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July 2024 ❖ PAGES 43 ❖ ₹ 20/-

A Journey of Faith



Therefore a man shall leave his father and
his mother and hold fast to his wife,
and they shall become one flesh.
Genesis 2:24

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Vol. 53 / No. 07
AIM Annual Subscription for
India, Nepal & Bhutan Rs. 200/-
(Other countries \$ 20)

A monthly publication of EFI Publication Trust

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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/-

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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.

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Rev. Vijayesh Lal

The Changing Face of Family: God's Enduring Foundation in a Shifting Society

In an ever-changing world, the family remains a cornerstone of society, though its structure is evolving rapidly in India. Recent data from Kantar reveals a significant shift towards nuclear families, with nearly 50% of all Indian households now consisting of 1-4 members, up from 37% in 2008. This trend is particularly pronounced in southern India, where 69% of households are nuclear. Such changes reflect broader societal shifts, including urbanization, increased mobility, and changing economic patterns.

As Christians, we are called to reflect on the timeless importance of family values

within this changing landscape. The Bible consistently emphasizes the centrality of family in God's design for human flourishing. In Genesis 2:24, we read, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." This divine blueprint for family provides the foundation upon which strong societies are built, regardless of the specific family structure.

The rise of nuclear families brings both opportunities and challenges. Kantar's research indicates that these smaller family units tend to be more liberal with spending and are

driving premiumization trends in various consumer goods categories. India's average household size has been steadily decreasing, reaching 4.44 people in 2021, an 8.6% decline since 2010. This trend aligns with global patterns of smaller family units but occurs within India's unique cultural context. In light of these changes, we are reminded of Mother Teresa's profound words: "What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family." May we never forget the critical importance of nurturing strong family bonds, regardless of the family's size or structure.

These demographic shifts are accompanied by other societal changes. The rise of dual-income households, increased education and employment opportunities for women, and changing gender roles all impact family dynamics. While these developments can bring positive outcomes, they also present challenges to traditional family structures and roles.

As we navigate these changes, it's crucial to remember that strong families, regardless of

their size or structure, remain the bedrock of a flourishing society. They are the primary venue for character formation, the transmission of values, and the nurturing of faith. Paul David Tripp eloquently captures this truth: "In the family, life is brought not only to our doorstep, but into our kitchens, bedrooms, and dens. In the family, life is happening all around us, and it begs to be questioned, evaluated, interpreted, and discussed. There is no more consistent, pregnant, dynamic forum for instruction about life than the family, because that is exactly what God designed the family to be, a learning community."

However, in today's rapidly changing world, families face unprecedented challenges. Economic pressures, shifting cultural norms, and moral dilemmas test the resilience of even the strongest family units. As Christians, we are called to address these challenges with wisdom, compassion, and unwavering faith.

One of the primary challenges facing families today is the

erosion of traditional values. In a world that often prioritizes individual fulfilment over collective responsibility, it's crucial to remember Paul's words in Ephesians 5:21, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." This principle of mutual submission and respect within families can serve as a powerful counter-cultural witness in our society.

Another significant challenge is the increasing economic pressure on families. Many parents struggle to balance work demands with family responsibilities. Considering this, we should reflect on Jesus' words in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." This verse reminds us to prioritize our spiritual well-being and trust in God's provision, even in the face of economic uncertainty.

The digital age has brought its own set of challenges to family life. While technology has many benefits, it can also lead to disconnection within families. Proverbs 22:6 advises, "Start

children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." In the context of our digital world, this means teaching our children to use technology wisely and fostering real, meaningful connections within the family.

So how can we, as Christians, strengthen our families and, by extension, our society?

Firstly, we must prioritize our relationship with God. As Joshua declared, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). A family rooted in faith is better equipped to face life's challenges and to be a light in their community.

Secondly, we must invest time and energy into our family relationships. This means prioritizing quality time together, engaging in open and honest communication, and practicing forgiveness and grace within our homes. The apostle Paul's words in Colossians 3:13 guide us here: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Thirdly, we should seek to be a blessing to other families in our communities. James 1:27 reminds us that "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." By reaching out to single-parent families, fostering children, or supporting families in crisis, we can extend the love of Christ beyond our own homes.

Lastly, we must recognize that the real transformation of society begins in our homes. As families become smaller and potentially more fragmented, it's even more crucial that we intentionally create spaces for learning, growth, and spiritual nurture within our households.

As we reflect on the changing landscape of families in India, let us remember that our most profound influence comes through the daily choices we make in our families. By cultivating homes filled with love, respect, and faith, we contribute to the building of a society that reflects God's values.

May we approach our roles as spouses, parents, children, and siblings with renewed commitment and joy, knowing that in nurturing our families, we are participating in God's plan for a flourishing society. For in doing so, we not only fulfil our earthly responsibilities but also our divine calling as followers of Christ.

Rev. Vijayesh Lal

*Honor your father and your mother,
that your days may be long in the land that
the Lord your God is giving you.
– Exodus 20:12*



“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Lord Acton, a 19th Century British politician

“All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth”. The Lord Jesus

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, ...”

*“Come to me, and I will give you rest. ...I am gentle and humble ... my yoke is easy and my burden is light”*The Lord Jesus.

Introduction

The outcome of the recent election in India was a gentle reminder to me that our

Sovereign, Gracious, and Merciful God is involved in the affairs of India as in the case of all nations under the sun.

I thank God for the people He used to bring about this result. Much hard work has been put into by both the secular and Christian people. A lot of prayer must have gone up to the Father from jungles and cities of India and across the world. We shall continue to serve the nation, not the least in prayer to God.

The God who controls the wind, controls the nations!

Here is an interesting story from 1680s in Britain when its Roman catholic King, James II

persecuted the protestants, and many devout Presbyterians lost their lives. ... The Protestant nobles of England invited William of Orange, a Protestant and head of the State in Netherlands, who had strong claims to the English throne through his wife Mary.

“On November 1, 1688, William set out with his navy across the English Channel, intending to invade England. The wind that propelled William's fleet was so strong, that it kept many of the English ships imprisoned in the Thames River, unable to sail into the channel to attack William. ... On November 5, 1688, Williams fleet landed on the English soil, and William of Orange and his troops began what has become known as the Glorious Revolution.

“James II fled to France. The next month as the Protestant of England celebrated Christmas worshipping as they wished, James attended Mass in France. **God used the wind to keep England a Protestant nation.**” [taken from “The One Year Christian History” “A Daily Glimpse into God's Powerful Work” by E. Michael and Sharon Rusten].

“Who is this man, that even the

wind and the waves obey him?” Mark 4:41 (NLT). I am in perfect peace and even rejoice that the Lord Jesus holds perfect sway over all nature, kingdoms, gods, and all things. I can go to bed in peace knowing Jesus has all authority in His hands. He is the sovereign ruler of the universe. Even of my salvation and the salvation of all humans. I shall come back to this point shortly.

When Heaven is Silent!

Recently I attended the funeral service of a lady, Manjula (75.) She had turned to the Lord from Jain family. In her early childhood she succumbed to a polio attack. Her parents, businesspeople in Mombasa, Kenya, having exhausted all forms of treatment available in Mombasa, allowed her to go to a Christian healing meeting. Manjula was not healed.

Because of her disability, rather than playing outdoors with other children, Manju buried herself in books, especially Christian books provided by the church. She also appreciated the Christian attitude to her disability. The missionaries were helpful, welcoming, and treated her with dignity and empathy.

She began to attend church

services and eventually, got baptised without the knowledge of her parents. Her father protected her from the wider family who were angry about her church attendance. He would say, "it is doing her good and that he had noticed positive changes in her."

Manju kept believing that someday God would heal her miraculously. She thought that her miraculous healing will bring her parents and siblings to the Lord. However, healing never came.

But, over the next 60 years, her whole family came to the Lord, one by one. A great moment was when her father, having read a John's gospel put his faith in the Lord. Ten years later, having read through the Bible few times, her mother yielded to the Lord. Her younger siblings came to the Lord in between. Finally, her older brother, a civil engineer, came to the Lord just three years before Manju's passing.

Manju did her university studies in India, in the late 1960s. She got acquainted with a team of international women from OM India. She was keen to join them after her studies but was embarrassed to ask the Swedish

team leader about it. But she was surprised to learn that the team have been praying that she would join them. Manjula served with OM India for nearly a decade and "rose in ranks" becoming the national co-ordinator of OM India's Women's work, overseeing the work of 120 women. Later, she rejoined her family in England.

Although the Lord never answered her prayer for miraculous healing of her polio, He met with her in a very special way in her mid-twenties. Manju writes, "I opened my Bible at random with many doubts in my mind and it fell opened to 2 Corinthians 12 where Paul talks about a thorn in his life, and he prayed three times for it to be removed. The answer he got was 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'"

"As I read that story, something unique happened. It was a direct revelation from God to me as the scripture became alive in my heart and pierced my innermost being. For the first time in my life, I thanked Him for the way he had made me.

"All my rebellion, bitterness, resentment, and questioning

spirit melted away. His peace and joy flooded in. That day God performed a miracle in my life – but not in physical healing, but in mental, emotional, and spiritual healing. Since then, I have never asked Him, “why He has not healed me.”

Two of Manju's favourite verses were, Romans 8:28 and Philippians 4:13. And she lived by it. Yes, “all things work together for good” and “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” It was said at her funeral that “she is dancing around the Throne”.

God's Sovereignty and Man's free will:

C. H. Spurgeon said that the two, God's Sovereignty and Man's free will, are “friends” that we don't need to “reconcile” them. The Bible teaches both. I have always believed it, even after “Calvin” or most probably his successors, interfered with it about 400 years ago. The dilemma of finite minds, even the best of finite minds, trying to figure out the infinite God.

Tozer in one of his 30 plus books, “The Knowledge of the Holy” has an illustration to help us understand it. “An ocean liner

leaves New York bound for Liverpool. Its destination has been determined by proper authorities. Nothing can change that. This is at least a faint picture of sovereignty.

“On board the liner are several score of passengers. They are not in chains, neither are their activities determined for them by decree. They are completely free to move about as they will. They eat, sleep, lounge about on the deck, read, talk, altogether as they please; but all the while the great liner is carrying them steadily onward toward a predetermined port.

“Both freedom and sovereignty are present here and they do not contradict each other. So, it is, I believe, with man's freedom and the sovereignty of God. The mighty liner of God's sovereign design keeps its steady course over the sea of history.

“God moves undisturbed and unhindered toward the fulfilment of those eternal purposes which he purposed in Christ Jesus before the world began. We do not know all that is included in those purposes, but enough has been disclosed to furnish us with a broad outline of things to come and to give us good hope and firm

assurance of future well-being.”

Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation:

Here is a command to you and me from the Sovereign Lord. The “elect” are “whoever believes in Him [Christ Jesus]” [John 3:16]. We can leave all souls in God's good hands. We have a gracious and merciful Father God, an oft repeated theme in the Bible.

“Predestination is not predetermination”, says David Pawson. Pawson also believes that “election” in the Bible is not about salvation but about service. God choosing Jacob over Esau, it was a choice about bringing about nation, as promised to Abraham [Genesis 12:1-3], to bless all the families of the earth, including Esau's family.

God desires all men and women everywhere to be saved, full stop. He meant every word of it. He is not like you and me, saying one thing and meaning something else. He paid a huge price to secure our salvation [1 Peter 1:18.] He is able to save from the uttermost. The Apostle Paul, the persecutor, is a great example.

I do not know any Bible verse that

tells me that the Lord created some people for hell. Hell is a reality. The Lord spoke a lot about hell, more than anyone else in the Bible. He does not force any one into either heaven or hell. It is our choice. We have been given a choice. See Psalm 50:23.

The Apostle Paul asks us to be “Ambassadors for Christ” to persuade men and women to “be reconciled to God”. Let our prayers, giving, sending and going, reflect this yearning of God.

Know God and make Him known!



Mr. Chacko Thomas

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“BUT HE...” – THE SECRET OF INDIA'S WORLD CUP WIN AFTER MANY MANY YEARS!

Rev. Dr. Duke Jeyaraj



India beat South Africa in a nerve-wracking game to win the T20 World Cup 2024 for India in the West Indies on 29 June 2024.

South Africa needed 30 runs off 30 balls with two set, explosive, batsmen in the middle. Yet they lost. South Africa needed 27 runs off 30 balls with “killer” Miller batting and “backfoot to top-row” six hitter Klassen batting. These two batsmen hit 6 out of the eight balls they effectively faced for boundaries (three fours and three sixes) from overs number 13.4 to 14.6 bowled by Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel.

But yet India came back to win the match. What was the reason?

After a failure, the whole team did not give up.

Rohit Sharma got out cheaply when India batted first. BUT HE held a master class of how to choke the batsmen when set the field as captain from overs number 16 to 20 when South Africa could not score 30 runs off 30 balls.

Virat Kohli failed to get even a single 50, in the tournament till the Final. BUT HE held the Indian innings together with his knock of 76 which gave India a total which their bowlers a chance to defend.

Rishab Pant got out for a duck. BUT HE masterminded the

slowing of the South African innings pace. When Klassen and Miller were going hammer and tongs, he called for medical help (perhaps deliberately) after the 24-run Axar over. This perhaps affected Klassen's concentration and he was out to the innocuous ball that Hardik bowled after that smartly-timed, concentration-collapsing injury break.

Surya Kumar Yadav did not bat that well. BUT HE took the best high pressure catch in the history of cricket when Miller's shot almost went sailing over his head. His one-man almost-on-the-boundary-rope relay catch when South Africa needed 16 off 6 was a stuff of dreams.

Hardik Pandya faced just two balls when he batted – thanks to Virat Kohli's inexplicable risk-free batting. He was expected to hit two boundaries out of those two balls. He managed just one boundary. BUT HE bowled with precision and calmness after consulting with his wise captain on what was expected of him. He dismissed Klassen. He defended 16 in the last over.

Have you failed? Have you blown it? Are you in the gutter now? Don't be discouraged. Bounce back, like these Indian players I have named. Your failed start does not match. Your present flop does not matter. Spring back. Stand up again. And run with gusto! Mark ran away naked when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus (Mark 14:51-52, Bible Scholars say that the unnamed man who ran was Mark). He lived in Jerusalem and wanted to watch what would happen to Jesus in Gethsemane when this embarrassing failure happened. Mark abandoned the ministry team of Paul during a missionary journey years later (Acts 13:5, 15:38). He perhaps felt homesick. He perhaps missed the comforts of his sprawling home – a home big enough to host church meetings in Jerusalem – during the tough missionary journey (see Acts 12:12). Typically, the missionary journeys that Paul undertook had these - troubles, hardships, distresses, beatings, imprisonments, riots, hard work, sleepless nights, hunger, etc (2 Cor. 6:4-5) – and Mark did not want such a tough life. BUT HE

still came back. He soon became such an invaluable team member of Apostle Paul that he wrote this from prison just before his death (supposedly): “Get Mark to me, for he is helpful to me in the ministry!” (2 Tim. 4:11).

Will there be a “But He” in your life? Will there be a “But She” in your life? With the grace of God enabling you, you can bounce back!



Rev. Dr. Duke Jeyaraj

This is a pre-published excerpt

*from Duke Jeyaraj's upcoming book, **Hyper-Biblical**, a provocative antidote against modern false teaching; Duke, is the founder of Grabbing the Google Generation from Gehenna Mission (G4 Mission). He started preaching at the age of 16. He became an itinerant preacher from the age of 17. By the age of 49, he preached at least once in 20 different Indian States and in 7 Nations. Duke founded his own ministry (after being a pastor, Bible College teacher, missionary), quitting his MNC Bank job at the age of 34. He released his first book, **Straight Talk**, at the age of 36. This book brings frank Bible Teaching on sex, love, marriage, porn, phone addiction and more. You may reach Duke via this email, emailduke@gmail.com or this WhatsApp, 918886040605*

*Bear with one another and,
if one has a complaint against another,
forgive each other;
as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive.
– Colossians 3:13*

A vibrant, abstract background of red smoke or ink billowing upwards, creating a sense of movement and intensity. The smoke is a deep, saturated red, with some lighter, almost white, areas where it seems to be rising or dispersing.

THE SCARLET WOMAN RIDES

Rev. Kuruvilla Chandy

David Ryser, an American Bible teacher was teaching at a school of ministry. In the course of his lecture, he quoted Richard Halverson's pithy saying, "In the beginning the church was a fellowship of men and women centering on the living Christ. Then the church moved to Greece where it became a philosophy. Then it moved to Rome where it became an institution. Next, it moved to Europe, where it became a culture. And, finally, it moved to America where it became an enterprise." As some of the students were only 18 or 19 years old, wanting to help them to understand and appreciate the significance of the last line, he clarified it by saying, "An enterprise. That's a business."

Shortly afterwards, Martha, the

youngest in the class, raised her hand to ask, "A business? But isn't it supposed to be a body?" Ryser responded, "Yes." Martha then said, "But when a body becomes a business, isn't that a prostitute?"

Ryser says, "The room went dead silent. For several seconds no one moved or spoke. We were stunned, afraid to make a sound because the presence of God had flooded into the room, and we knew we were on holy ground. God had taken over the class. Martha's question changed my life. For six months, I thought about her question at least once every day. 'When a body becomes a business, isn't that a prostitute?' There is only one answer to her question. The answer is 'Yes'."

Revelation chapter 17 portrays a woman in scarlet riding a monstrous beast. She is described as “THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”. The beast she rides is a political entity. In the Bible, the word “abomination” is associated with idolatry which disgusts God. Even if we cannot pinpoint who the woman or the beast are, clearly it points to religion that has prostituted itself for the sake of sharing power with those who have political power.

Did the Christian church in India recently come dangerously close to fulfilling Revelation 17 in some part?

Hunger for Power

With elections coming up, the Prime Minister decided that it was time to wine and dine Christians in leadership positions. So, on Christmas Day 2023, he invited more than a hundred Christian leaders to his residence for a goodwill meet. Everybody jumped at the chance to hobnob with the Prime Minister and take selfie after selfie.

It was a terrific opening for Christian leaders to draw the Prime Minister's attention to the violence in Manipur that led to more than 300 churches being

burnt. The BJP-led Government of Manipur said that the violence was due to the Government's war on drugs and poppy growers and that it had nothing to do with religion. Then why were the churches targeted and burnt? How does one explain the war on drugs leading to the burning of churches?

On December 30, 2023, *The Shillong Times* editorialised, “If the church leaders were truly representing Christ on earth they would have used the opportunity to question the Prime Minister on his studied silence over the Manipur conflict which claimed over 200 lives and resulted in internal displacement of over 60,000 whose houses were burnt and who till date live in relief camps with even the bare necessities of life unmet. They could have asked the Prime Minister why he did not deign to make a single visit to Manipur.

“Church leaders who represent the Christian community of this country should have asked why the Prime Minister's party the BJP and its sister organisation the RSS and other fringe elements continue to attack Christians in different parts of the country. On the contrary, the church leaders sang a different tune. They lauded the Prime

Minister for his contribution towards the Christian community which is a minority in India. Irony could not have been starker than this! What has made these Christian leaders so subservient and so lacking in courage to stand for the truth as Christ would have wanted them to. Which chapter of the Bible are they following when they seem to have forgotten the atrocities meted out on their flock? The Christmas spirit should not dilute the sufferings of ordinary Christians who daily suffer from the impunity of their state governments such as is happening in Tripura and brazen acts of the political fringe which does not have any respect for the Constitution of India and its guarantees of freedoms to the citizens.

“In Meghalaya, the Christian members of the BJP have been complicit in their silence over what happened in Manipur and elsewhere, where Christians are persecuted. Videos showing how Christians have been told to trash their Bibles and are being mercilessly flogged for believing in Christ have gone viral but there has not been a single condemnation from the BJP in Meghalaya or any of the North Eastern states; not even the Christian majority states of Nagaland and Mizoram. This

complacency of Christians who have embraced the BJP is very troubling indeed. It just goes to show that the hunger for power trumps over their religion.”

Emergency

It wasn't the first time that big shots of Indian Christendom compromised. The organized church in India was largely silent during the Emergency under Indira Gandhi. The only one to protest was the late Juhanon Mar Thoma, Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church. He wrote a letter to Mrs Gandhi stating that the Emergency was a setback to democracy, and he demanded its speedy withdrawal as well as the release of the politicians who had been arrested: “A vast number of people, and that growing numbers, feel the price we have to pay is costly. With people like Morarji and others in jail, and a press which has lost its freedom to write news and views, we feel a kind of depression. On behalf of thousands, I request withdrawal of Emergency...If the political detenus are released and freedom for press is given, it will be a great relief. I have one more request: not to have elections and constitutional changes during the time of Emergency. Hoping to be excused for this letter written from a sincere and painful heart.” He wrote that he was writing as a

church leader and a citizen. Furious, Mrs Gandhi gave orders to arrest Metropolitan Juhanon Mar Thoma. Thankfully, she was deterred by the advice of C. Achuthamenon, the then Chief Minister of Kerala.

Other than this individual protest, the hierarchy of all churches and the bosses of parachurch organisations didn't say anything. It is possible that some would have even expressed their approval by recounting the benefits of the Emergency, like trains running on time and there being no strikes.

Could it be because the Christian bodies themselves practise totalitarianism, and therefore sensed nothing amiss? In general Christians are people who believe in the Establishment and its sooth running being more important than individual liberty. Thus, a repressive system is deemed necessary. That's why when the Emergency was lifted there were many among Christians who preferred it to the restored freedom that permitted societal unrest.

What we do not realise is that an Establishment belongs to those in power and that by letting them be unopposed in their totalitarianism we provide the

kind of atmosphere that permitted the Emergency that placed those in power beyond the reach of the law. [During the Emergency, fundamental human rights were suspended so that 110,000 people could be imprisoned without trial; the independence of the judiciary was tampered with by using carrots and sticks; and the freedom of the press was curtailed, with almost all newspapers, except *Statesman* and *Indian Express*, echoing the press releases by the government]. And once again, we came dangerously close to allowing a demagogue to charm us into subservience.

The reason for total submission in Christian circles is that the church has been schooled to accept authority even in its dictatorial forms. Unquestioning submission is both advocated and applauded, and those who dare to question are declared to be "unchristian".

It starts with parents telling children (who have personal faith), "You say you're a Christian, but don't you know that the Bible says: 'Obey your parents'?" Parents usually resort to this argument when the children question the validity of their directives. They are saying,

“Obey me – right or wrong.” They forget that the Bible teaches qualified obedience to parents – “obedience in the Lord” (Eph.6:11), and obedience to God overriding obedience to humans (Acts 4:19; 5:29).

Dictatorial attitudes are seen in most persons in authority. The small fry among us give in because we believe that the Bible sanctions all authority and advocates unquestioning obedience. And so it is that Hitler succeeded in carrying out his genocidal plans.

Standing Up

Questioning the rightness of the actions of those above you or standing up for your rights is regarded as unchristian. Every attempt is made to crush such a bucking of authority. Denominational churches in India are engaged in actions to preserve the power of the organization over the individual.

A classic example of this happened in a seminary. A boy was on the carpet for supposedly being in love with girl at the seminary, that being against the rules. The fellow demanded that he be told the identity of his accuser, and that the accuser should face him. The confrontation was set for the

evening. In the meantime, seeing the girl in question at the girls' hostel gate and also seeing the Registrar pass by, the accused took the Registrar up to the girl, and asked her to say whether or not she was in love with him. The day came to an end with the accuser apologizing and everybody knowing of the discomfiture of the “establishment.” However, the matter did not end there. At the end of the academic year, the student, who had been accused and exonerated, was suspended for insubordination.

The same sort of thing happened in 1977 with some senior staff of a Christian college being handed an unfavourable resolution for daring to contend for legitimate seniority rights [when someone junior was promoted over them, for no other reason than being a loyalist subservient to the principal].

Power Structures

This kind of bulldozing is characteristic of both evangelical and liberal power structures in the church. If on the other hand, the individual should flex his muscles and take the authorities to court, the latter play the Christian martyr and say, “Didn't we say, you don't abide by Christian principles?” (I am not justifying

litigation among Christians, but merely pointing out the hypocrisy of the establishment).

Many don't go to court because the individual with limited resources is weak against an establishment that has unlimited resources to engage him in a long-drawn-out legal battle that he cannot afford. That is the reason some resort to anonymous letters, which are cheaper.

The ethics of such persons is always questioned. But I think that we need to view this tactic a little more sympathetically. Not all anonymous letter-writers can be said to have slanderous or spiteful intentions. Sometimes, it is only the expression of an impotent anger at an unjust situation, and a plea – a hopeless plea? – for someone with better resources to fight for a fair deal.

In all cases other than those of spite (which are recognizable by rambling, pointless slander) anonymous letters amount to an accusation that there is no just court of appeal. That's why some Christians did bring out a cyclostyled anonymous letter against the Indira regime, and I don't think we can condemn them for acting in anonymity given the repressive conditions that

prevailed during the Emergency.

Public Opinion

The press should be the common man's court of appeal, public opinion being the judge. However, the Christian press is maintained by various organizations only for the purpose of image-building and public relations. The Christian newspaper or magazine only reports fantastic programmes that bring credit to an organization. Nothing anti-establishmentarian is printed. I once wrote a critical evaluation of a Christian youth convention. When it was published, all the critical points were dropped, and it was an article of wholesale approval. Censorship has always been there in the Christian press in India.

But criticism should be allowed, and even sponsored by the Christian press for the sake of its cathartic and therapeutic value. In 1974, Harper & Row published *Time* magazine's then Religion Editor Richard Ostling's book *Secrecy in the Church*. Ostling's case studies showed that there is very little difference between the religious professionals in the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. Both, he discovered, were suspicious of the laity's intelligence, and strongly

motivated to “protect our own.” Some excused secrecy because they didn't want to “damage the work.”

Are we overwhelmingly concerned about praise and worship, but unconcerned about ethics and morality? We should free the press. If we did, we would have an agency that forces us to self-examination by holding up a mirror before us. Journalists of the Christian press should struggle for such freedom. We must become a force for righteousness.

I was never more impressed than with a British publication about the triumphs of investigative journalism. The title of the book was *First With The Truth*. The various journalists, whose stories were told in the work, came out for the truth, even jeopardizing their very lives. But the Christian press in India is a blow-your-own-trumpet affair.

Our power structures in the church or parachurch organizations have brooked neither opposition nor criticism. I believe that this is because the Protestant church while not subscribing to papal infallibility, certainly believes in the

infallibility of the hierarchies of our various organizations. We may not say so in so many words but act so.

The Emergency showed how the church in India remained undisturbed by the loss of human rights and freedom, though our biblical and ecclesiastical heritage is that of crusading for rights and liberties. And it appears that nothing has changed after 50 years. We are willing to dine with someone who, under his watch, has allowed churches to be burnt and Christians to be persecuted. Like the Scarlet Woman we want to cohabit with the enemy for the sake of sharing power. The question is, have we ceased to be the Church of Christ?



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The Indian general election of 2024 was a significant event in the country's political landscape. But they are now behind us, and all eyes are now on the Union Budget to be presented in another week or so. It will be the first budget presented by a coalition government since 2013 and so, there is a lot of speculation on what it will contain. After all, the budgetary allocations will determine the government's spending priorities and to what extent the parties supporting the government have been able to claim their pound of flesh.

With over 968 million people eligible to vote, equivalent to 70 percent of the total population, the election saw a massive

turnout of 642 million voters. Notably, 312 million women voters participated in the election, marking the highest-ever participation by women voters. The expectations and hopes of all of these, which include many of us, ride on the policies that the government will adopt, irrespective of the way in which we voted. Economic development is a critical aspect of a government's responsibilities. It must foster economic growth and development, create employment opportunities, and promote entrepreneurship. The government must also ensure an equitable distribution of resources and benefits, bridging the gap between the rich and the poor.

Of course, the expectations are not just financial or economic. A democratically elected government represents the will of the people and is accountable to its citizens. It is expected to represent the interests of all citizens, regardless of their caste, creed, religion, or socio-economic status. It must be accountable for its actions, decisions, and policies, ensuring transparency in governance and decision-making processes.

Good governance is another essential expectation from a democratically elected government. It must provide effective and efficient administration, ensuring the rule of law and maintaining law and order. A culture of integrity must be promoted, and corruption must be combated to ensure that the government serves the people's interests. The last decade has not been encouraging in this aspect. The hope is that this time around, with a slightly numerically more vigorous and vocal opposition, accountability can be better enforced.

Social welfare is another vital expectation from a

democratically elected government. It must ensure access to basic services like healthcare, education, and sanitation. Social justice and equality must be promoted, and the rights of vulnerable sections of society must be protected. The government must also address issues like poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, ensuring that all citizens have a dignified life. Health expenditure: India's overall health expenditure accounts for 3.2 percent of its GDP and Rs.4,470 per capita. The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests a minimum of 4-5 percent of GDP. Education expenditure: India's national education outlay accounts for 2.9 percent of its GDP, which is lower than the ambition of 6 percent of GDP, as per the National Education Policy 2020. The IMF has suggested that India should invest more in education to tackle the high rate of unemployment among its youth, which was over 40 percent in 2022-23. The list of expectations is, of course, much longer but has to contain a reference to human rights.

Protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms are the duties of a

democratically elected government. It must ensure the safety and dignity of all citizens, addressing human rights violations and providing justice to victims. This is best done by encouraging citizen participation in governance and decision-making, fostering a culture of dialogue and consultation. It must ensure access to information and government data, enabling citizens to make informed decisions and participate in the democratic process.

In the Indian form of democracy, the role of the ordinary citizen is to line up once every 5 years (sometimes sooner), cast your vote and then withdraw into seclusion till summoned again. But there is more that is desired of a conscientious citizen and more so of a Christian citizen.

Christians have a unique role to play in strengthening democracy wherever they are placed. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be salt and light in the world, influencing our surroundings for the better as best as we can.

Prayer is a powerful tool that Christians can use to shape the

course of history. By praying for their leaders, we can ask God to guide and wisdom them to make decisions that benefit the nation. We know that prayer can bring about divine intervention, leading to positive change. We can also promote values that are fundamental to democracy, such as justice, equality, and compassion and advocate for the marginalized, the poor, and the oppressed, standing up for those who have no voice. This often requires paying a price (Fr. Stan Swamy comes to mind, as do many secular activists). In a country that is so polarized by language, caste, ethnicity and, of course, religion, building bridges across political divides is another crucial role Christians can play. They can foster unity and understanding, creating spaces for dialogue, reconciliation, and healing.

Supporting democratic institutions, such as the judiciary, the media, and civil society organizations, is crucial for a healthy democracy. Christians can strengthen these institutions, ensuring they remain robust and effective. Supporting democratic institutions, such as the judiciary, the media, and civil society organizations, is crucial for a

healthy democracy. Christians can strengthen these institutions, ensuring they remain robust and effective. Educating and disciplining others on the importance of democracy, civic engagement, and responsible citizenship is vital. It is often found that the urban population in the country is less engaged with issues of governance than others. Relatively wealthy and perhaps more academically educated, they naively believe that they lead insulated lives. Christians can equip people to think critically and engage constructively, empowering them to make a positive impact.

The Bible has a wealth of teachings on active citizenship, emphasizing the importance of engaging with the world around us and contributing to the common good. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, which includes working for their well-being and flourishing. This principle is echoed in the prophet Jeremiah's exhortation to seek the welfare of the city where we live.

Jesus also taught us to render to Caesar what is his, acknowledging the authority of government and our

responsibility to participate in the civic process. The Bible summarizes the heart of its teaching on active citizenship in Micah 6:8, where we are called to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. This involves working for justice and showing compassion and humility in our engagement with the world.

Engaging in public discourse is also an essential aspect of active citizenship, as encouraged in Proverbs 1:23. We are called to speak wisdom in public spaces, engaging in constructive dialogue and debate. The Bible emphasizes the importance of integrity in all aspects of life, including our civic engagement. By living out these principles, we can fulfill our calling as salt and light in the world, contributing to the common good and glorifying God.

Valuing truth and honesty in all our interactions, including our political engagements, is essential for building a trustworthy and reliable society. Encouraging active citizenship and participation ensures that everyone's voice is heard and valued. Embracing diversity and inclusivity, as God's children, we recognize that everyone is

created in His image and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Seeking wisdom and discernment in all aspects of life, including our political decisions, enables us to make choices that align with God's will.

Advocating for the vulnerable and marginalized, we can be a voice for those who have no voice, just as God has been a voice for us in our times of need. By living out these biblical principles, we can strengthen democracy and create a society that honours God. Many of us who have been

Christians long know these things intellectually, but there is a need for all of us to walk that Biblical talk.



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2. Computer Skills (working knowledge on report writing skills);
3. Strong communication skills (English & Hindi essential).

Key Expectations:

- * Candidate must have strong collaborating skills in collecting and compiling information in Hindi and English and be able to convert to reports in English language.
- * Should be able to pay attention to details in reporting



Water is Life is a project under a registered NGO in Ranchi, Jharkhand. We strive to ensure water security in rural parts of the State to build the capacities of villagers and local leaders.



Foundation for Christian Ministry-Part II

Ps. Grish Lal Tamta

Introduction

In the first part of the foundation for Ministry, it was discussed about who the minister was? What was the Christian ministry including from OT and NT perspective. The basis of ministry, its aim and distinctiveness were also discussed. Now, the focus is on as to how Jesus used his ministry for the salvation of mankind. Jesus did, not only teach the gospel but taught to save the whole world from the wrath of God. He began to teach about the kingdom of God. The distinctiveness of kingdom of God and teachings about salvation, relationship, spiritual maturity, and challenges became the foundation for ministry.

What makes it distinctive

It is distinctive because the creator of this universe is working himself with humans and teaching his word to the world about the oneness of the trinity. God is making his people overcomers, engaged to Christ, strengthen to follow, fellowship with the Lord's sufferings, sanctification by truth. He is shepherding them with his living presence, enabling to teach the gospel and making his church as his testimony. It is distinctive in the sense that in other faith all humans want to become god by their good deeds but in Christianity, God himself became man and did good deeds and live sin us. Christ gave his life for the world and redeemed which no one did in other faith. He is

working in an organic way to restore the body of Christ to function well. The task is given to all believers in the world to teach gospel, until all creatures hear, enabling his return to earth (Math 24:14).

What is salvation

The salvation is the goal of any ministry and restoration of relationship of Mankind with God which was lost in the garden. This relationship was lost due to the sins committed by mankind by disobeying God's commandment and brought death to human. Though the mankind committed sin, yet God still loved mankind and found a way to redeem and reconciled through Jesus Christ, his son whom he sent on this earth and delivered from the wrath of God and saved. The method of salvation is to repent, confess, and believe in the son of God and obey him (Rom 10:9-10).

The process of salvation

The salvation is found in no one else except Jesus Christ because there is no other name in heaven and earth and beneath by which we can be saved (Acts 4:11-12). So, we need to understand that our god is God of salvation. First

of all, we hear the word then the holy spirit convicts us of our sin and convinces and converts us to receive the gift of salvation of God. This salvation is the work of the trinity. The love of father, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the transformation of the Holy spirit are the keys to it. In other words, the source of salvation is the grace of the father and the faith which he gives us to have in Christ who laid the atonement foundation through holy spirit. In his rich mercy, we are saved by his grace through faith in his son for which we need to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is the son of God and believe in our heart that he was raised from dead to justify us, is the process of salvation (Rom 10:9-10).

The relationship between grace and salvation

The grace is an unmerited favour of God to man which man did not deserve but given by God. The sin committed by man in the garden deserved death but God in his rich mercy gave him life by his grace and saved from eternal death by believing in Jesus Christ. The salvation has helped the mankind to have relationship with God again. In other words, the salvation is the restoration of lost relationship with God. So, it

was the grace of God to send his son to seek and save the mankind who was lost (Luke 19:9-10). So, his grace saved mankind from judgment and mercy from wrath of God.

Need of the spiritual maturity

God loved mankind so much that he gave his only begotten son Jesus Christ and sacrificed him on the cross so that the lost relationship was restored. So, God the father desired his children to grow in spiritual life and develop close relationship with him through his son Jesus Christ. This steadfast growth in spiritual life brings maturity. As parents desire their children to grow, crawl, walk, and talk which is the sign of growth, in the same way the spiritual children of God too, need to grow and become in the likeness of Jesus Christ and attain Christ like maturity (Eph 4:13).

Marks of spiritual maturity

The marks of a matured believer are those who have trained themselves to recognise the difference between right and wrong, as a result are able to make godly decision followed by the godly nature and actions. In other words, a matured believer is

the one who switched over to solid food from milk and able to change from childish ways to produce mature faith in Christ and able to teach others (Heb 5:11-12). He should not be swayed by the wind of false doctrine and human wisdom and stand firm on the scriptural guidance.

Helping believers in local church to attain spiritual maturity

Believer can help the local church by teaching the unity in faith in Christ and the knowledge of him as our saviour and Lord of our life. It does not matter for how long one is following him but what matters is how fast one accepts, follows, and obeys him. Believer has to understand that the growth in spiritual maturity comes from his grace. He is the source of spiritual maturity (2 Pet 1:3-9). One should not be tossed by false doctrine and human wisdom but stand firm on the scriptural guidance and the power of the holy spirit. It can help him in telling the uniqueness of Christianity. Religious people try to please God by their good works but in Christianity it is by his grace through faith in Christ that pleases God, and this kind of understanding requires to help

the local church and believers to attain maturity.

God calls you to do good works

Paul says we are saved by his grace through faith in Christ so that we can serve God on earth. We are not saved by our good works but by his rich mercy and grace, we are saved to do the good works that God has planned for us (Eph 2:8-10). It is not about what we do as human to please God, but it is about what God has done for us by sacrificing his only son on the cross so that we can have relationship with him and do good works as per his plans. God has called us to lead souls to his kingdom and confess with mouth that Jesus Christ is the son of God and believe in our hearts that he was raised from the dead, on the third day and promised to return. This good news is the good works which we have to preach to the world (Rom 10:9-10).

The hindrances to spiritual ministry

The hindrances to spiritual maturity are obstructions, discouragements, worldliness and in differences. Any delay in

meeting the expectations may result in frustration and discouragement. However, we need to seek the strength of God to overcome such hindrances. Under worldliness, time is more for the world than the presence of the Lord. The Bible study, prayer time, and doing ministry get less time than other worldly things that hinders the spiritual growth. Jesus says no one can serve two masters, for either he will hate one and love the other (Math 6:24). One should remember that we are in the world not of the world. The hindrance of indifference leads to spiritual immaturity and dehydrates the life. The insensitivity to holy spirit, lack of diligence, divided attention and loyalty, lack of fear of God, priority for material things and lack of zeal for the Lord and disinterest in godly things are also hindrances to spiritual ministry (1 Pet 2:1-2).

Ways to overcome the hindrances to Christian ministry

In order to overcome these hindrances, we need to ask the holy spirit to empower us to serve the Lord with an undivided heart, mind, hand and zeal for the ministry. We need to understand the teachings of the Lord and

apply them in our daily life, bear the fruit of the spirit, walk in holiness and share new experience with others, spend more time with the Lord and get involved with the things of the Lord. Without spiritual life, spiritual growth is impossible. Be united with the unity in faith and knowledge of the Lord intimately and grow in his grace to overcome the hindrances.

Proofs of true Christian maturity

The proof of a true Christian maturity is to live with Christlike character, both in natural and difficult situations. This can be developed with the help of the holy spirit to be like him. He lived selfless, humbled, glorifying God, made himself nothing despite being God, no equality with God yet God, born in servant nature, obedient and lived in human likeness which we too need to imbibe and live. This will be the proof of true Christian matured life. Paul says we all need to reach the unity in faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of fulness of Christ (Eph 4:13).

Conclusion

The ministry of Jesus had a goal to save the world. So, the foundation for ministry should have a goal, to save the mankind in the world. The focus should be as to how Jesus used his ministry for the salvation of mankind. He did, not only come to teach the gospel but also to save the whole world from the wrath of God. In order to save the world, he began to teach about the kingdom of God with distinctiveness. His ministry was to teach about salvation, relationship, spiritual maturity, and challenges and ways to overcome them. In the same way, it is imperative for believers to carry on the foundation for ministry for his glory.



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Blessings of a God-Fearing Family

Rev. Dr. David Mende

Introduction

Families are important to God. We see that in both the Old and the New Testaments. As the world celebrates the "International Day of Families" on May 15th, let's see how a family can be blessed by the Lord. Psalm 128 continues the theme of God's blessing mentioned in Psalm 127. In Psalm 128, we see that those who fear the Lord will be blessed in every way.

Psalms 120-134 have a common title, "A Song of Ascents." Some scholars say that the Hebrew word translated as "ascents" (which means "steps") is related to the verb, "to go up." They say that the Jewish pilgrims sang these songs as they went up to the Temple during the three

annual agricultural festivals. For instance, some say that Psalm 128:2 probably alludes to an agricultural harvest. The main idea I want to focus on in this article is that **fearing the Lord brings blessings!**

1. Those Who Fear the Lord Will Be Blessed (Ps. 128:1, 4).

In verses 1 and 2, the word "blessed" means "happy." In verse 4, the psalmist says, "Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord." Other psalms also highlight the theme of God blessing those who fear him. For instance, Psalm 112:1 says, "Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!" Also, in Psalm 119:1, the psalmist writes,

"Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!"

We must align our lives according to God's word. This blessing is for "everyone" who fears the Lord! Now we must not think that material blessings are automatically promised for all those who fear the Lord. This psalm gives a general description of the blessed life in ancient Israel. This psalm is not a universal promise to God's people. In the New Testament, the emphasis is on spiritual blessings more than material blessings. Material blessings are a mere shadow of eternal blessings.

After making a general statement that those who fear the Lord will be blessed (v. 1), in verses 2-3, the psalmist specifies how God blesses a person who fears him.

2. God's Blessings on Those Who Fear Him (Ps. 128:2-3).

Let's see how God blesses those who fear him.

a. The blessing on the table (v. 2).

This is a reversal of the curse that came as a result of what Adam and Eve ate (Gen. 3:16-17).

Eating "the fruit of the labor of your hands" is a covenant blessing (Deut. 28:1-6). The opposite happens when we are disobedient (Deut. 28:33). In those days, people didn't always enjoy the fruit of their labor. People faced war, drought, disease, or plagues regularly. So, enjoying the fruit of their labor was considered a great blessing.

In today's context, the Lord blesses the labor of our hands in our jobs and businesses. The Bible teaches a strong work ethic. We must not be lazy but work hard. The Lord gives us satisfaction as we pursue our vocation.

b. The blessing within the house (v. 3a).

The psalmist writes that "Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house," (v. 3a) instead of being a faithless wife whose "feet do not stay at home" (Prov. 7:11). Here, the psalmist uses the metaphor of a vine for a wife. This metaphor suggests delectability (Song 7:8) and childbearing (Gen. 49:22; Isa 5:1). I believe that even if the wife cannot bear children, the family is still fruitful if she labors for her home and God's kingdom.

c. The blessing around the table (v. 3b).

In Psalm 127:4-5a, the psalmist says that children are like arrows in the hands of the warrior. Here, the psalmist says that children are like olive shoots around the table. An olive tree has several uses. It was useful for its wood, leaves, and oil. An olive tree symbolizes well-being (Gen. 8:11) and splendor (Hos. 14:6). Even after being cut down, an olive tree produces new shoots. The Israelites valued children because it was part of the covenant blessings.

There is a sense of community and happiness as the children gather around the table. Children are a great blessing! Vines and olive plants symbolize rich blessings, unlike staple foods like wheat. Grapes from the vine and oil from the olive plants were not essential for survival, but they greatly enriched life.

In the same way, a wife and children are not essential for a man's survival, but they greatly enrich his life. The Israelites undertook pilgrim journeys as a family. Thus, it makes sense that family is given attention in the Songs of Ascents. So, the Lord

blesses those who fear him.

3. The Benediction on Those Who Fear the Lord (Ps. 128:5-6).

Zion is the capital of Israel and the temple was situated there. So, to go on a pilgrimage to Zion (v. 5) was to seek God. There were several diasporic Jews who lived outside of Israel. The psalmist pronounces the blessing (*barak*: blessed of the Lord) that even those who are not in Jerusalem (Zion) would experience God's blessings. Under the New Covenant, since we are made the temple of the Spirit through Christ's sacrifice, all of us can experience God's blessings as the Spirit of God dwells within us.

The godly people in the Old Testament were concerned about "the prosperity of Jerusalem" because it meant the well-being of the Davidic kings and the prosperity of individual families as well. This psalm doesn't advocate individualistic and self-centered families. Our desire must be to see all of God's people blessed. We must care for our community. But families, as well as nations, can succeed only with God's blessings.

Seeing "your children's children" (v. 6) is equivalent to "all the days of your life" (v. 5). And "peace be upon Israel" is equivalent to the prayer that those who fear the Lord may see "the prosperity of Jerusalem" (v. 5). Seeing one's "children's children" was considered a blessing (Gen. 48:11). Seeing great-grandchildren was rare (Job 42:16). These days even seeing grandchildren has become rare because many people are settling abroad. Even in such cases, we must maintain sufficient contact with our extended families. The psalmist prays that peace (*shalom*: completeness, soundness) would be upon Israel! So, we must pray that the Lord will bless our nation and our rulers.

Conclusion

We've seen that: **Fearing the Lord brings blessings!**

As families, our focus must be on godly living, not on earthly blessings. When families seek first the King, his kingdom, and his righteousness, the Lord will bless them in every way! And when we complete our earthly journey faithfully, we will receive eternal blessings!



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Internship

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

Schedule:- (July 2024 - April 2025)

English as Second Language (ESL) - One month
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

Intercessory Prayer Points



July 2024

1 MONDAY Thank God for the new month. Pray that you would be used effectively by God for His own glory.

2 TUESDAY Pray for Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR), New Delhi as they engage in Development, Advocacy, Disaster Response and Training, serving the poor, socially excluded and the marginalized in situations of poverty, injustice, and disaster irrespective of caste, creed, or ethnicity.

3 WEDNESDAY Pray for Disha Foundation, New Delhi. Disha Foundation works with a vision to encourage and empower the economically weaker sections of the Indian society, particularly girls and women. Pray for courage, strength, and guidance for those involved in this ministry. Pray for God's blessings upon them.

4 THURSDAY Pray for Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM), Bangalore. Pray for sufficient funds as they are in the middle to constructing a new office building. Pray also that they would continue to equip people to fulfil the Great Commission effectively.

5 FRIDAY Pray for Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA). EHA works across nine states of central, north, and north-east India through its hospitals and numerous community programs. Pray that every opportunity they get would be God honouring.

6 SATURDAY Pray for your daily personal quiet time. Pray that you would be able to spend quiet time with the Lord despite the loud outside world.

7 SUNDAY Pray for the youth groups in your churches and neighborhood. Pray that they may remember their Creator in the days of their youth. Pray for them that they would use their time, energy & skills effectively for God's glory.

8 MONDAY Pray for the ministry of Interserve India at Pune, Maharashtra. Interserve is a cross-cultural, inter-denominational evangelical fellowship of Christians committed to each other in partnership and in service to the people in the field of education, medical services, community & spiritual development in India. Pray for God's protection. Pray that

Christ's love may be displayed to the world with their works.

9 TUESDAY Pray for Ashish Foundation, a school for differently abled children. Pray for innovative and creative ideas as they teach the children. May God bless the ministry abundantly.

10 WEDNESDAY Pray for North-East India Committee on Relief and Development (NEICORD), Meghalaya. NEICORD renders assistance, love, care, relief, & rehabilitation to disaster affected people. They also assist in leadership development and capacity building of the communities and help the needy and the poor achieve self-reliance through project initiatives.

11 THURSDAY Pray for CANA-India, New Delhi. Pray that as they minister to HIV/AIDS affected people, they would be filled with compassion. Pray that their services would bring changes in people's lives and glorify the Lord through their services.

12 FRIDAY Pray for India Missions Association (IMA), Hyderabad. Pray for God's guidance and leading in all the things they do. Pray for all the staff to be equipped and guided by the Holy Spirit.

13 SATURDAY Pray for families that Christ may be the head in every household. Pray that you family may glorify God.

14 SUNDAY Pray for the children of God's servants that they would encounter God personally and grow in holiness. Pray that they would pursue and value personal relationship with God.

15 MONDAY Pray for Tearfund-India as they work with communities to help them develop secure and productive livelihoods. Pray that the Lord would continually lead, guide, and show them different ways to address issues such as human trafficking, poverty, natural disaster, etc.

16 TUESDAY Pray for all the EFI staff based in different parts of the country. Pray that they may serve the need of the churches, institutions and individuals with their best capacity that would glorify God.

17 WEDNESDAY Pray for Evangelical Financial Accountability Council (EFAC), an initiative of EFI. Pray that God may use EFAC to strengthen His Church in India as they provide accreditation and capacity building services and promoting transparency, accountability, and excellence in governance.

18 THURSDAY Pray for Christian Education department of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (CEEFI). The goal of CEEFI is to lead people to Christ and help them grow as good disciples of Jesus Christ so that they may serve the Church of God by using their gifts and abilities.

19 FRIDAY Pray for EFI Children @ Risk. It aims to mobilise and sensitise the Church to address issues of the negligence, exploitation and discrimination against poor, dalit and tribal children and other children at risk in India.

20 SATURDAY Pray that your love for our Lord Jesus Christ would increase and that you would be saturated in His love.

21 SUNDAY Pray for your church to be an ambassador of reconciliation. Pray that many broken lives will be mended and healed.

22 MONDAY Pray for Bible Centered Ministries International – India (BCM-India) based in Chennai. Pray for the needs of the staff and families that the Lord would provide all their needs so that they would fulfill their calling.

23 TUESDAY Pray for St. Stephen's Hospital. Pray that the hospital would continue to serve with their motto "In Love Serve One Another". Pray that God would bring healing, comfort and restoration to the patients.

24 WEDNESDAY Pray for the political leaders of our country. Pray that they may be able to pursue and accomplish goals that would bring growth to the country and peace with neighbouring countries.

25 THURSDAY Pray for those whom you know are struggling with health

issues that God would have mercy on them and bring healing to them.

26 FRIDAY Pray for Jesus Bless Ministries, Odisha. Pray for integrity and excellence in their service to God through this ministry. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come along with them in their challenges and

27 SATURDAY Pray that we may recommit our lives and services to God. Pray for more opportunities to serve God in the coming months.

28 SUNDAY Pray for God's Word to spread even more by using you and your fellow worshipers as you meet people throughout the week.

29 MONDAY Pray for Bible Bhavan Christian Fellowship. Pray that God would bless them and continue to use them for the extension of His kingdom. Pray also for Delhi Bible Institute, their para ministry to be used by God to change, equip, and strengthen leaders to serve His kingdom.

30 TUESDAY Pray for Delhi International Christian Fellowship. Pray that God would work in the hearts and minds of the congregation members who are from different and diverse backgrounds that God would bring the joy of being united in Christ.

31 WEDNESDAY Thank God for His guidance and provision throughout the month. Praise Him for who He is!



GRACE HOUSE

Managed by CEPL

A residential conference center with comfortable and basic amenities.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- ✓ 4 AC Double Bedrooms
- ✓ 1 AC Dormitory - 50 bedded
- ✓ 1 AC Dormitory - 10 bedded
- ✓ 3 Conference Halls
- ✓ Open Kitchen



TARIFF

ACCOMMODATION (AC)	Capacity / No. of people	CHARGES PER DAY
Double Room	4 rooms / 8 beds	1500/- per room
Dormitory - 3rd Flr (Left)	50 beds	500/- per bed
Dormitory - Ground Flr	10 beds	500/- per bed

CONFERENCE HALLS	Capacity / No. of people	8 Hours / 9am - 5pm	4 Hours	2 hours
1st Floor (AC)	100	10,000	6,000	3,000
3rd Floor (AC)	40	6,000	4,000	2,000
Ground Floor (Non AC)	40	7,000	5,000	2,000

For bookings, contact

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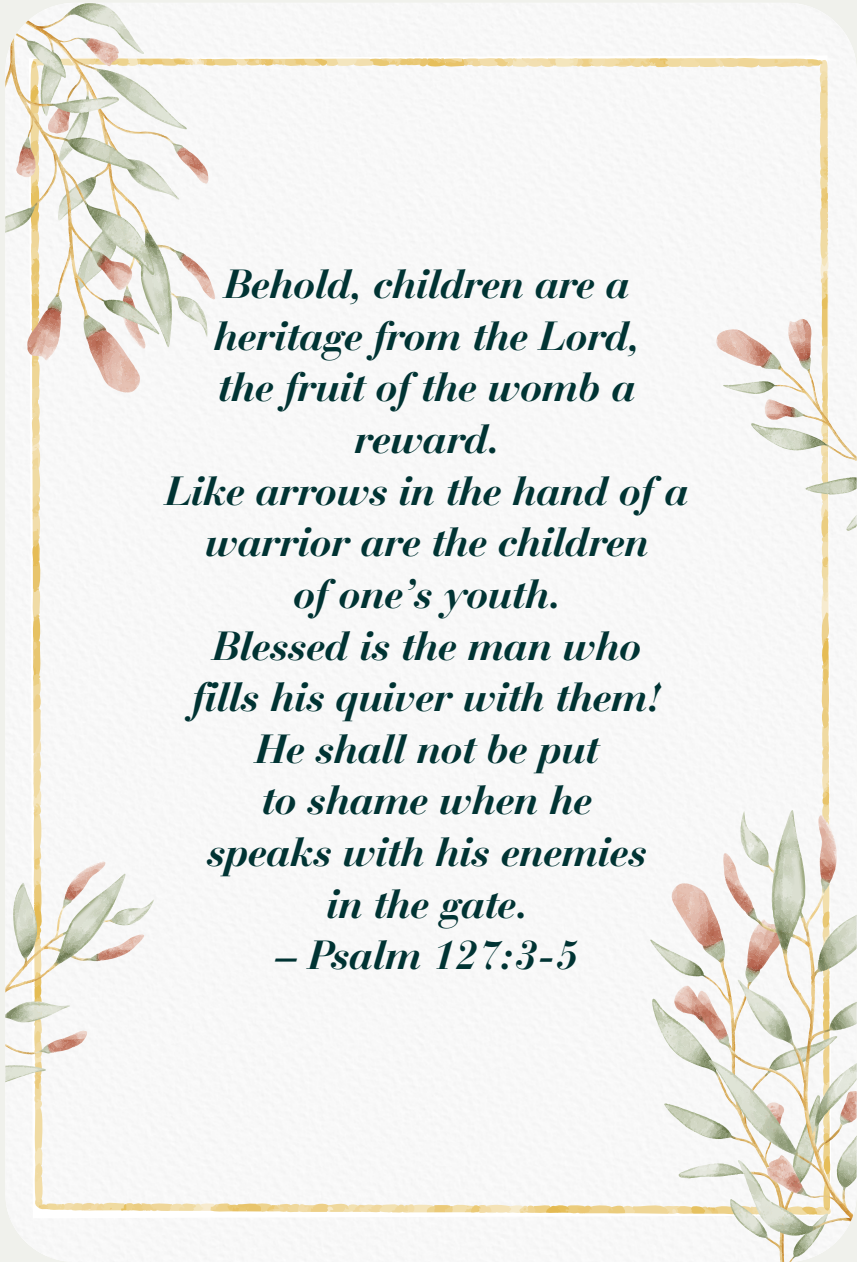
Extra facilities will be charged additionally



Meals can be customised and will be charged additionally.

Published date on 25 June 2024
Posting date 26/27 June 2024

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



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