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The Black Cat & Me

Blaming the uneducated people for the recent violence in the country and the many others that preceded it is not the way forward. Wrong doings that destroy life and property and take away the dignity of people all in the name of God and Religion are objectionable and despicable. It is time to CHANGE... and the change should begin with ME, in my personal life, within my family, at my work place.... the change should begin NOW.

The Black Cat & Me

by Ninette D'Souza



The blame for the Dera violence and the ensuing mayhem can be squarely laid at the door of the State machinery.

Whether it was sheer incompetence or tacit support, it revealed a sad but bitter truth- that this is a country ruled by Patriarchs (ugh!) who revel in telling us what to eat, what to wear, what to do for entertainment, how to use our money, literally ruling our very lives. Hence 1 brave girl's word of truth was like a candle in the wind of the 1.2 + billion folks like you and me who were complicit on account of our firm belief in 'Superstitions'. Newspaper accounts reveal that, 'The Love Charger' – Mrs. Funnybones has around 1.5 million followers (hope I got the number right). Sitting in the cozy confines of our living rooms, switching between News channels, listening to the same incident being reported over and over again and yet waiting for that one spicy detail, we 'tch-tched' that Baba Ram Rahim's followers who call themselves Insaan, were crazed and blind, because on the 26th of Aug 2017, they forgot their humanity and threatened to wipe out India. We concerned citizens (seriously???) found it unbelievable that a Godman can have so many dedicated followers. But I fail to understand why this should surprise us. We perform actions everyday that allow such blindness to exist. Let's ring some bells, shall we?

■ We tie threads and bracelets of varied hues to our wrists; ankles and around our necks which have 'Powers' because they have been sourced from healing centres and from the hands of persons with the healing touch.

■ We put a big black dot on our children, sometimes visible; most often tucked under a tuft of hair or twirl red chillies and Salt around them to ward off the evil eye.

■ We can't wait to see what Ganesha has to tell us through Bejan Daruwala or listen to what the stars foretell.

■ We are blind sided by Self-help Gurus telling us how to lead our lives when the Blue print for it is available in all Scriptures.

■ We hang wind chimes, pot pourri and bamboo shoots in strategic locations according to Feng Shui or align our furniture; even the bed for a better 'Chi' to influence our lives.

■ We add / subtract alphabets from the special Name we were baptized with in order to fall in with the requirements of Numerology.

■ As pregnant women we refrain from not just productive activities, but almost cease to exist besides our involuntary Respiration, simply because the Met Weather forecasts a solar or lunar eclipse.

■ We feel blest and righteous because we have rosary or other beads around our necks; wrists and even encircling our fingers, but fail to spend time with the Lord 1-1 or become His hands, feet and hearts in a hurting world.

What do all these actions seem to suggest? That we are perpetrating a superstitious mind set. We are relegating God to the shelf while legitimizing the 'Ba Ba Black Sheep' (pun intended) and others like him to take advantage of our fears, curiosity and lack of Faith in a caring, protective God. Many of us believe that our Superstitions are harmless and limited only to ourselves, but on account of the blinkers we have on, we fail to see the consequences of our Superstitions, that go a long way beyond our personal lives, due to the ripple effect. Our lives are intertwined and in some

way or the other; at some point of time, we end up negatively influencing ones another's lives through our Superstitions.

"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it." - Albert Einstein. To be able to handle this dangerous place some of us enter into a bargain / barter system with God. Attendance at 9 consecutive novenas in exchange for a better job; home, or as an end to the search for the perfect spouse or to bear children. Offering God garlands, candles, wax objects even gold ornaments sometimes, convinced that these actions will not just ensure our 'WANTS' are fulfilled (cleverly disguised as NEEDS in our prayers, forgetting that the Lord knows best!) but that they will also bring us peace of mind and heart. Phew!!! The Lord is probably wondering what happened to the Spark of Faith, He gifted us at our Baptism and which by the time of adulthood should have grown into a flame. In the brouhaha of our lives He is probably hoping if He looks hard enough, He might find the semblance of that Faith, sized as small as a mustard seed. Will he take it? I think He will.

"It is time we gullible fools stop turning towards Superstitions like a bunch of silly sunflowers looking for the sun, forgetting that a halo is just a trick of the light." – Twinkle Khanna, in her column in the Sunday TOI, August 27th 2017. I received a comic pic from one of my friends on Whatsapp (one of many since yesterday's

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'Thought for the week'

When we have a choice, let's choose the best. But when we have no choice, let's do our best.

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What is Wrong with Competition?

by Don Aguiar

We have been taught to struggle, to compete – and how can friendship exist with a competitive mind? How can friendship exist when you are ambitious?

So the priests and the politicians go on talking about friendship – and only enmity exists in the world. Only enmity can exist if you teach competition, ambition. So everybody goes on pretending friendship, and deep down everybody is antagonistic to everybody else. How can you feel friendly with a person who is a competitor with you in the world?

We are teaching competition. From their very childhood, we add the poison of competition, violence and ambition to the minds of children. And then we assume that these are schools. No, these are anti-schools, centers of anti-learning. These institutions pervert the mind of man and make him insane. Here inferiority is taught, and man then runs through his whole life like a madman. It makes no difference then whether the race is for money, position or power; but we teach a race, the fever of race. Fevers never make one healthy

When one child comes first in a class, the other child is told that he is lagging behind and this fellow has come first. You are teaching him to flatter, to compete and get ahead. You are teaching ego, telling them that one who has come first is superior, and one who is behind is inferior. In books you tell them to be humble and loving, whereas your whole arrangement teaches them to hate, to envy and come first. One who comes first is being awarded gold medals and merit certificates; he is being garlanded and photographed, and others, who are behind, are insulted by the system.

The ambitious person is a stupid person. The intelligent person is not ambitious; he simply lives with no hankering to compete with others because he knows everybody is unique. There is no question of competition. He never compares. The really intelligent person never compares himself with anybody. He never thinks himself higher or lower. He never suffers from a superiority complex or an inferiority complex – which are two sides of the same coin. He simply knows, 'I am who I am and you are who you are,' and there is no question of comparison. How can you compare a rose with a lotus? All comparison will be wrong from the very beginning. Each individual has such a beauty, such a unique beauty, that no comparison is possible.

What is the point of becoming ambitious? Ambition means: 'I have to be superior; I have to prove myself, I am superior to others. Now for this you have to lose your intelligence, you have to become stupid. That's why politicians are utterly stupid people, they can't be otherwise. They are all bananas – and rotten bananas at that!

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(Contd.. from p. 3)

When you are insulting the one who is behind, are you not goading his ego to push him to the forefront? When the one who has come first is being honored, are you not boosting his ego? So when the children are thus trained in ego, jealousy and competition, how can they love? Love is that which allows the loved ones to go ahead.

To be special is against nature. In nature everything is as it is. Nobody is feeling any inferiority complex, and nobody is suffering from any superiority complex. The roses are beautiful because they don't claim any superiority. There are thousands of flowers but there is no competition, everything is unique in its simplicity. They are not running a marathon race, competing with each other to come first; they are immensely satisfied as they are. In the whole animal kingdom – and all the trees, all the clouds, all the stars – no-

(Contd.. from p. 2)

incident). It was captioned, 'This is what Indian people do when they reach any baba'. The pic was of a half opened door outside which were placed assorted footwear and a number of human brains. I think this pic says it all. Blaming the uneducated people for the recent violence in the country and the many others that preceded it is not the way forward. Wrong doings that destroy life and property and take away the dignity of people all in the name of God and Religion are objectionable and despicable. It is time to CHANGE... and the change should begin with ME, in my personal life, within my family, at my work place.... the change should begin NOW.

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body wants to be something else. Because even if you try to be something else, it will be only phony.

In this sense all the religions have committed a great crime against humanity, because they all want you to be saints, great saints. They have categories of austerities, they have categories of respectability. The so-called religions of the world are part of the same game that is being played in the marketplace that is being played by the politicians. Everybody wants to have a position. He is ready to lose himself, to sell himself, for a position. That's what has happened, and everybody has lost his simplicity.

Everyone is born unique. No comparison is possible. You are you, and I am me. A Buddha is a Buddha, and a Christ is a Christ. And no comparison is possible. If you compare, you create superiority, inferiority – the ways of the ego. And then, of course, a great desire arises to compete and to defeat others. And you remain in fear of whether you are going to make it or not, because it is a very violent struggle: everybody is trying the same – to become the first!

Millions of people are trying to become the first. Great violence, aggression, hatred, enmity, arises. Life becomes a hell. If you are defeated, you are miserable. And there are many more chances of being defeated. And even if you succeed you are not happy, because the moment you succeed you become afraid. Now somebody else is going to take it from you. The competitors are all around, violently after you. Before you succeeded you were afraid whether you were going to make it or not; now you have succeeded, you have the money and the power, now you are afraid – somebody is going to take it away from you. Before you were trembling, now you are trembling. Those who are failures are miserable, and those who succeed, they are also miserable.

You are exceptional. But everybody is born exceptional; there is no need to prove it. And

those who prove, they simply prove that they are uncertain about their uniqueness. Try to understand it: only inferior people, who have an idea of deep inferiority, try to prove themselves to be superior. Inferiority complex helps you to compete and prove so that you can prove you are superior. But basically, you are born unique and there is no need to prove it.

Whenever there is competition there is bound to be enmity. How can you be friendly with people with whom you are competing, who are dangerous to you and to whom you are dangerous? Either they will win and you will be defeated, or you will win and they have to be defeated. All your so-called friendship is just a facade, a formality. It is a kind of lubricant that makes life move smoothly. But deep down there is nobody who is a friend. Even friends are not friends because they are comparing with each other, fighting with each other. This world has been turned into a war-camp by the education of ambition, politics.

Competition and jealousy is the root cause of all misery. There is no good competition – all competition is bad. Notwithstanding what the politicians and the priests say, no competition is friendly. All competition is hostile... it is violent.

In this world, it is very difficult to find a happy man – because nobody is fulfilling the condition of being happy. The first condition is: drop all comparison. Drop all stupid ideas of being superior and inferior. You are neither superior nor inferior. You are simply yourself! There exists no one like you with whom you can be compared. Then suddenly you are at home.

This whole conditioning produces an inferiority complex because it wants you to become superior, superior over others. It teaches you competition, comparison; it teaches you violence, fight. It teaches you that means don't matter, what matters in the end, success is the goal.

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Teacher's Day

Teacher's Day is celebrated on September 5th and it is the day which is dedicated to commemorate the entire community of teachers across the nation. For students, Teacher's Day is the most auspicious occasion where they get the opportunity to pay tribute, gratitude and reverence to their teachers for the extraordinary support and unselfish effort in shaping their career and for enhancing the education system of the country with their unique learning processes.

On Teacher's Day, students often dress up like their teachers and teach their juniors, in the way they have seen their teachers doing. Sometimes, teachers also sit in classrooms and act like students, reliving their time when they were students themselves.

Since children spend a lot of time in school in their formative and impressionable years, teachers wield a great influence on them.

— Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai

Metro-style Entry/Exit system for Railways

Metro-style Entry/Exit system for Railways, reported in The Times of India recently. Now that will be a really good system, if implemented. There may be reservations from some quarters about the working of the Metro-style system, but I say, if the Railways have the will to do, it CAN be done. It will definitely keep away not just the ticketless commuters, but will also stop the vagabonds, beggars, etc., from using the Railway Platforms as a place of rest. Intensive patrolling by the Railway staff would also help. **It is said, where there's a WILL there's a WAY, but I say, Where there's a Will,**

there's a HIGHWAY !!!

And of course, the Railways will have to get rid of the slums residing inside the railway premises (e.g. hutments at Malad station), who are using the Railway infrastructure and making a complete mess of the stations.

—Melville X. D'Souza
- Orlem, Malad West

Nuns Vocation Due to 'ChristianElephants'!

it was reported by EWTN News, 17 August 2017, that nine years ago, Christians in the Kandhamal district of Odisha, India, had suffered one of the worst violence. Around 100 people lost their lives, and more than 56,000 of their homes were destroyed, along with Christian places of worship. This carnage lasted for several months.

But the seeds of persecution have surprisingly sprouted an 'unprecedented' increase in religious vocations, including that of Sr. AlanzaNayak. She became the first woman from her area to join the congregation of the Sisters of the Destitute! This Order was founded in March 1927 by Fr. Varghese Payyapilly a priest of the Ernakulum Archdiocese. At present it has 1,700 members who live in over 200 communities spread over six provinces.

Sr. Nayak told Matters India, that she decided to dedicate her life to God, when she witnessed how a herd of elephants meted out justice to the Christians victims of the Kandhamal riots. At that time she was a tenth-grader, and escaped to the forests to save her life.

A year after the attacks, a herd of elephants came back to her village, kicked and levelled the farms and homes of those who had wrecked

havoc on the hapless Christians. "I was convinced it was the powerful hand of God", Sr. Nayak related to Matters India. The animals were later referred to as 'Christian Elephants'!

We have a duty to protect the flora and fauna: "For as the Scripture says, 'The earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord'" (1 Corinthians 10:26=Psalm 24:1).

—Trevor Colaso

Let the Government too accountable to the people!

GST has made all Goods and service providers accountable to the Government. Besides it has extended the revenue of the state and the centre. Now People are made accountable through GST. Consequently, why is the Government not accountable to the people? Why cant the Government find a mechanism to upload all its financial transactions online ? Lets grant that our Indian traders and service providers were cheating the Government and therefore required financial reforms. Who will bring financial reforms in the financial dealings of Government at all levels. We need GST like transparent system to monitor all Government transactions. People are supreme in a democracy . Government at every level is accountable to the people..






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Why Was Gandhi Against Conversions?



An advertisement issued by the Govt of Jharkhand in leading newspapers of the State on 11th August, has got the hackles up of the Christian community. The ad in question carries a picture of Mahatma Gandhi and a purported quote from him. It is in Hindi. Given below is the English translation by Prof Apoorvanand of Delhi University.



by chhotebhai *

“If Christian missionaries feel that only conversion to Christianity is the path to salvation, why don't you start with me or Mahadev

Desai? Why do you stress on conversion of the simple, illiterate, poor and forest-dwellers? These people can't differentiate between Jesus and Mohammad and are not likely to understand your preachings. They are mute and simple, like cows. These simple, poor, Dalit and forest-dwellers, whom you make Christians, do so not for Jesus but for rice and their stomach.” Prima facie, such a derogatory statement is bound to cause concern. It is offensive not just to Christians, but also to the Muslims (referred to as Mohammedans), dalits, and adivasis (referred to as forest dwellers). Apoorvanand's paper was very kindly sent to me by Dr John Dayal on behalf of the United Christian Forum.

According to Apoorvanand the ad is mischievous, misleading, erroneous, and puts words in Gandhi's mouth that are not his. He feels that this ad is a reaction to the Catholic Church's recent and rightful opposition to proposed amendments to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act and Santhal Parganas Act, by the Jharkhand Govt. It is also seen as a prelude to passing an anti-conversion bill in the State that criminalises almost any form of religious conversion.

Apoorvanand asserts that this is not a literal quote. It is based on an ongoing dialogue with one John R Mott, an American evangelist, sometime in 1936. It was in the context of dalit entry into a temple in Travancore. In a reactionary move the dalits, led by Dr Ambedkar, threatened to abandon Hinduism. This resulted in some kind of competition between Christians, Muslims and Sikhs, to win over the disenchanted dalits. It was in that context that Gandhi condemned conversions of susceptible and vulnerable groups. It was not a blanket statement. Prof Ramachandra Guha, India's leading historian, in an email to me, confirms this viewpoint.

Even if it was not a blanket statement, or quoted out of context, I still found the quotation highly offensive, more so since I am a staunch Gandhian. I was deeply disturbed and contacted several of my learned Gandhian friends; but I was not satisfied with their answers, so I started searching among my old records.

Provisionally, I came across several books on conversions, including a special issue of Jnanadeepa Pune Journal of Religious Studies. This is published by Jnana Deepa Vidhyapeeth, better known as the papal seminary. Volume 3, No 1, published in 2000 is entirely devoted to the question of conversions. Then I found the “jewel in the crown”, a paper entitled “Conversions: The Gandhian Critique and our Response” by Rev Subhash Anand, who was then a faculty member of the Dept of Indian Philosophy. With 133 references the research paper was a veritable goldmine of information. I then contacted the author, who is now retired in his parent diocese of Udaipur.

He very graciously permitted me to quote from his paper, hence this article. He also cautioned me saying that the quote is authentic, which is contrary to what Apoorvanand had said. He begins his paper by stating that many Christians consider Gandhi “as one of the greatest Christians of our times, while some of his compatriots accused him of being a Christian in secret, an accusation which Gandhi admitted was not new”. This quote is

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from “Christian Missions: Their Place in India” by Gandhi, edited by B. Kurnarappa. Other references are from “The Encyclopaedia of Gandhian Thoughts” by A.T. & G.A. Hingorani; “In Search of the Supreme”; “The Message of Jesus Christ”, again edited by Hingorani; and “The story of My Experiments with Truth”. Since this is not a research paper I will not burden the reader with multiple references.

If we see just one quote by Gandhi, that too out of context, we would have every reason to be upset. But Subhash is very methodical in his presentation. He begins by saying that Gandhi had a great love and reverence for Jesus of whom he said, “The gentle figure of Christ, so patient, so kind, so loving, so full of forgiveness, that he taught his followers not to retaliate when abused or struck, but to turn the other cheek – I thought it was a beautiful example of the perfect man”. As is common knowledge, Gandhi was deeply inspired by Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

Gandhi also admits that he is indebted to his Christian friends for “the religious quest that they awakened in me”. Besides adopting St Francis of Assisi’s prayer “Make me a Channel of Your Peace” (part of the Gandhian prayer book) he was also influenced by a Trappist monastery in South Africa in 1895. The monks were vegetarian, did not touch liquor, and worked in community. Of them he says, “If this is Roman Catholicism, everything said against it is a lie”.

Most of us are familiar with Gandhi saying “Christianity is good, Christians are bad”. What led him to this conclusion, often quoted by Christians themselves? Subhash’s observations echo my own. There are three discernible reasons for Gandhi’s aversion to the type of Christianity practiced in his time. The first was his exposure to Christians in England, where he had gone to study law. They were not exactly paragons of virtue. Gandhi’s feelings could also have been coloured

by the over arching reality that they were a colonial power riding roughshod over his countrymen. The second was his experience of racism in South Africa. Being thrown off a train is just one of the better documented ones. What was “Christian” about these white supremacists? Thirdly, there was his experience of neo converts to Christianity in colonial north India, as distinct from the well assimilated Thomas Christians of Kerala.

What did Gandhi find so offensive in these neo converts? It was primarily a cultural conflict. Gandhi laments, “Why should a man, even if he becomes Christian, be torn from his surroundings?” He further says, “It was the talk of the town that, when he was baptised, he had to eat beef and drink liquor, that he also had to change his clothes, and that henceforth he began to go about in European costume, including a hat”! This was the sad reality in some cases at that time.

To add insult to injury he says, “I also heard that the new convert had already begun abusing the language of his ancestors, their customs and their country. All these things created in me a dislike for Christianity”. He further avers, “The aping of Europeans ... by Indian converts is a violence done to their country and, shall I say, even to their new religion”. These quotes should suffice to express Gandhi’s discomfiture. The Catholic Church, especially after Vatican II, has made a major course correction, in what is termed “inculturation”. We have adapted to local culture, language, dress, particularly in our liturgy. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of some of our sister churches (I detest the term “denominations”), especially the neo-Pentecostal evangelical types.

Gandhi also had a theological problem. Why did Christians insist that theirs was the only true religion? He says, “I may suggest that God did not bear the Cross only 1900 years ago, but he bears it today. It would be poor comfort to the world if it had to depend upon a historical God who died 2000

years ago. Do not then preach the God of history, but show Him as He lives today through you”. Such words of wisdom echo over time. He goes on to say, “When a Christian preacher goes and says to a Harijan that Jesus was the only begotten son of God, he will give him a blank stare”. In truth, a messianic and Judaic presentation of Christianity was foreign to the Indian mind, why only the Harijan’s.

Even the four Gospel writers and those of the Epistles in the New Testament presented Jesus and his message in different ways, bearing in mind the local culture and ethos. But several missionaries of yesteryear, and over enthusiastic neo evangelists of today, are unable to discern the subtle difference between faith and culture.

Having quoted Gandhi, courtesy Subhash, to the extent possible in this article, I would now like to add my own two-pice bit of wisdom! I begin with a statement that may sound audacious to my fellow Christians. Had I been a Hindu in colonial north India in Gandhi’s time I would have largely concurred with the conclusions drawn by him, though not necessarily the finality of his language. As a rider let me add that if he had strong reservations about unabashed Christian conversions, he also had strong words against movements for Shuddhi by the Hindus and Tabligh by the Muslims.

However, in today’s context Gandhi’s purported quote, even if distorted, is highly objectionable. Dalits (not Harijans) and adivasis (not vanvasis or forest dwellers) are no longer dumb cattle (cows). Thanks to affirmative action through reservations given by the much maligned Congress, both these communities can now hold their heads high. Tribals from the North East and Chhotanagpur in particular, who reaped the benefits of quality and affordable education from the missionaries, have excelled in all fields. Since Jharkhand is in the eye of the storm we need to recall the valiant sacrifice of Paramvir Chakra Albert Ekka, a tribal Christian. He was nei-

(Contd.. on p. 22)

TEACHERS – Who Are They?

by Ninette D'Souza

"A teacher affects eternity. No one can tell where his/her influence stops." – Henry Adams.

No truer words have been spoken. Education in the past (and if I am brutally honest, even today) has been like a controlled access highway, providing Teachers with a certain level of security, for they spoke and students listened. In such a scenario, Teachers could be found on 'cruise control' neither looking left nor right, certain of their ability to plough through whatever lay ahead. Today the Vocation (I do not see it as a profession) of a Teacher has very few takers, for Education looks like an arduous task; as it challenges us to exit this safe predictable highway and opt for the scenic route; although risky. The need of the hour is to make Education more meaningful, by throwing off the bowlines and sailing away from the safe harbour, catching the wind in our sails and along with our students, exploring, discovering, dreaming.

In a bid to make quality Education feasible in the Indian context, we Teachers need to be agents of change, by creating an environment that encourages students to teach themselves. No matter how good the teaching, each student must be able to take responsibility for his/her education. Let us guard against creating illiterates in the 21st century, who know to read and write but cannot learn, unlearn and relearn. Till the recent past we were guilty, of judging a student unworthy and incapable of doing anything worthwhile, based on the academic performance. Thankfully today, we are called to change this attitude that gives so little value to the life of a child. Every child is different and even those with seemingly the least value and purpose in life, are God's unique creations. In today's materialistic, broken world, some students may be hungry for food; others for attention. Some are imprisoned by abuse

and loneliness; others by bodies and minds that just don't work right. Some learn at a young age to expect failure in school to lead to failure in life. Poor Darlings! As a Teacher today, I can choose to soothe them with kind words and visit them in their prisons, rather than chide them in their quietness. I can consider it a privilege, to serve children, through Education. A Teacher who understands that everyone has different abilities and teaches to students strengths, can expect the best from them and celebrate their success no matter how small or insignificant.

Today when our children feel that they can get all the information they want at the click of a button, they are lurking in a dangerously grey zone. This is where the tool of truthful confrontation, by a well-informed Teacher can dis-empower ignorance that stems from opinionated misconceptions. A gesture to befriend a student, at a time like this, can be life changing for both. "The Education of the heart cannot be done through books. It can only be done through the living touch of a teacher." – M.K. Gandhi. How true! For the heart of Education lies in the education of the Heart. Research shows that many people enter teaching for idealistic reasons. They want to work with youth; to have a positive effect on others and to pass on what they know and care about. Hence the greatest sermon in life, we can give our children is, the one they can see, meaning: make our lives our message. We must live our truths, walk our values and behave our philosophies. This is how we will be able to motivate our children, to give off their best, all the time.

From the Education for life that Teachers impart, students must learn that no great life was built on a foundation of excuses, so they must stop making them. Sometimes when someone else is waiting to take the first step, they must be the ones who will step up and drive the change. Life is pure adventure and the sooner their formal Education helps them realise



this, they quicker they will be able to treat life as an ART. We must not fail to challenge them, to dream; to shine; to dare, because a life well lived is all about reaching for your highest and your best.

A must read for Teachers in order to decide whether they are being true to the vocation they chose:

- ❑ Teachers come in many sizes and shapes- large, small, young, old, tired, fresh, black, white, rich and poor. Some are kind and some are not.
- ❑ Some Teachers know how to make you feel good. Others make you feel bad all over, deep down.
- ❑ Some help you not to be afraid. Others keep you scared all the time.
- ❑ Some show you what you might try. Others tell you what you can't do.
- ❑ Some Teachers make you want to come to school everyday, even on Sunday (Some kids never find Teachers like these). Some Teachers make you skip out as often as you can.
- ❑ Some bring you lots of things you can work with. Others make you sit in your seat; fill in blanks and memorize stuff.
- ❑ Some Teachers are great, they not only correct you time and again but are always there to put bandages on your hurts- hurts on the heart, on the mind, on the spirit. These Teachers care about you and let you know it. They give you WINGS!!!!!!

When I read this the first time, I was left shell shocked, because I realized that there were quite a number of the positive aspects of the bullets above, I had left un ticked and I began to work toward that change asap (the current lingo). If any of you my

(Contd.. on p. 9)



Teacher in the Digital Age

By Dr. Jeanette Pinto

The basic need of every child is the need to play, and it is the medium through which the child learns to think, understand and communicate right from infancy to adulthood. Whatever he learns with pleasure and enjoyment, he retains forever. Any subject can be made very interesting this way. Those teachers who in the past could make the dreariest lesson come alive with a little imagination and skill were very effective. The teacher who inspired you to become an engineer, a doctor, or a nurse will be long remembered by you. However does this hold good for the teacher in the digital age?

Preparing learners for the demands of the 21st century requires committed innovative teachers, willing to use the emerging technologies to enhance teaching and learning. Most educators are tapping into the power of digital media and technology. The variety of information resources available on-

line is simply staggering. The rapid changes happening in this field present various problems for teachers with a traditional mind set. Already incorporating technology in the classroom in many schools has brought about significant changes in the

teaching-learning process.

Learning is at the core of powerful and rapidly shifting educational, technological and political forces that will shape the structure of educational systems across the globe. Already the Integrated Co-Teaching or the **ICT** has provided a range of powerful tools that are transforming some learning centres. Students find themselves not so much in text-bound or teacher-centred classrooms, they are focused on an interactive knowledge environment. The digital age means we now have interactive tools for the classroom to go alongside our more usual set of ideas and activities.

Teachers of the digital age need to cleverly see the world through a child's eyes or think through his mind. They must take up newer approaches to learning keeping in mind that the learning experience should provide joy, fun and flexibility to use ICT. They must also be in tune with the qualities of the heart not forgetting that their students are human persons. Teachers are always expected to model values which children catch in the process of learning.

Technology today is both part of the problem and part of the solution. The information revolution on the internet network is phenomenal. Teachers need not retain a comprehensive body of subject knowledge; he/she can present the gist allowing the learner to creatively reconstruct the new knowledge. The passive 3 R's is replaced by the more dynamic 3C's namely that of collaboration, creativity and communication. These features challenge the traditional ba-

sis for teaching in schools and for the teacher in the digital age.

Twenty-first century teaching is no longer about the four walls of the classroom. Technology has enlarged the area of the teaching-learning process as learners have to connect with Internet. Teachers need to move from the lecture to pair work, or group activities. In the past they were bound to the slate, chalk and talk, black board and books. Now it is from black to white boards, to PPT's, from handwritten postcards to printed magazines, from radio recording to audio/ video DVD's. Using the same skills as in the past; analysis, synthesis, and evaluation; teachers must now look at digital literacy as another realm within which to apply elements of critical thinking.

Schools serve and shape a world in which people can learn to work creatively and collaboratively. However the degree of human knowledge, globalization and the rapid advance of technology necessitates a shift in children's education from rote learning and memory to a different level or process. The Digital age has opened new dimensions to learning not visible in our existing school system. Present day learning is more complex than ever before as it includes various skills that must be acquired by the learner.

The teacher in the digital age does not merely deliver the curriculum; the ICT has given her/him new roles and responsibilities. It challenges the existing authoritarian role as the sole source of knowledge and information. Today the voice of the innovative teacher which was rich in practice and experience is barely audible. She/he must learn a new way of teaching and helping students, which demands a massive shift in the role and all aspects in the school system. The best teachers teach naturally; knowledge flows from them like a gentle rain. ICT is another tool in the teacher's tool box; it helps them as guides, facilitators and advisors building linkages between their students' individual in-

(Contd.. on p. 19)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

Co- Teachers experience the same emotion on reading this, as I did, then maybe this 'Teacher's Day' is the time to begin.

Wishing every Teacher (Parents---- the first Teachers, Catechists and Coaches) a very happy Teacher's Day. May the Master Teacher.... Christ Himself be your guide, strength and peace as you serve those minds and hearts placed in your care.

Whether Our Present Govt. Should Keep Foremost In Their Minds, Maslows Hierarchys Of Needs Of The People At The Bottom Of The Economic Pyramid ?

by Eric D'Sa

It is heartening to read in Times of India recently that Government of India (GOI) has finally decided with the eyes on 2019 polls, that they have to increase expenditure substantially on the social sector. Whatever may have been the reason, the light seems to have finally dawned on them, that there is an urgent need to increase the budget of as much as 21% on MNERGA, housing for the poor, education and schools in villages, irrigation and rural infrastructure. This is not surprising since rural distress has over the last few years worsened and this has been aggravated by the demonitisation late last year and the GST this year,

It's not just lending to the beleaguered corporate sector that has slowed—bank credit growth to the priority sector too has fallen considerably in recent months. The priority sector includes lending to agriculture, to micro and small enterprises in the manufacturing and services sectors, education and low-cost housing loans, loans to the weaker sections of the population and export credit from SMEs. Most of

these loans are supposed to serve a social purpose and they are meant to ensure that credit flows to those sections of society, whom the banks may otherwise neglect. The fact that lending to Micro finance credit sector year to year, has dropped by a whopping 23% , tells its own story of major problems in the lowest rung of our countries economic pyramid.

So far for last three years GOI has been placing stress on things such as religion, culture, nationalism, unity, language and such other aspects which are important to the top end of economic pyramid. The rich and the higher middle class people who are the influential vocal lot, were the targets and beneficiaries of this policy. Most of the money spent by Governments were on mega projects and infrastructure, that would



is Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which focuses on what makes people happy and the things that they do in order to achieve happiness. Maslow theorized that people have an innate desire for self-actualization. In other words, they are born with a desire to be all they can be, and pursue that desire with vigor. In order to reach their ultimate goals, however, they have to meet their own basic needs, such as food, shelter, safety, love and self-esteem.

These basic needs, according to Maslow's theory, are split into five tiers. These tiers are often displayed as a pyramid, and at the base of this pyramid are the most basic of all, namely Physiological. Examples of physiological needs are breathing air, food, water, shelter, sex and sleep. As you progress from the base to the top of the pyramid, the needs become increasingly psychological and social. Needs such as love, friendship and intimacy begin to take precedence the higher up you go, along with personal esteem and feelings of accomplishment.

The whole theory emphasizes the process of growing and developing in order to self-actualize and achieve one's individual potential. Needs are also categorized in accordance with whether they are deficiency needs or growth needs. Deficiency needs arise from an individual being deprived of something, and must be satisfied in order to avoid unpleasant feelings or consequences. In contrast, growth needs stem from a desire to grow as opposed to stemming from deprivation. Although the needs are often portrayed as a rigid hierarchy, Maslow noted that the order in which needs are met does not necessarily follow this standard progression. An example of this is some individuals place

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that in this country there is huge number of people, at the bottom of the economic pyramid that were not benefitting sufficiently from these policies. The trickle down effect was not fast enough and the new statistics have shown that the disparity of wealth between the very rich and the poor has kept increasing.

So how does GOI bring the ACHHE DIN that has been promised to all people go about it? One of the big questions in life is what motivates human behaviour. What will give them the feeling of happiness and the sense that ACHHE DIN has arrived? May be GOI needs to be advised to study the theory of Maslow. Although there are various schools of psychology, one of the most pervasive theories

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(Contd.. on p. 16)

Church leaders greet newly elected Indian president

New Delhi: Catholic Church officials have met the newly elected Indian president to appraise him of work done by Catholics in the field of health, education and in serving the poor in the country.

Ram Nath Kovind was sworn in as India's 14th president July 25. He was nominated by a coalition led by the pro-Hindu ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that rules the federal government and various Indian states. The post of Indian president is largely ceremonial.

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, president of the Indian Catholic bishops' conference, led the delegation that included two other cardinals and five bishops, all conference officials, to meet Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan presidential palace in New Delhi Aug. 24.

"It was a courtesy visit," Cardinal Cleemis told ucanews.com explaining that it is customary for church leaders to visit newly elected presidents and prime ministers on behalf of the Catholic community in the country.

"These meetings help present our identity," the cardinal said, adding that as the leader of the delegation he spoke to familiarize the president of the "outstanding services" the 19 million-strong Catholic Church provides in the country.

"We are a minority, but our services in education and healthcare, especially in the villages are largest" in the private sector, second only to the government, Cardinal Cleemis said. "The president was appreciative of this," he said.

Catholics form 1.5 percent of India's 1.2 billion people and are the largest Christian group in the country where 2.3 percent are Christians.

Even though the meeting came against the backdrop of complaints that Christians are being targeted by



hard-line Hindu groups in the name of conversions, church authorities stressed the meeting was strictly a courtesy visit.

Following the 2014 general election when the BJP came to power in New Delhi, several Hindu groups took this as a mandate to work for a Hindu-only India. As part of this, these groups stepped up their anti-Christian activities.

"We did not raise any issues in the meeting. We greeted him on behalf of the Catholics of India," Archbishop Anil Couto of Delhi told ucanews.com.

Kovind had been earlier embroiled in a controversy when, as a BJP leader in 2010, he said "Islam and Christianity are alien to India." He further suggested people from these religions should not be given social benefits or quotas for government jobs and educational institutions, even if they come from a poor socio-economic backgrounds.

Constitutionally, India is secular nation that applies equal respect to all religions. However, hard-line Hindu groups, under the political patronage of the BJP, have been working to create a nation of Hindu hegemony.

However, the bishops said they did not mention any of these issues.

"India is a democratic secular republic and we live by the sacred book of the country — the Indian Constitution," Cardinal Cleemis told the Indian president, according to the press statement.

The president, while addressing the prelates, stressed that India is "secular country (and) is one country and there was no minority and majority," the statement quoted him as saying.

Source: ucanindia

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Alice Johnson Therattil New Appointment



Alice Johnson Therattil

Mrs. Alice Johnson Therattil had been elected as First Lady Vice Chairperson in the 60th Year of Kerala Christian Council. The Election took place in the 69th Annual General Body Meeting for the office bearers of 60th Year on 30th July 2017

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Thanksgiving



Thanks to Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Vailankani, Our Lady of perpetual Succor and St. Anthony

—A Devotee

A Lay Colossus Rests His Oars

The funeral of Anand Castellino on 21st August 2017 at the shrine of Don Bosco, Matunga was a truly moving experience. The spontaneous display of solidarity by people from all walks of life, the muted shock and grief at the suddenness of it all, the accolades from close family and friends both



Anand Castellino

during the prayer service prior to the mass and during the mass bore testimony to a life truly lived for others. A daily mass goer, Anand heard mass the morning of his death in the very church of Don Bosco where his funeral rites were performed. The Salesian community and Diocesan clergy almost 40 of them together with Bishop Bosco Penha who was the main celebrant, Bishop Agnelo GRACIAS and Bishop Dominic Savio led an almost 1000+ crowd of mourners who thronged the Shrine to pay their last respects and tribute to a man who was no less than a living saint to many.... a loving husband, a doting father, a trustworthy counsellor, a courageous and daring activist (AGNI), an ethical christian businessman, a Catholic Sabha helmsman, a pastoral trainer, a fervent SCC crusader.... Anand donned many hats with equal aplomb and characteristic acumen.

We were privileged to have him for more than a decade on the faculty team of the Training of Animators programme for the SCCs. He stepped into my shoes as the Vice-President of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and brought to the post the vast gamut of his pastoral experience and expertise. He carved out a niche for himself with his incisive and pragmatic approach to social justice issues and was a much sought after speaker on RTI. Indeed, he was a man for all seasons and all reasons.....

The characteristic feature of his multifaceted life was his willing acceptance of any and every task and responsibility without counting the cost. He well exemplified in his life the true meaning of the Apostolate of the Laity. The words of Albert Pike aptly sums up his life and mission: "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." The Church in Mumbai has lost an intrepid crusader for Christ.

The void left by him will be difficult to fill.. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants (Ps 116:15). May his soul rest in eternal peace

THOMAS LOBO,
former VP, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

A Nostalgic Bonhomie To My Mentor



Sr. Bindu Abraham

'Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness and others have greatness thrust upon them' says Shakespeare.

Teachers are the greatest gift to the nation. It's the most sublime and nobler than all other professions. Teachers' day is round the corner. It's much praiseworthy to remember and ruminate the experience that we had had in our life. It's been poignant to recall the entire benevolent persona who has influenced us all through our life's journey. It may be our mothers who have predisposed their deep-seated mark in the folios of our life. She may be the first and foremost teacher that each of us has had.

Interestingly, later on in our life we may have the paradigm shift of changing our role models to different personalities as per the changing attitudes and convictions of our life. We might have made a trail and error method setting different celebrities or persons as our protagonist. Sometimes the role models can be our own ideal self or our childhood buddies.

'To be or not to be: that's the question' in certain point of our life. We may not find a person who is the epitome of all mores to be impersonated. Sometimes there's a risk of choosing the right person to counsel us or to be a mentor to us.

If I begin to explicit from my life, I have very few persons who I look upon as the source of inspiration. I don't comprehend if that person is a stimulation or a motivation to me. I esteem a friend of mine, it's really amazing when I'm with him the energy level in my system gets boosted up then I'm filled and overflowing with positive energy. I don't know if my friend is impeccable but as far as I'm concerned he is the warehouse of power and positive energy.



He is a multitalented personality and has plenteous synergy within himself. When I'm downcasted or melancholic in spirit it's sufficient to listen to him or talk to him. The moment I talk to him or being with him the lassitude finds no place in me. The verve flows into me like the cascade or as that of the torrential rainwater decant out into the creeks.

The days I feel neglected or downcast it's adequate to be by his side because for me he is an altruistic soul with goodness overflowing inside out. I enjoy being with him because his attitude is altitude. He has insurmount-

able brashness, which is undefeatable. The way he carries out himself is insurmountable. The manner with which he solves the holdups of life cannot be copied by any. Even if the whole world comes roaring to him he remain unruffled and composed. I have learnt at least something from him after many years of acquaintance.

I believe it's apt to quote the words of Shakespeare in Hamlet "what a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god". This is what I experience from Fr. Lamu Jayaraj who I know for many years and I can distinguish accentuate that he has been an instrument in moulding my personality over the years. This friend of mine was there with me in all the events of my life.

I owe him a befitting acknowledgement on this great month dedicated to all the esteemed educators who have strewn a noteworthy role in my life's unwritten pages.

The universal law says what we think we become and our thoughts become things. As many of us are born to inspire someone else let's become more abstemious persons so as to motivate another with our very life. Let us think positive, act positive and hear positive because no poison can kill a positive thinker, and no medicine can save a negative thinker. Let's follow the universal law in our lives. Because the strongest people make time to help others, even if they are struggling in their personal life with problems. It's the right time to conquer the heights and ignite another to the ways of achievement.

Raise kids to be good adults

The goal of parenting is to raise happy, healthy, good people. We want our kids to be well equipped to face the world and to be decent human beings along the way

The key to raising a well-rounded child is to establish a solid support system at home so that they grow up satisfied with their achievements and ambitions. Their happiness and well being is our biggest concern, and we know that life will take them farther if they're good, stable human beings. Here are some points to note to raise your child as a good person.

Watch sports: Not only can watching sports with kids be a really fun way to bond over a favourite team or player, it can be a perfect opportunity to point out character strengths from teamwork to perseverance. After cheering over a big touchdown or basket, point out how important the linebackers or passers were to the score: Even though they don't get all the attention, the team wouldn't be successful without the admirable work of supporting players. Children will learn the spirit of supporting through this.

Encourage special skills: Every child has unique gifts and talents. These special attributes can show up in a traditional school setting but there are plenty of children who shine after the final bell has rung for the day. Activities like a mommy-and-me music class or karate lesson can open their minds but your wallet doesn't need to be involved. Do not underestimate the power of unstructured play.

Respect different learning: Just because you need complete silence while typing an e-mail or balancing your checkbook doesn't mean your child needs a noise-free environment when doing his homework. Eight kinds of intelligences, or ways kids learn best, some that include musical, logical-mathematical, linguistic, and interpersonal traits. The trick is to pay



attention to how your child learns best so you can identify her specific learning style.

Read: When it comes to picking up a book and having story time with your kid, there is no such thing as starting too early. Reading to preschoolers – and keeping books at home – encourages language development, reading skills, and future success in school. “Even if your child is still too young to understand everything you're saying, he will learn to notice the rhythms of language, which will help him build a listening vocabulary,

Dole out endless hugs: Giving your child a number of hugs throughout the day will help ease any tension she may be feeling. “There's nothing like the human touch to give a child a sense of security. Touching another person gently has the power to alleviate symptoms emotional, behavioural and physical related to stress

Signs you are raising a good person:

You love being around them. You have a feeling that it's not just because you're their parents. They are just really great little humans and you're happy to be around them. Their personalities are really sweet.

They have a strong personality:

They're independent and have their own opinions. You love hearing their outlook because you have no idea where it comes from. They seem to have a great approach to life.

They show empathy:

They understand and are deeply concerned about other's feelings. They want to make sure everyone around them is

happy and if they aren't they can be upset. They feel everything deeply.

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A Catholic Apostolic Ministry With Smartphones



BY MELVYN BROWN

“Pope Francis uses Twitter to remind the world that Jesus does not leave us alone, because we are precious to Him.” Zenit.org (10th August 2017). The Holy Father Francis has 35 million followers on Twitter in 9 languages according to Vatican Radio.

Rapid messages through the email, social networks; from settling transactions to decisions all in 24-hour scale; world news on all fronts, derivative sometimes, fraudulent at other times; cases when cyber security firms get linked to other unheard of webs.... there are also many good uses for smartphone applications.

The ever advancing technology is able to monitor messages and even detect anomalies in digital networking areas. “Light will shine out of darkness.”(Gen.1:3).

The Catholic Church has made a bold attempt to harness understanding about latest advances in cyber links, apps and a host of other applications, all for good reasons. Even the pontiff is familiar with mobile functions and their use.

The Catholic apostolic ministry takes heart in the words of St. Paul in his Second letter to Timothy: “endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.” There is a scramble to better implement ideas and applications from the new to faster, more efficient technology uses in human-related zones with Smartphone assistance.

Technomics are growing: picture-in-picture is a new field where a person can manage two tasks at the same time, simultaneously on any size screen, it's easy on apps also. Google has eventually fed Android Oreo. Fonts are now fully supported. Fonts can be used in XML layouts and define other related fonts present in

MXL.

A Catholic Apostolic ministry with Smartphones is doing incredible pastoral and evangelical work in States across the nation. The Word of God can now be programmed in a very colorful presentation with the help of advanced photo shop; text statuses are assisting folks to express ideas in many shades. It is now possible to go beyond images, GIFs and videos, all of which vanishes after 24 hours.

A web-designer with advanced software knowledge of adding a link instead of sharing images and who is able to roll out to both Android and IOS platforms after trying it in beta stage is an invaluable guide. The Catholic net-worker however, can make use of a simple 4GB RAM for exploring its many use, even for changing privacy settings like “my contacts, contacts except” and “only share with”.

Lay Catholics, religious, priests and nuns can reach out to all, harvesting the fruits of an open evangelical ministry. Pope Benedict XVI, in connection to the Faith had once said, there is unity of the human race by a common origin made by God.

“From one ancestor all the nations of men “(Acts.17:26). This truth alone can form an entire ministry to call men to one Savior and to share in eternal life.

Among the laity in our contemporary world we proudly mention the name of Suniel Baptist (Calcutta) who has a remarkable site on Facebook, “Mother Mary Family” and a second faith enrichment site, “Jesus with Universal Catholic Family”. Thousands of believers and non-believers are drawn by the unique features of the Faith he



manages to download daily from the Lord's vineyard. Cedric D'Cruz has a site called “Women's Awareness” which is worthy of mention.

The Archdiocese of Calcutta has witnessed the establishment of a Catholic Mobile Ministry under the approval and direction of Founder Melvyn Brown, AFJ.. The mission of all Ambassadors For Jesus is to spread His Word through the Smartphone and the printed word. Many have come forward to spread the Catholic Post (A Free Newsletter sent on request). In the words of St. Paul: “Carry out your ministry fully.” (2Ti.4:5).

To empower the Christian Ministry we should know more about a “Software” that blocks ads in browsers and Apps. It reduces clutter for viewers, money for websites that survive on ads. We got around blockers in a small way: 90% rise in mobile users who used blockers. 122 million ad-blocking browsers are installed in India.

The Catholic Apostleship Ministry should probe into an advanced use of the 'Instagram', Galaxy Apps, WhatsApp and Chrome- just for a beginning.



(Contd.. from p. 10)

more emphasis on the need for self-esteem than, say, the need for love.

Physiological needs

Other than the basic requirements for survival, such as nutrition or temperature regulation, physiological needs also include necessities such as shelter and clothing. Sexual reproduction is also considered a physiological need, as it is a necessity for propagating the human species.

Security and Safety Needs

The desire for control and order in life means that people seek safety and security. Examples of safety and security needs are financial security, health and wellness and accident prevention. These needs are met by finding employment, saving money, or having health insurance. A more abstract example is moving into

Social Needs

Love, acceptance and belonging are social needs. The need for emotional relationships drives human behavior at this level. Examples of things that satisfy these needs are friendships, romantic attachments, family bonds, social and community groups. These things help individuals to avoid loneliness, depression and anxiety. Being loved and accepted is important, so it is important for individuals to form strong bonds with others.

Esteem Needs

All humans have a need to feel respected; this includes the need to have self-esteem and self-respect. Esteem presents the typical human

desire to be accepted and valued by others. People often engage in a profession or hobby to gain recognition. These activities give the person a sense of contribution or value. Low self-esteem or an inferiority complex may result from imbalances during this level in the hierarchy.

Self-Actualisation Needs

"What a man can be, he must be." This quotation forms the basis of the perceived need for self-actualization. This level of need refers to what a person's full potential is and the realization of that potential. Maslow describes this level as the desire to accomplish everything that one can, to become the most that one can be. Individuals may perceive or focus on this need very specifically. As previously mentioned, Maslow believed that to understand this level of need, the person must not only achieve the previous needs, but master them.

Some 3 decades ago my family including my son who was then 5 years old, went to Nasik to visit some friends and then landed at a tribal area some distance away from the city, where the Jesuit priests were running an orphanage and school for some 200 tribal children. I offered to pay for the lunch and join them so that my son would be exposed to real poverty. I was surprised the junior priests there had been earlier a professor in St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and had opted to serve at the orphanage and assist an 80 year Austrian Jesuit priest who had worked in that area for 5 decades. The priest told me when he first arrived he was surprised to see poor tribals leave their young children at

the orphanage, since it was the only way the children could survive. They were heart broken doing so.

So he tried to find out the reason for such poverty and found they could not earn enough from their farms to make ends meet. This was mainly because of lack of water. Through the German aid they had procured bore wells and though this had helped initially, soon they were drying out. So he said come and see the bunds I am building with the farmers across dry creeks. This has greatly helped during monsoon to raise the ground level water and now the farms are greening, produce increasing and income helping the farmers to look after the children themselves. What has this to do with a highly educated Jesuit Priest was my next question. He said you can not talk about Jesus or the bible or any religion to people with an empty stomach. For the successful farmers who now have a liveable wage, sufficient to food to eat, drinkable fresh water, a non leaking hut, some decent clean clothes and education for their kids, this Austrian old Priest is a living saint. May be our Governments could learn from these two Priest how to bring ACHHE DIN to the rural people.

With the advent of the mobile and the accessibility of the internet to the masses in our country, the basic needs and aspirations of the same at the bottom of the economic pyramid have exploded. The governments can no longer ignore them and will do so at their own peril. The high growth of our country in recent years, has been mainly due to this additional real demand of these people. However reducing poverty in the lower rung of the economic pyramid needs cash and this is what inadvertently was suddenly withdrawn by demonitisation. This mainly caused huge number of poor people to lose their temporary jobs. Replacing of old high value notes gradually by new ones has not taken this pain away, as it takes time to create these jobs. So was it wise for GOI to increase expenditure on social spending as much as 21%? YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE

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Inspiration!

Uproot the weeds in your life

and don't give up just because it's uncomfortable - the end result is worth it!

- Finally, the new behaviour will

Uproot the weeds in your life and plant truth in your soil. Ask God for the rain and watch it grow. There is a fruitful harvest waiting for you when it's all said and done!

The term 'weed' can mean different things to different people. As with anything, one man's garden. In a broad sense a weed is really any plant growing where it is not wanted. In order to get rid of the weeds. In order to get rid of the weeds, we must attack them at their roots.

As with our garden, we have weeds in our personal lives bad habits, inappropriate or misguided opinions of ourselves or others, procrastination or even lack of organisation. Such weeds can manifest themselves through lack of motivation or passion and can be found in our belief system in how we see ourselves or even God. They can suck the joy out of our lives and cause us to live in an environment that is otherwise uncomfortable.

In order to get rid of the weeds, we must uproot them and replace them through a reliance and opportunities that will ultimately help us blossom into a productive and joyful life.

One must keep in mind that uprooting a 'life weed' may take time. After all, we are replacing bad habits with better habits. A garden takes time for healthy vibrant plants to take hold and grow. So does your own 'life garden' - you are replacing your 'life weeds' with sustainable, healthy habits that will require nourishments to grow. Change is never easy and sometimes our gardens must go through a state of awkwardness before we can see the true beauty and rewards.



Isn't it time that you surveyed your garden, uprooting the "life weeds" and replacing them with healthy habits? Here is an easy process to consider"

- Replace bad habits with good habits by having a mental picture of what the new habit will look like. Also, understand why you are replacing the old habit.
- Practice the actions required over and over again so that the new habit becomes natural.
- Next you will enter into the transition phase where you have an old behavior that has become comfortable, like an old pair of comfortable shoes (they may look ugly to the eye but oh-so comfortable!). Resist slipping back into the old habit-remember, you are working on getting out the entire root of the 'life weed', which takes time and energy. Your new habit may feel uncomfortable at first because you are not used to it yet. Practice, practice, practice

become automatic a new habit is born!

Weeding your "life garden" requires persistence, patience and most of all, a commitment to change. Once healthy positive changes occur, you can maintain your beautiful new 'life garden' less those pesky weeds.

MATRIMONIAL

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster (Born in April 1973), 5' 5" tall, looks much younger to her age, good looking, fair complexion with qualifications, B.Com. (Mumbai), M.B.A. Finance (Canada), M.B.A., (H.R.) and Diplomas in I.T. (NIIT), Comp. (APTEC), and Cert.Ind Acct. (I.C.A.), working in good position. Graduate / Post Graduate unmarried R.C. Bachelors upto 47 years, employed in good position and well settled in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email.: bellwether77@yahoo.com OR Mob.: 9892700617

Being a businessman or salesman often requires employing persuasion tactics. This skill can influence others to think as you do and if marketing a product or service, good persuasion techniques can encourage someone to use your service or purchase a product from your company. However, the art of persuasion doesn't come naturally for everyone



Persuasive businessmen have an uncanny ability to get you leaning toward their way of thinking. Their secret weapon is likeability. They get you to like more than their ideas; they get you to like them. Here are few tricks of the trade that exceptionally persuasive leaders use to their advantage.

Being empathetic goes a long way: To be a powerful persuader, understand a person's pain and problems. Try to put yourself in the other person's shoes. Doing this will help you better understand the other person's situation, feelings and motives. If you've had a similar experience, share it. Showing empathy fosters connections and builds trust.

The curious nature: The best persuaders are innately curious about the world around them and the people with whom they interact. Learn what others need on a physical as well as emotional level and why. Always ask good questions and then listen. Once you understand a person's position, you'll be better equipped to persuade him.

Innate listening capability: When

Be a persuasive businessman

talking with someone, always give that person your full attention. Look her in the eye and use her name throughout the conversation. Let her to finish before you respond. When you're attentive, you send a message that you value that person and her opinion. Over time, a growing reputation of trustworthiness will enable a leader to influence decisions.

Master acts of confidence: Whether you're speaking to a client, customer or colleague, show how much you believe in your business and ideas. Always be clear and straightforward when you speak. Remain calm to avoid an appearance of anxiety or self-doubt. If necessary, feign self-assurance. Clearly state your position and validate it with factual information.

Make your voice more effective: The moment someone hears you, he begins to make decisions as

a result of the way you communicate. Don't stumble over your rate of speech. Adjust your volume so that you speak loudly and clearly. Vary the speed and pitch of your voice. Use brief pauses to emphasize points of significance. Avoid filler interjectives such as like, uh, you know and so on. Plan what you intend to say before you do so and then deliver it with conviction and confidence.

- Persuasive people are able to communicate their ideas quickly and clearly. When you have a firm grasp on what you're talking about, it's fun and easy to explain it to those who don't understand. A good strategy here is to know your subject so well that you could explain it to a child, if you can explain yourself effectively so someone who has no background on the subject, you can certainly make a persuasive case with someone who does.

Hail Indian Judiciary!

The Indian Judiciary (at least a good section of it) seems to come of age: objective, faithful to the letter and spirit of the law and unmindful of the consequences, the threats and intimidations of their political bosses or the violent mobs! The last week in India has been a vibrant one in the history of India –with several landmark judgements being delivered. These judgements have come as a shot in the arm

for democracy in India, for the pluralistic and secular fabric of the country and above all, they augur well for the future of India.

On August 25th, CBI special court judge Jagdeep Singh, held Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the Chief of the Dera Sacha Sauda guilty of rape and criminal intimidation of the two female disciples in 2002. On August 28th, Gurmeet Singh was sentenced to ten years in prison (many, including his victims, feel that he should have been given a life term) by the same judge. Given his mass following and the fact that Gurmeet Singh has the support of the ruling BJP both in Haryana and in the Centre – the judge has been brave enough to transcend political privileges. The fact that there was mob violence (in which thirty-six people were killed and with widespread destruction) on August 25th, with complete approval of the Government, was another pointer in an attempt to intimidate the law and order mechanism of the country.

On August 28th, the Supreme Court slammed the Gujarat Government for dragging its feet on the trial of another Godman Asaram Bapu, in spite of being arrested for sexual misconduct. It is common knowledge that Asaram Bapu enjoys the full patronage of the Gujarat Government. Several other fraud Godmen have been guilty for all kinds of criminal activity all across the country. Many of them have tremendous political patronage (mainly from the BJP) and with their mob, muscle and money clout, they literally get away with murder. The landmark conviction and sentencing of Gurmeet Singh will certainly go a long way in upholding justice and sending a message that no one is above the law!

The Supreme Court of India, on August 24th, passed a landmark ruling on the issue of privacy, stating that the right to privacy will be counted as a fundamental right. The bench of nine judges held unanimously that the right to privacy would come under



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

the right to life and liberty (Article 21) and part III of the Constitution. This important verdict is expected to have far-reaching consequences on the lives of millions of people. The judgement is also a slap on the face of the Central Government that is doing all they can to interfere in the private lives of the citizens of the country.

On August 22nd, the Supreme Court set aside a centuries old practice of triple talaq in a landmark 3-2 verdict, in which the majority agreed that the practice was un-Islamic and “arbitrary”. This judgement is bound to have a far-reaching impact not only on the rights of Muslim women but also on gender parity for all women of India.

Some of the Judges in some of the courts in India continue to be coopted and corrupt and often toe the line of their political bosses. Many of those guilty of very serious crimes continue to go scot-free with both immunity and with impunity and obviously abetted by such judges. Thankfully, such judges are more an exception than a rule.

Most mainstream media in India today is either coopted or corporatized. Therefore, in the final analysis, the people of India still look up to the Judiciary for the protection of their rights and freedom and specially to safeguard the secular and pluralistic sanctity of the Constitution. Given also the current political scenario in the country today, the Judiciary is the bastion of hope, truth and justice for many. In this historic past week, our refrain without doubt needs to be **“Hail Indian Judiciary!”**

** (Fr Cedric Prakash sj is a human rights activist and is currently based in Lebanon and engaged with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in the Middle East on advocacy and communications. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com*

(Contd.. from p. 9)

terests and understandings.

Computers offer amazing power and ICT has made it relevant for a teacher to be a subject specialist. The teacher’s love and passion for a subject be it art, poetry, geography or the sciences can enrich the child’s learning experience. Learners now have freedom to explore, discover, inquire and experiment whatever they want. ICT will do well but it will be difficult to break the existing boundaries and convince the teachers to play their new role. It will provide them freedom and flexibility which was not available earlier. Learners have an active, reflective role in this digital age. Today’s children are “growing up digital.” Their brains seem to be wired differently because their world view is different from that of adults. Teachers know this and are learning the technology on their own.

Presently ICT is an essential “life-skill” in the same way as literacy and numeracy are. It is used to liberate learners from the limitations of their physical environments. ICT or digital age is the reality, which is unavoidable if one wants to live, learn and move ahead in the 21st. century. Existing practices and roles must change by using technology in the classroom. The curriculum of Teacher Education or training will have to be redesigned or transformed to meet the changing needs. All this will help and equip the teacher in the digital age.



6751 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1990), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (Hospitality), working in UK Cruise Line. Contact email : asharcfernandes@gmail.com

6407. KOLAPUR : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1985), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn., M. B. B. S., M.D. Medicine and now studying for Super Speciality Cardiology at Manipal Hospital Old Airport Bangalore. Contact No. - 9273337666, 9422628636 OR email : boom_anup_41@yahoo.com

6756 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1977), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std. (HSC), working as an Admin. Assistnat in **DUBAI**. Contact email : charlotteirani@yahoo.com

6489 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic bachelor, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as a Front Office Clerk in **DUBAI**. Contact email : sam_sin88@hotmail.com

5996 MUMBAI : RC Bachelor (Born in November 1974) / 5'8", B.E., working in Senior position reputed IT firm. Seeks alliance from R.C. spinster educated good family background Pl. reply with photograph and details to keithcardozo@hotmail.com OR **9820338755**

6040 MUMBAI : Mangaloren Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com + IATA working as a Manager for Emirates in Dubai Seeks a humble, godfearing,

educated Mangalorean girl. Ht. above 5'5", age below 28 years. Contact email : philomenanoronha60@gmail.com

6113 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1976), Ht. 6', Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in A.C. Mechanic, working as a AC Technician in Muscat. Contact Email : suaresroshan@gmail.com

6213 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1981), Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDRM, working as a Manager. Contact email : larsen316@gmail.com

6358 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1974), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Admin. Controller in **DUBAI**. Contact email : dsouzarobin25@gmail.com

6393 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1977), Ht. 5' 6", good looking XII Pass, presently working as Share Broker having own bungalow accommodation at Bandra Mumbai also getting good regular monthly rent seeks a goodlooking RC Spinster. Contact email : pintolazarus2012@gmail.com

6045 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1980), Ht. 6' 2", Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B.Com., & HTL Management, Working on Cruise Line as Supervisor, Seeks an educated, simple, Mangalorean girl above 5' 5" Contact Email : marprop111@gmail.com

6198 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic (Born in October 1969), Ht. 5'

10", Edn. B.Com., good personality, hailing from God fearing, cultured family, issueless, divorcee by mutual consent, working for Cruise Liner in U.S.A., as Security Supervisor, well settled in Mumbai, Seeks suitable match. Contact email : dsouzamalcolmneil@gmail.com. Phone/SMS 09480157258.

6424. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., well employed. Contact email : gerardd754@gmail.com, Mob:9594766322 / 9930620943

6250 MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1974), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Manager. **Contact email : cardoz.clint@gmail.com OR 9833563182**

6353 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1977), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC + Dip. in Catering, working on cruise line in store department. Handsome, sober, having own house, seeks a simple, godfearing, working Mangalorean girl. Currently in Mumbai contact immediately. Contact email : lewisroyston@yahoo.com OR 7208759704

6587. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1984), Ht. 6', Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. working as a Civil Engineer. Contact email : matrimonial.2312@gmail.com

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6758. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA in Finance, working for Bank in Bangalore. Contact email : cyrilv27@gmail.com

6757. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in May 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 51 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA (IS), working as a HR in **Dubai**. Contact email : proposalmlore25@gmail.com

6755. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nurse, working as a Nurse in **U.K.** Contact email : alm716349@gmail.com

6754. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Mechanical, working as a Officer in PSU. Contact email : mel.6513@yahoo.com

6753. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Parents seeks alliance for spinster daughter aged 26, Ht. 5' 1", CA (Chartered Account), presently working in Mumbai in an MNC. Looking for a professionally qualified well settled Mangalorean RC boy with good family background age upto 29 years, BE/CA working in India or abroad (Not from middle East). Contact email : stanley_ds118@yahoo.com

6702. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1989), 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working in a Finance Co., Ready to settle abroad. Seeks a groom above Ht. 5' 8". Settled in Mumbai / Abroad. Contact - 9867152211 Email: whiterosegarden@gmail.com

6692. MUMBAI : Matrimonial alliance is invited for Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1990), 5' 3", fair, goodlooking, Lecturer, seeks alliance from Catholic bachelors, around 30, sober, good family values, financially sound, well qualified, havings own accommodation email details to : rchldsilva@

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6691. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Widow, (Born in December 1965), Ht. 5', Wt. 59 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., B.Ed., working as a Teacher in **BAHRAIN**. Contact email : noellachristine64@gmail.com

6690. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, smart, intelligent, Edn. CS., LL.B., working as a Asst. Company Secretary. Seeks a suitable educated and well settled bachelor. Caste no bar. Contact email : joylinafaroz@gmail.com.

6114. INDORE : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1974), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., well settled. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : seema_francis@rediffmail.com

6739. MUMBAI : Anglo Indian Keralite Spinter (Born in February 1995), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair, goodlooking, Edn. 5th Std., slow learner, handicap, able to do house work, very much interested in handicraft. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : mercyserroa@gmail.com

6738. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in November 1986), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM., working as a Finance Executive. Contact email : vinishaleena@gmail.com

6462. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in February 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 49 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS., MMS (Mum. Uni.) working as a Data Analyst. Seeks well educated and working and settled abroad, preferably dubai. Girl willing to relocate any city in the world. Contact email : melwyn_dsilva@hotmail.com

6737. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.

M.Com., Working as an Accountant. Contact email : jocelyn_rod15@yahoo.in

6736. BANGALORE : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in February 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Library & Information Science, working as a Librarian, seeks a suitable match. Contact email : gracefreitas@rediffmail.com

6733. MUMBAI : East Indian RC Spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. (Hons), & CS (Company Secretary) working as a Company Secretary in Financial Company. Contact email : suzettepereira@rediffmail.Com

6732. MUMBAI : Tamilian RC Spinster, (Born in June 1990), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : adnadar@gmail.com

6482. K.S.A. : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. Normal, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. in Chem/ PGDMLT, Pathology Lab Technician (Instructor) in **KSA** since 10 years, well settled, seeks a suitable match. Contact email : mathew_680@yahoo.com

6414. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., (Banking & Insurance) working as a Consultant. She is vegetarian. Contact email : rosemmarybharda@yahoo.com OR 9224780162

6033-R ABU-DHABI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1979), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. Eng., Literature, working as a Copy Editor. **Contact email : barretto.lorraine@gmail.com OR 9730454857**

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(Contd.. from p. 7)

ther cow nor coward.

Gandhi seems to have seen only the proselytisation aspect of the missionaries of his time. Did he turn a blind eye to their sacrifices? Many of them left their homes, never to see them again. Hundreds died of tropical diseases. No doubt Gandhi did a lot to ameliorate the lot of the untouchables, but he does not seem to have had any impact on the tribals. As we say in philosophy, an affirmation of one thing is not the negation of another. So while affirming Gandhi's contribution to the uplift of weaker sections of Indian society, we cannot in anyway, negate or belittle the heroic sacrifices of foreign missionaries of that era.

As for "rice-Christians" I find the term abhorrent. Even Mother Teresa took umbrage at this. She said that if religion could be changed for a bowl of rice, then it was an insult to both religions. For arguments sake one could also say, "You please give them rice, dal, soap, education and human dignity, and surely they will never leave you". As somebody has said, "For a hungry man God comes in the form of bread". I would add that a drowning person doesn't require a sermon on safety, he needs a lifeline; which is what happened in the past.

As for British patronage, the Catholics were treated as second class citizens by them – be they Irish soldiers, or Italian and German priests and nuns incarcerated during World War II. To the contrary, the Catholic Church in India has bloomed after Independence.

Gandhi may be partially correct about the past. But we have to object to the advertisement today. As for conversions, I will leave that for tomorrow.

* The writer is a former National President of the All India Catholic Union

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RF101988	RF101917	RF100692	RF100646
RF101984	RF101913	RF100691	RF100634
RF101978	RF101912	RF100686	RF100629
RF101954	RF101910	RF100688	RF100625
RF101951	RF101909	RF100666	RF100628
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RF101977	RF100114	RF100298	RF100233
RF101975	RF100118	RF100299	RF100215
RF101972	RF100120	RF100300	RF100210
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First British 'Military Church' of M'lore-1842

Quite visible amidst the hustle and bustle of, fish markets, bus stands, Nehru Maidan and State Bank terminus, Police HQ, DC office and so on is this very ancient Church..... Ivan Saldanha-Shet, takes a look at it .



This quaint church is said to be one of the oldest Protestant Church in South Canara, of British times. The fact that it was built in 1842 to cater to the needs of British military units stationed in Mangalore and the small English community engaged in the local administration gives it a unique heritage value.

St. Paul's Church, in the time of British 1799 on wards, it was the main seat of administration. After the death of Tippu Sultan in 'Serinapatam' war, British became sovereign rulers and Mangalore became a strategical point. A garrison was stationed to guard the Western passes. Old photographs depict a cannon being fired in front of the church at mid-day.

The Chaplin of then military Rev. Whit-

ford, requested a permanent church in 1841 which was granted soon and in 1842 Rev. Alfred Fenell took charge of the St Paul's church and completed the construction work at a cost of about Rs 6000. Interestingly it is said that the work was done with the help of prisoners. It was inaugurated on January 5, 1843 by Bishop Spencer from the Church of England.

In 1897, extensive renovation was made and later the clock tower was added by the church members. The two sided clock was made and fitted by the Basel Mission which still gives the time. St. Paul's cemetery is now maintained by CSI churches and can be seen on Old Kent Road, near the railway tracks of the present Mangalore Central Station.

In the earlier days Basel Mission used St. Paul's for worship which was predominantly in Kannada, until the construction of 'Shanthe Cathedral' at Balmatta in 1862.

Later on it came to the possession of Basel Mission and then to CSI. St



Paul's completed 150 years in 1993 and it was extended with two side wings. There are about 150 families and students who use St Paul's mostly on Sunday's. In 2003, then CSI Bishop of Mangalore Rev. C L Furtado opened a new community hall at the rear of the church donated by Manorama Joshua.

With lots of changes taking place all around hope these heritage monuments will not lose their importance, as we see and be lost edifices for the citizens of the future.

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