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A Journey of Faith

The Lord is good,
a refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him.

Nahum 1:7





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A Journey of Faith

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Editorial



Rev. Vijayesh Lal

India and Pakistan are currently ravaged by a severe heat wave. India, particularly is registering extreme high temperatures in the North West and Central India. Delhi saw the hottest April in 122 years. According to a new rapid attribution study by climate scientists, the extreme heat gripping large parts of India and Pakistan was made 30 times more likely because of climate change.

In the year 2021, four main climate change indicators — greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat, and ocean acidification — all recorded new highs. As per the World Meteorological Organization, this

is yet another indisputable indicator that human activities are creating planetary scale changes on land, in the water, and in the atmosphere, with detrimental and long-term repercussions for sustainable development and ecosystems.

There is a need to care better for an save our "Common Home" that is being ravaged by irresponsible acts every day. Climate change and Global warming are realities we cannot wish away. There is ample evidence that our planet is threatened and by extension all life.

"Climate change" and "global

warming" are often used in place of each other. But they both have different meanings.

According to NASA, Global warming refers to the long-term warming of the planet since the early 20th century, and most notably since the late 1970s, due to the increase in fossil fuel emissions since the Industrial Revolution. The average surface temperature has gone up by about 1 °C (about 2 °F) globally since 1880. This is on top of about an additional 0.15 °C of warming from between 1750 and 1880. The Earth is getting hotter by a rapid human-induced warming which has serious implications for the stability of the planet's climate.

Climate change refers to a broad range of global phenomena created mainly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to Earth's atmosphere. These include the increased temperature trends described by global warming, but also encompass changes such as sea level rise; ice mass loss in Greenland, Antarctica, the Arctic

and mountain glaciers worldwide; shifts in flower/plant blooming; and extreme weather events.

Even small changes in the average temperature of the planet can translate to large and potentially dangerous shifts and the rising global temperatures of today have been accompanied by changes in weather and climate.

Because warming up the planet is like knocking over the first domino, it has massive knock-on consequences, which can affect all of us. Our lives are connected to the climate hence a warming climate is already bringing changes that are affecting our water supplies, agriculture, power and transportation systems, the natural environment, and even our own health and safety.

Today, many places are already seeing changes in rainfall, resulting in more floods, droughts, or intense rain, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves, like in India and Pakistan

this season. The oceans and glaciers have also experienced some big changes. Our oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting, and the sea levels are rising.

Over the years, concerned people and groups have been speaking out about the issue of climate change starting in the 1990s. The Paris Agreement, which was adopted in December 2015, entered into force on November 4, 2016, and was signed by 197 countries and ratified by 185 as of January 2019. It aimed to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming and was the first-ever climate pact to bid all nations to take an undertaking to cap global warming at "well below 2 degree Celsius compared to pre-Industrial Revolution levels – and under 1.5 Celsius if possible."

However, even after six years many large emitters (countries) have still to come on track even to meet their self-imposed targets. The United States under its erstwhile President Donald

Trump had rejected the Paris Agreement altogether, a move rolled back by the current President Biden. But the latest global ranking of countries compiled by Yale and Columbia shows that the US has fallen in its rank from 24th place in 2020 to 43rd place in 2022 in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI).

China, although appearing to be on track to fulfil what it pledged, is also causing worry because its pledge itself was "highly insufficient." India has ratified the Paris Agreement and appears to be on track as far as its self-imposed targets are concerned. But there is still no good news for our common home as of yet.

Speaking recently at the Economist Sustainability Summit, António Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations, warned that the world is "sleepwalking to climate catastrophe,".

"The 1.5-degree goal is on life support. It is in intensive care," he said. "The problem is getting

worse. If we continue with more of the same, we can kiss 1.5 goodbye. Even 2 degrees may be out of reach."

Some years ago, Gus Speth, founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council and the erstwhile dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies said, "I used to think that top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems, but I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy, and to deal with these, we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that."

As Christians this issue should concern us and prompt our involvement to save our common home.

Our world is not an accident. It is the intentional act of God and was given to us as a gift. Humankind was given

stewardship and not lordship of creation.

Our lives have three fundamental and closely interwoven relationships: with God, with our neighbours and with creation itself. Our relationship with God and our neighbour includes our relationship with creation.

When sin caused our relationship with God to be broken, other relationships with fellow humans and indeed creation were broken too and that caused us to be careless towards this common home that God had given to us to be stewards of.

In May 2015, Pope Francis came out with his encyclical titled "Laudato Si" (On Care for Our Common Home). This encyclical, addressed to "every person living on this planet" encouraged us to enter "into dialogue with all people about our common home." Herein Pope Francis spoke about the "throwaway culture" that is tied to pollution and invited everyone "for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet."

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), of which EFI is a charter member, the Lausanne Creation Care Action Network, Tearfund, and A Rocha International among other that have also raised the issue of climate change and encouraged action towards saving of our planet. You can discover more about WEA Creation Care including resources by clicking on this link: <https://www.weacreationcare.org>

But sadly there seems to have been less enthusiasm among church leaders and lay people on this issue. According to the Pew Research Centre, the percentage of evangelicals in America still trails most other religious groups in agreeing that global warming is "a serious problem,".

One hopes that Indian Evangelicals would intentionally reflect on the urgent and fragile state of our common home and that prayerfully we will plan and participate in united action to save the creation which God our Father has so lovingly entrusted to us. We are responsible and accountable not just to God but also to each other.

"The effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

Rev. Vijayesh Lal

***"The father of a righteous child
has great joy; a man who fathers a
wise son rejoices in him."***

Proverbs 23:24:



Fathers Who Imitate the Son

Rev. Dr. David Mende

A young boy was asked, "What's special about Mother's Day?" The boy retorted that "It's a day when mothers are treated like queens. They get a break from cooking as dads take the family to a restaurant. And the mothers even get some gifts on that day." Then, he was asked, "What's so special about Father's Day?" to which he replied, "It's a day the father drives down his family to his favorite restaurant to celebrate his special day and ends up paying the bill."

Dads are special! As a child, I thought that He-man, Spider-man, or Batman are heroes. But later, I realized that none of these so-called heroes were of any help to me. It was my dad who worked hard and provided for all my

needs. Along with my mother, he brought me up in the fear of the Lord. Even as the world celebrates Father's Day this month, it's an awesome occasion to honor our fathers. Some of you might have not experienced your earthly father's love. Or you probably lost your father at an early age. Still, we can experience the perfect love of our heavenly Father! Some married men may not be fathers as yet, but praise God, you can be a spiritual father to many.

Now I cannot overemphasize the influential role of a father. According to a survey, if the child is the first person to receive Christ in a family, there is a 3.5% probability that the rest of the family members will be saved.

But if the mother is the first person to receive Christ in a family, the probability of the household getting saved goes up to 17%. However, if the father is saved first, the probability of the entire family receiving Christ is 93%! That shows the significance of a father's influence.

We know that the ultimate goal of our salvation is to be like Christ (Rom. 8:28-29). All believers, including all fathers, must strive to become like Christ. So, the basic premise I present in this article is: **Fathers must imitate Jesus in their lives.** Fathers must imitate Christ in order to be a positive influence on their family and society. Though Jesus was never married and didn't have any physical children, He is a perfect role model for every believer and every father. I believe that this world desperately needs fathers who imitate Jesus. So, in what ways must fathers be like the Son, Jesus? Let me give you seven godly qualities.

1. Fathers Must Be Loving Like Jesus.

The first characteristic that fathers must imitate is to love like

Jesus. Jesus demonstrated His love for God and others by dying on the cross (Jn 15:13). Earthly fathers must also love God and others (Mt. 22:36-40; 1 Jn 4:7-8). In many families, an ugly cycle recurs. Since the fathers don't love their family enough, the wife and children disrespect their fathers. This further hinders the father from demonstrating love to his family. This must stop. The fathers must be loving, no matter what. The wife and children must respect the father, no matter what.

2. Fathers Must Be Humble Like Jesus.

One of the major sins that we men struggle with is pride. But God hates pride. The Bible repeatedly warns us about pride (Ps. 31:23; 1 Pet. 5:5). God alone is worthy of all the glory, honor, and praise and we must give Him the rightful place in our lives. We must follow the example of Christ who came as a servant to this earth (Mk 10:45). Jesus is the greatest example of humility. He demonstrates this beautifully at the Last Supper (Jn 13:3-5).

Though Jesus is the eternal God, He humbled Himself to the

position of a slave. Although He knew his disciples would betray Him, desert Him, and deny Him, He still washes their dirty feet. That's why the Father highly exalted Him (Phil. 2:5-8). As fathers, we must not be arrogant. We must shun pride and develop humility with the help of the Spirit.

3. Fathers Must Be Compassionate Like Jesus.

Compassion is often seen as a feminine emotion. Men don't like to give the impression that they have a soft heart. But Jesus felt compassion towards the lost (Mt. 9:36). He even wept on a couple of occasions (Lk. 19:41; Jn 11:35). Compassion is a biblical quality that the fathers must possess: "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him" (Ps. 103:13). Even when you discipline your children, show them compassion and love. Spend time with your children. Share in their disappointments and joys.

4. Fathers Must Be Self-Controlled Like Jesus.

Every father must develop self-control. The Bible says that "A man without self-control is like a

city broken into and left without walls" (Prov. 25:28). A city whose walls are broken is vulnerable to attacks. If we don't have self-control, we will be without defense before Satan and our flesh. Cain didn't have self-control and he committed the first murder in human history. David didn't have self-control and he committed two terrible crimes—adultery and murder.

But Jesus had self-control. Though he was tempted for forty days and forty nights, he didn't yield to Satan's temptations (Luke 4). From Luke 4, we learn that we can defeat the temptations of the enemy through fasting and prayer, the Spirit, and the Word of God. Fathers, let's practice the spiritual discipline of fasting. It will break the power of sin and flesh in our lives. We must develop self-control which comes from the Spirit (Gal. 5:23).

5. Fathers Must Be Gentle Like Jesus.

The world projects angry macho men as real men. Many men think that meekness is a sign of weakness. But gentleness is Christ-like (Mt. 11:29). Since

Christ is gentle, He can offer rest for our souls. Quoting Zechariah 9:9, Matthew (in 21:5) writes: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey.'" We must develop the quality of gentleness in our lives (Gal. 5:23). As leaders, we must not drive our families harshly. Rather, we must lead our families gently.

6. Fathers Must Discipline Like Jesus.

Jesus is not all about love, compassion, and gentleness. He was also firm in disciplining. Similarly, fathers must be gentle. Yet, they must discipline their children as well. We must learn to strike the balance. When the disciples failed to cast out the demons from a young boy, Jesus rebukes them and says, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?" (Mk 9:19). Also, when Jesus predicts his impending death and suffering, Peter rebuked Jesus and said, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you" (Mt. 16:22). And Jesus rebuked Peter in very strong words: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to

me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man" (Mt. 16:23).

Fathers, let's listen to the words in Proverbs 3:11-12 (which are quoted in Hebrews 12:5-6): "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." You will discipline your children if you love them and delight in them.

7. Fathers Must Be Prayerful Like Jesus.

Jesus was a man of prayer. In his book, *Spiritual Leadership*, J. Oswald Sanders writes about the prayer life of Jesus. He says, "Surely if anyone could have sustained life without prayer, it would be the very Son of God Himself. If prayer is silly or unnecessary, Jesus would not have wasted His time at it. But wait! Prayer was the dominant feature of His life and a recurring part of his teaching." Luke 5:16 (NIV) says that "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

Fathers, your children will not be blessed if you merely provide for their needs. Pray for your

children. Pray with your children. Lead your family in prayer and Bible reading. Be the priest and the leader that God has called you to be. Fathers must be prayerful like Jesus.

Conclusion

Fathers must imitate Jesus in their lives. I have obviously not shared an exhaustive list of a father's qualities. A father has to provide for the family, teach God's Word to his children, and fulfill several other obligations. But we focused on the need for fathers to reflect Jesus through their lives. Fathers, we are not perfect. We are fallen human beings in a fallen world. But the more we look to Christ, the more we will become like Him. He is our ultimate role model. Even when you fail, run to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you. He will grant His grace and make you the kind of leader and priest He wants you to be. Let's imitate Jesus!

P.S. This article is adapted from Dr. David Mende's book, *Powerful Sermons for Special Occasions*. You may contact him for copies of this book.



Rev. Dr. David Mende

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***"And I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty."
2 Corinthians 6:18***

Nicodemus Trust's Relief Support to Afghan Refugees



According to the UNHCR, in the last 10 years, 84 million people around the world have been

forced to flee their homes and live in a state of uncertainty. For many decades, Afghanistan remains

one of the top nations suffering with refugee crises. Political uncertainty, civil war conditions, economic crises, ethnic conflicts, one among every ten Afghan nationals, is living as a refugee in different countries of the world. Estimated 6million Afghans have been driven out of their homes. Recent Afghan crises has put devastating impact on women and girls — 80 percent of newly displaced Afghans are women and children. Presently, around 30,000 Afghan refugees live in India, mostly in Delhi and NCR, 15000 of these Afghans have refugee status and rest of the Afghans are living as refugee status seekers.

The Word of God, that tells us that, "He (God) defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." (Deut 10:18). Last year in August 2021, when the Afghan crises reached its peak, under the leadership of Brother Stephen King from IMA, we met some Afghan Christians and other leaders. Brother Stephen has been working in the Afghan refugee community for

years. Along with him, we formed a crises response team that took the following steps:

- Prayer mobilisation: sharing among the believers about the Afghan crises.
- Personal Area Appraisal: Visiting different Afghan refugee settlements in Delhi.
- Listen to the stories of many Afghan believers and others who had recently fled from Afghanistan, fearing that very soon the Taliban would return to power. Surely, the fear was real and near. The stories were heart breaking. Stories of; revenge, extortion, kidnapping, ethnic inequality and oppression, fear, health issues of elderly people of the family and uncertain future of Afghan coming generations.
- Finding the stakeholders: the people who could help us in the situation through their human and other resources.
- Need Assessment: what are the needs of Afghan refugee communities? These were some of the issues that needed swift response:
 - Children education
 - Food relief supplies to

- poor and needy Afghan families
 - Life skill training for Afghan women and youth for their long-term sustainable development.
 - Working on health issues of the community
 - Prayer and trauma counselling.
- What is already happening among the Afghan community and how we can complement the work? We could meet the leaders of Afghan Community project leaders, serving in Wazirabad Afghan community and could help them with the food relief distribution project for the very poor Afghan families living in the area.

Action Plan: We thank the Lord that He provided the needed resources to execute the plans to start the Afghan Community relief and educational project:

- In 2021, two educational centres were started. One in Malviya Nagar and second in Tilak Nagar. Presently, about

225 children, youth and women are enrolled in the centres.

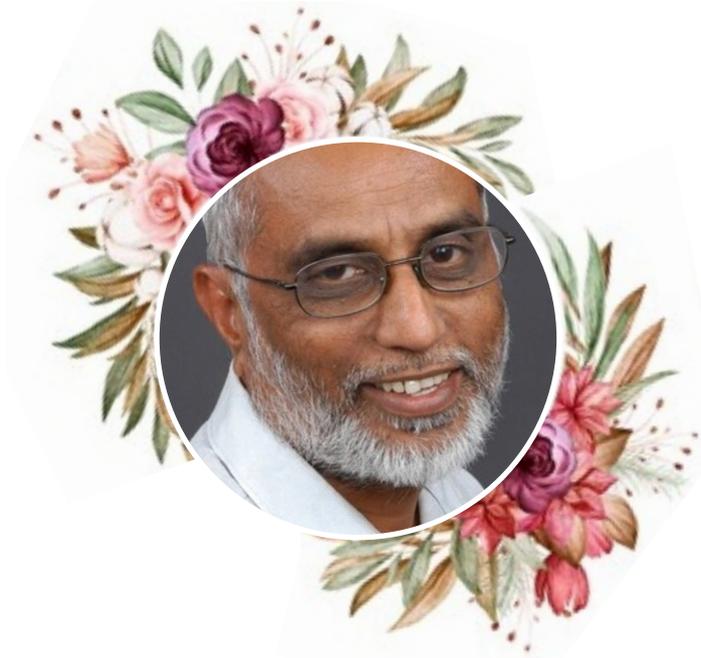
These are the educational and life skill development training activities that are going on in the project: KG class, Maths class for level 1 to 7, English: Level 1 -2, Basic computer course, Intro English for adults and children. Dari language classes and sewing and leather bag making classes for women.

The Word study Group: On Saturday in Pashto and Farsi language.



Rev. Sushil Tyagi

is the founder CEO of Nicodemus Trust. The organization is involved in children formal and non-formal education, women empowerment and life skill development training, medical relief work and leadership development trainings.



DR. K. RAJENDRAN A TRIBUTE

By Ebe Sunder Raj

A matriculate lad became a missions federator. It was in the year 1970, I was leading the OM Team in Tamil Nadu. We were working in Trichy district. Some local leader introduced to me a lean young lad of 19 years age and suggested that I try him on my travelling team for a few days. I did.

I found him very enthusiastic and active. But he damaged my old tape recorder that I used for dictating my letters. I prayed to the Lord to know if it was really His will that this lad should join ministry.

We left him and moved on to Thanjavur district. He came all the way to Thanjavur for formal interview. Our Team admitted him with some

reservation. But he soon disproved our reservations. He persevered on for 27 years and became one of the very senior leaders of OM India.

Rajendran, along with (now Bishop) Joseph D Souza and Dr Praveen Moudgil in partnership IMA, started in the eighties, Leadership Training for the second line leaders of member missions of IMA, in order to prepare them for the CEO responsibilities. This great vision, along with the Management Training effort of EFI, laid the foundation for the formation Christian Institute of Management 15 years later.

Rajendran was self taught. From matriculation he moved up and completed his Doctoral study in Missiology. When I stepped down from IMA, Rajendran was selected by the Society to head IMA. I had the privilege of mentoring him for a year in that responsibility.

While heading IMA he saw the need for reaching the urban middle and upper class and upper caste India and did extensive survey of cities, conducted seminars and training programs for reaching them

Hailing from a family of difficult spiritual background, Dr Rajendran rose up to national level responsibility. He also served as Chairman of the Missions Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance for several years. He mentored many second line leaders, built networks, wrote books and articles, spoke for the unreached, was always active in the work of the Lord. I Corinthians 15:58

May his life and work inspire many in the younger generation for missions.

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Afghan Refugees

Dr. Shantanu Dutta

On 15th August, 2021, the Taliban captured Kabul and their second reign over Afghanistan began. This time around, a lot of what is happening was expected, going by history and the past track record that they have. The first time round, they captured power in 1996 and were dislodged by the U.S forces looking for Bin Laden after 9/11. In 1996, things were uncertain, but one thing was clear - that the hardline Islamists would not accept or tolerate any other version of Islam but their own. Even orthodox muslims were not anymore sure that they were conformist enough and an exodus of Muslims from Afghanistan followed.

Khaled Hosseini, in his acclaimed book " The Kite

Runner" describes the times and the escape of his own family from Afghanistan. Many of those who escaped set up base in Peshawar, just across the border in Pakistan, some in Iran and a large number in India. Mostly, the intention was to migrate to various western countries but the process was chaotic and not all got visas. When they did, it was not always to the same country with spouses and children scattered across the globe. Most did not get and had to make makeshift arrangements.

The plight of the once elite professional class was more pitiful. Doctors, nurses, lawyers, accountants, teachers and others found that their qualifications were not valid in India. They, who once earned

well and lived well found themselves suddenly not just unemployed but even unemployable within the organised sectors. They were now totally dependant on remittances from back home or other relatives settled abroad. The semi-skilled found their bearings faster. The cooks, bakers, tailors, beauticians, hair-dressers and others with such skills quickly began serving their own community and became financially independent to a point.

When we began serving the Afghan community in Delhi, there were just a few ministries in Delhi working among them. In my own organization, there was some discussion regarding the appropriateness of diverting resources to serve another people when there were obviously plenty of needs in India itself. Eventually, though the project started and continued to serve long after I left ; thanks to the dedicated staff who over time are to love and admire the Afghan people and their resilience.

Though the discussion happened in my office about the requirement to respond when there are plenty of needs just around the corner, the debate is

not new, and neither is God's thinking on this ambitious at all.

Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt.

—Exodus 23:9

The Scripture gives Israel a reason to be involved with foreigners — because they knew how it felt to be a foreigner. Israelites were to call on their empathy for refugees because they had been treated cruelly as refugees and slaves in Egypt. They were not to cheat them or take advantage of them in any way. And since we, as believers, were once strangers outside God's kingdom, we can identify with the idea of not belonging as the reason why we treat refugees or displaced people without discrimination.

Among biblical persons explicitly or implicitly identified with the status of strangers are: the ancestors of Israel both in Canaan and in Egypt; Moses in the land of Midian; Elimelech, Naomi, and Ruth herself; Judeans in Babylonia and in Egypt after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BCE; and Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in Egypt. The

reasons for that status were often the same as today: war, famine, persecution, fear for one's life, or seeking a better life.

Jacob, his extended family, and the first several generations of his descendants are perhaps the most prominent examples of strangers in the Bible, because their stories reverberate throughout its pages. According to Deuteronomy, when the Israelites present their offerings at the harvest Festival of Weeks, they are to recite a summary of the ancestral migration to Egypt, the exodus from Egypt, and the entry into the promised land (Deut 26:5-9).

Refugees then and now can end up living elsewhere for a short time or for many years. Of the 25.4 million refugees in the world today, more than 14 million have been out of their country for more than five years. Of these, 3.5 million have been refugees between 10 and 37 years. And another 3 million have been displaced for 37-plus years — that's a lifetime! This instruction in Leviticus is especially helpful when people end up staying for years as refugees or migrants.

The good Samaritan treated the

dying man as one would treat family. Jesus' parable echoes Old Testament passages that call God's people both to "love your neighbor as yourself" and also to "love the stranger as yourself" (Lev 19:18, 33–34). Again, "love," in this passage, is a kinship term. We are to enfold the "stranger"—those who are seeking a home—as our kindred. The world is increasingly mobile. Human migration will not go away just because we build walls. We have a choice in this moment of change to determine again the posture we wish to embody, the kinds of communities we want to cultivate, and the actions we can take to build global kinship in the face of so much violence and harm, at our hands and at the hands of others.



Dr. Shantanu Dutta

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TRUE THANKFULNESS

Prof. Henry Shepherd



Mother of Virtues

The psalmist exhorts the worshippers: "Go through his open gates with great thanksgiving, enter his gates with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name for the Lord is always good" (Ps 100:4). Gratification usually irrupts from heart when unexpectedly something good happens or when expected undesired things do not happen. Nevertheless, not all happy people are thankful but thankful people are happy people. Thankfulness is the outcome of gentleness, godliness, contentment, gratitude of renewed mind. It is an index of humility and tranquility. According to Cicero: "A thankful heart is not only virtuous but mother of other virtues". Proud people may also thank purposely,

but never truthfully. The self righteous proud Pharisee boasted of his credentials in prayer: "Thank God, I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat. I do not commit adultery. I go without food twice a week, and give to God of everything I earn". Whereas the tax collector remained unpretentious, contrite submissive and meekly asked only for God's mercy in his short prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner." People having thankless heart pray, praise or adore only while seeking favour from God.

Expertise in Lip-Service

How can a person not truly thankful to humankind be thankful to God? Such people enjoy God given status, kindness

and prosperity but consider them fruit of their good works. Worldly people humble themselves before God only when in the soup, and during difficult days. A thankless person does not recognise a favour. The most he may think of is returning the favour to the facilitator, but feels ashamed to thank him.

There are various ways to express thankfulness i.e. by – words, deeds, giving, gifts, obedience and right attitude etc. Simpletons are often deceived by sycophants, for they also use these methods to impress others. They frequently use a jargon 'ThanQ' but seldom mean 'Thank You'. However, Only God can't be deceived by them for he sees the heart (1Sam 16:7; Jer 17:9-10; Jn 2:25). It has been noticed that most of the Christian families do pray or sing the grace before meal or going to bed but it becomes a ritual, for the same wordings and phrases are just recited every time. This is why, when the food is not sumptuous or when feeling too hungry to wait, we often forget to thank God. But those who are truly thankful to God remain thankful for food even after getting satiated. There are more than 20 crore Indians who face hunger daily, and condition in many other

Asian and African countries of the world is no better. Now due to pandemic, war and depleted economy etc. the cost of the daily food is touching all time high. We need not only be thankful for getting meals three times a day, but also pray for and help them who are facing starvation in the vicinity. In churches, congregation use hymnals to offer thanksgiving and praise but often sing without meaning the wordings of the hymn. Is that not merely lip-service?

Majority of people claim to know God but do not glorify or worship him, for in pride they consider themselves wiser without truth. They claim to be self made, for pride has darkened their heart. Only when they are hopeless, like Jonah and Namaan who received miraculous deliverance from death and leprosy, they thankfully recognized merciful God and surrendered to him (Jon 2:9; 2Kg 5:15, 17-18). God found Israelites in the journey through wilderness, thankless, disobedient, and grumbles as they had adopted evil practices from Egyptian culture. Therefore, all over 20 years of age who came out of Egypt did not reach the promised land excepting Caleb and Joshua (Nu 32:11-12).

The Trend Setters

Moses taught Israel how to offer thanksgivings to God, for he knew it pleases him (Lev 3:7, 7:12). So, when Israel hardened their hearts against God, they suffered punishment time and again (Nu 14:26-35). Daniel remained thankful throughout his life; even at the cost of his life he did not stop praying and thanksgiving, and thus become a beloved of God (Dan 2:23,6:10). King David used to thank God for everything he did for Him (1Chr 29:10-13). He appointed a choir to lead God's people in praising and worshipping in the house of God; so did Nehemiah and Solomon. God chose a shepherd boy to rule his people; David always remembered this and remained thankful. David's reply to his proud wife's criticism for dancing in public before the Ark of the Lord shows how much thankful he was to God-"I was dancing before the Lord who chose me above your father and his family and who appointed me as leader of Israel, the people of the Lord! So, I am willing to act like a fool in order to show my joy in the Lord" (2Sam 6:21-22). David wrote 73 psalms, in them, one can see the reflection of his love and gratefulness, as he glorifies God. He admonishes

people of God to thank Him (Ps 66:1-4, Ps 107:1, 118:1, 136:1). The psalmist exhorts to thank God repeatedly giving a reason 26 times: 'For his mercy endures for ever'. The Book of Psalms focuses on thanksgiving 36 times i.e, one out of every six psalms and 139 times in the Bible. Asaph also says, "So we your people and sheep of your pasture, will give you thanks forever" (Ps 73:13). God has promised saying, "Sacrifice thanks offering to God, fulfil your vows and call upon me in trouble and I will deliver you" (Ps 50: 14-15). True thankfulness, glory and honour to God is given in heaven by angels and twenty four elders sitting on thrones. They fall before God to give Him thanks (Rev 5:11,12 17-19).

Thankfulness in Grace Period

People who believe in Christ Jesus are saved by grace through faith and truth has set them free. They are enjoying heavenly blessing and know that grace and truth came through Lord Jesus, therefore, thankfully acknowledge gifts and calling with loud thanks to God the Father. Also, it is His will that the body of Christ, offers him thanks continually in all circumstances, for all things and for each other

(Eph 5:20; ITh 5:18). Jesus has shown the way how to thank Father for everything (Jn 6:11, 11:41, Mt 11:25,36). The Lord was surprised that only the Samaritan out of ten lepers, gratefully returned to thank Jesus when he fell before him flat on the ground in dust (Lk17:12-19). The particular manner of breaking bread and thanking God helped disciples in recognizing Jesus after resurrection (Mt 14:19, Lk 22:17-19,24:30-31). A grateful heart can see many blessings even in adversities.

Paul, in his writings, appears to be a paragon of thanksgiving. He not only profoundly thanked God for everything but admonished the baby churches to offer thanks to God. Paul had a thankful heart not only for blessings but also for persecution he faced for preaching gospel. He went through numerous sufferings for his faith and calling (1Tim 1:12-13). Seeing the growth, unity and steadfast faith, he exhorted churches to continue being rooted, nourished and strengthened in Christ (Col 2:7,4:2). Paul gave a few reasons to be thankful to God, such as: He is good. He gives eternal life. He loves. He does wonderful things and answers our prayers. He is our salvation. He gave his Son

and Holy Spirit. He gives heavenly blessings and spiritual gifts. He is interceding for us. He strengthens our feet from stumbling. He renews our minds and makes a new creation. He gives his own peace. He leads us in triumphal procession in Christ. He spreads fragrance of his knowledge through us, and makes us aroma of Christ. No amount of thanking is sufficient for he gave us right to be God's children. He is preparing a place in heaven. From a dungeon, Paul could exhort, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus" (Ph 4:6-7).



Prof. Henry Shepherd

Former Chaplain and Pro-Vice Chancellor

Sam Higginbottom University of Agri. Tech. & Sciences, Prayagraj

GOD AND MAGOG AND SCRIPTURE: FOCUS ON SOWING RATHER THAN ON SPECULATION

Dr. Duke Jeyaraj



Of late, after Russia invaded Ukraine, there has been a lot of focus on Bible Passages like Ezekiel 38 and 39. There is a talk that Gog and Magog concerns Russia and Putin and so on and so forth. But I want issue a word of caution here. This word of warning comes straight from Scripture. Revelation 11:8 goes this way: "Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city – which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt – where also their Lord was crucified" (NIV). We know that the city where our Lord was crucified to be historically, Jerusalem. But historic Jerusalem is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt in the book of Revelation.

Why should this be so. The answer is obvious: Jerusalem committed the very same sins of Sodom (sexual immorality) and Egypt (Idol Worship).

So, as the coming of the Lord nears, we must not get super-excited about places and their physical locations! You excitedly blurt out, "Gog and Magog – that is Russia!" Don't be so quick! Just above, we saw proof that when the Bible talks about literal Jerusalem, it may not be literal Jerusalem! We need to open to the possibility that Gog and Magog can signify another place spiritually speaking and not Russia. I am not saying this because of a personal bias. But I



MEDIA & ADVOCACY TRAINING
19th & 20th May, 2022



Recognising the need to share the information through media & also to be engaged in advocating for important social matters aware of our rights, EFI organized a two-day training on “Media & Advocacy” on 19th & 20th May, 2022 at Delhi. The training was attended by 21 participants comprising of pastors, leaders and youth from Delhi and neighbouring cities.

The two-day training focussed on the current scenario of India and how the various forms of media help to convey the information to the audience and present the information in the form of news / press statements etc. good writing, media interactions and qualifications of a good journalist. A mock press conference was conducted to make the participants understand the

nuances of being a good journalist.

The written information should be substantiated with good photographs and with the extensive use of the phone cameras, a session on photography was also conducted which focused on some important aspects while taking a photograph and the do's and don'ts of a good photograph.

The participants were also

informed about what the Bible talks about Advocacy and the fundamental rights. They were taught how to file a First Information Report, some important sections of IPC and how to file an RTI. A special focus on how to gather information and report the incidents of persecution were also taught.

The faculty for the training were Dr. John Dayal, Rev. Vijayesh Lal and Adv. Amit Manwatkar.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA, NWI AUXILIARY is on the look out for a well qualified person committed to the Bible Cause for the post of Marketing Assistant. The applicant should be a University graduate preferably in the age group of 30-40 years, with experience involving Marketing/ Sales. The selected candidate will be responsible for marketing of the Bible/ Scriptures at all strategic places in North West India. This post is in the pay scale of Rs.12600-620-18800-740-29900-780-37700 with other allowances like HRA of Rs.6400/-, Medical Allowance of Rs.1700/-, Conveyance Allowance of Rs.4000/-, CCA-Rs.1500/- (Approximate Gross Salary: Rs.26,200/-). In addition, Children Allowance of Rs.1500/- p.m. per child for unmarried/ unemployed children upto the age of 21 years will be paid.

In deserving cases, age and/ or salary will be relaxed.

Applications on plain paper with detailed resume including age, education, training, experience, salary now drawing and expected, contact details, Church background etc. along with copies of certificates/ testimonials, two reference letters of which one should be from the Church Authority and a passport size photograph should be mailed to *Rev. Gershombhai Khristi, The Auxiliary Secretary, The Bible Society of India, North West India Auxiliary, 10 Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 001* to reach him **on or before 20th June 2022**. The selected candidate needs to undergo a thorough medical examination in a hospital recommended by the BSI at his/ her own cost, particularly to see if the appointee suffers from any pre-existent illness and whether he/she is fit to take up the position offered.

TO BE GONE

Rev. Kuruville Chandy

Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister when I was in school. One day, the newspaper carried a little box item on Nehru's response to the question of who was going to be his successor. The questioner no doubt was wondering if Nehru was grooming his daughter Indira for the job. Nehru had answered that he was going to be around for some more time and so, he wasn't thinking about who would be his successor. When I read that, I thought to myself, "That's arrogance in the face of God." Just that morning, I had read in my devotions, "*Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth*" (Pro.27:1, KJV). About a week or ten days later, Nehru was dead.

For all his western sophistication,

Nehru did have a feudal attitude when it came to considering who would succeed him. He thought it had to be his own daughter—one from his own family, as though India wasn't a democracy but his private fiefdom. He wasn't ready to hand over because his daughter was young and not ready to take headship over a bunch of old men. So, he regarded himself as indispensable until his daughter would be ready.

When someone retires or otherwise moves on, it is the politically correct thing for those who bid the person farewell to say, "We don't know how we will manage without you being there to lead us," and it is equally the politically correct thing for the one moving on to say, "Nonsense! No

one is indispensable.” However, while in service, so many live by a philosophy or theology that seems to suggest otherwise.

A number of people heading ministries and institutions cling to their jobs without developing a second line of leadership and don't even think about what will happen to the ministry after their time. Many assume that their own son or daughter will succeed them. When that doesn't happen, and time runs out, they just about pick anyone for the job, though on closer examination, it will be seen that they pick someone who has been loyal to them personally—a proxy son/daughter. While others do find their replacement, don't let the person know that that is the plan. If the person in charge gives no indication of a plan to quit, those who have an ambition for themselves will move on. I fear that this happens far too often.

Vision

One year after a group of believers organized Shalom Church, Pastor Santosh advocated that he needed to have an associate so that in due course the young man could take charge from him. When he proposed that, the church had a total membership of about 80

people—including toddlers and schoolchildren, college students and retired folks with no great financial resources. The congregation met in rented premises. Most people felt that the priority was to get a church building. But for Pastor Santosh the priority was not a brick structure but getting a man. He pointed out that he was young and strong and didn't need an assistant. Moreover, the church was small enough for one man to manage. This was not about him having an assistant, but about the church having a person in place for the future. He kept on hammering at this for two years before the members got the point. It took another three years of searching before they were able to try out a person for the position of associate pastor. Pastor Santosh is immensely popular. The church is virtually his fan following and it would never ask him to quit, and he could in all probability go on long after the date of retirement. Why should he bother with finding the next person especially when finding the person will mean he would lose any chance of an extension of employment?

The boards of Christian organizations consist of people

who are busy in their own realms of life and work. Consequently, board members while happy to sit in meetings, cannot be expected to take any initiative to actively search for the persons to take over from present incumbents. Talwar was brought in to publish a magazine after a younger man was forced by circumstances to quit. Except that the stopgap arrangement became a permanent one. Though Talwar is now really advanced in age and could pop off any time, he can't be bothered about finding his replacement. The position gives him something to do, gets him recognition and opens doors. He hides behind the excuse that it is the board's responsibility to find the next man.

Most people have a vision for their own role at work. But, unless they have a vision for the work after their own time, their vision is nothing more than personal aims and ambitions.

Assistants lead a miserable life in India. Their bosses are usually abusive. They take advantage of the assistants and virtually turn them into their personal peons. (In most of the Third World, while there are good laws to protect people, too often a Robert

Mugabe hides inside those in positions of power. They set aside laws quite easily and unless there is someone to take matters up with regulatory government bodies or courts of law, the enforcement of laws falls by the wayside. Of course, as with Mugabe, often government officials themselves are the biggest culprits even as they apply the law to others. They believe that rules do not apply to them. That's what sets them apart from others. Being set apart from others is what it's all about. Otherwise, what's the fun in having all this power?). There is a need to treat assistants as equals and to protect their dignity.

At Shalom Church, Pastor Santosh guarded against taking advantage of the new man recruited to be his replacement. He insisted that Rohit was not an assistant, but his associate. Initially, he shared the pulpit equally with his associate pastor. Later on, he let Rohit fill the pulpit by himself for a full six months so that he could learn to be prepared to preach week after week without anyone else to relieve him. Pastor Santosh loved to preach and had previously allowed others to fill the pulpit usually only when he himself

went out of station. It was unimaginable that he would sit without preaching for six months. But he did. When asked about it, he said, “Earlier I would be impatient with others' preaching and hankered to be back in the pulpit myself. But letting Rohit preach strangely makes me feel satisfied. I take pride when he does well—as if I can take credit for it.”

Pastor Santosh demonstrates an essential principle in dealing with those who are being prepared to replace one. It is not enough to insist on a person having all the paper qualifications for the job. An understudy must be given opportunities to try his hand at what you are doing. I see this happening all the time at the barber shop. The newest chap is required to sweep up all the fallen hair from the floor. When he is finished with that task, he is allowed to watch the expert barbers until the next time he has to sweep the floor. After that he is allowed to give customers shaves. Between times, he gets to watch haircutting. Finally, he is allowed to take the scissors and try cutting hair—maybe a colleague's, or of a customer who doesn't care who does the cutting. I see the same gradual

upgrading of skills at the car mechanic's shop. Starting with sweeping the floor, and replacing the tools, the apprentice moves up to removing/tightening bolts, to cleaning filters and checking spark plugs. While the theory is known to white collar bosses, seems to me that the practice of it is seen more in blue collar jobs.

The *New American Standard Bible (Updated)* translates Pro.29:18 as “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained.” While the King James Version may not have translated it literally, it goes directly to the end result of running wild and stumbling: “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

When the Israelites worshipped the golden calf, they embraced the worship styles of the nations around them. When Moses saw that they “were running wild...and out of control” (Ex.32:25-28), would lose the distinctiveness of their identity as the people of God and fail to reach the Promised Land. Christian bosses kill vision when they boss people like it's done in the world. They need to pay attention to the Master who wore His superiority like clothes that

could be laid aside to become servant to those He wanted to save as His replacements.

Phase Out

Yes, there is a need for vision. But how do you see the future of the work you are doing? Does your vision for the work look forward to the time when you will not be there? That I believe is true vision for the work. If your vision always has you yourself in it, then it is a vision about your own future that you foresee. It is not a vision for the work itself. When you can see the work going on without your being there, then it is that you are a true visionary.

A while back, I read something written by an independent management consultant. “Big companies are announcing layoffs and closing divisions. Small companies are shutting down. Some people have been laid off multiple times in the last year as each new job ended in yet another layoff. Scary, isn't it? Given this environment, it seems that the best career advice I can give is on becoming indispensable...When I say 'indispensable,' I mean, 'your manager will fight tooth and nail to keep you, if at all possible,' not, 'your job is 100% ensured'.” She

then gave advice on what a person can do to make oneself indispensable in comparison to others so that someone else is the one getting the boot.

Management experts are all saying that being indispensable is the key to success.

- Do what you do better than anyone else does it.
- Do it so well that no one can excel you, leave alone match you.
- If you're the best, the company will be forced to depend on you and would never dream of getting rid of you. That is never an option!

Contrast that with the missionary Hudson Taylor's attitude. In a letter home, Taylor wrote, *“The Lord is prospering us, and the work is steadily growing, especially in that most important department, native help. The helpers themselves need much help, much care and instruction; but they are becoming more efficient as well as more numerous, and the future hope for China lies, doubtless, in them. I look on foreign missionaries as the scaffolding round a rising building; the sooner it can be dispensed with the better—rather, the sooner it can be transferred to other places, to*

serve the same temporary purpose” (Hodder Christian Paperbacks, 1965, p.330).

Paul was one who planned to phase himself out from the work he was doing, and he taught Timothy to follow suit: “Take the teachings that you heard me proclaim in the presence of many witnesses, and entrust them to reliable people, who will be able to teach others also” (2 Ti.2:2, GNB).

Everyone in any Christian ministry ought to have one aim: to be replaced. We're only the scaffolding that must eventually be dismantled. “For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake” (2 Cor.4:5).

John the Baptist got it right. He confessed he was not the main person in God's plan. He said, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (Jn.3:30). In Eugene Peterson's wording, John says, “This is the assigned moment for Him to move into the centre, while I slip off to the sidelines.” Leaders who have vision take the lead and become indispensable. A servant, on the other hand, is vulnerable and dispensable,

-serving a higher purpose—nay, someone else.

Christian ministry is not about the Christian minister at all. It's all about Christ and His people. You are here to promote someone else till you are effaced and replaced. *“Each one of us has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given... It was He who 'gave gifts'; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. And so, we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature”* (Eph.4:7, 10-13). If you fail to advance and enable someone else in ministry, you have not yet served as a minister of God and, definitely, not advanced the Kingdom of God.

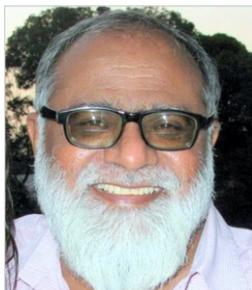
Publishers and editors enable writers. But what about publishers enabling publishers-to-be and editors enabling editors-to-be? People are quite willing to help someone who is

not doing the work they do. That's easy—because they're not going to replace them. But enabling the one who will replace you is hard. What if he or she proves to be better? What if their vision advances the work to such an extent that you are forgotten?

This is the truth that present day servants of Christ desperately need to learn: a Christian minister with vision has eyes only for Christ and His Kingdom. That is all he or she can see.

If you have a vision for Christ's Kingdom, you have to promote

someone else till you are displaced. "Where do you see yourself 'n' number of years from now?" The correct answer to that question is, "Gone!"



Rev. Kuruvilla Chandy

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***"I will be a father to him,
and he'll be a son to me.
When he does wrong,
I'll discipline him in the usual ways,
the pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life.
But I'll never remove
my gracious love from him."
2 Samuel 7:14-15***



Women of God

Ms. Stuti Farmer

To the person reading this, whether you are a man or a woman, 'women' in general are undoubtedly a very significant part of your life. In this ever-evolving world, the standards for a 'good woman' keep on changing, but God's design for womanhood is timeless, it transcends time and culture, and that is the only one that should truly matter.

Let the one who created you be the one who defines you - We women, daughters of God, are created by Him and in His image. We need to **'find our identity in Him and not look for our identity in anything or anyone else. No career, no amount of love, no relationship, nothing**

can truly satisfy you except Jesus Christ. Have we women made Him our Ultimate pursuit?

We all need to understand that just like men, women are imperfect too - **Both men and women are sinners and fall short of the glory of God. There will be times when we women will make mistakes when we will be hard to bear when we will be tired mothers, disobedient daughters, or imperfect wives.** The scripture is not filled with perfect or clean women, it is rather a collection of ordinary, broken women that are 'imperfect but loved by a perfect God' and made holy by Christ.

John 8:1-11 is one of my favourite passages where there is a

woman caught in adultery, who was shamed by society and about to be stoned to death according to the law but was treated with kindness by Jesus, was forgiven by Him, and given new self-respect. One thing which touched my heart from this passage was that **"The one who was actually qualified to throw a stone at her, did not."**

When we see Jesus' conversation with the **woman at the well**, let us note that a woman like her, **though despised by society was treated with so much respect by Jesus and she was used as an instrument to tell many others about the Messiah!**

Reading Luke 8:42-48, we even see **Jesus breaking barriers in the society against women's diseases**. People having bodily discharges were considered unholy during that time and touching them meant being defiled. But Jesus' was not concerned with this outward show of cleanliness, and he showed great consideration for this woman who was bleeding for many years and had touched Him with the faith to be healed.

Even during the time when women were treated as low, Jesus' attitude to them was remarkable. The world has always blamed women whenever things with them go wrong. Women are blamed if not efficient in household chores, they are blamed if they aren't receiving rights of education or equal pay, they are blamed if they are not getting married at the right time and they are even blamed when sexually assaulted and the list goes on. Before blaming her just because she's a woman, they forget the fact that household chores are 'not a gender skill but a life skill', they forget the fact that women are at par in intelligence with men, they forget the fact that if a woman is sexually assaulted then nothing, no excuse such as roaming down dark alleys or improper clothing can justify the act committed against her and that the victim is never ever to be blamed for the horrifying thing she went through.

As women of God, what are you doing? Are you building each other up or gossiping behind each other's backs? Jesus empathizes with your pain and is

interested in every detail of your life. He has given you the chance of being His daughter, but do you consider Him your father? Do you seek Him above all else?

Are we learning from the **exemplary lives of women missionaries such as Corrie Ten Boom** who made her home a hiding place for saving so many people in time of war, like **Elizabeth Elliot** who forgave those men from the Auca tribe in Ecuador who killed her own husband and like **Amy Carmichael** who became a mother for the motherless? **Are we like Lydia** serving God and His people along with our careers? **Are we like Dorcas** using our gifts and talents for God's glory? **Are we like Priscilla** having a strong personal relationship with

Jesus that outflows in the form of ministry? You are valued, loved, and worthy in God's sight! Our generation is in 'desperate need' of believer women rising up to glorify God. Are you fulfilling that need? Are you living like a woman of God?



Ms. Stuti Farmer

I belong to Dehradun. Completed B.Sc. in Botany, Zoology and Geology. I am involved with the UESI ministry and love to sing and write.

"The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him."
Proverbs 23:24



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In light of the COVID situation, the course is available, offline and online,
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Intercessory
Prayer
Points



June 2022

1 WEDNESDAY Thank God for this new month. Pray that you would have teachable hearts to learn and follow Christ's footsteps.

2 THURSDAY Pray for Tribals Transformation India, Karnataka. TTI is committed to share the Good News and to bring wholeness to the community. Pray that the ministry would effectively evangelize, plant churches, train leaders and work for community development.

3 FRIDAY Pray for the Pocket Testament League, Uttar Pradesh. Pray that through them, God would reach out to many unreached people in North India and Nepal. Pray for their new believers' discipleship training to be simple, meaningful, and effective. Pray for strength and renewed commitment to serve God.

4 SATURDAY Pray for yourself that you would be a blessing to people who are in need, both physically and spiritually. Pray that God would give you prayer spirit to

intercede for those who are lost without Christ.

5 SUNDAY Pray for all the pastors who are teaching and preaching the Word of God today. Pray for Holy Spirit equipping so that they would effectively serve the church.

6 MONDAY Pray for Vatsalya Ministry, Training & Development Centre for Mentally Challenged at Gujarat. Pray for the staff in this ministry to prayerfully train others who would reach out the mentally challenged people with love, concern, and care.

7 TUESDAY Pray for Vongzawl Presbytery (PCI) in Assam. Pray for Holy Spirit's guidance as they serve the communities that were affected by flood and landslides this monsoon.

8 WEDNESDAY Pray for the Board of Christian Community Church, Chhattisgarh. Pray that they may stand strong amidst trials and hardships and be a strong model to the believers in the state.

9 THURSDAY Pray for Utilize People's Potential Action for Humanities and Research (UPPAHAR) in Andhra Pradesh. Pray that God would use this ministry as his instrument to touch many lives.

10 FRIDAY Pray for Peace Trust, Tamil Nadu. Pray that God would use them as His instrument as they work towards protection of environment, eradication of child labour, women empowerment etc.

11 SATURDAY Pray for your pastor to prepare and preach lively sermons. Pray that God would speak to people through them and bring hope during this uncertain time.

12 SUNDAY Pray that the Lord would be lifted high as you worship Him today. Let all who love Him surrender to his kingship and do his goodwill.

13 MONDAY Pray for UDHAR Multipurpose Society, Maharashtra. Pray that they would faithfully and diligently work so that they would be able to reach their goals.

14 TUESDAY Pray for the little children in your locality that the Lord would protect them and safeguard them.

15 WEDNESDAY Pray for the Church of the Four Square,

Karnataka. Pray for their ministry that involves church planting, short term training, women, youth, and children ministries. Pray that the Lord will multiply their work.

16 THURSDAY Pray for the Voice of Christians Evangelical Church, Punjab. Pray that as they witness Christ in marketplaces and teach, preach God's Word and serve the people with healing ministry that God would get all the glory and everything that they do would bring good to the people.

17 FRIDAY Pray for EFI-National Centre for Urban Transformation (NCUT). Pray that God's word would effectively spread and transform lives in cities and towns despite busy lifestyles. Pray for those who are involved in urban missions.

18 SATURDAY Pray for your neighbors today. Pray that their fear would turn them to our loving heavenly Father. Pray that you would become an agent of peace to them.

19 SUNDAY Fathers' Day. Pray for all the fathers in your church to carry out their priestly role in the family faithfully and diligently. Pray that they would lead their family with good examples.

20 MONDAY Pray for the Bible Society of India, Karnataka. Pray that love for God's word and a

desire to obey it would increasingly grow in our hearts and minds. Pray that BSI would continue to serve and be an instrument in spreading the Gospel.

21 TUESDAY Pray for the Disciples of Christ Church, Chhattisgarh. Pray for love, mercy, and goodness to overflow the members of this church. Pray that in everything, their conduct may be praise-worthy.

22 WEDNESDAY Pray for Zeliangrong Baptist Church, Manipur. Pray that the Lord would speak to them personally through His Words and that they would be faithful followers and witnesses of Christ in their culture.

23 THURSDAY Pray for those who are in authority to make decisions out of love. Pray that God may give them wisdom and compassion as they handle various things during this pandemic.

24 FRIDAY Pray for Southern Asia Bible College, Karnataka. Pray for God's leading and empowerment for all the staff and faculty. Pray that students would be shaped and equipped to serve in God's kingdom.

25 SATURDAY Let us pray for ourselves that our lives may be transparent and highly commendable as Christ's return is near. Pray that we may fully give

ourselves in the service of King Jesus and influence many lives with His beauty.

26 SUNDAY Pray that God may draw many people to His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ and receive salvation.

27 MONDAY Pray for the Wesleyan Church, Gujarat. Pray that God may enable and equip them to share God's extravagant love with people. Pray that people who come in contact with them would experience life in Jesus Christ with them and join their celebration.

28 TUESDAY Pray for the Union Church Coonoor, Tamil Nadu. Pray that every person whom the Lord brought to this church may feel welcomed and comfortable. Pray for the sweet fellowship of the members of this church that many new people would be drawn to them and to God.

29 WEDNESDAY Pray for the world that God's kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. Pray for God's servants to tirelessly labour in His vineyard knowing that their hard labour will not be in vain.

30 THURSDAY Thank God for the fruitful month in His vineyard. Thank Him for His faithfulness to all generations. Pray for a fresh and opportunity filled new month.

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**The righteous man
walks with integrity;
blessed are his
children after him.
Proverbs 20:7**

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