

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF EFI PUBLICATION TRUST

aim

May 2022 ❖ PAGES 42 ❖ ₹ 20/-

A Journey of Faith

*As for me
and my house,
we will serve
the Lord.*

JOSHUA 24:15



Form IV. (SEE Rule 18)

- Place of Publication : New Delhi
- Periodicity of its publication : Monthly
- Printer's Name : Mr. Vijayesh Lal
 - Whether citizen of India? : Yes
 - If foreigner, state country of Origin : Not applicable
- Address : 805/92, Deepali,
Nehru Place, New
Delhi – 110019

- Publisher's Name : Mr. Vijayesh Lal
 - Whether citizen of India? : Yes
 - If foreigner, state country of Origin : Not applicable
 - Address : 805/92, Deepali,
Nehru Place, New
Delhi - 110019

- Editor's Name : Mr. Vijayesh Lal
 - Whether citizen of India? : Yes
 - If foreigner, state country of Origin : Not applicable
 - Address : 805/92, Deepali,
Nehru Place, New
Delhi - 110019

- Name and address of individuals who won the newspaper and partners of shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital: EFI Publication Trust

I, Mr. Vijayesh Lal, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: May 1, 2022

Sd/- Mr. Vijayesh Lal
Signature of Publisher

A Journey of Faith

contents

Vol. 51 / No. 05
 AIM Annual Subscription for
 India, Nepal & Bhutan Rs. 200/-
 (Other countries \$ 20)

A monthly publication of EFI Publication Trust

Editorial	The Family Of Jesus
Rev. Vijayesh Lal04	Dr. Shantanu Dutta23
Mothers with sincere faith	Women - Pervasive in The Bible, But Not as Much Noticed
Rev. Dr. David Mende09	Mrs. Surinder Kaur Lal27
The Tale of Three Crosses	Post Resurrection Appearances
Rev. Vidush Bhandari15	Dr. Henry Shepherd31
Colonnades of Roses	Prayer
Ms. Jessica Joel2238

ADVERTISEMENT RATE

Centre Spread (Color) :	Rs. 7000/-
Back Cover (Color) :	Rs. 5000/-
Front Inside (Color) :	Rs. 4000/-
Back Inside Page (Color):	Rs. 4000/-
Ordinary Page (B&W) :	Rs. 2000/-
Half Page (B&W) :	Rs. 1200/-
One third Page (B&W) :	Rs. 900/-
Quarter Page (B&W) :	Rs. 500/-

Editorial Committee

Rev. Vijayesh Lal	: Hon. Editor-in-Chief
Mrs. Sara Chonghoikim	: Associate Editor
Dr. John Dayal	: Editorial Consultant
Mr. Manish Walter	: Design Consultant
Mr. Hansraj Jain	: Nagpur
Mrs. Sonia Daniel	: New Delhi

Send your advertisement matter 6 weeks in advance, along with payment by DD or M.O. in favour of 'EFI Publication Trust'
 Add Rs. 20/- for outstation Cheques.

Online payment details

Name : EFI Publication Trust | Bank : State Bank of India | Account No. **54015789597** | IFSC CODE: **SBIN0040415**
 Branch : Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019

For subscription query call us: 011-26431133; Tele/Fax: 011-26285350, E-mail: aimatefi@gmail.com, website: www.efionline.org

THE TREASURER, EFI PUBLICATION TRUST, 805/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019.
 Please Note: No article in AIM should be reproduced /translated without Editor's written permission.

Editor's Note: Each Author is responsible for the point of view presented, which does not necessarily represent the view of Evangelical Fellowship of India.

Editorial 



Rev. Vijayesh Lal



The holy bonds of wedlock and family

We are created in the image of the Triune God: one God, co-existing in three distinct persons. But do we realise what a real gift it is to be made in that image? By birth, we are relational beings. We have linkages, relationships, and responsibilities both vertical, and horizontal.

We know we must be in the right relationship with God in the high,

delighting in Him as the Psalmist sang in Psalm 37:4. We fully understand that this is a relationship that can be established for us only through Jesus Christ.

The horizontal component is our relationship with the rest of His creation. We would be fooling ourselves if we believe that we can realise our connect with the

rest of creation without restoring our relationship with the Creator. Being in the image of God, we realise, we are not alone, left to our own devices, but that we belong to the community of humankind. And that we have the freedom, and the capacity, to know and love others. This relatedness to other people is at the very root of who we are.

The Triune God provides us a model for the ideal human community, in which people are united by mutual love, a world where women and men work together in harmonious consensus, and where the equality and dignity of each person is respected.

We are called to reflect, and to respect, this 'community of love and life' of the Trinity in all our relationships, and our surroundings. Our families are the crucibles in which is forged our understanding of these God-given bonds, and they become stronger as we connect with others in our expanding understanding and insights.

The family is also the fundamental element of the Christian faith. God revealed Himself to us as our Heavenly

Father. Through Jesus Christ, his Son, he bestowed on us the right to be 'Children of God'.

Families are under stress across the globe. India is no exception. A 2018 survey by Britannia and Nielsen has revealed the changing family dynamics as far as cities are concerned in India.

More than 53% people surveyed said that they do not have time to spend with their family. Millennials and Gen-Z are losing out significantly on creating strong family ties. Social media has taken the place of physical presence with over 89% indicating that WhatsApp has become the new 'meeting place' of families.

Out of the cities surveyed in India, the people of the national capital Delhi spend the least amount of time with the family. While the Covid pandemic temporarily forced us to remain at home with our families, things sprung back to "normal" the moment government told us to resume our work schedules. And for many of us, the heavy "work from home" pressures ensured that though in proximity, we were no closer than earlier with members of the family.

In fact, the enforced home stay brought up aberrant social behaviour. The pandemic resulted in increased prevalence of domestic violence. The tragic trend was global. India was no exception, as several academic studies have documented.

Data from the National Commission for Women's (NCW) revealed that domestic violence complaints doubled after the nationwide lockdown was imposed in India. Police reports from Tamil Nadu and Bangalore also indicated an increase in complaints of domestic violence.

Evangelical Fellowship of India and the Asia Evangelical Alliance are conducting a survey on domestic violence among Christians in India. Probably a survey like this has never been done before by any church group, and we look forward to the results of the same in about a month from now. The findings will help us understand new dimensions of pastoral care that will be required. This would be a challenge, but also an opportunity to train, or retrain, our pastors and partners in helping heal families and society.

Domestic violence is one of the

greatest challenges we face as church, and a point of great concern for those charged as individual shepherd and counsellors, or as institutions. The strength of the family, and integrity of marriage, are basic to the flourishing of the human race. They should never be corrupted by violence. The Bible clearly condemns this misuse of power. And that is why domestic violence needs to be spoken about in our Churches. Ministry to victims of domestic violence is of primary importance and should be a compulsory part of pastoral care and spoken about from the pulpit.

The role of emerging technologies on the family has also invited the attention of behaviour and social scientists. A survey titled 'Impact of Smartphones on Human Relationships 2021' conducted by Vivo, in association with Cybermedia Research (CMR) revealed that 66 % of parents confessed to being on their smartphones while theoretically spending time with their children.

The study says "74% of Indian parents feel that their relationship with their kids may be hurt because of smartphones. 75%

admit to having been distracted by their smartphones and not being attentive to kids even while with them."

The survey showed that 69% of people believe that they lose track of children, surroundings, and people when they are immersed in their smartphones, and 74% admit to getting irritated when their children ask them something.

However, the above issues are not the only challenges that modern day families are facing. The definition of family itself has come under considerable strain in recent times. The traditional setup of family which has consisted of a father and a mother has been challenged by the rise of same-sex parenthood in many countries. Its long term and generational impact are still being studied. But the 2013 World Family Map survey found "In a majority of countries polled, respondents felt children were more likely to flourish in a home with a mother and a father."

As Christians, it is important for us to remember that the bond of matrimony and family are God's idea. It is not for nothing that it is called Holy Matrimony, or Holy

Wedlock. It was He who sowed the seeds of the family in the creation of the Man and the Woman. These divine institutions are not open to human renegotiation or revision.

Family is important to God. He blessed Adam and Eve to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Genesis 1:28). While giving the Ten Commandments, He addressed family relationships, especially between parents and children - "*Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*" (Exodus 20:12)

The Lord Jesus not only taught about marriage (Mark 10:6–9), but even in the moment of His death, He connected His mother Mary and His disciple John, as Mother and Son, ensuring the continuity of the family through breaks and tragedies.

The Apostle Paul wrote about family relationships. He instructed: "*Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. 'Honour your father and mother.'* This is the first commandment with a promise: *'If you honour your father and*

mother, things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.' Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord." (Ephesians 6:1–4).

The early Church, faced with a decadent Greco-Roman family environment, promoted a higher standard for the family: "one that created a more favourable environment for all members. Both broken families and stable families were now part of a larger family, the family called the church."

The early Church called husbands and wives to submit to each other (Ephesians 5:21-35), thus calling husbands to a higher standard than was prevalent in culture. Husbands were to use their position to serve their wives and love them in the same way that Christ loved the Church. Fathers were to treat their children with kindness and were to be respected by them.

The early Church itself became a family for the faithful. It was literally so for those who either had no families or were disowned

by their kin owing to their faith. This too was counter cultural and adhered to a higher standard. The ones who had no place in society, specially widows and orphans, now had a family in the Church that took care of them.

This is a model for us to emulate even as we live in societies that have dysfunctional families. We must remember that we are called to higher standards for our family lives than what the culture of our times expects from us. At the same time, the Church must strive to become a family for those who are from broken families, have no family or have no place in society.

As we observe the International Day of Families on May 15th, let us take time to celebrate our families. Let us be thankful to God for the love, goodness, and generosity that we experience in our families. And let us strive to do the best we can to live up to the higher standards detailed in God's word, so that our families and Church can bless other families as we work together for a full and flourishing life.

Rev. Vijayesh Lal

Mothers With Sincere Faith

Rev. Dr. David Mende



Introduction

A mother's job is tough. Pastor Brian Bill says, "By the time a child reaches 18, a mother has had to handle some extra 18,000 hours of child-generated work. In fact, women who never have children enjoy the equivalent of an extra three months a year in leisure time!"

For some, Mother's Day may not be a joyous occasion. For instance, some women are unable to conceive and become mothers. A few of you probably had a mother who didn't care for you. Probably your mother is no more. Some women lose their children at an early age. Some mothers may be anguished about

their prodigal son or daughter. And some single mothers struggle to raise their children.

Today, some mothers focus more on their careers rather than investing their time in their children's lives. Of course, in some families, some mothers may have to work to meet their basic financial needs. But, mothers, may I remind you that your work is one of the greatest ministries on this planet. You can impact your children spiritually like no one else. As Abraham Lincoln said, "No man is poor who has had a godly mother!" In 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15, we read that a man of God was greatly influenced by his mother and grandmother. Based on this text,

I've entitled this article "Mothers With Sincere Faith." In this passage, Apostle Paul exhorts Timothy to continue in what he has learned from his mother and grandmother. We can learn two lessons from this passage.

1. Mothers Must Possess Sincere Faith (2 Tim. 1:5).

Paul visited Lystra on his first missionary journey (Acts 14:16-20). During his second missionary journey, Paul went to Lystra again, and there he met a young man named Timothy. Timothy had a good reputation among believers. So, Paul took Timothy along with him on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:1-3). Timothy is referred to as Paul's "beloved and faithful child" in 1 Corinthians 4:17. Also, he refers to Timothy as a "true child in the faith" in 1 Timothy 1:2. Paul had a high view of Timothy. He tells the Philippians, "For I have no one like him [Timothy], who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare" (Phil. 2:20). That's a great testimony!

After the Lord Jesus, Apostle Paul is considered to be the

greatest Apostle who impacted the world for God's glory. Timothy had the great privilege of being one of the main associates of Apostle Paul. But how did Timothy develop such faith? In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul writes, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well." The Greek word translated as "sincere" is *anypokritos*, which literally means without play-acting or show or hypocrisy. Timothy's grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice had sincere faith, which they passed on to Timothy.

Once a man bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas. A friend of his said, "I thought she wanted one of those pretty 4-Wheel drive vehicles." "She did," he replied, "But where in the world was I going to find a fake jeep!" There is "sincere" faith, and there is "fake" faith. Which kind of faith do you possess? The word *anypokritos* is used in five other verses.

Sincere faith doesn't imply

perfection, but a constant pursuit of godliness. Paul says that this sincere faith "dwells" in Timothy. The same Greek word is used to mention the indwelling of the Spirit (2 Tim. 1:4). This shows the depth of Timothy's faith. This faith first dwelt in Lois and Eunice. These women had consistent faith. They didn't demonstrate this faith once in a while, but this faith *dwelt* in them.

The faith of Lois and Eunice is commendable because, in the Roman world, fathers generally exercised absolute authority over their families. Timothy's father was a Greek (Acts 16:1) and was probably unsaved. Despite this, his mother brought him up in sincere faith. Generally, it's the father's responsibility to lead his family in spiritual matters. But if the father is unsaved or lukewarm, mothers must take up this job. Parents can and must raise children in godly ways even if the environment at home is not ideal. Our children cannot inherit our salvation, but our upbringing definitely makes an impact on them.

"I am sure" (2 Tim. 1:5) is in the

perfect tense which suggests that at some point in time, Paul was persuaded that Timothy had sincere faith and he remains persuaded about it. It's a great blessing to have godly parents. God blesses the children of those who fear him: "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations" (Deut. 7:9).

Let me give you a couple of Jewish proverbs that talk about the importance of mothers:

- (1) One mother achieves more than a hundred teachers.
- (2) Honor your father and mother, even as you honor God, for all three were partners in your creation.

Mothers must possess sincere faith.

2. Mothers Must Teach God's Word to Their Children (2 Tim. 3:14-15).

In contrast to "evil people and impostors [who] will go on from

bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived" (v. 13), Apostle Paul asks Timothy to continue in what he has learned and firmly believed. Here, "continue" is a present imperative in Greek. Paul is calling Timothy to a lifestyle that is dedicated to orthodoxy and orthopraxy. "Learned" and "firmly believed" are in the aorist tense in Greek. The aorist tense speaks of a historical fact or a completed event.

While "learned" talks about the content of Timothy's faith, "firmly believed" talks about the conviction of his faith. In verse 14, "whom" is plural. It probably refers to Paul and even his mother and grandmother who are mentioned in 1:5. Parents, apart from you, God can use godly pastors, mentors, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, and others to teach and positively influence your children. Timothy didn't just learn from the teachings of Lois and Eunice, but from their life as well.

"Do as I say" will not work with children. What impacts them is "Do as I do." What are you passing on to your children?

Godly parenting is the greatest gift you can give to your children.

"Childhood" in verse 15 literally means infancy. I remember my wife, Susan, reading God's Word to our daughter, Karis, every day even while Karis was in her womb. The Jews taught God's Word to their children at an early age. In Deuteronomy 6:4-7, the Bible says, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

In Proverbs 22:6, the Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." This verse was truly fulfilled in Timothy's life. "Acquainted" (v. 15) is in the perfect tense, which reveals that Timothy was acquainted with God's Word from his infancy and it continued in the present time.

Parents must mold their children early in their lives.

Four scholars were arguing over Bible translations. One said he preferred the King James Version because of its beauty and eloquent old English. Another said he liked the New American Standard Version for its literalism and how it moves the reader from passage to passage with confident feelings of accuracy from the original text. The third scholar was sold on the New Living Translation for its use of contemporary phrases and idioms that capture the meaning of difficult ideas.

After being quiet for a moment, the fourth scholar admitted: "I have personally preferred my mother's translation." When the other scholars started laughing, he said, "Yes, she translated the Scriptures. My mom translated each page of the Bible into life. It is the most convincing translation I have ever read."

This world desperately needs mothers who live out the Bible. Paul goes on to say that these sacred writings are able to make

us wise for salvation. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and the way to grow in it. That's why mothers and fathers must teach God's Word to their children. The Bible must be the spiritual foundation for you and your children.

Conclusion

The main message of this article is: **Mothers must possess sincere faith and teach God's Word to their children.**

Many students of church history are familiar with the story of Susanna Wesley, who counted John and Charles among her nineteen children, only nine of whom lived to adulthood. Susanna was said to have prayed for her children two hours a day, along with teaching them their basic school subjects. She was well-prepared to care for and lead her large family. She was the daughter of a well-known minister, the youngest of his twenty-five children. Susanna benefited from a godly home and passed the heritage onto her children. Although his Christian heritage probably did not span as

many years as that of the Wesleys, Timothy also benefited from a godly home. His mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois, are two largely unsung heroines of the Bible.

I'm glad that we can still learn from these unsung heroines. Mothers, develop a sincere faith, and teach God's Word to your children. Your investment in your children can impact this world for God's glory.

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

is the pastor-teacher at El-Shaddai Assembly of God Church (elshaddaiag.in) in Hyderabad. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Southern Asia Bible College (SABC) in Bangalore, Hyderabad Institute of Theology and Apologetics (HITHA) in Hyderabad, and SUM Bible College & Theological Seminary in California, USA. He can be reached at +91 9848004094 and davemende@gmail.com.

*“Start children off
on the way they should
go, and even when they
are old they will not
turn from it.”*

—Proverbs 22:6



THE TALE OF THREE CROSSES

Rev. Vidush Bhandari

INTRODUCTION

Story: The Tale of Three Trees.

Text: Luke 23:39-43

- Jesus dying there with two Criminals: One on either side.
- One dying **IN** Sin, One dying **TO** Sin, One dying **FOR** Sin.
- The Paths of three men meeting in Death. It was a prophecy that was fulfilled-Isaiah 53:9-12.
- Information about the Robbers:
 - Don't know their names, ages, backgrounds.
 - Do know they were guilty and deserved death.
 - They might have killed and looted innocent people.
 - Luke's word means "members of the criminal class, professional criminals, members of the underworld." These men were hoods, thugs, and cut-throat killers, men who killed for fun and profit, assassins.
- They were both criminals who were sentenced to die together at the same time at the same place on the same day. Both had been severely beaten before they were crucified, both were stripped naked before the leering crowd, both were covered with blood and dirt. Both men were dying and both would soon be dead. No one could look at them and tell any difference.
- These two men differed on one main point: **how they viewed the man in the middle.** They saw him differently and therefore, asked him for different things.

These Three Crosses tells us Three different Tales. Let's look at each one of them briefly:

- **CROSS OF REJECTION:** v. 39 "If you are the Christ, Save Yourself and Us."
- **The Criminal on the First Cross was Dying IN Sin.**
- We are told that even through his own pain, this dying man cried out in mockery of the Lord Jesus Christ. This criminal is asking to be saved from the situation.
- Illustration: Many pray when in trouble, but this kind of prayer does not save.
- **You know why???**
 - Because it was a Prayer full of DOUBT- he used *"IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD"*.
 - These are the exactly the same words that the Devil used when he Tempted Jesus in the beginning of His ministry. And now at the completion of His ministry, the Devil is again creating a doubt in Jesus' mind by these words:- *"If you are the Son of God..."* (Matt. 4:3, 6)
 - He questioned Jesus' identity. *"Are you really the Son of God? Prove it!"*
- **Many of us fall in the trap of**

the Devil and stray away from the faith because of such doubts that the devil creates in our mind when we go through some trouble. **We question our faith saying,** *'if I am the Son/ child of God, then why am I going through this problem?'*

- By his words and actions, this man tells us where his heart is. It is still lost and blinded in the darkness of sin. This man is a perfect picture of the majority of people in our world today, who claim to believe in God, but they are **"Religious Atheists"**.
- **He wanted to use Jesus for his personal** relief from pain and agony. He was concerned about his physical life than spiritual life. He was concerned about the earthly life than heavenly life. He wanted the blessing here and now. He was carnal minded and not spiritual minded. He was focused on temporal things and not eternal things.
- **Illustration:** **He came so close to the Saviour, he came so close to the door of Heaven, yet he missed it. 'So Close Yet So Far-the dollar printing area in the U.S.'**

- **CROSS OF REPENTANCE:**
v. 42 *Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into your Kingdom."*
 - **The Criminal on the Second Cross was Dying TO Sin.**
 - Matthew reveals to us that early in the day when Jesus was crucified with these two robbers, **both of them were reviling, insulting and blaspheming Jesus** saying "if you are the Son of God, the King of the Jews then save yourself ". **Matthew writes,** "Even the Robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing." (Matt. 27:44, **Mark 15:32**)
 - **B u t s u d d e n l y , a Transformation** takes place. **T h i s r o b b e r g e t s Enlightenment!** For he came to a point of **Self-Realization-** of his own guilt that he was a sinner.
 - How did he suddenly get that enlightenment? Well, maybe this man had seen or heard something that day that touched his heart and that was used by the Spirit of God to open his eyes to see who Jesus really was.
 - It could be **the way Jesus Responded to His Enemies.**
- His** compassionate prayer to the Father asking forgiveness for His own torturers and persecutors saying, "*Father, Forgive them for they do not know what they are doing,*" (Lk. 23:34) might have touched the heart of this robber.
- He might have never seen such a man who prayed for his own torturers in such a manner.
 - Therefore, **this second robber prayed to be saved from Sin.** It was a prayer of Faith.
 - Look at his Confession, his Statement of Faith: v. 40-42
 - **Fear of God-** While the one criminal is hurling abuse at Jesus, the other answered and rebuking (*Epitima*) him said, "***Do you not even fear God?***" That's the **e v i d e n c e** that God is doing the work of conversion: he is talking about the fear of God.
 - **He boldly confesses that he is a sinner-** *We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. H u m a n T e n d e n c y -* **Blame shifting-** e.g. Adam and Eve.

- **He acknowledges Jesus' Innocence & Righteousness-** *But this man has done nothing wrong.*
- **He confesses Jesus as Lord and the King-** *When you come in your Kingdom*
- **He anticipated Resurrection- he believed in Life after Death -** *Remember Me. (Compare with Joseph's request to Pharaoh's cupbearer in the prison cell- "But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison."- Gen. 40:14)*
- **He showed Faith in the Power and Mercy of Christ**
- **He really is not seeking someone to get him off the cross. He's not trying to find someone who can save him from physical death.** He wants to make sure he is saved from divine judgment. His problem is not really what's happening to him on the earth; it's what's going to happen to him when he comes to the throne of God. That's why he didn't pray to escape the cross, his pain and agony, but he looked beyond the earthly and temporal benefit to an eternal and heavenly life.
- **What an AWESOME FAITH of this DYING MAN TO BELIEVE IN ANOTHER DYING MAN FOR LIFE.** To trust in the Crucified is indeed a great faith. He proved wrong the saying, "*Dubta Doobtey Huey ko kya sahara de sakta hai?*"
- **He demonstrated a Great Faith.** For, Faith is having confidence against all odds. It is having "Hope against All Hope". (Rom. 4:17, 18, 19)
- **This man believed in Jesus not at the time of His mighty power but at His weakest moment, at the time of His death. It is indeed Amazing!**
- One crucified man saw another crucified man and believed in him. That made the difference between heaven and hell.
- **CROSS OF REDEMPTION: v. 43** *Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*
- **On the Third Cross, Jesus Died FOR Sin**
- You see, Jesus did not succumb to the instigation of the crowd or the first robber who questioned Him saying,

"If You Are the Son of God..."

- Because, if Jesus had come down from that Cross that day then you and I would not have been sitting here today.
- So, the mockers are wrong. Jesus can save. **But the only way he can save sinners is not to save himself.**
- You see, Satan doesn't wanted Jesus to fulfill the plan of God, "Come down you don't have to die. And if you come down then we will believe you that you are the Son of God. And we all will be saved. You don't have to die on the cross. In fact, we don't even need the cross to be saved. Just show us your power by coming down of the cross and we will believe you that you are the Messiah."
- No, my friends, don't get tricked by the schemes of the Devil. Don't believe the sweet and flowery words of the Devil. He pretends to be your friend, as if he wants your good. He presents God as your enemy. He tells us that we do not need to go through the painful situation for God because 'God Loves us and doesn't want us to go through pain and suffering'. Oh, it's a lie of the devil.
- But remember, *Narrow is the way that leads to life and broad is the way that leads to heaven and broad is the way that leads to destruction.* (Matt. 7:13-14)
- **So, in not saving himself, Jesus was able to save others.**
- Jesus made it very clear when He said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* (John 12:24)
- The Bible clearly declares that, ***"...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."*** (Heb. 9:22)
- ***Today you shall be with me"- Shows Jesus' power to save.***
- ***With Me"- It's a Word that is Personal.***
- Like the father of the Prodigal son, running and kissing the prodigal, similarly, Jesus embraced this prodigal hanging on a cross. This is the father kissing the son. This is full reconciliation; instantaneous.

- Jesus reached out in love and compassion to this poor, lost thief. Jesus saw this moment as the perfect opportunity to save a soul. Jesus told this man that he did not have to wait for a future time to be with the Lord; he would be with the Lord that very day in paradise.
- **Heaven waits with an Open Arms to immediately receive the believer after his/her death.**
- Jesus answered his request by giving him a promise.
- **Immediate Salvation.** Note the word "today." Jesus put it first for emphasis, meaning, "This very day, the day of your crucifixion . . ." Wherever "paradise" is, Jesus told this thief that he was going there that very day.
- **Personal Salvation.** The phrase means to be "with Me in a very personal way." It is not "You over there and me over here", but "You and me together, side by side." It means to be in the personal presence of another person. Wherever Jesus was going, this thief would be right by his side.

CONCLUSION:

- One man wanted escape, not

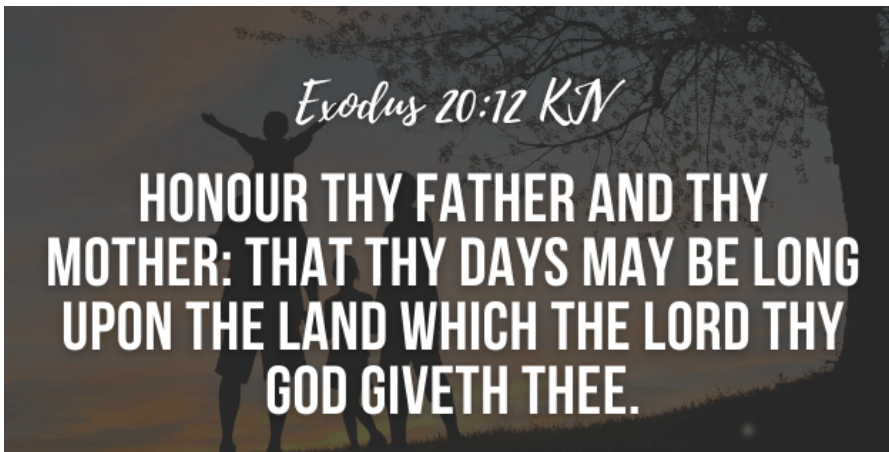
forgiveness. The other man wanted forgiveness, not escape.

- **And this thief became the first person to enter into Paradise with Jesus, even before any of the disciples of Jesus could enter paradise.**
- Both the robbers asked Jesus for Salvation. But one's petition was accepted while the other's was rejected. These two robbers represent two kinds of people in the world who approach Jesus for the same thing yet with a different Theological understanding. One wants to use Jesus for temporary benefit and gain while the other is concerned for the eternal life, spiritual gain.
- There are TWO TYPES OF CHRISTIANS: First, those who approach Christ only with some selfish motive, to receive worldly comfort and pleasures. They are **Soulish Christians**. And second, who seek His presence, those who say that *"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked."* (Psalm 84:10)

- What I am trying to say is, that in the morning, the second robber stood condemned and convicted guilty by the worldly judge and the earthly court of law, but before the day ended-before the darkness fell-before the date was changed, he stood Forgiven, Righteous and Guiltless by the Heavenly Judge, the King of Kings, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ-**this man went directly from the cross to paradise.**
- In one transforming moment, **a man who was not fit to live on earth was made fit to live in heaven.** A man unloved by humanity, unwanted by society, yet cared for by Christ!
- The Truth is that there is Hope for everyone in Jesus Christ! No one is excluded to be a part of the Kingdom of God-because God has made the impossible into possible by the Cross of His Son Jesus Christ.



Rev. Vidush Bhandari
is the Principal of Doon Bible College, Dehra Dun.



Colonnades of Roses

I remember the web of veins at the back of her hand,
Abruptly emerging and discreetly disappearing.
Tremors in limbs, when she would stand;
With an impish smile, concocting a jeering.

When the crimson of dawn would touch her windows,
She'd wobble off and huddle in her garden,
The ferns and pastels would swing in the echoes,
To her tunes of 'Holy forgiveness and pardon'.

She was a doctor by profession, a racer by birth;
A passionate, but thoroughly failed detective,
Who was kind at heart and down to earth,
Meticulously, mischievous intellectual.

All my life, she had taught me one thing,
Obedience to God is more precious,
Than loyalty, to any human being.
And that, your joy should always be contagious.

As I sit reminiscing amongst her roses,
I long for family, for days gone by,
What I am privileged to have known is,
I was loved as the apple of her eye.



Ms. Jessica Joel
*is a student of Arts and a
freelance writer. She lives in
Agra and loves to write.*

The Family of Jesus

Dr. Shantanu Dutta



As a first-generation Christian, family has always been distorted for me. My wife is from another country and most of my in-laws live on an island in the Pacific Ocean. I don't speak their language and because of distance as well as expense I have met them just a few times. On my side of the family, I am an only child. Partly, because of customs and practices I have abandoned but mostly because I have almost always lived in Delhi and they in Kolkata, relations are cordial but not really close. I often worry that my daughter is growing up with very little or nearly no family beyond her parents. That has been a nagging problem and has often drawn me to the scriptures to discover

about what they have to say about family.

"The problem with humanity is that we draw the circle of our family too small," Mother Teresa once said. To test her quote, I have checked out in times of introduction (and you can too!). Regarding what people say when they talk about family. Almost always, only "immediate" relatives made the cut. This included their families including parents, siblings and possibly the family dog or cat.

When we think of family, the typical picture that floats into our mind is that of husband, wife and children. That is the way it is mostly portrayed in the church.

Even in art, in holy iconography, the Holy Family is Joseph, Mary and Jesus. In our contexts, occasionally, we may include grandparents or other extended family, in definition but not in experience. When a church organises a family camp, it is almost always about the couple and the children. Senior citizens are rarely included, and neither are single parents or others like widows and widowers.

One of the most profound things Jesus said on His final moments on the cross, in a way redefined the paradigm of what the boundaries of a family look like. Recorded in John 19:26–27, the verses express the Lord's care and concern for His mother: *"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home."* The unnamed disciple whom Jesus addressed was the Apostle John himself. This happens when we know that the Lord had brothers of His own and the traditional practice would have been to entrust her care to

one of them. In one of the final things, He did on the Cross, He enlarged the scope of the family. Of course, while in active ministry too, Jesus had seen family differently.

Jesus's family misunderstood his ministry. We know that He was often understood and identified as a wandering Rabbi. But the Jesus model did not fit well with the traditional picture where the Rabbi was always a married man and devoted to his wife and kids and Jesus had none of that. In Mark 3, they go looking for Jesus and find the house where he is staying. In the narrative found in Mark 3, the house where Jesus is staying in is packed. Somehow, a message gets through to Jesus stating that his family are outside. What happen next is unusual. Jesus does not offer hospitality or explanation to His mother, brothers and maybe others. Instead, Jesus offers a redefinition of family ties and family loyalty. Jesus' family is defined by those who have allegiance to him. In the kingdom that Jesus is preaching about, new relationships are established, new allegiances are needed.

All Jesus' mother needs in this story is to speak with Jesus. It doesn't appear to be that demanding of a request. Socially, no matter how famous Jesus is becoming, it's expected that his mother is given priority. And this expectation sets the stage for Jesus to completely turn the idea of family on its head.

Jesus responds to his mother's simple request by redefining family, and thus priority, around obedience to his will rather than biological lineage. *"Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother,"* He says. In other words, the family of Jesus is less concerned with flesh and blood than was the norm then (and is the norm now too.) If Jesus thought the biological family alone was the foundation of society, then His words and actions seem to say different.

While Jesus affirmed marriage and blessed children, he conceived of the community of believers in familial terms too, going beyond the confines of the conventional family. This is one

of the most striking, distinctive, and central aspects of Jesus' call to discipleship. He refused to be drawn back into the confines of his immediate family when they went to look for Him, possibly concerned that the strains of his busy ministry had caused him to lose perspective and His priorities.

Rather than preaching gospel urging believers to make marriage and family⁶ their ultimate priority—though obviously these have a vital place in God's purposes for humanity—Jesus placed natural kinship ties in the larger context of the kingdom of God.⁷ Thus, while Jesus affirmed things such as the divine institution of marriage and the need to honour one's parents (Mark 10:8–9, 19), he acknowledged the higher calling of discipleship. One's commitment to this thinking may actually lead to division in the family, not peace, is what He is saying. (Matt. 10:34),

While Jesus placed people's obligations within the larger framework of God's kingdom, He of course did not imply that Christians are to neglect their

family responsibilities. As Paul would later write, "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8). Clearly, Jesus' physical presence on this earth and his three-year public ministry necessitated following Him in a unique way. At the same time, the spiritual principle that following Jesus, ought to be every Christian's first priority continues to apply, and that involves looking at all things including the family through His lens.

I remember my earliest days as a Christian. Particularly, the festive occasions like Christmas and Easter. Or New Year's Eve. Especially the church service. After the traditional corporate worship, as people regrouped as families for family reunions and lunches, I would head to a cafe for

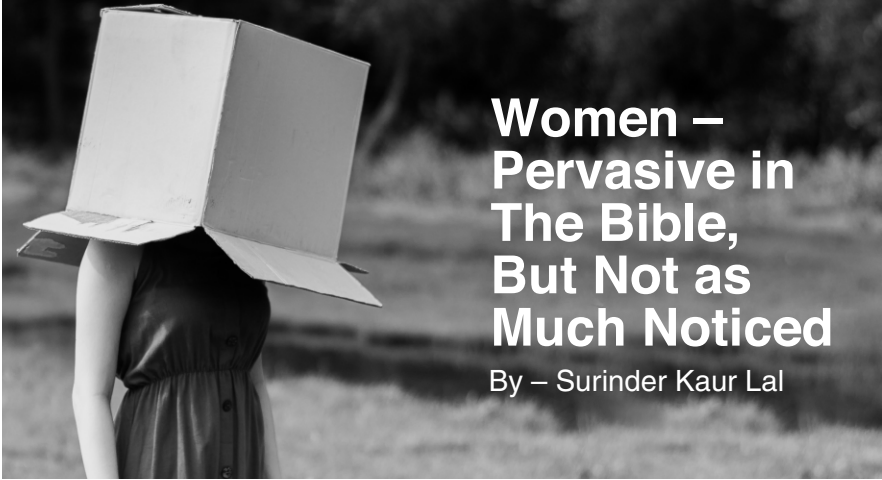
my lunch or dinner. Mostly alone. Firmly clinging to the verse that said that, "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children". Hopeful. But mostly lonely. I am sure that such people still exist, and I am lonely too ever so often even now. It is time to remember what Jesus taught about the nature of the family, dust it out of the archives and breathe some life into it.



Dr. Shantanu Dutta

is a part of Interserve (India) and the Theological Research and Communications Institute and can be contacted at shantanud@gmail.com





Women – Pervasive in The Bible, But Not as Much Noticed

By – Surinder Kaur Lal

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvellous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. (Psalms 139:14 [NKJV])

Though times have changed and sermons on women contribution in the Bible are heard a little more than the usual – Mother's Day, Women's Day, the third saying from the cross on Good Friday's and on Easter mornings, when we are reminded that women were the first ones to reach the tomb of Jesus and see His resurrected body, yet there seems to exist a void of many weeks in the Church calendar before we hear another sermon on the women in the Bible apart from these special days.

But when we look from God's perspective, we notice that He

never created women to be left behind. Nowhere in the Bible do we see women as insignificant.

For as the woman originates from the man, so also man is born through the woman; and all things [whether male or female] originate from God [as their Creator] – 1Cor 11:12 [Amplified Bible]

Jesus showed respect and love for women. Many women were among the listeners who heard Him preach; who were part of the crowds that experienced the miracle of feeding the five and seven thousand as well as among the multitude that followed Him wherever He went.

He used illustrations that included women, like the parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-

13). He touched women to heal them and allowed them to touch Him. The Woman at the Well (John 4:7–26), the Woman caught in adultery (John 7:53–8:11), Woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20–22, Mark 5:25–34, Luke 8:43–48), and so many more.

Even in the genealogy of Jesus, we see 5 women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba), and Mary. Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth are non-Israelites who nevertheless have contributed significantly to the biblical text and to the community of faith.

Tamar – Tamar is not a woman who is often talked about in sermons. Her story appears to be too scandalous. But surprisingly God does not overlook, hide, or bury her story. She is not only mentioned but chosen to be in the genealogy of Jesus. Tamar was a Canaanite woman and the daughter-in-law of Judah. Married to Er, who dies and then to Onan who also dies. Judah pledges to give his younger son Shelah to her, once he is of age to marry. Even after Judah sent her back to her family, she chooses to subject herself to Judah's family and wait patiently, until she finds that Judah's intentions have changed. Tamar is a woman who

fights for her own rights. She was determined on being part of God's people. Ultimately, Judah calls her more righteous than himself. *She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah - Gen 38:26.* In due course, Tamar gives birth to twin boys, whom she names Perez and Zerah. Through Perez, she becomes the direct forebear of King David.

Rahab – Rahab, once a prostitute from the Canaanite city of Jericho, is known for helping the Israelites defeat the pagan city of Jericho. She was smart to understand that these men were spies, and wise enough to hide the spies in a way that the soldiers were not able to find them. Rahab was aware that Israelites were God's chosen people. She was farsighted to see and understand that probably Jericho would be attacked, and that she needs to act soon to save herself and her family. She was tactful to strike a deal with the spies, by helping them to escape, and that in return, her family would be spared. Jericho was attacked by the Israelites and the entire city destroyed with only Rahab and her family spared. Ultimately, Rahab marries Salmon, an Israelite from the tribe of Judah and became the mother of Boaz. Once an

unclean prostitute, now viewed clean - by man and by God, who considered her worthy to be a part of the lineage of Jesus.

Ruth – Ruth, the Moabite, was an example of unwavering faith and bravery in the Bible. After being widowed early in life, she walked alongside with her grieving mother-in-law, keeping aside her own insecurities. She chose a country not known to her, a God she did not grow up believing and a future full of uncertainties. *Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there I will be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!* (Ruth 1:16–17 [New American Standard Bible]). These seven characteristics of Ruth sets her apart eventually leading her to be a woman of great renown. Determination (She was determined to stay with Naomi); humility (she thought of herself less and gave more importance to her mother-in-law); hardworking (she worked from dawn to dusk Ruth 2:7); loyal (Ruth 2:11); Kind (She ate and carried the left over for Naomi (Ruth 2:18); courageous (upon

the direction of her wise mother-in-law, Ruth presented herself at the feet of Boaz [Ruth 3:9]; faith-filled ("Your God will be my God" [Ruth 1:16]).

Bathsheba – Intentionally mentioned as the wife of Uriah, God looks at Bathsheba as the beloved and vulnerable lamb and King David as aggressor and predator who wrongfully had her (2 Samuel 12:1-9). Nowhere does God judge Bathsheba for David's wrongdoings but nonetheless, she is also a sufferer. She gets pregnant and then becomes a sudden widow grieving the death of her husband Uriah. Though David marries her, she was another wife on a long list of David's wives and concubines. After giving birth to David's child, the child dies. Out of Bathsheba's pain and mess, she bore Solomon [Shelomoh meaning 'peaceful'] and God would bring the Messiah through him. Bathsheba's mention in Jesus' lineage teaches us that God can redeem all things.

Mary – Mary like Ruth and Rahab is not a gentile and neither has any scandalous sin recorded against her like Tamar and Bathsheba. In fact, the Bible tells us that she was favored [Luke 1:30] by God. Her mention in the lineage is obvious as she is the

mother of Jesus. Mary's undoubted acceptance of the news from angel Gabriel teaches us how to wholly serve God. She is not hesitant, does not bargain, does not question the "how" of the impossible and unnatural task assigned to her. "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled" [Luke 1:38 NIV]. Mary saw God's power in her conception, and she saw God's power of resurrection and salvation [Acts 1:14]. Mary was the only human who was with Jesus from his birth till his death. We cannot fathom the measure of faith required to be like Mary – an unwed mother, to bring up God's Son and then to watch Him suffer and die on the cross as her own Savior. Mary indeed was a woman of rare strength.

These five women were from amongst so many others mentioned in the Bible who have left a legacy for us to follow, teaching us the true meaning of faith in action.

Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church... nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that every where I am in Thy Presence
– Susanna Wesley.



Mrs. Surinder Kaur Lal

is a freelance journalist and a woman leader based in New Delhi. She has been writing on religion, politics and spirituality for the past 17 years and travels as a women speaker within India and abroad. She is the wife of Rev. Vijayesh Lal, General Secretary of EFI and a mother of three lovely sons.





Post -Resurrection Appearances

Power of Resurrection

For apostles, post-resurrection appearances of Jesus were crucial, essential, and of utmost importance, as Paul has asserted, "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15:14). Jesus appeared to them individually and in a group, but regularly for forty days before he ascended to heaven in full view of five hundred disciples (Acts 1:9-10, Lk 24:50-52; Mk 16:19). Two angels also testified his identity, destiny, and Second Coming at that time. The resurrected Lord also appeared to Paul on the way to Damascus and commissioned him to teach,

preach and carry his name before Gentiles (Acts 9:3-6, 15). The necessity of post-resurrection appearances arose because disciples failed to perceive that their Lord had risen. However, Jesus had been telling them every now and then that He would give his life but would resurrect on the third day (Mt 16:21, 20; 18-19; Mk 10:33-34). But they understood none of these things. The truth remained hidden from them, and they could not grasp what was said. Once Peter took Jesus aside and reproved him, saying, "Far it be from you, Lord, this shall never happen to you." At this, Jesus rebuked Peter saying, "Get

behind me Satan..." (Lk 16:22-23). His disciples did not discern his resurrection and death, yet they did not ask for exposition.

Foundation of Christian Hope

Jesus fulfilled 351 prophecies on the earth related to Messiah in his lifetime. Whenever Jesus found them weak in faith, he used to express displeasure explicitly. After the resurrection, it was evident that they could not sustain fear of persecution, threat and hatred of Jews. They locked themselves in a room as they feared Jews. Disciples at first refused to believe that their Lord has risen. Gospels record has named some witnesses who testified to have met with the resurrected Lord were disciples (MK 16:10-11; Mk 16:12-13, Lk 24:4-8, 10-12, 21-27 and 31-36). Once Jesus even rebuked His disciples for their unbelief (Lk 24:25). One disciple said, 'I will not believe until I see and verify the wound marks '(John 20:25,27; Lk 24:36-40). Jesus reminded them of prophecies which have been fulfilled, then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (Lk 24:44-46). He also repeatedly

assured them that they were meeting their resurrected Lord (Jn 21:4-8; Lk 5:5-11: 24:41-43, Jn 21;12-13).

The Scripture says that God employs several ways and means to convict unbelievers (Jn 3:14-28). Jesus, during his ministry, adopted twenty-five ways to open the eyes of sinners since no single approach is universally sufficient, as every individual is a unique person. Now, it was a matter related to his disciples who were commissioned to evangelize the world, but found sceptic, incompetent and powerless to perceive Jesus' death and resurrection, which is the nucleus of the Christian faith. He had raised several dead to life, including Lazarus, and his disciples were witnesses to all the signs and wonders he performed. But now, they were dumbfounded, not showing any reaction, baring two of them. After the resurrection, the most essential and assiduous task for Jesus was not to lose any. It was an issue concerning the salvation of countless recipients of God's grace through faith in His Son.

The crucial segments of the Gospel preached by the disciples are:

- ❖ Jesus is Son of God (Messiah).
- ✱ His substitutive death on the cross,
- ✱ His resurrection and ascension, and
- ❖ Second coming and judgment.

Physical Appearance

Jesus found them sceptic about part 2 and 3, so he decided to stay back with them until disciples were competent to carry on the assigned work. Consequently, the Lord appeared to them repeatedly to clear their doubts. Pondering upon certain events as described in the gospel of John, regarding disciple's reactions on the issue of the resurrection of Jesus, one can evaluate the reality of the situation. Among apostles, John was the first to see the empty tomb and receive the angelic declaration of the resurrection of Jesus (Mk 16:6-7). Sadly, the disciples initially believed the rumor that the Lord's body had been stolen from the grave (Jn 20:2, 15; Mt 27:62-63; Mk 16:3,

6). Only John and Peter collected and analyzed eyewitnesses' reports, yet the entity of resurrection was still cryptic to believe for them (Jn 20:3, 9; Mk 16:11-14; Lk 24:11). They concluded the testimony of women-an idle tale and felt astonished, helpless, anxious, hapless and frightened. Disciples were concerned about his body, but the possibility of resurrection remained infeasible to their perception. They locked themselves in a room where Jesus appeared to them, showed his wounds and urged for physical examination to make them believe in his resurrection (Jn 21:19-23, Mk 28:16; Lk 24:36-41, Mk 16:3). He breathed on them Spirit to open their eyes and remove the fear. The Lord also appeared to them by the sea of Tiberius, as they were returning to their profession, and repeated a miracle to make them believe that he was the same, Jesus. He also ate fish and bread to prove that He is in the glorified body, not dead or spirit (Jn 21: 17, 9-13; Lk 5:2-11).

Transforming Power

Jesus noticed that Peter was ashamed because he had denied

the Lord thrice. So, the Lord made him free by showing concern and love. He was commissioned afresh (Jn 21:15-17). It took forty days for the disciples to understand the declaration of Jesus. "I am the resurrection and the life" (Jn 11:25-26) and Isaiah's prophecy, "He will swallow up death forever and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth" (Is 25:26). Paul later understood the utmost significance of the resurrection and rebuked the false teachers (I Cor. 15:12-19, 35-55). Eventually, the Lord restored their faith, and disciples believed in resurrected Lord and his substitutive death on the cross.

After completing and fulfilling his mission, Jesus ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:2-3). It is written that there were five hundred believers who witnessed ascension from Mount Olive, but after ten days, only 24% of them were there to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, as promised by the Lord. However, the apostles became very bold, assertive, and

never deterred from sharing the Gospel after receiving the baptism, inspite of continual threats. They boldly proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah, who has taken the death on the cross for believers of all nations in their place and never missed to claim that the Lord has risen. They even gave their life but neither stopped proclaiming the truth nor showed any sign of unbelief. They turned the world upside down with truth (Acts 17:3,6) and asserted, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12; Rom 1:16) So, the righteous shall live by faith.



Prof. Henry Shepherd

Former Chaplain and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Sam Higginbottom University of Technology & Science, Allahabad

COURSE IN EXPOSITORY PREACHING AND PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

*Invest a year in learning for a life
time of service*

About the course

The aim of the course is to equip men and women for expository Bible ministry in the local church so that they can preach and teach God's word faithfully, clearly and effectively.

Who the course is for?

We serve men and women from different cultures, ethnic groups, ages and academic backgrounds. You need to have a firm commitment to the trustworthiness and sufficiency of Scripture for ministry in the local church. The 'heartbeat' of the course is the teaching of a wide range of books of Scripture, coming to grips with them in order to be able to preach and teach them.

Who can apply for the course?

- ❖ Men or women who are committed to the ministry of teaching and preaching the Bible.
- ❖ Written recommendation by the pastor or organisation leader of the candidate.
- ❖ Candidates who have appeared or passed class XII with ability to communicate in English.
- ❖ Prospective students will have a personal interview with a member of admission committee.
- ❖ Candidates from economically underprivileged background can apply for work scholarship.
- ❖ Candidates living in Delhi and NCR can apply as day scholars.
- ❖ Once a student is granted admission he or she will not be given leave to go home except for emergencies.
- ❖ The church programmes and events are designed to be practicals for the students. Sermon notes, prayer meetings, care group meetings, outreach and mission trips are compulsory. Those who are willing to commit for the descriptions above may apply.

Internship

Internship can be applied for and deserving candidates will be accepted.

Schedule:- (July 2022 - April 2023)

English as Second Language (ESL)

Basic Course on Expository Preaching Three months

Advanced Course on Expository Preaching Six months

Health Check-up:
Ensure you are
healthy and prepared for a three to
nine months of studying uninterrupted
by health issues. Fitness certificate
must be sent along with the
application form.
We adhere to COVID PROTOCOLS

In light of the COVID situation, the course is available, offline and online,
and only those who attend offline will get the tablets.



NORTH EAST CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Ministry of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India
(CBCNEI)

Estd. under North East Christian University Act 2012 Govt. of Nagaland.
Recognised by University Grants Commission (UGC). Accredited as PrCB by
NACCB under ISO/IEC 17024

Centre for Advanced Religious Studies Application Invited for PhD Theology



Applications are invited for full time Ph.D. programme in Theology under Centre for Advanced Religious Studies (CARS).

Eligibility Criteria:

- (a) Postgraduate in relevant branch from a recognized University/Institute/Seminary with minimum 55% marks.
OR
- (b) Post graduate degree in any discipline with minimum 55% marks from a recognized university and one year of biblical and theological knowledge (for Interdisciplinary research)
- (c) Candidates belonging to SC/ST categories are eligible for relaxations as per norms.

Cost of the Programme: Rs. 40,000/- per semester

Duration: The PhD degree programme in Theology is a minimum of three-years (Six Semesters) and maximum of five years programme that offers the candidates a chance to pursue research.

For further details and form you may contact:
Rev. Samuel Richmond Saxena, PhD (Theology)
Director cum Associate Professor
Centre for Advanced Religious Studies

Mobile: +91-9621317282; Landline: +913862295300
Email: samuelrichmond15@gmail.com; cars@necu.ac.in



CALEB INSTITUTE

Invites applications for the Session 2022-23

Caleb Institute, situated in Haryana, North India focuses on equipping students for leadership through committed and qualified faculty from India and abroad. The twelve acre land campus with its lush green environment, outstanding facilities and student body representing many ethnic and denominational background is an excellent choice for the overall development of students. We are now accepting applications for the following programmes:



NAMES OF THE PROGRAMMES	ELIGIBILITY	DURATION	AFFILIATION/COLLABORATION
Integrated BD	10+2	Five years	Senate of Serampore
BD	Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university		
M.Div.	Bachelor's Degree from the recognized university	Three years	Asia Theological Association
M.Div. (Youth Ministry)		Three years	
M.Th in Missiology/ New Testament	BD/MDiv	Two years	
PG Diploma (Online) in Christian Studies/ Spiritual Leadership	Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university	One year	North East Christian University, Dimapur
PhD (Theology)	Master's Degree in relevant branch from a recognized University/Institute	Three years	North East Christian University, Dimapur

These programmes are offered in a modular and also in a semester system. Scholarships are available for deserving candidates. For Entrance Examination, Interview, Orientation and other important details please visit our website <https://www.caleb institute.org>

Rev. Dr. Richard Howell
Principal

For further information you may contact:

Rev. Albert L., Registrar,

Caleb Institute, 1 KM Milestone, Haley Mandi Road
Farukhnagar – Gurugram (NCR-Delhi), Haryana-122506
admissions@calebinstitute.org | bert.lalramzau@gmail.com | Ph. # 08122334737, 9621317282

Intercessory
Prayer
Points



May 2022

1 SUNDAY Thank God for His unchanging love and for the new month.

2 MONDAY Pray that you would not miss the opportunities that comes on your way this month.

3 TUESDAY Pray for the needs of Evangelical Fellowship of India. Pray that God would continually provide and use this ministry for His glory.

4 WEDNESDAY Continue to pray for students who are writing their board exams. Pray that they would depend on God and be confident because in Christ they can do all things.

5 THURSDAY Pray for Sparsh Sewa Samiti, Uttar Pradesh. Pray for wisdom, encouragement, discernment to decide and the ability to do what needs to be done. May God bless the ministry.

6 FRIDAY Pray for Seva Bharat, Telangana. Pray that the Lord would use this ministry to touch

and impact many lives. Pray for God's protection and His favour upon them.

7 SATURDAY Pray for Sharing Love Mission at Tamil Nadu. Pray as they share the Gospel to the Bhil Tribes in Gujarat and that God may use them as an instrument to reach out to many unreached people.

8 SUNDAY Mother's Day. Thank God for your mother. Pray that God's abundant blessings would be upon her. Pray also that at this difficult time, every mother would teach and shepherd her child(ren) in the paths of righteousness.

9 MONDAY Pray for EFI new Group Member, Community of Nations in Uttarkhand. Pray that the Lord's blessings would be upon them so that they succeed in everything they do.

10 TUESDAY Pray for Suman Bihar at Nawada, Bihar. Pray that the Lord would show His favour on this ministry and the people

involved in it. Pray that many people would benefit from this ministry.

11 WEDNESDAY Pray for North Bank Baptist Christian Association, Assam. Pray for new insights and zeal for this ministry. Pray for all their constituencies to actively shoulder and implement the mission vision. Pray for God's abundant blessings upon them.

12 THURSDAY International Nurses Day. Pray for the Nurses as they committedly serve patients despite many challenges. Pray for protection and strength as they carry out their duties at high risk places.

13 FRIDAY Pray for Soul Winning Mission, Manipur. Pray that many wandering souls would find peace and satisfaction as they hear the Gospel from this ministry.

14 SATURDAY Pray for Soul Winners Prayer Fellowship, New Delhi. Pray that the ministry would influence the youth group in a big way. Pray for God's Spirit to move and touch many young hearts to love and serve Him.

15 SUNDAY International Day of Families. Pray that God who had established the constitution of family, would nurture and strengthen every family. Pray that Christ would be the head of every family and He may be glorified.

16 MONDAY Pray for EFI new Group Member, Beersheba Church of God Society in Punjab. Pray that the Lord would mightily use this ministry for the extension of His kingdom. Pray also that the Lord would provide all they need to fulfil the work that God assigned them.

17 TUESDAY Pray for Scripture Union India, Tamil Nadu. Pray for all the people involved in this ministry as they help others to mature in Christ through the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

18 WEDNESDAY Pray for those who are suffering from COVID-19 disease. Pray for recovery and full restoration. Pray that God would bring down the number of cases and end this pandemic.

19 THURSDAY Pray for EFI new Group Member, JNP Bethany Mission Welfare Society in Andhra Pradesh. Pray that the Lord would lead, guide, equip and use this ministry for His glory.

20 FRIDAY Pray for Safe India, Tamil Nadu. Pray that the Lord would bless their initiatives and bring glory to Himself and goodness for the people involved in this ministry.

21 SATURDAY Pray for EFI new Group Member, New Life Foundation, New Delhi. Pray that

they would be a blessing to people around them. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for the leadership.

22 SUNDAY Pray for the body of Christ, the Church, to hold on to your truth in testing times and look forward to your promises to be fulfilled. Pray that the Church would cling on to God through prayer.

23 MONDAY Pray for EFI new Group Member, Presbyterian Free Church in Madhya Pradesh. Pray that God would use this church as a channel of blessing both spiritual and physical and touch many lives.

24 TUESDAY Pray for Revival Literature Fellowship at Karnataka. Pray that the ministry would focus to encourage people to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Pray for strength and commitment for those involved in this ministry.

25 WEDNESDAY Pray for Pongring Hope Foundation Centre, Manipur. Pray that the aim and objectives of this ministry would be fulfilled. Pray for God's enablement and empowerment.

26 THURSDAY Pray for EFI new Group Member, Covenant Blessings Church in Maharashtra. Pray for many transformed lives in this Church as the word of God is

taught, learned, and applied by individuals. Pray for the revival for the church.

27 FRIDAY Pray for Presbyterian Church in India (Reformed), Manipur. Pray for the personal and corporate revival for all the members of this church. Pray that the love to study God's Word and obey Him would increase greatly.

28 SATURDAY Continue to pray for families who have lost their loved ones to COVID-19 in all parts of the world. Pray for comfort and peace as they mourn. Pray that the Holy Spirit would minister to them personally at this difficult time.

29 SUNDAY Pray for the growth of the church where God planted you. Pray that you may be a good and powerful influence in your church. Pray for various needs of people during this crisis.

30 MONDAY Pray for EFI new Group Member, World Impact Light the Nations Trust, Punjab. Pray that they Lord would grant their hearts' desire and use them powerfully in His ministry. May God use them to bring change in the world.

31 TUESDAY Thank God that He has protected you through the month. Pray that God would use you more in the months to come.

Since 1962

CEEFI aims to teach the whole Bible,
to the whole church, for the whole world



Touch children across the World.

We hope to widen our reach, and touch more lives with the Powerful Word of God through systematic Classic Curriculum for 3 years



Curriculum
Available

CEEFI & Splash Sunday School
HBS Holiday Bible School



CEEFI

Victoria Chambers, 2nd floor, 4-1-826 J.N. Road, Hyderabad - 500 001.
E-mail: ceefi.hyd@gmail.com Tel.: 2474 3646, Cell: 09849316347



CEEFI Curriculum is packed with exciting activities, thought-provoking discussions, games, visual aids and more. With the right combination of in-depth Bible study and fun, Splash! helps Children to discover for themselves the joy of walking with the Lord everyday through Bible study. This may be just what your church needs.

Published date on 25 April 2022
Posting date 26/27 April 2022

RNI. Regd. No. 19728/70 / Postal
Registration No. DL(S)-01/3241/2018-20
Licensed to post without prepayment at
NDPSO New Delhi -110 002 / U(SE)-9/2018-20

"She is clothed with
strength and dignity;
she can laugh at
the days to come."

Proverbs 31:25:



Printed & Published by Mr. Vijayesh Lal, on behalf of EFI Publication Trust,
805/92 Deepali Building, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019.
Printed at Royal Press, B-82, Okhla Phase -1, New Delhi - 110 020.
Editor Mr. Vijayesh Lal