moses' prayer in Psalm 90 we see a vivid picture of man's days on the earth. It chills to read when it comes to verse 4, "For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night." In God's time frame, imagine that the past two millennia of world history are to God as just two days. So when our 2,000 years are but two days to God, calculate the 70-80 years of human life on earth. The Hebrew word for 'flourisheth' in v.6 is *tsoots*; meaning, a twinkle. This is more shocking for those who theorise, 'we are here forever.' I was one among the many who believed we are here forever. But it is not. If our life is a *twinkle* on this earth true wisdom must hasten us to relive our lives constantly repairing and preparing to face the end of it.

The safest place in the world is the womb, so it is considered, yet, death can peek in even there to find its next victim, and much more, after life comes into this world. Let us be generous and give us humans a life span of 70-80 years. It is a long period, but if it gets snuffed earlier before that period, no complains please. Max Mueller says, "...however short they [years] may have been, were only given to us, we do not deserve them." Given such an ample life span of 70-80 years, against some of the world's greatest men who lived less than half this period, have made it to the greatest of heights hitting the very zenith of the fields they are known for. I am thinking of Paschal, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Alexander the Great [nicknamed the King of Babylon, King of Asia King of the Four Quarters of the World] and of late Paul Walker. Of course, Jesus of Nazareth is a different case. Now consider those who lived longer a life than those mentioned above who achieved what they achieved. Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Akbar the Great, Queen Victoria, Adolf Hitler, Lenin, Karl Marx and the list

can go on. What they achieved, had not their glory ultimately led them to the grave? Ultimately letting everything they earned and achieved passed on to the next in line. Does this ring a bell? King Solomon realised this when he wrote, "...because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me." Eccl. 2:18. King Solomon captures brilliantly the life and works of us humans in his writings, "For *there is* no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now *is* in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise *man*? as the fool." Eccl. 2:16.

Hebrew wisdom teaches about different dead-ends in human pursuit and it would do us good to consider some of them in the lives of some spectacular and the most colourful of men and women who lived in the past. Call it *from history*, but I would, from the *book of the dead*.

The Four Deadly Dead Ends

Dead End # 1. Pursuit of Wisdom

And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

King Solomon
Eccl. 1:17,18

Leonard Ravenhill once wrote about the founder of a leading Christian magazine in the



So when our **2,000 years** are but **two days** to God,
calculate the 70-80 years of human life on earth.

US who "...sent out a questionnaire to what he called, 'Twenty of the leading intellectual preachers in the country.'" Ravenhill continues, "...Those men who turned the world upside down had, had no colossal intellectual capacity. No great financial backing. No social standing. They were about the most despised men in and around Jerusalem. And yet they broke out somehow – and later it was said that they turned the world upside down." Ravenheill's question seems to be, what intellectuals are we talking about and who decides and with what measure scale is applied.

Unlike the Greek concept of wisdom which is more intellectual and acquisition of knowledge, the Hebrew idea of wisdom is more about walking rather than thinking or talking.

The Hebrew word for ‘wisdom’ is *chokmah* which literally means ‘skilful.’ The Hebrew concept of wisdom is more about living beyond intellectual pursuit to the practical, hands-on ability to live one’s daily life successfully, applying knowledge in concrete ways. Wisdom in Hebrew mindset includes the ideas of good sense, aptitude and technical skill on life and issue’s of life. In simple words, Hebrew concept of wisdom is practical, while the Greek idea of wisdom is theoretical. *Sophia* which is the Greek word for wisdom is a central idea in Hellenistic philosophy and religion. More synonyms like intelligence, insight, wit etc., are the words associated with the Greek concept of wisdom or *Sophia*.

Hebrew or Biblical wisdom speaks of Spirit of God's wisdom which is based on the application of skill understanding and knowledge revealed by God, "And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge..." [Ex. 32:3]. The ground rule here is, the wise hear and are instructed by God's Spirit to apply knowledge which is for practical purpose

of living, for all wisdom is found in God alone, “With him [God] is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.” [Job 12:13]

The foundations of wisdom are fear of God and the Word of God which Solomon overlooked. He broke the instruction of God's Word when he multiplied his wives, brought horses from Egypt and built altar for strange gods. These are just a few instances; he lived a life denying God and His Word.

When Solomon began to write Ecclesiastes he was still the king over Israel but by the time he came to chapter 1 and verse 12, he was no more the king of Israel for he writes, “I the Preacher *was* king over Israel in Jerusalem.” By this time, the preacher turned king has understood the value and the worth of wisdom.

If Solomon was a wise man, why does he write, “in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.” Solomon started off well with God, but as he progressed, he drifted and intermingled his wisdom with the wisdom of the world which James talks about, “the wisdom which descends not from above but from the earth, sensual and devilish.” [Jas 3:15]

Dead End # 2. Pursuit of Wealth

Humans are at peace when there is financial security and sleep well with little or no fear when there is money in the chests both for present and future needs. It was Christopher Morley who said, “There are three ingredients in the good life: learning, earning and yearning. Even the Bible exhorts in Proverbs 12:11, “Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread...” King Solomon knew it well and made it big when he earned great wealth. Apart from what he inherited from his father King David, Solomon prospered and grew richer through commerce, trading, gifts he received, tribute money paid to him and the taxes he collected. Cool, he was wise and applied his wisdom in all fields and multiplied his investments. It is estimated that he received each year, “...between \$1,092,906,000 and \$1,165,766,400 U.S. dollars!..” Solomon became so immensely rich that all his cups were made of gold [not one was made of silver. 1Kings 10:21]. His wealth was so immense that gold and silver were



If Solomon was a wise man, why does he write, “in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow?”



as common in Jerusalem as stones (2Chronicles 1:15, see also 1Kings 10:27)! The Bible tells that God promised him riches making him the all time wealthiest man, “...I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that *have been* before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.” [2Ch 1:12]

It is said that his wealth by today’s standards would dwarf the present day billionaires. However, the dangers of such pursuit is further warned, “Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.” Proverbs 23:4 [ESV]. Looking at his wealth he also said, “Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all *was* vanity and vexation of spirit, and *there was* no profit under the sun.” What a dead end of a pursuit we all human pursue desperately. Consider the dead end of what Solomon reached and vexed in his spirit.

How Rich are You?

Before we answer the question, ‘How rich you are,’ let us ask ourselves, how do we measure our wealth? Is it the land value of our houses, our jobs, businesses, bank balance or our net worth? Compared to the rich by the standards of the world, it would insult us to sit and evaluate our worth. Markets change, fortunes fail making princes into paupers instantly. Well, taken for granted you are rich and are listed in the *Forbes*, financial riches alone do not matter in life, there are other sides to it like the social, medical, health, moral and spiritual. Where do we stand?

Izaak Walton a 16th century English writer author of *The Compleat Angler*, writes, “There may be many that have forty times our estates...[but we with] a little money have eat and drunk, and laughed...and sung and slept, securely; and rose next day, and cast away care, and sung, and laughed...which are blessings rich men cannot purchase with all their money...I have a rich neighbour that is always so busy but he has no leisure to laugh; the whole business of his life is to get money, and more money, that he may still get more and more money; and he is still drudging on...Let us therefore be, be thankful...above all a quite conscience.”

God wants us to prosper [but] we need to find the balance. The Bible tells, “Every man also to whom God hath given

riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this *is* the gift of God,” Eccl. 5:19. And it is He who gives power to multiply our wealth. [Deut 18:8] and when God gives wealth He adds no sorrow to it. [Prov.10:22] Can we consider why Solomon the all time wealthiest man’s wealth drove him to sorrow and emptiness? God was faithful in what he promised in blessing Solomon with all the riches and wealth but Solomon was not. He put God outside his life.

Dead End # 3. Pursuit of Power

Growing up as a child I never understood why the great Julius Caesar was assassinated by his own men. Caesar’s most emotional utterance, ‘*et Brutus*’ [you too Brutus] got etched in my memory. In my mind Caesar was a hero and Brutus a villain. As a student of literature, I fought trying not to think of Caesar as a villain but to my surprise, he was. Reading through Roman history one will realise that Gius Julius Caesar wooed his people with speeches like, “I want to see Rome boundless, united and free.” Mark Antony’s emotional speech to the Roman citizens, “Caesar loves his own life less than he loves Romans,” made Caesar a darling of Rome. However, Caesar betrayed Rome by suppressing their freedom and declared himself a dictator. The irony is, when he was assassinated, people cried out, “Freedom, liberty, peace.” In the words of Edward Gibbon, “...a quarrel between two generals, Caesar and Pompey, [for power] brought the fall of the Republic.” What was Caesar’s crime? Love of power. The very power that Caesar loved and worshipped killed him. Who can down play the Roman era and the glory of it? The only world empire that ruled for more than 500 years [44 BC – 476 BC] and lived for more than a 1,000 years on history’s pages, but lies now in ruins. CH. Spurgeon writes, “Go to

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1000+1000=2 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000=3 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000=4 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=5 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=6 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=7 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=8 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=9 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=10
 \end{aligned}$$

1000+1000=2
 1000+1000+1000=3
 1000+1000+1000+1000=4
 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=5
 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=6
 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=7
 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=8
 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=9
 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=10



Solomon was a very wise man before he foolishly applied God's wisdom and dashed full throttle on the wrong side of wisdom. After such a foolish trip, good heavens, his wisdom roared, 'vanity...vanity...vanities...all is vanity.'



Palestine and see how the Caesars are forgotten of the halls which echoed to their despotic mandates, and resounded with the plaudits of the nations over which they ruled..."

Think of Adolf Hitler who thought his Nazism would rule the world for centuries, likewise, Saddam Hussein, who claimed himself the heir to King Nebuchadnezzar and wanted to bring back the Babylonian glory in the modern day Iraq. He moved every stone in pursuit of this golden dream to restore and rebuild the golden age of Babylon. "Under President Saddam Hussein one of the ancient world's most legendary cities has begun to rise again...the new Babylon is self-consciously dedicated to the idea that Nebuchadnezzar has a successor in Mr. Hussein, whose military prowess and vision will restore to Iraqis the glory their ancestors knew when all of what is now Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait and Israel was under Babylonian control." [The New York Times, International, October 11, 1990] The list can go on with more names, but the end of them all was, they all have risen to heights unimaginable in one life time, but they all fell to the dust in a lightening quick fall.

Dead End # 4. Pursuit of Pleasure

Pleasure is a freedom-song,
But it is not freedom.

It is the blossoming of your desires,
But it is not their fruit...

Ay, in very truth, pleasure is a freedom song.

And I fain would have you sing it
with fullness of heart;
yet I would not have you
lose your hearts in the singing.

~Kahlil Gibran

On Pleasure

"He that loves pleasure must for pleasure fall."
~ Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Pleasure is beautiful and is worth pursuing. However, it comes with a caution, 'conditions apply.' The laws of pleasure be it for extreme or limited pleasure must be applied before one takes a dip to sip it. First law of pleasure is the law of time [age] and place. Second, law of ownership and finally, law of legal and moral standards.

To Solomon, none of these rules applied when he indulged in what his heart desired, "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy..." [Eccl. 2:10] He had no notion what and how his first wife and the subsequent wives felt when he went on a marriage spree taking one wife after another. He regarded not the scriptures, "Neither shall he multiply wives to himself that his heart turns not away..." [Deut. 17:17]. Forget how Solomon's first wife felt when he took his second wife, in the very first place he had no qualms even to God who instructed against marrying outside Israel [Deut. 7: 3]. Though Solomon's age and political position as a king gave him eligibility to marry, the marital standard according to God's law was, "one wife for one man."

In psychology, the pleasure principle describes pleasure as a positive feedback mechanism, motivating the organism to recreate in the future the situation which it has just found pleasurable. According to this theory, organisms are similarly motivated to avoid situations that have caused pain in the past. Recreational drug use can be pleasurable: some drugs, illicit and otherwise, directly create euphoria in the human brain when ingested. The mind's natural tendency to seek out more of this feeling [as described by the principle of pleasure] can lead to dependence and addiction. Solomon's condition in this matter was what Søren Kierkegaard said, "Many of us pursue pleasure with such breathless haste that we hurry past it."

Pleasure satisfies the desires creating euphoria in the human brain when enjoyed. The natural result of such euphoria is to seek more which from gradually or steadily increases in frequency asking for more and higher dosage depending on the pleasure one seeks. If unstopped, this pursuit of pleasure takes one on a roller coaster speed. One life is sufficient to lure, woo and wed one woman and later to care and to keep



Foundations comes first, but if in your folly, you forgot to lay them down, get wise and built them NOW, at least. This is wisdom, though late, but not never.



her content for the rest of the life. That is what the Creator's intent was when He created the first man and woman. Think of Solomon who had a 1,000 woman whom he took in his life time. The Rabbis say that Solomon lived 52 years. This means he lived 18, 980 days [52x365] and had one woman for every 19 days [18,980 ÷ 1,000] approximately 1,000 woman. Can we call it an unbridled lust for pleasure or foolishness? Rene Descartes writes, "The greatest minds are capable of the greatest vices as well as of the greatest virtues." Solomon rightly fits into this category of greatest minds.

Vanity vs Virtue

The pursuit of wisdom, wealth, power and pleasure is not bad. God wants us to enjoy the fullness of them but there are boundaries set to each one of these so none needs to be a dead end but one perpetual and a beautiful experience. We become what we sow and we are what we produce.

A transformed fool is often wiser than the wisest for he has to his merit mistakes he made, if not how then would have Solomon who experienced all what he experienced could say, 'Vanity of vanities.' He surely must have realised the folly of having a 1,000 women in his life. Did we not read that behind every successful man is a woman and behind every unsuccessful man there are two? If this is true, behind every wise man there must be 3 or more wives and Solomon is an example who surpassed all those numbers. Solomon was a very wise man before he foolishly applied God's wisdom and dashed full throttle on the wrong side of wisdom. After such a foolish trip, good heavens, his wisdom roared, 'vanity...vanity...vanities...all is vanity.'

There is good news for both Solomon and such like Solomon. God's grace is abundant for the home comers. He does this to all, but the condition is back to the Bible. Human nature inspires to indulge but divine wisdom compels us to return. Consider Henry David Thoreau, in *Walden*, "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." Foundations comes first, but if in your folly, you forgot to lay them down, get wise and built them NOW, at least. This is wisdom, though late, but not never.

Conclusion

When we rival God and His purpose for the universe in those few fleeting moments of our 70 years which is for God like a night watch and a twinkle in the eternity of God's time frame we fail to live purposefully. A Jewish interpretation of Ps.90: 12 says, "According to the count of our days so make known, then we shall acquire a heart of wisdom." The word "So..." is translated from a Hebrew term pronounced, "kane," which has a numerical value of 70 and compares to the previous teaching in verse 10 that our live has an average span of 70 years

The expression, "so that we may attain a heart of wisdom," is *nabi levav chochmah* in the original Hebrew and the term 'attain' here has the same root as the term for prophet. Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook suggested that we might therefore read this phrase, "Teach us to number our days — as a prophet [with] a heart of wisdom." Reading the Psalm this way, we see that living our lives fully and meaningfully, so that our short lives have enduring significance, means living with the awareness of God's divine purpose in mind. We would not claim to be prophets.

To this day some Jewish customs frown on counting people, "Cattle are counted, people are not counted," but the number of days they are taught.

In conclusion, let us remind ourselves that if our 1000 years are just one day for God, what our 70 years are. Hebrew wisdom says, it is like a twinkle. This is God's math.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1000+1000=2 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000=3 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000=4 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=5 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=6 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=7 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=8 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=9 \\
 & 1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000+1000=10
 \end{aligned}$$

We knew not what love was until an Albanian by the name Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu came and showed us what true love was. We knew not what forgiveness was until Gladys Staines forgave the killers of her husband and two pre-teen sons. The former was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace, Bharat Ratna and Padma Shri and the later Padma Shri. The irony is, both Mother Theresa and Gladys Staines were not Indians, but were Christians.

of Saffron Hate



Conquest of Love

God asked the Staines their lives,
Silently, sincerely and sacrificially,
they said, "Yes."

Heaven waits to show us the Harvest
For the grains of wheat that fell and died.

After attending a jungle camp Dr. Graham Staines was camping in Manoharpur with his sons Philip and Timothy. Philip was on his vacation from Hebron School Ooty. On that Friday night, around 50 odd Hindu fundamentalists armed with axes and sticks surrounded the jeep, doused gasoline and set the camper on fire while Dr. Staines and his two sons were sleeping inside. All through the time the mob was chanting slogans in praise of Hindu gods.

The villagers tried in vain to rescue Staines and his two sons but the miscreants stopped them. Life changed for Gladys Staines and her 13 year old daughter the night after Friday the 22nd January 1999.

Getting to Gladys Staines was not easy...a person extremely elusive to be pinned down for an interview, not even to the Christian media. Probably events and circumstances have made her so.

After repeated phone calls and many emails through her trusted aides, FOL clinched a time slot with Gladys at the mission house in Baripada, in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa now called Odisha.

Gladys Staines was in India for the 15th death anniversary of the killing of her husband Graham Staines and two sons, Philip and Timothy, in January 1999. This was her sixth visit since the incident. Her visit was occupied with appointments apart from a court appearance. Her visit being short in India, she avoided all meetings that did not directly concern her mission at the Graham Staines Memorial Hospital in Baripada.



Team FOL made it to Baripada within a 48-hour notice to interview Gladys Staines. The mission compound, which was a pall of gloom days after the incident in 1999, is now a busy place with patients and visitors thronging the hospital.

At the appointed time, 10:30 am, January 30, 2014, Mrs. Gladys Staines was met at the mission house, clad in a blue sari, typical of an India woman. All gray hair gathers around it serenity. But the 62-year-old Gladys carried an aura of sainthood and an invisible halo that hung around her whole being.

Mrs. Staines opened her heart on the incident and what had been underway since the ghastly incident. Amidst brief sobs, wet eyes and frequent smiles, here is what Gladys said.

FOL: What was your immediate reaction following the news of your husband and sons' death?

Gladys: The reactions were gradual. I was not told the actual news for about five hours. Initially I was told that the children were missing, and so I was concerned for them. There were people gathering in small groups in the mission compound, talking in whispers and hushed tones. They were concerned for

me and so were not willing to break the news lest I got a shock. Nobody wanted to come up to me and tell the truth that my husband and my children were dead. Finally, one dear friend came to me and said, "Gladys, just stand still. I don't want you to be like a stone, but strong for Esther." Through the roundabout story, I understood. I said, "Do you mean the family is dead?" She said, "Yes."

With my heart gripped within, asking God to help me through this, I went inside to the lounge where Esther was. She asked me about the situation. I composed myself and told her that they were killed, but I told her that we will forgive them. I waited for her reply, and she very clearly said, "Yes, mummy, we will forgive them." She was just thirteen years then, but she never wavered in her response.



Gladys: Jesus clearly teaches us to forgive 7 times 70, which means ‘keep going on and on’ and continue to forgive. Because I know that Jesus died for my sins and forgave me, I could do that.



The incident didn't hit me fully for a long time, probably because many were praying for us. Soon people started pouring in, sending messages and calling to tell us of their prayers. I had to go through the process. As things settled, the fact the family was not coming home hit me over and over, and it was painful. It is still. But the hope I will see them one day in heaven is our brightest hope. It was a huge loss to Esther, to the mission, and very personally to me. The incident impacted India and the world. When people write to me or tell that they came to Christ through this incident, I feel encouraged that it was not in vain that my family died because God used the three deaths for His glory.

Toward those who caused this loss, although my immediate reaction was forgiveness, yet, it was not an easy passage.

FOL: How was it with you and Esther these 15 years?

Gladys: I have a mixed answer. It has certainly been with God's help that we

continued and have been able to stay close to Him. I never held malice towards anyone; but it was God who helped us and sustained us. The prayers of people world all over, and especially the people of India have been our greatest strength. God has enabled us to go forward and continue to live for Him. My daughter is a great blessing to me. It must have been very traumatic for her 13-year-old mind to have undergone such a catastrophic incident so early in life. She was not angry with God. On the contrary, she remained close to God and maintained a very personal relationship with Him and never wavered in her faith. She ran her life normally and finished university studies. In May 2010, she was married to Reuben, a keen Christian. They have a daughter Jane, and they now live in Australia. I am living in Australia too and working as a nurse. The Church we go to is a blessing to us.

FOL: How does one react to such a dastardly act?

Gladys: In short, it is through God's help. Basically, what we put into our lives is what comes out in our lives. As a family, we gave our lives for His purpose, and this is how He wanted it. The Bible teaches us about forgiveness in small and big situations, and I have looked back onto my life later, after that incident. It was the Lord who enabled me to look into the bigger things in life and to forgive. Not that I always did so perfectly, but I am at peace.

FOL: You preach forgiveness. How was it when it came to practicing it openly?

Gladys: Jesus clearly teaches us to forgive 7 times 70, which means ‘keep going on and on’ and continue to forgive. Because I know that Jesus died for my sins and forgave me, I could do that. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “...Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sinned against us.” We pray this prayer, but most often, we are not willing to forgive others' sins while expecting to be forgiven. Again Jesus says, “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

If I have bitterness against someone and go on in life, it is like walking around with a big load on my back; but if I release it by way of forgiveness, I feel free and liberated...That is the beauty of forgiveness...bitterness is a load of burden and leads to absence of peace.



But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. If we do not have an attitude or willingness of forgiving others, how can we expect God to forgive us? Forgiveness for me is, I do not have the bitterness. The Bible says, "See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God, and that no bitter root grows up..." [Hebrews 12:15 NIV] If we hold bitterness, we cannot be forgiven. This goes in two opposite directions. If I have bitterness against someone and go on in life, it is like walking around with a big load on my back; but if I release it by way of forgiveness, I feel free and liberated. In forgiving others, we feel liberated from bitterness, and we can be at peace. That is the beauty of forgiveness. On the other hand, bitterness is a load of burden and leads to absence of peace.

FOL: Do forgiveness and justice go together, or are they in conflict?

Gladys: I have forgiven them, and I hold no malice towards them. Forgiveness does not mean the person

goes scot free. Forgiveness does not mean condoning or justifying misdeeds. If someone robs a bank, even though the banker forgives, yet, the person has to repay the money. Further, the government would have to deal with such acts to protect the interest of the public. So, there are legal repercussions to any act of injustice or crime. Otherwise the law is nullified.

In my case, the law of the land expects me to cooperate in the process of implementing the law through a judicial process. I was expected to pledge in the court of law to cooperate with the laws of the land. If the law of the land requires me to go, I must go, and I will go and tell what I know. Though I have forgiven, I cannot say in the court that I forgot the incident. That would be totally insane. So in that sense, forgiveness and justice are not in conflict.

FOL: Can a person forgive and still seek justice?

Gladys: We can forgive and still seek justice. The Bible says, that we must

obey the government, and so we must cooperate with the law to bring the crime to the book; otherwise everything would be in a chaos. That is the basic purpose of law of any land.

I believe God is a God of justice. He loves justice. While telling us to forgive, God does not turn a blind eye to injustice. Even in Jesus' case, He never held malice towards those who crucified Him; instead, He had an attitude of sympathy and forgiveness when He prayed, "Father, forgive, for they know not what they do."

FOL: Are you reconciled with those who wronged you?

Gladys: In my heart? Yes. While forgiveness is one sided, the act of reconciliation is not; reconciliation demands two parties to come to terms. One forgives and the other accepts it by repenting. From my side, I have forgiven and hold no malice towards anyone.

FOL: What were Graham's dreams that died with him?

Gladys: Except for one, I believe all others have been fulfilled or are coming to fulfilment. The biggest, being that many should come to the Lord, which certainly has happened and is still happening. His death brought thousands to the Lord, and many lives were and are being encouraged in faith all over the world. The ripple effect of the event even after 15 years is so impacting. Peoples are turning to Christ, and lives are still being transformed. Another dream was for the mission to have a hospital. It came in 2004.

The one dream I believe that died with him was to see his children grow, marry, and we all live together. When we see what God is doing all over the world through this incident, it amazes us to watch the wonder of His marvels.



The three deaths brought thousands to the Lord, and many lives were and are being encouraged in faith all over the world. The ripple effect of the event even after 15 years is so impacting. Peoples are turning to Christ, and lives are still being transformed.

K.R.Narayanan, former President, India.



"That someone who spent years caring for patients of leprosy, instead of being thanked and appreciated as a role model should be done to death in this manner is a monumental aberration from the traditions of tolerance and humanity for which India is known. A crime that belongs to the world's inventory of black deeds."

Dr. Subhankar Gosh, an eye witness



Friday the 22, January, 1999:

The Jungle camp in Manoharpur was from Wednesday through Sunday [20-24 January 1999.] On 22nd Jan, we finished Jungle Camp for the day. Dr. Graham and his two sons were sleeping in the jeep. I was there sleeping at a close distance from where the jeep was. Suddenly we were awakened by the noise and the commotion in the camp area. We were awakened to the rude noise of a riotous mob. To our utter shock, what we witnessed was a mob of reckless people around the van which was already on fire, big inextinguishable fire. The miscreants had big swords, sticks and other odd weapons and were all in frenzy shouting and chanting loudly some Hindu slogans. It was all a heinous act to see the mob behaving like they were not human beings. I was there standing some 20 feet away from the jeep totally stoned. We painfully watched the gory incident helplessly for almost an hour until the fire burnt the vehicle and Staines and his two sons to charcoal.

According to Dr. Subhankar, Mayurbhanj Mission was started in 1895 by Miss. Kate Allanby in Baripada. The Leprosy work started in about 1897 and was later moved to its present location, on the outskirts of Baripada in 1907 under the patronage of Maharaja of Mayurbhanj Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo and Mrs. Kiddel.

Dr. Graham Staines was a people's person and the darling of the masses. He served with passion the leprosy patients who were outcasts even among their own people. He arrived in India in 1965 and served until his death in 1999. In my 30 years of association with him, I have seen him serve God with a true spirit of mission and Christ like compassion in His service to the poor and the downtrodden. The nation of India has witnessed his work. No wonder the President of India K.R. Narayanan on hearing the death of Graham Staines and his two sons condemned the act.

With Abdul Kalam, former President, India



Was Shakespeare
**Religious,
 Catholic,
 Christian?**

Cover Story

William Shakespeare's achievements are a result of the genius God gave him combined with the peculiar characteristics of his age. Not only did Shakespeare know the classical books, but he was thoroughly familiar with the English Bible and indebted to it for his vocabulary and his understanding of human and universal truths. [A Beka Book, Pencola, FL 2004]

Knowledge of Shakespeare's religion is important in understanding the man and his works because of the wealth of biblical and liturgical allusions, both Protestant and Catholic, in his writings and the hidden references to contemporary religious tensions that are claimed to be found in the plays. [Schoenbaum, Samuel (1977). *William Shakespeare : a compact documentary life* (1987 ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. p. 61. ISBN 0-19-505161-0.]

Some scholars claim that members of Shakespeare's family were Catholics, at a time when Catholic practice was against the law. [Pritchard 1979, 3] It is also claimed that there is evidence that members of Shakespeare's family were recusant Catholics. The strongest evidence might be a Catholic statement of faith signed by John Shakespeare, found in 1575 in the rafters of his former house in Henley Street once been John Shakespeare's, and was seen and described by the reputable scholar Edmond Malone. [Quoted in Schoenbaum (1977: 49) "In my conjecture concerning the writer of that paper I certainly was mistaken".]

Shakespeare's mother, Mary Arden, certainly came from a pious Catholic family. The document is now lost, however, and scholars differ as to its authenticity. In 1591 the authorities reported that John Shakespeare had missed Church "for fear of process for debt", a common Catholic excuse.

After his retirement in his early forties from the stage, this is after Queen Elizabeth's death Shakespeare returned to Stanford as a successful gentleman and leading citizen. It records the last will and testament of Shakespeare thus:

In the name of God, Amen. I William Shakespeare, of Stanford upon Avon in the countie of Warr., gen., in perfect health and memorie, God be praysed, doe make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and forme following, that ys to say, first, I commend my soule into the handes of God my Creator, hoping and assuredlie beleeving, through [the onelie] merittes, of Jesus Christ my Saviour, to be made partaker of lyfe everlasting, and my bodye to the earth whereof yt ys made. ['About the Author' in the *Literary Classics, Julius Caesar*, A Beka Book, Pencola, FL 2004.]

"...I commend my soule
 into the handes of God
 my Creator, hoping
 and assuredlie
 beleeving, through [the
 onelie] merittes, of
 Jesus Christ my
 Saviour, to be made
 partaker of lyfe
 everlasting, and my
 bodye to the earth
 whereof yt ys made."

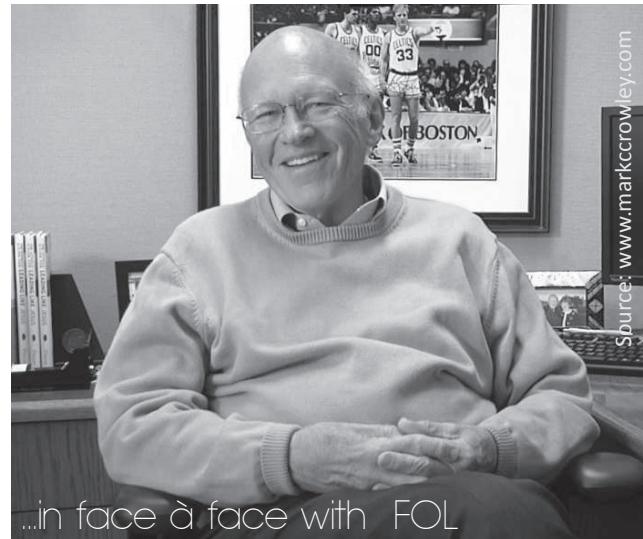
-William Shakespeare



To say that Kenneth Hartley Blanchard has turned the world of management upside down would be no exaggeration. In this big corrupt world where leadership means power and authority, Ken has shown that Servant-Leadership is the Way to Lasting Success. Leadership thrives and survives on applauds and appreciations by the team. But Ken reverses the order; leaders must cheer the team where you catch them doing something good and cheer them up. Ken's teachings on thinking with your heart and serving as servant-leaders marked a turning point in the management industry.

SERVANT-LEADERSHIP: Changing the Way People Think

Ken Blanchard



Source: www.markcrowley.com

...in face à face with FOL

Ken wears many caps - guru, sage, pundit – and all of them fit him perfectly well. The 74-year-old, an American author and management expert, is a much sought after author, speaker and business consultant. His book, *The One Minute Manager* (co-authored with Spencer Johnson), has sold over 13 million copies and has been translated into 37 languages. He has co-authored over 30 other best-selling books.

In 2005 Ken was inducted into Amazon's Hall of Fame as one of the top 25 best-selling authors of all time.

Among his many other awards are the HRD hall of fame from Training magazine and the Golden-Gavel award from Toastmasters International. In 1996, Ken received the Distinguished Contribution to Human Resource Development Award from the American Society of Training and Development.

The sexagenarian is not ready to walk away into the sunset. He says, "I want to hang around." Instead of preparing for retirement, he is "re-firing" himself as encouraged by Zig Ziglar. Ken bared his heart and soul as he spoke to Team FOL on his recent visit to Hyderabad, India.

FOL: You chose to follow Christ in 1999 though you were born into a godly Christian family. What made you take such a decision at the age of 60 and not earlier?

Ken B: I was born in a Presbyterian family and was even named after our Presbyterian minister Hartley which is my middle name. My parents loved the pastor very much; he was a wonderful man. I even went to Sunday school, but it wasn't a big deal. Then I moved to the Methodist Church because of a better basketball team there. After marriage, Marjorie and I moved to Cornell University. On the campus we had a wonderful student-pastor. It was during the Vietnam War and the pastor was brutally fired because he protested the war. It was the most vicious thing I ever saw. We have seen a lot of hypocrisy where people said that they were Christians but did not act like one. And so we turned our backs to all that was God and religion.

I did not think much about God until the *One Minute Manager*. The book was ridiculously successful, and I was taking all the credit for the book. When people asked me questions like, "Why were you successful," I used to reply, "God must be involved."

The Lord began to send people, and I began appearing on The Hour of Power with Robert Schuler. I also began telling people that Jesus is the greatest one minute manager. During this time, I really learned about grace.

While attending YPO (Young Presidents' Organisation) conference with Bob Beuford and Bill Hybels a volunteer handed me a copy of Bill Bright's *Four Spiritual Laws*. Beuford asked me if I believed that God has a plan for my life. It was fine with me as I knew Jeremiah 29:11. But the second question really bothered me, and I did

not like it. He said that we are all sinners. I don't like labels because no one likes being told that you are a sinner.

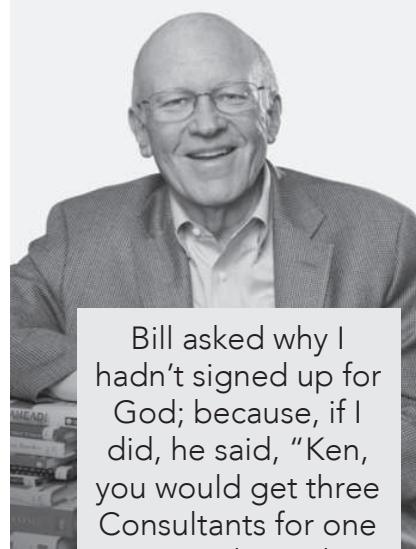
Later, during the conference, Hybels asked me "if I thought I was as good as God is." I replied with a 'No.' Then he said, "Let's give God a 100." Mother Theresa was alive then, and he said, "Let's give her 95, and Blanchard, you are not bad and you are trying to help people, and so I would give you 75-80." He continued, "The good Lord Jesus Christ died to make up that difference so that you could make it up to a 100."

I thought it was amazing as it made me understand that all of us needed help. All of us fall short of that perfection. It's no different than saying, "I am a sinner".

He turned me over to Hybels who then got me to understand the difference between religion and following Jesus. Religion is about 'doing,' which many people do but with Christ it is DONE. There is nothing more to be done except to follow Christ who finished what must be done. As I began to contemplate, he asked why I hadn't signed up for God; because, if I did, he said, "Ken, you would get three Consultants for one sign up, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you to guide you as a daily operational manager."

A that moment we were going through some challenges in our company with my operational manager and so this idea seemed pretty good. And so I bowed my head and prayed and accepted Jesus as my Saviour. I really felt a new energy. I got home and as I read the Gospels, I began to see that everything I was thinking and writing, Jesus had already done it with His 12 inexperienced disciples. He was a perfect situational Leader and the best One Minute Manager. It was all so interesting. God has a perfect plan for each of us and I

Ken Blanchard



Bill asked why I hadn't signed up for God; because, if I did, he said, "Ken, you would get three Consultants for one sign up, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you to guide you as a daily operational manager."

Ken Blanchard



"The important aspect about leadership is not what happens when you are there, but what happens when you are not there."

was glad I became one of His team members.

FOL: Do you think *The One Minute Manager* would have been any different had you written it after you became a follower of Christ?

Ken B: The book would be different in the fact that it would have had more Bible quotes. If you look at my first book, my first book with Bill Hybels, *Leadership by the Book*, we have situational leadership in there with a lot of references to Jesus' style of leadership with Bible quotes like, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8). The concepts would have been the same but with scriptural backup and quotes.

FOL: Can you throw some light on the concept of *Lead like Jesus*?

Ken B: After signing up for Christ, I went back and began reading the Gospels and realised that everything I ever thought or taught was about the leadership Jesus already did. We started seeing how our organisation could teach people and so I started contemplating writing this book with Hybels when he asked me, "Ken, what's your biggest disappointment in your work?" I answered, "That (my) people don't use my books all though they love them." Hybels continued, "You have been trying to change people from the outside, but it's really an inside job."

We realised the four aspects of *Lead like Jesus* (LLJ) are not taught in the schools. We have an executive MBA programme with Arizona's Grand Canyon University and University of San Diego. In both programmes, where one is Christian and the other is not,

we go from the same; heart to the head. When I look at all the MBAs around the world, I tell them the big difference is that they don't teach about leadership there. Instead, they tuck it in the organisational behaviour code. Next, they teach people to change the way they think and the way they must do that is from the heart. We begin with questions like, "Am I a leader who wants to get or to give and what are my belief systems are?"

After I studied about Jesus as a Leader, my depth about leadership grew rather than becoming narrow. The important aspect about leadership is not what happens when you are there, but what happens when you are not there.

FOL: You keep saying that in your later years, your vision kept changing because you envisioned yourself into a new season.

Can you share a bit on that?

Ken B: Marjorie and I were invited by Zig Ziglar for his 59th anniversary, where I said, "Zig, you must retire." He immediately responded, "There is no mention of retirement in the Bible; I am 85 now and I am not retiring." That was fun for me and I am only re-firing myself and not preparing to retire. I met Norman Vincent Peale when he was 86 when he started writing his book *The Power of Ethical Management*. He died at 95 and he was doing his last session six months before he died. These people still motivate me. I still do my workouts and I want to hang around. Given my spirituality, I am really at a good place right now. If the good Lord takes me tomorrow, that's ok because I will be going home; but if He lets me stay here, there's a lot to be done. I believe I am working more for Him now."

FOL: You said in a London business forum that your mission was to 'Change the way people think.' Well, this was your mission before

you came to Christ. Did this philosophy or the principles of your mission change since you came to Christ?

Ken B: My mission then was to change the way people thought about leadership; my mission now is to be a loving teacher and an example of simple truths that help others and me to wake up the presence of God in our lives. The biggest addiction in the world, I think, is the human ego where we edge God out. I still want to impact the way people think about leadership but also help them realise the presence of God. Years ago, I never thought that situational leadership was a model of servant leadership but it is.

FOL: Apart from Jesus, who else inspired you the most in your life?

Ken B: I would say it was my father. After his navy days, he went to Harvard business school and worked on Wall Street as a vice-president. He came home one day in 1940 when I was one year old and told my mom, he quit his job and was joining the navy again. My mother said, "You must be kidding." He said that the country was in another war and Hitler was a crazy man and that he owed the country his service. Pearl Harbour happened the next year. So from being a vice-president, he went back to being a second Lieutenant to serve his country. He retired as an admiral.

I grew up in a Jewish elementary school. In my seventh grade, in the junior high school, I won as the president. When I told my dad that I won as the president, he said something which I can never forget. He said, "Congratulations, son, you are the president; but don't ever use your position because great leaders are great because people trust in them not because they have power." He gave me a powerful analogy that there is a great misconception in the military where they think, 'military is my way to high

way.' He said, "If people believe they have the power, they would not be in the battle because, your people would shoot you even before the enemy could."

After the war, my dad retired, because he said, during the war, "You have a purpose and a goal; but in peace time, nobody knows what you are supposed to be doing. As a result, too many leaders make other people's job unimportant and that is pretty bad because that is what bureaucracy does when there exists no clear goals or purpose."

I learned that when there is no such thing as goals and vision, the only thing you get to serve is your own self. That is why servant leadership starts with vision, direction and goals.

The next major impact on my life was my mother. She always said, "Ken, don't ever act like you are better than anybody else, but don't let anybody else act like they are better than you." She taught me that there is a pearl in every single human being and if we dig enough, we're going to find that pearl. She taught me to work hard. She was one of my greatest cheerleaders. In short, my parents were my greatest influence in my life.

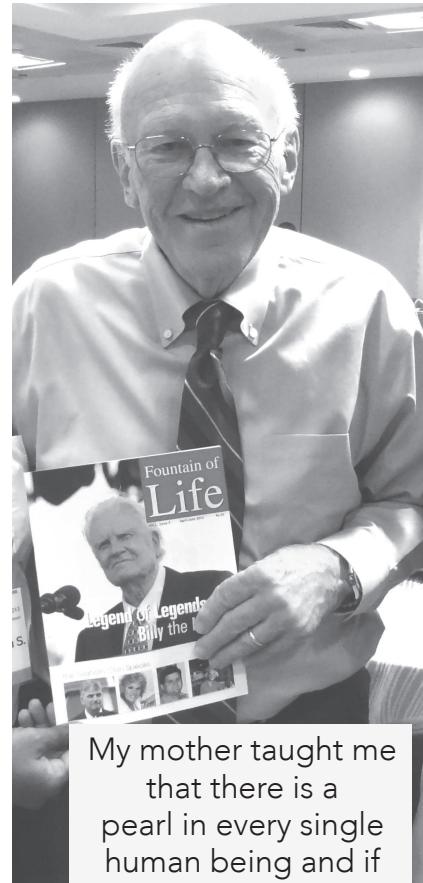
Ken and Margie, live in San Diego and work with their son Scott, daughter Debbie, and Debbie's husband Humberto Medina.

Ken

Blanchard

Team FOL includes Jaya Abraham, Cyril, Sanjay and Swaroop.

face à face



My mother taught me that there is a pearl in every single human being and if we dig enough, we're going to find that pearl. She taught me to work hard.



Sachin Tendulkar: ...a Cut from a Different Cloth

By Solomon Kumar

"Despite his iconic stature, Sachin Tendulkar is simply one of the most humblest of players you would ever come across. His phenomenal records, longevity and the unparalleled dedication he had towards his craft clearly establish the fact that his coveted records cannot be broken for another 100 years."

Rajiv Shukla –
BCCI vice-president and Union minister

On February 4, 2014, Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, undoubtedly one of India's greatest sportspersons, was conferred the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award. This is the first time that a sportsperson was chosen for the award, and that speaks volumes of the contribution that the 40-year-old Mumbaikar has made to the sport.

Tendulkar's journey to the pinnacle of success started way back in 1989 when he made his Test debut against Pakistan at the tender age of 16 – the youngest Indian to play for the country. Still a school boy, Tendulkar gave ample evidence of his classiness in that series against a tough Pakistan team which was led by the charismatic Imran Khan.

Over the years, Tendulkar carved a niche for himself, not only in Indian cricket, but also all over the world. Tendulkar evoked fear in the mind of the bowlers with his fearless attitude as he piled on the runs during his over-two-decade long career.

The Little Master is the only player to have scored one hundred international centuries, the first batsman to score a double century in an ODI, and the only player to complete more than 30,000 runs in international cricket.

Whenever Sachin went out to bat, India would grind to a halt. Such was the power that the Mumbaikar wielded over the masses of the nation; and when he finally hung up his gloves in November last year, the nation mourned the exit of the giant.

What made Sachin such a great personality? There are a lot of things that can be spoken about him but we would like to focus on a couple of them.

Rooted and Grounded

For starters, he was completely rooted and grounded. Despite the early success he tasted in life, Sachin never let himself be carried away by all the euphoria that surrounded him. He never let the highs and lows of life on the field affect his living. And, despite the thousands of runs he scored and the loads of money he earned, he has always remained modest about his achievements. So many sportspersons over the years have lost their bearing as soon as they tasted success. Sachin was cut from a different cloth. He always remained humble.

Family Matters

In India where the nuclear family is hailed as the model one, and, even in the Church, the ‘leaving’ and ‘cleaving’ principle is said to be God-ordained, Sachin comes through as a complete family man. His attachment to his parents and siblings never waned despite all the acclaim he achieved. (I am not sure I understand this paragraph. With the continuation of “leave” and “cleave,” from my understanding of that passage, it references actually leaving his parents and siblings to cleave to his wife, ie putting his wife’s needs over the desires of his parents and siblings. However, you continue on here with comments about his parents and siblings. Is he married?

“The most important person in my life, and I have missed him a lot since 1999 when he passed away, was my father (Ramesh Tendulkar). Without his guidance, I don’t think I would have been standing here in front of you. He gave me freedom at the age of 11, and told me ‘to chase my dreams, but make sure you do not find short cuts. The path might be difficult, but don’t give up;’ and I have simply followed his instructions. Above all, he told me to be a nice human being, which I will

continue to do and try my best,” Sachin said during his farewell speech at the Wankhede after his final and 200th Test match.

Sachin went on to eulogise his mother and spoke about his brothers, Nitin and Ajit, and sister, Savita.

“Ajit, my brother, now what do I say about him? I don’t know. We have lived this dream together. He was the one who sacrificed his career for my cricket. He spotted the spark in me. And it all started from the age of 11 when he took me to Archrekar sir, my coach, and from then on my life changed,” Sachin had said.

‘Til today, Ajit plays an important role in Sachin’s life. It is believed that Ajit handles all the business deals for his brother.

Friends are Forever

Sachin is known to be a recluse with only a few friends. Over the years he has tried to keep his personal life away from the glare of the world. But once he makes a friend, he is known to stand by him through thick and thin. The Brand Sachin is the brainwave of Mark Mascarenhas. “My dear friend, the late Mark Mascarenhas, my first manager. We unfortunately lost him in a car accident in 2001, but he was such a well-wisher of cricket, my cricket, and especially Indian cricket. He was so passionate. He understood what it takes to represent a nation and gave me all the space to go out and express myself, and never pressured me to do this ad or promotion or whatever the sponsors demanded. He took care of that and today I miss him; so thank you, Mark, for all your contribution.” He continued,

“Someone who has worked closely with me for 14 years is my manager, Vinod Nayudu. He is more like my family; and all the sacrifices, spending time away from his family for my work, has been special, so a big thank you to his family as well, for giving up so much time for my work with Vinod.”

*“The most important person
in my life...my father...
Without his guidance, I don’t
think I would have been
standing here in front of you.*

*He told me
‘to chase my dreams, but
make sure you
do not find short cuts.
The path might be difficult,
but don’t give up...’”*



Missions



Bikers go biking for the sheer pleasure of adventure; the glory they seek is the glory of the two-wheeled machine. However, our adventure to go full throttle is to seek ANOTHER adventure of ANOTHER kind; the glory we seek is the glory of a mission for our Maker.

Passion for biking is good and it must remain so.

But when it turns into an obsession, the damage is incalculable. Motorbiking is a great tool; when rightly used, it can reap remarkable results for the Kingdom.

This is the tool God blessed us with and we want to go full throttle for Him.

**~Wade and Darlene Barker
...the Bikers**

Bikes have been Wade's passion since he was 10. The bikes grew in size as he grew in years. From a kid's bike to a Harley 1450 CC 88 cubic-inch today, Wade is a witness for Christ among his Harley tribesmen and is burdened to reach more of them while using his bike as a tool for evangelism.

My dad bought me a motor cycle when I was 10, and I had been riding motorbikes ever since. That first one was a kid's bike to drive around in the dirt; but as I grew older, my passion for the bikes grew stronger. I got myself a Yamaha 600 CC. The bikes grew with me, and I, with the bikes; and one day, I realized I was driving a real good big Harley Davidson 1200CC, which was my first Harley. Driving long distance with full bike gear is a great feeling.

That was how my passion for bikes grew. Now, I ride a Harley 1450 CC. It is an 88 cubic-inch, which is the way the size of the engine is measured. The standard Harley now is the 96 cubic-inch. There are more people who ride a 103 cubic-inch, and there is even a 110 cubic-inch, and you can get even bigger ones. I am praying for a 103 or 110cubic-inch Harley. So I grew up riding, and I have almost driven for 37 years now, and the passion is only growing stronger as I grow older.

While in the army, I got into Church there and began serving the Lord in the Church, first as an usher, then as head usher, and involved myself with the men's ministry. The Lord had plans alongside my passion, and I got into motorcycle ministry. I was with the Jerry Savelle ministry for some time, and I began to use my passion as a tool to witness to people about God.

In 2002, I joined the Faith Christian Fellowship International and began ministering with Chariots of Lights Christian Bikers and Car Club since 2004. As the Lord burdened us, we started the Barker Outreach Ministry (BOM), involved in overseas missions and home missions. At BOM, we do an abundance of ministry with the local community and bikers. I served as the president of a bikers' ministry over the states of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Our main passion is to evangelise and win bikers for Christ through motorcycle evangelism.

In the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, 750,000 people come for a two-week rally. The Bike, Blues and Barbeque Motor Cycle Rally is one of the largest rallies in the country, which is organised in Arkansas where there would be 400,000 with 300,000 motorcycles. Since 2004 we have been organising booths for evangelism during the rally. A \$500 gift raffle is what attracts people who talk to us, filling out a simple questionnaire. During this time, we give out literature, pray for them, and share the Gospel. Later, after the rally, we follow up with them with the address and the phone numbers they leave behind.

The first year, we had no commitments; but the next year, 27; and the following year, 30 came to know the Lord. In 2012 Bikes Blues and Barbecue motorcycle rally, we had 280 bikers who gave their lives to Lord, and over 900 people came and talked to us. Apart from this, there were hundreds who asked and rededicated their lives and promised to read their Bible daily. We have seen healings, conversions and rededications among many bikers. At the recent rally in 2013, we had over 20 people come to help us minister and witness to people in the streets, and

1,676 people accepted Jesus as their Saviour.

Most of them come to drink, enjoy and watch shows. stuff but most of their lives seem empty and lonely. They try to drown themselves with the empty things of the world. Most of them want to talk to us, but they don't feel comfortable as such. Some of them have been Christians

One particular testimony is of a biker named Bodie, who came from Oklahoma. He rode with the Outlaws Motorcycle Club. He was a big guy, heavy set, long beard and hair, tattoos, and knife on his hip with a typical Harley 'Outlaw' bike. He wore 'The Outlaws' Patches.' Patches are a big deal, as it shows your clan and the family of the bikers you ride with. It gives you pride, a place, and a personal identity. It is a very strong bonding and no one trades this with anything. We shared the Gospel with him and invited him to the church. He started coming to church on his bike with his outlaw leather jacket, with these words on its back: 'Outlaws on the Back.' He got saved and became a Christian. He started witnessing to the others and went back to the biker club and said, "I cannot ride with you anymore, and I am going to lay down my patches."

They knew he became a Christian. They insisted that he stay with them. But Bodie laid down his patches and walked away from the biker club. He backslid and got into trouble and went to jail, but he did not go back to the biker club. He is struggling in his walk with Christ. Please pray for him.

[Wade works in ministry and for a local company; Darlene manages two ministries; They have two children, Harley and Ruthie. The Barkers make their home in Arkansas.]



Our main passion is to evangelise and win bikers for Christ through motorcycle evangelism...
During this time [bike rallies] we give out literature, pray for them, and share the Gospel.
Later, after the rally we follow them up...



The School of Fish

by



“What if we showed as much patience at home as we do fishing?”

-Cisco Cotto,
Moody Radio Chicago

How interesting that the Lord used the picture of fishing for men to reach people for Christ. It got me to thinking. How do I do at it?

I'll admit, I've not been fishing a lot. Okay, maybe twice. Once, when I was young and spent the whole time seasick and sipping 7-Up; and once on a field trip with my kids during a catch-and-release, where I caught a tiny 4 x 4 inch fish; you'd think I'd just won the "largest fish ever" award for the size of my smile. But even with my limited experience, I know different fish go for different bait. Different fish need different poles. Some fish take a lot of muscle to actually get them out of the water. And some fish may take your life in the catching. Like Ernest Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea*. Or Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*. But one rule seems to cross the gambit of fishing: you go in screaming and yelling, you're probably going to leave with an empty bucket.

So why in the world do we think it will work with our kids?

I don't write that lightly. Because while strangers may comment on my soft voice, my kids could tell you—I know how to make it boom. And I'm not saying there's never a time to make sure they can feel the resonance of your seriousness in the ground's shaking under their feet or the "drum rumble" in the pit of their stomachs. I can think of more than one situation where the quiet, patient voice of the whole day had little to no effect compared to the one time bellowed, "STOP!" Even Christ used the whip to overthrow some tables in the Temple.

But do we go there first? And often?

When we're showing our children Christ, do we come blasting in with a loud voice? "Take the bait! Take the bait!" Do we bombard them with it, throwing it at them like heaving a large boulder in the pond? Do we get upset when they don't take the bait the moment we throw out the first line? Expect to walk out on the shore, hold out our bucket, and just have them jump in?

Or do we patiently draw them in, looking for just the right bait, with just the right

throw, talking to a minimum, actions at the forefront, with just the right whispers of the line to help them notice the bait.

Of course, as with any picture, fishing can't depict all the aspects of drawing people to Christ. So, obviously, it isn't the only one the Lord used. He also asked us to shepherd His flock, a more day to day interaction than a one time fish-and-bait catch. The more I hear about sheep, they aren't a flattering metaphor. Sheep apparently have the habit of undermining their own safety by wanting to wander off on their own and go their own way. Probably how children earned the synonymous name of "kids." But either way, again, a shepherd won't have much luck running through the flock, screaming at the one who's headed in the wrong direction. There are times to use the staff and rod to pull the wayward sheep from the brink of disaster, but a lot more time needs to be spent on gentle ministrations and quiet whispers in the lamb's ear so he knows his shepherd's voice.

And then, there's the picture of "running the race." Hebrews 12:1: "Let us run *with patience* the race that is set before us" (KJV); the day in, day out sanctification where we find ourselves running along side our children, not just coaching from the sidelines...*both* of us changing and growing and learning and struggling to keep on keeping on.... If we're running our own race well, we should have just enough breath for encouraging talk; but we'd be wasting a lot of energy on screams and yells. Unless it's a few well-placed, "WE'VE GOT THIS!!" And those times when we are cheering from the side? I've been to enough track and cross-country races to know! Yelled encouragement works;

yelled "Move It!" just makes them mad enough to slow down. Or even give up all together.

One day years ago, my own fishing/shepherding/running—or lack thereof—hit me head on. I got a phone call. I'd been praying for my friend for years and was so excited; she was coming to visit. But she called; said she was experiencing consequences of decisions she'd made; suggested I might not want her. And I suddenly realized! She was afraid I'd be Judgmental. Condemning. Reproachful. In tears, I begged her to come, and then sat down and wrote a poem that I now keep glued to my calendar. As a reminder. In my work, my friendships, my parenting.

What Jesus do they see when they look
at me?

One compelling them to come in out of
the bondage of sin?

When they look into my eyes,
Do they see His longing smiles?
When they hear the words I say,
Are they drawn to His loving way?—

Or do they want to run away?

Do they see the One Who can set them
free—
or only selfish me?

Or said another way, 1 Cor. 13:1, "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clangling symbol..."

It's easy to let the temper fly at home when our kids are being "kids!" But if we remember our purpose...our hope...we will set aside our own thoughts and feelings, and look to Him, His grace, and His patience. Both for us *and* for them! And gently let the fishing line fly instead. Then, at end of day, we will find our bucket full, our sheep safely in the pen, and the race won.

Elizabeth Daghfal
is a freelance writer and
columnist in
Kenosha, Wisconsin
where she lives with her
husband David and
five children.



"The willingness to do creates the ability to do."

~Peter McWilliams

"Responsibility is the price of greatness."

~Winston Churchill

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

~Mother Teresa

"One of the hardest things in life to learn is which bridge to cross and which bridge to burn."

~David Russell

"Real difficulties can be overcome;
it is only the imaginary ones
that are unconquerable."

~Theodore N. Vail

"Accounts do not lie,
accountants do."

~Nee Zeffs

"We are always getting ready to live but never living."

~Unknown

"Life is too deep for words,
so don't try to describe it,
just live it."

~C.S Lewis



Spearhead Recipe for Corporate Christians

Krish Danam worked as the Vice President of Training for Ziglar Training Worldwide and Director of International Operations for Ziglar Training Systems. Krish's spoke in over forty countries. His client list is the Who's Who of global enterprise and he has received accolades from some of the most distinguished organizations in the world. He is a writer, speaker and was a contributing author to the book *Top Performance* written by Zig Ziglar.

FOL: Challenges of growth for Christians in corporate industry.
Krish: The main challenge for believers in the marketplace is an erroneous notion that they need to come in as evangelists and proclaim. Marketplace ministry has always tactically looked for ways in which the Good News can be brought into a conversation. This is a commandment to us and a necessity for us, but not to those who are seeking. My mentor, Zig Ziglar, always said that a company is more welcoming of talent and skill than opinion. To this end, he meant that a company would sooner get rid of someone who was overtly religious while never getting rid of a good employee. My recommendation in this space is for every Christian to first be the best employee or candidate at his or her own position. When the skill you are known for makes waves, the will you represent will have to be accepted. On the issue of stress in the marketplace or in your profession, we have to go by the old adage that we are not stressed by what we eat—we are stressed by



Krish Dhanam

what's eating us. By making a daily ritual of putting into your mind the good, the clean, the pure, the powerful and the positive, you inoculate yourself against the negative grime of external inputs. But this method has to be part of daily discipline, not some feel-good pill you swallow.

FOL: Growing up in the west, what were your challenges as an Indian and as a Christian?

Krish: I was raised in India and migrated to the West in 1986. I became a follower of Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour in 1993. A man named Zig Ziglar was instrumental in that journey. My bride had already preceded me to America, and hence, when I arrived, she only worked on the areas where I needed change. She accentuated the positive by telling me which of my

My mentor Zig Ziglar said that a company is more welcoming of talent and skill than opinion...a company would sooner get rid of someone who was overtly religious while never getting rid of a good employee. My recommendation...every Christian to first be the best employee...When the skill you are known for makes waves the will you represent will have to be accepted.

skills would have a better chance. Her course corrections on some issues were always done with constructive criticism. I surrounded myself with people who were comfortable praising me as a performer but equally comfortable in criticizing the performance if it deserved criticism. This allowed me to always go to bed knowing I would rise to fight again. I used my Indian heritage as a foundation while being careful to always realize that foundations are important but not necessarily strategic. I had to abandon those things that were limiting me in understanding roles of gender, academia, etc, which were important at home. These adjustments took time, but, in the long run, allowed me to keep the best of my traditions and adapt to the best the West had to offer, while being equally appreciative of my origin and my destination.

FOL: Is there anything in your life that you think you lack, and what would you do about it?

Krish: I still try to seek the will of God. Fragility in the human mind sometimes makes me doubt a few things, and I guess it is natural. I lack patience and sometimes have to realize that Romans 8:28 is still in force, and all things will work together for his purpose. I try not to dwell on regrets because I like where I am, and putting it in perspective, if anything had changed in the yesterdays of my life, I may not be where I am today.

FOL: A few tips to Christian youth in corporate world.

Krish: A Godly identity is one that is uncompromised. Save yourself for your mate in every aspect. The true wonder of majesty is when you decide that. God has a plan for you that is better than your plans for yourself. In eternal arithmetic, you + God equals enough. In the corporate space, be the best at what you were hired to do and let your talent shine. Ensure that when you receive the prize that you bring The One who you follow into the picture. Everyday, pray that God will make you usable.

Krish was interviewed by Cyril Godwin

Aata Paata Maata

...with the tribals

Summer in the tribal area of Chintapally is a time when the climate grows warmer unlike the winters when the temperature gets below zero level. Having no farming and agriculture work most men go for hunting and the women, children and men take to wood cutting. It is more a non-working season both for the adults and for children who enjoy summer vacation from school.

This summer of 2014 People Focus organised Jungle Fest in Vangasari one of its mission centres. The theme of the Fest usually is *Aata, Paata Maata* meaning in the vernacular, Playing, Singing and Conversing. The two day Fest was well attended by the villagers including some from the adjoining villages and from Mallavaram and Chintapally. The events included games for the tribal adults, children and the youth. The evening and night was filled with singing and *dhimsa* [tribal dance] and movies. The second day we had village visiting and house visiting and praying for the sick. The Fest concluded with a de-brief for the campers and a final closing sessions with lots and lots of singing, storytelling and dedication service.

The entire Jungle Fest which was aimed at building inroads with the tribal people yielded much fruit. Four families committed to join the regular Sunday prayer service but prior to this they expressed their desire to quit alcohol, witchcraft, adultery and other bad habits that have been the cause for financial suffering, health issues and harmony at home and in the village.

Jungle Fest 20014

Vangasari, Village
Chintapally Mission

People Focus Mission Update

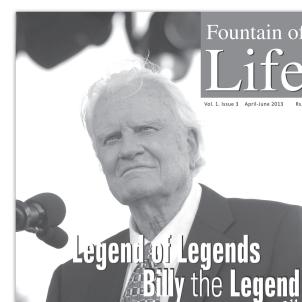
-----TEAR HERE-----

India and Nepal:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year -Rs. 120/- 100/ [4 issues] | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year US\$ 25 ⁰⁰ [8 issues] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years -Rs. 240/- 200/ [8 issues] | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Years US\$ 50 ⁰⁰ [20 issues] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Years -Rs. 600/- 400 [20 issues] | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership - US\$. 200 ⁰⁰ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership -Rs. 3,000/- | |

Overseas subscribers:

Subscription Month Yr.



Name:
BLOCK LETTERS

Address:

City: State-Country: PIN:

Tel.#(s): Email:

DD/MO must be made in favour of
Fountain of Life
payable at Visakhapatnam, AP, India.
Add Rs. 25.00 (if an outstation DD) for bank charges.

Fountain of Life,
9-29-10, Balaji Nagar, SIRIPURAM
Visakhapatnam, 530003 AP, India.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Learning to Learn; Not to Teach

Not everything we learn in life is for teaching.
Some lessons are for learning and living only.

In Hebrew the word *lamad* is used for both ‘to teach’ and ‘to learn.’ According to Jewish culture it is considered that a teacher has taught nothing if the student has not learnt anything; meaning, teaching is not a professional vocation but a passionate vision to see the learner learn what is taught.

It is said that even the poorest Jew while dying would want his son to be under the care somebody who can teach his child Hebrew so he could read Torah. Contrary to other cultures, even food, clothing and shelter come secondary to a practicing Jew.



Image source <http://www.chabad.org>

“...when teaching is done from the head alone and not via the heart to another head for an action in the heart, the result is we have walking intellectual robots that merely do a professional job which results in little or no transformation in the lives of the learners. This is like eating from the fruit tree of ‘good and evil’ instead from the fruit of the ‘tree of life which is Christ.’

Learning in Jewish perspective has three purposes; First, all learning is for the purpose of reading Torah. Secondly all learning must be learnt with the fear of God. Thirdly, ‘*lamad*’ [teaching or learning] it is not just the impartation of facts and knowledge but truth which must transform the life of first the teacher and then the learner. Class room is not just an institution but a place to encounter life and reality. The bottom line of all these purposes is to make learning a lifestyle and to discover greater and deeper truths along the journey of life as the learner grows and matures to understand bigger truths in life. This means, a student carries the class room all through his life where his head knowledge becomes only a slave to his heart to impart the knowledge.

The problem we have is when one imparts knowledge from head to head and not via the heart. Only life produces life so only a transformed spirit transforms another spirit. So, when teaching is done from the head alone and not via the heart to another head to take action in the heart, the result is we have walking intellectual robots that merely do a professional job which results in little or no transformation in the lives of the learners. This is like eating from the fruit tree of ‘good and evil’ instead from the fruit of the ‘tree of life which is Christ.’

The ultimate purpose of such a tradition is that when the child grows up, he would be engaged in applying his learning to fulfil the purpose of God in his life while furthering God’s kingdom.

[Content based on <http://www.gentlechristianmothers.com/community/archive/index.php/t-133175.html>]



In the Beginning... The End



Life is in death. In the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit the word *Prasavam* means ‘pressing of *Soma*’¹ According to the Indian writings, *Soma* is a drink of life. The term *Prasavam* has come into use for ‘delivering a child or begetting,’ hence, *pra-savam* meaning ‘delivering a child.’ However, *Prasavam* is a combination of two words, *Pra* and *savamu*. The word *savam* is ‘dead body.’ A mother virtually becomes a *savam* to give life to a new born baby. One has to die to give birth to a new life. This is the same analogy Jesus meant when He said that unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone, but its death will produce many new kernels, a plentiful harvest of new lives.

The word *Jordan* in Hebrew means, ‘to descend, flow down or decline.’ The other meaning attached to *Jordan* is death because the waters of *Jordan* flow into the Dead Sea. We read in the scriptures that John the Baptist baptised in *Jordan* [death] signifying death to one’s old life. Baptism symbolises death to old life.

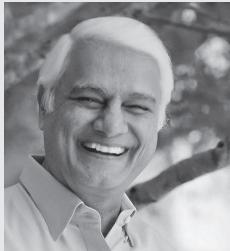
Moses in his last message to the children of Israel says, “Hear, O Israel. Thou *art* to pass over *Jordan* this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven, Deut. 9:1. In chapter 11:31 he repeats the same words, “For ye shall pass over *Jordan* to go in to possess the land...” Deut. 11:31. There is a whole new chapter of new things the Lord has in store for us every season, but the pass-code is ‘pass over *Jordan*.’ Just when the children of Israel got excited about a new life in a new land with all new beginnings, the words, ‘pass over *Jordan*’ in other words, ‘pass through death’ came as a rude shock to the excited Israelites. However, under Joshua’s leadership, Israel crosses *Jordan*, triumphantly. They cracked the pass-code and the result; victory after victory beginning with the incredible conquest of Jericho. This is the secret code God was teaching Israel as they embarked on a new chapter in the nation’s history. How true it would be if the same could be applied as we embark on a new life every season of the year and apply this wisdom.

To begin something new, something old must die. The ancient wisdom and the secret code to life still is, just when you think it is the beginning, there is end; the end in turns begins to be the new beginning and new life unlike the old one. Unless we understand this perspective, nothing yields in life.

You can tell the number of seeds in an apple, but who can estimate the number of apples in those seeds. This will be our blessing, when the seed dies. Look not for the fruit unless you have put the seed to death.

To begin something new, something old must die. The ancient wisdom and the secret code to life still is, just when you think it is the beginning, there is end; the end in turns begins to be the new beginning and new life unlike the old one. Unless we understand this perspective, nothing yields in life.

1. Sanskrit-English Dictionary by Arthur A. MacDonnel, Asian Educational Services, Delhi 2004.



Dr. Ravi Zacharias



A Slice of Infinity

The Beginning of Wisdom

There is a story told about one-time heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali. Ali was flying to one of his engagements and during the flight the aircraft ran into foul weather. Moderate turbulence began to toss the plane about. Of course, all nervous fliers well know that when a pilot signals "moderate turbulence," he is implying, "If you have any religious beliefs, it is time to start expressing them." The passengers were instructed to fasten their seatbelts immediately, and all complied but Ali. So the flight attendant approached him and requested that he observe the captain's order, only to hear Ali audaciously respond, "Superman don't need no seatbelt." The flight attendant, however, did not miss a beat but quickly fired in reply, "Superman don't need no airplane either!"

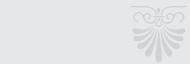
I draw attention to that story because I would like to consider the larger context in which many of us find ourselves. Some of us will be granted access to fine educations, others offered an array of possibilities for achievement. Many of us work diligently to position ourselves for extraordinary success in a rapidly-changing world. In any of these possible triumphs a sense of invincibility can be engendered—regardless of what measure of turbulence may lie ahead.

Yet unfortunately, academic or material advancement does not necessarily confer wisdom. How foolish it would be for us to take what generations preceding us have valued in coping with life's turbulence and cast it all aside because we are "modern." G.K. Chesterton aptly advised that before pulling any fences down, we should always pause long enough to find out why it was put there in the first place. British rock group King Crimson once sang a similar warning: "Knowledge is a deadly friend when no one sets the rules." In other words, we need wisdom as we process and distill all knowledge. But where does one find it?

In one of his proverbs, King Solomon writes: "Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding, for they are more profitable than silver and yield better returns than gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with it" (Proverbs 3:13-15). From this same king we are told that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. In other words, reverence for God is where wisdom starts, recognition that there is a *giver of knowledge and wisdom*.

On days when we are tempted by thoughts of invincibility, might we remember that falsely posing as a superman will only ensure a crash landing. In places where we are overwhelmed by turbulent forces and despairing of instability, might we recall that humbly seeking wisdom and following it to its source will lift us to glorious heights.

"...we are told that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. In other words, reverence for God is where wisdom starts, recognition that there is a *giver of knowledge and wisdom*."



Pathway to Resurrection...

...is through
Gethsamane
[surrender]
Golgotha
[humility]
Grave
[death]



Behind every
Celebration is a Victory

Behind every
Victory is a Battle...

Battle precedes Preparation...

Behind which is a
Decision to Discipline

...call to Discipleship is a
Call to Death

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
The Cost of Discipleship

Exo 14:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Exo 14:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.
Exo 14:3 For Pharaoh will harden his heart, and come up after you: and I will bring him down into the wilderness, and I will fight with him there; and I will get you out of his hand.
Exo 14:4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all Egypt: for I will bring out the people of Israel from among them.
Exo 14:5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people of Israel. And they said, What have we done to this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?
Exo 14:6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:
Exo 14:7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.
Exo 14:8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the



Exo 14:9 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.
Exo 14:22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the Egyptians pursued after them into the midst of the sea.

Betrayal in a Relationship is... to know only the Gift and not the Giver

Exo 14:23 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may go back again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

Fountain of
Life